

The Good 671

Chapter 671: You Won't Die if You Don't Seek Death (2)

From the moment Shen Yanxiao appeared, Long Yue became weird. He pretended to be calm and put on airs that a prince ought to possess as he looked at Shen Yanxiao. However, the slight trace of fluster within his eyes betrayed his current stoic expression.

Li Qi believed Shen Yanxiao to have a weak and timid temperament when she remained silent. As a result, he became even more confident and his words flew out without any holding back.

"The Emperor assigned you this city so it's not for you to be a tyrant. And why are you being so stingy? Are these buns even fit for human consumption? How did you have the cheek to bring these out to serve the prince and the state teacher? You're really an uncultured brat."

"Why? It's not to your taste?" Shen Yanxiao smiled and asked.

"Why are you asking the obvious? Quick, throw these out and serve us properly. The Longxuan Empire has provided you so much preferential treatment and resources, so I don't believe you do not have anything better. It is most likely you are too stingy and unwilling to bring them out. Such an inexperienced brat you are, how can you even manage a city with such a narrow mindset?" Li Qi angrily spoke.

Shen Yanxiao raised her eyebrows as she felt that what he said was simply ridiculous.

Why was she unaware of any of the preferential treatment the Longxuan Empire had provided her? And where were those resources he mentioned?

"My apologies, I only have these buns and nothing else." Forbearance was one thing, but for her to obey, that was impossible.

"You!" Li Qi was aggravated. This Shen Yanxiao was honestly too uncultured.

"Do you believe that I will report to the Emperor that you embezzled the funds that were allocated to you and deliberately tortured the envoy?!"

Shen Yanxiao indifferently said, "Please do as you wish."

If you wish to complain, please do so as soon as possible. He can say whatever he wants when he returns, as long as he does not get in her way.

Li Qi widened his eyes in anger. He did not expect Shen Yanxiao to answer as such.

Pei Yuan's gaze had been locked onto the demon with an unpleasant expression from the start, and when Li Qi was about to explode, he suddenly pointed at the demon.

"He's a demon."

The moment Pei Yuan said that, everyone blanked out.

Shen Yanxiao's heart dropped. How did Pei Yuan know that he was a demon?

“State teacher, what did you say?” Li Qi looked at Pei Yuan in disbelief as he suspected if his ears had failed him.

Pei Yuan suddenly stood up and retrieved his staff from his spatial ring.

“Even though a high-ranked demon’s human form can deceive others, don’t even think of hiding from my mythical beast’s perception.” Pei Yuan raised his staff and immediately launched an attack.

When the attack came, the demon immediately dodged, and his ghostly silhouette caused the envoys to be shocked.

Shen Yanxiao was secretly surprised. She honestly did not expect Pei Yuan to possess a mythical beast. The transformation of a high-ranked demon was very powerful and unless it was a supreme expert or a high-ranked magical beast, no one could detect them. Before that, Shen Yanxiao never thought that there would be any powerful character in the team of envoys from the capital.

Pei Yuan had maintained silence throughout this whole time so she thought he had not discovered anything. But...

Dammit!

Pei Yuan was not worried even though the demon had dodged his attack. Instead, he looked towards Shen Yanxiao and said with a calm expression, “After I entered the city, my mythical beast had sensed the large number of demons inside. Shen Yanxiao, you clearly mentioned in the letter that you had cleared out the city of any demons, so what’s with these demons!?”

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“State teacher, you’re saying that there are a lot of... demons here?” When Li Qi heard the word ‘demon’, he shivered in fear and hid behind Pei Yuan.

“That’s right, the number of demons here are very high. Moreover, the majority of them are transformed high-ranked demons. I believe Shen Yanxiao ought to provide an explanation. Do you know the existence of these demons here, yes or no?” Pei Yuan looked at Shen Yanxiao with a stern expression,

Shen Yanxiao secretly gnashed her teeth. Pei Yuan’s appearance was definitely out of her expectations.

She was unable to answer Pei Yuan’s question. There were basically no living humans in the Forsaken Land, and if she were to say she was unaware, she was unable to explain why she had allowed so many unidentified humans into the city. But if she were to say she knew...

That would absolutely be the end!

“I had already found this city to be weird. You are merely a young child and yet, you were able to eliminate all the demons in a main city in a single month. This is unprecedented even throughout the Brilliance Continent, and even if tens of thousand military personnels were utilized, it would be difficult to accomplish that feat. I saw that your city walls have been completed and I believe you must have started long ago. In that case, how did you have the time to clear the demons? Therefore, I had remained silent all along and monitored them in the dark. I believe there are no lack of transformed

demons in this city, am I right?" Pei Yuan sneered. In fact, what he had thought was completely in-line with Shen Yanxiao's concern. He was not asking for an answer from her as he already had an answer.

It was certain that Shen Yanxiao knew the existence of these high-ranked demons!

There was actually someone who dared to join hands with the demons. That was simply unbelievable!

"Shen-Shen Yanxiao! Why aren't you answering the state teacher's question. Did... did you really let demons remain in the city?" Li Qi's complexion had already turned pale from fright. He could not believe that he was surrounded by demons!

Shen Yanxiao frowned. No matter what she answered, Pei Yuan already arrived at a conclusion so anymore explanation was futile.

Even after so much planning went into concealing the demons, she did not expect someone who possesses a mythical beast to be among the team of envoys!

"Your answer does not matter. On the account that you are young and ignorant, I shall let you go for the time being. However, the demons in this city must be eliminated. Today, with my mythical beast, the White Marsh as the lead, I order you and your men to eliminate the demons in this city. I will definitely request for mercy before the Emperor for your sake and to spare your life." Pei Yuan revealed a lofty aura and a noble, virtuous posture.

"State teacher! This brat deceived the Emperor and joined hands together with the demons. She has even led us into this dangerous place. How can you speak up on her behalf? A disloyal and unjust person should be cut into pieces!" With Pei Yuan by his side, Li Qi viciously scolded Shen Yanxiao. If he knew beforehand that the demons in the city had yet to be eradicated, he would never have come even if he was beaten to death.

It was that brat's fault for unable to distinguish the difference between humans and demons, thus causing them to be in such a dangerous predicament.

Shen Yanxiao narrowed her eyes and remained silent. She then stared at Pei Yuan and Li Qi and all of a sudden, she lowered her head. A moment later, a wave of laughter could be heard.

"Forget it, this is how my character is so why should I care so much?" A low whisper sounded from her mouth.

Pei Yuan and the others were confused by Shen Yanxiao's strange behavior so they could only stare at her.

Shen Yanxiao looked up the next second and an odd smile could be seen on her gorgeous face.

"State teacher Pei Yuan, do you know how many demons there were in the city at first?"

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Pei Yuan furrowed his brows in deep thought.

Shen Yanxiao did not wait for an answer before she said, "Let me tell you the answer. At first, there were 30800 low-ranked demons, 6790 intermediate-ranked demons, and 231 high-ranked demons!"

The moment the numbers were revealed, Pei Yuan and the others' expression slightly changed.

The number of demons in the five main cities of the Forsaken Land was indeed higher than ordinary cities. However, no one had really given it a count. But when Shen Yanxiao revealed the number thirty thousand, it stunned everyone.

Over thirty thousand demons! What a terrifying number it was!

In ordinary cities, the number of demons would not exceed a few thousand, at most it would not exceed ten thousand. The number of high-ranked demons would also be in the two digits. But even with such a number, it had caused the four countries a number of splitting headaches. Even at the cost of a large amount of money and manpower, they had barely managed to reclaim three cities.

However, the number of demons in Sun Never Sets far exceeded the total number of demons in the other three cities!

Not to mention that Shen Yanxiao had only brought over a hundred men into the Forsaken Land. In normal sense, it was basically impossible to reclaim a city in a single month even with a hundred thousand men!

Shen Yanxiao smiled, and as she looked at their astonished expression, she slowly asked, "Does the state teacher know how many demons there are currently in this city?"

Pei Yuan's heart skipped a beat. He did not expect there to be so many demons here in the city, and even though he was unaware of how much Shen Yanxiao had managed to clear, it was hard for him to handle even if only ten percent remained. When he dared to claim that he would eliminate all the demons here, it was because Pei Yuan assumed there were not many demons left. He merely saw several high-ranked demons in the vicinity, so in his mind, it was not impossible to deal with them with his abilities and with the White Marsh's assistance.

Shen Yanxiao's expression at that very moment caused an ominous premonition to rise up from his heart.

Shen Yanxiao chuckled and said, "30800 low-ranked demons, 6790 intermediate-ranked demons and 231... high-ranked demons."

Boom!

Shen Yanxiao's words were similar to an atomic bomb dropping into Pei Yuan's mind. The number of demons in the city was exactly the same!

"Impossible! I only saw a few high-ranked demons. Plus, the majority of this city is in ruins, so it is impossible to conceal so many low and intermediate-ranked demons. They are unable to transform so how could they avoid my detection!" Pei Yuan did not believe her. What she said was too terrifying and if it was true, not to mention eliminating them, all of them would just turn into food for these demons.

Shen Yanxiao suddenly relaxed and leisurely looked at the slightly panicking Pei Yuan before she sighed and shook her head.

"State teacher, since you know I dared to keep these high-ranked demons, how could you not believe that I have hid the rest away?"

“You!” Pei Yuan felt anything but calm. Shen Yanxiao’s current attitude was evidently different from her previous facade. Previously, that little girl had repeatedly tolerated their farce. However, she now revealed the relationship between her and the demons without any hesitation with an arrogant expression on her face.

The experienced Pei Yuan knew that this was a dangerous sign.

In fact, Pei Yuan who was known for his cleverness had unknowingly brought upon a huge disaster on himself and his group.

He should have never, ever mentioned a single word about demons.

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Before Pei Yuan mentioned the demons, Shen Yanxiao had no choice but to exercise restraint. However, after he opened the demon pandora’s box, it implied that the Emperor would be informed that Shen Yanxiao was partnering with demons. By that time, the Emperor would decide whether she could build Sun Never Sets or not.

Sun Never Sets would not be hers any longer. To make it worse, she would be punished for the crime.

Naturally, Shen Yanxiao would not accept such a doomed situation.

Since the fact could no longer be concealed, she would rather put all her cards on the table! She did not have to be patient and endure all these insults anymore. All she needed to do was to make sure that every single one of the envoys would stay in Sun Never Sets forever!

“I am truly surprised by your perception, state teacher. I had thought that I could throw you off the scent and that would be the end of the matter. But I did not foresee that you would see through me. Such being the case, I no longer have to conceal or hide anything.” Shen Yanxiao waved her hand casually and stared at Li Qi, who was hiding behind Pei Yuan, with a grin as she continued in an unhurried tone.

“It is truly sad that I cannot follow your orders to eliminate the demons here, because all the demons in Sun Never Sets are my citizens!” Shen Yanxiao laughed out loud. She raised her chin with absolute arrogance.

“Your citizens? You treat demons as your citizens? Have you lost your mind? Don’t you know that demons eat humans? Are you crazy?! No, you are a demon yourself, aren’t you? You are a demon in a human form!” Li Qi cried out in alarm. The way Shen Yanxiao looked at him made him feel like a rabbit that was the end of a viper’s fangs.

Shen Yanxiao smiled and addressed Li Qi who turned pale. “Demon? No, I prefer you to call me the Lord of Demons.”

“But none matters now. Since you have uncovered my secret, then before I finish Sun Never Sets, you will have to stay in Sun Never Sets.” Shen Yanxiao smiled so brilliantly that she looked like an innocent lily, but her words were like a poisonous poppy.

“You want us to stay here?” Pei Yuan tightly held his staff. He told himself that he had misjudged the situation. As he had expected, the kid was nothing ordinary. He had to admire her for her endurance from before and her current resolution.

“That is right.” Shen Yanxiao had no intention of covering up her purpose.

If they were let go, she would suffer a complete loss. Only by detaining them here could her secret be kept.

“If you do this, the Emperor will notice something wrong soon enough. A large group of people has come with us to the Forsaken Land for an inspection. If we do not go back after the due date, the Emperor will be suspicious. By then, you will still be doomed.” Pei Yuan tried hard to steady his breaths. He had the Bai Ze with him. That being said, he dared not to fling caution to the wind yet. He was not sure whether the two hundred plus high-ranked demons Shen Yanxiao mentioned existed in reality. If they really did exist, he would just be sending himself to a pit of doom if he acted rashly.

Shen Yanxiao blinked with a smile. “State teacher, you don’t have to worry about that. I really have to thank you for bringing me this get-out-of-jail-for-free card. Previously, I had some concerns that would hold me back. But now, with this get-out-of-jail-for-free card, I believe the Emperor will not do anything to harm me even if he notices something is off.”

As she uttered the last words, Shen Yanxiao turned her eyes to Long Yue who had been standing on the side in a daze.

Long Yue was dumbstruck by what he heard. He stared at Shen Yanxiao as she moved her lips with a dull look on his face.

“The only prince in the Longxuan Empire, the future crown prince. With such a hostage, do you think the Emperor can deal with me the hard way?”

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“If I remember it right, the Emperor is in his sixties. He had his son late in his life, and this is his only son. Should anything happen to Prince Long Yue, wouldn’t the royal lineage Longxuan Empire end with just him?” At that moment, Shen Yanxiao was like a demon from hell. She delivered this appalling remark in her bewitching tone.

Pei Yuan glared at Shen Yanxiao in disbelief. He could not imagine that those words could come out from a teenage girl.

“How dare you! As long as I, Pei Yuan, am still alive, there is nothing you can do to Long Yue!” Pei Yuan dragged Long Yue, who was still standing there in a complete daze, over and shielded Long Yue behind his back.

“You may have demons to help you. However, with the powers of White Marsh, you cannot stop me if I want to take Long Yue away!”

“State... state teacher, what about me? You cannot leave me behind. You must take me with you!” Knowing that Pei Yuan planned on running away with Long Yue, Li Qi felt his legs turning weak. He was

no fool. He had learned clearly from Shen Yanxiao's attitude that this girl was far from a coward. She was a devil! A devil!

Li Qi felt his legs were unable to support him as he thought of how he had verbally abused Shen Yanxiao from the moment they met. If Pei Yuan did not care about his life, then there would be no way out for him at all!

Shen Yanxiao raised her eyebrows and looked at Pei Yuan. She then chuckled and shook her head.

"State teacher, do you think that you can leave just because you have a mythical beast with you?" Shen Yanxiao sized Pei Yuan up and down as if he was stating a funny fact.

Pei Yuan did not respond, as the White Marsh was all he had. High-ranked demons were powerful but it was realistically impossible for them to stop White Marsh if they were to run. Pei Yuan was confident that escaping with Long Yue would not be a hard matter even if he could not eliminate the demons in the city.

Pei Yuan summoned White Marsh at once.

In an instant, a mythical beast that was complete white emerged in the sky. The mythical beast had the shape of a horse with two horns on its head. The beast spread its wings, and its large body quickly covered up the sky.

"A mythical beast... I see. State teacher Pei Yuan, you must trust in the speed of your mythical beast." Shen Yanxiao looked up at the White Marsh in the sky with a wry look in her eyes. With the corners of her mouth raised, she said to Pei Yuan arrogantly, "But I wonder, state teacher Pei Yuan, if White Marsh can escape the eight mythical beasts I have?"

As soon as Shen Yanxiao finished her sentence, the five standing behind Shen Yanxiao summoned their mythical beasts.

The Azure Dragon, White Tiger, Black Tortoise, Qilin, the Yamata no Orochi, the Vermilion Bird who had been with Shen Yanxiao for this entire time, and the two Phoenixes that had arrived without anyone knowing.

The eight mythical beasts immediately changed to their beast forms at once. For a moment, up in the sky, White Marsh was surrounded by the Vermilion Bird, the Azure Dragon, Qilin, and the two Phoenixes.

White Marsh was formidable, but when faced with eight mythical beasts that had comparable strength, there was no hope.

One against eight.

The outcome was clear.

Pei Yuan was speechless.

He stared at the five mythical beasts in the sky with a dropped jaw and then shifted his gaze to the Black Tortoise, White Tiger, and the Yamata no Orochi on the ground. Looking at the scene, he found it hard to find his voice.

He had never thought that someone could summon eight mythical beasts with one order!

Eight mythical beasts! The total number of tamed mythical beasts in the Longxuan Empire was nothing more than this.

Looking at the eight mythical beasts, Pei Yuan recognized the Azure Dragon, White Tiger, Vermilion Bird, Black Tortoise, and Qilin, the guardian mythical beasts of the five great aristocratic families in the Longxuan Empire!

Chapter 676: You Won't Die if You Don't Seek Death (7)

"You have obtained the Vermilion Bird!" The shock was visible in Pei Yuan's eyes. He had heard about the five great aristocrat families inviting the Sage from the God Realm to awake the mythical beasts, but he did not learn where the five mythical beasts went. Surprisingly, in the Forsaken Land, all of the five mythical beasts had presented themselves!

"Azure Dragon, White Tiger, Black Tortoise, Qilin... the mythical beasts from the five great aristocrat families are all here. I believe the other four great aristocrat families must have people here. Since you are all from the Longxuan Empire, are you going to sit by and do nothing when the rebellious Shen Yanxiao kidnaps Prince Long Yue?" Pei Yuan felt he had lost all hope. He could find a way out if there was merely one mythical beast, the Vermilion Bird. But, why would the other four mythical beasts appear here as well?

Could the rumours of the five great aristocrat families being on bad terms false?

"Alas." Someone standing behind Shen Yanxiao heaved a sigh.

Hearing Pei Yuan's cry of desperation, Qi Xia stepped up and removed the disguise mask he was wearing.

"Are you Qi Xia from the Qilin Family?" One look and Pei Yuan recognized Qi Xia. In all the major commercial businesses in the Longxuan Empire, the Qilin Family accounted for a large proportion of them. The Qilin Family had business with the royal family as well. Pei Yuan had encountered Qi Xia several times in the imperial palace. He appreciated this young talent.

"Yes I am," Qi Xia replied.

Then, Yan Yu, Yang Xi, and Tang Nazhi removed their mask as well.

Li Xiaowei hesitated for a moment but did not take off his mask.

"You... how can it be you? Why would you help Shen Yanxiao? Didn't you hear her traitorous words?" Pei Yuan looked at the four young men in front of them. All of them were the elites from the four great aristocrat families who were also the potential successors of their families.

However, they were siding with Shen Yanxiao. What was more curious was that they showed no objection to Shen Yanxiao's traitorous words. Instead, they were helping Shen Yanxiao surrounding White Marsh.

Pei Yuan could not figure out why they would do this.

“Yes, I did.” Qi Xia nodded with a smile.

“Then why would you help her?”

Qi Xia looked at his friends, shrugged, and turned to Pei Yuan. “I have always been respectful to the state teacher for your integrity, but today I hold you in contempt.”

“What did you say?” Pei Yuan had always thought of himself as someone aloof from politics and material pursuits. He found it unacceptable to be criticized by someone from the younger generation.

Qi Xia answered, “State teacher, let me ask you. Ever since Xiaoxiao took over Sun Never Sets, has the Emperor given her one gold coin? Or just any help in general?”

Pei Yuan was dumbstruck. He hesitated for a long moment but eventually found the courage to shake his head.

“Then tell me this. When that envoy there stood outside the city gate rambling mindlessly about how Xiaoxiao was squandering away resources, why didn’t you, the state teacher, stand up and seek justice for Xiaoxiao with your so-called integrity? You know better than anyone that the construction of Sun Never Sets has nothing to do with the Emperor. Xiaoxiao took care of everything here by herself. We will not talk about the lack of material support for her. Isn’t the fact that Sun Never Sets does not enjoy the right to use the resources at the Forsaken Land ridiculous?”

“It was fortunate of me to have met the former champion that came to the Forsaken Land. What I heard from him and what I see now are completely different. Not only had he gained great support from the Longxuan Empire, but he could also control all the resources gained from the Forsaken Land at will. Everything was oriented around building a city in the Forsaken Land. But why, when it came to Sun Never Sets and Xiaoxiao, everything shifted?”

Chapter 677: You Won’t Die if You Don’t Seek Death (8)

“You offered no help, yet you dare to stand there and rob other peoples’ hard work? You claim yourself to be a man of integrity. So answer me this, why did you turn a blind eye towards this blatant injustice?” Qi Xia went on with each of his words continuing to drive a knife into Pei Yuan’s heart.

Pei Yuan felt deeply ashamed, because everything Qi Xia had said was right. The treatment Shen Yanxiao had received was much harsher than that of the other champions, maybe even to the extent of cruel. It was also true that Li Qi’s accusation was filled with malice and spite despite the other party being undeserving of such harsh words.

Pei Yuan was trying to dodge Qi Xia’s piercing glare. The latter just continued with a smile, “The Emperor does not like Xiaoxiao, and you don’t like her just because she is a Warlock. From what I have gathered just from this short instance of meeting you, state teacher, the goal of your trip here is to not inspect, but to secretly plant someone here to take over Sun Never Sets, am I right?”

Pei Yuan was taken aback by the truth suddenly spilling out. Qi Xia’s intelligence was known across the country, but it was still a surprise that he could have such penetrating insight towards the situation.

“You never planned to accept her and yet, you wish to take away Sun Never Sets after she has laboriously constructed it without a single bit of help from the empire? State teacher, don’t you think

you are being quite underhanded?” Qi Xia’s smile contained the essence of chilling frost. These were statements Shen Yanxiao could never say, but nevermind, he would do it on her behalf.

He would speak out of all her injustice and the discrimination she had suffered!

“You are willing to treat a girl in this despicable manner just because of her profession. I am sorry but I cannot stand it, nor accept it. I am a proud citizen of the Longxuan Empire. That being said, I will not side with anyone that would stoop so low,” Qi Xia spoke eloquently. Pei Yuan was rendered speechless. He felt too ashamed to even show his face.

Each of those words was a slap to his face.

Indeed, he knew very well how unfair this whole matter was to Shen Yanxiao. Yet, he still silently allowed this mistreatment to continue within his sights and let Li Qi continue his bullying.

“Okay, now that I have given a clear account of the reasons behind my actions, with Yan Yu and the others sharing the same thoughts, listen to me, state teacher, do not fight us. If you continue to be stubborn in your erred way, we will order our mythical beasts to take you down.” Qi Xia let out a threatening smile.

Pei Yuan felt hopeless. The five mythical beasts of the five great aristocrat families were enough to overwhelm him. To make it worse, three other mythical beasts were eyeing him with hostility. He had no choice.

“Prince Long Yue is innocent. If you can let us leave, I will not speak of today’s matter.” Pei Yuan closed his eyes in defeat. He had compromised.

Shen Yanxiao looked at the solemn and stirring look on Pei Yuan’s face and at that dim-witted prince and said, “No.”

“You do not believe me? I, Pei Yuan, may have been muddle-headed for a moment but I have always kept my word. I will never go back on my words!” Pei Yuan said, worked up that someone would further slight his already damaged integrity.

Shen Yanxiao giggled. “This has nothing to do with whether I trust you or not. You can control your mouth but can you control other people’s mouths? Besides, truth be told, there is someone I never plan on letting go of your side. Well, previously, I was thinking about dealing with that person after you go back to the capital, but now...”

Shen Yanxiao’s voice lowered bit by bit. The next second, she disappeared from the crowd’s sight.

Chapter 678: Control the Emperor and Command the Nobles (1)

In a blink of an eye, she had arrived behind Li Qi, who was already weak in his knees and had already collapsed to the ground. Pulling his collar, she dragged Li Qi up.

“This has saved me so much trouble.”

“Ah!!” Li Qi was pulled up to Shen Yanxiao’s eye level. The once presumptuous Li Qi had turned pale and was soaked in a cold sweat.

“Shen Yanxiao, what are you doing?” Pei Yuan was frightened. Overwhelmed by the eight mythical beasts, though, he did not dare to act rashly.

Shen Yanxiao raised her eyebrows and cast a glance to the hard-pressed Li Qi. A trace of a smile climbed to her mouth.

“What am I doing? To seek revenge, of course.”

Pei Yuan was surprised. Almost immediately, he remembered how Li Qi had verbally insulted Shen Yanxiao when they had just arrived at Sun Never Sets. The reason Shen Yanxiao had not said anything then, was not because she had a good temper, but because she was being cautious. Pei Yuan was filled with regret. If he knew this would be the case, he would not for the life of him upset this sleeping dragon.

Since Shen Yanxiao had no more of such concerns, she would of course not forgive Li Qi who had spoken rudely to her.

“State teacher, help me! Help me!” Li Qi struggled fiercely, begging for help from Pei Yuan.

Pei Yuan felt sorry. “Li Qi has offended you. But, please, for the sake of the fact that he is an official of the Longxuan Empire, let him go.”

Shen Yanxiao chuckled. “Such a pity. I am not the type of person who will return evil with good. Frankly, I never planned on letting him go. Even if this didn’t happen, I would have sent someone to the capital to kill Li Qi after you went back.”

She had endured the humiliation because otherwise she might endanger the people she cared about. However, eating a humble pie was a temporary solution. Nobody could step away unharmed after they had offended her.

Pei Yuan had more to say but Shen Yanxiao went on, “State Teacher Pei Yuan, I don’t think you have the right to negotiate. I think you’d better concern yourself with the safety of the prince and yourself instead of worrying about this loser.”

Shen Yanxiao spoke right to the point. Pei Yuan might want to help Li Qi but he had to protect Long Yue.

Pei Yuan’s silence cut off the last hope of survival for Li Qi.

He shed tears in misery and begged for mercy.

But Shen Yanxiao never planned to let him go.

“You like to make irresponsible remarks, don’t you? Let’s see if you are bold enough to say anything now.” Shen Yanxiao kicked Li Qi to the ground and looked down at the wailing and whining man.

Naturally, Li Qi could not act with arrogance. He knelt and asked for pardon. “No, I dare not to. City lord, please forgive me. I was wrong. I have a cheap mouth. A great man rarely stoops to pettiness or harbors grievance for past wrongs. Please do not fuss about a piece of rubbish like me.”

Shen Yanxiao kicked him away with a cold grin.

“Take him down and lock him up. Do not give him food or water without my order.”

She would not beat him or kill him. She would let him starve and thirst to death, waiting for his death to come slowly in a dark corner.

Killing him with one blow would be very efficient but that would be too easy on him.

That high-ranked demon waiting on the side stepped forward to yank Li Qi up. The latter was still struggling.

Hearing Li Qi's cries of misery, Pei Yuan's expression was awful.

Shen Yanxiao turned to Pei Yuan and Long Yue after she was done with Li Qi.

"I present to you two options. First option, do as I say and behave, write a letter to that old man in the capital, and tell him that you want to stay in the Forsaken Land for some time. The reason is that you have everything under control here and that you will slowly shift the power to you. If you work well with me, you will still be regarded as honorable guests in Sun Never Sets."

Chapter 679: Control the Emperor and Command the Nobles (2)

"The second option is that if you are unwilling to cooperate, I will imprison you and threaten the Emperor with Prince Long Yue's life. Be honorable guests or be prisoners. Your choice." Shen Yanxiao folded her arms in front of her chest, remaining calm and composed as she stared at Pei Yuan.

It was up to Pei Yuan to choose the options presented before him.

Pei Yuan was well aware that if he refused to cooperate, his and Prince Long Yue's safety would not be guaranteed. Besides, it would be unwise to allow Shen Yanxiao to confront the Emperor. When the five great aristocrat families cooperated, not even the Emperor could win.

Pei Yuan heaved a sigh. "I will do as you tell me. I just hope you can keep your promise and not treat Prince Long Yue unfairly."

Those who adapt their actions to the times are wise. Shen Yanxiao preferred this kind of wise man.

"Do not worry. I always walk the talk."

"I hope so." There was nothing Pei Yuan could do. He regretted entering the Forsaken Land and for displaying his arrogance earlier. He had thought that he would have nothing to worry about in Sun Never Sets with White Marsh beside him. Now, he found those previous thoughts ridiculous.

"Good. Then, State Teacher Pei Yuan and Prince Long Yue, please enjoy your meal. State teacher, please also inform the soldiers that have come with you about the situation. Otherwise, I do not mind killing them all." Shen Yanxiao let out a sweet smile, turned around, and left with her five friends.

The eight mythical beasts withdrew as their masters left as well.

Pei Yuan was finally able to breathe after Shen Yanxiao was gone.

"State teacher." Long Yue looked awful. Just now, he dared not to even utter a single word, as if Shen Yanxiao had strangled him with her awe-inspiring words.

She was such a beautiful lady. Why would she give people the feeling that she was a devil?"

“Your Highness, do not panic. I will risk my life to protect you, Your Highness.” Pei Yuan looked at Long Yue with shame. He felt unworthy of his status as a state teacher since he could not even guarantee the safety of the prince.

The thought of them living in such a sinister place from now on depressed Pei Yuan. Sun Never Sets was filled with demons. No matter how he looked at it, Shen Yanxiao partnering with demons was shocking. At that moment, as far as Pei Yuan could tell, Shen Yanxiao was basically a demon.

He could only pray that one day in the future, he could find the chance to escape with Long Yue.

Long Yue nodded. He was the prince but he was still young. Faced with such a drastic change in situation, he had a difficult time adjusting. He had to count on Pei Yuan most of the time.

At the same time, he was struggling within. He had seen with his own eyes how cold Shen Yanxiao was and yet, he could not erase her pretty image from his heart.

“Alas, god bless the Longxuan Empire.” Pei Yuan heaved a heavy sigh with sadness obvious in his eyes.

...

After Shen Yanxiao was out of Pei Yuan’s sight, her expressions returned back to normal. Looking at the five speechless jerks behind her, she said with a laugh, “What is it?”

“Well, Xiaoxiao, it is today that I find out that you are incredibly bold.” Yan Yu looked at Shen Yanxiao and exclaimed.

“You abducted a prince of a country and used violence to threaten the state teacher. In the centuries of history of the Longxuan Empire, you must be the only one with the courage to do such a feat.” Yang Xi shared his comment with a complicated look.

“Are you trying to occupy the city to replace the king?” There was some strange light of excitement glistening in the depths of Tang Nazhi’s eyes.

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“Well, your Emperor seemed a bit fatuous. I see no reason for why he should not be replaced.” It was rare that Li Xiaowei would voice his opinion.

“Agree.” Qi Xia summarized all the above comments in one word.

Shen Yanxiao’s mouth twitched. On the surface, these beasts acted as if they were worried about her “potential” treason when in fact, she could tell from their joyful tones and happy looks that they were almost on the verge of cheering for her!

“Can you not use your brains to ponder about such useless issues? I just want to be the city lord of Sun Never Sets. I am not interested in becoming an Empress.” The five great aristocrat families enjoyed high prestige but they had always been loyal to the country. How come at their generation, each one of them had become so rebellious?

None of them was thinking about how to repay the country with unwavering loyalty. The only thing on their minds was to rise in revolt!

“Ah? Is that not part of your plan?” Tang Nazhi could not accept Shen Yanxiao’s answer.

She had kidnapped the prince and threatened the state teacher. Yet, Shen Yanxiao did not intend to conspire against the empire at all. This...

She was messing around with them, right?

“No, not now, not in the future.” Shen Yanxiao rolled her eyes at Tang Nazhi.

“Are you saying that you plan on releasing them back to the Longxuan Empire in the future?” Tang Nazhi stared at Shen Yanxiao.

Shen Yanxiao nodded. Was she supposed to keep them in Sun Never Sets and let them eat and drink for free forever? Come on, food was precious!

“Oh my god.” Tang Nazhi slapped his forehead. For the first time, he thought Shen Yanxiao had become naive.

“You don’t think that they will forgive our misdeeds by not killing them or just not plotting a rebellion, do you? Trust me, as soon as you send them back, they will gather troops in the capital to attack Sun Never Sets.” All the preparations had been done for a rebellion. How could she throw away such a perfect opportunity at this time? Did she even think about the consequences?

Shen Yanxiao looked at Tang Nazhi and the others that wished to speak but stopped themselves. She scratched her head and said, “You have made the matter too complicated. I just didn’t want them to leak the information about Sun Never Sets. That is why I have detained them. I am not thinking about anything else. As for how they will retaliate in the future, for me, that is not important. When Sun Never Sets is finished, if the Emperor has the ability, he sure can send troops here to attack me.” She believed that with the magic arrays and the obsidian city walls, the city could withstand some cannons from the Longxuan Empire.

She could just stand on the city wall and let the enemies blast at the wall for three years and not worry one bit.

She was just this confident. Let’s see what the Longxuan Empire is capable of!

“Don’t you think you are being too reckless?” Yan Yu was a bit worried. What Shen Yanxiao did today had crossed the line of monarchical power. It was not forgivable in any country to detain a prince.

“Reckless?” Shen Yanxiao smiled.

“I don’t care about the Emperor as long as he does not come and trouble me. As for that Pei Yuan, I don’t think he is a petty person. Also, there is another reason for letting them stay in Sun Never Sets.” Shen Yanxiao gazed at the Sun Never Sets’ ongoing construction. Light of hope was flickering in her eyes.

“I hope that they can see with their own eyes how the demons and humans are coexisting in harmony in Sun Never Sets. They can experience the details of coexisting with demons. I hope that everything here can change their notions about demons.”