

Awaken Chapter 111 -

Inside Kyoto.

Gu Yan, the Minister of Household, was walking back and forth in his room.

His Majesty had suddenly given Xu Qingnian a Dragon Talisman, and then promoted him to the rank of Foreign Minister of the Ministry of Household.

It was clear that something was going to happen.

The water in the Household Department is very deep.

It can be said that the water is deep.

Every official is involved in a lot of wrongdoings, and as a minister, he is also involved in it, but not in the sense of corruption.

As a minister, he had been promoted by the previous emperor, so it was impossible for him to do anything corrupt.

To be honest, when he took over the Ministry of the Household, he was also very pale, and had to think about every single thing.

He also knew what problems Great Wei was experiencing nowadays, and he had even wanted to move the imperial family line for a long time.

But what Gu Yan understood even better was that the royal family could not be moved.

Once it is moved, these princes and kings, including some of the royal sons, which one should not be called up.

The company has a number of vassal kings who are waiting for the court to have a problem and then take the opportunity to strike.

If the interests of the royal family were to be touched, Wei would really be finished.

But the fact that His Majesty refused to see her shows that she has already made up her mind.

It is good to have the Kirin Talisman, but this is a bit hasty.

Or even too hasty.

There were still three military amulets out there that had not been retrieved, and the rebellion of the vassal kings had not yet been completely resolved, so how could they make a move?

“Your Majesty!”

Gu Yan took a deep breath, he really didn't know what to say.

“Right now, no matter what, Xu Qingnian should be dissuaded, he must not be allowed to act recklessly, otherwise, it will really bring about great trouble.”

Gu Yan said to himself in his heart, he knew that it would be difficult to make His Majesty change his mind.

But it was not impossible to make Xu Qingnian stop.

“Come, men.”

Gu Yan opened his mouth and called out to his subordinates.

“Lord Shang Shu, please command?”

Outside the door, a voice rang out.

“Go and call for Xu Qingnian.”

Gu Yan did not say anything more and directly asked someone to bring Xu Qingnian.

“Yes.”

The latter left at once and went to the Shouren Academy to look for Xu Qingnian.

About a quarter of an hour later.

The other party came back.

“Lord Shang Shu, Lord Xu said that he had something to do and would not be coming today, saying that he would come to the Ministry of the Household on the next day.”

The other party said so, and when this was said, it caused Gu Yan to frown slightly.

There was no sound for half a second before the voice from outside rang out again.

“Your Excellency, do you need to ask Lord Xu to come again?”

The other party asked.

“No.”

Gu Yan shook his head, since Xu Qingnian said he would come on the next day, he also had the patience to wait.

Meanwhile.

Inside the Huaining King's residence.

King Huaining was sitting in the main hall, looking old, while a man was kneeling in front of him.

“Tell the kings that if His Majesty really dares to turn his sword on the royal line, do your utmost to impeach Xu Qingnian.”

“If Xu Qingnian does not die, kill the traitorous minister in the name of clearing the ruler's side, got it?”

Prince Huai Ning spoke.

Ever since His Majesty's decree had been announced, Prince Huaining had guessed what His Majesty wanted to do at first.

Suppressing the imperial lineage and paying taxes and silver to the state treasury, this matter was a good thing from the country's point of view, and a necessary thing to do.

In times of prosperity, there would have been no problem raising a group of royal sons, but now that the country is in decline, it is natural to cut across the board.

But if this cut is made, it will not be a trivial matter.

It would be a hundred times more horrific than killing one's own son. Killing one's own son is only a matter for one's own family, and the other feudal princes would only be presenting their petitions to see what His Majesty's attitude is.

If they really revolted because of this matter, they would not dare to, because their interests were not involved.

But if they really turned their knives on the imperial family of Wei, it would be no joke. The county princes inside Kyoto were a little better off, as they were still in Kyoto after all.

The princes in Kyoto are fine, they are still in Kyoto after all, but the kings outside are not going to eat this.

Making them bleed? It would be ten times worse than killing them.

This is a golden opportunity.

Prince Huaining could not wait for Xu Qingnian to cut down this knife, as long as this knife fell, he would have hundreds of ways to kill Xu Qingnian.

And it was certain death.

Even if the empress insisted on protecting Xu Qingnian, she would not be able to do so.

The clan kings of the world didn't care about you that much.

"I thought I was some kind of great talent, but I didn't think it was like this, the king has overestimated."

Prince Huaining said to himself in his heart, his opinion of Xu Qingnian had inexplicably dropped quite a bit.

It was not just Xu Qingnian, but also the Empress.

He had just gotten the Kirin Talisman, and he was so eager to make a move?

Ridiculous!

At this moment, the An Guo Gong Mansion.

After His Majesty's decree was announced, he knew what the Empress was thinking at first.

Xu Qingnian had already gained prestige by making a fuss at the Ministry of Justice and beheading the county king, and then proceeded to investigate the Ministry of the Household, targeting the most troublesome taxes and silver.

How could they not be anxious.

"This time if nephew Xu dares to make a scene, something big is going to happen."

Lu Guogong opened his mouth and was the first to speak out.

"En, nowadays, the only one who can move the tax and silver of Great Wei is the imperial lineage. When Great Wei was founded, the imperial lineage also had to pay taxes and silver and stand on their own feet until later on when the prosperous era came and the country became rich, which led to many favours."

"Right now, the Great Wei state is weakening, if Your Majesty really wants to start with the imperial lineage, I'm afraid it will only lead to great trouble in heaven."

“Duke An, you are the head of the state and have a good relationship with Nephew Xu, why don’t you go and talk to Nephew Xu about it? Otherwise, it will really cause trouble when it happens.”

Several State Dukes spoke openly, including some of the Liege Marquises.

Although they were noble state princes and liege lords, they were not able to enjoy the benefits of the royal family, and only the royal lineage had the privilege.

So they gathered together, not because of their own interests, but because they were afraid that Xu Qingnian’s temperament of this kind of character would cause great trouble.

“All right! Stop talking.”

An Guo openly opened his mouth, the crowd was talking beside him, but he didn’t even listen to them.

It’s not like he didn’t know about this matter, did he need this group of people to keep talking about it?

Hearing Duke An Guo open his mouth like this, the crowd quieted down.

“His Majesty’s decree is for Xu Qingnian to be in charge of the tax and silver, the imperial power is specially ordered, this is something we cannot change.”

“The tax and silver of Great Wei, which is already as high as 30%, can no longer be taken from the people, but only from the royal family.”

“But don’t worry, nephew Xu may look reckless, but he is actually well thought out, if we can guess it, he can also guess it, and he should already know something about the current situation in Great Wei.”

“In this way, the old man personally to go to him a trip, but how exactly the old man dare not say explicitly, should advise will advise, you also do not worry.”

“Just Do a good plan, two-handed preparation, certainly right.”

The state duke is worthy of being the head of the state, he knows what he is facing now, but also knows Xu Qingnian’s character, so he didn’t say anything directly, just try to dissuade as much as possible, whether it will work or not he is not sure, but will also tell the people’s mind.

He was not sure if it would work out, but he would tell them what they wanted to do.

If things really went wrong, they would have to take it hard.

“En.”

The crowd nodded, while inexplicably feeling a bit emotional, since Xu Qingnian had come to Kyoto, it was really a bit outrageous, every time he moved a bit, it was always shocking.

And it was more exaggerated than once, making it really difficult for people to figure out.

“Alright, you guys can wait here.”

Duke An got up and walked towards the Shouren Academy.

There was no way out, things had come to this point and a trip had to be made, usually Xu Qingnian could make a scene any way she wanted, but this time she really couldn't mess around.

An Guo Gong left, and the crowd looked at An Guo Gong's back, each fell into silence.

A quarter of an hour later.

Outside the Shouren Academy.

Duke An Guoguo crossed his steps and happened to see a silhouette, that of Zhang Jing, the Minister of Penalty.

“Shang Shu Zhang.”

Duke An shouted, the latter was about to enter the Shouren Academy, yet he could not help but stop upon hearing Duke An's voice.

“Greetings, An Guo Gong.”

Zhang Jing walked up to An Guo Gong and said very politely.

Just as quickly, Zhang Jing continued to speak.

“Is this the Duke of An looking for Shouren?”

Zhang Jing asked.

“En, looking for him on some matter.”

Duke An nodded.

“Alright then, then my humble servant will first leave.”

Zhang Jing did not expect that Duke An would also come, so the first thing he wanted to do was to leave, after all, he had something else to find Xu Qingnian, and with Duke An present, he was afraid that it would not be too good to talk about.

“Don’t go, go together, you and I have the same intention.”

An Guo Duke stopped it, instead he told Zhang Jing to stay.

He did not say much and entered the Shouren Academy together with Duke An.

In the middle of the academy.

Xu Qingnian took the Dragon Talisman and began to study it carefully.

The Dragon Talisman was made of pure gold, surrounded by precious stones, with the word Dragon Talisman engraved on the front and the word Da Nei engraved on the back, and the dragon painted on both sides.

It contained a ray of imperial might within, a treasure, or at least a spirit weapon level.

His Majesty did not have many pieces of this dragon talisman, and seeing the talisman was like seeing me. Xu Qingnian naturally wanted to examine it properly, and see if he could make a copy of it later, so that if His Majesty took it away and he went outside to cause trouble, he could take it out to scare people.

This is a bold idea, if others knew about it, they would probably have to praise it.

Wonderful idea.

It was also at this moment that two figures approached, and Xu Qingnian immediately looked away.

Duke An Guo and Zhang Jing.

“Greetings, Duke An!”

“Greetings, Shang Shu Zhang!”

Xu Qingnian held the Great Inner Dragon Talisman and bowed towards the two.

In an instant, the two men hurriedly bowed deeply towards Xu Qingnian.

“My subjects, pay my respects to Your Majesty!”

The two men were a little flustered, ah, what was this Great Inner Dragon Talisman? Not just a symbol, but a treasure, if they were disrespectful, His Majesty had sensed it.

Otherwise, how could they dare to say 'seeing the talisman is like seeing me'?

Seeing the two of them, Xu Qingnian immediately put away the Dragon Talisman and then smilingly bowed towards them here.

Only this time did the two reluctantly accept the salute.

"Your Excellency, Lord Zhang, what can I do for you?"

Xu Qingnian invited the two to take their seats while asking slightly more knowingly.

"What is it? Are you still not clear yourself?"

Zhang Jing was the first to speak up, he pulled Xu Qingnian to sit down and was about to continue, but after glancing at Duke An Guo, the latter nodded, Zhang Jing had no more qualms.

"Shouren, Shouren! I told you before that you should keep a low profile and be more peaceful these days, but you turn around and come up with such things, I really don't know what to say about you."

"For all your previous nonsense, old man will not say anything, but this time, you must listen to old man and absolutely not touch the tax silver."

Zhang Jing stated his intention directly, he didn't care about nonsense or anything, there was no need to hide it.

When this was said, Xu Qingnian frowned a little.

"Minister Zhang, nowadays the treasury is empty, if we don't touch the tax silver, it will be difficult for Great Wei to support it."

Xu Qingnian opened his mouth, and he had to say that these courtiers were really more old foxes than one another, His Majesty had just pronounced the decree, and they all knew what they had in mind.

"I understand! But you must also know what can and cannot be touched. The matter of taxes and silver is too involved, especially the dispute between the kings, this matter is beyond the court, it is something that neither you nor I can touch."

Zhang Jing said bitterly.

This internal problem is not only the Northern Expedition, but also the economic problem.

And this external problem is not just the barbarians at the border, there are many things, such as the rebellion of the vassal kings, you can't move the knife on their heads if you can't solve it.

What Zhang Jing said was exactly right.

The An Guo Duke at the side nodded, but he did not speak, though Xu Qingnian would have joined the persuasion brigade as soon as he vetoed it.

However Xu Qingnian's voice rang out.

"Shang Shu Zhang, where did you hear that rumour, what with the battle of the kings? How come the kings are involved again?"

Xu Qingnian felt a little baffled.

Uh?

The two of them were stunned.

"You're not trying to find trouble with the royal lineage?"

Zhang Jing couldn't help but ask.

"Lord Zhang, you're thinking too much, aren't you? How could my subordinate possibly go looking for trouble with the Royal Family lineage? Any one of them could crush me to death, Lord An, you wouldn't mean that too, would you?"

Xu Qingnian was speaking blindly with his eyes open.

But it wasn't blind either, because he had no intention of going after the imperial family, at least not now, going after them was tantamount to seeking death.

Before His Majesty took control of Wei, Xu Qingnian didn't dare to touch these people, and if he did, he could buy a coffin and wait for his death.

"So this tax silver of yours, what do you do with it?"

This time both Zhang Jing and Lord An were confused.

If not trouble with the royal line, then who?

"The foreigners."

Xu Qingnian said very directly.

“The foreigners?”

The two men were a little baffled.

“Lord Zhang, Lord An, listen to me.”

“This foreign tribe has been in our Wei for a hundred years, right?”

Xu Qingnian asked.

“More than that.” The two men immediately gave their answers, it was not like the foreigners had come to Great Wei for a year or two, especially during the first few dynasties, when Great Wei was so rich that the first thing these people from small countries did when they came was to pay tribute.

Although the tribute was all rags, the benefits received were extremely high, and it can be said that back then, Great Wei fed an unknown number of foreign countries.

“It’s been more than a hundred years, so fine, I’ll keep asking.”

“Lord Zhang, Lord An, this group of foreign countries came to Great Wei to do business, I won’t say how they did it, I believe you two have heard about it.”

“They do business here and don’t pay taxes, it was because the several previous emperors were benevolent at the beginning and considered these people poor, now hundreds of years have passed, they should be rich too, right?”

Xu Qingnian asked.

“En.”

The two nodded, the means by which the foreigners came to do business in Great Wei, they had indeed heard of it, basically it was just slightly forced buying and selling and bumper sticker hobby, considering the atmosphere of the great nation, often when they encountered such things, generally speaking it was just to make peace.

Don’t get into anything with the foreigners.

Especially Zhang Jing, the Ministry of Penalty has a lot of this kind of thing every day, and the people in the capital have learned their lesson, but many tourists come to Kyoto every day, and these people often suffer, and the magistrates in the streets of Kyoto are also headaches for this.

However, in order not to create a bad influence, they usually discourage them and pay some money, as those who can come to the capital are not poor.

The Ministry of Justice has also established some rules for this purpose, so that visitors can be more careful.

As for the suppression of discipline, this is not feasible, these foreigners are very smart, as long as one person is in trouble, a group of people will flock to the city and start to make trouble.

The seven northern expeditions were in fact a failure, but they still had to say that they had carried out seven northern expeditions to raise our country's prestige.

There was nothing wrong with Xu Qingnian's statement.

"Then you mean to say levy their taxes?"

Zhang Jing inquired.

"No!" Xu Qingnian shook his head before speaking slowly under the curious gazes of the two.

"It's not to levy their taxes, it's to make them pay back the taxes."

Xu Qingnian spoke his thoughts.

"Make up taxes?"

The two were a little confused again, how could they pay back taxes? Even if you were to target them now and levy taxes, they could understand, but what did it mean to pay back taxes?

"En, back taxes."

"They are earning silver in the Great Wei Dynasty, buying and selling by force, and even more so bumper-to-bumper trading, which extremely affects the image of Kyoto, they were supposed to be fined, but I thought about it, Great Wei is a country of etiquette, and a heavenly country, so a fine would be a bit unpleasant."

"Let them pay back the tax for three years, it's too much for them to bear."

Xu Qingnian said so.

"Make up three years? Then how many percent will be made up?"

The two men continued to ask.

"Not much, let's make up 30 percent, and then levy 40 percent of the tax, and all kinds of tariffs."

Xu Qingnian said what he thought.

“Thirty percent? A 40% levy? And tariffs?”

Although he did not understand the Ministry of Household Affairs, he did understand taxation.

Now that Wei was in decline, the people were suffering from the 30% tax, but Xu Qingnian was going to levy a 40% tax? Would this group agree?

There is also the tariff, although I don't know what it means, but it sounds like another expense.

Xu Qingnian's knife was too harsh, right?

“Shouren, you are exaggerating with this levy, aren't you? I'm only afraid it will cause public discontent.”

Zhang Jing couldn't help but speak up, but his tone was fine, after all, it was aimed at people of a different race and not the royal lineage, so it was fine.

If this was a levy on the royal family, not to mention the 30% to 40% of the silver, 10% of the silver would have caused a big problem.

The levy on the foreigners is much better.

It was just a bit exaggerated.

“Public discontent?”

Xu Qingnian gave a cold laugh, then spoke.

“This bunch of foreigners are so reckless in Kyoto, doing business by force, why aren't they afraid of stirring up public resentment?”

“And if they dare to be so reckless in Kyoto, what do you think will happen elsewhere? There are many such cases in the Ministry of Justice, and there are even many cases where people have been killed.”

“It's true that the Wei Dynasty is a polite country, a heavenly country, but we have to look at the situation at the right time, and it's important to be cheeky, but the development of the country is more important.”

“I'm not afraid of stirring up public resentment, instead I think the people will have some support.”

Xu Qingnian said with all seriousness.

Awaken Chapter 112 -

Hour of the day.

The Ministry of the Household.

With Xu Qingnian's arrival, the Household Department was completely quiet at this moment.

Everyone inexplicably had a sense of fear towards Xu Qingnian.

If Xu Qingnian glanced at anyone, the latter instantly lowered his head, not daring to look directly at him.

No one dared to mess with this god, and with the lessons of the Ministry of Justice in front of them, no one dared to mess around.

However, the Ministry of the Household had its own methods, and they were not as stupid as the Ministry of Penalties, who directly gave Xu Qingnian small shoes, but did their best to cooperate, only this best was a bit too much.

If you want the files, I'll give you all the files, so you can take your time and check them out.

It was only Xu Qingnian's sudden visit that made the entire Household Department a little nervous, thinking that Xu Qingnian had come over to look for trouble.

"Greetings, Lord Xu."

"Good morning, Lord Xu."

However, when they saw Xu Qingnian, they still opened their mouths and said "Lord Xu".

Xu Qingnian returned a smile one by one.

At that moment, someone came up.

"Lord Xu, Minister Gu asks you to go to the inner hall."

The other person spoke up and informed Xu Qingnian that Lord Gu had been waiting in the inner hall for a long time.

"Good."

Xu Qingnian had come over this time to find Shang Shu Gu as well.

He walked towards the inner hall, and soon a dozen figures appeared in the inner hall, looking at the stance, it inexplicably looked like some kind of a three-chamber trial.

Gu Yan stood in the middle of the crowd, his face was thin, his hair was a little gray, he looked almost close to seventy years old, wearing the official robe of the Shang Shu, standing with his hands folded, looking at himself from a short distance away.

“My humble servant Xu Qingnian, I’d like to meet Shang Shu Gu, the two lords of the court, and all my fellow officials.”

Xu Qingnian also appeared calm as he walked up and said this.

“En.” Gu Yan nodded, and then spoke, “Have you accounted for the dossier you took away the other day?”

Gu Yan asked directly, he had originally planned to make a trip to Xu Qingnian yesterday, but in the end, he calmed down.

What exactly Xu Qingnian had in mind, he didn’t know, whether he was going to move against the royal lineage, he didn’t know either, but the only thing Gu Yan could do was to stall Xu Qingnian for time.

Yes, stall for time, Xu Qingnian wanted to check the tax and silver of the Household Ministry right? That’s fine, go and look at the information first, when you’ve finished reading and accounting, then come back to yourself.

At that time, we will talk slowly.

As for the fact that Xu Qingnian has the Dragon Talisman in his hand, he doesn’t care about anything. His Majesty has said that the Ministry of War and the Ministry of Penalty are at Xu Qingnian’s disposal, and that the Ministry of Household is just a support.

The first of these is the fact that the government has to be able to do what it wants to do, but if it can’t, then it can’t say that much.

“The accounting has been completed.”

Xu Qingnian opened her mouth and said with a faint smile.

When this was said, the crowd’s faces changed slightly, while Gu Yan’s expression remained unchanged and he just looked at Xu Qingnian and said.

“Qingnian, it’s not that this official is looking down on you, it’s just that you took more than 8,000 dossiers the other day, and each one of them is incredibly long, so if we were to let the entire Ministry of Finance do the math, it would take a month.”

“You haven’t even had twenty days to finish the accounting here?”

Gu Yan was not surprised, but asked directly.

The Ministry of the Household sent Xu Qingnian more than 8,300 volumes, before and after, and you had to read them all for a month, right? Even if you, Xu Qingnian, were to read them at a glance, half a month would be needed, right?

Now in 20 days, you say you have not only finished reading but also finished accounting? Are you not bluffing?

“Lord Shang Shu, the subordinate official has his own method of accounting, here is a breakdown of all the expenses for the past thirty years, I hope Lord Shang Shu will verify it.”

“Oh, yes, there is also a list of omissions, after reading it, you have to investigate and deal with it immediately, I believe that the officials of the Ministry of Finance are clean and upright, but after all, it is better to be cautious when it comes to money and taxes.”

“Otherwise, it would be bad if they were caught in the act.”

Xu Qingnian handed over two copies of the rice paper, one with the numbers that had been accounted for over the years and one with the areas where mistakes had been made.

At that moment, the Ministry of the Household frowned, while Gu Yan half-heartedly accepted the thick stack of paper, before turning his gaze to it.

With just one glance, Gu Yan’s face changed.

Xu Qingnian’s way of arranging things was too subtle, calculating expenses and income in a clear manner, whether or not this method was difficult to learn was one thing, but the main thing was that it was convenient

It was like if His Majesty needed to see the tax revenue of the Household Department of the Great Wei, the presentation would be a large pile of volumes.

Then he would look at them one by one.

Xu Qingnian’s copy was very concise, and Xu Qingnian had even marked the contents of that volume, so that it would be easy to review and avoid problems.

Gu Yan could tell in an instant that this thing could improve the efficiency of the Ministry of Household Affairs by at least 30%, and in the future, when everyone was accounting, it could save too much trouble.

When he looked at the accounts again, he was amazed at every item he read.

The more he looked at them, the more shocked he became.

As the Minister of Household, he knew the accounts of the Ministry of Household best, and it was not too much to say that he was familiar with them, so he could compare each of Xu Qingnian's accounts in his mind.

There was not a single mistake.

And where there was an error, it would be marked on the other copy, because it was itself the wrong account.

"Good!"

A quarter of an hour later.

Gu Yan couldn't help but lose his voice and shout out a good one.

And the other officials of the Household Ministry were a little surprised, they did not know what Gu Yan had read and why he had shouted yes straight away.

Sensing the gazes of the crowd, Gu Yan took a deep breath and glanced at the crowd, before handing the thing in his hand to the Left Servant and said, "Watch it well, verify it again, and study it carefully."

After saying this, Gu Yan looked towards Xu Qingnian and said.

"Qingnian, come in with me."

This move by Xu Qingnian made Gu Yan no longer dare to underestimate him.

To be honest, it was not that Gu Yan despised Xu Qingnian, but Xu Qingnian's literary skills were called Wangu, and he had a talent for investigating cases, a great talent in the literary world, a great talent in the Ministry of Justice.

But if it is not the great talent of the Ministry of Household, who can know?

What is the foundation of the Ministry of the Household? To put it most simply, it is arithmetic.

As for the collection of taxes, that is a different level, a political factor, and the bottom line of the Ministry of the Household is to account for it clearly and then check for fishy things from it.

Xu Qingnian's form was of great significance, at least to the Ministry of the Household, and was extremely helpful.

Soon the crowd gathered around.

And Xu Qingnian also walked into the room.

"Sit."

Gu Yan motioned for Xu Qingnian to sit, while deliberately pouring tea for Xu Qingnian.

"Qingnian, what you gave me just now, is it really what you wrote in these twenty days?"

Gu Yan inquired.

"In reply to Lord Shang Shu, to be more precise, seventeen days."

Xu Qingnian said without being condescending.

Gu Yan: "....."

"In seventeen days, how did you calculate clearly? With all due respect, eight thousand three hundred and fifty-four volumes, you would have to read them for half a month just to read them, right?"

"In other words, it only took you two days to account for what the Ministry of the Household needed three or four months to account for."

Gu Yan couldn't help but ask.

"Uh Maybe that's talent."

Xu Qingnian scratched his head somewhat embarrassedly and said.

Gu Yan: "....."

Looking at Gu Yan, who was silent, Xu Qingnian did not intend to act anymore, but took out a piece of paper and said.

"Lord Shang Shu, I know what you want to ask."

“It is nothing more than to ask the subordinate official about the method of arithmetic being both accurate and efficient.”

“In fact, the subordinate official just changed the algorithm.”

Xu Qingnian spoke up, knowing what Gu Yan wanted to ask, so he was straightforward.

“A different algorithm? Tell me.”

Gu Yan got up and came to Xu Qingnian’s side, with a gesture of not being ashamed to ask.

And Xu Qingnian didn’t hide it either, this kind of thing was better to be brought out earlier, at least it was a good thing for Great Wei.

Reducing manpower costs and improving efficiency, it could even be extended nationwide, and it would be a kind of national strengthening.

“Gu Shang Shu, the method of accounting for the Ministry of the Household, should be with the help of something like the abacus, but want to really skilled in learning the abacus, first of all more trouble, the second is that each account needs to be repeated over and over again but several times, otherwise the error rate is great.”

“Then one could use addition and subtraction arithmetic to do the accounting.”

“But accounting with addition and subtraction arithmetic requires replacing numbers, for example, this word one, to be changed to this.”

Xu Qingnian patiently explained for Gu Shangshu, dropping out the Arabic numerals as well by the way, ten in total.

Gu Yan, who was at the side, listened with great interest and was full of learning attitude, not daring to breathe a single breath.

“Gu Shang Shu can understand these ten numbers as symbols, this is one and this is two, not to be confused.”

“Suppose a sum of money is received this year, one thousand four hundred and eighty-five thousand six hundred and twenty-three taels, and then the expenditure is eight hundred and fifty-six thousand four hundred and twenty-one taels, then a simple subtraction can be made.”

Xu Qingnian wrote the numbers up, followed by the conversion, and said in the tone of a primary school teacher teaching someone.

“Decrease the number by a large amount, borrow if you don’t have enough, then this, then this, and finally this.”

“The result is, Liu Hundred and Twenty Nine Thousand, Two Thousand, Two Hundred and Twenty Two.”

Xu Qingnian spent close to two quarters of an hour going over the principles of addition and subtraction.

In fact, the concept of addition and subtraction already existed in Great Wei, which had the art of the nine calculations of the Heavenly Chips, which also counted as addition and subtraction.

The core point of what Xu Qingnian taught to Gu Shangshu was not addition and subtraction, but Arabic numbers.

After all, once you need to do the calculations, it is a question of whether it is troublesome to take an abacus and crackle it around.

The main thing is that you have to do it again after you’ve done it once. A few hundred taels is easier, but what about tens of thousands? How about hundreds of thousands of taels? How about a few million taels? What about even tens of millions of taels, tens of thousands of taels?

How many volumes of expenditure and income of a country can be added up?

In the Ministry of Accounts of the Great Wei, 70% of the staff are engaged in calculating money every day for 30 days a month, is this tiring? Is it troublesome? Is it a waste of time?

We can use Arabic instead of numbers, not to mention tens of thousands of taels, even if it’s millions of taels, it’s just adding a few more zeros.

“Gu Shang Shu, have you learnt to waste?”

Xu Qingnian asked.

If it hadn’t been learned, it would have to be taught again.

“Old man Understood.”

Gu Yan came back from his shock and heard Xu Qingnian speak in this manner, at that moment Gu Yan fetched a brush and directly began to calculate.

Gu Yan casually wrote a series of numbers, followed by another series of numbers, following the method of addition and subtraction taught by Xu Qingnian, although there was a lag, but the speed was not slow.

After a while, Gu Yan worked out the answer.

Immediately afterwards, he took out a handful of abacuses from a side cabinet and began to account for them.

The same calculation, Gu Yan Gu Shang Shu was proficient in the art of abacus, tapping and tapping, was a few breaths slower than the previous one, but it was also calculated.

After comparing the two, they came up with the exact same figures!

Hiss!

At this moment, Gu Yan, the head of the Ministry of Household Affairs, was completely frozen in place.

Xu Qingnian was calm, sipping his tea and looking at ease.

After a while, Shang Shu Gu swallowed fiercely and looked towards Xu Qingnian.

“Da Cai!”

“Da Cai!”

“Shouren! You are truly a great talent of the ages!”

Gu Yan grabbed Xu Qingnian’s arm with a deadly grip, excitedly shouting repeatedly, calling Xu Qingnian a great talent of the ages.

However, Xu Qingnian pulled her hand out and said with a serious face.

“Lord Gu, men and women are not intimate, and men and women are even less intimate, I’m going to sue you for this.”

He did not discriminate against the love of dragon and yang, but putting it on himself would not do, especially when he was still so old, this was definitely not okay.

“This algorithm.”

“If it is extended, the efficiency of the Ministry of Accounts will be greatly increased by at least several times in the future.”

“Xu Shouren, you are truly a great talent of the ages.”

Shang Shu Gu did not care about Xu Qingnian’s remarks, but said with unparalleled excitement.

Xu Qingnian’s algorithm was not so much accurate as it was simple and extremely easy to learn, there was no need to learn to plan a dial or to go back and forth for fear of accidentally getting it wrong.

After all, if you accidentally played the abacus too fast, you would be prone to errors, so generally speaking an accounting would require five people to do separate calculations, and the five people must come up with the same answer before it could be recorded in the dossier.

But with the figures invented by Xu Qingnian, it was even simpler, as the five people still had to do the calculations once, but there was no need to foolishly keep tapping the abacus, just add and subtract, and the result would soon be reached.

Wouldn’t this reduce manpower considerably?

The rest of the staff could do other things, and the efficiency of the Household Department could be at least doubled.

And what is the Household Department? It’s the department that controls Wei’s finances, and by speeding up the basic accounting, it will be able to do other things effectively.

This is a boon to the Household Department. A day or two may not feel like much, but in time, a year, a decade, a century.

How much time could be saved in between?

Gu Yan really did not expect that Xu Qingnian was not only extremely talented in literature, he did not expect to have such a terrifying talent in the Household Ministry as well.

What the hell kind of person was this?

Could he really be a great talent of the ages?

At this moment, Gu Yan couldn’t help but have a phrase floating in his mind.

”If the heavens do not give birth to me, Xu Qingnian, the Confucian Way is like a long night.”

Gu Yan inexplicably wanted to change two words for Xu Qingnian.

“The result is, Liu Hundred and Twenty Nine Thousand, Two Thousand, Two Thousand and Two.”

Xu Qingnian spent close to two quarters of an hour going over the principles of addition and subtraction.

In fact, the concept of addition and subtraction already existed in Great Wei, which had the art of the nine calculations of the Heavenly Chips, which also counted as addition and subtraction.

The core point of what Xu Qingnian taught to Gu Shangshu was not addition and subtraction, but Arabic numbers.

After all, once you need to do the calculations, it is a question of whether it is troublesome to take an abacus and crackle it around.

The main thing is that you have to do it again after you’ve done it once. A few hundred taels is easier, but what about tens of thousands? How about hundreds of thousands of taels? How about a few million taels? What about even tens of millions of taels, tens of thousands of taels?

How many volumes of expenditure and income of a country can be added up?

In the Ministry of Accounts of the Great Wei, 70% of the staff are engaged in calculating money every day for 30 days a month, is this tiring? Is it troublesome? Is it a waste of time?

We can use Arabic instead of numbers, not to mention tens of thousands of taels, even if it’s millions of taels, it’s just adding a few more zeros.

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Gu Yan inexplicably wanted to change two words for Xu Qingnian.

Change Confucianism to Great Wei.

"Minister Gu, I have already taught you the method of accounting, so should we talk about the business next?"

Xu Qingnian was not arrogant, instead, he mentioned the business, this method of accounting was just a thin gift to the Ministry of Household Affairs, also to strengthen Great Wei, but today he came over, not just for this matter.

“En!”

Gu Yan withdrew his mind, and then poured another cup of tea for Xu Qingnian.

“Shouren, you have given such a great gift to the Ministry of the Household, then I will be straightforward.”

“Actually, giving you all the volumes is not a suppression, but two purposes.”

“One, I am hoping that you can truly understand the current situation of Great Wei.”

“Secondly, I want you to be quiet for a while, you just killed the County King in front of you, the whole of Great Wei doesn’t know how many eyes are staring at you, if you make a wrong step, it will be an abyss of ten thousand feet.”

“It is because of this that I will have someone do this, and you should not be upset.”

Gu Yan said honestly, he was not thinking of disgusting Xu Qingnian, nor did he mean to wear small shoes, this was not necessary, it was just a misunderstanding by the people below.

“The next official knows.”

Xu Qingnian nodded, he understood Gu Yan’s thoughts, if he were in Gu Yan’s shoes, he would probably do the same.

After all, if one was too rigid, one would break.

But the problem was, in Great Wei today, you couldn’t be more rigid if you weren’t, and Xu Qingnian couldn’t wait for Great Wei to be in its prime, wouldn’t it be cool to read a few poems and win a beautiful woman for yourself?

Unfortunately, it wasn’t.

“It’s good that you understand.”

Gu Yan nodded, and then continued to speak.

“Then let me ask you, what are you going to do next?”

“Tell the truth.”

Gu Yan said seriously.

Since the words had already come out here, there was no need to cover up.

“Levy taxes! Collect taxes! Pay the taxes!”

Xu Qingnian did not intend to cover up either, the other party was the Minister of Household, and what he was going to do was what the Ministry of Household did, so naturally, there was no need to cover anything up, so he might as well just say it.

At these words, Gu Yan’s face changed, but he composed himself and looked at Xu Qingnian and said.

“Taxing who?”

Gu Yan asked.

“The foreigners.”

Xu Qingnian said with certainty.

“The foreigners?”

This time Gu Yan was a little surprised, he had expected Xu Qingnian to say that it was the royal family, his stomach was full of words that could not be said instantly.

“Lord Gu, from your position, their taxes, should they be made up?”

There was a hint of coldness in Xu Qingnian’s eyes.

Gu Yan was the Minister of Household, and once Xu Qingnian said this, he instantly understood what Xu Qingnian was thinking.

“The!”

After half a sound, Gu Yan nodded as he replied from the perspective of a Shang Shu.

“Just what is the meaning of back taxes?”

Gu Yan asked, he was a little confused, he could understand all the tax collection and tax levy, but what is the meaning of back taxes?

“Minister Gu, the silver earned by these foreigners in Great Wei every year can be called astronomical, in the past, it was Great Wei that prospered and allowed them not to pay taxes, sort of giving these foreigners a chance to survive.”

“But now that Great Wei is gradually declining, how can they be allowed to lie on Great Wei and suck blood?”

“To make up for the taxes, is to make up for all the taxes they paid three years ago, and to make up thirty percent back for each one.”

Xu Qingnian spoke his mind.

“Thirty percent!”

“Shouren, will they agree?”

Shang Shu Gu almost screamed out, he was the Shang Shu of the Ministry of Household, so naturally he understood how terrifying Xu Qingnian’s words were.

To make up thirty percent in one year, three years would be ninety percent.

In other words, if they earned 10,000 taels of silver in three years, they would have to make up 9,000 taels this year, which was equivalent to earning nothing this year.

Who could agree to this?

No one else could agree to this.

“No?”

Awaken Chapter 113 -

“What’s happening? Don’t be in a hurry, speak slowly.”

Looking at the official from the Ministry of Penalties who had hurriedly come, Xu Qingnian told the other party to take it easy and speak slowly.

“Your Excellency, these days, the Fans and foreigners are getting more and more arrogant and ruthless in their business, and the other day it was a bit hard to suppress.”

“The people went to all the major government offices to file complaints, the Ministry of Justice doesn’t know how many files it receives every day, but it has been indifferent, and today a group of scholars came to the capital to have fun, but what they didn’t expect was to be blackmailed by these Fans.”

“In the end both sides got into a fight, the students were all skinny and weak, and two of them were beaten up badly, and now they’ve gone to the Xingyang Yamen, and as a result the Yamen won’t accept the case, and when the people found out about it, they all surrounded the Yamen and looked like they might want to storm it.”

“The Xingyang magistrate’s head is all over the place now, and he is urgently begging the Ministry of Penalty.

The other party said with some anxiety.

“Hurt someone?”

“Shang Shu Zhang told me to step in?”

Xu Qingnian took a sip of tea, his expression slightly calm.

“Yes, Shang Shu Zhang has been scolded by many people during this period of time, not to mention him, the entire Criminal Affairs Department is now being talked about when they walk out, saying that we are not acting, but the good thing is that the people of Kyoto are still full of respect for you now.”

“If you had gone over there, they would never have made a scene.”

The other party said this.

“Fine, I’ll go there.”

Xu Qingnian got up and followed the other party out, and when he arrived at the Shouren Academy, he happened to run into Li Heiyi.

“Old Black! Don’t cook my meal today, I’ll eat outside.”

Xu Qingnian greeted.

“Alright, take care, my lord.”

Li Heiyi smiled, he had been in Shouren Academy for more than twenty days, apart from the normal cooking, he was happy to raise flowers and trim the branches of the trees when he had nothing else to do.

The people in Shouren Academy were still relatively polite to him, and Li Heiyi’s goodwill towards Xu Qingnian was growing, but there were many things he did not ask for the time being, which seemed a bit abrupt, and he planned to wait until he really got acquainted before having a good chat.

At this time.

Xingyang Yamen.

All the magistrates are out, and the officials from the Ministry of Justice are also here, for the purpose of peacekeeping, which would be a big deal if there was a real fight.

At the foot of the Son of Heaven, the people had broken into the magistrate's office, and if word reached His Majesty's ears, everyone would have to be questioned.

Outside the courthouse, there were seven or eight hundred people, men, women and children, all of whom were angry at the moment.

In the courthouse, there were hundreds of foreigners, and when they faced the gaze of the people of Wei, they were not afraid at all, but had a fierce look in their eyes, and a touch of disdain.

They didn't know what had happened during this period, but since last month, no matter how much they blackmailed people, the officials would help them, although they used to help them more or less.

It could be preceded by warnings that people were still more subtle in their business and would go looking for tourists to target, the kind of fools who were a bit better at scamming.

However, now it is different, no matter what people do, whether it is an official from the Ministry of Justice or a military soldier on patrol, as long as they find it is to make the other party pay for it, a big look of not to cause trouble.

They didn't even scold them a single time.

At first, people were still a bit curious and thought this was a bit odd, but then someone spread the news that the empress was about to have her birthday and that all the nations would come to the court then.

Congratulatory gifts were being presented.

So in order to show the national prestige of the Great Wei, they were not allowed to make any unpleasant things happen to their foreign tribe.

When the news spread, all the Fans and foreigners doing business in the capital became excited.

It was not unheard of for the emperor to reward them for their victories in the northern expedition.

The empress had just ascended to the throne and this was her first year, so it was only natural that they should be grand, so even though they knew that their business was not clean, they did not dare to do anything, and had to make it small.

After they understood this, they all became excited.

Before, they were still a bit sneaky, too rich to be plundered, those who seemed to have some background could not be plundered, they could only plunder some foreign tourists, and occasionally even if they did, they would not get much money.

But now it's different. The Wei government doesn't want to cause trouble, so they seize this opportunity to pull the wool over the eyes.

It doesn't matter whether you have a background or not, unless you are a real big shot, so what if you do?

The amount of silver that they can get is not small, before it was five or ten taels, but now it starts at fifty or a hundred taels.

Even just the day before yesterday, a rich merchant touched a piece of jade by hand and asked for 3,000 taels, the other party also had a source, and both sides almost had to fight, then the Ministry of Punishment came and said something.

In the end, the rich merchant lost three thousand taels of silver.

Three thousand taels!!!

On a good day, it takes most of the year to earn it, so who wouldn't be sour about this? Who wouldn't be sour?

And so the great competition began. For the past ten days, this group of Fan people woke up laughing every night in their sleep, and every day they gathered together to ask how much you had pitched today and how much I had pitched today.

It can be said that they were all in high spirits, each laughing as if they had found silver.

As for the people of Wei, did they have a hard time?

What does it matter to them? They are not the people of Wei. To put it bluntly, they don't care even if Wei is lost, as long as they have earned silver, everything is fine.

It's just that this time things have gone a bit too far.

They had injured someone, and badly, and they were still in the doctor's office, and it was a question of whether they would live or not.

"You are a bunch of merchants who deserve to die, cheating and deceiving everywhere."

"The government does not care, we, the people of Wei, usually let you, because we do not want to argue with you about anything, do you really think we are afraid?"

“If there is no justice today, we all will smash the Xingyang Yamen.”

“Yes, where is this kind of bullying.”

“Some foreigners are forcing people to buy just by looking at them, and they can easily pay 500 taels of silver, who can afford it?”

Outside the Xingyang government office.

The voices of the people rang out, their words filled with anger.

These foreigners, who had been in Wei for hundreds of years, had made a lot of money thanks to the imperial grace of Wei, and were trying to take advantage of the people of Wei in every way.

In the past, when everyone was rich, it was fine, but now that the people are not so well off, these people are still doing what they want.

If a foreign visitor touches something, they force people to buy it, and if they don't, dozens of people come up to them, scaring them and threatening them, so that the reputation of Kyoto is persecuted.

This was fine, and the blackmail was not too much.

But now it is getting more and more outrageous, more and more outrageous, and even the people of the capital are being pitted.

Before it was a must to buy if you touch it, but now it has become a must to buy if you look at it, it is really getting more and more outrageous.

Today, the people's grievances have erupted and they are blocking the Xingyang government office, and they will not agree to anything until this matter is resolved.

The people were furious.

And the Fan people were cursing too, but they were using the Fan language, not the language of Great Wei, and the translation was simple.

“A bunch of inferior people!”

This was the posture of the Fan people, who earned money from the people of Great Wei, but simply despised them.

They used to be more respectful, until after the defeat of the Northern Expedition, when they suddenly understood that Great Wei was not invincible, and it was because of this that they dared to be so reckless.

Otherwise, when they were in their prime, these guys would have seen the people of Great Wei as if they were their fathers.

“Lord Xu is here!”

“Don’t argue, Lord Xu is here.”

“Lord Xu is here, our people are saved.”

“Where is Lord Xu? Lord Xu has finally come, you bunch of Fan people, prepare to wait for death.”

As the voices of the people rang out.

Not far away, the figure of Xu Qingnian appeared, followed by Feng Jianhua, the Left Servant of the Ministry of Penalties.

“Lord Feng, be sure to do as I say later.”

Xu Qingnian pressed his voice and said very seriously.

“Don’t worry.”

Feng Jianhua nodded his head.

Soon Xu Qingnian quickened his pace and arrived at the entrance of the government office.

The people shouted in excitement at once.

“Lord Xu, you must redress the grievances of our people!”

“Lord Xu, this bunch of Fan and Hu merchants are doing something wrong in our Wei, you must do justice.”

“Lord Xu, we all listen to you, you are a good official, unlike these people who collude with business, we trust you.”

“You are a scholar, we all believe in you.”

With the appearance of Xu Qingnian, the people were completely relieved, they now had no hope at all for the Ministry of Punishment and the Ministry of War, but Xu Qingnian was different, it could be said that Xu Qingnian had a very high status in the hearts of the people.

Before, there were still arrows drawn, but with the arrival of Xu Qingnian, the atmosphere instantly quieted down a lot.

“Fellow citizens, calm down.”

Xu Qingnian appeared, and the first thing he did was to tell the people to calm down, and then he looked at the Xingyang magistrate and said.

“Call out the Xingyang order.”

Xu Qingnian spoke, and as soon as he finished speaking, a middle-aged man came out, wearing official clothes, and bowed towards Xu Qingnian.

“My humble servant wishes to meet Lord Xu.”

Xu Qingnian was an official of the seventh rank, and he was also an official of the seventh rank, but who was Xu Qingnian? He was the number one person in front of the empress, a vicious character who had been bailed out even after he had angrily beheaded the county king.

If he didn't call out to his lord, what would he call out to?

“What is going on?”

Xu Qingnian asked with a cold face.

“Your Excellency Xu, these merchants had a quarrel with some students who came to the capital for pleasure, just because the other party took a look at their things, the merchants demanded five hundred taels of silver in compensation.”

“The group of readers were unwilling to agree, and the two sides fought, and now two people are seriously injured and are being treated at the medical center, and seven people are slightly injured.”

The ambassador of Xingyang spoke up and briefly explained what had happened.

“Wounded?”

Xu Qingnian turned her gaze towards the group of merchants, who were inexplicably a little afraid when they faced Xu Qingnian's gaze again.

Although they despised the people of Great Wei, Xu Qingnian still looked up to them, after all, this was an existence that had killed the king.

“If that's the case, then why don't you follow the law? It is no small matter to injure a scholar.”

Xu Qingnian said so.

When this was said, each and every one of these Fan Shang Hu people became excited.

“On what grounds?”

“They were the ones who broke our things first.”

“Our jade stones, dug out from the divine mountain, are worth a fortune, so why should we be shut down?”

“You people are unruly, I will sue you.”

A chorus of voices rang out, these Fan merchants were naturally anxious and loud when they heard they were going to be arrested.

The people, however, were very relieved, and at the same time praised Xu Qingnian for being a really good official.

“Shut up!”

Xu Qingnian bellowed as he looked at the merchants and said sternly.

“Arrest them all, investigate the matter thoroughly, and if they are found to be blackmailing people, act according to the law.”

Xu Qingnian was very fierce.

As soon as he said this, before they could say anything, Feng Jianhua quickly came over and whispered in Xu Qingnian’s ear.

“You can’t be arrested!”

“His Majesty’s birthday is around the corner, and there is already an order from above that these two or three months must never provoke this bunch of foreigners from the Fan merchants, lest by then their messengers come to Great Wei and ask for His Majesty’s guilt then it would be bad.”

Feng Jianhua said with a suppressed voice, but even with a suppressed voice, the merchants could hear a little of the content.

At that moment, the merchants changed their expressions, but did not say anything, but secretly breathed a sigh of relief.

“But this gang.”

Xu Qingnian was a little unconvinced and looked at the gang of Fan merchants.

“Forget it, forget it, they are not like this for a day or two, the big deal is that after this matter is over, let the people pay a little attention to it, and then when His Majesty’s birthday is over, press it again, anyway, no matter what, they cannot be offended.”

“Xu Qingnian, you’re in a lot of trouble now, it’s best not to get into this mess.”

Feng Jianhua spoke up, and in short, what he meant in a nutshell was don’t provoke them, just settle for this for now, and then just manage a little after His Majesty’s birthday is over.

When this was said, the merchants were even happier to hear it.

The truth is that they were really afraid when Xu Qingnian said that he would order them to do so, because this is an existence that dares to kill the king.

They really didn’t dare to provoke themselves ah.

Xu Qingnian frowned, he looked very hesitant and looked at the gang with anger in his eyes, but Feng Jianhua kept pulling Xu Qingnian and barking all sorts of instructions, looking a bit odd.

The people also saw this scene, not knowing what was happening, but somehow feeling that this matter could not be handled by Xu Qingnian either.

“Alright!”

Xu Qingnian opened his mouth, he took a deep breath and looked towards the people and said.

“People, I don’t know what to say, but please rest assured that if these merchants dare to continue acting like this in the future, I will not spare them.”

“This is the end of the matter today, I hope you will all give me face and let you suffer.”

Xu Qingnian bowed towards the people, respectfully.

At this moment, the people were silent, they did not expect Xu Qingnian to dare to lay hands on them as well, but what they knew even more was that Xu Qingnian could not invite further wrongdoing.

“Fine, Lord Xu, we believe you! This matter ends here.”

“Lord Xu, if anyone else came, we wouldn’t agree, but you, we give this face.”

“Lord Xu, you are a good official, you must have your own difficulties if you don’t take action, we trust you and won’t give you any trouble, let’s disperse first.”

“OK, OK, OK, let’s go.”

The people spoke up, they chose to believe Xu Qingnian unconditionally, although they were a little angry in their hearts, they still didn’t say anything more in the face of Xu Qingnian.

After all, Xu Qingnian has the courage to do what he says to redress the grievances of the people.

After that, Xu Qingnian spoke towards the merchants.

“That’s enough, this matter is over.”

“Don’t make any more trouble in the future, you will bear the cost of medicine for these people.”

Xu Qingnian said so.

If they were afraid of Xu Qingnian before, they were not afraid now that they knew Xu Qingnian had some scruples.

“Paying for the medicine? Sir, are you confused? They were the ones who asked for it, besides our jade is expensive, they should be the ones to compensate us.”

“Yes, yes, yes, we must be compensated, give us compensation.”

“These scholars, all of them know how to pull the wool over our eyes, Lord Xu, you are a clear official, you must give us an explanation for this matter, otherwise we will go to His Majesty to sue.”

“Yes, yes.”

The crowd of Fan merchants spoke up, each one arrogant as hell, but they didn’t say anything too extreme, after all, this was just to test Xu Qingnian’s attitude and see how far Xu Qingnian would let it go.

“How dare you!”

“You have injured someone and you still want to claim compensation? Are you really ignoring the laws of Great Wei?”

Xu Qingnian said angrily.

The group of Fan merchants changed their expressions somewhat, but the next moment Feng Jianhua immediately came and pulled Xu Qingnian, while Xu Qingnian glanced at Feng Jianhua, who pressed his voice somewhat sharply and said.

“Don’t make a scene, at this juncture, you really can’t make a scene.”

“Xu Qingnian, this matter really should not be interfered with.”

Feng Jianhua pulled Xu Qingnian with a look that he must not mess around, which made the group of Fan Shang even happier.

Xu Qingnian was silent.

And Feng Jianhua looked at the group of Fan merchants and said.

“Forget it, you don’t have to pay compensation, the government will handle it, so don’t say anything.”

Feng Jianhua said so, telling the people not to continue to make trouble, so let’s stop here.

I don’t want you to pay the money either.

But when the merchants took a look at the situation, they immediately came to life.

“What do you mean we don’t want compensation? They are the ones who will compensate us! If they don’t compensate us, we won’t leave today.”

“Yes, aren’t you bullying us, the foreigners? We want to sue the imperial court.”

“My jade stone is worth tens of thousands of taels of silver, is it too much to pay 500 taels of compensation?”

“Not too much, not too much at all.”

The crowd was rowdy and smug.

Feng Jianhua’s face changed, while the people clenched their fists, wishing they could rush in now and beat the gang up.

“All right, these five hundred taels are given by the Ministry of Punishment, this is over, don’t be bickering about anything.”

Feng Jianhua roared, and he came to fire.

You have beaten up people, you are not allowed to pay compensation, you are told to get lost, and you are still not happy?

And you want to continue to extort compensation? Are people willing to do that? Bullying is bullying, but is it possible to bully people like this?

But in the end, Feng Jianhua took a deep breath, he didn't want to make a big deal out of it, so let's leave it at that.

When this was said, all the merchants laughed, completely and utterly laughed.

Awaken Chapter 114 -

Kyoto, Great Wei.

In the Shouren Academy, after Xu Qingnian's order was given.

At this moment, the entire Ministry of War and the Ministry of Penalty had already been on the move.

These days, the foreign merchants have been running rampant in the capital of Great Wei, doing business instead of doing it properly, but only doing crooked things.

They have been unable to resist for a long time, but they have been ordered by their superiors not to move.

The people have been pointing fingers at them, calling them the dogs of the merchants, and they are angry too.

They had been holding their anger in their stomachs, especially the officials from the Ministry of Justice, who were even scolded by the people when they walked along the road.

Now that Xu Qingnian has finally given the order, the officials of the Ministry of Penalty and the Ministry of War have completely let themselves go.

As hard as they had pressed before, they were now as ferocious as they could be.

"Brothers, Lord Xu has ordered that the unscrupulous Fan merchants be apprehended and all arrested and brought to the Ministry of Penalty for trial!"

"What are you still doing? Lord Xu has ordered the Ministry of Punishment and the Ministry of War to join forces and arrest everyone on sight!"

"Let's go, let's arrest all these bastards."

A voice rang out, it was the officials from the Ministry of Punishment and the Ministry of War, they were now like wild horses that had broken free, heading straight for the major streets.

The Huainan Yamen.

A large number of capital soldiers swarmed out, each with a serious expression.

The people were furious, they looked at the soldiers and officials with a real sense of anger.

These days, they had been humiliated, but what they didn't expect was that today, when they broke out, these soldiers would come to stop them!

"Fellow villagers and fathers, these officials and soldiers are really too inappropriate, even if they don't help us, now they come over and want to suppress us, let's fight with them."

"Yes, how badly have we been victimised by these merchants these days? It is not enough that you have seen us being bullied, but now you are helping the enemy."

"Listen up, if these officials and soldiers arrest us, we will go outside the palace and make a scene, I don't believe His Majesty will not care about us."

The anger of the people raged as they shouted, their eyes filled with rage.

These days, they were really pissed off by this **merchant.

Only when the officials arrived and saw the people like this, they couldn't help but shout in haste.

"Don't misunderstand, we're not here to trouble you, Lord Xu has an order that recently the Fannish traitorous merchants have been doing wrong within Kyoto, so we are told to arrest the traitorous merchants, you people can go to the Ministry of Punishment now, Lord Xu wants to examine them in public."

"If the Ministry of Punishment is standing full of people, let's hurry back now and take out all those receipts, Lord Xu has a use for them."

"In a word, you can't trust us, but you can always trust Lord Xu, right? He has done the people justice, we see it in our eyes, don't we?"

He was afraid that the people would really mutiny, and if this were to go outside the palace, it would not be a trivial matter.

As soon as he said this, the people fell silent, and all of them began to whisper.

But immediately someone spoke up.

“Even if we don’t trust them, we can still trust Lord Xu. Lord Xu is a Confucian scholar who would rather offend the great scholars by seeking justice for the people of South Yu.

“The other thing is, when Lord Xu entered Kyoto, one of his officials was bullied, and Lord Xu would rather destroy his career than make a scene at the Ministry of Punishment, and the other day he beheaded the King of Huai Ping in anger.

“Let’s not talk about anything else, but Lord Xu is a really good official in the capital. If we go to the Ministry of Justice without any problems, if we are cheated by the merchants, we can go back and get the receipts, and Lord Xu will definitely do it for us.”

The people were talking as soon as they heard the loud voice.

“Yes, yes, Lord Xu is a good official, Lord Xu will indeed redress our grievances.”

“En, I believe in Lord Xu... What does Pingqiu have to do with Lord Xu? A million people died in vain, Lord Xu could have left it alone, it’s a case that happened decades ago, but Lord Xu would rather risk offending a prince and still seek justice for the people, he even invited the holy will, this alone is something we have to believe.”

“Okay, I don’t believe anyone else, but I believe Lord Xu! Let’s go, let’s go to the Ministry of Punishment.”

“Then let’s go back and get our receipts, I told you Lord Xu would not ignore us, let’s go now.”

The people opened their mouths and murmured.

They hesitantly whispered at first, not that they didn’t believe Xu Qingnian, but they didn’t believe what these officials said, only when they looked at the attitude of these officials, the crowd then believed they were true.

“Stop talking, let’s go, to the Ministry of Punishment, let’s back up Lord Xu.”

“Lord Xu came to the capital to make a fuss at the Ministry of Punishment and beheaded the county king in anger, now that we’ve encountered this, it’s reasonable to say that Lord Xu can’t step in anymore, he’s already offended many people, but now Lord Xu sees our pity and still steps up for us.”

“We definitely can’t let Lord Xu get cold feet, let’s go over there and back Lord Xu up! Lord Xu is our people’s parent official, a good official, now Lord Xu must be under great pressure, if we still make trouble here and don’t go to support Lord Xu, then are we still human?”

Some people shouted loudly, arguing that Xu Qingnian had done too much for them, and that now he was under enemy in the court, the Great Wei Palace despised Xu Qingnian, the civil ministers despised Xu Qingnian, and the hundred officials despised Xu Qingnian.

In such a difficult situation, Xu Qingnian still came out to redress the grievances of the people, and if people did not support Xu Qingnian, who else would support him?

As soon as these words were said, the people became excited and headed towards the Ministry of Punishment.

Looking at the people who left in a flock, the capital soldiers were completely relieved.

“This Xu Qingnian’s prestige is really big, he has already won the hearts of the people.”

“Yes, we should be polite when we see Lord Xu in the future, don’t look at Lord Xu’s rank now, but the people of the world support him, so he will be able to climb up the ladder and may be the Prime Minister one day.”

“En, we must respect Lord Xu when we see him in the future.”

The capital soldiers were shocked beyond measure, Xu Qingnian’s rallying power made them really don’t know what to say, a single word could make the people follow him over, if it was any other Shang Shu who came over, I guess the people wouldn’t listen.

It was terrifying, gaining the hearts of the people.

It was not just the Huainan magistrates’ offices, but also the magistrates’ offices all over Kyoto where the same thing happened.

Countless people went over to the Ministry of Punishment to support Xu Qingnian.

At the same time a voice appeared in Kyoto.

“Everyone stop it, Lord Xu has done us justice, go to the Ministry of Punishment.”

“Lord Xu is standing up to the pressure of the heavens to redress the grievances of us, the people, and to severely punish the treacherous merchants, everyone go to the Ministry of Punishment and give Lord Xu support, if we, the people, don’t give Lord Xu support, there will be no one to give Lord Xu support.”

“Lord Xu has offended all the people of Confucianism, and all the civil servants of the court, and the royal family hates Lord Xu. Let’s go to the Ministry of Justice and give Lord Xu our support.”

The people shouted, word of mouth, for everyone to go to the Ministry of Punishment quickly, yet some still spoke up, full of doubt.

“Xu Qingnian didn’t back us up before, why is he standing up and speaking out now? Is there a ghost?”

“Yes, he didn’t come forward earlier, he didn’t come forward later, he came forward at this time, it feels like there are not many good people in office.”

“Collusion between the government and business, this Xu Qingnian is not a good person either.”

An odd voice rang out, appearing eerie, this was deliberately done by someone to discredit Xu Qingnian’s reputation, so that the people would not blindly believe.

Just as soon as the words were said, what was instantly drawn was countless curses.

“What are you saying? Lord Xu didn’t show up before? When people beheaded the county king, were you blind? Were you deaf when he caused a fuss at the Ministry of Punishment? How can you say such things? Are you still a human being?”

“Why didn’t Lord Xu step in before? That’s because he had just killed the county king and the court didn’t like him, so Lord Xu didn’t dare to come forward. Do you have a conscience?”

“Yes, Lord Xu has done too much for us, the people, to be honest if this ** merchant is not too abominable, I really do not want Lord Xu to step forward again, pity me Lord Xu.”

“Lord Xu is so pitiful, both to speak up for us people and to be insulted by you people, why don’t you go and die? By the way, who are you? How come I haven’t seen you before?”

“Yes, yes, yes, who are you? I haven’t seen you before either, are you from our street?”

The people were not stupid, their first reaction was anger, thinking that Xu Qingnian had done enough for everyone and that the reason why he had not come forward all this time was because Xu Qingnian had endured too much.

The reason why Xu Qingnian had not come forward was because he had endured too much.

At the same time, as everyone cursed angrily, someone suddenly reacted and realised that these people seemed to be unfamiliar faces, ah, and when they questioned them more carefully, the person who had just spoken instantly turned pale and wanted to run away, but they were stopped by the people.

They would not let them go.

“Guys, I just have a broken mouth, I’m a tourist, a visitor.”

“Yes, yes, we don’t know what’s going on, we just made a few remarks, don’t get angry, don’t get angry.”

When the gang saw that public opinion was not right, they quickly shivered in fear and immediately begged for forgiveness, informing everyone that they were just talking casually.

“Just talking? You’re just saying whatever you want, Lord Xu is something you can talk about? I think you have evil intentions, catch him and hand him over to Lord Xu for disposal later.”

“Yes, yes, seize him, Lord Xu is a noble man who has served our people well, and you still want to gossip about our Lord Xu? Are you people?”

“They are definitely not tourists, they must have ill intentions, seize them and send them to the magistrate’s office.”

The people were furious, they were not stupid, they instantly realised that there was something wrong with these people, they caught the gang straight away and were going to report them to the officials.

“Listen to me for a moment, everyone, Lord Xu is a good official, let’s not question anyone about this, if he is not a good official, then who in the whole of Great Wei dares to claim that he is?”

“A man who dares to rebuke a great scholar for the people, a man who dares to make a scene at the Ministry of Justice for the people, a man who dares to kill a county king for the people, will he be greedy for money? No! Would he curry favour with merchants? No! He wouldn’t even please the emperor, would he please a **merchant?”

“Some people are creating rumours to harm our Lord Xu, we must not be fooled, if anyone dares to say one more bad word about Lord Xu, they will be taken directly to the court and let them know not to chill Lord Xu’s heart!”

“If we let Lord Xu get cold feet, who will stand up for us ordinary people in the future? Who will speak for the common people?”

Someone roared, instantly sensing that something was wrong, and called on the crowd to support Xu Qingnian.

And one by one, the people responded.

“Lord Xu, he’s a good official! Let’s support him!”

“Go, go, go, go to the Ministry of Punishment, don’t say anything.”

“Damn it, if anyone dares to curse Lord Xu one more time, I’ll chop his head off with this pig-killing knife, what a bastard.”

The support of the people was almost unprecedented.

And at this moment.

In Kyoto.

All the merchants were like ghosts at this moment, they were running around, and the soldiers were arresting them as soon as they saw them, no matter what, and taking them straight to the Ministry of Justice.

Many of these merchants ran into the homes of the people and tried to escape, but they were also taken away, and when they saw them, many people stood outside and shouted at the soldiers to come and arrest them.

Countless merchants were taken away, and they were all screaming in agony, but there were also arrogant people.

“Do you know who I am? Do you know who is behind me? How dare you arrest me? You are dead!”

“My country’s emissary will be here soon, which one of you dares to arrest me? Believe it or not, I’ll tell our emissary to go before His Majesty and censure your Ministry of War.”

“You dogs, how dare you arrest us? Do you want to die?”

The foreign merchants were dumbfounded, yesterday they were able to do business in Kyoto with impunity, all kinds of rampant and arrogant.

But today they had suddenly become rats and everyone was shouting at them, who could bear it?

The cowardly ones were afraid and kept saying that they had done nothing wrong and that they were just passing through.

The bold ones were still fierce, arrogant and domineering, and thought they were the King of Heaven.

“Shut the hell up.”

The Jing Bing kicked up and pointed at the Fan merchant who had been shouting and cursing angrily.

“If you say one more fucking word, I’ll cut you down with a knife, believe it or not. Do you really think this is your home, you dog?”

“This is Wei! It’s you who should get lost!”

The Peking soldiers were furious too, they had been patrolling the streets for some time and had seen many people being bullied by these merchants.

They were angry!

They were angry too.

But what could they do? There were orders from above not to let them arrest people, and they even had to be partial to them.

This belly full of fire has caused them to grow a lot of stuff on their faces during this period of time.

But to their surprise, this happiness came so suddenly, the top suddenly ordered that they could arrest people?

The Beijing soldiers were so excited that they rushed out, more enthusiastic than in battle.

Anyone who dared to shout would be slapped twice. Two more slaps on the wrist?

Still not convinced? If not, they would beat them to death.

“Good! Well said! This is the Great Wei, it’s these people who should get lost!”

“Good job, we should fight to the death.”

“Our soldiers of Great Wei still have blood in their veins.”

The people shouted and even applauded on both sides, cheering for the Peking soldiers.

And for a moment the Peking soldiers became even more excited, a sense of glory came over them, what did they become soldiers for? What did they become soldiers for? To defend their country, but not to mix with the army.

What is defending the country? To protect their own people, but also to be praised by the people.

Now that the people are praising them, how can they not be excited? How could they not be excited?

“People, this gang of crooked merchants, Lord Xu has said that they will be punished severely, so just wait for the good news, and Lord Xu has said that anyone who has been cheated by this gang of crooked merchants should hurry back and get their receipts.”

“We are all just doing our jobs, the person who is really under pressure is Lord Xu, there is a lot of power behind this gang of treacherous merchants, it is not for us to say whether we can eradicate them completely, nor is it for Lord Xu to say, it is for you to say.”

“People, I was also raised by my parents, I am a citizen of Wei, but today we must say something from the bottom of our hearts, this gang of foreigners, they have been making a fool of us in Wei, today Lord Xu is standing up for us! He will do us justice!”

“You must support Lord Xu, if you don’t, Lord Xu’s heart will really be chilled.”

The capital soldiers spoke up, saying all the good things for Xu Qingnian.

After hearing this, the people could not help but be moved to tears, after all, there are really not many good officials who can stand up for the people these days.

Soon afterwards, the merchants were sent in batches.

The merchants were sent to the Ministry of Justice one by one.

The Ministry of Justice was jammed with people, both inside and outside, including a dozen streets outside, all of whom came to watch and support Xu Qingnian.

The good thing is that the Beijing soldiers had left their men behind beforehand, leaving a lane empty.

All the merchants were escorted over, one by one, into the Ministry of Justice, while the people on both sides cursed loudly and angrily.

“A** merchants, do you really think no one can punish you?”

“What a bunch of dogs, Lord Xu, you will be punished severely.”

“Arrogant, why don’t you guys continue to be arrogant?”

“Boss Choi, where is your arrogance from yesterday? Why aren’t you talking now?”

“Lord Xu, you must punish these treacherous merchants.”

The people roared in anger, and some even took vegetable leaves and smashed them directly on the gang of treacherous merchants, but they still did not relieve their hatred.

The fact that they had attracted such hatred showed how many things these merchants had done that made people angry.

Outside the Ministry of Justice.

A public hall is set up!

At the main table sits Xu Qingnian.

On his left is the Minister of Punishment, Zhang Jing! Gu Yan, the Minister of Household Affairs!

On the right sits Zhou Yan, the Minister of War.

Three of the Six Ministers are sitting in the audience.

Xu Qingnian was presiding over the trial.

It is clear how big this is.

There was no need to mention the fact that many spies were already sending messages back to the city, and the whole of Wei was concerned about this matter.

The three Shang Shu listened to the trial.

Xu Qingnian is presiding over the trial with the Dragon Talisman.

No matter what the outcome is today, Great Wei will once again be abuzz with excitement.

One by one, the merchants were arrested, and even if only the leaders were arrested, three to four hundred people were arrested, and it was fortunate that this was set up outside the Ministry of Justice, for if it were inside the Ministry of Justice, there would have been no room for examination.

The crowd grew, the people gathered, even if they were dozens of streets apart, there were people standing and watching, letting those in front of them pass on the news.

By the end of the day there were already 700 or 800 merchants, and all of them were big leaders, while the rest of the small leaders were in other places.

They were not qualified to enter at all.

He took a glance at the sky.

Xu Qingnian took a sip of tea, not in a hurry, for the real characters had not yet arrived.

Awaken Chapter 115 -

Kyoto, Great Wei.

The outer hall of the Ministry of Justice.

Xu Qingnian looked at the group of merchants and did not say a word.

Looking at the sky, Xu Qingnian knew that the real big shots had not yet made their appearance.

Who were these people? Kyoto merchants, they don't need to pay taxes to do business in Wei, what does this mean? What does this mean? It means that the money they make every year is a net profit.

And why are the foreign merchants in Wei like fish in water? Why are they so dominant?

In the past, when Xu Qingnian first came to the capital, he encountered such a situation and saw with his own eyes the blackmail of the merchants.

Why are they so arrogant?

If there weren't some people behind them? Even Xu Qingnian didn't believe it.

Even Xu Qingnian could be sure that the bigwigs behind these merchants, you said there were not a few princes, would they dare to do so?

The answer is obvious.

The merchants were mad, but how mad could they be? Arrogant on someone else's turf? Isn't that seeking death?

If you dare to be arrogant, you have the capital and the courage.

Xu Qingnian didn't want to find out who was behind them today, his aim was simple: to punish these merchants severely in front of the people behind them.

He wanted to bite off a piece of meat.

"Xu Qingnian, you dare to arrest me? Do you know who I am? I am the tribal leader of the Tai Wu Clan, and I am extremely close to the messenger, if you arrest me, I will definitely tell our messenger!"

“Xu Qingnian, untie me, if you offend me, I can guarantee that you will end up miserable, you simply don’t know how powerful we are.”

Someone shouted, the most arrogant of the Fan merchants, they roared and looked at Xu Qingnian with flames coming out of their eyes.

They were relatively large merchants, strong and with people behind them, but what they didn’t expect was to be caught like dogs, leaving them with no shame!

However, in the face of these two, Xu Qingnian’s face was clear and cold.

“According to the laws of the Great Wei, threatening an official of the court is a crime punishable by beheading!”

“Men! Kill!”

Xu Qingnian’s face was clear and cold as he threw out the order on the table, the word beheading was overbearing.

“Xu Qingnian! Are you crazy?”

“Xu Qingnian, if you dare to kill me, you will die a miserable death!”

The two men still shouted, they simply did not believe that Xu Qingnian dared to kill them, roaring in anger, the arrogance in their eyes was very similar to that of the Huai Ping County King, but the arrogance of the Huai Ping County King was that he thought he had a great background and thought he could not die.

The arrogance of these people, on the other hand, was that they thought they had done nothing wrong, and even if they had, they did not deserve to die, so they had no fear.

But!

The order had already been given.

Without any change of expression on his face, the official of the Ministry of Punishment directly grabbed these two people and pulled them aside.

“Wait!”

Xu Qingnian spoke, and at this moment all the merchants sighed in relief, mistaking Xu Qingnian for a man who was afraid and wanted to give himself a step down.

The two merchants also shut up, they did not dare to continue to provoke Xu Qingnian, in case Xu Qingnian really had a hot head, they would have lost their heads.

Everyone looked at Xu Qingnian, and the people were curious, wondering what Xu Qingnian was doing all of a sudden. Were they really afraid?

But at that moment, Xu Qingnian's voice rang out coldly.

"Behead them on the spot!"

Four words fell, and at this moment there was an uproar.

"What? Beheaded on the spot?"

"Xu Qingnian really dares to do this?"

"Is this Xu Qingnian crazy?"

The merchants were horrified, unable to believe that Xu Qingnian would say such a thing. Is that too harsh?

The people also smacked their lips, knowing that Xu Qingnian was fierce, but they never thought that Xu Qingnian would be so fierce?

"Yes, sir!"

The officials of the Ministry of Justice didn't say anything, they just grabbed the two merchants and brought them to the open space, kicking them twice to make them kneel on the ground.

The large swords were waved and the cold light flashed.

The two merchants' lips turned white with fear and their words seemed to tremble.

"Xu Qingnian, even if we are at fault, we do not deserve to die, you are bending the law!"

"Xu Qingnian, you can talk nicely about what's going on, if you really move us, you will definitely not suffer well."

The two men's words were arrogant, but their voices trembled; with a knife at their necks, how many people would dare to speak up? Especially such profit-oriented merchants.

When the sword fell, the officers of the Ministry of Punishment were not dullards, and Xu Qingnian did not say to stop, they naturally carried out their orders strictly.

However, it was just in the nick of time.

A voice rang out.

“Save the man under the sword!”

A majestic voice rang out, someone had finally arrived.

How could someone not come when things had come to this point?

All the merchants breathed a sigh of relief, the voice was familiar to them.

The officers of the Ministry of Justice stopped and did not continue to chop, after all, someone had said that they would not dare to continue chopping.

However, at that moment, Xu Qingnian’s voice followed.

“Chop!”

The voice was cold and heartless, ringing in the duo’s ears.

In an instant, there was no more hesitation on the part of the officers of the Ministry of Punishment, for this was an order given by Xu Qingnian, and the Minister of Punishment, Zhang Jing, had explained it clearly before.

Xu Qingnian was in charge of everything, and whatever he said was what he would do.

No one would be of any use, unless His Majesty himself came.

“How dare you!”

That angry roar rang out, trying to stop it.

But the knife of the official of the Ministry of Punishment had already fallen.

Two heads rolled to the ground, blood splattered all around, and with two fluttering sounds, the heads of the two merchants were gone.

Silence!

Quiet!

Quiet!

The Ministry of Justice’s Minister Zhang Jing, the Ministry of Household Affairs’ Minister Gu Yan and the Ministry of War’s Minister Zhou Yan were silent.

The Ministry of Justice was silent, the merchants were silent, the people were silent.

Everyone was silent.

The reason is that Xu Qingnian really chopped off the heads of two merchants.

This is to The first thing you need to do is to get rid of the problem.

To be honest, these merchants were able to run amok in Kyoto, the people were not stupid and knew that there were people behind them.

When that voice sounded, they also realized that someone was going to step in to protect these merchants.

So they didn't think that Xu Qingnian would really dare to wield his sword and cut them down.

But what they didn't expect was that the two merchants who were screaming the loudest were really dead.

This is really There is something unbelievable.

The first thing you need to do is to kill them.

It was a clean cut.

There was no mercy whatsoever.

"All troops listen to the order."

The next moment, Xu Qingnian's voice rang out again.

At that moment, the officials from the Ministry of War and the Ministry of Punishment stood in line in unison, their aura like a dragon.

"No matter what, today's matter will be decided by my words, if anyone dares to stop this officer from handling the case again, they will be severely punished according to the law, and those who dare to disturb the order will be killed!"

Xu Qingnian spoke, he was not satisfied with what happened to the other side, very dissatisfied.

To have an official from the Ministry of Justice strike, and actually have hesitation and pause, this kind of law enforcement ability, it was too poor!

However, Xu Qingnian also understood that these officers were also worried that they would be too quick with the knife and make the situation too stiff, but this was not a

reason, the natural duty of officers and soldiers was to obey orders, if they did not obey orders, they were not doing a good job.

“We obey orders!”

The crowd spoke in unison, giving the strongest response.

And at that moment, the voice of the Minister of Penalty, Zhang Jing, followed suit.

“Today’s trial is conducted by the Ministry of Penalty, the Ministry of War, and the Ministry of Household in cooperation with Lord Xu, Lord Xu’s order is our will, and also His Majesty’s will, the two people who enforced the law just now, receive ten military truncheons as a sign of punishment!”

Zhang Jing understood where Xu Qingnian’s discontent lay, so he spoke up at the first opportunity, firstly to tell everyone that Xu Qingnian alone could make the decision on today’s matter, and secondly to tell everyone that the three of them, the three Shang Shu, had completely sided with Xu Qingnian and supported him unconditionally.

Of course, the most important point is that these merchants should be killed! What could be done if they were killed?

“Xu Qingnian, Lord Xu, you really have great official authority.”

At that very moment, a voice rang out.

This voice was filled with anger.

Not far away, a middle-aged man walked over, wearing a python robe, with a dragon walk, a Chinese face, thick eyebrows and a murderous aura, a powerful aura that made the surrounding people a little afraid.

This was a vassal king, the King of Zhenxi County.

The real king in power is the county king, but he is definitely higher than the Huai Ping County King, because he holds real power, is the feudal king of a land, and has military power under his hand, such a figure is a man of the people in all parts of the Great Wei.

Anyone would have to give him the benefit of the doubt.

Especially because of his title, the King of Zhenxi.

He was the seventh son of Emperor Taizu and suppressed the entire north-western realm, otherwise how could he have dared to be known as the King of Zhenxi?

This vassal king was no weaker than Prince Huaining.

His appearance caused all three Shang Shu to rise to their feet.

“My humble servant, I have met the King of Zhenxi!”

The three opened their mouths and bowed towards the King of Zhenxi.

The Zhen Xi King’s gaze, however, did not fall on the three Shang Shu, but instead turned his gaze towards Xu Qingnian.

There was anger in his eyes, he had already said that he would leave people under the sword, but Xu Qingnian still dared to behead these two merchants, how could he not be angry?

“How dare you! Why do you worship the King of Zhenxi? Xu Qingnian, you have overstepped your authority, which is a great crime! You should be punished!”

At this moment, the guards beside the King of Zhenxi roared, martial artists, pointing at Xu Qingnian with a furious roar.

However, Xu Qingnian paid no heed, but calmly took out the Dragon Talisman of the Great Interior.

When the Dragon Talisman appeared, King Zhen Xi’s face changed, and those guards’ faces also changed instantly.

“How dare you all not kneel when you see the Saint?”

Xu Qingnian asked in a stern voice, looking at King Zhenxi’s guards.

“Kneel!”

The King of Zhenxi spoke with a suppressed voice, and in an instant these guards knelt on the ground, chanting Long Live My Emperor.

And the King of Zhenxi also bowed his hands towards the dragon talisman, he was a vassal king, he could not kneel, but he had to pay a bow, it was respect.

“King Zhenxi is kind.”

Xu Qingnian smiled blandly.

The big fish had finally arrived, it was not in vain that he had laid out for so long.

The King of Zhenxi was a vassal king, he had come a long way to the capital, it was certainly not because of himself, nor could he have been unpredictable, come to think of it wasn’t just the group of princes in Kyoto who had invited their helpers.

In the case of the foreign merchants, no power in Kyoto would dare to show its face, and if it did, it would be looking for death.

However, the foreign princes can come forward, they are not in the capital, so even if they want to throw dirty water on them, they cannot do so.

Unless they had substantial evidence.

“This king

The King of Zhenxi had just opened his mouth, yet Xu Qingnian’s voice rang out.

“Does this official tell you to get up again?”

Xu Qingnian looked at the guards beside King Zhenxi, a simple statement that made King Zhenxi frown.

The King of Zhenxi’s guards did not dare to get up, but their faces became ugly, as the King of Zhenxi’s guards, their status was also extremely high, and they could be said to be the overlords in the local area, in any place, who would not give them some face?

Even if they went to other county kings’ residences, those kings would be slightly more polite to them.

Xu Qingnian, on the other hand, kept making them kneel on the ground, which was too humiliating, and at the same time, it was also not giving face to the King of Zhenxi ah.

“Xu Qingnian.”

Zhen Xi King was just about to continue speaking when Xu Qingnian’s voice rang out again.

“King Zhenxi, dare I ask if there is an imperial decree for you to enter the capital?”

Xu Qingnian once again interrupted the King of Zhenxi, he was not afraid of any King of Zhenxi or King of Zhenbei, he had already offended many people anyway, one more prince for you is not much, one less prince for you is not much.

“So what if I have? So what if there isn’t?”

The King of Zhenxi was furious.

He had heard of Xu Qingnian’s arrogance and knew that Xu Qingnian was arrogant, but these were all from other people’s mouths, yet when he saw it today, he was really arrogant to the extreme.

“If there is an imperial decree, everything will be fine.”

“If there is no imperial decree, according to the laws of the Great Wei, the legacy of the Great Ancestor, a vassal king cannot enter the capital without an imperial decree.

“Your Majesty, don’t put your servant in a difficult position, but please produce the imperial decree.”

Xu Qingnian spoke out, one word at a time, speaking clearly.

People smacked their lips, a series of shocks, Xu Qingnian was just too domineering, facing the King of Zhenxi, a king with real power, and daring to speak like this.

What the hell kind of person is this?

Does Xu Qingnian have seven guts?

Oh, no, did Xu Qingnian have nothing else but guts?

“Fine!”

“Bravo!”

“The King has always heard of Lord Xu’s reputation, knowing that he is upright and unafraid of power.

The King of Zhenxi took out the imperial decree and placed it on the long table, he did not get angry, nor did he argue with Xu Qingnian over any verbal arguments.

Because he knew that Xu Qingnian was already not giving him any face, everything was done in a public manner, if he wanted to use his power to oppress others, or to show off any king’s prestige.

It would definitely not work.

Since Xu Qingnian was doing everything in a public manner, he could also do it in a public manner, he wanted to see what Xu Qingnian could toss out.

“Your Highness is too kind, but I don’t know what your Highness wants to do at the Ministry of Justice today? Are you also being robbed of your silver by these merchants?”

Xu Qingnian smiled modestly.

And King Zhenxi did not smile, his face was calm.

“This king has come today because he wants to see how Lord Xu will judge the case, this king has received a secret report that Lord Xu has taken money from others and is acting in an improper manner, being the royal family, he has the responsibility to supervise all the officials of Great Wei, of course this king also believes that this is a misunderstanding, just that no matter what, this king has the obligation to supervise.”

“If Lord Xu is really upright, the king will certainly punish these villains severely, but if Lord Xu is unfair in judging the case, then the king will not sit idly by and do nothing, I hope Lord Xu will forgive me.”

The King of West China has thoroughly understood what kind of person Xu Qingnian is, so he intervened in this matter in a different way, using his usual style, the Minister of the Six Ministries would give himself face, but Xu Qingnian would not give himself face.

It was better to be direct.

“Understood.”

“Your Majesty is dedicated to the Great Wei, this is something that my humble servant respects, since this is the case, then take your seat on your right.”

Xu Qingnian nodded, it was good that people were coming, but he was afraid that they wouldn't.

“Then these subordinates of this king?”

The King of Zhenxi said calmly.

“Oh, in theory, minions are not allowed to observe, after all, the Ministry of Penalty adjudicates cases, but for the sake of the king's status and the fear that some thieves might disrupt the law, these minions will make an exception for once.”

Xu Qingnian had a smile on his face, but the word “lackey” was a sneer that was spot on.

In Great Wei, a lackey was different from a minister; in Xu Qingnian's previous country, a lackey was someone close to him, and a minister was someone who did things, so a lackey had a higher status than a minister, and was also a compliment.

However, in Great Wei, a lackey meant a slave, without any dignity or power, equivalent to goods, and a vassal had a higher status than a lackey.

Naturally this one sentence scolded these few guards with ugly faces, and if the King of Zhenxi were not here, they would probably have cursed a few times.

“Lord Xu, a sharp tongue, that's really good, this king admires you.”

The King of Zhenxi smiled, followed by a sullen face and settled down, several guards also got up and stood behind the King of Zhenxi, their faces grim and frightening.

Just after he had settled down, King Zhen Xi wanted to speak.

However, Xu Qingnian once again took the lead.

“Your Majesty, you are listening to the trial, but there is one thing that I have to remind you of, the person in charge of this trial is this official, not the king.

“Lest it bring trouble to the king.”

Xu Qingnian reminded.

At the same time, he was also telling the other party that he was the biggest today, and no one was qualified to give orders for him except His Majesty who had come, otherwise, even if you were the king, I, Xu, would dare to take action.

You don't believe me? Think about what happened to the Huai Ping County King.

“What Lord Xu said, this king is the royal family, the first to abide by the laws of Great Wei, as long as Lord Xu can do things fairly and without any favouritism, this king will definitely not interfere.”

The King of Zhenxi laughed lightly.

The meaning of these words is also very simple, if you let me not pick a fault, I will not say anything, if you do something wrong, the time to say I still say.

Xu Qingnian didn't care about King Zhenxi anymore.

Instead, he slowly sat down.

The big man had arrived, and it was time for the real good show to begin.

“Men!”

“Escort all the merchants outside the hall.”

Xu Qingnian spoke, his voice indifferent.

“As ordered!”

Voices rang out in unison.

In an instant, the merchants who were being held outside were sent to the hall one by one.

After a count, an official spoke up.

“Lord Xu, three hundred and ninety-five prisoners have been brought to the hall.”

The official spoke up and said so.

And on the long table.

Xu Qingnian looked at the merchants, and then spoke again.

“You merchants, by the grace of the late emperor, were allowed to do business in the capital and were exempted from taxation because of your poverty.”

“But I never imagined that in our capital, you have committed crimes, extorted money from others, and acted in a despotic manner, at times cheating and deceiving, at times injuring people and forcing them to buy and sell.”

“They have committed a heinous crime, causing fear and anxiety among the people, and deserve to die.

Xu Qingnian’s words were incomparably cold, directly convicting them and beheading them.

Once these words were spoken.

In an instant, more than three hundred merchants shouted out.

“Lord Xu, where have we done wrong and run amok, there must be a misunderstanding here.”

“Yes, yes, it’s all a misunderstanding, we are in business, how dare we be so arrogant.”

“Lord Xu, we are honest businessmen, how could we do such things against our conscience?”

The merchants spoke up, they would not admit what they had done, and as for the others, they did not dare to shout, after all, the two heads were still on the ground, their eyes were not even closed.

“Lord Xu, although the king is not in the capital, he knows a little bit about it, these merchants have rules for doing business, and this is the Great Wei, even if they are crazy, they would not dare to blackmail people for money, right?”

“It’s not that the king is picking on them, but everything has to be based on physical evidence.”

The King of Zhenxi spoke calmly, arguing for these merchants.

“That’s fine, in that case, pass the physical evidence.”

Xu Qingnian was also calm, with just one word, and immediately dozens of officials quickly came and placed stacks of receipts on the hall.

At this moment, the people suddenly whispered.

“So Lord Xu had already prepared for this. No wonder the officials had asked the merchants to leave receipts when we were blackmailed these days.

“This is a good receipt, I want to see how these merchants can defend themselves.”

“Good, good, so that’s how it is, this receipt is ironclad evidence, none of these merchants will get away.”

The people whispered, they didn’t expect the receipt to serve this purpose, and lamented Xu Qingnian’s forethought.

“June 15th, Yongxing shop, jade twenty-five taels.”

“June 15th, Changping shop, jade forty-eight taels.”

“June 15th, Chang’an shop, jade goods, fourteen hundred and fifty taels.”

Xu Qingnian picked up a stack at random, and then read out the contents on it, word by word.

After reading out a paragraph, the official of the Ministry of Penalty brought in a few more boxes.

“Your Excellency, in recent months, the government offices all over the capital, including the Ministry of Criminal Justice, have taken over a total of four hundred and thirty-five cases of Fan merchants, and all the dossiers are in them.”

“The highest involved, seven thousand taels of silver, the lowest fifteen taels of silver, please check and receive them, Your Excellency.”

The official of the Ministry of Justice spoke up and said what the boxes contained.

“En.” Xu Qingnian nodded, then turned his gaze towards the King of Zhenxi and said, “Your Majesty, does this count as physical evidence?”

Xu Qingnian asked.

“This king will take a look.”

The King of Zhenxi was very bland, and as soon as he spoke, the guard beside him came in front of Xu Qingnian and picked up a stack of written documents before handing them to the King of Zhenxi.

The latter unfolded it very calmly and read it one by one.

After reading about a dozen of them, King Zhenxi shook his head.

“Lord Xu, what’s wrong with these notes? They are all sale notes, how can this be considered physical evidence?”

The King of Western Town was clearly trying to favour these merchants, not considering this to be forced buying and selling, but rather that it was just a normal sale, no big deal.

“Oh!”

“Your Majesty is really joking!”

Xu Qingnian laughed lightly and then looked at the merchants and said.

“Where is the shopkeeper of Yongxing Shop?”

The voice rang out, and immediately a middle-aged fat man spoke up, “I am here.”

“This official asks you, this note says that on the 15th of June, you received 25 taels of silver from Li, what is that about?”

Xu Qingnian asked.

The latter lowered his head, but still said very seriously.

“Your Excellency, this is doing business, I’m not sure about the specific matters, there are so many businesses every day, I can’t remember every single thing.”

The latter did not dare to elaborate, only thinking to muddle through.

“Doing business? That’s fine, pass on Li.”

Xu Qingnian continued to speak.

At that moment, a woman walked out quickly and looked at Xu Qingnian and knelt down directly.

“Woman Li, meet Lord Xu.”

“Greetings to all the lords.”

Li opened her mouth and knelt respectfully to Xu Qingnian.

“Don’t make a big salute.”

“Li, this official asks you, on the 15th of June, what did you buy at the Yong Xing Shop?”

Xu Qingnian said with a gentle face.

“Your Excellency, my wife did not buy anything from the Yong Xing Shop.”

Li replied.

“Didn’t buy anything? Then why did he charge you twenty-five taels of silver?”

Xu Qingnian continued to ask.

“Your Excellency, on that day, I was just passing by the Yongxing Shop and happened to see an emerald green bracelet, so I was pleased with it and looked at it for a while.

“Although I knew it was expensive, I couldn’t resist putting it on, but the bracelet was too small for me to put on, so I gave up after trying it on.”

“I was about to leave, but I was surprised when the shopkeeper of the Yongxing Shop asked me to buy the bracelet and offered me 3,000 taels of silver.”

“My husband has a job, but his monthly salary is only eight taels of silver, so even if he doesn’t eat or drink for ten years, he won’t earn three thousand taels of silver.

“So I argued with the shopkeeper, but he spoke harshly to me and even exchanged punches and kicks with me.

“But the shopkeeper of the Wing Hing Shop was still unforgiving and demanded at least fifty taels of silver as compensation, thinking that the woman had ruined the bracelet and the jade.”

“Later, when the official came, the shopkeeper still insulted the woman, but finally, under the mediation of the official, he gave her 25 taels of silver.”

“Your Excellency! I don’t care about the silver or money, but I am a woman anyway, and I was humiliated by them in broad daylight, even stripping her clothes and slapping her.

“I’m afraid I would have jumped into the river and killed myself! I’ve lost all my face, I can’t live any longer.”

“I hope you will do something for me!”

Li spoke up, at first she was just talking, but the more she spoke, the more emotional she became, and in the end she was bawling.

To a woman, reputation is so important, and she had already married a woman, but she was humiliated in public and even stripped of her clothes.

If her husband had not loved her, I am afraid that if it were a normal person, she would have lived in shame, unable to carry herself for a long time, or even jumped into the river to kill herself.

“Don’t get excited.”

“Today, I am here to do justice to the people.”

“Boss of Yongxing Shop, this official asks you if this matter is true?”

Xu Qingnian first comforted, and then looked at the shopkeeper of Yongxing Shop with a cold and incomparable gaze, asking thus.

“Your Excellency, this bitch is completely creating rumours and causing trouble, how dare I do this, the Yongxing Shop would not do this at all, she is lying, Your Excellency, you must not fall for it, this bitch usually passes by my shop and has always liked my family’s jade.”

“Three times she has come to bargain, but my jade is so exquisite that it is impossible to sell it at a low price, and she is harbouring a grudge, and today she is taking advantage of the opportunity to take revenge.”

“Bitch! You are so cheap!”

The shopkeeper of Yongxing Shop explained in a hundred ways, not admitting the matter at all, and even insulted the other party by saying “bitch” in one breath.

How could they tolerate such an insult from a merchant who called a Wei woman a slut?

The people were so shocked.

The wood of the hall was slapped.

Xu Qingnian’s eyes were cold.

“How dare you lie in front of this official!”

“This person, no matter what, is a citizen of Great Wei, so by calling her a bitch, you are insulting her as well as the citizens of Great Wei.”

“Someone, slap her mouth for fifty.”

Xu Qingnian spoke up, and with a command, the officers of the Ministry of Punishment directly stepped forward and grabbed him to death.

“My lord, my lord, I didn’t mean it, I didn’t mean it, ah ah ah ah!”

The merchant tried to defend himself, but he was grabbed by the officers of the Ministry of Punishment and beaten on the mouth with a wooden order, each blow making a cracking sound and with great force.

The officers did not like this man either, so they were naturally harsh.

“Lord Xu.”

“Before the matter is clearly investigated, you have gone a bit too far, haven’t you?”

At this moment, the King of Zhenxi spoke up, trying to stand up for the Fanshang.

“Shut up!”

Xu Qingnian looked away coldly, his gaze landing on Zhen Xi Wang, two words that drew a murderous aura in a flash.

The Zhen Xi King’s gaze was indifferent, while the guards around him had fierce gazes, full of killing intent.

Xu Qingnian actually told King Zhenxi to shut up?

This was truly treacherous.

“King Zhenxi! I call you a king because I respect your single-mindedness for the country, and this person insulted my Wei woman as a slut, yet you still help her speak out.”

“I would like to ask you, Your Majesty! Are you the king of Great Wei or not?”

Xu Qingnian spoke up, and with some rebuke, the people resonated.

“Yes, are you still the prince of our Great Wei?”

“You’re still a relative of the royal family? What kind of royal relative is that, helping outsiders bully their own people?”

“Your Majesty? They call our women sluts and you still help them? Don’t you have a mother or a daughter-in-law?”

“This bullshit prince, it’s so annoying to watch, but it’s Lord Xu who is dedicated to Wei.”

The people cursed, they were also angry, this man was used to being a bully, even if people were humiliated, now in front of the high officials of Wei, they still dare to call her a bitch.

This was a great shame.

A group of foreigners who deserve to be killed.

He was not stupid, but smart enough to know that the people were angry and that Xu Qingnian was in control of the people’s hearts, so if he dared to say anything else, he was afraid that it would lead to trouble.

Therefore, King Zhen Xi spoke up.

“Everyone has misunderstood, what this king means is that the matter should be investigated more clearly, lest it be unclear and in retrospect these foreign states will say that we in Great Wei are bullying people.”

“Lord Xu, although the king respects you, I hope that Lord Xu will be careful with his words, otherwise with what he said just now, the king can refer you to His Majesty.”

The King of Zhenxi changed his approach, both explaining himself and warning Xu Qingnian a little.

Don’t use the country’s righteousness to pressure yourself, if you really piss yourself off, who cares who you are.

“That’s what the king means then.”

“This official thought that Your Majesty had some kind of collusion with this bunch of Fan merchants.”

“But think about it, the king is a vassal king, what are these merchants? What are these merchants? Are they just making some money? The king is so noble and regards gold and silver as dirt, what does he need so much silver for?”

Xu Qingnian said grimly.

“You! Don’t talk nonsense!”

When he heard the word “rebel”, the King of Zhenxi rose up, and he looked at Xu Qingnian with anger and emotion.

As a vassal king, the thing he wanted to do the most and the thing he did not want to touch the most was to rebel.

Xu Qingnian’s words were too damaging.

“Your Majesty, don’t get excited, this official is just talking.”

“All right, summon the Jing Bing witnesses.”

Xu Qingnian ignored the King of Zhenxi, but spoke slowly and had the capital soldiers summoned inside.

At once, the four capital soldiers came outside the hall and bowed towards Xu Qingnian.

“We have met Lord Xu.”

The four men bowed respectfully towards Xu Qingnian.

“Do you know the civilian woman under the hall?”

Xu Qingnian asked without any nonsense, pointing at Li.

“Back to your Excellency, we know each other.”

The four of them just looked at each other and spoke in unison to answer.

“How do you know each other?”

Xu Qingnian said calmly.

“Your Excellency, my servant Wang Yangchen is responsible for patrolling the North Street of Kyoto. On the 15th of June, a citizen reported a fight and brawl at Yongxing Shop, and when my servant and others arrived at once, they found the Yongxing Shop’s fellows beating Li.”

“The first thing we did was to stop them, and only after careful questioning did we learn that Li had tried on a jade bracelet from the Yongxing Shop, and the shopkeeper believed that the bracelet was taken from a sacred mountain and possessed a spiritual nature, and that after it was made into jade, the first person to touch it would be tainted with the spirit.”

“This was also their selling point, but after Li wore it, she had no silver to pay for it, which is why the conflict occurred.”

Jing Bing told the truth and would not tell a lie.

“Understood.”

Xu Qingnian looked towards the Yongxing Shopkeeper, only the other party was still being slapped, so he withdrew his gaze and waited until the fight was over before asking again.

Resetting her gaze on Wang Yangchen.

Xu Qingnian continued to speak.

“Then have you and the others seen with your own eyes that Li was beaten up?”

Wang Yangchen’s four men did not think twice before saying.

“Back to Your Excellency, I saw it, and Li was still somewhat dishevelled, so my subordinate took off his jacket and covered Li with it.”

Xu Qingnian nodded, and then took a long breath.

He gazed at the Fan merchants.

“Bravo! When it’s really good!”

“My people of Great Wei, in the middle of Kyoto, at the feet of the Son of Heaven, to be humiliated like this.”

“This is just a failure to buy and sell, if there is some revenge, will they kill someone in the street?”

Xu Qingnian looked at the merchants and said this.

“Your Excellency, forgive me!”

“My lord, we have been wronged.”

“My lord, how dare we.”

The merchants all spoke up, kneeling on the ground and shouting.

“Humph.”

Xu Qingnian snorted coldly, and it was at that moment that the Yongxing shopkeeper was also finished being slapped in the mouth.

His mouth was full of blood, and his eyes and nose were full of tears and snot from the pain.

The official of the Ministry of Justice had done an excellent job of making the other party feel the pain while not letting him pass out.

“Boss of Yongxing Shop, the evidence is all there, what else do you have to say in your defence?”

In the hall, Xu Qingnian asked coldly.

“Your Excellency, Everything is just a misunderstanding, the jade is indeed worth a lot of money and has a spiritual nature, how can you say that it is forced to buy and sell? My lord, you have wronged me.”

The Yongxing shopkeeper cried out, and up to this moment, still insisted that it was just a misunderstanding.

“Good, how valuable and spiritual!”

“Even more valuable, Li is asking for three thousand taels of silver just to wear it for a while.”

“Even more spiritual, it’s gone when touched, so don’t you absorb the spirituality when you touch it on a regular basis?”

“And, even if even what you say is true, but even if Li doesn’t buy it, can you report it to the police? Yet you used torture on your own, beating Li and humiliating a virtuous woman in front of broad daylight.”

“How can you explain this?”

Xu Qingnian said in a stern voice.

“I This

The Yongxing shopkeeper couldn’t say anything, he stammered and didn’t know what to say, he could only look at the Zhen Xi King.

And the King of Zhenxi was also silent.

It is Li’s fault that the goods were not bought, and you can indeed report it to the official.

It was also true that using lynchings and beating people up was wrong, and it was impossible for him to defend it even if he could have done so.

Sensing the silence of the King of Zhenxi, the latter knew that he could only admit his mistake.

“I admit my mistake.”

“My lord, I will never dare to do so again.”

He lowered his head and said in tears.

“Good!”

“Since you admit your mistake, then sign and pledge.”

Xu Qingnian spoke directly, and at that moment threw out the white paper on the table, which was a confession of guilt.

The latter looked at the confession of guilt floating around and knew that he would have to bleed heavily today, but what could he do? But what could he do? When he met Xu Qingnian, what could he say?

But this hatred, he would keep in his heart, and one day, he would definitely take revenge back.

At that moment, the latter drew a charge.

As the charge was drawn, the official of the Ministry of Justice picked up the confession of guilt and handed it to Xu Qingnian.

Looking at the signature on it, Xu Qingnian nodded and said in a gentle tone.

“If you know your mistakes and can correct them, there is no greater good.”

“In your next life, don’t be like this.”

“Someone, behead him on the spot.”

Xu Qingnian threw out the decapitation order and said in a gentle tone, hoping that the other party would not be like this in his next life.

“Many thanks, my lord, many thanks

The Yongxing shopkeeper subconsciously thanked Xu Qingnian, thinking that it was only a minor punishment and would be left at that.

But when he made his intentions clear, his entire body froze.

Don't do this in your next life?

Beheaded on the spot?

I have to be beheaded even if I admit my mistake?

What the hell is wrong with that?

When he tried to speak up, the official of the Ministry of Punishment had already grabbed him, brought him aside and pressed him directly to the ground.

"Lord Xu, Lord Xu, I know I was wrong, I know I was wrong, I didn't deserve to die."

"Lord Xu, even if I am wrong, I don't deserve to have my head killed."

He cried out, crying out loudly, he didn't think that a small matter like this would warrant a beheading?

He had been very cooperative.

It was also at this point that the King of Zhenxi sat up.

To be honest, he was also a bit confused, Xu Qingnian was not being decisive, this was a killing spree, right?

He had already admitted his mistake, but you still beheaded him?

Besides, even if he was wrong in the first place, he didn't deserve to die, right?

"Stop it!"

"Lord Xu, this has gone too far!"

"He's guilty, but after all, it's just a matter of money, so the big deal is to make him pay some silver."

"You're being too strict in killing him."

"This is not the law of the Great Wei!"

The King of Zhenxi spoke up and angrily stopped it.

And the official of the Ministry of Punishment hesitated a little.

However Xu Qingnian's angry voice rang out.

"This official says again, this official's order, whoever dares to hesitate in any way again will be considered as harbouring and punished with the same crime."

His angry voice rang out.

It was not directed at the King of Zhenxi, but at the officials of the Ministry of Penalty.

Once these words were spoken, the officers of the Ministry of Punishment did not dare to hesitate at all.

His hand rose and his sword fell.

Another human head rolled to the ground.

This moment.

Everything was quiet.

Awaken Chapter 116 -

As the head of the boss of the Yongxing Shop fell to the ground.

Once again, Xu Qingnian's iron-handedness silenced everyone.

It was true that these merchants deserved to die, but everyone knew that they could not die.

It was because they had not made any major mistakes, they were just cheating and deceiving.

The people wanted them to die, but everything had to be done in accordance with the laws of the Great Wei.

This was known to the King of Western China, the three Shang Shu, all the powerful people, and even the people.

But Xu Qingnian, in this situation, simply beheaded him on the spot, this was no longer an iron-blooded wrist.

It was a single-handed act.

"Xu Qingnian!"

"You are truly lawless."

King Zhen Xi couldn't suppress his anger anymore.

There was no other reason, what was the purpose of his coming over this time? It was to reconcile!

It was not to suppress Xu Qingnian, but to give these merchants a show of support, to tell Xu Qingnian that you cannot touch these merchants.

Of course, he knew what these merchants had done and knew that it would be difficult to settle the matter today.

But when Xu Qingnian made such a fuss, they had also discussed the matter and thought that Xu Qingnian was just trying to blackmail them for a sum of money.

So before he came, he had already negotiated with the others that as long as the money was not too much, they would give it to Xu Qingnian in a few years' time.

However, what he did not expect was that Xu Qingnian would really dare to do it, and he would do it to death.

The few people they had killed had a lot to do with them and could earn them a lot of silver taels every year.

What's more, Xu Qingnian's killing was to establish his authority, and once this man was killed, all these merchants would be so scared that they would piss themselves.

He would be a plaything in the palm of Xu Qingnian's hand, and it was this that he would not allow, not the actual killing of two people.

There was nothing he could do to save those who were dead, but those who were alive, he must not allow Xu Qingnian to do so in vain.

"Your Majesty!"

"This is the second time that I have reminded you, today's court hearing, I alone will be the judge."

Xu Qingnian spoke indifferently, undaunted by King Zhenxi's angry roar.

"Even though you are the sole judge of today's trial, the King will not allow you to take human lives. What did they do to deserve such punishment?"

"Even if they beat a woman in the street, even if they insulted her with their words, even if they forced to buy and sell, you could have fined them silver, made them apologise, or even put them in jail, but you ignored the law and over-executed them.

“According to the laws of the Great Wei, all capital offences must be personally determined by the Minister of Punishment, otherwise no order may be given.”

“This king would like to ask, is this Great Wei law, made by you Xu Qingnian?”

King Zhenxi said angrily.

The point of his attack on Xu Qingnian was simple, it was not written in the law that beating women, uttering insulting words, and forcing people to buy and sell were crimes of death, crimes of killing.

The law does not state that beating a woman, insulting her, or forcing her to buy or sell is a capital offence.

Xu Qingnian, however, was directly beheaded on the spot, overstepping the rules.

“Beating a woman! Acting out to humiliate! Buying and selling by force! It is true that the crime is not punishable by death.”

“But! The Great Ancestor had an edict that any foreigner who insults the people of Wei will be killed without pardon.”

“Has Your Majesty forgotten this?”

Xu Qingnian spoke coldly, it was true that the laws of Great Wei did not say that beating a woman was a capital offence, but the Great Ancestor had said so.

Back then, the Great Ancestor of Wei, who established the Great Wei Dynasty, relied on the Iron Riders to kill all the foreigners and pacify the turmoil.

Why else would this group of foreigners respect Great Wei as their sovereign state? Was it because they were conquered by the charismatic personality of the Great Ancestor?

It was not by iron-blooded means that they killed the foreigners and made them cry out in fear.

So in those days, those who insulted Wei were indeed killed without pardon.

It was just that such things would not be written down in the laws, but they were clearly recorded, and Xu Qingnian could indeed take out this one oral instruction from the Great Ancestor.

“Xu Qingnian, you are confusing things, what the Great Ancestor meant was disobedient foreigners, they are merchants of Great Wei, they are not the same at all.”

The King of Zhenxi denied it.

“Merchants of Great Wei?”

“Yes!”

“Your Majesty, then I will ask you a question.”

“You say that these Fan merchants are merchants of my Great Wei? Have they ever paid a single penny of tax?”

“You say these merchants are merchants of Wei? Have they ever done a single thing for Wei?”

“The ancestors of Great Wei, seeing their pity, allowed them to survive and exempted them from taxes, to show the prestige of our country, the prosperity of Great Wei, nurturing these barbarians for a hundred years, without expecting them to return to Great Wei.”

“But to my surprise, these merchants, with the help of the Emperor’s grace, have been running rampant in Wei, beating our people and humiliating our women.”

“Mister Xu would like to ask the King of Zhenxi!”

“Six hundred years ago in Great Wei, the Central Plains were invaded by foreign states, the foreigners trampled on them, how many people were like pigs and dogs, at the feet of these foreigners, the Great Ancestor drew his sword, the iron horseman subdued the world and killed the foundation of Great Wei.”

“Now, six hundred years later, the same scene is being played out. As a vassal king of the Great Wei, you should have remembered it, but I never thought that you would support these foreigners today instead of supporting this official to severely punish the evil traitors.”

“In front of the people of the world, I would like to ask Your Majesty a question.”

“Are you, in fact, the king of Great Wei, or the king of the foreigners?”

Xu Qingnian’s words were impassioned, and they were extraordinarily terrifying, pulling the people’s anger up instantly, plus this last sentence was even more deadly.

In an instant.

Countless pairs of eyes fell dead on the King of Zhenxi.

Yes, what these foreign merchants are doing in Kyoto today is exactly what the foreigners did 600 years ago when they invaded the Central Plains.

This was the case six hundred years ago, and it will be the same six hundred years from now.

As a king, you are not only helping your own people, but also helping outsiders, are you still a human being? Are you still the king of Great Wei?

The eyes of the people fell on the King of Zhenxi like a torch.

The aura was not terrifying, but these pairs of eyes full of anger were public opinion, the most terrifying public opinion to kill people under the sky.

“You!”

King Zhen Xi pointed at Xu Qingnian, he took a deep breath, calming his heart, even though his anger was overwhelming, his gaze, he did not dare to have any hint of anger.

Because public opinion was too frightening, he knew he couldn't say anything nonsensically anymore.

“Your Majesty, if you are still the King of Great Wei, sit down.”

“If you think that you are the king of their foreign tribe, then simply let your guards strike and save these Fan merchants.”

Xu Qingnian's attitude changed as he once again dug a hole for the other party.

And after the latter's mood calmed down, he continued to speak up.

“Xu Qingnian, you must not slander this king.”

“This king is since the king of Great Wei, and this king naturally looks towards the people of Great Wei.”

“But the reason why the king spoke out was not to help them, but to help the people of the world. Although these merchants have some faults, in the end they are merchants, and now that Wei has gone through the Northern Expedition and needs to recuperate, if they are killed.”

“I'm afraid that this will lead to war, especially since the people behind these merchants are all foreigners, if they have really committed a crime, kill them, the king will not say a word.”

“But because of this kind of thing, but caused their heads to fall, no matter what, it can't be said.”

The King of Zhenxi thought of how to hit back at Xu Qingnian, and he spoke like this, standing up for the Great Wei to hit back at Xu Qingnian.

You want to kill people, it is not impossible, but the problem is that they have not committed a heinous crime, and they are merchants, I do not allow you to kill them, not because I am afraid of them, nor do I help them, but because they represent one small country after another.

Great Wei has gone through seven northern expeditions, the country's capital is already gone, if we invite any more war, it will be nothing but pain for the people of Great Wei.

He was smart enough to speak from the perspective of the people of Great Wei, to skim off his own involvement, and to say something that would make him akin to a saint.

“Joke.”

Xu Qingnian laughed coldly as he looked towards King Zhenxi, his tone still cold.

“According to the king's meaning is to say that nowadays, the state of Great Wei is not strong and cannot start another war, so we, the sons of Great Wei, should bow our heads and apologise in the face of such barbaric and foreign states.”

“Even if we, the sons and daughters of Great Wei, are beaten by a foreign state, we can't say anything? Even if our women of Great Wei are humiliated in the street, we can only remain silent? Even if we are treated like pigs and dogs by these foreign states, we cannot say anything?”

“Your Majesty, six hundred years ago, we stood up!”

“After six hundred years, do you mean to say that we, the people of Great Wei, should kneel down again?”

“And!”

“When has the Great Wei Dynasty ever feared war? These foreign barbarians, when they really dare to commit crimes, the iron horsemen of Great Wei will trample through all mountains and rivers.”

“My people of Wei! Are they afraid of war?”

Xu Qingnian's voice was not loud, but every word was as sharp as the sharpest sword in the world, and every word made King Zhenxi's face turn gloomy.

At this moment, everyone present was infected by Xu Qingnian's words, and the people immediately raised their voices.

"We, the people of Great Wei, are not afraid!"

"The people of Great Wei, never fear war."

"If he wants to fight, Great Wei will fight."

"Six hundred years ago, we stood up, six hundred years later, there is no way we will kneel down."

"The people of Great Wei, even if they die, they die in battle!"

The voices rang out one after the other, the voices of the people, shouting in droves.

The eight gates of the capital soldiers were also boiling with fervour at this moment, they were soldiers and felt it most deeply, Xu Qingnian's words were simply too good to be true.

Six hundred years ago they stood up, and six hundred years later they still want us to kneel down?

Moreover, when has Great Wei ever been afraid? The seven Northern Expeditions have lost the nation's capital, not our backbone!

"Lord Xu is mighty!"

In the crowd, I don't know who shouted, and in an instant all the people who didn't know what to say, but were infected, couldn't help but shout along.

"Lord Xu is mighty!"

"Lord Xu is mighty!"

The voices were deafening and resounded throughout Kyoto, and the people going backwards, although they did not know what had happened, could not help but shout along in unison after hearing the voices again.

At this moment, the eight gates of the capital soldiers could not hold back any longer, and their blood boiled as they held their spears in their hands and shouted in unison.

"Lord Xu is mighty! Great Wei is mighty!"

The aura was terrifying, this voice, shook the clouds in the sky, this aura was like the sharpest sword between heaven and earth.

All the auras were added to Xu Qingnian's body, and at this moment, Xu Qingnian's aura, instantly climbed up.

"Six hundred years ago, Great Wei stood up! Six hundred years later, no one will be able to bring Great Wei to its knees! Everything is a delusion."

Zhou Yan, the Minister of War, could not help but speak up at this moment. He was a minister, but at this moment, he was also infected by Xu Qingnian's words.

The Minister of Household Affairs, Minister Gu Yan, and Minister of Penalty, Minister Zhang Jing, were both silent, but this silence meant that they supported Xu Qingnian unconditionally.

Not saying anything is the greatest support.

Faced with the unanimity of the people, King Zhenxi's face was blue, his gaze was gloomy, but the public opinion was so strong that he dared not speak out in anger.

He sort of understood why Xu Qingnian wanted a public trial.

He just wanted to use public opinion, just wanted to use public opinion to press himself, really good tactics.

Bang!

He did not say anything else, nor did he dare to say anything else. If he said anything else, he was afraid that he would also get into trouble.

But King Zhen Xi was not convinced!

He was not convinced at all!

"Pass it on, Changping Shopkeeper."

Seeing the Zhen Nan King fall into his seat, Xu Qingnian's voice rang out once again, summoning the Chang Ping Shopkeeper to come.

Hearing Xu Qingnian's summons, the Changping Shopkeeper was directly frightened and turned pale, kneeling on the ground and crying out in panic.

"Lord Xu, Lord Xu, I am known to be wrong, I am known to be wrong, I am willing to pay them three times the amount of silver, and I am also willing to go to jail to be punished, Lord Xu, I am known to be wrong."

He knelt on the ground and kowtowed towards Xu Qingnian, crying out.

And Xu Qingnian ignored him, but looked at the official of the Ministry of Punishment and said in an incomparably stern voice.

“This official reiterates for the last time.”

“At today’s hall meeting, whatever this official says, you will do, and this is the third time I’ve stressed it.”

“Unless His Majesty himself is present, otherwise this official will tell you to kill whoever you want, if you have any half-hearted hesitation, you will be guilty of the same crime as him, and your heads will fall to the ground, do you understand?”

Xu Qingnian ignored the cries of the Changping shopkeeper for the time being, and instead looked at the officials of the Ministry of Punishment.

The way they behaved just now was too hesitant, it was an obstacle to law enforcement, he wanted to kill, kill cleanly, kill clearly, if they kept hesitating, it would only let these people have a fluke mentality.

So if anyone dares to hesitate again, Xu Qingnian will kill them all together.

Although this was a little excessive, it was necessary for the sake of Mingji.

“We obey orders!”

The officials from the Ministry of Penalty opened their mouths, and they indeed did not dare to act recklessly.

“Changping shopkeeper, since you have confessed your guilt, sign and pledge.”

Xu Qingnian threw out the confession of guilt and said so.

The latter was still terrified, kowtowing to the ground and begging for mercy, not daring to sign the confession.

But the official of the Ministry of Punishment didn’t care about you, so he grabbed his hand and pressed it towards the confession.

Since you had already confessed, you had to sign and pledge.

“Beheaded on the spot!”

Xu Qingnian didn’t hesitate either, and threw out another decapitation order.

The shopkeeper of Changping Shop was scared shitless on the spot, he shouted in panic and looked towards the King of Zhenxi, his lips turning white.

“Your Majesty Your Majesty!”

Poof.

The human head flew up, stained with blood, and rolled down to the ground.

A constable from the Ministry of Punishment was the first to cover the white cloth, although this killed to relieve the anger, but still to take care of the people’s emotions.

“Where is the Chang’an shopkeeper?”

Xu Qingnian spoke again.

His voice, at this moment, was like the voice of the King of Hell demanding his life, and as the voice rang out, the merchants trembled in fear.

The shopkeeper whose name was called was incomparably more calm than the previous two.

“I don’t confess my guilt!”

He knelt on the ground, knowing that to confess would mean death, so he simply denied his guilt.

“Pass on the human and material evidence!”

Xu Qingnian opened his mouth, but as soon as he finished speaking, the latter’s gaze was incomparably fierce as he said.

“Even if you pass on the evidence, I won’t admit my guilt, I just won’t admit it, all sales are fair deals, Xu Qingnian, you are a sinner for trying to win the hearts of the people of Great Wei, even at the risk of causing war.”

“You are the one who deserves to die!”

The shopkeeper of the Chang’an shop had a lot of backbone, he refused to admit his guilt, regardless of the evidence, he knew that the King of Zhenxi had been trying to save him, but once he admitted his guilt, the King of Zhenxi could not even try to save him.

Because of the horrible public opinion, all the people support Xu Qingnian, the King of Zhenxi does not dare to help.

But if he didn’t admit his guilt, would Xu Qingnian dare to kill him?

"I don't admit my guilt either, Xu Qingnian, you killed an innocent person indiscriminately for the sake of the people's public opinion, the one who deserves to die is you."

"Xu Qingnian, you are not fair in judging the case and you are killing people.

"Xu Qingnian, do you know who my brother is? If you kill me, my brother will be accountable to the Great Wei, and you cannot afford to take the blame."

"My father is a good friend, a general of the Pingtan clan, if you kill me, it will cause a war between the two countries, and then at least tens if not hundreds of thousands of innocent people in Great Wei will die because of it."

Many of the merchants spoke up, they also realized that if they confessed directly, they would still end up dead in the end, instead of that, they would rather die and not confess, while all kinds of self-reporting, so that Xu Qingnian could not enforce the law normally, anyway, the words have been said, if you really dare to kill us.

The consequences of that will be your own to weigh.

At the same time, if you do this, the King of Zhenxi will have the opportunity to make a move instead of being held back by Xu Qingnian like this.

Indeed.

As the merchants refused to admit their guilt, King Zhenxi's eyes showed approval, but he quickly regained his composure.

He knew what Xu Qingnian wanted to do, to kill four or five of them, to establish a fierce authority, and then to pinch these merchants and make them bleed heavily.

But if all the merchants deny their guilt, what can you do, Xu Qingnian?

You can make an example of them.

Do you still want to kill all these merchants? Do you have the guts to do that?

And in the hall.

Xu Qingnian looked at the shouting merchants and did not say anything.

When these merchants saw Xu Qingnian's silence, they subconsciously thought that their actions had indeed scandalised Xu Qingnian, so all kinds of words rang out again.

"You killed one of me, the Great Wei will have to pay tens of thousands of lives, Xu Qingnian, we are not committing a great wrong of ten evils, you over enforce the law, then the world's foreigners will come after you."

“Blackmailing money is nonsense, we have always been honest in our business, it is you, the people of the Great Wei, who slander us.”

“Yes, yes, it is you, the people of Great Wei, who slander us, because you hate us because you see that we have earned more silver, and that is why you take revenge like this.”

“You don’t think of making good money yourself, but come to envy others, is this your Great Wei?”

Their voices, one after another, perhaps because someone had led the way to strengthen their voices, or perhaps because of Xu Qingnian’s silence, grew bolder and their shouts grew louder.

In the hall.

Xu Qingnian looked at these Fan Shang foreigners, and the reason for his silence was simple.

It was hard to imagine why this group of foreigners had so much courage, and why they were so arrogant.

What kind of people are they?

What kind of arrogance do they have in their daily lives?

Awaken Chapter 117 -

His Majesty’s decree is very simple.

He supported Xu Qingnian unconditionally.

He even transferred 30,000 men from the Divine Machine Battalion and the Kirin Army, with Xu Qingnian temporarily in charge of the army.

This is a great favour.

What does an emperor care most about? It was the power of the army.

Xu Qingnian had to behead more than 300 people to purge the merchants of Wei, which was indeed too much.

But to her surprise, the empress did not come out to round things up this time, and even supported Xu Qingnian unconditionally by granting her military power.

This is how much she thinks of Xu Qingnian.

At this moment, many powerful people in Great Wei suddenly realised something.

Everyone thought that Xu Qingnian did not have any background, and even if he did, it was only the group of State Dukes, but the relationship between this group and Xu Qingnian was not that good, and to put it in a bad way, it was not strong at all.

There were no interests tied up in any way.

The military officials will help Xu Qingnian in small matters, but in big matters, these military officials will also weigh in, after all, their own interests are the most important, where are the saints in this world?

The world is not full of saints, but there are old foxes in the court.

The government has been curious as to why Xu Qingnian has dared to make such a mess, to do whatever he wants to do, to do whatever he wants to do, to make a scene at the Ministry of Justice, to behead the county king, and now to move against these merchants.

In the smallest sense, many people's interests are affected and many things are involved.

On a larger scale, these merchants represent foreigners from various countries, which could really cause some local wars.

What does Xu Qingnian have to go on?

What exactly is he relying on?

At this moment, they understood completely.

The person behind Xu Qingnian was the empress.

Why did Xu Qingnian dare to be arrogant? Because the Empress of Wei supported Xu Qingnian and even dared to hand over military power to Xu Qingnian.

It would not be too much to kill a prince, let alone a county prince.

Outside the Ministry of Justice.

As His Majesty's decree came, Xu Qingnian did not have any expression on his face, instead he looked at the King of West China.

Zhen Xi Wang's face was ugly, and his gaze was slightly gloomy.

The empress's decree was clearly to support Xu Qingnian, and to the end.

Pfft!

Poof!

Poof!

Several more heads fell to the ground.

King Zhen Xi's face was gloomy, he knew that the Empress supported Xu Qingnian unconditionally and that he could not save the day.

But if Xu Qingnian was allowed to kill like this, everyone would not be able to afford the loss.

This group of merchants meant a lot to them, and if Xu Qingnian ended them all in one pot, they would really get into big trouble.

But if they played hardball with Xu Qingnian, Xu Qingnian would not agree at all.

Thinking of this, King Zhen Xi could not help but take a deep breath as he looked towards Xu Qingnian, his tone much gentler.

"Lord Xu, these merchants are indeed extremely guilty, but in the end they are just blackmailing people for money, this is not a big deal, if we really kill them, we will get into big trouble."

"How about this, the king can make the decision, the money they blackmailed, the king let them pay back ten times, and at the same time another ten times the fine to replenish the treasury, what do you think?"

The King of Zhenxi still wanted to save them down, hoping Xu Qingnian would stop there.

"Your Majesty!"

"The Ministry of Punishment, is not a place to bargain."

Xu Qingnian gave his reply, very coldly.

Are you kidding, these merchants, killing one of them is a few million taels of silver, and fining them ten times? What do I need this money for? Wouldn't it smell good to just raid the family?

"Lord Xu, if you do this, it will only lead to war, and if all these merchants are killed, who will dare to do business in Wei in the future?"

The King of Zhenxi said reluctantly.

“Your Majesty, what does it matter to me whether they do business in Great Wei or not? Furthermore, what good does it do to Great Wei if they don’t pay taxes and do business in Great Wei? I might as well let the people do business.”

“At least it will also increase tax revenue and benefit Great Wei. Your Majesty, if there is nothing else, I beg you to sit aside and stop disturbing this official in his work.”

Xu Qingnian was completely fagged out.

Since he had decided to kill, he had to kill this bunch of Fan merchants in fear.

As for whether these merchants would do business in Wei in the future? Xu Qingnian did not panic at all.

The reason is that there is no shortage of businessmen in the Great Wei Dynasty.

Merchants are profit-seekers.

If there was a profit of two hundred percent, the merchants would not even be afraid to die, not to mention that their profit in Great Wei was more than two hundred percent.

In fact, Xu Qingnian had investigated these merchants and found that they mainly offered three kinds of things.

Jade, precious medicine and gourmet food.

All these things had good effects. For example, there was a kind of blood jade that martial artists could wear to nourish their qi and blood, although the effect was not very great, but if they wore it for ten or twenty years, the effect would be very good.

The powerful and noble people in the capital are very fond of this kind of thing, while some cheap blood jades, which the people can also afford, are not as effective as the top ones, but they are still somewhat beneficial, as they can at least enhance a little bit of blood energy and do not move around and get sick.

The price is not expensive either. Normally, one can buy it for thirty or forty taels of silver, and these merchants can buy it for ten taels of silver, which is about twenty taels of silver, including the transportation fee.

If you sell them for thirty or forty, the profit is fifty or ten percent, which is indeed considerable.

At the beginning, these merchants did trade in this way, and everyone made a good profit. Later, some people, for the sake of profit, could not lower the price, so they took second-rate jade, or fake jade, to cheat people.

The people were not stupid and would not buy fake jade.

The people are not stupid, they won't buy the fake stuff. The traders who cheat people make a lot of money, and those who don't cheat people have a hard time.

In the end, we all do this together, a typical 'bad money expelling good money' phenomenon.

The market will be regulated.

The people will be able to buy with confidence and the merchants will be able to make money, but the taxes will have to be paid honestly.

Once this happens, it will be a very good thing for the Great Wei.

Therefore, Xu Qingnian did not listen to a single word of what the King of Western China said. It would be better to let them sit at home and eat and drink honestly.

At least they won't bring any burden to the Great Wei.

At this moment.

One by one, heads fell to the ground, and with each one, King Zhen Xi's face became more and more ugly.

He sat there, his heart furious.

These merchants, with whom they had great collusion, gave them an unknown amount of money and silver every year.

Now that they had all been killed, the impact on them was enormous.

To put it mildly, tens of millions of taels of silver per year would be lost.

To put it in a bigger way, it would affect their future.

It was precisely because of this that he had come here on purpose, even going so far as to risk going to the capital, but what he hadn't expected was that he still hadn't been able to stop it.

He even felt, inexplicably, that Xu Qingnian had known he would come, and had deliberately killed these merchants in front of him.

Hate! What a hateful thing! The King of Zhenxi clenched his fists.

But soon, he exhaled a long breath.

“Xu Qingnian! Do you really think you have the victory in your hands? You have no idea what kind of trouble you’ve gotten yourself into.”

King Zhen Xi muttered to himself in his heart, and he could only vent the anger in his heart in this way now.

“Originally, we had to wait three years for the great event, but now you have killed all these Fan merchants, you are forcing us to have to rebel!”

The King of Zhenxi lamented, in his eyes, he actually really believed that stopping Xu Qingnian was for his own good, for the good of Great Wei.

The vassal kings have long had other ideas, but everyone felt that the time was not ripe, such as money, to make a little more money and wait until their wings were full before starting a rebellion.

The merchants in the capital account for about 20% of their income, and if they lose this 20%, their plans will have to be delayed for a year or even two.

I don’t know how many vassal kings are now very upset, they are afraid that the night will be too long and they are eager to rebel sooner.

Nowadays, the idea is to strike within three years, and not to delay for five years at the latest. Everyone agrees with this, after all, they have waited for such a long time, so what can they do if they wait for another three to five years?

The reason for this is to earn more silver and taels to train the army and fatten themselves up, so that when the time comes to fight for the division of the Great Wei, they will have more strength.

But what they didn’t expect was that Xu Qingnian would ruin their plans and move the piece of fat they cared most about.

If this happens, how can everyone not be angry? Would they dare to continue to delay?

This matter would probably become a fuse, and once it ignited, it would be a big deal.

Therefore, he was confident that he would be able to take revenge for today’s incident soon.

Xu Qingnian, Xu Qingnian.

When this king enters the capital, I will wipe my ass with your head.

The King of Zhenxi roared in his heart.

And finally, half an hour later, the execution was over.

Three hundred and ninety-five corpses were covered with white cloth, and even so, the images were extremely shocking.

But the people were not frightened or intimidated, all they felt was pain and pleasure.

All the big leaders of the merchants had been beheaded.

The rest of the merchants were already stunned, they were not as good as the big merchants, but they were not as bad, they could only say that these three hundred and ninety-five people were the top of the group.

“Pass on the other merchants.”

Xu Qingnian opened his mouth, and in a flash, 400 to 500 people were escorted up, among them a group of merchants who had long since fainted from fear.

They were then woken up by the officials of the Ministry of Punishment and continued to be tortured.

“My lord, we know that we are wrong, my lord, we will never dare to do it again.”

“My lord, forgive me, my lord, I have an old man and a young man under me, I beg you to spare my life.”

“My lord, I am willing to take out all my family’s belongings and pay compensation to the people, I hope your lordship will spare my life.”

They shouted loudly, not even needing Xu Qingnian to ask, one by one they took the initiative to shout that they would take out all their family assets and offer them to Xu Qingnian, hoping that Xu Qingnian would let them live.

“Silence!”

Xu Qingnian slapped the wood of the hall and looked coldly at the merchants.

The crowd instantly fell silent, and did not dare to say anything else.

At that moment, Xu Qingnian continued to speak.

“You have done a lot of evil in the Great Wei, and according to the style of this official, today you will have your heads on the ground.”

“But in the light of the goodness of God and the fact that you may have been compelled by others, it is not impossible for this official to forgive your death.”

“Only, in order to prevent this from happening again, this official has set down three rules, if you agree, your death sentence will be forgiven today, if not, then you will go to the Yellow Springs with them.”

Xu Qingnian spoke up, killing to this extent was enough, close to four hundred lives, this was no longer a demonstration of authority, this was killing madness.

If the killing continued, it was estimated that His Majesty would really have to step in to stop it, so when it was time to stop, it was time to stop.

However, once these words were said, the King of Zhenxi was somewhat speechless.

The gods have goodness in their lives? How dare you kill four hundred people and then say that?

That was a good deed.

“My lord, we are willing, we are willing.”

“My lord, we promise, we promise, as long as you let us live, we promise everything.”

“Yes, yes, my lord, we promise.”

After hearing Xu Qingnian’s words, the merchants replied directly that they would definitely agree.

How could they not agree? Isn’t that really wrong in the head?

Xu Qingnian’s slash was really cruel, killing 400 merchants, how could they have the guts to bargain with Xu Qingnian now? To put it bluntly, Xu Qingnian wanted to punish them with all their belongings, as long as they were allowed to live.

They were all willing to do so.

“Don’t rush yet, listen to the rules before you do.”

Xu Qingnian opened his mouth, making the crowd quiet, and then continued to speak.

“Firstly, from now on, no more cheating, cheating, forced buying and selling, you must obey the laws of Great Wei, once you make a mistake, the crime will be aggravated, the lighter the crime, the heavier the punishment will be beheading.”

Xu Qingnian stated the first rule.

At once, the merchants nodded their heads, they had no objection to this rule.

And the people nodded their heads.

“Secondly, from now on, all of you merchants will pay 40% of the tax, and at the same time, in order to punish you, you will have to pay three years of tax, but considering your situation now, you only need to pay 30%, can you?”

Xu Qingnian said the second rule.

“We are willing, we are willing.”

“What your Excellency says, we all agree.”

“Yes, yes.”

The foreign merchants were now scared silly, not to mention the forty percent, ten percent would do, let's save our lives first.

But at this very moment, the King of Western Town could not sit still.

Thirty percent of the tax would be paid back? And he had to pay back three years' worth of taxes? Wasn't this equivalent to giving Xu Qingnian all of last year's income?

This was fine, it was just a fine, so it was just one less year of income, but Xu Qingnian had to pay 40% of the tax!

Forty percent! What kind of concept is that?

What a concept! Ordinary Wei merchants are only taxed at 25%, but if they are taxed at 40%, the advantage of these merchants will be completely lost.

In that case, how could they have any silver to hand over to them?

This is not touching their interests anymore, it is a direct attempt to bring them to an end.

So this was absolutely impossible.

“Xu Qingnian.”

“The taxation of the merchants is a decree from the previous emperor to show the prestige of our country, if these merchants are made to pay the tax, then won't Great Wei be faithless? How would the foreigners in the world laugh at Wei? This is not acceptable!”

The King of Zhenxi spoke directly to stop Xu Qingnian from making this statement.

These merchants were already scared silly, but he was not. If this rule was established, they would not lose millions or tens of millions of taels.

In the long run, it would be a great loss.

This would never do!

“Your Majesty.”

“This official asks you one last question, is this official hearing the case today, or is the king hearing the case?”

Xu Qingnian looked straight at King Zhenxi and said in an icy tone.

“Xu Qingnian, you should not go too far, this matter affects the national prestige of Great Wei.”

“But what you are doing now is an insult to Great Wei. If you go back on your words and have no credibility, who will dare to submit to Great Wei in the future?”

The King of Zhenxi did not care about Xu Qingnian, he had to argue his case on this matter.

“The fact that the ancestors of the previous emperors exempted the merchants from taxation is a sign of the emperor's grace and generosity.

“And these merchants are doing wrong and cheating in Wei, if the late emperor were alive and saw this scene, wouldn't he be chilled?”

Xu Qingnian said coldly.

“In short, it cannot be so, it must be decided by His Majesty's court, what you say is useless!”

The King of Zhenxi simply ignored Xu Qingnian, he just wouldn't allow Xu Qingnian to make this rule.

“Fine! Your Majesty is right.”

“Someone, pass on this official’s order, all officers of the Ministry of Penalty, all officers of the Ministry of War, the Qilin Army and the Divine Machine Battalion, 30,000 elite soldiers each, enter the capital to arrest the Fan merchants.”

“All the merchants will be arrested and beheaded in front of the King of Western China!”

“Gentlemen, I had already decided to let you go, but it is the King of Zhenxi who is unwilling to let you go, so you can’t blame me for that.”

Xu Qingnian ordered directly.

Stop me, right? Fine, then kill all the merchants.

Will there be innocent people among them?

There must be.

But so what? Blame it on the King of the West, not on yourself.

Sure enough, the order came down.

The officials from the Ministry of War and the Ministry of Punishment spoke up.

“Respectfully, I obey Your Excellency’s order.”

After saying this, the crowd directly began to mobilise, they were not playing around, Xu Qingnian had given the order and they had to carry it out.

If the sky fell, it would be Xu Qingnian who would resist, it had nothing to do with them.

“Xu Qingnian!”

“You’ve gone too far!”

The King of Zhenxi was a little impotent and furious, he did not expect Xu Qingnian to be so cheap, he would smash the plates if he did not comply with his wishes.

If they killed all the merchants, it would be a worse loss for them.

And Xu Qingnian didn’t bother to pay attention to the King of West China, if you stop me, I will kill all of them.

You don’t think I wouldn’t dare, do you?

What can I do if I really kill them all? If you are not a fan, you will be able to get a lot of money from the treasury.

As for the flood of money that will follow, Xu Qingnian doesn't care at all.

If these foreigners were really willing to go to war with Great Wei for their people, then Xu Qingnian would have nothing to say.

"Lord Xu, we promise, don't listen to Zhen Xi Wang's nonsense, we promise, we promise."

"Lord Xu, 40% tax levy and 30% back tax, we all agree, King of Zhenxi, why are you suffering?"

"King Zhenxi, who are you to decide for us? We fully agree, Lord Xu, we are definitely not agreeing out of fear of death, we are agreeing with all our hearts."

"Yes, Lord Xu, say one thing, Wei has been too good to us over the years, we want to do our part for Wei too."

"Lord Xu, my brother is right, we have eaten and drunk well in Great Wei all these years and earned silver, not to mention that we can't bear to not pay taxes."

"Yes, yes, Lord Xu, to be honest we have thought about paying the tax before, but we never knew how to ask, now that you have asked, we are especially happy, we are very happy to pay the tax."

Awaken Chapter 118 -

Xu Qingnian's standing words.

There was no heaven and earth vision.

Nor was there any Xuanhuang light or radiance rushing into the sky.

However, at this very moment.

Inside the Great Wei Imperial Palace.

With the sound of a bell ringing, the crowd rose in alarm.

The first person to be startled was King Huai Ning in the Huai Ning Palace.

Inside the hall, King Huai Ning stood up, his pale face showing a shocked expression as he looked at the location of the palace, his body trembling violently now.

"Zhen Guo Zhong, this is the Zhen Guo Zhong, this Xu Qingnian, why can he win the hearts of the people of the world? What kind of a man is he?"

King Huai Ning spoke these words in an almost roaring voice.

The Great Wei had two divine weapons of state suppression.

The Taizu Long Sword, which was the weapon of Emperor Taizu, accompanied him on his conquests, eventually pacified the turmoil, laid the foundation of the Great Wei Dynasty, united the nation's fortunes, and possessed terrifying power.

This is a divine weapon created by the Five Dynasties of Emperor Wen, as the prosperity of Great Wei was immense and the national fortune was strong.

If it rings seven times, it will mean that Wei has surpassed all dynasties of the past and present, and if it rings nine times, Wei will be unified.

Now, when the bell rings, it means that Xu Qingnian has gained the hearts and minds of the people of Great Wei.

Xu Qingnian's speech did not bring about a vision of heaven and earth, but it did bring about the ringing of the Zhen Guo bell, which meant that Xu Qingnian had gained the hearts of the people.

To King Huai Ning, Xu Qingnian's threat was instantly increased a hundredfold.

He was the one who wanted to rebel, and what was the most fearful thing about rebellion? Isn't it the people's discontent?

As the saying goes, if the people of the world are well-fed and well-drunk, whoever rebels will die.

The problem is that they do not have the absolute force to suppress it, they have the capital to rebel, but it is unknown whether they can succeed or not.

But with Xu Qingnian's standing words today, the situation was instantly turned around.

"I regret that I should not have handed over the military amulet."

King Huaining let out a whimper, what was hardest for him now was not that Xu Qingnian had won the hearts of the people.

Rather, it was the fact that he had handed over the Qilin Talisman himself.

Originally, according to his plan, handing over the amulet to the empress would bring trouble to the empress and make her make a mistake, and then he could bring in other hesitant clan kings to join the rebellion.

There was nothing wrong with the plan, but then there was Xu Qingnian.

A Xu Qingnian who has won the hearts of the people of Wei.

Xu Qingnian has the hearts and minds of the people of Wei. If the vassal kings revolt, the people will not agree to it if Xu Qingnian intervenes, and if they don't have the hearts and minds of the people, it will be a big problem for them.

The Qilin talisman, coupled with Xu Qingnian's speech for the people, turned the original 30/70 split into a 50/50 split in an instant.

In this way, those who are already hesitant will be even more hesitant, while those who have joined but have not yet made up their minds may also be hesitant.

This is a great calamity.

He regretted it.

He regretted why he had handed over the amulet of the Qilin army, he was so foolish, he was so blinded by lard.

The Great Wei Palace of Literature.

Chen Zhengru looked at the Great Wei Palace, the sound of the Zhen Guo bell still echoing in his ears.

"I am the only torch flame."

Chen Zhengru's voice rang out as he murmured, his gaze retracting from the Great Wei Palace before landing on Xu Qingnian.

His eyes were full of praise, Xu Qingnian's speech for the people was somewhat similar to his, he was making a speech for Great Wei, expecting that one day, Great Wei would return to its heyday.

Xu Qingnian, on the other hand, was doing it for the people, which meant the same thing.

In the Palace of Literature, all the great scholars were silent. If they had some disdain for Xu Qingnian, it was because Xu Qingnian was only a seventh-ranked scholar.

Before the seventh rank, no matter how fast you are, you are only as fast as your talent.

But from the seventh grade onwards, every step up is a qualitative change, making a speech, writing a book, which is not something worthy of attention?

Especially if this person is Xu Qingnian.

If you do the maths, Xu Qingnian has only been at school for three or four months, and he has already established a sixth grade.

If this goes on, won't Xu Qingnian be promoted to the rank of great scholar within this year?

If that were the case, Xu Qingnian would really have the qualifications of a saint.

If Xu Qingnian really wrote a book and became a Confucian this year, then they would have to admit Xu Qingnian's talent and his saintly qualities.

Apart from a few Confucians, most of them did not have much to say about Xu Qingnian.

The majority of the Confucian scholars, such as Chen Xin and Chen Zhengru, had no problem with Xu Qingnian because of their preconceptions.

Xu Qingnian, a Confucian scholar of the eighth rank, disliked the Confucian scholars in anger, which was a great disrespect, and then even started a school, trying to overthrow the Zhu Sheng lineage. How could they not be angry?

But if Xu Qingnian becomes a saint, then all these opinions will vanish into thin air, because Confucianism is recognized by heaven and earth, and it is useless for them to disagree.

At this moment, the Confucian scholars of the Great Wei Palace of Literature had a true understanding of Xu Qingnian.

And in the middle of the imperial palace.

The empress stood up and looked in the direction of the Zhen Guo Zhong, looking silent.

Li Guangxiao, on the other hand, stood up with a look of delight on his face.

"Xu Qingnian has set up a speech for the people, this is a step that really reverses the situation."

Li Guangxiao's face showed delight, he had also been thinking about the matter of vassal kings everywhere for some time, but the situation today was not favourable to the empress.

But now it was different, Xu Qingnian had established a voice for the people and had a very high status among them, so he could perfectly control these vassal kings.

Especially now that the Empress is in control of the Divine Machine Battalion and the Qilin Army, and with Xu Qingnian, the situation has turned from a previous disadvantage to a draw in an instant.

This was great good.

“Pass on my decree!”

“Xu Qingnian is a pillar of the nation for standing up for the people, he is indeed a pillar of the nation, ennobled Xu Qingnian with the title of Anmin, a Viscount, appoint a Servant of the Ministry of the Household, an official of the fourth rank, repair the title house, reward ten maidservants, five thousand taels of gold and silver, various types of jade, five sets of title clothing, and two sets of royal items.”

The empress spoke, and she directly pronounced the decree, directly conferring the title of office.

The head of the Household Department was from the seventh rank, and directly jumped six levels, directly appointing the Servant of the Household Department, from the fourth rank, this promotion speed is also fast and scary.

But the most important thing was the knighthood.

What is a knighthood? A title means that Xu Qingnian is a powerful person in Great Wei, not to mention a viscount.

But Xu Qingnian is only 20 years old, and he has been made a viscount. Even Prime Minister Chen Zhengru does not have a title in the imperial court.

In official circles, Xu Qingnian had to call Chen Zhengru Prime Minister or Shang Shu.

In ordinary times, Chen Zhengru had to call out to Xu Qingnian as Lord Viscount.

This was the importance of the title.

The change of status was complete.

Outside the Ministry of Justice.

The three Shang Shu's eyes could not help but fall on Xu Qingnian.

Gu Yan was silent, he was the minister of the Ministry of Household. Xu Qingnian had made a statement today, and had received both a title and an official ranking, and had also gained the hearts of the people, in the future Great Wei, Xu Qingnian would be a shining light.

Zhang Jing and Zhou Yan were silent, they just marveled at what Xu Qingnian had done, it was more dangerous than ever, yet time and time again, it turned out to be a miracle, this man is really a demon.

The King of Zhenxi, on the other hand, was completely silent, for he knew that the momentum had gone.

A faint beam of light coalesced from the people and entered Xu Qingnian's body.

This was the direction of the people's hearts.

Each faint ray of light came from one of the people, seemingly faint, but together, they reflected Xu Qingnian like a sage.

But at this very moment, Xu Qingnian inexplicably felt that this public opinion, like an ocean, could strengthen his own Confucian Dao ranking.

Yes, the talent gained from writing the An Guo policy was basically depleted, and later on, when he composed the Nan Yu Ge preface, a thousand famous words, he also gained a lot of talent, but just now, his own sixth grade standing speech was directly depleted.

It was even partly short, but now with the support of the people's hearts, it allowed itself to reach the sixth rank like a bamboo break.

After the seventh grade of Confucianism, one grade is one heaven, and now that I have succeeded in making a speech, it is definitely not the case that if I want to become a great Confucian, I can immediately become a great Confucian by writing a superb book now.

It still requires talent to be augmented, and having talent qualifies you to break through the ranks, while writing a book qualifies you to become a great scholar.

Under normal circumstances, a Confucian who establishes a book and wants to become a great Confucian, it would take decades, if not decades, just to accumulate talent qi.

However, Xu Qingnian discovered that public opinion could actually replace talent qi and be added to his body, eliminating this link.

This meant that if one had enough public opinion, as long as the books one wrote were not bad, one could instantly become a great scholar, eliminating this accumulation process.

This is simply a great blessing for oneself.

After all, I don't lack anything, except for poetry and famous words, so I can write books and poems, but it is still difficult to accumulate talent by relying on the best articles and poems.

When you write one thousand poems, your talent rolls on, but when you write a thousand poems, you don't have much talent left, and it takes a lot of time to accumulate it, because your poems have to be passed on gradually.

Otherwise, if you recite a poem, you can become stronger straight away.

But public opinion can, and public opinion is endless. Xu Qingnian could feel that as long as he did practical things for the people, he could gain a lot of public opinion, and this public opinion could allow him to break through the Confucian Dao rank quickly.

Even becoming a saint would not be impossible.

Although this was a bit exaggerated, there was no problem in theory.

Take a deep breath.

Xu Qingnian withdrew all his distracting thoughts as he bowed to the people, while the people, who were gathered around, also bowed in unison towards Xu Qingnian.

Immediately afterwards, Xu Qingnian turned his gaze towards the King of Zhenxi.

"Your Majesty, do you have anything else to say?"

Xu Qingnian asked calmly.

The King of Zhenxi had nothing more to say, Xu Qingnian had already made her words and was bent on serving the people, what else did he have to say? If he said anything else, he would really become the target of all.

"Xu Qingnian, I hope you will really sing all the way."

The King of Zhenxi opened his mouth, leaving behind an intriguing sentence, before turning to leave.

He had already lost this battle, and he had lost badly, so to stay here would only add to the joke.

Seeing the King of Zhenxi leave, Xu Qingnian then fixed his gaze on these merchants.

Sensing Xu Qingnian's gaze, the group of Fan merchants spoke again.

"Lord Xu, we promise, we promise."

“Lord Xu, we are willing to pay the tax, as much as we can.”

They hurriedly shouted, watching King Zhenxi leave, they were inwardly relieved ah, if King Zhenxi had remained here, they really didn't know what the result would be.

“Words are no proof, sign and draw as proof.”

Xu Qingnian opened his mouth, and then had the long-prepared notes listed out, with all the terms and conditions clearly written on them, making up three years of taxes at 30%, while levying 40% of taxes after previous years.

The merchants did not hesitate to sign the agreement, not only them, but also the entire Kyoto merchants, and even the entire Wei merchants, but the big project could not be done until after it was over.

But this big project could not be done until after it was finished. Just let this group of people sign first.

One hour later.

When all the merchants had finished signing and pledging, Xu Qingnian continued to say the third rule.

“Thirdly, from now on, all of you who do business, buy and ship goods will be documented, one copy for the people, one copy for you and one copy for the Ministry of the Household, and the monthly account book must be sent to the Ministry of the Household for thorough investigation.

“All the people, in future, when you buy something from a merchant, you must leave a receipt, if there is a receipt and you buy fake goods, the Ministry of Finance will open a case to investigate, and the fake one will be punished by ten, and the shop will unilaterally compensate, but if there is no receipt, even if you are cheated of a thousand taels of silver, the Ministry of Finance will never pursue!”

“After this, stopping women from doing business is not in the law, but in all of you, to all the people to monitor well, do not happen again this kind of thing.”

Xu Qingnian said the third rule, and also told the people in the future to buy and sell the things of the Fan merchants, must leave receipts, even a penny must have a receipt, as long as there is a receipt, you feel unfair, you can go to the Ministry of Justice to file a case, if there is no receipt, even if you really have been cheated, it is your own problem, the Ministry of Justice does not care.

Once this rule was said, the Minister of Household Affairs, Gu Yan, couldn't help but have a shrewd look in his eyes.

He had not expected that Xu Qingnian's real killing move would be this.

To be honest, Xu Qingnian made such a big fuss just to levy taxes and make up for them, which he did not think highly of.

Once their energy is restored, they are bound to think of various ways and exploit various loopholes, and when the time comes to really make them pay the tax, it will definitely be a lot of trouble.

But Xu Qingnian even used this trick to block the retreat of these merchants.

The people of the country have to keep it as an accounting, the people have to keep it as a receipt, and the people have to keep it as an accounting, and the people have to keep it as an accounting, and then send the books to the Ministry of Finance for accounting.

You can of course sell the stuff and then not give receipts, but the question is will the people agree? For something that costs tens of taels of silver, who dares to guarantee that there are no problems?

So this trick, directly blocked this gang of Fan merchants to play foul.

Good tactics, good tactics, good tactics.

And this method can be extended to the whole country ah, after all, there are many big Wei merchants will also play these fishy, but if with the strict law of the Ministry of Justice, with receipts to file a case, without receipts will not be filed, even if these female dry merchants want to evade taxes and tax evasion.

But with receipts, you wouldn't dare to be too reckless. It's impossible to completely eradicate, but to do partial prevention, the treasury can add another wave of income ah.

This Xu Qingnian is really a great talent in the Household Department.

Gu Yan was a bit emotional.

At this moment, the merchants kneeling on the ground were somewhat silent, they did not panic when they heard about the taxation, after all, they could also play foul with the taxation, but now they had to keep the receipts and give the accounting to the Ministry of Household Affairs.

But now they have to keep receipts and give them to the Ministry of Household Affairs for accounting. This is very troublesome, and with the hatred of the people, even if they ask them not to issue receipts by reducing the price, they will probably not agree.

Sensing the hesitation of the merchants, Xu Qingnian was calm.

Slowly, he spat out a word.

“Chop!”

Xu Qingnian spoke softly, he did not have any respect for these Fan merchants, and the word “chop” fell.

In an instant, four people were caught out and without saying a word, four heads fell to the ground directly.

In an instant, the fannish merchants screamed in disbelief.

“Lord Xu, Lord Xu, we promise, we promise.”

“Lord Xu, we just thought about it for a moment, we didn’t have any other ideas at all, we promise.”

“Lord Xu, don’t think wrong, we didn’t mean anything else at all, we just thought a little more.”

The merchants cried out loudly, they really didn’t know what to say, was this Xu Qingnian addicted to killing them?

But in the face of the merchants’ pleas for mercy, Xu Qingnian didn’t even look at them, he had given them a chance and yet he still dared to hesitate?

Do you really think you are a paper tiger?

A quarter of an hour later.

A dozen more heads fell to the ground. Xu Qingnian drank his tea and then looked at the merchants, who were already kowtowing frantically on the ground, their foreheads dripping blood as they cried out frantically, begging Xu Qingnian to spare their lives.

They really regretted why they had hesitated just now, for if they hadn’t, nothing would have happened.

“Lord Xu, we really know we’re wrong.”

The foreign merchants cried out and begged for mercy, they were really scared, scared of being killed by Xu Qingnian.

“It’s alright.”

Xu Qingnian waved his hand, and the officers of the Ministry of Punishment stopped their hands.

“This official will give you one last chance.”

“After signing and pledging, within a day, pay the tax back and do what you have to do from now on.”

“If you do not sign and pledge, your heads will fall to the ground.”

Xu Qingnian said blandly.

As this voice rang out, the merchants no longer dared to act recklessly and began to sign and pledge one by one.

Of course silver was important, but life was most important.

Xu Qingnian did not say a word, and it took a full hour to sign and sign.

However, the first group of merchants to sign were the bigger ones, while the rest of the ordinary merchants were detained at the court, so it would take a day to get them all signed.

It would take a day to get all the signatures, but the people below could do that.

“The prosperity of Kyoto depends on the people, so if you have any grievances in the future, come to the Ministry of Justice.”

Xu Qingnian bowed once more to the people.

The three officials also got up, bowed to the people, and followed them.

The matter of the foreign merchants is over here, but as for what comes next, that is the next thing.

No one can guarantee that these merchants will not turn against them afterwards, but what has been done has been done, and it is impossible to kill them all, for that would really cause a big problem.

Soon, in the inner hall of the Ministry of Justice.

Zhang Jing sat at the head of the table, Gu Yan, the Minister of Household Affairs, sat on the left, the Minister of War sat on the right, and Xu Qingnian moved a stool and sat down, not being polite.

“Shouren, although you have succeeded in establishing your authority today, you are still a bit aggressive, these merchants are probably related to many clan kings, and there are also many forces in Kyoto that are related to them.

Zhang Jing, the Minister of Justice, was the first to speak up, he had no idea and directly pointed out what Xu Qingnian had done wrong.

“Shouren ah, it’s not that I’m talking about you, you killed too many people today, more than four hundred people before and after, the King of Zhenxi is absolutely right, it will really lead to war, nowadays Great Wei can’t afford to fight, I wanted to advise you, but after thinking about it you wanted to establish your authority at that time, if we discourage you, I’m afraid it will only be to your disadvantage, alas.”

Gu Yan, the Minister of Household, also followed suit, somewhat helpless.

However, Zhou Yan, the Minister of War, was different, as he gave a light hum and said.

“You are just too weak, it’s good to kill these foreign merchants, I think it’s good, you did the right thing, you should kill them, if you really want to fight, then you should fight, are you really afraid of a bunch of small foreign states?”

Zhou Yan sneered.

He did not feel that Xu Qingnian had done anything wrong, on the contrary, he felt that Xu Qingnian had done a good job, killing the right thing, killing quite right.

“Shang Shu Zhang, Shang Shu Gu, Shang Shu Zhou, I already have a comprehensive plan for today’s matter, many things are not convenient to say directly, but getting rid of the foreign merchants is definitely beneficial to Great Wei and to the present.”

“Now that the matter has been settled, Shang-Shu Gu has the trouble to send someone to reconcile the books, Shang-Shu Zhang has the trouble to oversee the replenishment of taxes, and as for Shang-Shu Zhou, he should also be vigilant, the Qilin Army and the Divine Machine Battalion have been guarding the area around the capital recently, never allowing any of the Fan merchants to escape.”

“Furthermore, Shang Shu Gu, the matter of taxation of the Fan merchants should also be drafted in a memorial for His Majesty to issue a decree to standardise the whole country, including the talk of receipts, so that the whole country can follow suit and learn from it.”

The matter was settled, and Xu Qingnian did not want to continue to say anything more here.

What Gu Yan said, Xu Qingnian understood, but everyone has their own ideas, Xu Qingnian dared to do so, naturally he has his own reasoning, so there is no need to argue about anything.

The three Shang Shu nodded when they heard Xu Qingnian’s words, and there was nothing more to say.

“The final amount of tax will be handed over to me directly by Minister Gu, not through the hands of others.

Xu Qingnian got up and excused himself, when the matter was done, he had to go back, there was no point in staying here.

“Good.”

Gu Yan nodded, right now things had happened, there was nothing more to say, it would be better to leave it like this for now, as for the things behind, let's talk about it when it comes, for now it was not like he could think of any way.

“Nephew Shouren, let's go together, I'm going back too.”

Zhou Yan also got up and left along with Xu Qingnian.

Soon Xu Qingnian and Zhou Yan left the room.

At that moment, Zhang Jing and Gu Yan were left in the inner hall.

After Zhou Yan and Xu Qingnian had left, Gu Yan's voice rang out.

“Alas.”

“Shouren has great talent, a great talent in the Ministry of the Household, but unfortunately, although he has great talent, he is too radical, he has killed at least four hundred and fifty people before and after, as soon as today is over, I am afraid that tomorrow there will be a mountain of folds.”

“In a few months' time, it will be His Majesty's birthday, the first year of the new dynasty, and messengers from all the countries will come, at that time, they will definitely impeach Shouren with this matter.

Gu Yan spoke up, he praised Xu Qingnian's great talent, but he was still a bit dissatisfied with what Xu Qingnian had done today.

It was not that Xu Qingnian could not establish his authority to kill, but that Xu Qingnian had killed too much, there was no need to do so.

As Gu Yan opened his mouth, Zhang Jing couldn't help but sigh.

“Shouren has great talent, the great talent of the Ministry of Penalty, he killed to establish authority, mobilize public opinion and solve the scourge of the Fan merchants, but indeed there is no need to be so radical, and it does not make much sense to make up 30% of the tax, as for the taxation old man also thinks it is a bit impractical.”

“You are worried about the impeachment of the emissaries of the nations, but I am worried about the scourge of war again.”

“If there is a real war, Lord Gu, I would like to ask, can we afford to fight or not?”

Zhang Jing was also a bit curious, he didn't know if it would be possible to fight or not if there was a real war.

“It's difficult.”

Gu Yan sighed and shook his head, “You say it can be fought, right? You say it can be fought, you say it can't be fought? Can't afford to fight either.

Anyway, it was just hard and troublesome.

“Alas, forget it, things have come to this, there's nothing to grieve about, anyway, with Shouren around, it's a big deal, I'll have to talk to His Majesty about it later, Shouren has to continue to serve in the Ministry of Punishment, I have quite a few cases on hand that need Shouren's help.”

Zhang Jing shook his head, it does not matter, what this and that, water to cover up, the soldiers will stop.

But when this was said, Gu Yan frowned a little.

“Continue to serve in the Ministry of Justice? What do you mean by that, Minister Zhang? His Majesty has already said that Shouren should come to me as a retainer in the Ministry of the Household, so how will he have time to go to your Ministry of Punishment? Now that Wei is in a state of rejuvenation, you should not come and cause trouble.”

Gu Yan spoke up.

“Adding to the chaos? It's true that Wei is in need of revival, but the Ministry of Punishment also has a lot to deal with. Besides, Shouren was also a member of the Ministry from the beginning, right? You didn't want Shouren to go to your Household Department before? Didn't you want Shouren to go to your Household Department before, saying that he didn't have the talents of the Household Department?”

“Oh? Now that you see Shouren's great talent, you've immediately changed your attitude?”

Zhang Jing said in a somewhat unpleasant manner.

“What do you mean by seeing Shouren’s great talent? I have always said that Shouren has the talent of the Household Department, when did I say that Shouren does not have the talent of the Household Department? You are slandering and defaming.”

“In short, His Majesty gave Shouren to my Household Department, so he is my Household Department’s man.”

Gu Yan was furious, he already understood whether Xu Qingnian had the talent of the Ministry of the Household.

If this kind of great talent came to the Household Ministry, other than that, at least it could make the Household Ministry collect an unknown amount of extra silver taels every year, then the pressure on the Household Ministry might be reduced, and it would also be a good thing for Great Wei.

What would you do at the Ministry of Justice? To judge cases? Just to waste this great talent for some cases?

“Shang Shu Gu, I respect you and call you Shang Shu, if you talk like this, then I won’t give you face.”

“Shouren is my man in the Ministry of Penalty, it’s useless for His Majesty to say, if you want to snatch Shouren away from me, I today, I today! Do you believe that I will beat you up today?”

Zhang Jing’s temper also came to a head, who was he? He was the Minister of Justice.

The fact that he had asked Xu Qingnian to go to the Ministry of Finance was just a favor, after all, Xu Qingnian was from his Ministry of Penalty, and the removal of the head post was just a way to give an explanation to the clan king.

The company’s main goal is to provide a solution to the problem.

“I don’t care about you.”

Gu Yan didn’t have any nonsense and directly got up to leave, pressing Zhang Jing to ignore him.

“Heh.”

Zhang Jing sneered and didn’t bother to pay attention to Gu Yan, he was sure that Xu Qingnian was his person from the Ministry of Punishment anyway, Gu Yan, an old man who wanted to steal her? You can dream big.

The two officials cursed and left.

The people were not gathered outside the Ministry of Justice, but in the shops.

Instead of gathering outside the Ministry of Justice, the people gathered in the shops and watched as the soldiers entered and brought out chest after chest full of silver, and then all kinds of treasures were brought out.

What with the white jade and coral, the paintings and calligraphy of famous people, and the antiques and curiosities, the dazzling array of treasures was brought out, causing the people to gasp in amazement.

The entire Household Department was completely busy, accounting, counting and evaluating.

Not only that, but other merchants also started to pay back taxes.

They didn't dare to do anything fishy in this part of the tax replenishment, and took the initiative to bring out their books and calculate them according to 30%.

Although they had to pay 30% of the tax every year for a total of three years, at least they did not have their bones completely broken, and they were incredibly happy compared to those who had their heads cut off and their families raided.

It was the equivalent of giving a fifth of one's family fortune to buy peace.

All in all, it was a very busy day in the capital of Wei, and at the end of the day many of the soldiers went into the Ministry of the Household and began to count the silver and money, and the whole Ministry was already full of exotic treasures and silver and gold.

Even the Ministry of Punishment, the Ministry of War, the Ministry of Rites and the Ministry of Officials were all piled up.

Looking at these mountains of gold, silver and jewellery, all the officials smacked their lips, they knew that these merchants were making money, but when boxes of silver were piled up in front of them, they really did not know what to say.

There is a gap between people.

Finally, after a busy day, the following day at the end of the day.

All the numbers, thoroughly counted out.

A thick stack of account books was immediately sent to Xu Qingnian.

Shouren Academy.

Xu Qingnian took the account book and slowly flipped it open. He was a little surprised at the first page, and the more he flipped to the back, the more amazement there was in his eyes.

At the end, when Xu Qingnian saw the total, he stopped talking completely.

The total amount of the family's money: 25,800,650,000 taels of silver, and the rest of the antiques, paintings, exotic treasures, and good land and property amounted to 47,600,400 taels].

This is the entire fortune of four hundred and thirty-seven people, with a total of more than twenty-five thousand eight hundred thousand taels of silver, a small target of two and a half.

As for the real estate, it is close to five small goals, but of course it takes time to sell these properties, and this is only an estimate, it doesn't necessarily mean that they can be sold for this price, a 70% discount is almost enough, if you want to sell them quickly, a 50% discount will be enough for half a month.

But is this possible?

Xu Qingnian is not stupid, these antique paintings and calligraphy, exotic treasures can be listed together, slowly sold ah.

As for these good land property, directly nationalized, let the Ministry of households to send people to operate, or directly to the merchants to collect rent is also profitable ah, a breath of sale is not necessary.

The other book.

The tax book.

Xu Qingnian looked through it carefully, page after page.

Eventually a shocking figure appeared.

[Total amount of back taxes: 43,800,000 taels of silver]

Xu Qingnian:

Xu Qingnian was silent.

Forty-three thousand eight hundred million taels?

Should it be so exaggerated? This was already four years of national taxes for the Great Wei.

This is a total of 70,000,000 taels of silver, which is the current silver, plus nearly 50,000,000 taels of silver in immovable assets, which is 120,000,000 taels of silver.

That's 120,000,000.

That's as much as a year's tax revenue in the heyday of Wei, and it doesn't even need to be spent.

With this cut, he was really rich.

At this moment, Xu Qingnian understood why the King of Western Town had protected these merchants so strongly.

They protect these merchants, and these merchants send them tribute money every year, is estimated to be an astronomical amount, 40% may be too much, 30% is definitely not too much.

Even some of the more ruthless clan kings, direct technology into the shares, draw you 50% away you do not have to say.

According to this 43,800,000 taels of silver, 30% can be taken away every year, which is 10,000,000 taels.

If Wei has a national tax of 10 million taels a year, they will take 10 million taels a year from these merchants.

That's a lot of money!

No wonder they wanted to rebel.

Ask yourself, if you were a vassal king and the amount of silver you took in each year was about the same as the national tax revenue, you wouldn't be able to guarantee that you wouldn't want to rebel.

If you have money, power and people, are you waiting to be cut into leeks if you don't rebel?

"Quickly notify the Minister of Household, the Minister of Penalty, and the Minister of War, and ask them to face the sage together."

Xu Qingnian opened his mouth and told the other party to inform the Minister of Household and the Minister of Penalty, and after saying this, he left directly to go inside the palace to tell the empress the good news ah.

A quarter of an hour later.

Xu Qingnian arrived outside the palace, he had already asked someone to inform His Majesty.

At the same time, he was also waiting for Gu Yan and Zhang Jing to arrive.

About an incense stick later, Gu Yan and Zhang Jing's figures appeared in the area, with Zhou Yan following behind.

However, Gu Yan and Zhang Jing seemed to be somewhat separated from each other and were not walking very close to each other.

"Shouren, do you need to call us here in such a hurry?"

When he saw Xu Qingnian, Zhang Jing was the first to speak up, looking at Xu Qingnian with some curiosity.

"Shouren asked us to come over, naturally there is Shouren's own reasoning, I think it should be that the total sum of the back taxes has come out."

Gu Yan looked at Zhang Jing with some contempt and said.

"En, the total sum of the back taxes and the cribbing has already come out, and I intend to face the sage with the two lords and report on the matter."

Xu Qingnian nodded, this time reporting the empress was sure to please the dragon's face, such a credit, Xu Qingnian did not want to take it all for himself, everyone had it.

"How much silver is there? Is there 50 million taels?"

Minister of War Zhou Yan spoke up and guessed a figure.

When this was said, Gu Yan couldn't help but shake his head.

"There can't be only fifty million taels of silver, these Fan merchants are doing wrong in Kyoto and making a lot of money, so I think there might be ten thousand thousand taels, but of course it's just a possibility, it could be less than ten thousand taels."

Gu Yan, who was the Minister of Household Affairs, uttered a bold idea.

When this was said, Zhou Yan and Zhang Jing were slightly surprised, they were not from the Ministry of Household, but they knew how horrible 10,000,000 taels was.

But Xu Qingnian smiled a little bitterly, as he had wanted to speak out directly.

Just then, the eunuch's voice rang out.

“His Majesty has an oracle, Your Lordships please.”

With the eunuch’s voice ringing out, the crowd did not dare to linger and hurriedly entered the palace to face His Majesty.

A quarter of an hour later.

Inside the Hall of the Raising Heart.

Four people entered the hall, and the empress on the dragonluster said with a calm gaze.

“What is the urgent matter?”

The empress asked this.

“Your Majesty, the Ministry of Accounts has cleared the accounts after the end of the Panshang scourge yesterday, and now the books have been released, I hope Your Majesty will check them.”

Xu Qingnian spoke up and said so.

“Oh!” The empress’s tone remained calm, then said, “There is no hurry about the account book, we can talk about it tomorrow, but since you are here, you can tell me directly how much silver there is.”

The empress was relatively calm, before Xu Qingnian burned the heavenly decree, she also knew part of it, so she was psychologically prepared, it was not urgent, but remembering that Xu Qingnian was in such a hurry, so she let Xu Qingnian say it directly.

“Your Majesty! Four hundred and thirty-seven people have been copied from their families, and the current silver, totaling about twenty-five thousand eight hundred million taels, and forty-seven thousand six hundred million taels of other assets.”

Xu Qingnian spoke.

The voice fell.

The Great Hall went quiet.

Gu Yan’s face instantly changed.

Twenty-five thousand eight hundred million taels of cash silver?

Forty-seven thousand six hundred thousand taels of other assets?

What the hell?

Great Wei's annual income is only ten million taels?

Xu Qingnian, don't fool me.

Not to mention Gu Yan, on top of the Dragon Luang, the Empress was also stunned when she heard this figure.

Even though she was prepared for it, she did not expect it to be so exaggerated.

Wouldn't this add up to 70,000,000 taels?

Seven years of tax revenue for the Great Wei.

Goo.

Inside the main hall, the sound of swallowing saliva rang out, from Zhang Jing and Zhou Yan.

Let alone 70,000,000 taels of silver.

Even 10,000,000 taels of silver was too much for them, but 70,000,000 taels?

Are you robbing money?

"What about the back taxes?"

The empress opened her mouth, but her voice was a little unsettled.

"Forty-three million eight hundred thousand taels."

Xu Qingnian took a deep breath and said this shocking figure.

Empress: "....."

Gu Yan: "....."

Zhou Yan: "....."

Zhang Jing: "....."

Forty-three thousand eight hundred million taels?

Back taxes?

A crooked day??

Everyone was quiet, uncharacteristically quiet, while Xu Qingnian presented the account book up.

After a long time.

The Empress's voice rang out.

"Aiqing has worked hard, Aiqing go back first, tomorrow at the court, I will discuss this matter again."

The empress didn't know what to say this time, this amount was really astronomical, she didn't know how to spend it for a while.

This happiness had come too suddenly, hadn't it?

"In compliance with the decree, long live my emperor."

Xu Qingnian spoke up, knowing that such an amount had to be given to His Majesty to think over, not to mention His Majesty, he himself had to think over it.

The crowd left.

Xu Qingnian was fine, at least he quickly calmed down.

However, Gu Yan, Zhang Jing and Zhou Yan were somewhat frozen.

The astronomical figures Xu Qingnian had told them were still in their minds.

They didn't even care when Xu Qingnian excused herself and left.

After a long time, Gu Yan came back to his senses, and he grabbed Zhou Yan, his face incomparably serious, and said.

"No, yesterday I felt that there were some other Fan merchants who had problems, Shang Shu Zhou, hurry up and arrest them, we absolutely cannot let a bad person go."

Gu Yan said seriously.

What the hell, how come they only killed four hundred merchants?

Why didn't they kill more?

These damned Fan merchants.

“Stop it, I’ll go back now and check to see if that Fan merchant has a record, Shang Shu Zhou, you remember to cooperate with me.”

Zhang Jing also spoke up, he came back to his senses and the first thing he thought of was to go over the case and find out if there was anyone with a criminal record.

Add some more silver to the Great Wei treasury.

The three Shang Shu numbed up.

And so it was.

A few hours later.

A great night filled the sky.

The moon and stars were thin.

Inside the Shouren Academy.

Kyoto was completely and utterly quiet.

The matter was settled, and now it was time to wait for tomorrow’s court meeting.

Xu Qingnian stood under the moonlight and began to think about some things.

Now he was already a sixth-ranked Confucian.

The demon seed in his body would explode in two more months.

With Hao Ran Zheng Qi in place although it could partially suppress it, the demon seed would also soar.

So one, too, had to raise the speed of the martial arts.

Otherwise it would really be a bit of a high wire walk, there was no need to take the risk.

With that, Xu Qingnian didn’t think much about it and began to meditate and cultivate, intending to enter the eighth rank in the next two days.

With that, Xu Qingnian began to cultivate.

However, one incense stick later.

Xu Qingnian opened his eyes.

His brows were locked, and his eyes were filled with doubt.

This was because, just now, he had run through the Golden Crow Body Tempering Technique himself.

However, it was found that his own cultivation speed seemed to have dropped.

It was not a little drop.

Rather, it had dropped a lot, a lot.

Was it rusty?

Xu Qingnian frowned, he didn't know what had happened and after thinking about it could only assume that it was just a little rusty.

At that moment, he decided to practise once more.

Another incense stick later.

At this moment, Xu Qingnian's face became a little ugly.

It was over.

Something had gone wrong.

The pagan arts had failed?

Awaken Chapter 119 -

Inside the Shouren Academy.

Xu Qingnian was a little confused.

The increase in cultivation of the Golden Crow Body Tempering Technique was instantly gone.

Yes, before, when he cultivated the Golden Crow Body Tempering Technique, the Qi and blood in his body rolled and moved, and one day of cultivation was better than a hundred days for others.

But now the cultivation speed was extremely average, just like not cultivating at all.

Oh, no, Xu Qingnian even felt that there was only a slight increase, even slower than if he hadn't cultivated the foreign arts.

Originally, according to his plan, he would be able to break through to the eighth rank in three or five days without two months.

But at the current rate, it wouldn't even be possible to break through to the eighth grade in three to five years.

"What's going on?"

Xu Qingnian's brows were locked.

He hadn't cared about the martial realm during this period of time because he had the foreign art in place and could practice it whenever he wanted, just as a walk in the park, after all, he was within the Imperial City and wasn't worried about anyone looking for him.

But now the supernatural arts had failed.

How could Xu Qingnian not panic?

According to the current situation, it would be difficult to raise oneself to the eighth rank, and even if one entered the eighth rank, what about the seventh rank?

"Don't panic, it might be a body conditioning problem, try again."

Xu Qingnian reassured himself in his heart that he should never panic, it was just a technical adjustment.

He took a deep breath and continued to start practicing the Golden Crow Body Tempering Technique, while also practicing the Taiyin Pulse Condensing Technique.

A little over half an hour later.

Xu Qingnian was completely silent.

For indeed, there was no half effect.

The foreign arts were really useless.

"Impossible, how could the foreign arts be useless? This is absolutely impossible."

Xu Qingnian frowned, if the supernatural arts didn't work, he was only afraid that he would be out of luck ah.

Don't look at yourself in the imperial court, offending some county prince, the reason Xu Qingnian didn't panic at all was because everything had a roundabout way, not daring to kill someone blatantly.

But heteromancy is different, once one can't suppress it, one may become possessed.

Although he said that he had the Heaven and Earth Palace of Literature in his body, and that he was now of the sixth grade of Confucianism, he didn't know if he could suppress this supernatural art.

This is a knife that hangs over one's head at all times.

It is only because the cultivation of the supernatural arts is so fast that one drifts away, so one does not care too much.

Plus, with Confucianism around, there was no fear of the demonic seed suddenly erupting.

But now the situation that had arisen made Xu Qingnian actually a little confused.

"Is there something wrong with the body? Or is it something else?"

Xu Qingnian frowned, he didn't know what the cause was, but he had to know the answer quickly.

Heteromancy was not something to fool around with.

It was also at that moment that a voice rang out.

It was Chao Ge's voice.

"Brother Xu, come quickly!"

As Chao Ge's voice rang out afterwards.

Without any hesitation, Xu Qingnian directly closed his eyes and sank his mind into the Palace of Literature.

The Heaven and Earth Palace of Literature.

Entering inside the Palace of Literature again after a period of time.

The entire Palace of Literature was much more magnificent than before.

No matter how many times one viewed it, it was still filled with shock.

And as Xu Qingnian entered, a scene that surprised him appeared.

In the middle of the Palace of Literature, two people appeared at that moment.

One was Chao Ge, handsome beyond words.

One was a middle-aged man, standing with his arms folded, who had a domineering aura between his brows and looked towards himself with curiosity.

“Brother Xu, you entered the sixth rank yesterday and the Palace of Literature sensed something, causing this one to awaken, but he has also forgotten many things, the same as I do, remembering only a little bit.”

Chao Ge introduced this person to Xu Qingnian.

“I am Xu Qingnian, I have met senior.”

After hearing this, Xu Qingnian instantly bowed towards the other party.

“Brother Xu, you are welcome.”

“I may have to trouble you to check my origins for me.”

The latter spoke indifferently, but was also very polite to Xu Qingnian.

Apparently Chao Ge had already informed the other party of many things.

“A small matter.” Xu Qingnian nodded, now that he was a Viscount of Great Wei and a Minister of the Household Department of Great Wei, he was no longer like the old days when he could not find any information if he wanted to.

“En, brother Xu is a generous person with excellent character, brother, there is no need to rush, you should properly detail your memories, so that it is also convenient for brother Xu to search for you.”

Chao Ge said with a light smile, allowing the other party to tell what memories he had left, so that it would be easy for Xu Qingnian to find them.

“En.”

The middle-aged man nodded and spoke immediately afterwards.

“Xu Xiandi, my humble brother doesn’t remember much, only one name that I remember, Sheridan, I should have fought with him during the great battle, so I remember his name.”

The middle-aged man said so, he had no recollection of his identity at all, but remembered the name.

“Sheridan?”

Xu Qingnian frowned, but didn't think much of it, just wrote the name down.

"By the way, Brother Xu, you are now of the sixth grade and can forge the seventh grade of literary artifacts, it would be bad to delay any longer."

Chao Ge spoke out, reminding Xu Qingnian that he could cast a seventh-grade literary weapon.

"Good."

Xu Qingnian nodded, only he didn't cast a Wen weapon immediately, but spoke up and asked Chao Ge.

"Brother, I've run into trouble."

Xu Qingnian said in a serious tone.

"Eh?"

Both Chao Ge and the middle-aged man were naturally a little curious and turned their gazes towards Xu Qingnian.

"I'm not getting any results from my cultivation of the foreign arts, and my martial dao has not grown half as much as others, before a day of cultivation was better than a hundred times than others, but now a day of cultivation is probably not as good as an hour."

Xu Qingnian said seriously.

He didn't know what was happening, so he turned to Chao Ge to see if he understood.

"How could this be? Could it be that there's something wrong with the foreign arts? This shouldn't be, the supernatural arts I deduced for you, there's absolutely no problem."

Chao Ge frowned, he didn't know what was going on either.

And this middle-aged man suddenly spoke up.

"Show me the supernatural arts."

He spoke out, and Xu Qingnian didn't hesitate, directly gathering his writing pen and copying down the original xiejutsu.

The latter read it carefully, and after a while he shook his head and said.

"There is not a single problem with the xiejutsu, it's perfect."

He gave his evaluation.

This answer made Xu Qingnian even more curious.

“Brother, then why is my cultivation speed so slow?”

“Is it because of the lack of an eighth-grade supernatural art?”

Xu Qingnian asked so.

“No!” The middle-aged man shook his head, then pondered for a moment and turned his gaze towards the Palace of Literature.

“It should be because your Confucian Dao grade is too high.”

He stated a possibility.

“The Confucian Dao grade is too high?”

Xu Qingnian was a little surprised.

He hadn't really thought about it, but just as soon as he said this, Chao Ge couldn't help but show a dawning realization.

“Yes, it's true that Hao Ran Zheng Qi suppresses the devil seed, but your Confucian Dao is already of the sixth grade, but your Martial Dao is only of the ninth grade, there is a huge difference between the two, and the Confucian Dao suppresses the devil seed to death, causing your cultivation speed to drop dramatically.”

Chao Ge put it this way.

“Confucianism and the Other Arts need to be balanced, they can't be too strong, not just these two, if you cultivate the Immortal Dao, the Buddhist Dao, or the Evil Dao in the future, you need to maintain a balance.”

“Otherwise those First Grade martial artists, who have already reached the top, can completely practise the Immortal Dao.”

The middle-aged man's explanation made Xu Qingnian completely dawn on him.

“Then What should we do now?”

Understanding is understanding, seeing as Xu Qingnian could not think of a solution ah.

“There is no way to solve it.”

“Sixth grade Confucian Dao, ninth grade Martial Dao, there is a vein of suppression in itself, the good thing is that you practice a different art, if you practice something other than a different art, it is estimated that there will not even be a hint of growth.”

The middle-aged man shook his head, it was a dead end, it couldn't be solved, the suppression between systems.

Why else wouldn't those great Confucians go and practise the Martial Dao? Why didn't they go and practise the Immortal Way? Other than that, prolonging one's life would earn one.

“Actually, it's not like there's no solution.”

Chao Ge shook his head.

“You can't raise your cultivation through normal cultivation, but you can raise it through other aspects, such as some heavenly treasures that can raise your strength after swallowing them.”

This was Chao Ge's idea.

Only the moment this idea was spoken, the middle-aged man rejected it.

“In theory, it is possible, but the problem is that you can't eat too much of such heavenly treasures, too much of them won't be too useful, and such things are worth a lot of money, and some of them have a market without a price.”

The middle-aged man replied in this way.

This is the truth, eating heavenly materials and earthly treasures can definitely improve your cultivation, but the question is how much can you eat?

So this can be used temporarily, want to rely on this to improve your strength?

It's better to wash up and sleep.

However, Xu Qingnian had some other thoughts inside.

Wouldn't it be enough to break through to the eighth grade through heavenly treasures and then refine a seventh grade realm-breaking pill?

The biggest problem for Xu Qingnian today was the demon seed, what about the seventh grade after raising it to the eighth grade?

His own Confucianism is already the sixth grade, and it is estimated that it will be difficult to break through by relying on foreign arts alone, so he can only refine the

realm-breaking pills, otherwise at this rate of cultivation, he will never be able to break through to the seventh grade in his lifetime.

And just at that moment, Chao Ge continued to speak.

“This way, don’t rush for now, even if the time is up, this devil seed won’t be able to help you much, your Confucian Dao is already of the sixth grade, unless the devil seed is also promoted to the sixth grade, it won’t affect you too much.”

“We’ll help you think of a way, if you mess up, you’ll be in trouble, let’s first condense the Wen weapon.”

Chao Ge said so, while Xu Qingnian nodded, he did not say anything about the Dan Shen Ancient Scripture.

“Good.”

Xu Qingnian agreed and then sat down within the Wen Pond and began to forge the Wen Weapon.

The seventh-grade Wen weapon had yet to be cast, and now he had to cast two Wen weapons in one breath.

The Wen Pen, the Wen Ruler and the Wen Bell.

Xu Qingnian did not rush to forge the three weapons immediately, but began to forge the names of the three weapons one by one after he had forged them.

A weapon needs a name before it can be transformed.

Xu Qingnian named them [Spring and Autumn Brush], [Persuasive Ruler] and [Eight Desolate Bells] respectively.

For the seventh-grade weapon, Xu Qingnian already had an idea, the Book of Words.

It was something like the Heavenly Decree, and Xu Qingnian left four words [Up to Heaven].

The meaning was that as long as one wrote something in the book, it would reach the ears of the saints, but of course whether one could do so was another matter, but as long as one reached the fifth-grade Confucian realm, at least there would not be any slight problem for the Emperor to see it.

The benefits of the heavenly decree, Xu Qingnian has already appreciated, but this kind of thing His Majesty will not reward too much, otherwise you have nothing to write a sentence in? Wouldn’t it be a bit of a problem to send it to His Majesty?

But with this thing, it would be much easier to send letters to anyone in the future.

A sixth-grade cast weapon, Xu Qingnian also thought of what it was.

A gentleman's sword!

Yes, a sword!

Who said that a literary weapon could not be a weapon?

Xu Qingnian cast the sword weapon, deliberately did not make it particularly complicated, and did not leave words, just injected public opinion into it, going forward it was a gentleman's sword, a king's sword, and this sword was of great use between the hearts of the people.

As for the inscription, Xu Qingnian naturally responded to the scene.

For the seventh grade, he engraved seven words, "To know and act in unity, to conscience.

For the sixth grade, he engraved the text of his own words.

As the words were engraved, the Palace of Literature changed once again, while the purple Hao Rang Qi once again surged into his body.

This is activating the Confucian divine power.

The tenth grade is the word.

The ninth grade is the eye.

The eighth grade is the heart.

The seventh grade is spirit.

The sixth grade is the intention.

The Confucian Avatar is basically used to target evil spirits, so it is not very useful for the time being.

But something was better than nothing, Xu Qingnian didn't care, more of this kind of thing was better.

When the casting was over, five literary weapons surrounded him at that moment, the Spring and Autumn Brush, the Persuasive Ruler, the Eight Desolate Bells, the Book of Words, and the Junzi Sword.

“Brother Xu, you are promoted to the sixth rank, the Sacred Book Room, from now on you can read books in it, it will be beneficial to you.”

After seeing Xu Qingnian cast his weapon, Chao Ge spoke out and informed Xu Qingnian of the changes in the Palace of Literature.

“Sacred Book Room?”

Xu Qingnian turned his gaze to the opposite side of the Martial Performance Hall.

“Thank you for your guidance, elder brother.”

Xu Qingnian nodded, but there was nothing to read at the moment.

However, just at that moment, the middle-aged man took out a piece of white paper and handed it to Xu Qingnian.

“This is a supernatural art, called the Da Luo Dan Yuan Art, an eighth grade supernatural art, I happen to have some records of supernatural arts in my memory, you can try to practice this, I can detect that you have already reached the ninth grade perfection, practicing this art, you might be able to break through to the eighth grade in one go.”

The middle-aged man said so, as he presented a foreign art to Xu Qingnian to see if it could help him.

“Thank you very much, brother.”

This was really an unexpected pleasure, but this magic art sounded familiar, the Da Luo Dan Yuan Art? When he thought about it, Xu Qingnian remembered that there was a magic art recorded in the Pingqiu Province Disaster Relief Silver Case, which was also called Da Luo something or other.

Xu Qingnian finished reading the foreign art quickly and left the Palace of Heaven and Earth Literature after memorizing it.

He opened his eyes.

It was still not yet dawn.

Xu Qingnian was still somewhat reluctant to try to cultivate, but the miracle did not occur, not a single improvement.

The Confucian Dao had suppressed it somewhat harshly.

Exhaling a breath, Xu Qingnian didn't think much of it, he had now arrived at the ninth grade of perfection, and was just a foot away from the eighth grade.

If it wasn't for the slow pace of cultivation, he could have broken through by now.

Right now, Xu Qingnian's only hope was this Da Luo Dan Yuan Art, if he could break through to the eighth grade, he could at least ease the crisis.

Thinking of this, Xu Qingnian ran his body's qi and blood, before gathering the Great Circumference and bathing in the moonlight.

Tenth Grade Nourishing Body.

Ninth-grade qi veins.

Eighth-grade Dantian.

A stream of qi and blood boiled within his body, and then spread around his dantian under the Great Circumference.

The Dantian is an extremely mysterious existence in the human body.

It can be called the door to the body's treasures.

The martial artist first nurtures his body and absorbs qi, which not only strengthens his body, but also increases his strength and so on, but this internal qi does not last long in the body.

Therefore, it is necessary to condense the qi veins, so that the internal qi can be condensed in the qi veins, and in this way, it will not be necessary to gather qi in case of danger or temporary battles.

However, after condensing the chakra, it does not last long, as time gradually passes and the internal qi in the body is not the purest internal qi.

Therefore, when you reach the eighth rank, you must open up your dantian and preserve this internal qi to keep yourself at the top of your game at all times.

This is the characteristic and role of the first three grades of the martial arts.

Xu Qingnian gathers his internal qi and gathers the Da Luo Dan Yuan.

Cultivating the Da Luo Dan Yuan Art was indeed better than the Golden Crow Body Tempering Art, but it was only a little better.

"I regret that I shouldn't have not cultivated it earlier."

Xu Qingnian was having a bit of a hard time, he was now really regretting why he hadn't cultivated to the eighth grade earlier.

Why did he have to delay it.

Now it was good, frantically raising the quality of Confucianism and being too cautious, he had planted himself.

An hour later.

It was almost dawn.

Xu Qingnian had made no progress, if he had followed his previous cultivation speed, he would have broken through to the eighth grade by now.

The Da Luo Dan Yuan Technique was also not doing anything.

It was just that just as Xu Qingnian kept cultivating, a sudden and powerful energy didn't enter his body.

"Is the foreign art effective?"

Xu Qingnian was somewhat surprised.

It was only in the next moment that Xu Qingnian discovered what was going on, it was the people's power of faith.

The massive amount of faith power was injected into his body and turned into rolling energy, which was equivalent to directly swallowing a heavenly treasure, instantly increasing his strength by leaps and bounds.

Xu Qingnian smacked his lips a little, he really didn't expect that the people's faith power could not only be turned into talent qi, but also into martial qi, saving the need for hard cultivation, this was really a golden oil.

Feeling this surging martial dao qi, Xu Qingnian barely spoke a word as he opened up his dantian with a flourish.

Boom!

An incense stick later.

With a rumbling sound within his body, as if he was opening up the heavens, Xu Qingnian's qi and blood surged, and his entire aura climbed considerably.

The Great Luo Dantian coalesced like a black hole, expanding wildly. The martial arts dao was to develop the body, while the body held many treasures within it.

With the cultivation of the Great Luo Dan Yuan Technique, the Dantian within Xu Qingnian's body expanded wildly.

Ten feet!

Hundred feet!

One thousand feet!

One thousand eight hundred feet!

The expansion stopped only when it reached 1,800 feet. An ordinary martial artist with 10 feet was considered excellent, while a martial genius with 100 feet was considered a martial genius, and the further you went, the more terrifying it became.

With the promotion to the eighth rank, a huge amount of internal qi was injected into it, and Xu Qingnian felt an unprecedented pleasure.

Boom.

Xu Qingnian gathered his fist and waved a fist towards the sky dome, and a dull sound rang out in an instant.

With this punch, it was estimated that a seventh rank martial artist would be somewhat unable to withstand it, right?

"It's a pity that Cheng Lidong has already disappeared, or else I would let him have a taste of this iron fist of mine, I guess he would have to cry, right?"

Xu Qingnian lamented in his heart that it was a pity that Cheng Lidong had gone offline so soon, how good it would have been if he was still around, at least he would have been able to try to try his iron fist.

After reaching the eighth grade.

The power of the Hundred Faiths was also almost empty, but fortunately, he had finally stepped into the eighth grade.

Sensing some demon atlases, all sorts of information surfaced at that moment.

[The three-legged golden crow, a demon god of heaven and earth, transformed into a sun, reflecting the heavens, the most virile and virile, with a ferocious character.

[Current state: Seventh Grade, healed, will advance to Sixth Grade in a year].

[After the sixth grade, if you can suppress it, you will receive the blessing of the Golden Crow's divine thoughts]

—

As one steps into the eighth grade, the demonic thoughts of the three-legged Golden Crow also step into the seventh grade in the same way, the good thing is that it is the sixth grade of Confucianism, which can be perfectly suppressed.

It was just that he only had one year before the three-legged golden crow's demonic thoughts would be promoted to the sixth grade.

A year's time.

Isn't this too fucking rushed? Isn't this upgrade speed a bit outrageous?

I'm going up one grade and he's going up one grade?

What makes this demonic thought upgrade so fast? Why?

Xu Qingnian was really feeling the pressure.

No, not feeling pressure, this is simply forcing herself to die.

If he could cultivate the magic, he would be able to break through in at least a year.

But now that the supernatural arts were gone, what could I do to rise to the seventh rank?

By relying on the Dan Shen Ancient Scripture?

If you rely on the Dan Shen Ancient Scripture to break through to the seventh grade, then the demonic thoughts will also follow.

At this rate of advancement, how can I rise above it?

And it's one rank and one heaven.

Confucianism can barely suppress it by half a grade, and if the devil's thoughts are promoted to the sixth grade, Confucianism can still suppress it, but it can only keep itself from turning into a devil.

But if this rate of promotion of the devil's thoughts is followed, after five grades, if one does not have five grades of Confucianism or five grades of Martial Dao, won't one be able to wait for death?

At the same time, Xu Qingnian checked the other two devilish thoughts.

[Taiyin Jiao Demon, a dragon originated from the grievances of the dragons of heaven and earth, but unable to transform into a dragon, hates all things and kills endless living beings, later subdued in the Devil's Abyss of the North Sea by a supreme power, terrifying.

[Current realm: Seventh grade of martial arts, will be promoted to Sixth grade in one year]

[If you can subdue it, you will be granted the extreme power of the dragon]

—

[Ancient Demon, a chaos-born demon that only knows how to devour, born at the beginning of heaven and earth, destroyed at the time of its emptiness, later suppressed by heaven and earth]

[Current state: Seventh grade of martial arts, will be promoted to Sixth grade in a year's time]

[If you can suppress it, you will be granted the Great Power of Devouring Heaven]

—

This is a demon born from the Da Luo Dan Yuan Art, one that is much stronger than the Three Legged Golden Crow and the Tai Yin Jiao Demon.

At the very least, it was obvious just by reading the introduction that this thing was very strong.

Moreover, the three demons in the Demon Atlas would all be promoted to the sixth rank after a year.

One three-legged Golden Crow had put himself under some pressure, and with three great demons, Xu Qingnian felt that he couldn't hold his own.

"Brother Chao Ge, save me."

Xu Qingnian could only call out to Chao Ge to think of a solution, this was definitely not going to work if he didn't think of a solution.

“No need to rush = rush, I have discussed with my elder brother, you should find a way to promote to the seventh rank anyway, and then with the power of Confucianism, suppress these demons once more to help you delay.”

The first thing that Chao Ge noticed was that these three demons had been healed.

Because Xu Qingnian had been promoted to the eighth grade, the Yuan Shen that had been injured before was also instantly healed, but because Xu Qingnian’s Confucian Dao had been promoted to the sixth grade, the demonic thoughts could not explode and were suppressed to death.

However, once he was promoted to the sixth rank, one three-legged Golden Crow was fine, but three demons together would not really be able to resist.

But Chao Ge was not without a solution. He could suppress these demons one more time and hurt their spirit, and then he could delay them for at least another year, although he could treat the symptoms but not the root cause.

Hearing what Chao Ge said, Xu Qingnian nodded his head.

Breaking through to the seventh rank in a year was not that difficult, with the Dan Shen Ancient Scripture around, it was completely doable.

When he broke through to the seventh grade of martial arts, he could then suppress the demons and give himself a little more time to wait.

However, Xu Qingnian was now worried about one thing.

How long was it to promote to the fifth rank after the sixth rank? Two years?

How long was it for the fifth rank to advance to the fourth rank? Three years or four years?

How long was it for a fourth grade to be promoted to a third grade? Five years or ten years?

How about the third grade to the second grade?

What about the second rank to the first rank?

At this rate of promotion, wouldn’t this require one to become a First Grade Martial Artist within twenty years?

Or become a Confucian saint.

The pressure on time is too great, twenty years will pass in the snap of a finger, and for a dynasty, twenty years is really not much time.

One has to think about it and figure out exactly what one is going to do next.

As the old saying goes, if you are born with worries, you will die with peace and happiness.

Getting up and going back to his room, Xu Qingnian began a new round of planning.

[First: Sixth Grade! No matter what, raise to the sixth rank within a year!

What seventh grade in a year? Xu Qingnian's goal was the sixth grade, and he had to reach the sixth grade by all means, no matter what, and then frantically suppress the demon's demonic thoughts in his body.

Second: Accelerate the development of Great Wei and get more public opinion for the sake of it]

Public opinion beliefs can be converted into the purest martial arts qi, one's promotion to the sixth rank had depleted a large amount of public opinion beliefs, and now the martial arts realm could also rely on public opinion beliefs for conversion, naturally Xu Qingnian intended to accelerate the development of Great Wei and hurry up to obtain more public opinion beliefs.

There is no longer any use in disliking people, now it is about doing practical things and making the people of Great Wei really eat and drink, so that they can truly be respected by the people and gain their hearts.

Thirdly, to make a realm-breaking pellet, to find a way to break the magic, and to find out the identities of several people in Chao Ge].

The people's hearts must be won, but at the same time, he must also refine a realm-breaking pellet. No matter how demanding it is, with a realm-breaking pellet, he can break through the realm directly, saving time and effort.

But in the process of refining the realm-breaking pills again, one must also go and read some books properly, especially books on the supernatural arts.

If he didn't get rid of this thing, Xu Qingnian was really unsure of himself.

Of course by the way, he would investigate a little more information about Chao Ge's people.

There was one thing that Xu Qingnian was curious about, and that was why did Chao Ge and the others know so much about the supernatural arts? But after thinking about it

Xu Qingnian could only think that they were once half-saints, and even sub-saints, so it was no big deal if they knew a bit of supernatural arts.

Certain of these three ideas.

Xu Qingnian set his eyes on the Dan God Ancient Scripture now.

The Dan God Furnace was placed quietly on the table and shook slightly, when the Dan God's voice rang out.

"What's wrong?"

A bit of a voice that had just woken up rang out, and Xu Qingnian was straightforward.

"Senior Dan Shen, I've entered the eighth grade."

Xu Qingnian opened her mouth, informing the other party that she had broken through to the eighth rank.

"The eighth rank?"

Hearing this, the Dan God instantly perked up.

"You want to refine a seventh-grade realm-breaking pill?"

The Dan God asked.

"En, I still hope senior will tell me what those ingredients are needed for a seventh grade realm-breaking pellet, so that junior can have someone find them."

Having entered the eighth grade, Xu Qingnian did not intend to cultivate, and went straight to collecting materials to break through to the seventh grade.

"Good, good, good." It could be seen that the Dan God was very happy, he was very excited and said, "The prescription for the Seventh Grade Realm Breaking Pill is relatively simple, so mark this down, one catty of Heavenly Meteorite Gold, one sixth grade Spiritual Wood Heart, one catty of Ten Thousand Year Purple Jade Marrow, one Burning Valley Spiritual Flame, and one catty of Yin Underworld Sand, and you can refine the Seventh Grade Realm Breaking Pill."

Dan Shen said, naming the five ingredients, according to gold, wood, water, fire and earth.

"Good, if the ingredients are collected, how long will it take to refine it?"

Xu Qingnian opened his mouth and asked.

“Within three days.”

Dan Shen spoke with certainty.

“Alright, I’ll go ask then.” Xu Qingnian didn’t understand what these ingredients were at all, but she could go ask and see if it was okay to get them.

“By the way, do you want a few whole Realm Solidifying Pills? You’ve entered the eight grades, but each grade isn’t complete and perfect, I can still help you refine the Realm-Solidifying Pill so that there won’t be any flaws, which will be of great benefit to you in the future.”

The Dan God asked.

“What ingredients do I need for this?”

Hearing this, Xu Qingnian was naturally interested, it was quite good to fill in the flaws.

“It doesn’t need any other materials, ten grade solid realm pills, ten thousand spirit stones, fifty thousand for the ninth grade, one hundred thousand for the eighth grade, and three hundred thousand for the seventh grade.”

The Realm-Solidifying Pill didn’t need any materials, just spirit stones.

“Good, if there are any, I will come back to bother senior.”

Xu Qingnian knew what spirit stones were, they were hard currency for Immortal Dao cultivators, as for how much they were worth Xu Qingnian really didn’t know, he would check later.

“Okay, wait for your good news.”

Dan Shen was happy, it seemed to be finally opening.

And at that moment.

It was already almost dawn.

It should be time to get ready for court at this time, but Xu Qingnian called out to Yang Hu.

“Yang Hu, go and find Lord Gu, the Minister of Household Affairs, and tell him that I’m a little unwell and ask him to take a sick leave for me.”

Xu Qingnian shouted, he did not intend to go to the court.

What would be said in the courtroom today and what the civil and military officials would do, Xu Qingnian could basically guess.

The scourge of the Fan merchants had been resolved and the treasury had received an objective amount of silver, so Xu Qingnian planned to plan at home how to spend the money.

Only one of his three axes has fallen so far, with the remaining two axes targeting the scholars and the powerful respectively.

At the same time, the taxation in Great Wei does need to be changed and cannot be treated equally.

At the very least, a minimum levy should be introduced, otherwise there would be no substantial benefit to the people, the scholars and some country squires and landowners, who are the main targets of taxation.

The powerful and wealthy are naturally no match for these gentry and landowners and the readers, who are, after all, only the middle class in any country.

The taxation of the powerful and noble is just the icing on the cake, the real aim is to weaken them so that they have no capital to rebel.

So the second axe, which must never fall lightly, must wait if it is to be truly implemented!

At least half a year later, otherwise, it will lead to chaos, and this group of scholars and gentry will definitely not agree, but can not do the same as the Fan merchants want to kill.

So one must think it through, every step needs to be thought twice, either don't move, or move with a flourish.

After a while, Xu Qingnian withdrew his mind and asked Yang Bao to prepare the bath water and take a bath to rest and relax.

Half an hour later.

Great Wei Imperial Palace.

Above the courtroom.

The voice of Gu Yan, the Minister of Household Affairs, resounded in the middle of the great hall.

“Your Majesty! After a careful and rigorous investigation by the Ministry of Accounts, this time, the rebellion of the Fan merchants has resulted in 70,000,000 taels of silver and 50,000,000 taels of assets, all of which have been transported to the state treasury.”

Gu Yan’s voice rang out.

His words were loud and clear.

How many years have passed.

How many years had it been.

He was finally able to speak out loud like this.

Over the years, whether it was His Majesty or other officials, whenever money was talked about, his first reaction was to bow his head and shut up, because the treasury had no money.

This bunch of military officials, clamouring for a northern expedition, north of your masters, where do you get the silver for a northern expedition? You give it to me?

There are other departments, such as the Ministry of Justice, which needs more staff, the Ministry of Rites, which needs silver, and so on.

Now it’s good, I have money in the Household Department.

I’m showing my cards, I’m a billionaire.

Gu Yan was a little smug, he raised his head, looking at the crowd at this moment, inexplicably feeling that they were all a bunch of pikers.

“Hiss!”

Also just after Gu Yan said this, the sound of sucking in cold air instantly rang out.

The ministers were all stunned, unable to believe that this was true.

Except for the Minister of War and the Minister of Penalty, the rest of them were stunned.

Seventy thousand million taels of silver.

And 50,000,000 taels worth of good land assets.

Several State Princes could not help but mutter.

“These Fan merchants are so rich? I should have known to cut them off earlier, so why worry about not having silver for the Northern Expedition?”

“No wonder Qingnian’s nephew is looking for trouble with these merchants, so he knew that they were so rich? I regret that I didn’t know about it earlier.

“70,000,000 taels, that’s enough for the Northern Expedition, right?”

The military officials couldn’t help but murmur one by one, they were really shocked by this astronomical figure.

As for the civil ministers, however, they spoke up at the first opportunity.

The Minister of Rites was the first to step forward and shouted.

“Your Majesty, now that the treasury is in surplus, I implore Your Majesty to allocate funds to the Ministry of Rites, firstly to prepare for Your Majesty’s birthday, and secondly because the official uniforms in the palace as well as the civil and military officials, the imperial regalia and so on all need to be replaced recently to welcome the changes in the first year of the new dynasty.”

“I, I implore Your Majesty.”

The Minister of Rites was the most thievish, knowing that there was money to be had, and hurried over to ask for money.

“How much do you need?”

The Empress said in a calm tone.

Perhaps it was because there was money, the empress did not retreat from the question, instead she asked it directly.

“Not much, five million taels will do.”

Wang Xinzhi, the Minister of Rites, stated a figure.

As soon as this was said, Gu Yan’s voice rang out.

“Five million taels? What do you need so much silver taels for? We have official uniforms and imperial ceremonies that we can put off, and they are not too old, so now that we have a little silver, we have to spend it indiscriminately?”

Gu Yan said this astronomical amount, proud of it is proud, but you ask him to take the money out, he still can’t spare it.

It was so easy for the treasury to be full that he could not spare the money.

“No, Minister Gu, what do you mean by that? When His Majesty’s birthday is celebrated and messengers from all nations come, aren’t the various rewards silver? Furthermore when the ambassadors come, if we are still dressed in our old official clothes and use our old things, how will people see us?”

“Besides, what I want is not much, only five million taels, my lords, you judge, is it too much?”

Wang Xinzhi spoke up, he didn’t feel he was asking for too much.

“Five million taels is too much, Your Majesty, I do not agree, at most 500,000 taels. Is this not disgusting to others? We won’t give it this time, we’ll talk about it next time.”

Gu Yan directly knocked down the price, five million taels would definitely not do, let’s give half a million, save your money.

“Hiss! You’re a real miser, Minister Gu, you asked for five million taels, and you’re putting me down to five hundred thousand taels? What’s 500,000 taels for?”

“Three million taels is the minimum, you have to give it even if you don’t. If you don’t, I dare to say in front of His Majesty today that in the future, your Household Department will use the worst and oldest things.”

Wang Xinzhi also lost his temper.

Seventy thousand million taels of silver! Brother, 70,000,000 taels, I want 5 million taels, is that too much? It’s not much at all, okay?

“That’s fine, then I won’t give you a single tael... Oh, Lord Wang is really a good man, he can even send old clothes without paying silver... I’d like to thank Lord Wang for the Ministry of Household Affairs.”

At this moment, Gu Yan instantly changed greatly, the mention of silver taels made his whole person different.

Showing off that the treasury had money was fine!

Making the treasury pay for it? Sorry, please lie down on the side and don’t get in my way.

“You!”

“You!”

Wang Xinzhi pointed at Gu Yan, his arm trembling.

“Don’t argue anymore.”

“It’s a big deal for the envoys of the nations to come, allocate two million taels, the imperial regalia need not be replaced, as for the official robes and such, replace them above the fourth rank, forget it below the fourth rank.”

The empress spoke up, allocating two million to be a peacemaker, five million she also felt was a bit much, but half a million was also less, two million was almost enough.

“Your Majesty! This Alas, forget it, thank Your Majesty for your kindness.”

Wang Xinzhi had some difficulty, two million taels was indeed not enough, but after thinking about it, he let it go, anyway it was still early, the big deal was to grind it out slowly.

Immediately after the Minister of Rites said this, the Minister of Officials, Chen Zhengru, came out.

“Your Majesty, since two million taels have been allocated to the Ministry of Rites, I hope that Your Majesty will allocate some to the Ministry of Officials, not to raise the salaries of officials, but for the past three years, the salaries of officials everywhere have been extremely low, and there is no reward.

Chen Zhengru spoke up, but he didn’t say that he would raise the salaries of all the officials in the world, which would definitely not work, because just because Wei was suddenly rich, it didn’t mean that they could collect so much money every year.

If there was so much silver every year, then indeed the wages could be increased.

“How much does Ai Qing need?”

The empress asked calmly.

“Minister, it should not be too much, fifty million taels.”

Chen Zhengru said without a blush on his face.

The civil and military officials: “.....”

Empress: “.....”

Good man, good man, good man, what is called a lion’s mouth? This is called a lion’s mouth.

50 million taels? All the officials in the whole of Great Wei would probably not need that much even if they were given out all over again, right?

This is equivalent to an extra month's salary.

"Lord Chen, are you serious?"

Gu Yan spoke a little oddly.

"That's not true, it's mainly to leave room for bargaining, how much does Lord Gu think is appropriate?"

Chen Zhengru smiled, he knew he was asking for a bit too much, but he couldn't help it, if he really wanted to say 8 million taels or 10 million taels, he wouldn't get it back.

It would be better to just set a sky-high price and then let you press it slowly.

"How about eight hundred thousand taels?"

Gu Yan thought about it and said an extremely low amount.

Chen Zhengru: "....."

Eight hundred thousand taels?

Are you still a human being? Eight hundred thousand taels for each person to share a couple of meters as a gift for the Mid-Moon Festival? You can give that away?

"A minimum of twenty million taels."

Chen Zhengru's expression became serious.

"One hundred and fifty!"

Gu Yan also became serious.

"Minister Gu, you are going too far ha, the Ministry of Rites is giving two million taels, and my entire Ministry of Officials is only giving one hundred and fifty?"

Chen Zhengru was a little annoyed, I'm getting serious and you're still playing this game with me?

"Twenty million taels is impossible, three hundred, three hundred is the limit, not even a tael more, not even to death."

Gu Yan also put down fierce words.

Just three million taels, not one tael more.

“Your Majesty! Minister Gu is already old, let him go back, I am willing to take over the responsibility of the Ministry of Household.”

Chen Zhengru was too lazy to bother with this guy and applied directly to go to the Ministry of Household.

It was quite good to replace the Minister of Officials with the Minister of Household.

“All right.”

“The two loving ministers don’t argue, let’s allocate eight million taels to the Ministry of Officials, and then promise that there will be next year as well, only more and no less.”

The empress continued to neutralise the situation, giving eight million taels, but promising to give it next year as well, and that it would only be more, not less.

It was not much, but at least the officials were looking forward to next year’s Mid-Moon Festival.

The Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Rites had finished asking for the silver.

The Ministry of Works and the Ministry of Punishment followed suit.

After some bickering, the Ministry of Penalty was sent away with 700,000 taels and the Ministry of Works with 1.5 million taels.

It was also at this point that a voice finally rang out.

“Your Majesty! Since the treasury is now full, can the matter of the Northern Expedition be discussed again?”

With the sound of this voice.

The courtroom was instantly quiet.

Awaken Chapter 120 -

The courtroom.

As the six ministries finished asking for silver, at this moment, the military generals spoke out.

A word about the Northern Expedition instantly froze the atmosphere in the courtroom.

The person who opened his mouth to speak was a marquis, the Marquis of Qu Zhou.

He started a tone first.

He asked the empress if the Northern Expedition could be discussed.

Previously, when the Northern Expedition was not discussed, it was said that there was no more silver in the treasury, but now there is silver, right?

Could there be another Northern Expedition?

“Marquis! Even though there is silver in the treasury, if we were to launch another northern expedition, it would be an astronomical sum of money, and the 70,000,000 taels would not last long.”

“The Northern Expedition must not be launched, the livelihood of the people of Great Wei must be the main focus.”

Gu Yan got serious, he spoke directly and vetoed the Northern Expedition.

Yes, Great Wei now had the silver, but the problem was that it could not be a northern expedition.

Absolutely not.

Unless you can guarantee that you can conquer the north within six months and kill all the barbarians, the northern expedition will bring down Great Wei.

Furthermore, it was so easy for Great Wei to have silver and many things to do, so it was still the turn of the Northern Expedition?

“Humph!”

“When you don’t have silver, you say you don’t have money, but when you have silver, you still say you can’t go on a northern expedition? You civil servants and Confucian officials are all wimps, and now the barbarians in the north are regrouping and clamouring at the border.”

“If we don’t attack again, when they have rested and recuperated, then it will be the shame of Jingcheng again, who will go up then? Let you civil servants go up? Or should we let the great scholars go over and scold them at the gates of the city? Scold them to death?”

The Marquis of Qu Zhou scolded extremely nonchalantly.

His attitude was firm.

“Marquis Qu Zhou, if you are talking, why are you involving us Confucians?”

Sun Jing'an frowned and said this.

“Then do you support our Northern Expedition?”

The Marquis of Qu Zhou asked.

“No.”

Sun Jing'an gave his answer.

“Then isn't that enough, is it wrong to scold you all?”

“A bunch of goons, this Marquis has recently received information that the Sudden Evil Dynasty and the Primordial Yuan Dynasty are secretly sending a large amount of resources to the barbarians in the north, it won't take long for these barbarians to kill back.”

“Instead of waiting for the barbarians to come, we should take the initiative to attack. Although we will pay a painful price, we can at least crush the barbarians and make them not dare to invade our Wei for thirty years.”

“If we don't get rid of the barbarians, there will be no day of stability and development for Great Wei.”

The Marquis of Qu Zhou's voice was loud and clear, and his words were not half wrong.

The barbarians in the north were now eyeing them, and although their seven northern expeditions had broken their bones, they could not resist the resources secretly given by the Tusi Dynasty and the Chu Yuan Dynasty.

These two dynasties are eager to send half of their treasury to the barbarians in the north, hoping that they will recover quickly and then return to Wei.

By that time, Wei would either have to turn to them or be attacked by the northern barbarians in Kyoto, and then they could swing their armies down and take advantage of the opportunity to grab all kinds of benefits in the name of helping Wei.

If they were lucky, they would be able to take over Wei.

So the military officials agreed that Great Wei does need to develop, but the problem is that people won't let them.

“The Marquis of Qu Zhou is right, but if we fight again, whether we can win is a question! After winning, Great Wei will be completely empty. The barbarians are excepted, but what about the other foreigners? Wouldn't they be eyeing our Wei?”

“The Sudden Evil Dynasty and the First Yuan Dynasty, won't they make a move?”

“And to say another big no-no, once the northern expedition is underway, what if there is civil unrest?”

Minister of Household Affairs Gu Yan's voice was not loud, but it was resolute.

It was fine to want to fight.

But the question is, have you considered the current situation of Wei? What resources do the barbarians in the north have to take?

The most frightening thing is that the Northern Expedition has just begun and is halfway through the war.

If civil unrest breaks out, other foreign nations will join together to mess with you.

The Wei kingdom would be lost.

Once the war is over, the people are bound to lose their minds. Even if you try to explain and talk about it, to the people, war means death and trouble, and they can't even eat or sleep well.

When the clan kings raise their arms, everyone will immediately come to overthrow the empress, and Great Wei will fall into an extremely terrible civil unrest.

It might be true that the kingdom had changed hands.

“Humph, so according to you guys, that means don't fight? Keep hiding and wait for the next Jingcheng shame to come? All of you civil servants and great scholars are just too scared to have a backbone, if the late emperor had been born a few years earlier, there would have been no need for the Northern Expedition.”

The Marquis of Qu Zhou could not help but scold.

Just as soon as this was said, the Duke of An Guo's voice instantly rang out.

“Do not be unbridled.”

He roared, and the Marquis of Qu Zhou instantly realised that he had said the wrong thing, and at that moment, he could not help but lower his head and half-kneel on the ground, saying.

“Your Majesty, I was in a moment of haste and spoke nonsense, so I hope Your Majesty will forgive me.”

Marquis Qu Zhou’s face was a little ugly, he was indeed furious.

“All right.”

On the dragon chair, the empress spoke, followed by her beautiful eyes falling on the hundred officials, before she slowly said after a while.

“It is indeed time to discuss the matter of the Northern Expedition, what the Marquis of Qu Zhou said is good, without pacifying the foreign turmoil, it will be difficult for Great Wei to develop.”

“Pass on my decree, instruct the Ministry of War to immediately formulate a new northern expedition plan, within three months, the northern expedition strategy must be handed in.”

The Empress’s voice was calm.

But these words were like thunder that exploded the courtroom into a boiling frenzy.

“Your Majesty! It must not be done!”

“Your Majesty, the Northern Expedition must not be allowed, I hope Your Majesty will think twice.”

“I hope Your Majesty will think twice, if we continue our northern expedition, there will be no peace in Wei.”

The first to react were the civil servants and Confucian officials, who almost immediately knelt down in unison, even Prime Minister Chen Zhengru knelt on the ground and shouted for Your Majesty to think twice.

No one had expected that the empress would really agree to this, and she had even asked the Ministry of War to study the proposal and write a new strategy for the Northern Expedition within three months.

The military officials were a bit confused, they didn’t expect the empress to be so quick to agree to it.

They didn’t expect the empress to agree to this at all, they just mentioned it to let her think about it, but they didn’t expect her to agree to it.

The next moment, the martial officials’ lineage was completely smiling.

“Your Majesty is mighty!”

“Your Majesty is wise!”

“I thank Your Majesty!”

Led by Duke An, all the military officials all knelt down and bowed towards the empress, they were excited, really excited.

After all, the emperor’s words could not be changed, and they all told the Ministry of War to work on a new strategy for the Northern Expedition, this was obviously going to be a real game.

“Your Majesty!”

Chen Zhengru shouted, yet what he got in return was two words.

“Retire from the court.”

As the words fell, the empress rose and left, directly retiring from the court, giving the appearance of certainty.

In a short time, the military officials left with unbridled excitement.

The civil servants and Confucian officials, on the other hand, could not return to their senses for a long time, for if the Northern Expedition really took place, the blow to them would be too great.

About half an hour later.

The news of what had happened in the courtroom spread instantly throughout Wei.

Naturally, they did not want to go back to war, and when they heard that another northern expedition might be launched, they were inexplicably depressed.

But the people of Kyoto were fine, many of them supported the Northern Expedition and were particularly excited about it, after all, the shame of Jingcheng was still fresh in their minds.

So when they heard that the empress was going to invade the north, the number of supporters gradually increased.

The good thing is that the matter is not completely confirmed, but only for the Ministry of War to draw up, and it is up to the empress to decide whether it will be implemented or not.

The only thing is, this day, Wei does not know how many letters fly out, countless pairs of eyes watching every move of Wei, such a big matter, in less than half a day, will be known all over the world.

Inside an ancient tower in Kyoto.

It was still a secret room.

The three Huai Ning Kings are gathered here, but today there is one more person, the King of Zhen Xi.

“What a heavenly opportunity, this faint ruler really dares to raise another northern expedition, as long as the army goes north, at the critical moment, we will be able to rise up and rebel.”

The voice of the King of Zhenxi rang out, his tone full of excitement and anticipation.

“I thought that this time the Fan merchants were killed and we had suffered heavy losses, but what I didn’t expect was that this dim ruler, seeing such a large amount of tax revenue and silver, had the intention of a northern expedition, stupid, stupid, really stupid.”

Another man’s voice rang out, full of emotion.

“En, these Fan merchants collect a lot of money for us every year, occupying at least about 30% of our combined total, now that they have been uprooted by Xu Qingnian, I don’t know how many clan kings have already become furious and are even planning to enter the capital directly to kill, but with this faint ruler’s words today, I’m afraid it won’t be long before we can enter the capital openly.”

“When that time comes, this Xu Qingnian, will definitely die.”

A third voice rang out as he revealed a secret.

There were already clan kings ready to move to come to the capital, intending to kill Xu Qingnian outright, after all, Xu Qingnian had uprooted the Fan merchants, and the loss was too great for them, even to say that this loss was worse than the revenge of killing their father.

But the good news is that the empress has taken the initiative to mention the Northern Expedition today, and has even asked the Ministry of War to draw up a strategy for the Northern Expedition, which is a godsend.

The three of them were all a little excited and happy, expressing their satisfaction with the Empress’s decision.

But King Huai Ning's voice rang out.

"Not so."

He shook his head, and as the three watched, he continued to speak.

"My king feels that this matter is by no means so simple, this faint ruler cannot be so foolish, and if he raises an army to attack the north at this juncture, then Great Wei will truly be finished."

King Huai Ning held a different opinion.

"Your Majesty, then why does this faint ruler want to launch a northern expedition? He has asked the Ministry of War to draw up a strategy for the northern expedition, what is the point of doing so? To appease the military officials? These military officials are not a good bunch, if we really cheat them, I guess they will never give up."

"Yes, these military officials have been looking forward to this day for too long, if it's just casual talk, how could these military officials be willing to give up?"

"King Huai Ning, what do you mean?"

All three of them were curious, no matter how this matter looked, it was the Empress who wanted the Northern Expedition.

Why else would she have asked the Ministry of War to draw up a strategy for the Northern Expedition? This is not a matter of having nothing better to do?

The next step is to start the work, as long as there are no major problems with the concrete, if you do not fight, then the Ministry of War does not agree ah.

"Xu Qingnian uprooted the Fan merchants and killed more than four hundred people, and the zhengzhi of vassal kings from all over the world are piling up like a mountain, last time my son was killed, although they also raised zhengzhi, but in the end it has nothing to do with their interests, at most they only verbally abused a few words."

"The last time my son was killed, although they also filed a petition, it had nothing to do with their interests."

"Not only us, but also those foreign states, so that they don't take advantage of the opportunity to attack, and use the Northern Expedition to block their mouths, otherwise these states will have enough headaches for Great Wei if they really get into trouble."

"This is a wonderful move, one thing, holding three parties in check, even the Tusi and Chu Yuan dynasties will be held in check, protecting Xu Qingnian and holding many parties in check at the same time."

“She is the biggest winner no matter what, and as for the military officials being furious, so what? After all, she is her majesty, and the military officials of Great Wei are not yet so far gone as to rebel against the state because of this matter, and even my king thinks that the empress has already negotiated with a certain state duke, and everything is just a play for the world to see.”

King Huai Ning was extremely clever, he instantly saw through this ploy and thought that the empress was not trying to make a northern expedition, but rather wanted to use the strategy of a northern expedition to hold back many parties and make everyone wait patiently, like fools.

The reason for giving Great Wei time to develop is of course to protect Xu Qingnian, otherwise after killing so many Fan merchants, do you really think it will be okay?

“This It’s not likely, is it? The reason is to protect a mere Xu Qingnian?”

“Impossible, Xu Qingnian even if he is more scheming, what can protect him?”

“I don’t believe it either, moreover the new strategy for the Northern Expedition will be sent up in three months, even if the empress wants to delay it, why not say half a year?”

The main reason was that the Ministry of Military Affairs was asked to draw up a strategy for the Northern Expedition, but it was only to protect Xu Qingnian? This is a bit outrageous.

You know, there is no such thing as a gentleman, if you say it out loud, the people of Wei will know about it, and then it will cause panic, which is also a loss.

And to pay so much just to protect one Xu Qingnian, they don’t believe it!

Besides why not delay it to half a year? Three months would soon be over.

“Three months to draw up a new policy for the Northern Expedition, this is what makes her smart, if you really say six months and a year, you will not yet be held back, it is because when you say three months, you all think it may be true, but after three months, find some random reason, let the Ministry of War to revise, and then after three months revise again, repeat several times.”

“Come to a sentence that none of these will work and leave the matter alone, do you say this is a good plan?”

King Huai Ning saw everything and made the ploy clear.

As soon as this was said, it dawned on the three, yes, use three months to attract everyone’s attention, but after that, a random reason could be found to veto it.

After all, the matter of the Northern Expedition involves the national capital, the first article will definitely be vetoed, and then the second and third article, almost to the point of not mentioning the matter, will simply muddle through.

What a plan.

What a good plan.

“Then, Your Majesty, what should we do? Do we need to inform the other clan kings?”

Someone asked.

“No need, those who can guess will naturally understand, those who can't guess even if you tell them, they won't believe you, instead they will think we have other purposes.”

“Forget it, let's pretend that Xu Qingnian has escaped this fate, this is a Yang plot, we can only sit back and wait for death, but this is good, if this dim ruler is really like this, he will also inevitably lose some people's hearts, and recently the Sudden Evil Dynasty and the First Yuan Dynasty have been in close contact with the northern barbarians.”

“This kind of thing, she can't be unaware of it, maybe she will really attack the north, it's not impossible to make a mistake, now we just wait and see what happens.”

King Huai Ning did not tell the crowd to act rashly, such things are guessed when they are guessed, it is useless to say more if they are not guessed.

They were now qualified to rebel, but they were just waiting for an opportunity to unite the three elements of timing, location and people.

“Okay.”

The three of them nodded and said nothing more.

But at the end, the voice of the King of Zhenxi rang out.

“King Huai Ning, the orphan of the Martial Emperor, have you found it yet?”

The King of Zhenxi opened his mouth, and a single word caused the scene to fall silent instantly.

“No, but there is already a corresponding clue, and we will soon find it. If we find the orphan of the Martial Emperor, then we do not need to wait for any opportunity, and we can directly overthrow this faint ruler.”

King Huai Ning said with certainty.

“En.”

The three nodded, though what was going through their minds was not certain.

And at that moment.

In the capital of Great Wei, the Shouren Academy.

Xu Qingnian sat in the pavilion, while Chen Xinghe fiddled with his tea set on the side, and Gu Yan, the Minister of Household Affairs, said with a stern expression.

“Shouren, you are deeply favoured by His Majesty, you must dissuade His Majesty from the Northern Expedition, no matter what, the Northern Expedition cannot be carried out, our Ministry of Household has managed to save some silver, if this Northern Expedition is carried out, I would rather not be the Minister of Household.”

“Besides, Shouren, I’ll tell you the truth, I’ve seen your talent, you are a great talent.

“Today in the courtroom, Lord Wang of the Ministry of Rites, Lord Zhang of the Ministry of Penalties, Lord Chen of the Ministry of Officials, and Lord Li of the Ministry of Works, all asked me for money, and all of them were extremely thick-skinned.

“I have done so much in the hope that when you take over my position, there will still be some silver in the treasury, so that it will not be a mess when you take over, like oh me.”

“Shouren, you must remember, the treasury’s silver, only in and out, unless it is a major event, must spend money, otherwise face other aspects of dead or alive can not give money, they are all wolves, is a tiger, and thick skin, you are less close to them on a regular basis.”

“You treat them as seniors, they treat you like a fat pig, all kinds of demands for silver, you know?”

Gu Yan came to Shouren Academy to find Xu Qingnian for the matter of the Northern Expedition, asking Xu Qingnian to go to the palace to talk to His Majesty if she had nothing to do, although she knew that Xu Qingnian wouldn’t necessarily be able to talk about anything.

The rest of the matter is about the silver of the Ministry of Finance.

The matter of the Northern Expedition, whether it will start a war or not, has not yet been determined, and Chen Zhengru has also said to wait for three months, if His Majesty really wants the Northern Expedition, they have to stop it even if they die advising.

Therefore, the matter of the Northern Expedition could not be rushed for now.

After understanding this point, Gu Yan's first reaction was to come to Xu Qingnian to spit on the other few Shang Shu, intending to teach Xu Qingnian well, so that Xu Qingnian would do the same in the future and keep the money.

"Lord Gu don't worry, I will absolutely hold on to the silver to death, I understand what you are saying, what with all the countries coming as ambassadors, the money used to be given year after year, that was because Great Wei had a family fortune, now there is no family fortune, to put it in a bad way, Lord Gu, don't spread the word."

"If I were you, I wouldn't give a single tael. The officials' clothes, they're not that bad, so why change them? Why do you need to change them? If you want to reward the messengers, why not just give them some local specialties? Do they need gold, silver and jewellery? And what have they contributed to my Wei?"

"These people, they don't know the price of food, oil and salt when they're not in charge."

Xu Qingnian's words were true, and what had happened in the courtroom today had been made clear by Minister Gu.

This Ministry of Rites allocated two million, really should not be, to whom is not good, to the emissary of the nations? If he is to be in charge, he will not give it! Get lost, it is useless even if His Majesty says so, no listen to no listen, the king's son recites the scriptures.

When this was said, Gu Yan burst out laughing.

"Right, right, Shouren ah, you are really right, usually really do not see, you actually know how to save so much, good, good, I do not pit you, to say sincerely, as long as his majesty determined in twenty years no northern expedition, I this position, you to be."

Gu Yan was very happy, Xu Qingnian had the ability to make money, but also the awareness to save money, how could this not make him happy?

"Lord Gu, you have said too much, you have said too much, you can still hold this position for another twenty years, it is enough for me to be a retainer, I am still young, follow your lead and learn well, if I really want to take the position, I really dare not guarantee that these people will look for me to get money in the future."

"I can't let go of that."

Xu Qingnian said this half-truth, the real place is that he really can't give up, but the fake is that if he really needs to spend money, he will still give it, and give it quite generously.

"En, anyway, you learn well with the old man is, remember, nothing to do with other departments too close, the Ministry of punishment is also, we have to be iron-faced, too

good relationship, he opened his mouth to find you want money, do not give offend people, give us heartache.”

“All right, the hour is late, the old man first go.”

Seeing that Xu Qingnian was so uptight, Gu Yan had nothing more to say and rose with a smile on his face.

“Lord Gu, won’t you stay for dinner?”

Xu Qingnian enthusiastically stayed.

“I’m not going to eat, you should rest recently, you’ll be busy again in a few days.”

Gu Yan waved his hand, and then directly left.

After Gu Yan left, Xu Qingnian sighed with relief and was about to say a few words to his senior brother.

Soon, the Minister of Penalty, Zhang Jing, came.

“Shang Shu Zhang.”

Xu Qingnian greeted and sent a smile.

“Shouren, what is Gu Yan doing here? What did he say to you?”

Zhang Jing saw Gu Yan when he arrived and couldn’t help but ask out loud.

“Nothing much, just said something about the Northern Expedition and asked me to go and persuade His Majesty.”

Xu Qingnian said casually.

“En, old man came for this matter as well.”

“Since he told you, I won’t talk about it, I’ll tell you about another matter.”

“Shouren, do you want to come back? Go back to the Ministry of Punishment, I’ll help you to ask for an official position as a squire, with the same rank, the Ministry of Punishment has quite a few difficult cases now, you’ll have to come over and help out.”

Zhang Jing spoke out, stating his intention.

“Ah? I’ll just stay in the Household Department.”

Xu Qingnian said with a gentle smile on his face.

“What’s wrong? Do you look down on our Criminal Affairs Department?”

When he said this, Zhang Jing immediately became a little unhappy.

“No, Minister Zhang, Qingnian is from the Ministry of Punishment, how can he not look down on the Ministry of Punishment?” “What you said.”

“Shang Shu Zhang, at the court today, did you ask Shang Shu Gu for silver? To ease the pressure on the Ministry of Punishment?”

Xu Qingnian asked.

When this was said, Zhang Jing immediately came to his senses.

“Yes, this old man, Shouren, let’s speak from our conscience, the Ministry of Punishment is exhausted every day, I want three million taels to increase the manpower and add some differential fees, it’s also a way to make some benefits for the Ministry of Punishment, otherwise who would want to come to our Ministry of Punishment?”

“But this old thing, causing His Majesty to give only 700,000 taels, this is better than not giving, the treasury has an extra 70,000,000 taels of cash silver, 50,000,000 taels of assets, nine cows and one hair is more than 700,000 taels, right?”

“I’m really angry with the old man, if I didn’t see him so old, twenty years earlier, I would have absolutely smashed my fist into his face when I got off the court.”

Zhang Jing was also a bit hot-tempered and said indignantly.

“Zhang Shang Shu take offense, in fact, I stay in the Ministry of households is good for the Ministry of punishment ah, you think about it, I am now the Minister of households, as long as you support me, listen to me when I become the Minister of households after.”

“The Ministry of Punishment wants silver, can I still not allocate it? Shang Shu Zhang is old, he must want to do better before he returns to his hometown in his clothes, you must also understand understanding.”

Xu Qingnian laughed, easing the relationship between the two.

Just as soon as this was said, Zhang Jing’s eyes instantly lit up.

“Yes!”

“I can’t believe I didn’t think of this point, yes, yes, yes, Qingnian, you are so right.”

“As long as you become the Minister of Household, in the future, we will join hands with the Ministry of Household and the Ministry of Punishment, and go around killing female dry merchants, you will be responsible for investigating, I, the Ministry of Punishment, will be responsible for arresting people, and after the raid, you will allocate funds to our Ministry of Punishment, then the Ministry of Punishment will be much easier in the future ah.”

The company is still thinking about how to kill female dry merchants to make money, hearing Xu Qingnian say this, the whole person came to the spirit.

“Uh It’s about right.”

Xu Qingnian did not expect the other party to associate so much.

“Okay, Shouren, this matter I strongly support you, you do a good job, as long as you do two more such things, the Shang Shu of the Ministry of Industry and I have a good relationship, I pull him together to support you, so that you can rise to the top and become the Shang Shu of the Ministry of Household.”

“Alright, I won’t say anything more, you have the Ministry of Penalty in your heart, I am very pleased, let’s go.”

Zhang Jing was very happy, really happy ah, after all, hearing that Xu Qingnian did not want to come to the Ministry of Punishment, I thought Xu Qingnian had changed his heart, I did not expect that Xu Qingnian was in the Ministry of Household and his heart was in punishment ah.

“Shang Shu Zhang, do you want to stay and have something to eat?”

Xu Qingnian called out, and the latter waved his hand and left straight away.

Another Shang Shu was sent away.

Xu Qingnian was a bit teary-eyed.

The good thing was that there were no other Shang Shu coming.

Xu Qingnian could drink his tea in peace.

“Senior brother Qingnian, what are your thoughts on this Northern Expedition of His Majesty?”

Seeing that there were no more outsiders, Chen Xinghe could not help but speak up and ask about this matter.

"I don't have any opinion, if you really want to fight, just do it, senior brother can't make the decision, just now the two officials were just being polite, senior brother, you don't really think that His Majesty will listen to me, right?"

Xu Qingnian opened his mouth, he actually knew better than anyone what the empress was doing in his heart.

It was definitely not a northern expedition.

This was clearly to protect herself, otherwise a real Northern Expedition?

What would the Northern Expedition be? 70,000,000 taels of silver? This amount of silver will last for almost a year, can we kill all the barbarians in a year? And then you have to consider the rebellion of the vassals and the plundering of the foreign states?

If you don't know the nature of the empress, Xu Qingnian wouldn't dare to guarantee it. After a few contacts, Xu Qingnian can guarantee that he won't go north! This is a deceptive tactic.

After all, how many people have they influenced by killing so many Fan merchants? One still has a bit of a count in one's heart.

As the old saying goes, cutting off people's money is like killing their parents, how many people's money must one have harmed?

It is not possible to pretend to be confused and not solve the problem, so this is the only way to divert attention.

This way, even if someone were to come after him again, it would only be a few people and His Majesty could completely ignore it.

Of course, this is not a bad idea, at least it will keep a lot of impure people in check.

The only thing you have to do is to be honest during this period of time, don't provoke any wrongdoing, if you provoke ten more, unless you really go north, you can't even suppress it.

"Hey, the rise and fall of all the people, ah, it is best not to northern expedition, Great Wei is just now pacified, let the people live a better life."

Chen Xinghe sighed and said so, but soon shook his head again, unwilling to mention this, but mentioned another thing.

"By the way, in the middle of next month, it will be the Peace Poetry Competition, senior brother Have you prepared any poems?"

“The Taiping Poetry Fair?”

Xu Qingnian frowned slightly, but quickly remembered, it seemed that Mu Nanping had invited himself, and he didn't expect that it would be time next month.

“No preparation.”

Xu Qingnian shook his head straight away, how could he possibly have time to prepare for this during this time.

“Oh.”

Chen Xinghe slowly sighed with relief in his heart.

Just when Chen Xinghe wanted to continue to ask something.

Suddenly, a familiar voice rang out.

“Brother Xu!”

“Brother Chen!”

“I've finally found you.”

A slightly excited voice rang out, causing Xu Qingnian and Chen Xinghe to cast their eyes over.

It was Wang Ru.

“Brother Wang Ru?”

Xu Qingnian and Chen Xinghe were both a little curious, not expecting him to be here.

“Brother Xu, Brother Chen, long time no see, long time no see.”

Wang Ru walked quickly and bowed towards Xu Qingnian and Chen Xinghe, his face full of joy and excitement.

“Brother Wang Ru, it's been a long time.”

Xu Qingnian spoke.

“Brother Wang Ru, what brings you here?”

Chen Xinghe, on the other hand, was a little curious.

“Brother Xu, Brother Chen, I should have come a long time ago, but my family arranged a blind date some days ago and I was delayed.”

Wang Ru said with a somewhat sarcastic smile.

“A blind date? That’s good, did it work out?”

Xu Qingnian laughed.

“Originally it was a no-go, then it was a yes-go, and it almost worked out in the end.”

Wang Ru lamented.

“What do you mean?”

Chen Xinghe also became interested.

“Originally she couldn’t see me, but when I said I knew Brother Xu, she agreed to get to know each other a bit, only later she asked me how my literary skills were, and I said stiffly that they were okay, one tenth of Brother Xu’s, and she asked me to write a poem, and how could I write a poem on the spot?”

Wang Ru said somewhat helplessly.

“You used senior brother Qingnian’s poem?”

“That definitely won’t work, who doesn’t know Qingnian’s poetry? You are really stupid, you should use mine, didn’t I write some for you to appreciate? It’s not like I’m going to blame you.”

Chen Xinghe lamented.

However Wang Ru immediately explained.

“I thought the same thing at that time, I didn’t dare to take Brother Xu’s, it was your Brother Chen’s that I took, but that girl took one look at it and said something, telling me not to compare it to Brother Xu in the future, not to insult Brother Xu.”

“Brother Chen, you don’t blame me, do you?”

Wang Ru said so.

Chen Xinghe: “.....”

Xu Qingnian: “.....”

Damn you!

Chen Xinghe was somewhat shaking with anger and cold.

Also at that moment, Li Guangxiao's voice rang out.

"Lords, dinner is served."

With Li Guangxiao's voice ringing out, Xu Qingnian immediately rounded up.

"Stop it, come, come, come, you haven't eaten yet, let's eat together, this cook of mine is very good at cooking."

Xu Qingnian dragged the two of them inside.

What they saw was a table full of delicious food.

Wang Ru swallowed his saliva, he was indeed a bit hungry, but did not forget the business, but took out a letter and said.

"Brother Xu, this is a letter that Li Xin asked me to give you, saying that it is very important and you must read it."

Wang Ru said this.

"Good, you eat first, don't rush."

Xu Qingnian took the epistle and directly sat down on his seat to read it.

It was only a moment.

Xu Qingnian's face showed a joyful look.

The crowd looked at the joyful look on Xu Qingnian's face and couldn't help but be curious.

"What did Li Xin say?"

Chen Xinghe was a little curious.

"Hoo! This season's harvest in Nan Yu Fudu is forty percent more."

Xu Qingnian smiled and said the meaning of this letter from Li Xin.

When this was said, the crowd was a little surprised.

Especially Li Guangxiao, who took his bowls and chopsticks, and then after hearing this, he could not help but reveal his surprise.

“Forty percent more? How is it more?”

Although Chen Xinghe did not know anything about farming, he also knew what forty percent more represented.

“Senior brother, do you still remember when we returned to the county, senior brother gave Li Xin a share of something?”

Xu Qingnian said so.

“Remember, some drawings, something to do with this?”

Chen Xinghe continued to ask.

“En, that was something that senior brother thought of in his spare time, didn't his majesty punish the people of Nan Yu Fudu, for paying 10% more in taxes? Senior brother felt a bit guilty, but couldn't get the silver to compensate.”

“So I came up with something out for the people that would solve the problem of water supply for good fields and make vacant or sparsely flooded fields work.”

“Now the effect is good, the harvest of all the southern Yufu province has been raised by 40%, although the effect is not as good as I expected, but it is almost good enough, at least this favour has been returned.”

Xu Qingnian explained.

When this was said, Wang Ru, Chen Xinghe, and Yang Hu and the others all smacked their lips.

“What is it? It has such a divine effect?”

“Also, senior brother, is this forty percent not enough? You must know that for the people, an extra 10% of the crop is a happy event.”

Chen Xinghe was a little unable to understand.

“The waterwheel!”

“How did you say it, Yang Hu, fetch the pen and ink.”

The effect came out, Xu Qingnian did not intend to cover it up, after all, this matter would certainly be reported to the palace, nothing more than to say that the empress

could not find out at once, she did not say it was estimated that it would be found out half a year later.

At that moment, Yang Hu quickly fetched a pen, ink, paper and ink stone.

Xu Qingnian held a brush in his hand and drew the image of a waterwheel on white paper, and for the sake of being more figurative, he also deliberately drew water sources and good fields.

“Senior brother, this is the waterwheel!”

Xu Qingnian said.

“Let me see.”

Chen Xinghe looked at it carefully, and after a while, he couldn't help but frown again.

“I feel like I understand it, and I feel like I don't, what is the meaning of this?”

Not to mention Chen Xinghe, Wang Ru and Yang Hu and the others couldn't understand it.

Li Guangxiao was the only one who understood the purpose of this object after only a few glances.

Li Guangxiao's heart was beating fast, and he soon realised what the purpose of this object was.

Pumping water to irrigate good fields.

A simple thing, but it could solve the biggest trouble in farming!

This This! This is a divine weapon!

Li Guangxiao's body trembled a little, only the crowd didn't notice.

“Senior brother, what is the biggest fear of crops? Isn't it the water source?”

“This waterwheel is to constantly extract water from the river and then extend it through the water bearer, so that if the good fields are not too far away from the water source, they can be irrigated directly, or if the distance is too far, it can save a lot of time and allow the people to walk a few steps.”

“This thing, once mass produced and extended, all the good fields of Great Wei will from now on have no shortage of water, greatly reducing the problem of fetching and running out of water.”

“And there are many places where a lot of good fields are deserted, if we have this, we can completely replough them.”

Xu Qingnian stated the usefulness of this item.

For a moment, the crowd understood, but they didn't understand exactly what the benefits of this thing were, so they weren't too shocked.

“If it is fully promoted, then how much can Great Wei increase its production?”

The voice suddenly rang out, and it was Li Guangxiao's.

For a moment, Xu Qingnian could not help but look at Li Guangxiao, while the latter could not help but smile sarcastically when he felt Xu Qingnian's gaze.

“Your Excellency, my father's generation are farmers, when I was a child, there were several famines, it was because of the water source, often several villages fought over a little water source, so I was curious to ask a mouthful, I hope your Excellency will not be blamed.”

Li Guangxiao smiled sarcastically, he knew he had lost his tongue.

“It's alright, I understand.”

Xu Qingnian still had a good feeling about Li Guangxiao, a proper honest person and good cook.

“Normally, it should be boosted by about fifty percent, if you make use of the abandoned fields, it should at least double, or even double and then add another thirty percent, my ideal is twice, but it's hard, after all, some places don't have water sources at all.”

“Besides, some water sources are a hundred miles apart, and it's a question of whether the Ministry of Finance is willing to allocate money to build such a waterwheel, and it's unlikely that His Majesty will agree to it until there are substantial results.”

Xu Qingnian said so.

However, Chen Xinghe spoke up.

“Twice as much? If it can double the food production of Great Wei, why wouldn't His Majesty agree to it?”

Chen Xinghe felt that it was a bit outrageous, thirty to forty percent sounded like nothing, but twice as much sounded exaggerated.

“To make such a waterwheel, the cost of construction is too expensive, and to ensure that it is implemented in all villages, counties, provinces and counties, the silver spent on this is astronomical, at least 100,000,000 taels, and even that is not enough.”

“Do you think His Majesty will agree to it? The Ministry of Accounts won’t agree to it either.”

“So we can only pilot it first and let the Southern Yufu get it going first, and try to double it next season so that at least His Majesty will pay attention to it.”

“Ugh! But by that time, just building such tools, and all the implementation, will take at least a year or two to delay, and now that Wei is in internal and external trouble, who knows what will happen in a year or two.”

“If we were to go into this wholeheartedly now, it would only take a year before the people of Great Wei would see the results, and by then is a heavenly surprise, doubling the annual production, the merit will be in the present time, the benefit will be in a thousand years.”

Xu Qingnian said so.

And his tone was extremely certain.

The crowd nodded, but when they thought that 100,000,000 taels could not be done, they did not say anything.

Li Guangxiao, on the other hand, was completely shocked.

One hundred thousand ten thousand taels was indeed exaggerated.

But the question was, what was the concept of doubling the annual production? Some of the people of Wei were still at the stage of not having enough to eat.

If the annual production is doubled, at least the people of Wei will have enough to eat, and this alone is not something that can be solved by 100,000,000 taels.

And indeed, the benefits would be immense.

Even if 200,000,000 taels of silver were poured out, it would not take five years for Wei to earn back the capital with interest.

“Then this waterwheel, how long will it last?”

Li Guangxiao once again could not help but ask.

“If it is built with top quality materials, such as some good wood and ironstone, it will last at least fifty years without other factors, and if it is usually maintained carefully and repaired, it will not be too much to use for a hundred years.”

Xu Qingnian gave his answer.

And this answer made Li Guangxiao a little dizzy.

Fifty years?

A hundred years?

Five years would bring back the capital with interest, and with the people well fed, the people’s hearts could also coalesce, and true prosperity would be ushered in, ah.

He swallowed his saliva.

Li Guangxiao fell silent.

“Alright, let’s eat, don’t think so much.”

Xu Qingnian placed this white paper aside and greeted everyone to eat.

Chen Xinghe and the others didn’t say much and started eating straight away.

Li Guangxiao also ate, but in a distracted manner.

When everyone had eaten and drunk enough, Li Guangxiao cleaned up the dishes, he was so uncomfortable now, he wanted to hurry to the palace to report this matter, but he was afraid that if he left directly, it would cause suspicion.

So he sat in the Shouren Academy, waiting torturously for the time to buy food.

An hour, a full hour, and Li Guangxiao thought about it for an hour, looking at the waterwheel diagram, the more he thought about it, the more he thought it would work, the more he thought about it, the more he thought that this thing was simply a godsend for the country!

The more he thought about it, the more he thought that it was a divine tool for the country.

He ran towards the palace.

Two quarters of an hour later.

The Great Wei Palace, outside the Hall of the Nurtured Heart, Li Guangxiao's voice rang out even though his person had not arrived.

"Your Majesty!"

"Your Majesty!"

"Xu!"

"Xu!"

"Xu Qingnian, a great talent for all time!"

"The Great Wei Dynasty is coming."

"Your Majesty, you've picked up a treasure this time ! ! ! ! ! !"

"Great Wei's treasure ah ! ! ! !"

Li Guangxiao's excited and trembling voice rang out, he was really excited ah, his speech was trembling.

And within the Hall of Nurtured Heart, the empress was a little surprised when she heard the voice again.

Because she had never seen her master before.

Such.

Losing his temper!

Not even when the Northern Expedition had failed!