

## Awaken Chapter 21 -

As Zhou Ling arrived at the entrance gate.

Wu had already opened the courtyard door.

A handsome man was standing outside the door. The scholar was dressed in green clothes, with his hair tied and crowned, carrying a book basket, but without any hint of awkwardness, on the contrary it was more Confucian.

This man was so talented that he was about to enter the class.

Xu Qingnian had now entered the rank, and with a literary pool of 36 feet, he had the qualifications of a literary saint, so naturally he could see the strength of other Confucian students who were raising their qi.

“Student Chen Xinghe, I have met my teacher.”

Upon seeing Zhou Ling, Chen Xinghe immediately saluted, perhaps even more solemnly because of the presence of outsiders.

“En.”

Zhou Ling nodded, and then immediately spoke.

“Xinghe, this is the new student I have just accepted, named Xu Qingnian, he is your fellow disciple, this time for the Southern Yufu examination, he will go with you.”

“I also asked you to come here to talk to you about this provincial examination, and by the way you will study with him in company.”

Zhou Ling pointed at Xu Qingnian and said this.

And Xu Qingnian immediately arched his hand and bowed.

“Senior brother has met senior brother Chen.”

Xu Qingnian was very polite.

And Chen Xinghe’s gaze could not help but fall on Xu Qingnian.

Chen Xinghe didn’t expect his teacher to call him back in order to let him study with others.

But after looking at Xu Qingnian.

En, the looks were not bad, very clean, it was the dressing that was average.

It was much better than the ones before.

Thinking of this, Chen Xinghe nodded, his rather cold face easing up a little.

“En, Senior Brother Xu is very polite.”

He blandly returned, which seemed a little cold to normal people, but was a little different in Zhou Ling’s eyes.

It was because some students had met with Chen Xinghe before, but Chen Xinghe gave a very arrogant attitude, and returning the word grace was already considered good, but he did not expect to say one more word.

This was a bit strange.

Zhou Ling was slightly puzzled, but in fact it was not that Chen Xinghe did not know how to be polite, it was just that he cared a lot about his appearance, and he was really reluctant to deal with people who looked ordinary.

Xu Qingnian was not bad looking, he was handsome, not as handsome as himself, but not much worse, if he changed his clothes, he might be able to match himself.

So Chen Xinghe had a slight liking for Xu Qingnian.

“Let’s go in and talk.”

Zhou Ling spoke and led the two into the study.

The study was shady and cool, Chen Xinghe took off the book basket before settling down, Xu Qingnian followed suit, but her gaze fell on Zhou Ling.

“Xinghe, the teacher called you over, and not just for the matter of studying together.”

“This time for the House Examination, the teacher has also learned something from his many inquiries, which is why he sent someone to look for you overnight.”

Seeing Chen Xinghe arrive, Zhou Ling spoke directly, stating the fundamental reason for seeking him out.

“Is this year’s government test different?”

Chen Xinghe spoke, and from these words, one could tell that Chen Xinghe had taken the House Test more than once.

Xu Qingnian did not say anything, he just listened quietly, after all, he had no source of information at all about Confucianism as well as the imperial examinations, nor did he have any background, so it was better to listen carefully.

“En, this year’s government examination is different.”

“In the first year of the new dynasty, His Majesty of the Great Wei places extreme importance on the imperial examinations, in the past the prefectural examinations were reviewed by the prefectural ruler, and the top three grades were sent to the capital for review by the Grand Academy.”

“And this year, all the essay papers for the prefectural exams must be sent directly to the Grand Academy, which will review them and take the top three from each prefecture and hand them over to His Majesty today for His Majesty to review.”

Zhou Ling said slowly, explaining the differences this year.

When this was said, Chen Xinghe could not help but show his surprise.

“His Majesty personally approves them?”

He opened his mouth, looking surprised.

Xu Qingnian was also a little surprised, the House Examination was not a capital examination, the Great Wei Dynasty had four to five hundred houses of all sizes, and if you counted the top three in each house, there were more than fifteen hundred essays.

The emperor has a lot of time to read through his daily work, so how could he possibly read the articles for the provincial exams?

The articles in the Beijing examinations were fine, after all, they represented the highest level of reading in the three years of the Great Wei, but the prefectural examinations were held once a year, how could this be read?

“The king is diligent in his administration.”

Xu Qingnian muttered in his heart, but didn’t say anything.

“En, the new dynasty has arrived, the female emperor has ascended to the throne, this is a variable that has not been seen in the past or present, it is only natural for His Majesty to be diligent in government, as to why exactly, this is the holy will, we cannot touch it nor should we speculate.”

“But for us readers this is a good thing, especially for you, if you write an essay that is chosen as one of the top three and can be approved by His Majesty, it is a great good thing in heaven.”

Zhou Ling didn't know why, the only thing he could know was that it was good for them all that the Emperor valued the readers so much.

"Understood, in that case, then the student will not hide his bumbling this year."

Chen Xinghe spoke as he nodded and uttered an extremely pretentious sentence.

Once this was said, Xu Qingnian and Zhou Ling couldn't help but stare, Zhou Ling was fortunately not a first timer, Xu Qingnian was a little stunned.

These words sounded very pushy ah.

"Alright, these few days you guys study hard first, I'll also help you think about it, see what will come out of the House questions this time, if you bet on it, you'll get twice the result with half the effort."

"Let's go eat first."

Zhou Ling didn't say anything more, and after a little rest, he called on the two to eat.

"I'm not very hungry, just read the book."

Chen Xinghe shook his head as he got up and took out a book from the book basket and read it alone.

Knowing his character, Zhou Ling called out to Xu Qingnian to go and eat.

"Qingnian, you go and eat, a martial arts practitioner cannot be hungry."

"En."

Xu Qingnian didn't pretend to be anything, he was indeed a little hungry, so he got up and left.

It was only when he heard what Zhou Ling said that Chen Xinghe became a little curious.

After Xu Qingnian left, Chen Xinghe couldn't help but speak.

"Teacher, what is Qingnian's origin?"

Chen Xinghe said in a flat tone.

"Nothing, he is a magistrate in the county, but he is a student, so my teacher has a love for talent."

Zhou Ling replied.

“A magistrate?”

Chen Xinghe was surprised this time.

If it was some poor scholar, there was nothing to say, a magistrate?

It wasn't that Chen Xinghe looked down on Xu Qingnian, but reading was not just a matter of being literate, there were too many doors, poems, songs, essays and strategies, which of these things didn't require decades or even decades of accumulated knowledge?

The fact that Xu Qingnian is a magistrate means that he does not have much time to study.

As the saying goes, most readers have to become literate when they are children and then start reading all kinds of books without being distracted, and some poor readers don't even go into farming and have wives to support their families.

Such things abounded.

This is why Chen Xinghe was surprised.

Of course the main thing was that Xu Qingnian had to take the government exams, and that was its root.

“En, can't a magistrate study?”

Zhou Ling asked.

“Not really, how many years has senior Qingnian learnt?”

Chen Xinghe would not look down on Xu Qingnian, although he was arrogant, he would not discriminate against others, he was just face-controlled and clear.

“Counting up, three or four days should be there.”

Zhou Ling did some careful calculations and gave this answer.

“Three or four days? Teacher, are you joking with the student?”

Hearing this answer, Chen Xinghe couldn't calm down this time.

After studying for three or four days, he was going to take the government exam?

Wasn't that a joke?

"Don't get excited."

"I have my own plans, in short, you just need to remember that this junior brother of yours is exceptionally talented and is a diamond in the rough, this trip to let him take part in the government exams is not because I want him to be selected, but to get to know some people and make plans for the future."

Zhou Ling patted Chen Xinghe's shoulder, he was not good enough to tell the story of Xu Qingnian's entry into the rank overnight, not because he was afraid of hitting Chen Xinghe, but

The latter instantly understood Zhou Ling's meaning.

"Understood."

Chen Xinghe nodded and didn't say anything more.

"Alright, I'll go and have my meal for Master, I'll ask your senior mother to bring you some."

After Zhou Ling said this, he left with his hands folded.

But as he was leaving, Chen Xinghe once again spoke out.

"Master, I'm about to enter the rank, next month at the latest."

Chen Xinghe was bashful as he looked at the book in his hands, looking cool and handsome, and very pushy.

However Zhou Ling, who was walking away with his hands in his hands, only said blandly after hearing those words again.

"Oh."

After saying this, he went to the food room.

Leaving behind a somewhat confused Chen Xinghe.

????

What does this mean?

Master, do you have deaf ears?

I said that I was about to enter the grade.

You gave me this reaction? Shouldn't you be shocked?

What does oh mean by that?

Pretending to be calm? You think you're cool like that?

Fine, you sour me.

Zhou Ling's reply made Chen Xinghe unable to be calm, but he didn't dare to say anything even though his stomach was full of complaints, so he could only keep his head down and try to read, bound to enter the grade before the government exam.

At the same time.

A mountain range in Ping'an County was deserted.

A group of people gathered, and in front of them were three corpses.

The man at the head of the group was Cheng Lidong.

His face was still pale, as if he was terminally ill, and he was holding a handkerchief, covering his mouth and nose, but his gaze was cold and terrifying.

"Lord Cheng, we have already lost seven brothers, if we continue to be consumed by him like this, I am afraid that all of our brothers will die here."

Someone spoke up, looking embarrassed with his head bowed, but had to speak.

"Do I need you to tell me how many people have died?"

Cheng Lidong gave him a cold look, and the latter's body immediately trembled slightly as he lowered his head a little deeper.

"He cultivated the second volume of foreign arts, which should be the one hidden in Ping An County, which solved the Yin poison in his body and broke through the rank, otherwise he wouldn't have any chance of winning in front of me."

"But don't worry, I sent a letter to the Prefect, and within three days the above will send a real expert to apprehend him."

"The only thing for you to do right now is to watch over Lai and not let him escape."

Cheng Lidong spoke, his back to the crowd, his tone cold.

“Yes.”

The crowd obeyed the order.

And at that moment, a figure came quickly.

“My lord.”

He came flying and knelt before Cheng Lidong and said.

“My lord, my subordinate found Xu Qingnian writing something at home today, and after Xu Qingnian left home, I sneaked into it and took down excerpts of what he wrote, so please read it, my lord.”

The other party spoke, while handing over his booklet.

“Writing?”

Cheng Lidong pondered, then took the booklet and slowly turned it over, and soon a few lines of words appeared.

But soon Cheng Lidong frowned.

Because these words were not ancient Great Wei characters, they were very odd.

He drew his longsword and wrote on the ground against the booklet, one stroke at a time.

The font was odd.

Cheng Lidong didn't understand it at all and tried to write it down, but he couldn't understand what it meant.

“When we go back and find the Prefect, let the Lord Prefect invite a Confucian master to come and write these words with the Wenxin Tong, perhaps we can know what this means.”

Cheng Lidong said secretly in his heart.

“Go.”

The next moment, Cheng Lidong spoke and led his men and horses away.

And on the ground, traces of simplified characters were left behind.

Its content read.

[Firstly, absolutely no intentional actions]

[Second, Absolutely no missing of any bad thing]

[Third, absolutely judge justly and beautifully]

## **Awaken Chapter 22 -**

Great Wei Dynasty.

First year of Wuchang.

25th March.

Ping'an County.

For ten days in a row, Xu Qingnian stayed at Zhou Ling's home for a full ten days.

During these ten days, all she did was read books and practise her writing every day.

Reading books was fine, for Xu Qingnian could absorb all kinds of knowledge like crazy and replenish her blind spots.

But the writing practice made it a bit difficult for Xu Qingnian.

His handwriting was not ugly, but the problem was that it was not neat, which was a big no-no for a scholar, especially when he was about to take the Imperial examination.

In the Great Wei Dynasty, not only is your talent valued, but writing is also a hard criterion.

As the saying goes, if an essay is handed in crooked and messy, it is a torture for the examiners who review it, and for yourself too.

Of course if your essay is truly amazing, it will be fine.

Can Xu Qingnian write such an essay?

Xu Qingnian himself did not believe it.

So he could only practise his writing honestly.

But the process was excruciating.

First, he practised his grip, pinching the chopsticks with two fingers and tying a stone to each end of the chopsticks, each weighing about two pounds, and then maintaining his balance without a tremor for two hours.

Then it was time to practise the script, just like writing a character, writing one word a thousand times, and so on.

The good thing was that Xu Qingnian was a martial artist and could withstand the torment, but if he were an ordinary scholar, he would have to break his wrist in half an hour, not to mention two hours, if he practiced with such intensity.

But Xu Qingnian knew that this could not be helped.

On the 15th of April, it would be the day of the Southern Yufu examination, and with 27 days before and after, Xu Qingnian had to make the most of her time to practise.

In Zhou Ling's words, she did not expect to be able to practice her handwriting well, but at least to be neat and concise, so that she could not lose her impression points.

The good thing was that although the process of practising was painful, Xu Qingnian was already able to do it neatly in ten days' time.

The font was fine, at least it looked good to me.

And now he could also do it while practising his grip strength and reading at the same time, without delaying the process.

For the past ten days, Chen Xinghe, on the other hand, had been writing in his study, and when he was done, he would show it to Zhou Ling, who would start explaining it after reading it.

The days were rather dull, yet they seemed very peaceful.

Reading was like that, boring and tasteless, but it was also the only shortcut for a humble family to escape their class.

It has been true since ancient times that reading is the fastest shortcut and the only shortcut.

At least compared to business, the status of a scholar inherently suppresses that of a rich person. Don't look at some wealthy owners who hire a scholar to work for them, but in the end, when it comes to the top, even the wealthiest person is not as high as the status of a masters.

Xu Qingnian understood this, and having suffered once in his previous life for not studying, he naturally would not repeat the same mistake in this life.

Inside the side room.

Xu Qingnian retracted her mind and began to practise her calligraphy.

With the brush in hand, her writing is small, yet very neat.

In a row of ten characters, Xu Qingnian finished them in one breath, and then wrote another ten characters.

The ten characters written in a row were extremely neat, and the ones written afterwards were also neat.

One hour later.

Xu Qingnian practiced until his wrists were sore and then he stopped. After putting the brush aside, Xu Qingnian moved his muscles, stretched his back and rubbed his wrists.

At that moment, Zhou Ling's voice rang out.

"Qingnian."

Hearing the shout, Xu Qingnian immediately got up and walked towards the study.

When he came to the study, Zhou Ling had prepared a board with a piece of white paper clipped to it. Chen Xinghe sat on the desk and nodded when he saw Xu Qingnian.

Xu Qingnian nodded in return. The two of them had been together for ten days and their relationship was not bad, but Chen Xinghe was indeed a bit colder, not talking much but answering all questions and being very responsible.

"Qingnian, sit down first."

Zhou Ling told Xu Qingnian to sit down first.

After Xu Qingnian had settled down, Zhou Ling held a brush in his hand and wrote down a few words on a white sheet of paper.

[An Guo]

[Xingguo]

[Clan King]

Border]

[Demon].

Five words appeared, Xu Qingnian was a little curious, but did not speak waiting for Zhou Ling to follow.

“Qingnian, Xinghe, this time I have studied for several days, and some days ago even discussed with several fellow students, this year’s government test questions, if there is no accident, should be these five questions.”

Zhou Ling said with some confidence.

The question is actually a technical task, if you get it right, you will get twice the result with half the effort, if you don’t, it doesn’t matter, just pretend you didn’t bet.

The two people didn’t say anything, they just nodded and their eyes fell on the five questions.

And Zhou Ling didn’t sell himself short and spoke directly.

“A female emperor ascends to the throne, creating a strange story for the ages, the Great Wei Dynasty was founded seven hundred and forty-three years ago, and the country prospered, yet the emergence of a new dynasty was a change.”

“Since ancient times, no woman has ever been crowned emperor, and there is discontent throughout the court, and many voices of opposition outside the temple, especially among the people, who are easily controlled.”

“Now that the demons are in chaos, the world is saying that it is a female emperor who has ascended the throne, bringing uncertainty, so for His Majesty today, he needs a policy of peace to control the country, otherwise rumours will spread, people will be on edge and the country’s fortunes will not be in order.”

“The reason why my master is so confident is that this time, all the papers and documents of the government examinations must be presented to Kyoto, and this treatment is only available to the capital subject, yet the capital subject still has to wait for half a year.”

“His Majesty can’t wait any longer, that’s why.”

Zhou Ling opened his mouth, and his words were well spoken.

He stood in the perspective of the country to think about the emperor’s thoughts, while at the same time speculating about the questions of the government exams from the perspective of the government exams going into the capital.

It could be said that this viewpoint was sensible and reasonable.

Xu Qingnian nodded his head, acknowledging every word Zhou Ling said.

As expected of an old and spicy ginger, his thoughts were clear.

“The policy of reviving the country is the preparation question, since His Majesty’s seven expeditions to the border, the treasury is empty and a hundred industries are waiting to be revived, although it is important to secure the country, it is still important to revitalise the country.”

Zhou Ling said, Xing Guo is his alternative, according to the order, naturally is not as important as An Guo, now the emperor needs is to stabilize the country, if not stable how can it prosper?

Xu Qingnian looked at Xing Guo, he had also read many history books during this time, especially those about the recent times.

The Great Wei Dynasty was founded seven hundred and forty-three years ago, with the founding of the country by the Great Ancestor and three successive generations of Wu Emperors, who conquered for years and laid the foundation for the might of Great Wei.

The five generations of the Emperor Wen were followed by five generations of the Emperor Wen, who governed the country and made the economy grow rapidly.

The Five Dynasties of the Emperor were all kind in their attempts to assimilate the wolves, but unfortunately the wolves were not ripe for the picking.

The border invasion, the ‘Shame of Jingcheng’, and the barbarians from the north almost came to Kyoto, but for the strength of the Wei dynasty, and the massacre of the city by the barbarians, which aroused the wrath of the gods, and the help of various clans, it would have been possible to kill Kyoto.

A year after the shame of Jingcheng, the eighth emperor of the Great Wei Dynasty, Emperor Jiankang, died, ushering in a ninth emperor, one who was also full of miracles.

The emperor was a concubine, not born to the empress, but to a concubine.

Theoretically, he could not be an emperor at all, but because of the shame of Jingcheng, Emperor Jiankang understood that Wei needed a martial emperor, the people knew that Wei needed a martial emperor, and the civil and military officials also knew that Wei needed a martial emperor.

So this concubine’s son, miraculously, inherited the throne with the state name Wu Yuan.

The use of the character Wu as the name of the state was enough to show his boldness.

For the next fifty years, Emperor Wuyuan did indeed hold up the backbone of the Great Wei, with seven personal conquests and seven northern expeditions, killing an unknown number of barbarians, and being known as the emperor on a horse for his iron-blooded methods.

Unfortunately, however, he suffered many wounds from the long years of conquests and was away from the court for a long time, and became suspicious after his seventh northern expedition was defeated.

Furthermore, the seven northern expeditions of the Wei dynasty resulted in the loss of backbone, but the money was gone, the treasury was empty and taxes rose year after year, so that the people were not able to live.

The most direct result was the salaries of the officials. The monthly salary of a magistrate was one tael of silver, which was the lowest salary since the founding of the Great Wei Dynasty.

Just a year ago, Emperor Wu Yuan died, leaving behind a huge mess and walking away.

The first half of Emperor Wu's life was one of great achievement, what was the fervour of his seven northern expeditions? What was his spirit?

But the second half of his life was deplorable, with a lack of loyalty, suspicion, killing of innocents, and a headstrong spirit.

It has the meaning of northern expedition, but also the meaning of viciousness. In short, the aftermath is judged by future generations.

And Emperor Wu Yuan had another problem, and that problem was that there was no heir, no son to be more precise, only a daughter.

It was expected that the imperial court would choose a successor to the throne from one of the other vassal kings, or from the royal family.

But what the world did not expect was that the only daughter of Emperor Wuyuan, who was just over twenty-four years old, would ascend to the throne and become emperor.

This led to an uproar in the world.

The reason why Zhou Ling chose [Xing Guo] was that Emperor Wu Yuan had emptied his treasury during his seven northern expeditions.

So it is likely to be titled as such.

In the light of the history books he had recently read, Xu Qingnian understood why Zhou Ling had chosen this as the topic.

Afterwards, Zhou Ling pointed to the next three questions and said.

“Clan kings, border crossings, demons, the probability of these three questions appearing will not be very high, but they may also appear.”

“Since Emperor Wuyuan ascended to the throne, the vassal kings from all over the world have cultivated their offspring to revere martial arts, which has now caused a series of problems that might appear in the test questions.”

“There is no need to say anything more about the border, the chaos at the border is eternal, and it is difficult to put down the chaos without destroying their clans, but destroying their clans is as difficult as ascending to heaven.”

“This rebellion of demons is related to the supernatural arts, but in theory it won’t be titled with this.”

Zhou Ling pointed at the last three questions.

In reality, he wanted to explain these three questions properly, but he just had the heart to do so.

Whether it was a vassal king or a border, or a demon, they were far away from him, and he knew a thing or two about imperial politics and military affairs.

As for the demons, let alone the special institutions to deal with them, he did not know either.

After all, he was only a teacher, he knew a lot of national events, but only just, he was able to deduce five topics with this amount of information, which was already considered very good.

Xu Qingnian absorbed these points of information carefully.

However, at that moment.

A voice sounded outside.

“Dare I ask if Xu Qingnian is within?”

“Lord Cheng of the Southern Yufu has an invitation.”

The voice rang out.

It shattered the quietness of the area.

## Awaken Chapter 23 -

The sudden sound of voices disturbed the silence of the party.

Zhou Ling frowned slightly, not knowing what was going on.

And Xu Qingnian frowned a little tightly.

“Is this guy still alive?”

Xu Qingnian muttered in his heart, he thought that this Lord Cheng would die in Ping’an County, but he didn’t expect to still be alive.

It seems that the South Yufu fugitive is just like that.

Putting away the thoughts in his mind, Xu Qingnian walked out, but Zhou Ling and Chen Xinghe also followed along with him.

They walked to the door of the room.

Xu Qingnian opened the door.

As expected, the sheriffs of the Southern Yufu were standing neatly outside the door, eight of them in total, wearing sheriff’s clothes, wearing long swords, with cold eyes, and the man at the head was the hawk-nosed man.

He looked the same as before, and gave off a sinister impression, not a good fighter.

“Greetings, Your Excellency.”

“I wonder what Lord Cheng is looking for me for?”

Xu Qingnian asked as he saluted towards the other party.

“Your Excellency’s affairs, how can we as subordinates possibly know about them, so I beg you to come with us.”

The latter clearly did not want to reveal anything, acting as if it was a business matter.

“Can you let me go home first?”

Xu Qingnian spoke slowly, making a request.

“Your Excellency is still waiting, so don’t delay.”

The latter's tone was icy, not giving any face at all.

Xu Qingnian was a little embarrassed, but just before he could continue speaking, Chen Xinghe's voice rang out.

"Which lord is it that has an invitation? What a great official authority."

Chen Xinghe took a step forward and stood beside Xu Qingnian, his gaze fixed on the eagle hook nose, his expression clear and cold, slightly arrogant, seemingly not putting the other party in his eyes.

Only when he heard Chen Xinghe's voice did Hawk-Hook-Nose notice the two people behind Xu Qingnian.

He swept a glance at Chen Xinghe, dressed in brocade and Confucian robes, a man of learning.

But did not look particularly surprised, but calmly said.

"Southern Yufu, Trial Hundred, Cheng Lidong, Lord Cheng."

The hawk-nosed man opened his mouth and revealed Cheng Lidong's identity.

Quasi-hundred households?

This was an official position from the seventh rank, and it was considered a big person in the South Yu Province, and an existence that could run amok in Ping'an County.

The county magistrate is a seventh-ranking official, a little higher than Cheng Lidong, but the only difference is that one is managed by the county magistrate, while Cheng Lidong is a special agency, responsible for handling cases and arresting people.

The difference in rank is half a grade, but the power is greater than that of the county magistrate, and the above is naturally privileged to handle cases.

Xu Qingnian really didn't expect that this Lord Cheng was a quasi-hundred household, he had previously guessed that he was a constable, but he didn't expect it to be a quasi-hundred household.

"Quasi-hundred households?"

Chen Xinghe muttered a sentence, and then looked at Xu Qingnian and said, "Qingnian, senior brother will accompany you."

He opened his mouth, not having the slightest fear of the quasi-hundredth household, but on the contrary, he was going to take the initiative to go with Xu Qingnian to see what the other party was up to.

When this was said, Xu Qingnian's heart warmed up, Chen Xinghe accompanied himself over, just to give himself a show of support, and to avoid being bullied.

However, Cheng Lidong was looking for himself and was involved in a foreign art, Xu Qingnian still did not want Chen Xinghe to wade into the muddy water, so he said somewhat politely.

"Brother Xinghe, I can go alone, the other party is from the government office, it's not easy to deal with."

After all, Chen Xinghe was a scholar and could usually use his pen and ink, but he was afraid that he would not be able to accept it if he really went to the government office.

Just once this was said, Chen Xinghe looked very bashful and said.

"Does senior brother think that I am afraid of them?"

He asked so in a calm tone.

Xu Qingnian did not answer, it was not that he was afraid of them, after all, they were quasi-hundred households, real officials of the seventh rank, and they were also law enforcement officials, all of them were ruthless people.

Chen Xinghe was just a scholar, not even a merit badge, so he was naturally worried.

Seeing that Xu Qingnian did not say anything, Chen Xinghe became a little unhappy.

"Qingnian, senior brother is asking you, is Cheng Lidong a human being?"

Chen Xinghe asked.

Just as soon as this was said, the eagle hook nose few people's faces did not look too good.

What did that mean? Was it a scolding?

But they couldn't afford to get angry, after all, there was no substantial insult either.

"Yes."

Xu Qingnian was also a little confused as to what this senior brother of his was up to.

After these ten days of contact, the only feeling Xu Qingnian had about her senior brother was that he was rather cold and arrogant, his heart was good, but his arrogance could not be concealed.

“Then won’t that do.”

“He Cheng Lidong is a human being, I am also a human being, he Cheng Lidong is an official, I Chen Xinghe is a scholar, why don’t you ask, does he Cheng Lidong fear me?”

Chen Xinghe’s face was clear and cold, and his eyebrows were even more arrogant.

Although he did not know what was going on, he knew that the other party was not good when he saw that they were raging, so he came to the aid of his junior brother.

What he didn’t expect was that his junior brother was worried that he was afraid of this mere Cheng Lidong.

It was not that Chen Xinghe was arrogant, but as a scholar, as long as he had reason in his hand, he would not be afraid of anything.

He said so much today, not to pretend to be arrogant, but to teach Xu Qingnian a lesson.

These words were spoken.

Xu Qingnian was a little dazed.

Good man.

This senior brother of his really has something.

I admire someone like Xu.

After hearing these words, the eagle hook nose and the others were also a bit confused.

It wasn’t that they hadn’t come into contact with readers before, but this was the first time they had seen such a situation.

They were really bold.

But astonishment was astonishing, but they still had to do something.

“The hour is getting late, so I hope you two won’t delay.”

The latter spoke, but with a little more respect than before.

“Senior brother, let’s go.”

Chen Xinghe spoke indifferently, and Xu Qingnian did not delay anything, following the other party to leave.

But before he left, Zhou Ling’s voice followed.

“Come back earlier, don’t delay for too long, I have invited Xu Qing, Master Xu to come over tomorrow, don’t neglect Master Xu.”

Zhou Ling’s voice rang out, saying the words Xu Qing Xu Fu Zi very heavily.

When the eagle hook nose few people heard this, their expressions changed slightly, obviously they knew who Xu Qing was.

A seventh-rank Confucian.

He had once spent time in the Imperial Capital’s Hanlin Academy, and now he had retired to his hometown, a big man who had no power, but had a lot of power of speech.

Zhou Ling’s words were another warning that it was okay to go over and investigate things, and it was okay to cooperate with the investigation, but people could not be in trouble, and if they did not return they would have to make a scene.

The hawkish nose swept a glance at Xu Qingnian, his heart was a little curious and surprised.

How come in just ten days, this nameless person has befriended a scholar?

And is it true that these days, readers like to mind their own business?

Although he was curious in his heart, he didn’t say a word outwardly and led his men out of the place in a deep voice.

Three quarters of an hour later.

Ping’an County Office.

There is a main gate and a side gate at the county courthouse. The main gate is usually closed, and will only be opened when someone beats a drum and sounds a grievance, otherwise the side gate is used.

Xu Qingnian followed the other side, crossed the side door and walked step by step towards the inner hall.

The court is the first to hear the case, and Cheng Lidong is seated first on the left in the inner hall, while the top seat is naturally occupied by County Magistrate Li.

Both sides' respective constables and servants were standing behind them, each with a calm face, but it was the two lords who were drinking tea and laughing.

When Xu Qingnian arrived, the two men's eyes fell on him in unison.

"Xu Qingnian, meet the county magistrate, meet Lord Process."

When he saw County Magistrate Li, Xu Qingnian was full of smiles, while when he called out to Cheng Lidong, his smile was curtailed quite a bit and he only smiled lightly.

"Scholar Chen Xinghe, meet County Magistrate Li, and see Cheng Lidong."

Compared to Xu Qingnian's expression, Chen Xinghe looked a little more arrogant, as a scholar, although he had no merit or official position, he was at least a Confucian student who was about to enter the rank.

As a scholar, although he did not have any official title or position, he was at least a Confucian student who was about to be appointed to the rank.

"Chen Xinghe! Are you Chen Xinghe? I've heard of your exploits, the most talented person in Suicheng County."

When he heard Chen Xinghe announce himself, Magistrate Li immediately showed his surprise, and then was full of praise.

"Lord Li has praised you."

Chen Xinghe nodded his head, but still looked cool.

As for Cheng Lidong, however, he was a little curious, glancing at Chen Xinghe and then at Xu Qingnian, somewhat curious as to how Xu Qingnian, an errand boy, had climbed into a relationship with a scholar for good reason.

The eagle hook nose came to Cheng Lidong's side, slightly lowered his head and whispered a few words, a trace of surprise flashed in Cheng Lidong's eyes, but it was quickly collected again.

"Qingnian, it's not a big deal that this officer is here to see you today, he just wants to see how your injuries are and ask some more minor questions."

Cheng Lidong opened his mouth as he looked at Xu Qingnian, only the more he looked at him, the more he felt that something was not right.

Xu Qingnian gave him an indescribable feeling, he hadn't seen him in just ten days, but Xu Qingnian seemed to be a different person.

But what exactly was going on, he could not say.

Was it the magic?

No.

Cheng Lidong instantly made a judgement that it was not a foreign art.

"The injury is fine, nothing serious, what does Lord Cheng want to ask?"

Cheng Lidong looked at Xu Qingnian again, Xu Qingnian was also stealing glances at Cheng Lidong, he wanted to see if Cheng Lidong was injured, only that he could not see it.

"It's good that there's no serious injury, Qingnian, this official would like to ask, at the case library that day, did the fugitive do anything or take anything away?"

Cheng Lidong asked casually.

"This ..... Let my subordinate think about it."

Xu Qingnian did not answer directly, but pretended to think hard.

After a short while, Xu Qingnian shook his head and said.

"My lord, I am not sure about this matter, at that time when the fugitive appeared, I had already passed out, so how could I know this."

Xu Qingnian could see that Cheng Lidong did not want to ask this at all, he just wanted to see if there was anything different about himself, so he just made a random excuse.

Because of this, Xu Qingnian continued to play dumb, anyway, it would be to his advantage to say less if he said more than he was wrong.

"Understood."

"In that case, we can only wait for the Prefect to send someone, this fugitive will be caught sooner or later, it's just a matter of being caught dead or alive."

"Alright, then I won't bother little brother Qingnian."

Cheng Lidong took another sip of tea and said very calmly.

“Your Excellency has spoken highly of you, it is within your duty to cooperate with the investigation.”

Xu Qingnian nodded his head.

Also at that moment, the voice of County Magistrate Li could not help but ring out.

“Qingnian ah, since you have recovered from your injuries, when will you return to your duties?”

The voice rang out.

Xu Qingnian instantly spoke.

“Your Excellency, I may not be able to return to my duties, Master Zhou has accepted me as his disciple and I am now studying intensively.

Xu Qingnian said the matter of his study.

At this moment, the inner hall fell silent, and all of them revealed their astonishment.

Especially the constables, each one of them showed a look of disbelief.

Reading?

Just you?

## **Awaken Chapter 24 -**

Everyone in the entire inner hall was a little confused.

No one had expected that Xu Qingnian would say that she would go to the government exams?

Wasn't this a departure from the spectrum of the world?

“Qingnian, are you joking?”

The first person to speak up was Sheriff Chen, he had known Xu Qingnian for four or five years, although Xu Qingnian was handsome and handsome, but the problem was that he knew what kind of goods Xu Qingnian was.

It was fine to let him train in martial arts, but to let him study? Isn't that a joke?

And to go straight to the government exams?

This is treating everyone like fools, right?

Magistrate Li was also dumbfounded.

The government exams.

What kind of concept is that?

If a normal student wanted to get a scholarship, he or she would have to go through the boy's exam, the meeting exam, and the county exam.

After that, there was the county examination, and finally, there was the Beijing examination.

It is said that the child test is famous, the meeting test is literary, the county test is recommended, the government test is famous, the county test is leapfrogged, and the capital subject is turned into a dragon.

If Xu Qingnian, a government official, said he was going to study, it would not be too much to ask, and even if he said he was going to take the boy's exams, the crowd would not react so strongly.

But Xu Qingnian said directly that he was going to take the government exams.

Those who could take the government exams were not famous and promising talents.

Xu Qingnian?

He was taking the government exams? How could he not be surprised?

But before Xu Qingnian could answer, Chen Xinghe spoke up first.

The teacher has praised him many times in front of me, "Reading is about comprehension, if you are qualified, a day of studying is better than a year of hard work."

Chen Xinghe's bland voice rang out, answering everything for Xu Qingnian and confirming in passing that Xu Qingnian was not lying.

At that moment, the crowd had to believe it.

There was no need for Chen Xinghe to tell this lie for Xu Qingnian, he could find out if he could take the government exams by checking.

At that moment, County Magistrate Li could not help but speak.

“I didn’t expect that this small county government would produce a scholar, Chen Xian, you can take twenty taels of silver from the government office, and consider it as a reward for Qingnian for the government exam.”

“Qingnian, don’t think it’s less, you should know better than us the financial conditions of the magistrate’s office, the money is not much for the mind.”

The county magistrate Li was a good man, and confirmed that Xu Qingnian was really going to take the government exams, regardless of whether she could pass or not, so he sent twenty taels of silver first, as a token of his support for the students.

Twenty taels of silver was a lot of money.

At the moment, there was nothing to spend money on, but it didn’t mean that the silver was useless.

“Thank you, Master County.”

Xu Qingnian thanked.

“It doesn’t matter, Qingnian, study hard and do well in the imperial examinations, if you can really win a provincial examination, you will have a merit name and can enter our county’s literary shrine to glorify your ancestors.”

County magistrate Li said smilingly.

In these days, there was no shortage of martial artists, but few readers, especially local readers, but of course, such readers meant those with merit, and those who just read some books were definitely useless.

Naturally, Magistrate Li did not think that Xu Qingnian would be able to win the government exams, he was just being polite for a moment or two, but of course as long as Xu Qingnian persisted now, he might be able to take off one day.

“Lord Cheng, since there is nothing else, may I go now?”

Xu Qingnian looked at Cheng Lidong and said with a calm face.

He didn’t want to stay here, it was uncomfortable to stay for one more second.

“En.”

Cheng Lidong gave a bland hmph, his face still smiling warmly, if not for his overly pale face, he would have looked quite gentle.

Bidding farewell to the crowd, Xu Qingnian and Chen Xinghe bid farewell.

They walked out of the courthouse.

Xu Qingnian spoke.

“Senior Brother Xinghe, I intend to go back home, pack some things, and go directly to my teacher’s home, and also avoid running things around.”

Xu Qingnian intended to go back for a trip, packing his luggage didn’t lie, but he also had to see some things.

“Okay, senior brother will wait for you at teacher’s home, but pay attention to safety, if you don’t come at night, senior brother knows what to do.”

Chen Xinghe nodded, but he also gave Xu Qingnian a heads up, if Qingnian didn’t come back at night, he would go to the court to look for someone.

“Thank you for remembering me, senior brother.”

Xu Qingnian made a salute, and then left alone.

On the way home, Xu Qingnian was not in a hurry, but rather a little slow, and the journey that could have been completed in a quarter of an hour took nearly a quarter and a half.

When he returned home, Xu Qingnian came to the door of his room.

He picked up the bronze lock and looked carefully at the lock hole, and there was indeed a problem.

Before she left, Xu Qingnian had put two hairs inside, so if no one moved the lock, the hairs inside would naturally not disappear.

“It’s true that they’re watching me again.”

Xu Qingnian naturally pushed open the door of the room, knowing that Cheng Lidong was spying on him, there was no need to say anything else, just keep an eye out.

He walked into the room and took a look at the white paper on the desk.

The words on the white paper were all in simplified Chinese, and the contents on it were all scribbled.

Xu Qingnian wasn’t stupid enough to put her future plans on paper, writing was just a habit, but what she wrote wasn’t necessarily an idea.

Thinking that Cheng Lidong had already sent someone over, Xu Qingnian was now looking forward to seeing Cheng Lidong's face when he saw the contents.

It was a pity that Cheng Lidong could not read simplified Chinese characters, otherwise these three sentences would probably have depressed Cheng Lidong for quite some time.

But thinking about Cheng Lidong, there was one thing that made Xu Qingnian curious.

How come Cheng Lidong was still alive and well?

According to reason, it shouldn't be.

Even if he was alive, he must have been injured at the very least, right? How come he still had time to come to himself?

A fugitive from South Yufu, is he unable to fight?

Xu Qingnian was a little curious.

However, at this very moment, a figure appeared silently in the room and pushed open the door.

As the sound of the room door being pushed open rang out, Xu Qingnian immediately turned back.

It was the fugitive from the Southern Yufu.

"Why are you here?"

Xu Qingnian's expression changed.

How did this guy come in this broad daylight?

If this was seen by Cheng Lidong's men, he wouldn't be able to wash himself out even if he jumped into the Yellow River.

Wasn't this harming people?

"Don't panic, I've been following you for a long time, no one is following you."

The latter didn't think so and even sat down to take a sip of tea.

"What's the matter?"

"Speak quickly."

Apart from his initial surprise, Xu Qingnian also quickly calmed down, but still let the other party talk about something.

He didn't want to get into any trouble, especially now that Cheng Lidong was still wary of himself.

"It's nothing big, I just want to ask when you're leaving Ping'an County."

The latter spoke up, stating the purpose of looking for Xu Qingnian.

"I'll be leaving on the tenth of April to take the government exams."

Xu Qingnian replied, cleanly.

"The government exams?"

The latter was a little surprised, apparently he didn't believe Xu Qingnian could take the government exams either.

"Looking down on people?"

Xu Qingnian looked at the latter, a little unhappy.

"No, just a little surprised."

"By the way, do you still have the stuff?"

The other party was a little embarrassed and asked a casual question.

It was only when this was said that Xu Qingnian's heart thumped, but outwardly she was calm and said.

"I hid it very secretly, do you want me to show it to you?"

Xu Qingnian said stiffly.

"No, just hide it, you must remember that this item must be given to them, if something goes wrong, I can guarantee that you will be in a lot of trouble."

He spoke, his tone threatening, but quickly continued to speak again.

"Of course, if you deliver it into their hands, they will give you everything you want."

"Also, if you can, you'd better set off earlier, don't delay too long."

He reminded Xu Qingnian.

“Why? Is there any trouble?”

Xu Qingnian was a little curious.

“I’m ready to make a move.”

He said out loud.

“Make a move?”

Xu Qingnian frowned slightly.

“It’s not good for me to make a move while you’re here, this Cheng Lidong is a quasi-hundredth official, an official of the court, dying here would be a big trouble, especially for you.”

“You leave, I’ll do it, it’s seamless, no one will suspect you.”

The other party’s tone was serious, and made Xu Qingnian understand the reason why he hadn’t made his move.

Earlier, he had thought it was because he couldn’t beat up Cheng Lidong, but it turned out that he had overthought it.

This man was alright, he could think for himself, he was a good person.

“Okay, I’ll leave as soon as possible and try to leave Ping’an County before the 5th of April.”

Xu Qingnian pondered for a while and gave this answer.

It was now the 25th of March, before the 5th of April, it was almost enough to leave within ten days.

“Within five days, don’t delay, I don’t have much time left, I can’t help you if I don’t step in to solve this matter.”

However the other man shook his head and cut the time down to within five days.

“Alright, I’ll try to leave within five days, but do you have confidence?”

Xu Qingnian asked.

He still had some doubts about this guy’s strength, after all, Cheng Lidong did not seem to be a good fighter, and he was also a prospective hundredth household member.

“Thirty-seven.”

The other party gave a reply.

“You’re seven and he’s three?”

Xu Qingnian was a little puzzled.

“No, he’s seven and I’m three.”

The latter shook his head and gave an answer that made Xu Qingnian somewhat disappointed.

“Then you’re still going?”

“Isn’t it a death sentence?”

Xu Qingnian was a little puzzled.

“It’s death even if you don’t go, in short, don’t worry, there’s no way I’ll be captured alive by them, within five days, either I die or he dies, the rest has nothing to do with you.”

His voice was somewhat resolute.

Xu Qingnian nodded, he was actually worried about being taken alive for asking so much, if he was taken alive, there would be no real heroes under severe torture.

“Okay, by the way, what’s your name?”

Xu Qingnian had never asked this man’s name.

“Wu Yan.”

The latter faintly froze, but still said his name.

“Wu Yan?”

There was something odd about mentally reciting this name, but by the time Xu Qingnian raised his head again, the latter had already walked out of the door.

He had come without a sound and left without a sound.

After the other party left, Xu Qingnian didn’t do anything to linger.

She packed up the things in the room, but there were not many things to bring, just two or three sets of clothes.

After finishing packing, Xu Qingnian left the house and headed towards the county.

When he arrived at Zhao Dafu's pharmacy, Xu Qingnian handed over the key to his home and 50 taels of silver cheques to the man, asking him to pass them on to Zhao Dafu.

Xu Qingnian didn't know how to repay the kindness he had received before, so he just gave him the silver.

He put twenty taels of silver on himself and gave the remaining fifty taels of silver to Zhao Dafu as a token of gratitude.

At this time, the

In the Ping'an County Office.

Cheng Lidong was standing in the courtyard, looking up at the white clouds, his eyes filled with contemplation.

After a long time, Cheng Lidong's gaze revealed a look of determination.

"Xu Qingnian."

"Surely he has cultivated a foreign art."

He pinched his finger bones and whispered to himself.

The voice rang out, and the hawk-nosed man behind him changed his expression.

## **Awaken Chapter 25 -**

Ping'an County Office.

Cheng Lidong stands in the courtyard.

His expression was certain.

"Your Excellency, since we can be sure, then why not just arrest him? Practising a foreign art is not a minor crime, even if it's just a suspicion, he can be arrested and taken to the main prison."

The hawkish nose stepped forward as he looked towards Cheng Lidong and couldn't help but speak out.

"No need."

“Although I am certain that he has practiced a foreign art, there is no substantial evidence.”

“After all is said and done, it is still related to the new dynasty, and the foreign arts have to be removed, but it cannot be like the old days.”

Cheng Lidong shook his head.

Immediately afterwards, he continued to speak.

“You send two people to keep an eye on them, say that the road to the government exams is rather hard, and that they are worried about their safety and escort them to South Yufu.”

“When he arrives at South Yufu, whether or not he has practiced the supernatural arts, ask a Confucian scholar to come and examine them personally to know whether they are true or not.”

“We can’t tell if there is a demonic seed in the body of a practitioner of the supernatural arts, but a Confucian cultivates the spirit of righteousness, which naturally restrains such evil spirits, so they can detect it at a glance.”

“As long as he goes to South Yufu, it is a case of catching a turtle in a jar for us.”

Cheng Lidong explained.

The reason for not capturing Xu Qingnian was that he was still worried about causing trouble for the ruler, but as long as Xu Qingnian did not leave his sight, there would be no problem.

It was only a matter of time.

“Yes, Your Excellency.”

The hawk-nosed nodded.

It was also at this moment that a figure quickly appeared.

“Report! Lord Cheng, we have found traces of the fugitive.”

As the voice rang out, Cheng Lidong’s expression in the courtyard instantly changed.

“Lead the way.”

He shouted out these words very coldly, and then the crowd quickly left.

And at that moment.

Zhou Ling's home.

It was already the second hour of the eleventh hour.

The sky had long since darkened.

In the inner hall, Wu had set the meal on the table, and the hot dishes were emitting fragrance as Zhou Ling, Chen Xinghe and Xu Qingnian were seated separately.

"The food is ready, you guys hurry up and eat."

Wu greeted and then walked towards the door.

Soon, there were only three people left in the room.

However, Zhou Ling was somewhat silent, Chen Xinghe was also thinking about something, while Xu Qingnian seemed calm.

He came to Zhou Ling's home in two hours, and then told all the things that had happened during this period of time, but of course the matter of practising the supernatural arts would not be told.

He said that he had been poisoned by the poison of the Underworld, and that he had met a fugitive when the poison broke out.

Although it sounded so unbelievable, at least the reasoning and logic made sense.

However, when the matter was finished, Zhou Ling and Chen Xinghe did not say a word, leaving Xu Qingnian somewhat silent.

"Sir, senior brother."

"The student's involvement in the matter of supernatural arts is too involved and might affect the two of you, if you are worried sir, Qingnian will never victimise sir, nor will he involve senior brother."

Xu Qingnian spoke, he spoke calmly, after all, this kind of matter was very involved, and most importantly, he did indeed cultivate the foreign arts.

If it was really found out later, Chen Xinghe and Zhou Ling would also be interrogated, so Xu Qingnian was not saying this as a retreat, but with all sincerity.

"Don't talk nonsense."

Zhou Ling waved his hand, he directly dismissed this idea of Xu Qingnian.

“Teacher, the matter of supernatural arts is too involved, the student is not acting, but speaking from the heart, especially for senior brother Xinghe, if it is really involved, it may affect his career, Qingnian cannot afford to take it.”

Xu Qingnian was very serious, he was worried about the implication, so he might as well clear his name now, in that case, he would not pit others.

As for the next path, the big deal is to go alone, anyway, the sky is big enough to be afraid of not having a mouth to feed.

“Qingnian, nonsense.”

“Don’t worry, my master is not worried about this at all, whether you have cultivated foreign arts or not, Xinghe and I can see it with a glance.”

“My master is mainly worried that this Cheng Lidong will be detrimental to you.”

Zhou Ling shook his head, he wasn’t silent because Xu Qingnian was inviting trouble, instead he was silent because he was worried that Cheng Lidong would be detrimental to Xu Qingnian and was thinking of a way out.

And Zhou Ling’s tone was firm, believing that Xu Qingnian did not cultivate foreign arts.

“What is there to fear? This time, the student will definitely be able to win the high school examination, and when the time comes, he will have a merit title to add to his name. If he dares to disadvantage senior brother, I will naturally not stand by and watch.”

Chen Xinghe spoke out, and his words seemed very domineering.

“No.”

Zhou Ling shook his head again.

“Xinghe, you are still too young.”

“The sin of allomancy is far from being as simple as you think.”

“Since ancient times, the foreign arts have been a forbidden thing in all dynasties, not to mention the imperial court, and the entire Immortal Path has strictly forbidden it.”

“If you hide a foreign art, your whole family will be executed, if you practice a foreign art, your nine clans will be implicated, from ancient times to the present, too many people have died because of foreign arts.”

“The good thing is that when a new dynasty was established, His Majesty suppressed all parties after ascending to the throne, weakening the power and surging the dynasty, otherwise, if it were the time when Emperor Wu was alive, as long as Qingnian was suspected, he would at least suffer imprisonment.”

“It is better to kill by mistake than to let go.”

Zhou Ling seriously explained the scourge of foreign arts, and these words made Xu Qingnian somewhat glad to have been born in the right era.

“Then how can I dissolve it? It is impossible to suffer injustice for the rest of one’s life, right?”

Chen Xinghe asked on Xu Qingnian’s behalf.

“My master is just thinking about how to resolve it.”

“But just now a way to dissolve it came to mind.”

Zhou Ling said so, drawing Xu Qingnian’s attention.

“If you want to defuse it, there are actually only two ways.”

“One, this time, Qingnian won the government examinations, and has a merit name, unless it is the government ruler, otherwise, no matter how much Cheng Lidong suspects, he would not dare to touch Qingnian even if he cannot produce absolute evidence.”

“The second is to ask a sixth-ranked righteous Confucian scholar to gather Hao Rang Zheng Qi and open the Confucian dharma eyes to identify the demonic nature, if there is no demonic nature, even the Prefectural Monarch’s intervention will not work, but it is difficult to ask a sixth-ranked righteous Confucian to help.”

“There is only one righteous Confucian in the entire South Yufu, and he is not currently within the South Yufu, but if it really comes to that, my master will definitely step in and find this righteous Confucian by all means, and ask him to prove the innocence of Qingnian.”

Zhou Ling spoke out two solutions.

And after these two solutions were stated, both Xu Qingnian and Chen Xinghe found it somewhat difficult.

Winning the government examination.

Xu Qingnian hadn't even read much, so how could she win the imperial exams in one sitting?

As for asking a Confucian scholar to come, it was also a bit far-fetched. Everywhere he went, he was a man of honor, a man who was worshipped by scholars everywhere.

If you go up a grade, you are a great scholar, and you are famous throughout the country.

Although Zhou Ling was a scholar and had certain connections, it was far-fetched to ask a Confucian scholar to help him.

But in any case, at least there was still a way, not a way at all.

"If this magic is so harmful, why isn't it burned and destroyed?"

"It's causing people to be on edge."

Chen Xinghe spoke out, looking slightly curious, thinking that this kind of thing was so harmful, why didn't it burn and destroy it?

"The method of burning, there are also many troubles that are difficult to solve by copying and transcribing, furthermore burning a volume of foreign arts does not mean that it is an isolated copy."

"The Great Wei Dynasty collects foreign arts and will let the Confucianism greats to study it so as to come up with a method of restraint, and if someone practices its foreign arts, it is also good to distinguish it, simply burning it does not solve the root trouble."

Zhou Ling gave his reply.

But after saying this, he looked towards Xu Qingnian and said.

"Qingnian, you don't need to have any burden, in short, if you really haven't cultivated the supernatural arts, your body is not afraid of the shadow, even if you encounter trouble, my master will help you get through it by all means."

Zhou Ling looked certain.

After his voice finished, Xu Qingnian nodded, but his mood was inexplicably a little strange.

It was because he had cultivated the foreign arts.

But he couldn't say these words, not because he was afraid that Zhou Ling would raise an accusation against himself, but Xu Qingnian was worried about involving Zhou Ling and Chen Xinghe.

"Alright, let's eat first, Qingnian, you should study well in these few days, don't mess up your mind."

Seeing that Xu Qingnian only nodded but did not say anything, Zhou Ling opened his mouth and told the two not to think about anything and to eat first.

Xu Qingnian didn't say much and lowered her head to eat.

It was midnight.

The night was dark and the moon was sparse.

Inside the study.

Xu Qingnian slowly put the pen down, the white paper was already filled with hundreds of words, the font was neat, simple and clean.

However, Xu Qingnian's heart had not calmed down.

He had been practising for an hour.

But the more he practised, the more disordered the words became.

If his heart was not calm, his words would not calm down.

Putting down the brush in his hand, Xu Qingnian stood up and looked through the window at the black dome of the bright moon.

Her mood was inexplicably complicated.

After dinner, Xu Qingnian could not calm down his mood.

Especially when he learnt that those who practiced the supernatural arts would be implicated in the nine clans, he could not calm down any more.

He had always thought that practising the supernatural arts was just his own bad luck, but today he realised just how severe the imperial court was on the supernatural arts.

If one day he was really found to be practising the supernatural arts, would he not implicate Zhou Ling, and even Chen Xinghe.

Zhou Ling had done his best for himself as a gentleman and did not dislike him, but if he had pitted himself against him, this hurdle Xu Qingnian could not pass inside.

It was night.

Xu Qingnian was silent for a long time, one thought after another flashed through his mind.

He wanted to leave.

He wanted to go to South Yufu by himself.

He even wanted to escape from South Yufu, so that even if he was discovered, he would have nothing to do with Zhou Ling.

He had not formally worshipped his master, so he could not be considered a master, but if he took his master's letter of recommendation to take the provincial examination, the relationship would be fixed.

Just as Xu Qingnian was thinking about it, the door of the room was suddenly pushed open.

It was Zhou Ling.

He walked in carrying an oil lamp.

"Sir."

Xu Qingnian was a little surprised, he did not expect Zhou Ling to be asleep at this hour.

"Qingnian."

"It's getting late, it's time to rest."

Zhou Ling spoke as he reminded Xu Qingnian to rest.

"Oh."

Xu Qingnian nodded, just thinking about it, he sighed slightly and was about to open his mouth to say something when Zhou Ling's voice rang out again.

"Qingnian, I see that you have something on your mind today, and although I don't understand it, I can guess some of it."

"However, listen to what I say first."

“The sage said that if you are poor but not taught, you are not a teacher, and if you are wise but not taught, you are self-taught.”

“There is no good or bad in this world, everything follows the heart. I can see that you are a diamond in the rough, although you and I have only crossed paths for a few days.”

“But I will not be wrong about you, you have a good heart, you know right from wrong, you are good at recognising evil, no matter what happens, I believe you and I understand that you have a hard time.”

“Don’t worry about anything, study well, but make sure you don’t forget the goodness of your heart.”

“I have come to find you, one is to wake you up to rest earlier, and the other is to give you words, are you willing?”

Zhou Ling’s words made Xu Qingnian a little dazed.

Obviously, Zhou Ling had sensed something.

Yes, Xu Qingnian’s behaviour today was indeed a bit odd. Zhou Ling had been teaching for so many years, so he was naturally skilled in reading people’s words and was not a fool after living for so many years, and he had vaguely guessed something.

But what made Xu Qingnian froze.

Under such circumstances, Zhou Ling was still willing to accept himself as his disciple and teach himself with holy words.

Xu Qingnian was truly moved.

A full half a ring passed.

Xu Qingnian came back to his senses, he looked at Zhou Ling and then slowly knelt down on the ground.

“Student Xu Qingnian, please give me the words, sir.”