

## **Noble Ruler 941**

### **Chapter 941: Please Pick the Princess Consort!**

As night fell, starlight dotted the dark sky. It was quiet both inside and outside the courtyard, and all that could be heard was the cool wind that breezed through the hall.

Chu Liuyue was currently cultivating in her room. Seated in a cross-legged position with her eyes tightly shut, her aura enveloped her as two flames—transparent and red—could be seen leaping around her from time to time.

She raised her right hand and lightly pointed a fair and slender finger in the air. Silver force then rushed out and quickly split into countless strands of light, which later intertwined to form a pattern.

Following this, she did the same with her left hand. More strands of silver light flew out and formed the same pattern, which then connected with the first pattern.

If Elder Su Jin and the others were here right now, they would realize that this Xuan formation closely resembled the ninth-grade Xuan formation they saw at the border. This was because Chu Liuyue had constructed this one based on its original design.

For people who had no talent in the Xuan Master path, Xuan formations were nothing but a bunch of strange shapes and lines. It would be very tough for them to remember the patterns no matter how hard they studied them. Despite its regularity, memorizing the patterns of a Xuan formation wasn't as simple as memorizing a book. In fact, the complexity of a ninth-grade Xuan formation was unimaginable. Even for an advanced Xuan Master, their head would spin after staring at it for a long time, which made it impossible for them to remember the patterns.

However, it was different for Chu Liuyue. Even though she was in a different body now and her powers were limited, her cognitive abilities were still on the same level as when she was an eighth-grade Xuan Master in her previous life. On top of that, she had an astonishing talent in this aspect to begin with, so memorizing a few ninth-grade Xuan formations wasn't a tall order for her.

What she wanted to do now was try her best to replicate the ninth-grade Xuan formation she saw earlier.

As time trickled past, Chu Liuyue drew out the pattern in her mind stroke by stroke. In front of her were countless streams of silver light that illuminated her clear, porcelain face and gradually formed the Xuan formation's outline.

...

Ten thousand miles away.

Floating atop the boundless and sparkling azure water were several islands shrouded with misty white force, making it look like a scene straight out from a fairytale. Above the void, a golden light suddenly appeared and expanded at a rapid speed to form a golden circle.

The space fluctuated and rippled before a tall figure walked out from it—it turned out to be Rong Xiu.

He was dressed in a black brocade robe, and he exuded a cold aura. He closed his eyes, and when he opened them again, the warmth and gentleness he had as Prince Li vanished and were replaced by cold ruthlessness and indifference. The power suppressing his force was gone, and his aura immediately grew stronger.

At a glance, he looked like a god who had killed his way out of hell with his murderous aura.

*Honk!*

Followed by the sounding of a horn, a loud greeting was heard. "Welcome back, Your Grace!"

Countless people were currently kowtowing in his direction.

Rong Xiu headed straight for the island in the middle. Although it seemed like he was walking on water, there was actually a small gap between his shoes and the water surface. With his hands behind his back, he looked like he was taking a leisurely stroll, but in reality, he had covered a great distance in just a few steps.

When he reached the island, he leaped into the air and gently floated down to the ground. The black jade slab reflected his long figure as he continued to walk forward while the two guards on duty bowed respectfully toward him.

...

The building in front was Rong Xiu's palace. Security was very tight there, so ordinary people had no way of even getting close. It was usually very quiet there, but it seemed that someone had been waiting outside his palace for a long time today. Upon hearing Rong Xiu's arrival, that person also went down on his knees in the direction the former was coming from.

Rong Xiu's eyes narrowed slightly as he took a glance, for he found the visitor somewhat familiar—the latter seemed to be an acquaintance. Sure enough, his guess was proven correct when he got closer.

The visitor was none other than 36 Respected Elder Ming's nephew, Ming Yao.

As an elder, Ming Yao's status was considered pretty high within his clan, for it was second only to the clan leader. Usually, the elders rarely appeared here and would tend to go look for 36 Respected Elder Ming if they had any problems. There was hardly a time when they directly went to look for Rong Xiu.

Not until now.

Rong Xiu stopped right in front of him. "What brings you here today, Elder Ming Yao?"

"Greetings, Your Grace!" Ming Yao hurriedly paid his respect to Rong Xiu.

One of the guards next to him cupped his fist and reported, "Your Grace, Elder Ming Yao has been waiting here since three days ago. He says that he has something important to report to you in person."

Rong Xiu looked up slightly. "Where's 36 Respected Elder Ming?"

"36 Respected Elder Ming went into seclusion recently, Your Grace."

*So he deliberately chose to come when 36 Respected Elder Ming was away.* Rong Xiu's lips curved up slightly. "You may rise, Elder Ming Yao. Feel free to speak your mind."

Only after giving his thanks did Ming Yao stand up. Still, he couldn't help but feel nervous about facing Rong Xiu alone. He tried his best to eke out a smile. "Your Grace, I'm actually here on behalf of many other clans."

Rong Xiu slightly raised his eyebrows as he gave Ming Yao a look. "Oh?"

With much difficulty, Ming Yao swallowed his saliva and mustered his courage to say, "Well... It's been a few years since you took the throne, but you still don't have a Princess Consort. It just so happens that your birthday is coming up, so we're thinking... Why don't you take this chance to pick someone to be the Princess Consort?"

### **Chapter 942: I'll Pick One Then**

As soon as he said the words, he felt the temperature around him plummet to freezing point, and the coldness seeped into his bones. There was this one moment that his keen sixth sense almost made his legs go wobbly and give way, but that ice-cold aura vanished just as quickly as if it had never appeared before.

Ming Yao summoned his courage to cast a fleeting glance at Rong Xiu, only to see the latter's cold and dark eyes. Unable to tell what was on the latter's mind, he quickly retracted his gaze and looked down uneasily.

It was a well-known fact that Rong Xiu kept his distance from women, and it was widely discussed by many ever since he ascended the throne. Still, he would always firmly turn women away.

Once, a venerable secretly arranged for two women to wait on Rong Xiu. Although Rong Xiu wasn't interested, it wasn't polite to refuse the venerable right in his face, so he sent the two women to do miscellaneous chores instead.

Things could've ended just like that, but those two women felt indignant over the fact that they weren't able to even enter his palace and thus plotted to drug his tea in hopes that they could go from rags to riches. Alas, they didn't know that Rong Xiu was well-versed in medicine.

The cup of tea was smashed to pieces right there and then, while the two women were dragged out to be beaten to death in public. The point was that Rong Xiu even specially invited that venerable to watch the punishment.

Knowing that he was in the wrong, the venerable dared not say anything despite being tricked by Rong Xiu. After this incident, he went into seclusion right away.

This matter was then widely spread, and everyone began to behave themselves when they found out how ruthless Rong Xiu could be to women.

Rong Xiu thus had some peace and quiet for a long time after that. No matter how anxious the others were, they didn't dare to step out of their boundaries again.

But as time passed and the spot of Princess Consort was still empty despite it being a few years since Rong Xiu took the throne, the masses started getting antsy again. This was only natural since everyone wanted the spot of Princess Consort for themselves. The entire clan would rise in status should a young lady from their clan get married to Rong Xiu and become Princess Consort. When the benefits of a certain matter became imaginably huge, the people's courage and motivation became greater as well.

The reasons why Ming Yao dared to come forward with this proposal this time were that he had 36 Respected Elder Ming behind him and that he believed the Princess Consort issue was a valid reason nobody would oppose.

They dared not do anything about it in the past since the reason that Rong Xiu refused to marry might be that he had just assumed the throne and thus didn't have firm political power. But now that he was firmly seated in his position, it didn't make sense if he continued to refuse to take a wife.

“It seems that Elder Ming Yao and the rest are very concerned about my marriage,” said Rong Xiu after a brief silence.

*He’s neither angry nor rejecting my idea outright. Does that mean we have a chance?* Delighted to hear this response, Ming Yao hurriedly bowed and said, “You’re the core of the clans, so it’s only natural that everyone is concerned since you’ve yet to decide on your Princess Consort. Thus, I’m here for the sake of you and the rest of the clans!”

“Oh? It sounds like you already have a plan in mind,” said Rong Xiu with slight interest.

Feeling greatly encouraged, Ming Yao rushed to explain, “To tell you the truth, although you haven’t been actively considering these matters, the rest of us have been thinking about it on your behalf. We’ve already selected the most outstanding women from several clans. As long as you give us the approval, we’ll arrange for them to come to your birthday celebration for you to meet them. I’m sure you’ll be able to find the woman of your liking among them.”

Rong Xiu laughed. “I wonder which clans they are from? I haven’t been paying much attention to these matters in the past.”

Ming Yao thus said a string of names. Apart from his own clan, several other clans that got along pretty well with them were also involved in this matter.

Rong Xiu patiently waited for him to finish speaking before asking, “It seems like you guys have prepared this for a long time. How come I haven’t heard 36 Respected Elder Ming mention it before?”

Ming Yao’s eyes flickered out of fluster as he laughed it off. “Well... He’s often not around, so we didn’t dare to bother him with these matters.”

The truth, however, was that they had already mentioned this matter to 36 Respected Elder Ming when they sought him out previously. But not only did 36 Respected Elder Ming coldly shoot down their idea, he even warned them not to think about it. The latter knew that Rong Xiu would naturally have his own plans when it came to such matters, so whoever tried to interfere in his affairs was just courting their own death.

Though after Ming Yao and the rest went back and thought about it again, they still refused to give up on this opportunity. They couldn't help thinking that Rong Xiu might pick a lady from their clan.

Although the clan owed its current status to 36 Respected Elder Ming, he had grown old, and he tended to avoid being associated with the clan instead of putting in a good word for them. Everyone was secretly disappointed in 36 Respected Elder Ming as they thought that he was doing this purely for the sake of protecting his own status and winning Rong Xiu's trust.

Hence, they would rather bank on this chance than remain at the status quo. This was also why they had chosen to work with a few other clans to push this idea forward and why they had specifically acted in 36 Respected Elder Ming's absence.

*"I see..." Rong Xiu smiled as he nodded in understanding. What a shame. There goes 36 Respected Elder Ming's years of effort in trying to protect his clan from trouble. Despite going to great lengths, he still failed to stop them from getting into trouble in the end. Once the seed of greed is planted into one's head, it's hard to get rid of it.*

Ming Yao didn't seem to find Rong Xiu's smile the slightest bit dangerous. On the contrary, he thought that their plan had worked and was secretly delighted about it.

"In that case, why don't you invite the rest of the clans to participate as well?"

"Oka—" Ming Yao couldn't believe his ears as he looked at Rong Xiu in shock. "W-what? T-the rest of the clans?"

“It’s two months away from my birthday celebration. All the clans will come to celebrate my birthday anyway, so isn’t it better to have everyone join in?”

“B-but...” Seeing how Rong Xiu seemed to be serious about it, Ming Yao felt that things were beginning to develop out of his control. *But this is something that we’ve discussed and agreed upon with the other clans! We’ll lose our advantage if the rest of the clans join in as well! There are so many clans! There’s no telling who His Grace would choose! The number of women who want to get married to him is more than we can count! People didn’t dare to say anything in the past because he didn’t have the intention of taking on a wife, but once they know that he’s choosing his Princess Consort... I can’t imagine how fierce the competition will be! It’ll be a wasted trip if he ends up choosing someone else!*

Ming Yao wanted to object to the idea, but standing in front of him was their esteemed ruler. Not daring to utter the word ‘no,’ he could only say, “We’ll... do as you say, Your Grace!”

#### **Chapter 943: You Guys Should Just Follow Behind!**

At dusk, Yan Qing hurriedly came back from outside and went straight to the main hall. As soon as he entered the room, he saw Rong Xiu sitting leisurely by the window as he played chess. He paid his respects immediately. “Master.”

“Mm,” replied Rong Xiu without even lifting his head. He seemed to be considering his next move as he stared at the chessboard. “How did the investigation go?”

“I’ve managed to obtain a portion of the evidence, and I’ll be able to get the rest once the time is right!”

Rong Xiu nodded in satisfaction. “I’ve never needed to worry about the way you work. Just leave it aside for now.”

“Understood!” Yan Qing then got up and stood aside, but he couldn’t resist glancing at his master again out of curiosity at the thought of the rumors he heard when he came back. *Master always has his reasons for doing things, so I suppose it’s the same for this time as well...*

“Just shoot your questions.”

After a brief hesitation, Yan Qing finally asked, “Master, are the rumors about you selecting the Princess Consort on your birthday celebration... true?”

“Of course, it is. Ming Yao doesn’t have the guts to spread rumors about me.” Rong Xiu hooked his lips up meaningfully. *Besides, it was my intention to spread the news. Otherwise, it wouldn’t have spread so fast and wide.*

Yan Qing was perplexed, however. “But Madam...”

“It just so happens that I want to settle this matter as soon as possible.” The chess piece in Rong Xiu’s hand landed on the chessboard with a thud. Like two dragons killing off each other, the black and white chess pieces were clearly separated on the chessboard. When that chess piece landed, it was like the black dragon had beheaded the white dragon, and it marked a clean end to the game.

“I’ve been very lonely all these years. The Princess Consort position is hers to begin with, so it’s better to give it to her as soon as possible.” Rong Xiu’s eyes were filled with amusement as he leaned back. *This way, she can come to my side sooner and proudly stand side by side with me. Those people can stop fantasizing about the impossible too!*

...

Beiming Dynasty, Lin Zhou.

After a night of hard work, Chu Liuyue finally stopped what she was doing when the first ray of morning light shone in through the window. Floating in front of her was a huge silver barrier, and if one looked carefully, they would notice that it was formed from countless strands of silver light in an intricate yet beautiful pattern.

Clearly, it was a replica of the barrier at the Beiming Dynasty's border. Even the various Xuan formations' patterns were clearly visible.

Chu Liuyue had actually copied it to a T.

Although her face was slightly pale, her eyes were twinkling with excitement.

This wasn't actually her first attempt at replicating a ninth-grade Xuan formation. When she was still an eighth-grade Xuan Master, her cultivation level was stuck at that stage for a long time. While she didn't manage to reach the ninth grade, she had studied many ninth-grade Xuan formations during that time, which helped build the strong foundation she had today. That said, this was the first time she managed to successfully construct one.

*Knock, knock.*

Someone knocked on the door from outside.

"Your Majesty, it's time for us to leave for the palace," said Wen Fan.

“Noted.” With a wave of her arm, the replicated barrier in front of her instantly dissolved into small rays of silver light and disappeared. She then got up, washed up, and changed into a clean set of clothes before leaving the room.

...

Wen Fan hurriedly bowed at Chu Liuyue when he saw her come out. He sneaked a quick glance at her and realized from her sparkling eyes that she seemed to be in good spirits. *It seems that she wasn't affected by what happened yesterday. On top of that, her aura seems to have gotten a little stronger as well...*

He couldn't help but be surprised by this. *I heard that she used to be a genius with the rare Tianjing Yuan meridian, but she was unfortunately harmed by others and only managed to return with great difficulty. Contrary to expectations, it doesn't seem like she's worse off than before...*

Wen Fan pushed his thoughts aside and then respectfully showed Chu Liuyue out.

Upon receiving the news, Elder Chen Ke and the others came out one after another as well.

The horse carriage from yesterday was already waiting outside, and it immediately left for the palace as soon as they all got in.

...

However, they didn't expect to run into the Taiyu Dynasty's people after leaving the street and turning a corner. Wen Fan—who sat in the front—saw Yin Hao right away, and vice versa.

The latter's face darkened when he recalled what happened yesterday. Fuming, he spat a mouthful of saliva on the ground. "Tch, what a coincidence indeed. Our horse carriage was arranged in front of yours, so we have the right to go first. Hurry up and make way, Wen Fan!"

Having been bullied for years, Wen Fan instinctively wanted to avoid Yin Hao and give way when he saw the latter flare up. But just as he took a step backward, he heard someone laughing behind him. He then froze as he recalled what Shangguan Yue told him yesterday.

Knowing that she would be there to bear all responsibility, he puffed up his chest and lifted his chin as he stared Yin Hao down. "I'm sorry, but our side of the street is closer to the palace, so we ended up being in front of you when we came out. Although your horse carriage was in front of ours yesterday, there's no need to worry about the order of arrival since everyone is heading in the same direction. It'll be more troublesome if we have to make way for you."

Then, he lifted the long whip in his hand.

A resounding smack was heard when the whip landed.

"You guys should just follow behind! Giddy-up!"

#### **Chapter 944: Do You Mind Sharing It With Me?**

Wen Fan led the horse carriage away, leaving behind a trail of dust in the process.

"Cough!" Yin Hao's face was flushed as he fumed, "Who do you think you are? Do you really think that you've gotten associated with a big shot?!"

As Wen Fan was weak, frail, and timid, he used to be a coward in front of Yin Hao and dared not disobey the latter's orders. Hence, Yin Hao thought that Wen Fan had gotten cocky after just one day of following the Tianling Dynasty's people around. *Seriously, the Crown Prince arranging for them to stay at that villa may not necessarily mean anything!*

"The Tianling Dynasty... has got some airs, huh?" Dantai Chen lifted the curtain to take an expressionless look at the horse carriage that was disappearing into the distance.

"Don't take it to your heart, Your Majesty. They won't be able to act smug for too long! Only those who are truly capable will get the last laugh, don't you agree?" said Yin Hao hurriedly out of fear that Dantai Chen might get angry. *The Tianling Dynasty might've been a match for the Taiyu Dynasty in the past, but with all the unrest and instability they've been through, they'll definitely come in last place now. Let's see how they're going to continue to act arrogant when that happens!*

Dantai Chen put the curtain down and coldly said, "Let's go!"

...

The Beiming Imperial Palace—which sat atop a huge piece of land—was spectacular and magnificent. Word had it that the palace had been renovated to celebrate the successful attempt at reaching Apotheosis by the Beiming Dynasty's ancestor.

Because of the ancestor's blessing, nothing major had ever happened in the Beiming Dynasty, and they remained a strong and rich empire throughout the millennium following his success. This was why their royal treasury was always full and why they could afford to use a portion of the money specifically on the maintenance of the palace every century.

In addition, everything that was related to the royal family was paid special attention in Lin Zhou City. No matter which aspect it was, Lin Zhou was indeed much stronger than Xi Ling.

Chu Liuyue closed her eyes to rest while sitting inside the carriage. At first, she could still hear occasional noises coming from outside, but they gradually died down. Their surrounding atmosphere also became cold and tense.

The horse carriage stopped a moment later, and that was when she opened her eyes. *We're here!*

...

Wen Fan stepped forward and handed over the invitation he had prepared beforehand.

"Tianling Dynasty?" The guard at the palace gates took a closer look at the invitation in surprise.

Word about the Tianling Dynasty and the Taiyu Dynasty fighting for a villa yesterday had spread, so a lot of people had found out that the Beiming Dynasty's Crown Prince seemed to regard the Tianling Dynasty highly. As such, even the guards couldn't help but be nervous, and they didn't dare to slack off at all.

"Horse carriages aren't allowed within the palace grounds. Please get off and proceed inside on foot."

Chu Liuyue lifted the curtain and hopped off from the carriage before raising her head slightly to take a look at her surroundings.

The thick and heavy palace gates exuded a menacing aura, and one could vaguely smell a sweet metallic scent in the air by just standing there.

Chu Liuyue's heart tingled slightly. *I'd like to see what those people are up to this time!*

...

Imperial Palace, Qianlong Hall.

In the middle of the far end of the hall was a golden throne that clearly belonged to the Beiming Dynasty's emperor, Jun Qizhi. On its left was a similar chair that was slightly smaller in size, which indubitably belonged to the Crown Prince, Jun Jiuqing.

Generally speaking, only rulers were qualified to sit on a throne. But the fact that Jun Jiuqing was allowed to sit on one despite him being a crown prince showed how high his status was in the Beiming Dynasty—he was almost on the same footing as his father.

Following downward were two rows of seats on the left and right respectively. If one looked closely, they would notice that each side was further divided into two areas. Apart from the Beiming Dynasty, a total of four dynasties were invited, so each dynasty had one area to themselves.

Currently, an area on each side was occupied by the Dongning Dynasty and the Xiyan Dynasty, which arrived one after another.

Jun Qizhi and Jun Jiuqing weren't here yet. Apart from the people from the two mentioned dynasties, only the palace staff responsible for waiting on them were present. Hence, the atmosphere was relatively relaxed.

“Have you heard about yesterday’s interesting incident, Brother Ning?” asked Gongsun Xiao, the Xiyan Dynasty’s emperor, with a glass of wine in his hand.

Ning Yuan looked up with an expressionless look. “Are you talking about... the villa issue?”

“Looks like you’ve heard about it as well.” Gongsun Xiao laughed. “It’s a shame that we arrived too early yesterday and ended up missing such a good show.”

“There’s nothing to be missed about. It’s just a lodging anyway.” Ning Yuan seemed unconcerned about this matter.

*This wily old fox is just as pretentious as ever!* Gongsun Xiao snickered inwardly, but he wasn’t in the mood to bicker with Ning Yuan about this, for what he was most interested about now was the Tianling Dynasty. “You’re wrong, Brother Ning. The Crown Prince was responsible for the lodging arrangement. Can’t you tell anything from it?”

*If Jun Jiuqing wanted, he could’ve arranged the same accommodation for all of us. However, he didn’t. Doesn’t that mean he’s deliberately picking a fight with the Tianling Dynasty?* “Do you know anything about the Tianling Dynasty, Brother Ning?”

Ning Yuan froze. “I don’t know much about the Tianling Dynasty since the Dongning Dynasty is far away from them.”

“But surely you’ve heard that their new ruler is coming today? Aren’t you the slightest bit curious about her?” Gongsun Xiao smiled and stroked his beard. *It’s hard for us not to hear about the sensational news!*

Ning Yuan was just about to speak when he heard the palace staff announcing, “Shangguan Yue, Empress Yuan Xi of the Tianling Dynasty, has arrived!”

Silence immediately descended upon the entire hall as everyone turned their heads toward the doors to see a group of people coming their way.

Leading the group was a tall and slim young lady who looked around the age of sixteen. She looked like a red cloud floating over from afar in her attire, and gasps of surprise could be heard throughout the hall as she got closer.

*A hint of astonishment appeared in everyone’s eyes. Beautiful! This lady has such outstanding and distinguished looks! ‘Beautiful’ is the only word that can be used to describe her! Her presence alone makes everything fade into the background!*

Many people were secretly amazed by Shangguan Yue’s astounding beauty. Every single person was one of the most esteemed figures in their respective dynasty, so they had naturally seen their fair share of beauties. But still, their hearts skipped a beat at the sight of her, and their gazes unconsciously roamed over to her.

Being used to such looks, Chu Liuyue walked to the middle of the hall, where she stopped and smiled. “It seems that I arrived a little late. I wonder what you were talking about earlier. Do you mind sharing it with me and letting me join the conversation?”

#### **Chapter 945: Long Time No See**

Like a pearl falling onto a jade plate, the lady’s clear voice echoed throughout the hall.

It became even quieter in the hall, for Shangguan Yue was the exact person the rulers of the Dongning Dynasty and the Xiyan Dynasty were talking about just moments ago. But of course, they couldn’t say

this to her face as she was ultimately also a ruler of a dynasty. Even if the Tianling Dynasty was in no way comparable to the other dynasties, they were considered equals in terms of status and positions.

The people in the hall suddenly felt that they were caught in the act of bad-mouthing someone behind their back.

After a brief silence, Ning Yuan took the lead to say, "It was just a trivial matter. No need to pay heed to it. The Beiming Dynasty's Emperor and Crown Prince haven't arrived yet. Please feel free to make yourself at home, Empress Yuan Xi."

The corners of Chu Liuyue's lips curled up slightly in a smile. "Thank you. Everyone here today is considered my elder and senior. If you don't mind, you may just call me by my name."

Ning Yuan had a good impression of her when he saw that she carried herself well as both an empress and a junior despite her young age. He nodded and introduced himself, "I'm Ning Yuan, and I'm from the Dongning Dynasty."

Chu Liuyue nodded and looked to the other side. "And you are..."

Despite Gongsun Xiao's contempt toward the Tianling Dynasty, it would be impolite of him to make things difficult for Chu Liuyue when she was treating him in such a polite manner. Thus, he said, "Gongsun Xiao from the Xiyang Dynasty."

"I've heard a lot about the two of you, and it's an honor to meet you today. I hope that you can guide me along if there's something I don't understand," said Chu Liuyue with a gracious smile as if she hadn't heard what they had said about her earlier. After that, she led her entourage to take their seats next to Ning Yuan and his people.

Countless gazes followed her, and many people had confused expressions on their faces when they saw how relaxed she was. *S-she seems different from what the rumors say... She doesn't seem like a despotic young lady at all! Each of her words and actions was flawless, and she's clearly very gracious!*

Gongsun Xiao and Ning Yuan exchanged a look.

*After hearing the rumors, I thought that Shangguan Yue deliberately provoked the Taiyu Dynasty because she had the support of the Beiming Dynasty's Crown Prince. But now that I see her, she doesn't look like a person who would do such a thing...* Gongsun Xiao pondered for a moment before saying with a laugh, "I wanted to go meet you after hearing about your arrival yesterday, but your villa is a little far from ours. I also didn't want to disturb you since it was already quite late. I wonder... if you had a good rest yesterday?"

Although it seemed like he was just asking a simple question about the villa, he was actually trying to sound out the relationship between Chu Liuyue and the Beiming Dynasty's Crown Prince. If they really had something going on between them, then he would have to be extra careful moving forward.

Chu Liuyue smiled. "Thank you for your concern, Senior Gongsun. Like everyone else, everything was arranged for us by the Crown Prince, so everything is well."

She didn't give a direct answer to Gongsun Xiao's question and merely praised the Beiming Dynasty's Crown Prince. They were now on the latter's turf after all, so it didn't hurt to praise him a bit. Besides, who would dare to say anything bad in the open?

Sure enough, Gongsun Xiao was disappointed to hear this answer, but he didn't comment further on it. Ning Yuan, on the other hand, seemed truly disinterested in their conversation.

"Emperor Huai Ren of the Taiyu Dynasty has arrived!"

Thereafter, Dantai Chen and his group walked in one after another. The former's mood worsened when he noticed that everyone else had arrived. After making a simple introduction, he quickly went to his seat and sat down.

However, the uneasy feeling didn't subside, for he could distinctively sense the eyes staring at him from all directions. Without even lifting his head, he knew what those looks meant—everyone must've already found out about what happened yesterday.

This made Dantai Chen feel even more embarrassed and restless. Unfortunately, he didn't even have a chance to defend himself as they didn't say anything on the matter. Thus, he couldn't help but feel even more aggrieved.

In addition, after sitting in the hall for a while, he realized that Gongsun Xiao and Ning Yuan's attitude toward Shangguan Yue was rather polite, which might be because yesterday's event made them suspect the relationship between the Tianling Dynasty and the Beiming Dynasty's Crown Prince.

Dantai Chen secretly clenched his fists. *I'll leave her be for the time being. Once I get the chance, I'll expose all of her pretenses and disgrace her in public!*

...

"His Majesty has arrived! His Highness has arrived!"

As the doors opened, the noise in the hall instantly died down. Everyone turned to look at the doors in unison, only to see a bright yellow figure walking toward them.

It was a middle-aged man with a sturdy figure. This man exuded authority and a powerful aura, and he was none other than the Beiming Dynasty's Emperor, Jun Qizhi.

Walking slightly behind him was a young man clad in a bright-blue brocade robe that had embroideries of golden dragons on its collar and cuffs. He had a jade belt around his waist and a crown on his head, and he exuded an air of nobility.

He had sharp eyebrows and a high nose bridge, and his lips were gently hooked up in an alluring smile. However, the most mesmerizing thing about him was his unique phoenix eyes.

Although he appeared to be smiling, his eyes were cold and indifferent. There was also a hint of red in them that looked like faint bloodstains, making them unforgettable. His gaze looked lazy, and it was like he had never held anything in regard before.

Chu Liuyue froze slightly when she saw him for the first time, and a thought surfaced in her mind: *This must be Jun Jiuqing! What an arrogant man he is!*

Indeed so. Even though he didn't say or do anything, her sixth sense told her that this was a very prideful man.

Jun Jiuqing—who seemingly felt her gaze on him—looked over and met her gaze.

*This man is very strong!* Chu Liuyue's heart turned cold as she instinctively went on her guard.

All of a sudden, Jun Jiuqing curled his lips and laughed. The ice in his eyes was seemingly shattered as he let out what seemed to be a sincere laugh. However, cruelty and ferocity were reflected from the depths of his eyes.

Chu Liuyue could feel that Jun Jiuqing held no malice toward her, but her wariness toward him just wouldn't fade for some reason.

"Shangguan Yue?" Jun Jiuqing called her name out of nowhere, his voice deep and mellow like wine. He then smiled and said, "Long time no see."

### **Chapter 946: Cause Trouble**

This successfully pushed everyone's attention to Chu Liuyue, and countless gazes were immediately directed at the latter!

Even Jun Qizhi—who had just walked in—couldn't help but look over in shock.

Deadly silent.

Chu Liuyue's entire body tensed up, and she cursed Jun Jiuqing in her heart. *Long time no see? Who hasn't seen you in a long time!?! Do I know you? Why would you say that?! However, I definitely can't say this.*

Chu Liuyue smiled slightly, looking very magnanimous and elegant as she spoke in a polite and distant manner. "Thank you for your concern, Your Highness. I'm doing well."

Thinking that her father was still in the other party's hands, Chu Liuyue could only clench her teeth and cooperate with his act.

Jun Jiuqing raised his brows slightly as if he wasn't happy with her reply. "Really? But I haven't been doing well lately."

Once he said this, the atmosphere became even more awkward.

Quite a few gazes kept darting between Chu Liuyue and Jun Jiuqing as people secretly guessed in their hearts. *Why... does it sound like the two of them have a special relationship? Could it be that the previous rumors were all true? Does Chu Liuyue really have Jun Jiuqing's backing?*

Chu Liuyue's eyes flashed slightly, and she kept sneering in her heart. *Is this Jun Jiuqing sick in the mind? I don't even know him, so what has it got to do with me that he's not having a good time?! If he really hasn't been doing well recently, it's probably because he did too many things against his conscience.*

"So you are Shangguan Yue." Jun Qizhi spoke amidst the awkward silence.

He looked at Chu Liuyue rather gently and with a hint of curiosity. "Jiuqing has mentioned you before, and he also insisted on inviting the Tianling Dynasty to this trip. I hope that you can show off your abilities when Ancient Phoenix Mountain erupts!"

Chu Liuyue's eyelids twitched. *Jun Jiuqing even mentioned me in front of Jun Qizhi? This is even weirder!*

She tugged at her lips and revealed a perfect and polite smile. "Thank you for your kind words."

Upon hearing this, the crowd showed a meaningful expression. *Who doesn't know that the Beiming Crown Prince is harsh and heartless? Not many people are able to receive such special treatment... right?*

Dantai Chen secretly knitted his brows. *It's no wonder the Tianling Dynasty—which originally didn't have much right—came. There are indeed some weird happenings behind it... It seems like I need to delve into the relationship between Chu Liuyue and Jun Jiuqing before I can take action...*

...

Jun Qizhi and Jun Jiuqing quickly took their own seats, and the hall's atmosphere seemed to recover gradually. However, there were still some gazes continuously being directed at Chu Liuyue from time to time.

Very obviously, Jun Jiuqing's few sentences had made the crowd have a lot of guesses. Even the few people sitting behind Chu Liuyue were confused and vaguely felt that something was amiss.

Elder Chen Ke leaned in and softly asked, "Your Majesty, didn't you say that you don't know this Beiming Crown Prince?"

*But it clearly wasn't the case just now!*

Chu Liuyue lowered her eyes. "Let's just quietly observe what happens."

"Yes." Elder Chen Ke acknowledged her words and didn't continue asking.

Elder Su Jin and the rest glanced at him in pursuit of an answer, but Elder Chen Ke silently shook his head and indicated for them to rest assured. *She didn't seem to be lying previously, and our Tianling Dynasty really didn't have many interactions with the Beiming Dynasty for so many years. Today's greeting is indeed rather strange... However, we can just believe her.*

...

“Everyone, Beiming welcomes all of you to come here from afar. I’ll first give you a toast.” Jun Qizhi wanted to toast, and the crowd raised their wine cups respectively.

Everyone drank together in the hall, and it was very lively.

Everybody looked elated as if the previous open and secretive fights were non-existent.

Jun Jiuqing lazily leaned against his chair and held his cheek with one hand as he looked up in much disinterest.

The wine cup in front of him was still full, but nobody dared to advise him to drink it. Even Jun Qizhi didn’t say much, so how could the others chime in?

However, they had heard quite a few things about Jun Jiuqing and knew that he wasn’t easy to serve, so they naturally avoided offending him.

Mu Hongyu leaned toward Jian Fengchi and softly said, “That Beiming Crown Prince seems to be quite formidable.”

Before Jian Fengchi could even notice, Mu Hongyu suddenly leaned in, and her sweet, womanly aura instantly overwhelmed him.

Jian Fengchi was dazed for a moment and glanced at her before he realized that Mu Hongyu was talking to him with her side profile facing him as her gaze stayed on Jun Jiuqing. It was as though she was very curious.

As Mu Hongyu didn't look over, she actually didn't realize that she had almost bumped into Jian Fengchi's arms.

They were only inches apart.

Jian Fengchi could even see the soft facial hair on her face.

His heart started beating uncontrollably as his ears and cheeks seemed to burn. He knew that he should move backward, but his body seemed to be frozen for some reason.

He couldn't move. His eardrums sounded beat by beat as if something heavy was slamming against his heart.

"Hm? Do you agree?" Mu Hongyu didn't hear his response and turned over.

The duo's cheeks barely scraped past each other, and they were breathing in each other's breaths.

Jian Fengchi's heart stopped for a moment.

But Mu Hongyu didn't seem to notice anything as she instinctively moved back and glanced at him strangely. "What's wrong?"

Jian Fengchi recovered his senses and averted his gaze. "Nothing much... He's Beiming's Crown Prince. Isn't it normal that he's amazing?"

Mu Hongyu held her head with one hand and knocked against her chin. "That's true... But... I still find it weird. He seems like he really knows Liuyue!"

*Among all the people I've met, Jian Fengchi is the top in terms of flirtatiousness. Although this Jun Jiuqing seems even more so, these two are still different since that Jun Jiuqing seems to be a little more sinister...*

Jian Fengchi saw that she was still thinking about Jun Jiuqing, and he undetectably knitted his brows as he felt quite uncomfortable.

"If they're really friends, yesterday's incident wouldn't have happened." He opened his fan and drove away the warmth on his face as he spoke lightly.

Mu Hongyu nodded in strong agreement. "That's true."

...

After brief greetings, Jun Jiuqing finally spoke. "Father, let's get straight to the topic since everyone is already here."

Jun Qizhi wasn't angry after being interrupted, and he stroked his beard. "Okay then. You will tell everyone what's happening next."

The hall was long silent.

Upon hearing this, everyone looked at Jun Jiuqing.

Jun Jiuqing surveyed his surroundings, and his gaze landed on the woman in red for an extra moment before he smiled slightly and straightened his body. "I believe everyone already knows our motive for inviting everyone here. Our Beiming Dynasty alone isn't enough to handle Ancient Phoenix Mountain's eruption. Besides, this is also a rare opportunity for cultivators. Hence, we decided that the people from five dynasties will get to enter Ancient Phoenix Mountain together!"

#### **Chapter 947: Why Don't You Do It**

When he mentioned Ancient Phoenix Mountain, the crowd was energized. They came specifically for this!

"Starting from this evening, Ancient Phoenix Mountain's exterior barrier will be affected by the Heaven and Earth Force, and its suppression will gradually subside. After one day and one night, its suppression will decline to its lowest. It will thus be the best time to enter then."

Jun Jiuqing's explanation was brief. "There's only one entrance to Ancient Phoenix Mountain, which is also its exit. This also means that you need to come out from wherever you go in. This opening was also formed after countless ancestors worked together for thousands of years. This time, we can only open it because of the perfect timing, location, and manpower."

The crowd nodded in understanding. They were stepping into the barrier left behind by Apostheosis Realm cultivators after all, so average cultivators naturally couldn't go against it. Their only chance was to work together to get this one opportunity.

It was no wonder the Beiming Dynasty was willing to invite people from the other dynasties to share this opportunity. This really was the only way.

“Thousands of years ago, the founder of my Beiming Dynasty cultivated at Ancient Phoenix Mountain and successfully broke through as a peak stage-nine warrior, leaving behind this mountain. This whole time, Ancient Phoenix Mountain has always been shut and never activated, let alone had people enter it. As time passed, the force within Ancient Phoenix Mountain gathered and gave birth to countless precious herbs and treasures. Ancient Phoenix Mountain’s interior has reached the peak of its tolerance, so it chose to automatically activate itself and release its strength before entering the next cycle. This entire process is called the ‘Three Yuan Convention.’”

“At that time, the force gathered within Ancient Phoenix Mountain will rush out like a tidal wave, and the cultivators there can use this chance to strengthen themselves. Cultivators with strong talent and potential might even break through continuously.”

With every sentence that Jun Jiuqing said, the crowd below looked even more agitated.

Who didn’t want to become stronger in this world where the strong were respected?

Some people may not have even had this chance in their past few lifetimes. Besides, Ancient Phoenix Mountain was truly a holy mountain. Someone might find the magnificent method and strength to break through as a peak stage-nine warrior inside.

As long as they could go in, they would be benefiting from it!

“The Beiming Dynasty is too kind to invite the rest of us into Ancient Phoenix Mountain. I have nothing to offer in return, and I can only implore my elders to do their best to help at that time.” Ning Yuan cupped his fists.

Once he said this, the rest naturally expressed their thanks respectively. Even though they knew that the Beiming Dynasty had only invited them mainly because of themselves, this was undoubtedly a good thing for them, so nobody was calculative.

Jun Jiuqing surveyed the surroundings and seemed to be very satisfied with the crowd’s reactions as his lips curved up into a sinister smile. “Everyone, you’re too kind. At that time, we’ll need everyone to help open Ancient Phoenix Mountain at the same time. As for how long one can stay on that mountain, that will depend on your own abilities.”

Jun Jiuqing leaned back slightly in a seemingly smiling manner. “There was something I forgot to mention just now. When Ancient Phoenix Mountain erupts, only five people can enter every four hours. This also means that everyone needs to split into four batches to go in. Why don’t we decide on the order of entering Ancient Phoenix Mountain now?”

...

The hall instantly fell silent once he said this, and quite a few people exchanged glances. They initially thought that everyone could go in together once they opened Ancient Phoenix Mountain, so they didn’t expect that there would be an order of entry.

And the interval period wasn’t short—it was a whole four hours.

This didn’t sound like much, but one had to know that time was especially precious within Ancient Phoenix Mountain. The longer one stayed within, the higher one’s chances of finding some miracle or elevating their strength.

Who would be willing to be behind everyone else? Hence, this order of entry became extremely precious.

The Beiming Dynasty would definitely be the first to enter, and the remaining four dynasties had to arrange themselves accordingly.

At that point, nobody spoke.

Chu Liuyue looked down and silently stared at the wine cup in front of her as her lips undetectably curled up. *This Jun Jiuqing is really afraid that the world won't be in chaos. As Beiming's Crown Prince, he could just directly settle the order of entry without a problem, but he refused to do it. He insisted on getting the other four dynasties to decide on it. On the surface, it looks like it's a fair fight that he doesn't want to intervene in. But in actual fact, he just wants to spark a fight between the four dynasties.*

There were already intense secret battles before they even entered Ancient Phoenix Mountain. With this commotion, everyone would definitely have arguments and quarrels, which would directly reduce their possibilities of forming an alliance.

And the Beiming Dynasty just had to stand outside and watch everything with a smile.

Everyone present was smart and knew that the hunter would shoot the bird that stuck out. Nobody wanted to offend anyone and become this tool.

...

"I do have a suggestion," said Dantai Chen suddenly.

Upon hearing this, the crowd looked over at him in unison.

Chu Liuyue looked up and saw Dantai Chen staring straight at her. Her heart skipped a beat, and she had a strong feeling.

As expected, she heard Dantai Chen say, “The Tianling Dynasty traveled a long way to come here, and it must be very tiring for them. Why don’t we put them at the front of the entry order? What does the rest think?”

Once he said this, the hall became even more silent.

Other than the host—the Beiming Dynasty—who didn’t come here from far away? The reason why Dantai Chen purposely said this was just to emphasize that the Tianling Dynasty was the only dynasty that didn’t neighbor the Beiming Dynasty, secretly hinting that they had no right to be here.

But not only were they here, they even stayed in the best villa.

This made quite a few people feel indignant. *Didn’t they say that she was related to the Beiming Crown Prince? Didn’t they say that she has him as her backing? Since this is so, why don’t we directly arrange for her to be at the front? Then, everyone can see if they’re worthy and if they have this capability.*

In the silence, Chu Liuyue smiled slightly and said, “I didn’t expect Senior Dantai to take care of me so well. Logically speaking, I’m the youngest here and should be the last to go in. But since Senior Dantai has already said this... Won’t it be disrespectful if I reject it?”

Dantai Chen sneered in his heart but didn't show it on his face as he said lightly, "You're still young, and you've just ascended the throne. I believe it must've been tiring to bring all of them to Beiming. It's nothing much for us to give in."

Chu Liuyue's eyes curled up. As if she didn't hear the mockery in his words, she smiled and nodded. "Since you've already said so, then... I'll respect your wishes! But what do the other seniors think?"

Then, she looked at Ning Yuan and the rest.

Gongsun Xiao wanted to fight for it, but he didn't expect Dantai Chen to push Chu Liuyue and the others to the front. *Since they've already said so much, I would seem too petty if I refused it!*

Gongsun Xiao paused for a moment and said rather hesitantly, "Uh... they're all young kids. Won't it be too dangerous if they're the first to go in?"

Dantai Chen laughed. "Everyone, you don't have to worry about this. You might not know, but Shangguan Yue had already memorized the few ninth-grade Xuan formations on the barrier when she reached the borders of Beiming. She just has to execute some of them after entering Ancient Phoenix Mountain, and she would be invincible."

#### **Chapter 948: Even You are Worthy?**

His words were very confident, and everyone in the crowd heard this clearly.

After a temporary daze, waves of gasps could be heard. *What did Dantai Chen say?! Shangguan Yue has already memorized the ninth-grade Xuan formations by the borders of Beiming? How is that possible?!*

“Oh my god! I didn’t hear that wrongly, right?”

“Shangguan Yue... Ninth-grade Xuan formations... It must be a joke!”

“I heard that Shangguan Yue used to have an outstanding talent and that she was an eighth-grade Xuan Master...”

“Hmph, there are a few ninth-grade Xuan formations by Beiming’s borders, and quite a few ninth-grade Xuan Masters from the Beiming Dynasty worked together to form the barrier. It’s extremely complicated! Let alone a Shangguan Yue, even other ninth-grade Xuan Masters would need months to directly memorize the entire formation! How can she possibly do it?!”

The crowd partook in heated discussions.

Gongsun Xiao also found it ridiculous as he laughed. “Brother Dantai, what are you talking about?”

Dantai Chen looked as calm as usual. “Brother Gongsun, I’ve known you for many years, and you also know my personality. Do you think I’d joke about such matters? Shangguan Yue said this herself back then.”

Gongsun Xiao’s smile immediately froze as he looked at Chu Liuyue in disbelief.

Dantai Chen poured himself a cup of wine and seemingly said nonchalantly, “Back then, we reached the borders almost at the same time as the Tianling Dynasty’s people. Once we walked out of the transportation formation, we heard them talking about this.”

As he spoke, he looked up at Chu Liuyue.

Even though he was smiling, his eyes were filled with a cold gleam. "If I didn't recall it wrongly... Shangguan Yue, you said that you took 15 minutes back then, right?"

*If he dares to ask her openly, it should mean that the matter is true!*

The noise immediately died down, and countless eyes stared closely at Chu Liuyue!

Chu Liuyue tilted her head and honestly smiled. "Yeap! What's the matter?"

...

*What's the matter...*

*What's the matter?!*

*She herself said, 'what's the matter?!' Who in the world can do such a thing, yet she admitted to it so honestly?! Does she really think that exaggerating everything will make her seem more amazing?*

All the people present were top talents and strong warriors in their respective dynasties, but nobody dared to openly say such a thing!

*Seeing her behavior, she even seems nonchalant?! Does she even know what she's saying?!*

Chu Liuyue's reply was too direct, causing the crowd to be unable to recover in a short while.

Even Dantai Chen—who wanted to openly ridicule her at first—was dazed for a moment. *I originally thought that Chu Liuyue would deny it, but who knew—*

“It seems like Emperor Yuan Xi is very confident and has already understood and memorized all those Xuan formations by heart?” Dantai Ruoli—who was sitting at the back—finally couldn't hold herself back as she spoke with a mocking expression. She even specifically emphasized the words ‘Emperor Yuan Xi.’

Chu Liuyue glanced at her lightly and seemingly smiled.

“I just memorized those Xuan formations. I wouldn't say I've remembered them by heart, nor would I dare to say I understand them. Not to mention others, a day or two is definitely not enough to understand such a top Xuan formation barrier. But Eldest Princess Dantai, you're not a Xuan Master, so it's natural if you don't understand this,” said Chu Liuyue as she leisurely sipped on her wine.

“You!” Dantai Ruoli was stumped. *Is she mocking me that I'm not a Xuan Master?! Does she think she has it all just because she cultivated in all three aspects?! The current Shangguan Yue doesn't even have her Tianjing Yuan meridian, and her cultivation seems to only be that of a stage-six warrior. Even if she can continue her cultivation as a Xuan Master and a heavenly doctor, there is nothing to be arrogant about if her skills aren't up to par! Does she really think that she is still that old and outstanding talent?!*

“Hmph! I'm indeed not a Xuan Master, so I'm not very clear about all the details. I'm not as good as you, Emperor Yuan Xi—who can memorize ninth-grade Xuan formations just by taking a few glances at them. I'm afraid we can't find a second person with such talent from all the dynasties, right?” Dantai Ruoli sneered in a strange manner.

“Wu...” Chu Liuyue seemed to rub her temple as if she had a headache. “Sometimes, it’s indeed quite troublesome if one is too outstanding. Sigh, I actually do envy people like Eldest Princess Dantai sometimes because you won’t have so many problems.”

Dantai Ruoli was speechless.

The crowd was speechless.

They had never seen someone boast to this extent.

Dantai Ruoli was so angry that she laughed. “This means that you really memorized all those Xuan formations?”

Chu Liuyue blinked. “What? Can’t I?”

She then turned around and looked at Jun Qizhi, who was sitting at the top. “Your Majesty, you won’t mind if I take a few more glances at the ninth-grade Xuan formations at your border, right?”

*What could Jun Qizhi say? Those Xuan formations were used specifically to build the border, and anyone coming in and out of Beiming’s borders is able to see them. Why can’t I let others see it? Let alone allowing other people to take a few more glances, even if someone sets up a tent outside and examines them for years on end, it isn’t necessary for us to stop them!*

“Of course not.” Jun Qizhi coughed as his gaze turned and looked at Jun Jiuqing. *Previously, I had only heard Jiuqing mention Shangguan Yue once or twice, and he seemed to admire her very much in his words. If not, we wouldn’t have invited the Tianling Dynasty this time. However, Jiuqing didn’t mention that this woman was actually this arrogant...*

Jun Qizhi originally had a very good first impression of Chu Liuyue, but it was now discounted. But from the corner of his eyes, he saw that Jun Jiuqing was leaning against the chair and watching the people below argue.

The Beiming Crown Prince's lips curled up slightly as if he found it rather interesting, and the demonic aura around him subsided by quite a bit.

Jun Qizhi muttered to himself, *Jiuqing does seem to be different toward this Shangguan Yue...*

On the other side, Chu Liuyue smiled and looked at Dantai Ruoli after receiving Jun Qizhi's answer. "Eldest Princess Dantai, I believe you've heard His Majesty's words, right? Do you have any other questions?"

Dantai Ruoli was stumped and had nothing to say as there seemed to be a ball of fire crazily burning in her heart.

As if noticing her strange behavior, Dantai Chen turned around to glance at her with his eyes filled with warning. *Don't forget what place this is! You mustn't cause a commotion!*

Dantai Ruoli clenched her fists tightly until her knuckles turned white before she managed to control her anger with much difficulty. She then forced a smile, revealing a very contorted one. "No. Actually, I was just pretty curious... After all, not everyone can do such a thing. Emperor Yuan Xi, I wonder if you can execute it in front of everyone to convince us all?"

*As long as Shangguan Yue dares to nod, her hypocritical mask will immediately be ripped apart!*

Dantai Ruoli stared at her closely, and everyone else quietly waited as if they were equally curious. *Is Shangguan Yue as amazing as she claims to be?*

Chu Liuyue gradually smiled and put down her cup with a bang. She then looked up slightly, her expression cold. “My every word is true. You decide if you want to believe it or not. Wanting me to execute it in public to prove my words... Are you even worthy of asking me to do so?”

### **Chapter 949: This is Great**

Chu Liuyue’s voice was clear and cold with a suppression to it as every single word and sentence clearly reverberated throughout the entire hall.

It was as if a resounding slap harshly hit Dantai Ruoli’s face.

Dantai Ruoli’s face instantly flushed red! She had never been so humiliated in front of so many people before!

“Shangguan Yue! You—”

“I already reminded you earlier that my year is Yuan Xi. Why? Eldest Princess Dantai, did you forget about it so quickly?” Chu Liuyue coldly interrupted Dantai Ruoli’s words in an even more stern manner.

She was born with a distinguished status and was always above the rest. Now that she had ascended the throne, the elegance in her bones was even more pressurizing.

At this point, she didn't restrain herself as her aura instantly formed an invisible mountain that pressed against Dantai Ruoli's shoulders tightly.

Dantai Ruoli felt her shoulders sink, and her face turned white.

"Impudent!"

Seeing that his precious daughter was being bullied, Dantai Chen's blood boiled as he gathered his force in his palm and shot it out.

The orange, thick, and vigorous force formed a gigantic palm that went straight for Chu Liuyue!

In the hall, violent winds blew up.

Chu Liuyue's black hair flew up, and it blew at her sleeves.

She calmly looked at the palm rapidly flying toward her and stood stably as if she didn't plan to retaliate. She also didn't look shocked or nervous at all.

Elder Chen Ke's aura became harsh, and he was about to take action!

Suddenly, a white gleam of light flew across the sky!

*Whoosh!*

The sound of something breaking was heard, and the white gleam directly flew out from the gigantic orange palm.

*Bang!*

The palm disintegrated, and the force within started crazily spreading in all directions! But almost at the same time, a transparent barrier quickly appeared and covered everything!

In the blink of an eye, the thick and violent strength quickly disappeared!

The hall resumed its peace.

Everything happened too quickly. Before the crowd could even see what was happening clearly, it had already ended.

When all the commotion was over, many people stared at the white gleam in a daze and then realized that it was actually a... silver chopstick?!

*Whoosh!*

That item formed a ray of light again and quickly returned! It made a light, crisp sound.

“Dantai Chen, who gave you the guts to cause a commotion here?”

Dantai Chen was shocked and suddenly looked up to see that Jun Jiuqing had already straightened his body and was holding that silver chopstick from just now! *Jun Jiuqing actually took action?!*

Realizing this, Dantai Chen was shocked and afraid.

Shocked because he didn't expect Jun Jiuqing to directly take action and not leave him any face.

Afraid because judging from that attack, Jun Jiuqing's abilities were clearly above his!

*If Jun Jiuqing used more strength just now, then—*

At that moment, Dantai Chen's face flashed white and red, and it was incredulous. At this point, he couldn't tell if Jun Jiuqing took action because he wanted to maintain the Beiming royal family's authority or... to help Shangguan Yue!

If it were the former, it would be fine as he could just admit his mistake and apologize for it. But if it were the latter... Would it not mean that he had already offended Jun Jiuqing?

"Crown Prince, please forgive me. I-I just saw my daughter being bullied, and I was rash... Hence, I forgot we're still in the hall..." said Dantai Chen forcefully, wanting to explain himself.

"I can't control who bullies your daughter, but you can't take action here!" Jun Jiuqing was too lazy to hear the other man ramble on, and he directly interrupted him.

Dantai Chen felt even more indignant. *If I had known this earlier... I really shouldn't have directly taken action.*

Even though Shangguan Yue had also released her force, she did it silently and didn't attract anyone else's attention. In contrast, his previous palm directly gave the other party evidence against him.

Dantai Ruoli was also stunned by the scene in front of her. She had always been doted on, and she had the last say in the Taiyu Dynasty, so she was long spoiled. Hence, she hadn't been able to restrain herself even after coming here.

Until just now when she personally witnessed her own father's move being easily destroyed by Jun Jiuqing's one attack, she then realized that this Beiming Dynasty indeed had the ability to be arrogant.

Chu Liuyue's lips curled up slightly, and she smiled delightfully. "It seems like Senior Dantai and everyone else from the Taiyu Dynasty are a little feisty. Why don't they wait until the end before they enter Ancient Phoenix Mountain? I'm afraid it'll be inappropriate to enter with so much anger within them, right?"

When Dantai Chen heard this, his heart tightened. *This Shangguan Yue is indeed cunning! She managed to get the front position because of my words, yet she actually wants Taiyu to be last?*

"No—"

"That makes sense." Ning Yuan—who had been observing the entire time—suddenly spoke and agreed to it.

“Since this is so, our Dongning can be third.” On the other side, Gongsun Xiao changed his mind when he saw this scene. Even though he wanted to be as forward as possible, the situation was complicated, and it was best not to cause so much trouble.

He thought for a moment and agreed to it. “Brother Ning, then it’s fine if we go behind you since you’re right after Tianling, right?”

Other than the Taiyu Dynasty, everyone else naturally had no issues with it.

Dantai Chen held it in until his lungs were about to explode.

It was fine if Shangguan Yue was the only one who said this, but Ning Yuan and Gongsun Xiao all nodded in agreement right after, so what else could he say?

One had to know that out of all these dynasties, their Taiyu Dynasty was only stronger than the Tianling Dynasty. How would he dare to openly go against the rest?

Chu Liuyue looked up and glanced at Dantai Chen. “Senior Dantai, what do you think?”

Dantai Chen swallowed the bloody aura tumbling in his throat. “This is... great!”

### **Chapter 950: Are You Not Going In?**

Chu Liuyue’s eyes curled up. “That’s good... Everyone is happy!”

Dantai Chen felt like his heart was harshly hammered, and he felt suffocated! *Everyone is happy... Who is happy with you?*

Originally, he wanted to take this chance to humiliate Shangguan Yue in public, but he didn't expect to shoot himself in the foot and cause himself to suffer.

He was the last to go in and was a whole 16 hours away from the first group! That was almost a day away!

*When we get in, perhaps all the good items will have been snatched away by the people in front! Only some scraps will be left for us! But everyone else other than us have expressed their agreement now, so what else can I do?* Dantai Chen took a deep breath in and suppressed his anger with much difficulty.

"Father, are you okay?" asked Dantai Ruoli worriedly.

Dantai Chen shook his head. *I'm not injured, but my face has been completely thrown away! If it weren't for the opening of Ancient Phoenix Mountain, I definitely wouldn't continue staying here!*

"It's all my fault. If it weren't because I was too impulsive, this wouldn't have happened..." Tears welled up in Dantai Ruoli's eyes as if she blamed herself very much.

Yu Zefeng—who was sitting beside her—felt his heart ache when he saw this and couldn't help but gently comfort her. "Ruoli, how can you blame yourself? You didn't do anything wrong! The one in the wrong is—"

That name tumbled in his throat. Thinking of the previous scene, Yu Zefeng still swallowed those words. "Anyway, you can't blame yourself for this. Don't be upset."

Dantai Chen sighed and gently patted her shoulders. "Zefeng is right. We've long had a grudge against them. Even if you don't say anything today, they won't be nice to us."

That Shangguan Yue was very arrogant!

Dantai Ruoli sniffed and rapidly glanced at the other side before rapidly retracting her gaze and biting her lips. "Father, that Shangguan Yue didn't dare to show everyone, which means that her words were definitely a lie! She didn't even memorize those ninth-grade Xuan formations!"

She lowered her voice to the minimum.

The hall was as noisy as usual at this point, so not many people heard her words.

*Shangguan Yue purposely used her identity as an excuse to rage. It's definitely because she wants to hide this incident!*

Dantai Chen closed his eyes. "Don't worry. I'll definitely take revenge!"

...

After the entry order to Ancient Phoenix Mountain was settled, the crowd finalized some details next. The main point was how the strong warriors from the few dynasties were going to work together to open Ancient Phoenix Mountain's barrier and what they had to take note of after they entered.

After the discussion, the crowd set off for Ancient Phoenix Mountain together!

...

This Ancient Phoenix Mountain was situated behind Lin Zhou City. In other words, this vast Lin Zhou City was built close to Ancient Phoenix Mountain.

There were many mountains which had majestic peaks, and it formed a natural defensive barrier.

Reaching the foot of Ancient Phoenix Mountain, it was already close to evening.

The sun gradually set, and its remaining glow outlined the rise and fall of Ancient Phoenix Mountain.

As the ball of red fire was slowly being swallowed by the dark mountain, the sky gradually darkened.

The strong warriors from the five dynasties were all prepared!

Chu Liuyue raised her eyes.

A brilliant barrier covered the giant Ancient Phoenix Mountain and looked formidable!

She held her breath in. *This is... the suppression of a strong warrior that had stepped into the legendary realm.*

Mu Hongyu softly asked, "Liuyue, are you really not going in with us?"