

Refining 1511

Chapter 1511 – Spirit Summoning Ceremony

Turning to look back at the majestic palace, Lord Chengtian frowned and there was a dark look in his eyes.

In the past, the Imperial Clan had tried to gain power in the military many times, but none of the attempts were successful.

The Desolate King was more cautious this time.

He wanted to try again but he wanted to see hope and the possibility of success.

As such, this chess piece had to find his way onto the chess board.

Otherwise, he should just be destroyed right away without bringing additional trouble to the Imperial Clan.

The Desolate King had showed his take on the manner and Lord Chengtian could only remain silent and wait for the results.

Let's see if the Darkness Ruler, Ning Qin, had what it takes!

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The palace was silent after the Secret Guards made their way in.

Like Li Zhouyi thought, no one in the West Desolate would challenge the Desolate King.

However, he knew that the Darkness Ruler could not hide here forever and he would have to go out one day.

Nonetheless, this allowed him to buy time to make arrangements.

“Ning Qin, I requested an audience with the previous Desolate King. I asked him for a favor to appease the relationship with the Later Ye Family.”

Li Zhouyi slowly spoke but he was not confident at all.

The retired Desolate King did not interfere with national matters often, especially with regards to the military.

However, this was the only method he could think of right now.

Even though Li Zhouyi had regained his status as the Sixth Prince and he could contest for the throne, he was still fearful of the power of the Later Ye Family.

He knew his place here.

Qin Yu cupped his hands together, “Thank you, Your Highness.”

The frown on his face grew even deeper.

Despite the fact that no one raised the point, both of them knew that things would not be resolved so easily.

Furthermore, there was still no news from the Imperial Palace. This silence was abnormal.

The backing behind Hundred Saint, Lord Chengtian, had not contacted them either at this critical juncture.

Did he have to put himself forward and go through this test? If that was the case, being a turtle hiding in its shell of a palace was not his ideal action.

What should he do?

Qin Yu's mind spun quickly. He had a few thoughts...he shall wait till his enemies take action!

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With the Secret Guards of the Imperial Palace protecting Li Zhouyi's palace, his status appeared to be much higher.

This showed everyone that the Sixth Prince had completely redeemed himself and the Desolate King now acknowledged him.

As such, people had to start to treat Li Zhouyi differently. The future succession of the throne made things more confusing.

However, in their opinion, Li Zhouyi had to pass a test first.

If the Darkness Ruler Ning Qin died, this would be his biggest blow. No one would want to get closer to him. Even if he redeemed himself again, he would no longer have a chance.

Therefore, this was not just a simple assassination because of hatred.

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"This is not a simple assassination." The Eldest Princess muttered with a cold expression. Her eyes were as deep as a lake and she said, "The Later Ye Family wants revenge but they are also showing that they are against the Imperial Clan interfering with the military."

"I want to mend my relationship with the Later Ye Family and also deliver a blow to Li Zhouyi such that he would never be able to redeem himself."

She turned around and stared at the Imperial Palace from afar. There was a look admiration but also mockery in her eyes as she said, "Although His Majesty has already showed his thoughts, he wants to do another trial and see if the Darkness Ruler Ning Qin has what it takes to be his chess piece."

"As such, we have to kill him quickly before the decree from the Imperial Palace arrives. We must conduct it in the time allocated by His Majesty."

There was one thing that the Eldest Princess did not say.

This was also a test for her.

Killing Ning Qin would mean that he was not a suitable chess piece, and hence, she would not be blamed for what happened previously.

Otherwise, it would be regarded as her having defied the Desolate King's wishes. Even if she was the Eldest Princess, she would be punished for it.

These were the rules!

The person behind her frowned, "Your Highness, please rest assured. I will finish this."

The Eldest Princess nodded, "I naturally believe you because I picked you for this task. Go along, I will abide by my promise to you once you complete this."

"Your Highness, please wait for the good news!"

The sound of footsteps got further away as the man took his leave.

There was a sense of helplessness and ridicule on the Eldest Princess' face. If she had a choice, she would not want to take the risk.

After all, there was no going back once she released the arrow from her bow.

The Darkness Ruler, Ning Qin, had to die.

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One of the two main generals who led the troops to the Tomb of the Barbarian King, Ye Qin, had died.

Naturally, the news that was announced to the public was that Ye Qin died during a secret mission for the capital. They would not reveal the details of the mission.

As a peak-level Ruler and a respected general in the army, the Old Ye Family would not stay silent about his death.

The Spirit Summoning Ceremony was to be held two days later.

This was a ceremony that was only held for important generals in the army whose statuses were high enough.

A heroic spirit would not perish after the cultivator's death if it was injected into the military spirits of the empire. It would gain immortality from the empire.

Only a respected individual or someone who was closely connected to one would be granted this privilege.

Once they were given the invitation, those who underwent the Spirit Summoning Ceremony would be regarded with the highest honor.

The heroic spirit of a general who gave his life for the empire would be recognized.

Li Zhouyi was a prince who sought after the highly contested throne. It was only natural that he was invited to the Spirit Summoning Ceremony.

This also showed how much the empire valued the military.

However, it came as a surprise that Qin Yu also received an invitation from the Old Ye Family. Something was very wrong here.

“There’s something wrong!” Li Zhouyi frowned as he started to feel nervous, “You obviously didn’t have much interaction with Ye Qin. I am afraid that there will be trouble since the Old Ye Family invited you over.”

Qin Yu sighed deeply, “Your Highness, I cannot turn down the invitation.”

After learning about the Spirit Summoning Ceremony, Qin Yu knew that people would take it as him disrespecting Ye Qin if he rejected the invitation.

He would be directly inviting the Old Ye Family to be his enemy.

Thinking about it, if the chess piece that the Imperial Clan was about to plant in the military offended both Ye families, what would his future be like?

The Imperial Palace may just abandon Qin Yu and change their plans.

The Imperial Clan was obviously trying to strengthen its power in the military, but it definitely would not want to create chaos there.

The reason why was very simple.

Li Zhouyi laughed bitterly because he knew that Qin Yu was right. Even if there was an issue and he knew there was going to be trouble, the Darkness Ruler could not reject the invitation from the Old Ye Family to attend the Spirit Summoning Ceremony.

Despite knowing that it was a trap, he had to bite the bullet and jump in!

“Ning Qin, I will do my best to help you. The Later Ye Family would not allow it if anyone tried to stir up trouble during the Spirit Summoning Ceremony.

“Be careful. Maybe things might turn out smoothly.”

Qin Yu nodded but remained silent. However, he knew that this was a futile dream from Li Zhouyi.

The other party had already taken action and it was obvious that they had a plan. Qin Yu just did not know what they were going to do.

Very soon, the day of the Spirit Summoning Ceremony arrived.

Li Zhouyi’s outfit was black and he wore a heavy expression. As a witness himself, he knew what the Eldest Princess wanted to do.

If something happened to the Darkness Ruler, he would be riddled with bad luck forever. However, there were some things that he was powerless with.

“Let’s go!”

With a light grunt, Li Zhouyi stepped into the horse carriage. Qin Yu followed behind him.

There were eight Secret Guards from the Imperial Palace beside the horse carriage. Their presence acted as a deterrent against an assassination during the journey.

Things were smooth and the horse carriage stopped when the Old Ye Family's residence came into view.

Li Zhouyi jumped down and scanned his surroundings. White silk flowed down the trees beside the road.

There was a heavy atmosphere.

Just then, another horse carriage stopped not too far away.

Li Zhouyi had a bad feeling and he turned to look around. He immediately frowned and there was a worried look in his eyes.

However, this expression lasted only a split second. Li Zhouyi smiled and cupped his hands together, "Greetings to elder sister."

The Eldest Princess had a calm expression and her eyes drifted over Li Zhouyi to look behind him. Then, she nodded and headed into the residence.

Qin Yu never imagined that he would meet the Eldest Princess like this. Although it was the Later Ye Family who wanted to kill him, the Eldest Princess was the main actor.

They were deadly enemies!

"We don't have much time left, let's head in." Li Zhouyi coughed lightly as he glanced at Qin Yu. Then, he walked in.

The reason why the Old Ye Family was called 'old' was because of the long history of its ancestors. They supported the Imperial Clan of the West Desolate even before the Zhou Family did.

No one knew how deep the roots of the family's support of the empire went nor how much power they had.

However, every individual in the capital knew a simple logic – against such a power, they had to remain respectful all the time.

Li Zhouyi stood outside the main doors of the residence. After he guided Qin Yu through greetings, they arrived at the place where the Spirit Summoning Ceremony was held.

Many eyes immediately flipped towards the two of them.

A majority of people were judging Qin Yu with a cold look in their eyes.

His background, identity, and position were no secret to these men.

In fact, they did not look highly upon Qin Yu.

Otherwise they would not treat him with such an attitude.

"Sixth Brother, you are here!" A calm voice came and a man walked over briskly.

Li Zhouyi cupped his hands together, "Fourth Brother."

He nodded at the people nearby too and called them 'Second Brother', 'Fifth Sister', 'Seventh Brother' and so on.

Most of the princes and princesses of the West Desolate had arrived.

Qin Yu scanned them with a calm look.

He had prepared himself for trouble. Since the Desolate King wanted to test him, Qin Yu would hand his report card over.

The better he performed here, the more importantly he would be regarded. Things were fair!

"Is this the Darkness Ruler, Ning Qin? Not bad, if there is a chance in the future, come to my palace for drinks." The Fourth Prince smiled. His voice deepened slightly, "Zhe'er is my close friend who I grew up with. I owe you a favor since you saved her."

Qin Yu bowed, "Thank you, Your Highness."

There was some sincerity but some instigation in the Fourth Prince's words, however Qin Yu could not be bothered with him.

If he was right, today was an important day for him. If he succeeded, he would jump into the inner circle of people in the capital and he would be highly regarded in the future.

He could make use of Li Zhouyi but he could not be bothered with the princes and princesses who were so superficial.

The Fourth Prince smiled. Then, he turned and said, "Sixth Brother, I am not trying to push you into a corner but you must believe me."

Li Zhouyi nodded while smiling but he kept his thoughts to himself.

The group of people talked together in low voices but there was a harmonious atmosphere. Qin Yu glanced at the Eldest Princess. She did not look bothered by anything but her expression was cold.

All of a sudden, the Eldest Princess turned slightly and their gazes met.

One had a cold look while the other was calm.

Clang –

A loud clang reverberated through the air, breaking off the exchange of glances.

The Ye Family had arrived!

Chapter 1512 – Heroic Spirit Possession Test

There were some white elements on the armor the son wore and there was a murderous feeling from the sadness.

The sons of the Ye Family were all in the army and the summoning ceremony today was to awaken the heroic spirit of their fellow family member, Ye Qin.

As such, everyone in the family wore their armor as a representation of their respect for him.

The family members walked in two rows with seven or eight people on each side. In the middle, the person who led the group was an old man.

His face was covered with wrinkles and his hair was white. He looked like a dried up skeleton whose bones carried a pungent, rotting smell.

However, his eyes were clear and bright. Divine light reflected off of them and gave a feeling of wonder.

It felt like a simple action from him could shake up mountains and crush obstacles before him.

The Old Family Head of the Ye Family!

This was the guy Li Zhouyi was referring to. He was the terrifying cultivator whose power and age were unknown. He was also rumored to be in the King realm.

He was the pillar of the Ye Family.

However, Qin Yu's attention was on the middle-aged man behind the Family Head.

This man was half a step behind the Family Head. However, his body was upright and he looked alert. He was not affected by the aura from the Family Head.

Compared to the strange, rotting Family Head, this person seemed to be much stronger.

He was burning with a supreme aura!

He felt like a fierce tiger who dominated a mountain.

Suddenly, the middle-aged man felt someone staring at him. He whipped around and his gaze swept past Qin Yu.

Qin Yu instantly felt as though he was locked on to as prey.

The gaze was as sharp as needles. Qin Yu quickly looked down and he could not help the tears that spilled out from his eyes.

Although the gaze did not linger for long, Qin Yu could feel the ice cold killing intent.

This killing intent had given him immense pressure!

Li Zhouyi's voice sounded troubled as he said, "Ye Bohu!"

The Later Ye Family had a long history. There was a place where they discussed important matters that only those who were privileged enough could attend.

It was called the Secret Military Office.

However, after Ye Bohu became the Family Head and started to oversee the Later Ye Family, he changed the name to 'Bohu Hall'.

No one opposed that.

This was enough to show how much power and influence Ye Bohu had in the family.

Now, he was also at the Ye Family's (the Old Ye Family) Spirit Summoning Ceremony for Ye Qin.

One could only hear the sound of breathing as everyone stared wide-eyed at the Ye Family.

The two mountains in the military did not fight each other head on and they appeared harmonious on the surface. However, they secretly schemed against each other.

This was a scene that many were used to.

However, Ye Bohu actually stood beside the old man from the Ye Family. The implication of this made all of them nervous.

“Greetings to Old Family Head...greetings to Grand Marshal!”

Everyone bowed.

Old Family Head waved his hand dismissively and said, “Rise.”

His voice was calm and he appeared unbothered by the state of affairs today. As the Ye Family controlled much of the military, many of their disciples and sons had died on duty. He was used to this farewell.

His steady heart would not be disturbed by this.

“Let the ceremony begin!”

He was straightforward and to the point.

He displayed the authority that military men had.

Against the shock and nervousness from the crowd, the Old Family Head paid no attention to them and did not give any explanation.

This powerful military man of the empire was almost a god in the eyes of the army. He showed his strong will.

He did not need to explain!

Ye Bohu was here and that was it.

You guys have seen it and that’s all.

So what?

This unyielding attitude coupled with the appearance of Ye Bohu here showed that the two mountains in the military were aligned...

Now, the only entity that could shake them was the Imperial Palace.

Was the military expected to hide and conceal the dissatisfaction they had?

A gust of wind swept up the calm state in the capital!

At that moment, everyone felt the strong suppression and uneasiness in their hearts.

The military had always been a strong powerhouse and the Desolate King was about to step down. If the two of them clashed and something went wrong, the entire empire would be thrown into chaos. Undeniably, this was something no one wanted to see happen.

Li Zhouyi broke out into cold sweat. He never expected that the military would be so against this.

Once again, he felt as though he was pushed into a boiling pot.

If the Darkness Ruler was crushed from this, there was no way he would be able to show himself in public again.

Dragged into the mess, he was putting himself directly on the opposite side of the military...without the support from the military, he would never have a chance to sit on the throne.

At that point, Qin Yu was calming himself down after the brief shock.

He could guess the reason why Ye Bohu was here: he wanted to witness the death of the murderer of his son personally.

Qin Yu did not know if this was because that lady 'Rourou' exposed something about him or there was another reason.

But this was not important.

What was important was that his intuition was right. This was a deciding moment for him.

His eyes scanned the crowd. The Old Ye Family men wore a heavy expression and they started the Spirit Summoning Ceremony.

According to Li Zhouyi, this was a solemn and serious ceremony. No disturbances were allowed.

As such, Qin Yu did not know what trick the other party would come up with.

After all, it was barbarian ascetics who killed Ye Wangu. Without any evidence, Ye Bohu would not take action against him in front of the public.

Ever since Qin Yu became the Barbarian King, his memories about the Barbarian Clan became much clearer.

When he saw the altar built by the Ye Family, he quickly noticed some artifacts that had links to the Barbarian Clan.

Qin Yu was at a loss for words.

Summoning the heroic spirit into the empire's souls used slogans from the Barbarian Clan.

This was a joke!

Somehow, the military of the empire learned some methods of the Barbarian Clan. Was this just something they had learned or were they hiding something else?

Qin Yu did not know the answer to that, but he quickly moved on to another knot in his heart that was troubling him. How were they going to take action?

Whoosh whoosh –

Chilling winds blew through the area and the temperature there immediately dropped. The sky darkened as light rays were hidden by dark clouds.

A misty layer covered the altar and it started to jerk violently like a simmering pot of hot water.

The priest who conducted the Spirit Summoning Ceremony started to chant even louder and the markings carved on the altar glowed brilliantly.

Finally, a blurry shadow rose from the layer of mist. There seemed to be an energy that bound it and stopped it from moving, preventing it from blending back into the mist.

The energy that summoned it was slowly pulling it out.

Finally, the shadow was fully separated from the mist. It flew towards the altar.

Although its features were not clear, one could make out that this was the dead Ye Qin.

Right at that moment, the shadow of Ye Qin let out a shrill shriek. Black-colored chains appeared on his body.

They were binding him so tightly they were about to tear him apart!

“Hmmp!”

Ye Bohu suddenly stood up. He threw a silent punch outwards that burst without any fluctuations of energy. However, the black chains around Ye Qin’s shadow broke into pieces as though a powerful force hit them.

Power from the Barbarian Clan!

However, he covered the power up well and it was hard to notice it.

Shoosh –

Once Ye Qin’s shadow broke free from the black chains, its eyes flung open. Its eyes were filled with pain and it started to roar.

Qin Yu’s heart clenched and he could not help feeling uneasy.

“Kill...kill you...kill you...” These words could vaguely be made out from the roars. They were filled with hatred and anger.

Ye Qin’s shadow bared its teeth and it glared at Qin Yu. It was trying to flee from the altar.

There was a flash in the eyes of the Eldest Princess.

Dead silence filled the area.

At that moment, all eyes were on Qin Yu.

There was absolute shock and it felt like they were all looking at a cold corpse.

Heroic spirits were immortal and if they preserved some will, they would have senses.

However, this required that the will was strong enough and that the two parties were close together.

One such example was a revenge for murder!

Looking at the strong reaction from Ye Qin on the altar, everyone had the same thoughts. His death was related to Qin Yu.

The scene before their eyes was the greatest evidence!

So this was their plan.

Qin Yu did not know what they did to alter Ye Qin's will and make him pinpoint the culprit.

Yet, Qin Yu was truly the one who killed him.

This could not be considered as him being framed.

Despite that, Qin Yu's face flushed with surprise and his wide eyes revealed his panic and disbelief.

At the same time, he quickly thought of ways to save himself.

"Take him down!"

One of the generals from the Ye Family shouted and killing intent surged from his body.

Shoosh –

Shoosh –

Sharp sounds split the air and numerous men clad in armor closed down on him.

Qin Yu cried loudly, "This is not true. It is a trap!"

He retreated backwards continuously but did not resist the men.

If the Ye Family really wanted to kill him straight away, Qin Yu would not stay idle.

He was only putting on a front now and waiting for someone to stop the commotion.

In fact, Qin Yu knew that the Ye Family was right. They had indeed found the real murderer of Ye Qin.

However, these people did not know that they had overcomplicated matters.

The more they overcomplicated things, the more Qin Yu had a chance of explaining.

No one wanted to be the weapon for another person. This was especially so if the weapon was already bloodied.

Did they really think that they would not have to suffer any consequences after opposing the Desolate King? After all, the one who held power in the West Desolate was still the side branch of the Imperial Clan, the Zhou Family.

"Stop it!" The Old Family Head calmly commanded.

His voice was not loud but it carried authority. The people that were chasing after Qin Yu immediately grunted and dropped to the ground.

In between his white eyebrows, the Old Family Head's eyes were calm, "Who are you?"

Qin Yu replied, "I am Ning Qin. I was with General Ye Qin's team in the Western Barbarian Land."

Old Family Head frowned, "Were you present when Ye Qin died?"

Beads of sweat dotted Qin Yu's forehead and he answered, "Yes."

Old Family Head said, "The Ye Family requires an explanation." He lifted a finger, "Are you willing to accept the Heroic Spirit Possession Test?"

Qin Yu did not know what that was, but he knew that he could not hesitate with his answer if he wanted to pass the test.

As such, he said, "I am willing!"

The Old Family Head's eyes flickered and he dotted his finger in the air. There was a 'crack' sound as though something broke.

Ye Qin's shadow that was bound to the altar suddenly pounced forward with a cry. It entered Qin Yu's body like it was possessing him.

With that, Qin Yu understood why it was called the Heroic Spirit Possession Test.

Simply put – a ghost took over the body!

If you killed someone and ended up being tangled with their ghost, your outcome would not be good.

Chapter 1513 – General Jinwu

And this was the scary part about the Heroic Spirit Possession. Once possessed, the truth would be revealed, and one's innocence could be proved without a doubt.

Li Zhouyi was in a cold sweat and his face was pale. Even if he was a prince and had been educated by elites since he was a child, he found it hard to calm down right now.

The reason was extremely simple. If something happened to Qin Yu, his future would be ruined too!

The Eldest Princess' eyes were calm but had coldness within.

The plan was going smoothly. As long as Ning Qin died today, all her troubles would go away as well.

And from today onwards, she would have closer relations with the two Ye families because of her favor.

This would undoubtedly increase the possibility of her becoming the Desolate King in the future.

Ye Bohu's expression was stern. He was here today just to witness this scene.

The murderer who killed his beloved son was going to suffer the pain of being possessed by a wraith.

Old Family Head frowned slightly, and his eyes showed a heavy expression. If Ye Qin's death was really related to the Darkness Ruler, and the Darkness Ruler was now favored by His Majesty and was going to

be deployed in the military...he could not help but think of the underlying meaning behind His Majesty's actions.

Everyone here had their own thoughts about this whole situation as their eyes fell on Qin Yu.

His life and death was involved with too many things. If they were not careful, it would cause huge turmoil.

It seemed like...everyone was indeed putting a lot of thought into this!

Yet, Qin Yu was calm. Everyone felt that it was not an act, and they believed they would not be wrong about this.

He was really calm, as if he had not been affected by the Heroic Spirit Possession Test.

This also meant that Ye Qin's heroic spirit did not affect him after entering his body.

It was clear what this meant to the audience.

The face of the Eldest Princess changed slightly, and she could no longer maintain her calmness. She turned her head to look at Qin Yu, and there was shock in her eyes.

The plan has been successful, but why is nothing happening? This is impossible!

Ye Bohu tightened his hands around the handles of his wooden chair. Immediately, marks appeared on the surface.

Looking at the Eldest Princess, his gaze became increasingly cold.

Women always have some tricks up their sleeves, but when it comes to the critical moments, they are unreliable.

Hu –

Li Zhouyi let out a breath, as if he finally managed to come up for air. He could not hide the ecstasy he was feeling.

If Qin Yu was fine, it meant that he would not be implicated. It was simple logic.

The Old Family Head's eyes shone as he suddenly stood up and bowed, "Now, I invite the imperial army's spirit!"

Roar–

A roar suddenly exploded in everyone's ears.

A black dragon illusion appeared above the Ye Family, circling in the sky with its sharp teeth and claws visible, majestic and monstrous.

This black dragon was the embodiment of the empire's military, symbolizing endless power.

At this moment, it swooped down and landed on top of Qin Yu and started to roar continuously.

Ye Qin's heroic spirit was not extinguished. After being summoned, it integrated with the black dragon, and a relationship had been established between the two.

The roar of the black dragon could remove all shackles. If there was something wrong with Ye Qin's heroic spirit, it could be detected.

However, Qin Yu was still calm, except that he was hit by the black dragon's aura. His robes fluttered and his face was pale, but he kept his composure.

The Old Family Head frowned, flicked his sleeves, and ordered the black dragon illusion to retreat. He then announced, "Ye Qin's death has nothing to do with Ning Qin."

This was the final nail in the coffin.

Qin Yu bowed and said, "Thank you for clearing my name!"

Whoosh –

Ye Qin's heroic spirit (or more precisely, his wraith) left Qin Yu's body. After breaking away, it started to howl again.

Qin Yu really had personally felt the aura of someone who had died wrongfully; it filled his heart with strong thoughts of revenge and killing intent.

But just now, the Old Family Head personally announced that his death had nothing to do with Qin Yu...this scene made people feel weird.

Some eyes began to look at the Eldest Princess and Ye Bohu.

After all, the news that circulated in the capital city was not a secret to them.

At this moment, Qin Yu suddenly said, "Ye Qin's heroic spirit cannot be extinguished, but it would not go mad for no reason. There must be something shady about this. Old Family Head, please investigate this matter thoroughly to avoid being used by someone else."

These words described everyone's thoughts and he just said it directly.

Sss –

Everyone gasped, thinking that this Darkness Ruler indeed had huge guts.

Even though he did not explicitly say who would be taking advantage of the Old Family Head, everyone was not stupid and knew who he was referring to.

It was not the Eldest Princess. Even though she had a chance of inheriting the throne, there were many other variables to consider.

But as for someone else...

Tsk tsk, Ye Bohu's domineering and tough attitude was well-known throughout the capital city; no one dared to provoke him!

At this moment, Qin Yu's heart was calm.

No matter what the reason was, the Later Ye Family was already convinced that Ye Wangu had died at Ye Bohu's hands.

The two sides were arch enemies, and there was no possibility of the enmity ever being resolved.

With that being the case, why would Qin Yu have any more scruples?

This move he made was to show the Desolate King that...even though he too had barbarian blood, he would not get close to the Later Ye Family.

At the same time, he placed another wedge between the two major military families.

Even though the two Ye families were not compatible at all, a conflict was way more effective at deepening the hatred between them. It would be something that His Majesty would like to see.

Beside the altar, a priest who was presiding over the Heroic Spirit Possession Test suddenly fell to the ground and died.

Black-colored blood started to flow from his seven orifices, giving off a stench.

A general from the Ye Family stepped forward to examine the body. His face was ugly as he said, "It's a poisonous worm that came from the Barbarian Clan!"

The Old Family Head shouted, "The barbarians have sinister intentions! They are trying to undermine the stability of the imperial military. I hereby order all nine divisions of the military to behead the barbarians!"

The poisonous worm showed the true nature of the matter. Today's incidents were all instigated by the barbarians.

After he finished speaking, the Old Family Head looked at Ye Bohu with a calm expression, "Bohu, the Possession Test is over. I still have some other things to attend to, so I won't send you off."

Ye Bohu stood up and cupped his hands respectfully. "I'll take my leave now."

Taking huge steps, he quickly left.

The discord between the two military families has finally reared its ugly head.

.....

The Imperial Palace.

Behind the bead curtains, the Desolate King looked at the lantern that was on his table. As the flames danced around in the lantern, a faint smile appeared on the corner of his mouth.

Very good. This chess piece did not disappoint him after all.

The Spirit Summoning Ceremony seemed simple on the surface, but it concerned one's life and death.

Even though Ning Qin borrowed the power of the lantern, it was the wisdom that he showed that made the Desolate King satisfied.

The truth about Ye Qin's death was not important at all.

Of course, he chose Qin Yu to be his chess piece because he had a perfect identity that could be manipulated to his advantage.

If he used him well, the barbarians could be destroyed in the future. Perhaps, this person was the key to this opportunity!

“Issue an imperial decree!”

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Zhou Chengtian smiled; he was in a very good mood. Ning Qin had successfully passed the imperial examination, which meant that his plan was going smoothly.

Even though Ning Qin joined the army in order to strengthen the Royal Family’s power, the matter was in his control, and he could benefit from it.

As a branch of the Royal Family, he had no desire to inherit the throne, but it was still necessary to stabilize his position, power and wealth.

“Let’s go to the Ye Family’s house,” he ordered as the carriage took off.

He glanced at the imperial decree that was in front of him.

Today, he was going to personally announce the decree. It was his way of telling Ning Qin to pick his position carefully.

The Royal Family could help him move up the ranks and gain power, but they also needed his absolute loyalty.

Otherwise, they could also put him down and make him lose everything.

And it would not be difficult to accomplish this. The jade slip beside the imperial decree could do it easily.

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The turmoil of Ye Qin’s Spirit Summoning Ceremony ended with the Old Family Head’s conclusion that Qin Yu was not involved with Ye Qin’s death. However, everyone still had doubts in their hearts.

The banquet had already been arranged. Although no one was in the right mind to enjoy themselves, they still had to force themselves to attend.

On the other hand, Li Zhouyi was in a very good mood. Even though it was not the right occasion to do so, he pulled Qin Yu over for a few drinks.

Furthermore, he did not have to hide his emotions too much.

He was a prince, and was in the line of succession to the throne. He managed to suppress the Eldest Princess today, which was bound to greatly reduce her momentum.

That, in turn, would make Li Zhouyi’s reputation better.

Of course he was going to rejoice!

“The imperial decree is here!”

The faces of the people in the hall changed slightly and they quickly got up to their feet to welcome the decree.

Lord Chengtian looked solemn as his eyes swept over everyone. “Where is Ning Qin?”

Qin Yu stepped forward and said, “Ning Qin, greets Lord Chengtian!”

Zhou Chengtian smiled and held out the scroll, “Ning Qin, receive the decree!”

Qin Yu bowed respectfully.

“Ning Qin has made great contributions to the country in the Western Barbarian Land. I hereby declare that he is now known as ‘General Jinwu’, and he will guard the West Border.”

The fewer words were being said, the more stories would spread.

This was true anywhere in the world.

The people in the hall looked at Qin Yu differently now, showing envy.

His Majesty was using this method to express his dissatisfaction with the Ye Family, and also to show how much he valued Qin Yu.

General Jinwu...this was one of the commanders of the imperial palace guards. Even though it was just a title and he had no solid power yet, it signified His Majesty’s trust in him.

He had been ordered to guard the West Border. This meant that in the future, he would be bound to have a place in the five frontier troops at the West Border.

This also meant that, with this imperial decree, Qin Yu has risen to become a shining star in the West Desolate’s imperial military force.

This was the reward he got for passing His Majesty’s test.

If the Eldest Princess and the Later Ye Family did not take any action, Qin Yu could still have entered the military, but he definitely would not have the status he had today.

Li Zhouyi was ecstatic and laughed loudly, “Ning Qin, aren’t you going to thank His Majesty?”

This time, he had benefited a lot.

Qin Yu had joined the West Border Guards with his new identity as General Jinwu, which meant that Li Zhouyi now had his own spokesperson in the military.

If he made good use of this, his power would only snowball from here on out.

There was also one more thing...

His Majesty clearly knew about the relationship between the Darkness Ruler and himself, yet he still gave such a huge reward to Qin Yu and even elevated his status. Could it mean something else?

Thinking of this, Li Zhouyi became more excited.

Qin Yu received the decree and said, "Thank you, Lord Chengtian!"

Zhou Chengtian looked at Li Zhouyi who was smiling very brightly, and sneered in his heart.

This Sixth Prince is rejoicing too early. Perhaps on the surface, Ning Qin was indeed his trusted confidant.

But after today, the Darkness Ruler was going to have a new master.

When the imperial decree came, everyone had to kneel to greet it. However, the Old Family Head had been granted special permission to not have to kneel.

Therefore, he waited outside the hall. Only after the imperial decree had been announced did he come in. He smiled and said, "Lord Chengtian, long time no see."

He then turned and said, "General Ning Qin, you are highly valued by His Majesty. In the future, you must do your best and live up to the king's favor!"

With his status, since Qin Yu had just entered the military, he was indeed qualified to say such a thing.

In fact, this showed that he agreed with the king's arrangement.

Zhou Chengtian smiled and returned the greeting, "Greetings to Old Family Head. I still have some things to tell General Ning Qin; please arrange a quiet room for us to talk."

The Old Family Head simply replied, "Okay."

After a while, Lord Chengtian and Qin Yu both entered the quiet room. Apart from them, the Old Family Head was present too.

Lord Chengtian took out a ball and after touching it lightly to activate it, countless inscriptions immediately shot out and were carved into the void.

Hum –

A powerful confinement blocked the outside world from listening in.

"Ning Qin, I have a jade slip with me; please take a look at it first."

Qin Yu took the jade slip with both hands and his divine sense penetrated into it. It contained a scene of his aura exploding, with an Abyssal Titan emerging on top of his head.

His heart was calm, but on the surface he was fearful. His face turned pale and there were fine beads of sweat all over his forehead.

Putting down the jade slip, he trembled as he said, "Lord Chengtian...this..."

The Old Family Head sat at the side. He had already seen the contents of the jade slip in advance.

So, this was the true meaning behind His Majesty's actions.

Another Later Ye Family?

As the top commander of the empire's military, Ye Taidou naturally had the right to know all of the empire's secrets. Today, the purpose of announcing the imperial decree at the Ye Family's residence was to show respect towards the Old Family Head.

Even His Majesty had to show respect towards this Old Family Head who had made great military achievements.

Zhou Chengtian said, "Ning Qin, you have barbarian blood in your veins. Because of this, you were recognized by the Barbarian Clan treasure and managed to return from the Barbarian King's tomb."

Suddenly, his tone changed. It was cold and stern. "With the hatred between the West Desolate and the West Barbarians, I should've executed you the moment I learned about this. But His Majesty recognizes your deeds and sincerity towards the West Desolate, which is why he gave you another chance."

What came next was purely 'coercion and inducement'.

In simple terms, there were great benefits to being obedient, and the Later Ye Family was a great example to show the benefits of being loyal to the West Desolate.

If he dared to betray the empire, there were a hundred ways to make Qin Yu's life worse than death.

Zhou Chengtian and Ye Taidou sang in harmony, using skillful methods to coerce Qin Yu into obeying.

It was a pity that this performance was all in vain...because Qin Yu was already going to agree in the first place.

Everything that happened today was already a part of his plan; of course he was going to go along with it.

So, Qin Yu's face paled even more and he obeyed them.

Lord Chengtian smiled, and there was a trace of joy in his eyes...his plan succeeded!

Chapter 1514 – Meeting the Desolate King

General Jinwu, Ning Qin.

This name spread all over the capital city in a day, attracting attention from all directions.

He was chosen by His Majesty and deployed to the military. If he succeeded in gaining military achievements, his future would be limitless.

This alone was enough to make him exciting.

The undercurrents and dangers that lingered around Qin Yu were swept away, just like that.

His Majesty's imperial decree had already been issued. In the capital city, at least, no one would dare to harm Qin Yu.

Otherwise, it would be akin to challenging His Majesty. Such incidents had happened in the past, and they proved that whoever dared to do something like that would not have a good ending.

.....

The Eldest Princess sat in her carriage. On the way back to her palace, she sat on the soft couch, exhaustion showing on her face.

Today's incident seemed simple on the surface, but it was extremely tiring...one must know that it was extremely difficult to have the means and opportunity to play tricks during the Ye Family's Spirit Summoning Ceremony.

As long as someone fell into the trap, there was absolutely no chance of proving their innocence.

Yet, things had ended like this. The Eldest Princess could not figure out why, but she could only accept this outcome.

In the corner of her carriage, there was a soft sigh, "Your Highness' move this time was wrong."

The one who spoke was an illusion. She was very faint, and continually faded back and forth.

The Eldest Princess raised her hand and massaged the spot between her eyebrows. "Liu Yun, with today's failure, it's going to be hard to gain the Later Ye Family's understanding."

"But if Your Highness does this, it will make them very dissatisfied and this will be detrimental in the future."

"I know, but the important thing now is to get His Majesty to stop investigating the matter." The Eldest Princess put her hand down and showed a hint of helplessness, "If I succeed, His Majesty will not punish me. But if I fail, I will have to make a choice."

On the altar, there was the priest who had collapsed and died. The poisonous worm that came from the Barbarian Clan was an extra arrangement that she had made to prevent any other accidents.

Come to think of it, perhaps His Majesty would be lenient because of this.

"Ning Qin."

The Eldest Princess murmured. She had underestimated this person after all!

.....

Zhou Chengshan smiled. She was in a good mood because Qin Yu had successfully passed the test and would have a bright future.

Even though there were many dangers in the military, it was worth the investment.

What was even better was that she had already helped him before that.

Saving him in a time of need was far better than doing small favors for him.

In addition, back then in the Barbarian King's tomb, she had formed a rather good relationship with him compared to the other parties from the West Desolate.

"Zhe'er, go to the Sixth Prince's palace and send congratulations on my behalf. Also, invite Ning Qin to come over for a chat when he is free."

.....

The atmosphere in Bohu Hall was heavy.

Everyone knew that the plan had failed, and now the Old Ye Family was getting the cold treatment by the ruling class.

It was to the point that even His Majesty would be dissatisfied with this incident.

But for the same reason why Bohu Hall was named as such, the members of the Old Ye Family could only frown slightly, but did not dare to show any dissatisfaction.

“Bohu, things are not in our favor now; we shouldn’t make any moves for the time being,” an old veteran spoke slowly.

He had a very senior role because he was Ye Bohu’s uncle. He was upright and reliable, and had considerable prestige in the clan.

Only he could have spoken such words.

Ye Bohu blandly replied, “His Majesty has issued an imperial decree; of course I know what I should and should not do.”

His eyes swept over the crowd and he said, “Old Family Head of the Ye Family ordered all nine divisions of the military to behead the West Barbarians. Go and make the necessary arrangements.”

Everyone felt slightly relieved.

“Yes, General!”

After receiving the order, they got up and left the room.

Only Ye Bohu remained in the hall. He picked up the teacup and with a ‘pa’ sound, the cup shattered and the hot tea spilled.

Frowning, Ye Bohu put the shattered pieces down and wiped his hands on his robe. His face was extremely calm.

He had many sons, but there was only one Ye Wangu. Back then, when he named him, he had high hopes.

But now, Ye Wangu was dead!

And he died...at Ning Qin’s hands.

Ye Bohu trusted his own intuition. After he met Qin Yu, he was even more sure of this.

There was no reason, and he did not need a reason.

He must die!

The imperial decree had been issued. Although it was impossible for him to do anything to Qin Yu in the capital city, there were frequent battles at the West Border, and it was normal for accidents to occur.

.....

Qin Yu came to the Imperial Palace for the third time.

Valued by the Desolate King, Qin Yu had been given the title of General Jinwu to guard the West Border.

Of course he needed to personally enter the Imperial Palace to express his gratitude and loyalty.

“Lord Chengtian.” A group of imperial guards bowed and saluted, then their eyes turned to Qin Yu and they all knelt with one leg.

“Greetings, General Jinwu!”

The imperial guards had special privileges, and they did not need to greet lords, but since Qin Yu had gained the title of General Jinwu, he was now one of the commanders of the imperial guards.

Naturally, he qualified for such a greeting.

Qin Yu nodded his head, “At ease.”

Lord Chengtian smiled and stretched out his hand, “General Jinwu, His Majesty is waiting for you, let’s go.”

Entering the Imperial Palace, he suddenly felt a sense of respect and awe...and an omnipresent, terrifying sense of oppression.

If it were up to him, the Imperial Palace would be the place that Qin Yu was least willing to go to.

If anything happened, there was no possibility of him escaping. Perhaps the Desolate King could kill him with just one thought.

There was no choice, he could only endure the suspense of not having any contingencies.

Travelling down the long palace road, passing through a large stretch of buildings, its luxurious, sophisticated and majestic aura naturally did not need much description.

Outside a golden palace, Qin Yu could not help but squint his eyes. The sky was clear without a cloud in sight, and the rays of the nine suns reflected on the palace’s surface, making it impossible for people to look at it directly.

Here, Qin Yu met someone he knew – Madame Wu.

Her expression was just as detestable the last time he saw her. Cold, gloomy, and condescending.

“Madame Wu, why are you waiting here?” Lord Chengtian took the initiative to speak, with a smile on his face.

This seemingly ordinary old madame turned out to be someone formidable after all.

Otherwise, why would a dignified lord try to get in her good graces?

“Greetings, Lord Chengtian,” Madame Wu greeted him and said, “I just went to deliver some medicine and food to His Majesty, and I’m waiting for him to be done so that I can clear them up.”

Lord Chengtian nodded his head and said, “I see.”

He turned and told Qin Yu, "Since His Majesty is still taking his meal, let's wait here for a while."

Of course, Qin Yu had no objections.

After a while, the palace door opened. An eunuch came out and said, "Madame Wu, His Majesty has finished eating; please go and clean up."

Madame Wu nodded and bowed once more towards Lord Chengtian. She then entered the hall without waiting for him to speak.

Qin Yu suddenly said, "Lord Chengtian, I've met Madame Wu a few times; she seems to have quite a high status in the Imperial Palace."

After thinking for a while, Zhou Chengtian said softly, "Madame Wu was His Majesty's wet nurse. She has taken care of His Majesty since he was young. His Majesty respects and trusts her."

This was certainly not the only reason.

For example, bringing medicine in and out of the hall was done by Madame Wu alone, and even the eunuchs who were close to His Majesty could not touch it.

That alone was unusual.

But Lord Chengtian's explanation was also sufficient to explain Madame Wu's status in the palace...His Majesty's wet nurse, who had taken care of him since he was young.

Such a person would definitely be very well-respected in the Imperial Palace.

Madame Wu walked out of the hall with a tray of food boxes and nodded slightly at Lord Chengtian before disappearing around the corner.

The eunuch appeared again and bowed politely, "Lord Chengtian, His Majesty knows that you are here and has invited you in."

Zhou Chengtian nodded his head and said, "Let's go."

Qin Yu took a deep breath and followed behind Zhou Chengtian as they walked into the hall.

He was about to face the Desolate King, the most powerful existence in the Desolate Area. He would be lying if he said he was not nervous.

Especially because he had too many secrets.

If his secrets were exposed, then only death would be waiting for him!

Chapter 1515 – 'Hunting' Target

"Your loyal subject, Zhou Chengtian, greets Your Majesty," Zhou Chengtian gave a big bow, falling on his knees.

Qin Yu hurriedly followed, even though he was unwilling to do so in his heart.

But in this world, there were many things that one had to do, even if one did not want to do them.

Before accumulating enough power, it was good to be less proud.

“Mm, get up.” The Desolate King waved his hand, looking at Qin Yu.

The king’s eyes flashed, showing a slight admiration.

Smart people were always easier to manipulate.

“Ning Qin, Lord Chengtian should have made it clear to you about that issue.”

Qin Yu respectfully replied, “Yes, Your Majesty.”

“Very good. You just need to remember that as long as you are loyal to me and to the West Desolate, you will have a good future.” As the Desolate King, saying something like that was equivalent to a promise.

If it were anyone else, they would have been extremely excited and grateful upon hearing these words.

However, Qin Yu felt stifled, and could only sneer internally.

He was not friends with the West Desolate. If he showed his true identity, they would know that he was the one who took the true inheritance from the Barbarian King’s tomb.

And if the West Desolate learned that Qin Yu had gained the rights to open and close the Connecting Passage to the fragmented area...just this reason alone would be enough for them to not let him live.

Of course, he did not let his thoughts affect his emotions on the surface.

In the Desolate King’s eyes, Qin Yu looked extremely respectful and grateful.

This made the king very pleased.

Hualala –

The bead curtain was lifted, and a lantern flew out and landed in front of Qin Yu.

This was the lantern that he brought out of the Barbarian King’s tomb last time.

“Ning Qin, since you are able to use this lantern, I will give it to you temporarily. If you perform well enough in the future, it will be yours.”

After a slight pause, the Desolate King’s calm voice conveyed a strong will and confidence. “I will allow you to advance to the King realm!”

Lord Chengtian was shaken and could not help but show envy in his eyes.

Even he did not expect that His Majesty would offer something so amazing.

The King realm...

That was the realm that he longed for!

Qin Yu frowned secretly; the Desolate King was definitely up to something.

People of high ranks were often cautious about their reputation, moreover, Lord Chengtian was present too.

But this reward was simply too big. Was it really just to increase the Royal Family's power in the military?

Something was wrong!

There must be something else.

"Ning Qin, with a drop of your blood, the lantern will recognize you as its master and you will be able to use it temporarily."

Of course this was not an offer, but an order. Qin Yu was very clear that he had no room for objection.

He could not even show any hesitation, otherwise he would be suspected.

"Yes, Your Majesty!"

Gritting his teeth, a trace of excitement and apprehension appeared on his face as he flicked one of his fingers.

A drop of blood flew out and landed on the surface of the lantern, and in the next instant, it was absorbed.

Hum –

The lantern trembled slightly, and the flame within it started to dance. Qin Yu suddenly felt like he was connected to this lantern.

Immediately afterwards, he felt a great fear as if he was facing an endless pool of magma and was about to be swallowed by it.

His face was pale and his body was trembling. He looked frightened.

Behind the bead curtain, the Desolate King's voice sounded, "From now on, I hope that I can really trust you. I hope you will not let me down."

Lord Chengtian's pupils shrank slightly, as if he had thought of something. He looked alarmed.

When he looked at Qin Yu again, it was no longer with envy, but with pity and sympathy.

At this stage, Ning Qin was under the complete control of His Majesty. Even if he reached the King realm, he would still be under the control of the Royal Family.

He no longer had any freedom!

His Majesty had made such a cunning move!

It seemed that the Desolate King was preparing to use Ning Qin as the key to dealing with the barbarians. He would probably be the one to complete the plans to massacre the barbarians that was conceived years ago.

Therefore, Ning Qin was given such a generous reward.

The eunuch who was still bending forward appeared beside Qin Yu and said, "General Jinwu, let me escort you out."

"Thank you," Qin Yu bowed again before following the eunuch out of the hall.

Zhou Chengtian, who remained in the hall, bowed. "Your Majesty, do you have any orders for me?"

There must be a reason for asking him to stay behind.

The Desolate King smiled and said, "Lord Chengtian, I have always trusted you. Ning Qin has just joined the army and will need some help; I will leave you to oversee this matter."

"Yes, Your Majesty."

After they finished discussing official matters, Zhou Chengtian bowed and left.

After the palace door behind him closed, he took a deep breath and released it slowly.

It turned out that His Majesty indeed knew what he was thinking of, and of course Zhou Chengtian did not want to hide it from the Desolate King either.

His Majesty was wise and clever; any attempt to deceive him would be foolish.

He told everything to His Majesty and shared his honest opinions too, so His Majesty nodded and let him continue with his plan.

This was enough.

If there were no accidents, Ning Qin was bound to gain huge achievements in the military.

Even though Zhou Chengtian was loyal to the Desolate King, outsiders did not know that his lineage and close relationship to the Desolate King could help him to stabilize his power as well.

.....

Qin Yu never worked for anyone.

He would not do it now, and he would never do it in the future.

He only followed what his heart told him, and would only be himself.

As for the lantern that was brought from the imperial tomb, the Desolate King had done something to it. Others might be able to sense this as well, but they would not be able to identify what was wrong with it exactly.

But Qin Yu could.

Ever since his blood merged with the lantern, it was equivalent to carrying a landmine around with him at any time.

If the Desolate King wanted to, he could kill Qin Yu with a single thought.

Qin Yu had no doubts about this.

However, he was not scared.

Although he could not compete against the Desolate King's methods, he could solve them.

Qin Yu and that mysterious being from time-space were like 'grasshoppers tied to the same rope'. If he asked it, there was a high probability that it would be able to remove the hidden dangers in the lantern.

Even if that did not work, he still had the little blue lamp. It would probably be difficult for it to protect Qin Yu from the hidden dangers.

Of course, these things could not be done right now. He could only try after he left the capital city.

In the horse carriage, Qin Yu opened his eyes, his inner spirit surging.

No matter what it was, he took the risk to come to the West Desolate's capital city and managed to achieve his purpose in coming here. The result was even better than what he expected.

.....

At Li Zhouyi's palace, Zhe'er was waiting for Qin Yu, who had already returned. She smiled to congratulate him.

Qin Yu said, "I still have to thank Miss Zhe'er for giving me that warning before."

Because of her letter, Qin Yu was able to see the situation clearly and understand the role of the Eldest Princess.

"It is only because General Ning Qin is powerful enough to get through to today." Zhe'er then brought out a gift and said, "Her Excellency, Ruler Zhou Chengshan, asked me to deliver a message. When General Ning Qin is free, please go to her cultivation quarters."

Qin Yu nodded, "Thank you for bringing the message to me, Lady Zhe'er. I will visit her soon."

Zhe'er did not stay for a long time. After saying a few more words to Qin Yu, she said goodbye and left.

.....

At the Later Ye Family's house.

The Old Family Head tapped the table lightly with his finger, and everyone below him looked solemn. The atmosphere was tense and heavy.

His Majesty seemed to have made up his mind to intervene in military affairs.

And this undoubtedly was going to harm their interests.

The conflict between the Royal Family's will and the military's will was bound to cause turmoil. Additionally, they would need to be more cautious in their actions in the future.

"Marshal, Ning Qin has already left the Imperial Palace, do we need to do anything?" a general from the family asked.

The imperial military had a lot of power, but they still had to respect His Majesty's will.

At the very least, they could not do anything yet because His Majesty had not explicitly violated the interests of the military.

It was out of respect for the Royal Family, and also for the cunning Desolate King who sat on the throne. From when he ascended to the throne to the present day, his superb methods and skills had been worthy of the utmost respect.

“No,” the old marshal opened his eyes. This person, who was the first ranking officer in the military, had eyes that were bright and wise. “His Majesty’s will does not need to be approved by us, nor does he want to see us be involved with Ning Qin in any way.

“So, we don’t have to do anything.”

He knew Ning Qin’s ‘foundations’, and now he could vaguely guess His Majesty’s true intentions.

Of course he would not try to do something that was likely to cause suspicion at this time.

Doing nothing would be the most correct move for the Ye Family right now.

.....

“Your Highness, Her Excellency Ruler Zhou Chengshan invites you over to her palace.” In the air, the fading silhouette of a woman said.

She had a nice voice.

The Eldest Princess was cold, “Liu Yun, do you think I should go?”

“Her Excellency has good intentions; it would not be good if Your Highness declines her invitation.”

“Auntie does treat me rather sincerely...but Ning Qin is not someone that I like at all.”

“Your Highness...”

The Eldest Princess smiled in self-mockery, “I’ll go.”

She shook her head and continued, “Actually, I was going to go ever since I received the news. Ning Qin was personally chosen by His Majesty. If I can forge a good relationship with him, it would be good for me too. So, it seems that people of royal blood are the biggest hypocrites.”

Liu Yun said in a soft voice, “Why do you mock yourself, Your Highness? You were helpless in this matter too.”

The Eldest Princess waved her hand and changed the topic, “Let’s go and choose a gift for my aunt. She has always taken care of me, I should thank her.”

.....

“Zhou Chengshan.” Lord Chengtian frowned slightly. He had wanted Hundred Saint to go and personally invite Qin Yu, but he did not think that someone else would have beaten him to it.

This woman was indeed clever.

However, since she also invited the Eldest Princess, it seemed that she was not very clever after all.

Her so-called kinship with the Eldest Princess was going to ruin whatever goodwill Ning Qin had towards her.

“Uncle?” Hundred Saint asked.

What were they going to do now that Qin Yu had been invited by Aunt Chengshan?

Lord Chengtian smiled and waved his hand nonchalantly, “Tomorrow, Ning Qin will go and collect his seal and armor. You can wait for him there.”

Not managing to invite Qin Yu was not a big problem. After all, he was the one that His Majesty had appointed to take care of him.

This meant that they were bound to have many more exchanges, and thus many opportunities to get closer to each other.

.....

The maid led Qin Yu to the door of the main hall before bowing and leaving.

Qin Yu stepped into the hall, and immediately saw Zhou Chengshan on the main seat and the Eldest Princess sitting below her, at the left hand side.

He frowned but immediately put on a calm expression. He cupped his hands and said, “Greetings Your Excellency, Your Highness.”

Zhou Chengshan smiled, “Ning Qin, we’ve been through hardships together, there’s no need to be so polite.”

She then extended her arm and said, “Have a seat.”

Qin Yu thanked her and sat down.

This alone made Zhou Chengshan smile even wider.

Coughing lightly, she went straight to the point. “Ning Qin, I invited you here today because firstly, I wanted to congratulate you in person since you’ve been appointed as General Jinwu. Your future is going to be very bright. Secondly, there are some misunderstandings that I wish to be resolved.”

Qin Yu glanced at the Eldest Princess, and her expression was cold and calm.

“Ning Qin, Ye Wangu’s entry into the West Desolate was something that I decided. After his death, the Later Ye Family was unhappy, and I had to do something about it.”

She raised the wine glass and said, “If you are willing to let go, drink this glass of wine. I will forget everything that happened and I promise to no longer treat you as my enemy.”

Though her tone was calm, it was also cold and tough.

Zhou Chengshan frowned, her eyes showing a little helplessness. The Eldest Princess’ temperament was still too strong.

The way she said those words did not sound like she was trying to reconcile.

“Ning Qin, the Eldest Princess’ maternal side of the family has had a lot of huge achievements in the military. Even though it cannot be compared with the two Ye families, it still helped to build the foundations of the imperial military. If you are willing to let go of the past, I can assure you that there will be much assistance on your future journey in the military.”

Qin Yu thought about it, and raised his wine glass. “I will do as Your Highness says, let’s set aside our grudge!”

The Eldest Princess’ eyes were suddenly full of brilliance. The coldness softened a little as she nodded and drank the glass of wine.

To be honest, Qin Yu indeed felt rather annoyed because of this matter.

He had to admit, however, that it was the incident with the Eldest Princess and the Later Ye Family that helped him to gain his current status.

His next step was to use the West Desolate to complete his setup, so that it would incite that clan to attack.

This would require support from the ruling class of the empire, so he would try not to make too many enemies.

Of course, if Qin Yu’s identity was revealed next time and he were to go against the West Desolate...then what he said today naturally was not going to count.

“Good!” Zhou Chengshan laughed, “You are a man who is able to take whatever comes at you. Ning Qin, I have not judged you wrongly.”

Now that the problem was resolved, the guests and the host enjoyed the banquet together.

When Qin Yu rose to leave, Zhou Chengshan escorted him out personally.

Watching him disappear into the corridor, the Eldest Princess said, “Thank you, aunt.”

Zhou Chengshan waved her hand, “This is all that I’m able to do for you. What happens in the future still depends on you.”

After a slight pause, she lowered her voice a bit, “I’ve told you before that regarding military matters, you must be able to take good care of them...even though Ning Qin was brought into the West Desolate by Li Zhouyi and they are now very close to each other, who is to say that things would not change with time?”

If it were up to her, Zhou Chengshan wished that the Eldest Princess would be the one to sit on that throne.

It was not just for her own interests, but also because of their kinship.

Eldest Princess nodded, “Thank you, aunt, for your reminders. I’ll remember them.”

Ning Qin...

Now, it seemed like he worked for His Majesty.

Regarding this, she was sure of it.

From this perspective, everyone was equally close to him. Li Zhouyi had the upper hand at most, but she still had a chance.

It was not going to be easy to get close to him, but she had her own advantages...for example, she had her status as the Eldest Princess, and...she was a woman.

.....

Qin Yu was unaware that he had already become the target that others wanted to 'hunt'.

When he left Zhou Chengshan's quarters, he thought for a moment, and then went straight to the imperial military headquarters.

Since he had been appointed as General Jinwu, he needed to go and receive his own seal as soon as possible before he could take his office.

He did not want to stay in the capital city any longer.

He wanted to leave early; like a bird returning to the sky and a fish returning to the sea, he would regain his freedom.

Well, he almost forgot that there were other trifling matters to attend to before he left.

For example, the matter regarding Yun Qing and Yun Die.

The best option would be to keep them in the capital city to avoid trouble in the future.

However, Qin Yu had shown deep affection for Yun Qing last time. If he suddenly turned his head and abandoned them, it would arouse suspicion.

He decided to take them with him for now, and then find an opportunity in the future to send them away.

He had reached the imperial military's headquarters!

The horse carriage came to a halt, and just as he got out, he heard someone greeting him. "Brother Ning Qin, hahaha, we meet again!"

It was Hundred Saint.

Chapter 1516 – Extortion

Qin Yu's eyes flashed as he asked, "Hundred Saint, what are you doing here?"

"The lie is that I coincidentally have something to do with the army. The truth is...my uncle Lord Chengtian knew that you were coming and asked me to wait here."

Hundred Saint smiled as he spoke.

Qin Yu shook his head. This guy was too frank.

He walked through the main gate of the army.

Hundred Saint's smile widened as he saw how Qin Yu ignored him. He rushed to catch up, "I was in the army before and can coincidentally help you quickly complete what you need to do."

Qin Yu replied, "Sorry to trouble you."

"It is no trouble at all!"

Hundred Saint was most likely not lying about having been in the army before. With him helping and the fact that the Darkness Ruler was well known for being selected by the Desolate King, no one would dare to make things difficult for him.

Very soon, Qin Yu obtained the 'General Jinwu' seal and joined the army.

"General Ning Qin, the army has already written to the West Border. You may head over anytime." A general from the army smiled and said.

Qin Yu expressed his thanks. After exchanging a few more greetings, he got up and left.

Hundred Saint followed beside him and spoke in a low voice, "He is from the Zhao Family and is close to the Eldest Princess."

A single sentence was sufficient reminder.

No wonder that general had smiled so warmly at him.

Qin Yu's mouth curled up as it was the first time he truly felt the benefits of 'being nice to others'.

Of course, it was also slightly awkward. After all, he was the Barbarian King and was destined to be enemies with the West Desolate.

"Hundred Saint, I am done. You can be on your way."

Qin Yu felt a bit uneasy with this person.

This was because of Hundred Saint's attitude towards him. Although there were some interests involved, he was also somewhat genuine.

Qin Yu could feel it.

With his destined relationship with the West Desolate, it would only bring trouble to be close to Hundred Saint.

"Haha, sorry, I really can't leave."

Hundred Saint laughed as he took out a seal, "Yesterday, I was ordered by the army to be General Jinwu's counselor and I'll follow you to the West Border.

"That's right. I am talking about you Brother Ning Qin. We are now comrades. Please take care of me."

Qin Yu was speechless.

Heaven has a route for you but you choose not to take it. Instead, you choose hell which has no door.

Hundred Saint, Hundred Saint. Your luck and vision are both problematic.

.....

Under normal circumstances, as the newly appointed 'General Jinwu', it would have taken days for Qin Yu to depart to the West Border.

Some of the reasons would have involved staffing, division of rights, and some time for the army at the West Border to prepare.

But after a message from the West Border army arrived, everything was sped up – the Barbarian Clan was suddenly launching a massive attack. The border guards were under a lot of pressure and needed backup from the imperial capital.

The West Desolate King had issued an imperial decree sending 'General Jinwu' Ning Qin to lead the imperial reserve army to assist the Border Army.

He just needed to complete this mission and he would be able to enter the West Desolate Border Army.

Great opportunity!

.....

Capital Border, outside the Teleportation Portal.

Li Zhouyi looked worried, "Ning Qin, you have to be careful. If you meet any difficulties, send a message and I will try my best to help you."

He was really worried.

Ning Qin and him were inseparable.

"Don't worry Your Highness. I will be going."

Qin Yu said as he turned and stepped into the Teleportation Portal.

Hundred Saint, along with twelve Imperial Palace Secret Guards, bowed to Li Zhouyi before following along.

Buzz –

The Teleportation Portal lit up as the air vibrated. The people disappeared.

As for Yun Qing and Yun Die, Qin Yu had initially been having a headache over them. But with the arrival of the imperial decree, he used this as the reason to leave them behind.

He escaped some trouble.

.....

Qinghe's full name was actually Qinghe Twenty Eastern Counties. Rich in minerals, it was one of the most ideal place for the imperial army to gather.

Cultivators all knew how to kill. But on the battlefield, only by cooperating would they be able to exert their strongest abilities.

This was the key to troop formation and training.

But if they were powerful enough, they would have no restrictions. The military had many small special squads to choose from.

Buzz –

The Teleportation Portal lit up and the air vibrated. Qin Yu was the first to walk out. He was wearing battle armor and his eyes were cold. The guards standing outside the Teleportation Portal immediately bowed.

At first glance, anyone could tell that he was someone important from the capital and could not be neglected.

Hundred Saint stepped forwards, “General Jinwu Ning Qin, the imperial decree ordered us to come to Qinghe, but where is the ambassador from the army?”

General Jinwu was the Great Commander of the Imperial Palace Secret Guard. Although it was a frivolous position, it was extremely honorable.

“Greetings Great Commander. We did not know that you would arrive so quickly. The people from the Qinghe Army are waiting for you. We will immediately inform them.”

Very soon, several silhouettes flew over and landed in front of them. “Greetings General Jinwu, I am General Zhongshan.”

Hundred Saint spoke, “General Zhongshan oversees the training of the Qinghe Army; he is an elder in the army.” He smiled as he said this, “General Zhongshan, Ning Qin is here by imperial decree. Please make preparations as soon as possible for us to get moving.”

All the cities in the empire were connected by a large teleportation formation. However, the army was huge. Unless the situation was extremely critical, they would not waste resources to use the Teleportation Portals to send the army straight to battle.

In the current situation, although the West Border Army was under pressure, they were still stable. The army just needed to hurry.

Zhongshan nodded, “After we received the imperial order, we already started making preparations. General Jinwu, please rest for a while before heading off.”

He then stretched out his hand.

Qin Yu nodded, “Thank you.”

Arriving at the place to rest for a while, Hundred Saint took the initiative to settle things with Qinghe.

This allowed Qin Yu to relax. It was the first time he thought that it was good having Hundred Saint follow along.

At least, he did not have to bother about these kinds of things.

As he sat by the table and sipped hot tea, Qin Yu’s eyes flashed.

Qinghe was located in the western area of the West Desolate kingdom and was not far from the border. If the army just made a slight detour, they would be able to pass through a majestic mountain.

This place was known as the Demon Mountain Range. It was where the Demon Sect was located.

Night Demon Sect Master was the master of the Demon Sect and was of high status.

He should be located in the Demon Mountain Range. And that meant that Lady 'Rourou' should be around too.

For some things, although the possibility was not high, he would only be able to rest assured after confirming.

Qin Yu made his decision.

.....

Qinghe moved fast. It might be because they were worried about the war at the West Border or because they did not want to offend Qin Yu, the new star of the imperial army.

One day later, the reserve army was prepared and could make their way to the battlefield.

"Let's go!"

Qin Yu shouted.

Woo –

Woo –

A long horn was blown and the sound spread into the air.

Huge airships rose slowly into the sky as runes carved on them created a thick shield around them.

Faster, faster, they kept getting faster.

Finally, they broke through the air and with a low roar, they were like giant whales rushing to the West Border.

Beneath them, numerous cultivators from Qinghe looked up at them. As soon as they caught sight of the ships, they could not help but admire them.

This was the might of the imperial army!

This was also the history of the army brought about by fighting for their place through strengthening their power. Any powerful cultivator was vulnerable when facing the mighty imperial army.

Even a King realm cultivator may die if he was not able to escape after getting caught by the army.

The rest were not worth mentioning!

.....

Demon Mountain Range, the Demon Sect.

Two shadows flew across the sky. They were as quick as lightning and soon disappeared from sight.

Very soon, the shadows reached deep into the mountain, on the highest peak.

After landing, the two figures looked anxious.

“Report! The imperial army is heading here from the direction of Qinghe. There are about one hundred thousand people in ships!”

In the huge hall, the faces of the people from the Demon Sect changed.

Night Demon Sect Master lifted his hand and called for silence. He said lowly, “Who is leading them?”

“General Jinwu from the empire, Ning Qin!” Night Demon Sect Master frowned – it was him.

Truthfully speaking, when they had separated back then, he never thought that Qin Yu would have such a change.

He had undergone a sudden change and became someone that the Demon Sect feared.

Leading a hundred thousand troops, with his current position, he really improved a lot.

“It is okay! I received news that General Jinwu, Ning Qin, will be leading the army to help the battle at the West Border. They should only be passing by the Demon Sect. Just secretly monitor them; do not establish contact.”

“Yes!”

The two patrol members from the Demon Sect flew up and headed in the direction the army was coming from.

.....

“General, the Demon Sect mountain is up ahead.” Hundred Saint reminded as a strange look filled his eyes.

Qin Yu looked at him, “What are you trying to say?”

“Cough!” Hundred Saint coughed lightly as he smiled, “The empire has been at war with the Barbarian Clan for many years and depleted the country’s reserves. The sects in the empire have a tradition of sponsoring the army. After all, the men in our army fight on the frontline to protect them.”

Qin Yu instantly understood. This guy was overthinking.

But coincidentally, he needed this reason.

With a “Hmph,” he replied, “Since you already guessed it then pass down the order. We have been travelling for a long time and everyone is tired. We will be resting near the Demon Mountain Range.”

“Yes General!”

Hundred Saint turned to leave, and soon, delighted shouts could be heard from the ships.

Sponsoring the army...to put it bluntly, it was extortion. The generals in the army ate meat while their subordinates drank soup.

To be able to make a fortune before even entering the battlefield...the generals from Qinghe looked towards the ship where the main general was and their eyes softened.

Although they did not know each other, as long as he could help them make a fortune, he was a good general!

.....

Numerous shadows were circling near the ships. As soon as they heard the cheers, their faces changed.

“Hurry, inform the sect that the army has ill intentions!”

Woosh –

Three shadows immediately turned to leave and quickly disappeared into the mountains.

When the huge ships slowly stopped beside the mountain range and cast shadows on it, the people from Demon Sect had no choice but to believe that they were here for them.

Bully!

A few elders from the Demon Sect, with rotten breath and only two or three teeth left, were trembling in anger as they cursed out loud.

They had heard about the military threatening various sects to sponsor them. But the Demon Sect was one of the top clans and this was the first time such a thing happened to them.

“Activate the Demon Formation. Kill all of them!”

“Our Demon Sect will not be insulted. We have to teach them a lesson!”

“What are you waiting for? Are you waiting for them to destroy our door!”

The old men were cursing but the people who were in charge only smiled wryly.

This was not the same as the past!

If the sect was at its peak, even the military would not be so bold.

But now, even the Imperial Clan had to respect the military.

Moreover, the sect’s powers had declined over the years and they had more or less dropped out of the ruling class.

Activate the Demon Formation?

Hehe, if the Demon Sect did that today, regardless of what the reason was, the whole sect would be wiped out in half a month!

“Men, please invite the elders back to rest.”

Night Demon Sect Master gritted his teeth and said.

Their shouts and curses got even louder as the elders struggled while being dragged away.

The people present looked even worse.

“Master...” A Demon Sect elder chuckled bitterly.

Night Demon Sect Master took a deep breath, “Go. Send someone to ask the military why they have stopped at the Demon Mountain Range.”

He still held some slight wishful thinking...after all, they were the Demon Sect!

But very soon, his dreams were crushed to bits – General Jinwu ordered that the Demon Sect provide support as the military was lacking resources.

The single word ‘ordered’ was enough to cause the faces of those from the Demon Sect to darken severely. He was literally disregarding and stepping over them!

Chapter 1517 – Pressuring the Demon Sect

Hostile...they could not become hostile.

Unless the Demon Sect was tired of living and wanted to commit suicide.

They could only endure!

“Send someone to invite General Ning Qin into our sect!”

Night Demon Sect Master was a peak-level Ruler and it took immense control to say this calmly.

His teeth were about to shatter from the tension.

“Master!”

The clan members shouted.

“Go!”

“Yes...”

In the Demon Mountain Range, the grief and anger were apparent. Numerous Demon Sect cultivators looked resentful.

After today, their reputation as the top clan...would no longer exist!

So when Qin Yu stepped into the Demon Sect, numerous unfriendly eyes looked towards him.

They were like arrows tearing his body apart.

It was a pity that looks could not kill and Qin Yu was emotionally strong. Moreover, he was prepared and was completely unafraid.

Behind him, Hundred Saint looked impressed.

Brother Ning Qin was smart!

He was given the title 'General Jinwu' and was recognized by the king. He was leading the military to aid the West Border Army and was extremely powerful.

With such a standing, so what if he was facing the Demon Sect?

If they could endure it, they must...and even if they could not take it, they had to endure!

This was power!

The top sect in the world submitted to him. He had yet to join the army and his name 'General Jinwu' was already well known.

This would help him with his standing in the army.

The military had had a lot of conflicts with the sects over the years...it was excellent of Brother Ning Qin to choose this as an entry point.

But in reality, Hundred Saint was overthinking it. Qin Yu's goal was just to see someone.

The cultivators were gathered in the hall of the Demon Sect. There was a saying that goes, a skinny camel is still bigger than a horse. The Demon Sect was one of the top sects and they still had some foundation.

There were more than ten Rulers amongst them. Obviously, Night Demon Sect Master was the elder peak-level Ruler.

His power was like the ocean!

Taking a step in, Qin Yu frowned as he looked over at everyone, "Is...this the way the Demon Sect greets guests?"

He was really not afraid.

Since he dared to approach the Demon Sect, he must have already made all sorts of preparations.

He had the might of the West Desolate imperial army and his 'favored' status.

Even if the Demon Sect had the courage of a leopard, they would not dare to do anything to him...of course, Qin Yu was mentally prepared for the worst.

With the lantern in his possession, even if the Demon Sect went crazy and became hostile, Qin Yu was confident that he could escape.

Then, he would mobilize the army of one hundred thousand soldiers and suppress the Demon Sect.

He would eliminate them completely!

Night Demon Sect Master stood up and said in a low voice, "General Ning Qin, when we last parted, we had a hurried goodbye. Now that we meet again, you have become a general. Congratulations."

Qin Yu replied, "You are too kind."

"Please have a seat."

Qin Yu nodded as he walked to an empty seat and sat down.

Night Demon Sect Master looked at Hundred Saint before looking behind Qin Yu. Four imperial guards in armor were looking gloomy...and sullen.

He was a peak Ruler, yet in front of these junior Saints, he felt a suppression...the Imperial Clan of the Western Desolate was intolerable!

Night Demon Sect Master had already prepared to give in when he invited Qin Yu in. Hence, he did not delay any further as he said directly, "Our sect has prepared some resources to air the military in the fight against the West Barbarians."

Qin Yu put his hands together, "Sect Master, you are righteous, and I will inform His Majesty of the Demon Sect's loyalty to the empire."

As he said this, his eyes shifted, "However, I have something that I would like to seek your permission for."

Night Demon Sect Master was expressionless, "Please ask."

Qin Yu replied, "I have a few things that I would like to ask Lady 'Rourou'. Please allow her to come out and meet me."

The atmosphere suddenly sunk.

Night Demon Sect Master frowned and he had an icy look, "General Ning Qin, it is always better to leave some leeway. Don't go overboard."

A horrifying aura burst forth like a mountain about to fall!

Hundred Saint did not know who Lady 'Rourou' was, but she seems to be the sect's sore spot.

A cold chuckle followed soon, "Sect Master, are you trying to go against our General?" He took out a pass and held it in his hands, "Don't you believe that with just a single order, the military outside will be able to flatten the entire Demon Mountain Range?"

Sect?

Ha!

Did they think they were still as powerful as they were back then and dare to go against the army? I will teach you.

"Master!"

"Don't be rash!"

"It is a misunderstanding, a misunderstanding!"

Everyone looked flustered.

Initially they had been angry and wished their looks could kill all these despicable bandits from the imperial army.

But when the real thing was about to happen, they were scared.

Circumstances were stronger than people.

It would be a piece of cake for the army of one hundred thousand troops to destroy the Demon Sect!

Night Demon Sect Master trembled slightly as he smacked his hand down. The chair beneath him disintegrated.

He snorted angrily as he turned to leave.

Behind him, Hundred Saint's cold chuckle could be heard, "Sect Master, please hurry and ask Lady 'Rourou' to come out. The imperial army is on a mission and cannot stay for too long.

Qin Yu was moved. It was actually useful to have Hundred Saint with him.

At the same time, he understood more about the power of the West Desolate military.

Even a peak Ruler like the Night Demon Sect Master was helpless.

If anyone dared to go against them, they would be destroyed!

Although the Demon Sect gave in, they must be filled with hatred towards the Imperial Clan.

This was the reason why the West Desolate was internally unstable, and it was a scenario that Qin Yu was more than happy to see...it was really not bad.

.....

Thereafter, everything went smoothly.

Qin Yu met Lady 'Rourou' once more.

She was a natural born beauty and it would not be easy to forget her looks. But when Qin Yu saw her, he momentarily fell in a trance.

"Oh, it is really her!"

It seemed as if there was an unknown power that kept wiping away any traces of her.

"Cough!" Coughing lightly, Qin Yu said, "Lady 'Rourou', I asked to meet you today as I have something to ask you..."

Across him, the lady's face was filled with fear as she lowered her head and trembled.

This made Qin Yu feel guilty even before he could ask anything.

"Do you still remember Ye Wangu? I got into some trouble because of his death. Does this have anything to do with you?"

He spoke straight to the point.

Qin Yu stared at Lady 'Rourou'.

Maintaining his expression even if the mountain fell and not wavering...this was all just talking big.

When things came suddenly and unexpectedly...it would definitely show if one felt guilty. It was just about how much was shown.

If this thing really had some relation to her, Qin Yu might have to do something cruel.

Regarding the Barbarian Clan and his identity as the Barbarian King, he could not reveal any of that.

“No...not me...I did not say anything...” She looked flustered as she waved her hands.

Qin Yu believed that she did not say anything. But why did it sound as if she knew something?

This made Qin Yu frown as a solemn look appeared in his eyes.

“Don’t kill me!”

With a shriek, a terrifying energy surged into the air and caused it to shift like a huge scary wave.

Qin Yu’s expression changed as he was not able to react in time. ‘Bam’, he flew backwards.

Soon, the entire palace collapsed and numerous broken stones were falling!

Woosh –

The air shifted and Night Demon Sect Master appeared. He was shocked as he rushed into the ruins of the hall.

Pak –

There was a cracking sound beneath his feet as webs spread outwards. Qin Yu looked towards the ruins and frowned.

Woosh –

Woosh –

Hundred Saint was in the lead as he flew to Qin Yu’s side, along with the four imperial guards.

“General, are you alright?”

Qin Yu frowned and slowly nodded.

The members of the Demon Sect rushed in from all directions. Their faces turned pale as they saw the sight in front of them.

“Master, Master, what happened?”

An elder shouted.

Night Demon Sect Master carried Lady ‘Rourou’, who was unconscious. He crossed the ruins and landed in front as he stared coldly at Qin Yu, “I want to know, General, what are you trying to do?”

He spoke calmly but the air seemed to have frozen.

Hundred Saint’s heart froze as he cursed internally. He had acted strongly earlier as he believed that Night Demon Sect Master would not act rashly.

But it seemed like this man was about to become hostile.

Putting aside the fact that destroying the Demon Sect would cause a huge upheaval, even if they were successful today, they...would definitely not survive.

When a peak Ruler took action, no one below the King realm would survive!

Qin Yu frowned as he weighed his options because...this was the chance.

If Night Demon Sect Master took action, he would have a reason to activate the military to enter the Demon Mountain Range and erase all danger.

There may be innocent people here, but it was not as if he was killing for the joy of it. He was saving himself.

They could only blame themselves for being involved in his deep dark secret!

As he thought of this, Qin Yu looked straight at Night Demon Sect Master as he narrowed his eyes sinisterly.

He just needed to make a move...and everyone here would die!

“Master, Master, we can talk about things. Don’t be rash.” A few elders rushed in front of him.

Hundred Saint was slightly relieved as he turned to bow, “General, the Demon Sect is not ordinary. If a huge battle arises because of this, it would deplete a lot of our troops and the imperial capital will demand answers. It will not be beneficial for you.”

He never expected Brother Ning Qin to be so tough. He was still going strong against a peak Ruler who was about to turn hostile.

With a “Huh,” Lady ‘Rourou’ regained consciousness.

Night Demon Sect Master rushed to look at her, “‘Rourou’, how are you?”

“I...I am fine...” Lady ‘Rourou’ was clearly afraid with so many eyes on her and she trembled slightly.

Everyone from the Demon Sect let out a sigh of relief. Thankfully she was okay, if not, they would be unable to stop their sect master from going crazy.

“Master, the lady is alright. There must be a misunderstanding; hurry and cool down.”

“Yes yes. General Ning Qin and the lady know each other. Perhaps when they met, some of the things mentioned agitated the lady.”

“We have always been loyal to the West Desolate and the imperial family. How can we make an enemy out of the military? It will be asking for trouble!”

They threw looks around as they spoke.

Master, hurry and cool down. We cannot afford to offend the military!

“Hmph!” Night Demon Sect Master snorted coldly but his aura became a lot less sinister.

At this moment, Qin Yu suddenly said, "I am on imperial orders to lead the army to the West Border and fight the Barbarian Clan. I have the authority to call on the people of the empire to join. Today, I would like to enlist Lady 'Rourou' to join our military. I hope that everyone will agree to this."

With a single sentence, the entire atmosphere grew tense!

Everyone from the Demon Sect wanted to cry. General Ning Qin, must you trigger our sect master's sore spot?

Enlisting 'Rourou', something was going to happen!

Hundred Saint breathed in deeply and said lowly, "General..."

He was cut off.

Qin Yu was expressionless, "I have made up my mind. If the Demon Sect does not allow it, it will constitute being disloyal to the empire. Don't blame us for taking action!"

Night Demon Sect Master was so angry he felt like laughing. Even if he died, he would not allow the lady to get hurt.

Military taking action?

Okay, then let's see who shall die first!

Boom –

The terrifying aura from the peak Ruler burst forth once again like a scary volcano, swallowing everyone.

"Wait..."

Lady 'Rourou' suddenly said, "I will go with him."

Night Demon Sect Master looked anxious, "Lady...no!"

'Rourou' shook her head and looked determined, "I said that I will go with him."

A huge battle disappeared just like that.

.....

Outside the Demon Mountain Range, the ships carrying the military slowly made their way into the distance.

Looking at the Demon Mountain Range behind him, Hundred Saint let out a deep breath and realized that he was completely drenched in sweat beneath his armor.

It had been too dangerous!

If not for the lady agreeing at the critical moment, the military would have attacked the Demon Sect.

And his head would have probably been blown off by Night Demon Sect Master.

Hundred Saint looked up at the ship Qin Yu was on and laughed bitterly. Although he had long since known about Qin Yu's habits towards beauties, the extent of it was a bit frightening this time.

For this lady, he was even willing to risk his life...moreover, the lady seemed so flat. Other than her looks, she appeared as if she was underdeveloped.

Or did Ning Qin have a fetish? Now that he got her, he rushed back to his ship. So...

Hiss, stop thinking stop thinking. Too hot!

.....

But what was happening on the ship was completely different from what Hundred Saint was thinking.

There was no heat, only a cold draft.

Qin Yu was expressionless as he leaned forwards slightly. There was a scary look in his eyes, "Lady 'Rourou', I don't care who you are and what you know. But when it comes to my information, I hope you can keep it a secret.

"If not, I will kill you...believe me. I will do what I say."

Tears rolled down Lady 'Rourou's' cheeks as she shrunk inwards and her face paled.

Looking at Qin Yu, she nodded fervently as if she had been dragged into a heap of straw.

Weak, helpless...and able to be bullied!

"Very good. From today on, you will be my servant. You cannot disappear without my permission and must stay within one hundred meters of me."

"Yes..."

Qin Yu stood up and walked out. After closing the bedroom door, he looked annoyed.

Truthfully, killing her was his best option.

It would end everything once and for all and he would not have to worry.

But Qin Yu knew that if he did that, Night Demon Sect Master would go crazy.

A peak-level Ruler who had gone crazy and had nothing to fear. Just thinking about what he could cause was enough for goosebumps to appear.

There was another reason – he did not feel right.

It felt like if he killed this lady, he would receive karma and trouble would befall him.

This feeling was subtle yet strong.

Taking a deep breath, Qin Yu let it out. Forget it.

At least for now, he had control over her. He could monitor for a while before making his decision.

Chapter 1518 – Retrieving Incense

The Demon Sect.

Night Demon Sect Master looked solemn as he sent off all the Demon Sect members that were trying to console him.

He returned to his residence. Opening a secret door, he walked down all the way until he reached the secret room.

He looked solemn like snow melting rapidly under the sun.

His face was slightly red as he looked excited. He walked to the corner of the secret room and his ten fingers quickly activated a seal.

Very soon, a small tablet appeared in the empty space.

A fog lingered around it, hiding the carvings on its surface.

Night Demon Sect Master kneeled and kowtowed respectfully, "Master, Lady has seen an opportunity to take revenge for you. She has left the sect with that person. But don't worry, I will do everything I can to keep her safe."

The haunting fog around the tablet slowly lifted.

A trace of Taoism escaped from it and floated around the secret room.

Night Demon Sect Master bowed respectfully. When everything finally became settled, he got up once more to activate the seal.

The air shifted and the tablet was swallowed.

.....

After the incident at the Demon Sect, the military did not stay any longer and they made their way to the West Border camp.

Qin Yu secretly monitored 'Rourou' for several days. She behaved extremely well and did not seem to be up to anything.

This made him slightly relieved.

Of course, it was only slightly, and he would not be careless.

Qin Yu had started to investigate the seal he received from the military before he left the capital.

This seal was about as big as two fingers put together and was carved with the words, 'Imperial General Jinwu'. It was his identity proof.

But very soon, Qin Yu realized that this seal was not that simple.

It was related to the West Desolate and the Divine Nation.

This huge West Desolate empire was a huge Divine Nation as well. All the cultivators in the empire were a part of the Divine Nation. Simply put, they were believers of the Divine Nation.

The point of the Divine Nation was to gather believers, and this could be called incense.

Qin Yu had a Divine Nation and he could continuously receive weak incense from the Divine Nation while far away.

This was not foreign to him.

So he found out the secret behind this seal.

It was an incense treasure.

That's right. Qin Yu could sense that this seal was able to absorb incense.

A small portion of it would then slowly enter his body. The majority would accumulate until a certain level before 'disappearing into thin air'.

After thinking for a long time, Qin Yu understood. This seal was an 'Incense Transit Station' – it absorbed a portion of the incense within the territory of the Western Border Empire before transferring and using it.

Compared to his low level Divine Nation, the incense power from this seal made his heart flutter.

Incense power was greatly beneficial to a cultivator and could strengthen their Divine Nation.

Perhaps he could try to collect a portion of the incense power that was absorbed by this seal.

Of course, there was a risk. But if he succeeded, the results would be astounding.

In the room, Qin Yu was playing with this seal. At this moment he saw countless runes engraved on the surface.

These runes interacted and formed a strange field that enabled it to act as an 'Incense Transit Station'.

If he wanted to get something from it, he had to alter this field, and he had to do it secretly.

With regards to the Divine Nation, everything Qin Yu knew was from chicken overlord...as he thought of this, he snapped his fingers.

Very soon, there was a fluttering sound as the door was opened from the outside and a sneaky head peered in.

As he looked at Qin Yu, he immediately became obedient and looked flatteringly, "Master, you called me?"

"Come in."

"Yes!"

Chicken overlord came in. Now, he was known as the most beloved pet of 'General Jinwu' and had a high status.

At least, he was respected on these ships.

Right now, the small set of armor he was wearing was given to him by Hundred Saint.

Ever since this brat had heard that the Barbarian Clan was brutal and the battle would be extremely dangerous, he wore the armor and had never taken it off.

Qin Yu frowned. It was not that he was unhappy with it but he felt a little strange for a chicken to be wearing such intricate armor.

Forget it, it was a minor issue.

“Chicken overlord, what do you think about this seal?”

Chicken overlord stared as if he was being choked. Of all names!

Chicken overlord!

What was this? It sounded awful.

“Cough! Master, I think it would be better if you called me little chicken or little overlord. It is simpler and sounds closer.”

“Okay, little chicken overlord.”

Chicken overlord wanted to cry.

He wiped his eyes and decided not to say anything more. Otherwise, who knew what kind of trauma would await him.

“Master, this seal is an incense treasure...tsk tsk, the West Desolate is extremely rich. This is extremely pricy!”

Qin Yu’s eyes flashed, “You know this?”

Chicken overlord said, “I heard White Ape say that this was a treasure that can be created when a Divine Nation is of a certain standard and power. It is to more quickly and efficiently collect incense.”

“Then...did White Ape say anything about how to get the incense from this treasure?”

Chicken overlord replied, “That’s easy. Once the incense accumulates to a certain threshold, it would automatically be sent to the Divine Nation. There is no need to control it.”

Qin Yu looked at it without saying anything. Was this brat pretending to be stupid or was he really stupid?

Chicken overlord shrunk back, his small eyes growing round, “Master, are you thinking...”

“That’s right.”

Chicken overlord felt his legs give way as he almost fell to the ground. He looked at Qin Yu in shock.

He really felt like shouting at his master, can you stop doing things?

You are just a cultivator from the fragmented area. You have just arrived in the Desolate Area and reached your current status in a short time.

People had to learn to be satisfied!

What are you struggling for? Do you think that the incense in this seal is something that can be easily tampered with? If this were to be exposed, you would be completely finished.

He had thought that after living a tough chicken life, he would finally have glorious days. How did it end up like this?

Gulp –

Chicken overlord struggled to swallow his saliva, “Master, I do not know.”

He looked sincere but there was also guilt. Within the guilt, there was also a slight impatience.

Qin Yu sneered, “Don’t lie. I know from your eyes that you are lying.”

Chicken overlord almost choked on his own saliva as horror shone in his eyes – this jinx knows me so well!

“Speak, or we will have an extra dish today.”

Qin Yu was expressionless.

The extra dish would be charcoal chicken, chilli chicken wings, stir fried chicken, or steamed chicken...

Chicken overlord fell to a kneel and he looked like about to cry, “Master, I really don’t know.”

As he looked at Qin Yu’s sneer, a cold tremble ran through his body and he stuttered, “Just...just initially, White Ape briefly mentioned something about an incense tree. It would help to retrieve incense from the incense treasure.

“Really Master. I only know this much. I don’t know exactly how to do it. White Ape did not say and I did not ask. Please believe me.”

Qin Yu frowned as he glanced at chicken overlord, who had shrunk into a ball. This chicken must be too scared to speak nonsense.

At least he gained something – incense tree.

Qin Yu’s eyes flashed as he waved his hands, “Okay, you can go. Don’t slack off and watch the woman outside. You can make up for your mistake.”

Chicken overlord turned and left as if he was afraid that staying any longer would cause him to turn into dinner.

This jinx was really scary. How can he want to eat chicken!

The room quietened down as Qin Yu rubbed his chin.

“Stone Pagoda!”

He called out.

Buzz –

The air vibrated and Stone Pagoda’s illusion appeared.

“You heard what was said earlier regarding an incense tree. Do you have anything to say?”

Stone Pagoda was silent for a while, “Master, I briefly came across incense power before but have a very vague memory of it. Incense trees seemed to be a method of stealing incense from others for oneself.”

Qin Yu’s eyes lit up. This was similar to what chicken overlord said.

“How?”

Stone Pagoda replied, “I cannot remember. I can only try my best to recall, but I can give no guarantees. Don’t try it yet.”

Qin Yu nodded, “Of course I know.”

If the West Desolate found out that he was trying to obtain incense, Qin Yu’s pretense would be for naught.

The consequences would be disastrous.

“Master, I will go to sleep and see if I can get anything.”

Stone Pagoda’s illusion shook and disappeared.

Hoo –

Letting out a breath, Qin Yu was calm. He could not rush to retrieve the incense.

He shall have to wait and see.

.....

West Border Army camp.

There was news from the capital that the new ‘General Jinwu’, Ning Qin, was leading one hundred thousand troops to support the frontline.

They were coming soon!

With the status of ‘General Jinwu’ and leading the huge army, everything was obvious.

The king wanted Ning Qin to gain a portion of control of the West Border Army.

A stone to stir up a thousand waves.

No one wanted to get their power of control taken from them. Moreover, the military and the Imperial Clan had always been in silent confrontation, constantly testing and compromising.

This was a natural resistance.

.....

“Marshal, the reserve army had cross the mountains and sea. They will arrive tomorrow at the latest.” In a huge round tent, an advisor said worriedly.

The other people could not help but frown.

The marshal of the West Border Army was Wu Tongitan – he was the eldest in the army. He was born in a family of hunters located near the border. Over the years, he was groomed by nobles and he had accomplished many things and been promoted repeatedly. Step by step, he eventually became the marshal.

He was one of the four in the entire empire.

He was of medium stature and was not arrogant. He smiled, “I have to obey His Majesty’s command.”

As the marshal of the West Border Army, this was the attitude that he had to show.

The Imperial Clan could allow the military to have their own ambition, but they would not allow any marshals to outright disobey an imperial command.

The advisor frowned even more, “But Marshal Hu’s letter...”

Wu Tongtian waved his hand and cut him off, “I will personally explain this. Inform everyone not to make rash decisions and prepare to welcome the reserve army.”

“Yes Marshal!”

Everyone bowed and filed out from the tent.

Very soon, the Marshal’s intentions were spread to the entire camp.

Chapter 1519 – Difficulty Assimilating

“Marshal, that was a good move.”

Within the camp, there was a cold laughter.

Ye Sangdu placed down his wine cup with a ‘pak’ and it shattered into pieces.

“Great General, watch your words!”

A general smiled wryly.

“Hmph!” This Great General, who was the second most powerful amongst the West Border Army, snorted, “Since I dare to say it, I am not afraid that the Marshal will know.”

His cousin’s letter had been sent to the camp and he had seen what was written. Although he did not say anything directly, the stance was clear.

The Marshal’s actions were not attaching importance to the Later Ye Family!

Even if he complained, the Marshal would not be able to say anything.

A general laughed bitterly, “Great General, you should think of what to do...the reserve army has crossed the mountain and seas and is about to arrive.”

Ye Sangdu stood up and waved angrily, “Everyone in the border army has worked very hard and risked their lives to get to where they are. No one is willing to get that taken from them. Even if this is an imperial command, there will be resistance.”

He was annoyed because the Marshal had actually 'shrunk'. Then he could only barge in front...whether it be for the Later Ye Family's reputation or the will of his cousin Bohu, he had no choice.

Taking a deep breath, "Go, send people to bring Jiang Chengzi over. Tell him that I have an urgent task that I need to discuss with him." Lord Chengtian's plan was already clear. If Ning Qin wanted to have a strong foothold in the border army, he would need help.

Jiang Chengzi was the key!

.....

At the West Border of the empire, they reached the huge camp that stretched on for thousands of miles.

On the flying ship, Qin Yu opened his eyes as he looked astonished.

A fierce aura shot to the sky for as far as he could see, tearing the clouds to pieces.

There was a majestic aura from the huge army that was like a dragon and a tiger, with its mouth extended.

This was the huge army camp of the West Desolate's West Border, an army made up of cultivators.

Before this, Qin Yu had used a hundred thousand troops and was able to control the Demon Sect and force a peak Ruler to lower his head.

Right now, the army seemed to have at least one million troops. It was extremely impressive.

The flying ships stopped about three thousand miles away from the camp. The messenger rushed towards the camp with a letter in hand. This was the rule in the army. It was also out of respect and admiration towards the one who had controlled the West Border Army for so many years.

"General, the Marshal comes from a hunter family near the border. He was able to rise to where he is now through fighting wars. Of course, it is one thing to have achievements on the battlefield. He also has nobles backing him. After all, to be the Marshal of the West Border Army is not easy to achieve."

Hundred Saint spoke softly.

Qin Yu frowned, "Later Ye Family?"

Hundred Saint nodded, "That's right. But you don't have to worry. It is precisely because the position of marshal is high that it is not easy to do things secretly."

He seemed to hesitate before saying, "You have met Jiang Chengzi, Uncle Jiang. He is an old general in the West Border Army. Although he ranks fourth, he has a good foundation in the army. My uncle has already sent him a letter to help you integrate with the border army."

Qin Yu nodded but he did not relax.

Although it was not convenient for the marshal to act, he just needed to express his position and did not need to actually do things himself.

To him, understanding the army was also a test. But with regard to this, Qin Yu could only take it as it came.

The messenger returned. According to the instructions from the border army, they were to settle down in an area near the camp.

“General Jinwu Ning Qin, the Marshal is currently in an urgent discussion with several generals. Please rest for the time being and wait for the Marshal to summon you.”

The minor border general, who had signs of wind and frost all over his face, bowed. Without waiting for Qin Yu’s reply, he turned to leave.

This sight caused the faces of several of the generals who were getting off the flying ships to change.

According to military ranks, a minor general from the border army was at least seven or eight ranks lower than General Jinwu.

Just because they had a backing, they dared to behave so rudely? It seemed like the new General Jinwu was not in a good position.

A few generals who had been prepared to approach Qin Yu quickly turned and left as they went to instruct their own subordinates to set up tents.

Hundred Saint’s face darkened as he gritted his teeth, “General, don’t worry. You are of high position and are on the imperial order. They will not dare to act rashly!”

Qin Yu was calm, “Go and settle down first.”

A simple order was enough to show authority.

The Marshal had shown that he did not like this newcomer from the imperial capital. With the Marshal’s prestige and status, it would not be easy for Qin Yu to assimilate into the border army.

.....

Large tent.

Several great generals bowed before leaving.

Taking a sip of hot tea, the Marshal leaned against his chair as he rubbed his face hard. His face was slightly red when he stopped.

“Has the reserve army arrived?”

“Yes, everything has been arranged.”

“How did General Jinwu react?”

The advisor speaking looked strange, “He...was very quiet.”

There was a glimmer in the Marshal’s eyes as he smiled.

A famous person who was awarded a high position. He was also sent by the king, yet he had not responded after being left hanging.

A smart person.

Without doubt, it was easier to deal with a smart person. The Marshal did not want to make a choice between the king and the Later Ye Family.

And he could not choose either.

Maintaining a neutral attitude and keeping the balance would be best for everyone.

As he thought, the Marshal changed his mind and said slowly, "It is too late today. Tomorrow morning, invite General Jinwu."

"Yes Marshal!"

.....

There was no difference between night and day in the army and they were always prepared to make a move.

Even though they were a distance away from the frontline, they could occasionally sense the fighting.

It was filled with violence!

Qin Yu was able to rest well and started to carefully analyze what he knew about the situation.

If he wanted to set the scene, he had to have a strong standing in the border army.

There were many people that wished to make things difficult for him and prevent him from gaining anything as he was a chess piece of the Imperial Clan.

They would not directly go against the king's order but they would show him that he made the wrong decision. 'Taking another path' was probably Qin Yu's only chance.

But he had to wait.

Especially since Qin Yu did not know much about the West Border Army. He only trusted about seventy percent of what he had heard on the journey. He had to confirm the rest himself.

"General Jinwu Ning Qin, the Marshall invites you over!"

There was a shout from outside.

Qin Yu stepped out and waved to stop the annoyed-looking Hundred Saint, "Lead the way."

The minor general raised his brows slightly. With a cold expression, he bowed and turned around.

"General, they are too much. With your status, for a minor general..."

Qin Yu cut Hundred Saint off, "We will talk about it when I am back."

The minor general today was the same as the one from the previous day.

Qin Yu did not know who he was, but with his arrogance, he must have a special status.

He guessed that he would get his answer very soon. This minor general was a close subordinate of the Marshal which also meant he was one of the Marshal's men.

It was reasonable. Unless the Marshal had expressed his stance, no one would dare to be so bold.

The Marshal's tent was huge. It resembled a palace that could be moved around.

The guards surrounding it looked solemn and Qin Yu could sense at least seven divine senses assessing him.

Sharp and obscure!

Rulers. There were two that were even peak Rulers.

The army really had a lot of strong cultivators. No wonder, they dared to protest in court to a certain extent.

The minor general stopped and said in a low voice, "Marshal, General Jinwu Ning Qin has arrived!"

After a few moments, someone walked out of the marshal tent. He looked calm and his eyes were bright. He dressed like an advisor.

Smiling as he bowed, he said, "General Jinwu, the Marshal invites you."

Qin Yu nodded calmly as he waved, "Thank you."

He stepped into the tent.

The situation in the tent was different from what he had imagined. Although there were many people, he was able to find the main person.

Marshal!

It was not just because he sat in the middle but also because of his intimidating presence.

His aura was intense, like a lion standing on top of the mountain, pressuring all directions.

When his gaze fell, Qin Yu felt surrounded and there was a glimmer in his eyes.

Like lightning tearing through the clouds, Qin Yu felt as if he had been completely seen through.

He felt his heart freeze as he suppressed the unease he was feeling. He stepped forward and bowed respectfully, "Greetings, Marshal."

The slightly buzzing tent fell silent when he spoke. Everyone looked over.

Amidst the cold, he felt an intense pressure!

Qin Yu maintained his composure and did not move from the spot.

The Marshal smiled and said, "Please rise and be comfortable."

"Thank you Marshal." Qin Yu got up, "Upon imperial order, the one hundred thousand-strong reserve army has arrived and settled yesterday."

"Mmhm, I have been informed." The Marshal gestured, "General Jinwu, please sit."

There were six seats below him and the second one to the left was empty.

This position was not low.

Qin Yu put his hands together, "Thank you Marshal."

He stepped forwards and sat.

The gazes around him grew colder.

But Qin Yu had no say in this so he remained silent.

Disregard the previous day but high praise today. Move after move...but not more than three. If he continued, he would lose himself.

The Marshal laughed, "I had urgent military matters and discussed with the generals until late at night. It was too late and I did not want to disturb your rest. Today, it is a good chance to introduce you to everyone."

This explanation was warm.

Qin Yu looked around, "I am Ning Qin, nice to meet you generals."

The first to reply was the one on the left of him, "I am Zhao Chong, nice to meet you General Jinwu."

Zhao...

Qin Yu's eyes flashed as he looked back. He could sense a faint familiarity in the other party's eyes.

General Zhao must be related to the Eldest Princess.

A reward – his second one for being kind to others.

Someone spoke, breaking the silence.

"I am Jiang Chengzi. General Ning Qin, we meet once again." With grey hair and a grey moustache, an imposing elder general spoke.

Qin Yu greeted with his hands placed together.

"I am Ye Sangdu." A voice suddenly spoke and the tent fell silent.

Qin Yu looked over.

Ye Sangdu looked calm, "I also have some history with General Ning Qin. Ye Wangu was my nephew. I heard that General Ningqin was the last one who saw him before he died."

Right from the start, he was full of malice.

With a single sentence, the number two most powerful member of the West Border Army had expressed his stance.

He was extremely against General Jinwu Ning Qin!

Chapter 1520A – Mine

The marshal tent fell silent.

Facing the eyes that were looking at him, Qin Yu nodded his head, "That's right, I was indeed present before Ye Wangu died."

After a slight pause, he looked at Ye Sangdu with sharp eyes, "When I was in the capital city, I took into account the reputation of Marshal Ye Bohu so there were some things that I refrained from saying. Since I have told the truth today, I ask General Ye to help me pass the message to them."

"Ye Wangu has already died. Don't bring this matter up again. It might tarnish his posthumous reputation and humiliate the Ye Family!"

Wow!

This brat. There was obviously another meaning behind Qin Yu's words; his attitude was extremely tough and there was a hidden threat.

Ye Sangdu's expression changed and slapped the table with a loud bang. "General Jinwu, you're spouting nonsense. What are you trying to say?"

Qin Yu glanced at the Marshal who was sitting calmly on the sidelines, and he sneered in his heart.

"Not long ago, I entered the Western Barbarian Land under the Desolate King's order – this is not a secret. I shall not bore you with the details, but when we were leaving the Western Barbarian Land, Ye Wangu coveted the Barbarian Clan's treasure and tried to kill me so that he could seize it for himself. Therefore, he exposed his own aura and this attracted a barbarian ascetic."

Qin Yu stared at Ye Sangdu, expressionless. "So what I mean is, he can only blame himself for dying at the hands of the barbarian ascetic!"

The marshal tent was now in an uproar.

General Jinwu Ning Qin had finally shed light on the matter, and almost instantly, they believed it.

After all, saying something like this was equivalent to making enemies of the Later Ye Family. It was basically seeking death!

Because of this, there was no way that Qin Yu could have been lying or framing.

"Utter nonsense!" Ye Sangdu roared. 'Kacha!' The table in front of him shattered. "General Jinwu, I will not allow my family's reputation to be slandered by the likes of you!"

Looking at Ye Sangdu whose face was ashen and seemed like he wanted to devour Qin Yu. However, Qin Yu looked at him expressionlessly. If Wu Tongtian continued to be a Bodhisattva, then they could not blame him for dragging everyone into the mud.

Knowing about the Later Ye Family's secrets was trouble, and everyone who found out about them would not have a good time.

"That's enough!" Marshal Wu suddenly shouted. He was frowning as he looked at Qin Yu with a hint of warning in his eyes, "You two are generals, how can you fight in front of everyone here, ruining the camaraderie between the soldiers?! None of you shall spread whatever was raised in the tent today, and offenders will not be let off lightly!"

“Yes, Marshal!” Everyone got up to answer.

Being forced by Qin Yu to end the heated argument, Marshal Wu was naturally unhappy, and he said lightly, “In the future, there will be opportunities for you two to get closer to each other. Military affairs take precedence – let’s start discussing them.”

A soldier stepped forward quickly and sorted out the mess on the table for Ye Sangdu.

“Hmph!”

He humphed loudly before saluting the marshal, his face full of coldness.

He dismissed himself to the edge of the marshal tent, and a group of military counselors came back. They carefully arranged the sand table and prepared the required materials.

“Yesterday, there were barbarians that rushed through the third front. They ambushed our camp and we suffered some losses...”

“According to the statistics, in the past seven days, the intensity of the barbarian attacks has been steadily increasing. We have reason to believe that the internal struggle between the barbarians have already subsided. The specific reason is unknown and we are working hard to investigate it.”

“The identity of the black-robed man from the Barbarian Clan who appeared on the battlefield has been confirmed. He is the black barbarian shaman.”

“The condition of the wounded has been stabilized, but our stock of antidotes to treat the barbarian’s poison is running low. We have to replenish them as soon as possible.”

Many pieces of news were reported, and the generals in the marshal tent made the necessary decisions and adjustments to the battle situation.

And all of this had nothing to do with Qin Yu. It was his first time joining the West Border Army, and he was unfamiliar with the battlefield situation. Hearing all this news had no effect on him at all.

Two big militaries were at war with each other; military affairs were the priority here. The marshal tent was extremely busy, and no one paid any more attention to General Jinwu who had just joined them from the capital city.

It was like he was transparent, and as everyone in the tent started to discuss, this fact became increasingly clear to him. There was an invisible force that surged in the tent, rejecting him and isolating him.

If it were someone else, they might have been upset, embarrassed or annoyed.

However, Qin Yu did not feel any of the above.

He had already predicted it, so experiencing all of this was not too much of a shock for him.

At least, he could still sit in the tent. As long as he did not want to leave, no one could chase him away.

Night fell, and the torches began to burn bright. People entered and left the tent from time to time. Finally, when all of the military affairs were dealt with, everything temporarily came to an end.

Marshal Wu ordered some tea to be served, and it was only after he drank some that he started to finally notice Qin Yu.

He laughed and said, "The military affairs are urgent; I've neglected General Jinwu. If you feel bored, you can return to your tent to rest."

After a pause, he continued, "When the battlefield situation has been stabilized, I will make more adjustments to see which military affairs General Jinwu is suitable for."

In terms of seating order, Qin Yu's current position was ranked fourth in the West Border Army. It was Jiang Chengzi's previous position, which was a form of respect for the Desolate King.

However, this position was just an empty title, and held no real power or authority at all.

After delaying for a while, when the battle situation had eased, he was going to send Qin Yu to another corner to rot. This would be enough to make him become a laughingstock in the army.

The general who rushed to the aid of the border army would be given the cold shoulder, and this would show his incompetency.

Marshal Wu stood up and said, "You are all dismissed. According to the agreed plan, we will launch a counterattack tomorrow...we will drive the barbarians back to where they belong."

"Yes, Marshal!" All the generals stood up and replied.

"Wait!"

Qin Yu suddenly opened his mouth, facing the sharp eyes of Marshal Wu. He cupped his hands and said, "I'm not familiar with the battle situation, so naturally it is not in my place to intervene, but His Majesty ordered me to lead the West Border Army. It would not be good for me to hide in the tent and do nothing.

"Ning Qin kindly asks the Marshal to let me temporarily serve as a counselor in the military and participate in the discussion of daily military affairs. This is also to prepare for whatever arrangements you have for me in the future. I hope you will allow this."

Neither humble nor arrogant.

Polite and respectful.

He mentioned the Desolate King's name, and also gave Marshal Wu some face.

The dignified General Jinwu was ranked fourth in the border army on the surface. He did not participate in actual military affairs, but just wanted to participate in the discussion in the tent...if even this suggestion was rejected, it would be too much.

Even though the West Border was far away, it was still under the jurisdiction of the capital city.

His Majesty would not be happy if Qin Yu's suggestion was rejected.

Marshal Wu nodded and said, "Okay, let's do that then."

All the generals left the tent.

A cold humph sounded in Qin Yu's ear, and when he raised his head to see who it was, he saw Ye Sangdu.

He came closer and lowered his voice, "Ning Qin, you have been warned. Do not spout nonsense, or else."

Qin Yu replied, "If no one pushes me to my limit, naturally I will not say any more...after all, if I cause any trouble, it would not end well for everyone either."

Ye Sangdu turned around and left.

Looking at Ye Sangdu's back, Qin Yu frowned slightly. Today's seemingly easy task had instead worked in Ye Sangdu's favor.

But in fact, Qin Yu used the Later Ye Family's secret to force Marshal Wu to come forward, which made him very unhappy. And Marshal Wu's opinion of Qin Yu was undoubtedly the key as to whether or not Qin Yu could gain a firm foothold in the army.

This general from the Ye Family may have taken this into account. With a small amount of damage to his reputation, he could create difficulties for Qin Yu.

How well-calculated!

"General Jinwu, I have orders to take care of something else, so I will not stay and talk with you any longer. In the future, let's find a chance to get to know each other better." Chen Ziling smiled slightly, cupping his hands before leaving.

His words were seemingly polite, but there was a clear alienation.

To help someone in need was the best way to form good relations with them. Qin Yu was struggling now. If Chen Ziling was sincere in wanting to be friends with Qin Yu, he would not have such an attitude now.

This person was unreliable.

Jiang Chengzi was an upright person. He climbed up the ranks one by one to become the general that he was today in the West Border Army. He had high prestige and numerous cronies.

If Qin Yu had his help, he would have a much easier time. However, today, in the marshal tent, Jiang Chengzi did not say anything to him except for a greeting at the beginning.

Lord Chengtian's plan seemed to have met with an accident, but Qin Yu did not know what happened.

However, the only external force that he could rely on seemed to have failed him.

Chapter 1520B – Mine

Returning to the military tent, Hundred Saint greeted him anxiously, "General, the one hundred thousand troops in the camp have been transferred to the frontline!"

Qin Yu frowned slightly, then returned to calm, "Got it."

Hundred Saint smiled bitterly, "General, you were the one who brought them to the West Border camp..."

He did not finish his sentence.

These one hundred thousand troops were given by His Majesty for Qin Yu to form his foundation.

But now, they had not even done anything and were already transferred.

It was equivalent to destroying Qin Yu's foundation. He had no more soldiers under his command, so how could he establish a place for himself in the army?

Qin Yu said, "This was a decision made by Marshal Wu."

Today, Marshal Wu invited him to the tent but transferred his troops away, leaving no one under his command.

It seemed that Marshal Wu was indeed very dissatisfied with what Qin Yu had done.

Hundred Saint took a deep breath and said, "General, I'll go and pay a visit to Uncle Jiang Chengzi right now."

Qin Yu did not stop him and watched calmly as he exited the tent.

He was not optimistic about Hundred Saint's trip to visit Jiang Chengzi. Jiang Chengzi's silence today was already an indicator of his stance.

He was neutral. He was not going to suppress Qin Yu, but he was not going to help him either.

To be honest, the current situation was not in Qin Yu's favor. He wanted to have a chance to climb up the ranks, but there was no hope in sight.

If he did not do anything soon, the people in the capital city were going to be very disappointed in him.

And this would not be good for Qin Yu's future plans.

He needed to borrow the West Desolate's power!

The only good news was that Marshal Wu really cared about his reputation and did not stop Qin Yu from being a military counselor, so he was still qualified to attend meetings in the marshal tent.

What he had to do was to wait for the right opportunity to appear for him to propose a unique and strange solution, and then he could finally gain a foothold in the military!

Hundred Saint did not return for the entire night. Qin Yu was not worried about his safety. Even if it were not Jiang Chengzi, he did not think that anyone would blame Lord Chengtian.

After tidying up and putting on his armor, he left his tent and went straight towards the marshal tent.

"General Jinwu!" Outside the marshal tent, the young general who had a cold expression on his face frowned. "The meeting in the marshal tent started promptly at sunrise, you're late."

Qin Yu replied, "I will take note of this and won't do it again next time." He then looked up at the young general, raised his eyebrows, and said, "Did the marshal give an order not to let me into the tent?"

The young general's face changed slightly, before stepping aside with a cold humph.

Qin Yu was too lazy to argue with him, so he stepped into the tent.

The discussion had already started, and it was Ye Sangdu who was speaking. When he saw Qin Yu come in, he glanced at him but did not stop speaking.

Qin Yu greeted Wu Tongtian before sitting down to listen quietly.

A 'military counselor' was a general term for military assistants, but Qin Yu had no clue about the specific scope of duties he was responsible for. Now that he was taking part in the discussions, all he could do was listen, and had no chance to speak.

At nightfall, Qin Yu stepped out of the marshal tent. He looked up and looked at the bright starry sky above him.

This time, no one spoke to him. Even Chen Ziling had only nodded his head slightly and left in a hurry.

The corner of Qin Yu's mouth twitched, and then he turned and left.

Hundred Saint returned, and looked embarrassed when he saw Qin Yu. "General..."

Qin Yu interrupted him immediately, "I believe that Jiang Chengzi has his own difficulties, I understand."

Hundred Saint exhaled, "Thank you for your understanding, but General, what do we do next?" His eyebrows furrowed with worry.

He was dispatched by his uncle to follow Ning Qin into the army camp, and they both shared weal and woe. If Ning Qin performed well, Hundred Saint would be credited for it as well, but if Ning Qin performed poorly, Hundred Saint would be implicated too.

Qin Yu said, "I have gotten permission from Marshal Wu to participate in the discussions. Let's persevere for a while. We can make plans when we've gotten a better grasp on the situation of the war."

Hundred Saint laughed bitterly, "I guess that's the best we can do now."

After sending him away, Qin Yu sat down and drank tea, with a thoughtful look in his calm eyes. Of course, what he said just now was not real; he was not really struggling.

Hundred Saint was likely to be trustworthy, but Qin Yu had to make some safeguards to feel more at ease.

Of course, Qin Yu also wanted to use Hundred Saint to spread the message to the outside world that Ning Qin was 'trapped'.

Only in this way could people relax and not pay too much attention to him.

In the next half month, General Jinwu really became an invisible person.

He attended every meeting punctually every day, but he never got the chance to speak out at all.

The number of looks he got started to decrease. Even if someone occasionally looked his way, it was a gaze full of pity and cold mockery.

Perhaps it would not be long before the reprimanding from the capital city arrived. Then, this General Jinwu would have to leave in despair.

Qin Yu looked calm, seeming to have accepted all this. No one knew that he had already gathered countless pieces of military information in his heart.

In terms of access to confidential information, Qin Yu who took part in the discussions in the marshal tent was among the first-ranked in the West Border Army.

After much scrutiny and calculation, Qin Yu seemed to have gotten a better grasp of the situation. If his calculations were correct, he would be able to get a confirmation tomorrow...this was the opportunity that he had been waiting for. An opportunity to prove himself.

Night fell. The sound of slaughter filled the air and a terrifying aura soared to the sky. A large army of barbarians made a surprise attack, advancing three thousand miles into West Desolate territory. Youming City fell!

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The nine suns had not risen yet, but the marshal tent was already brightly lit. The cultivators in the army had a heavy expression on their faces, their eyes full of worry.

“After Youming City was breached, our troops reacted immediately and fought against the barbarian army to try and retake the city, but the barbarians were too strong. After fighting for an entire night without retreating, both sides lost over 30,000 soldiers.”

“Intelligence reports show that the barbarian forces are still being reinforced, and there are still more than 10,000 of them in Youming City.”

“Everyone, the distance between Youming City and the mine is less than a thousand miles. The purpose of the barbarians is clear.”

“Retake Youming City at all costs; the mines must not be lost!”

The front line was defeated. In the marshal tent today, there were a few leaders and a few frontline generals present.

Everyone seemed to have the same opinion – that the barbarians launched a surprise attack on Youming City because they were after the mines.

The army had to be mobilized as soon as possible to force the barbarians to retreat.

“Everyone, the barbarians have been reinforcing their troops in Youming City, and they are really fierce. It may not be easy to retake the city in a short period of time,” Jiang Chengzi suddenly said. The voice of the veteran general made everyone quiet down, and they all looked at him.

He stood up, cupped his hands and said, “Marshal Wu, the mine is of great importance. To avoid accidents, we should dispatch a competent division there to guard the mine.”

It became even quieter in the marshal tent.

The mine...for the West Border Army, it was a near-taboo existence.

No one was willing to guard the mine even if it was a crucial piece of territory.

Guarding the mine...was equivalent to ending up dead!

Once they stepped in, there would be no turning back. They would be locked in that bitter, cold and barren land for the rest of their lives.

Wu Tongtian's eyes flashed. "General Jiang is right, we can't let anything happen to the mine."

His eyes swept through everyone in the tent, as if he was considering who should be sent to guard the mine.

Ye Sangdu suddenly stood up and said, "Marshal, the mine is of great importance. In this current situation, only a general would be qualified to guard it."

He then pointed and said, "General Jinwu was ordered by His Majesty to aid the West Border Army. Since he has not yet been assigned a specific position, he can fulfill this role."

Whoosh –

Whoosh –

Countless eyes started to look at him.

Qin Yu's face turned 'ugly'. He frowned and said solemnly, "Marshal, I don't know anything about the mine. If I'm sent there, accidents might occur. Regarding this matter, I hope you think it through carefully. I really lack the confidence to pull this off."

Ye Sangdu said, "General Jinwu, why are you being so humble? His Majesty sent you here; I'm sure you are capable."

He then turned around, cupped his hands and continued, "Marshal, the military situation is urgent and the barbarians might launch another surprise attack at any time. The general guarding the mine must be quickly decided."

Wu Tongtian slowly nodded and said, "General Jinwu, attention!"

Qin Yu showed grief and indignation on his face, "Present!"

"I order you to take some guards with you and immediately head to the mine to guard it. Leave immediately, and ensure that the mine is not raided by the barbarians!"

"Yes...Marshal!"

The news quickly spread throughout the camp like a gust of wind.

General Jinwu Ning Qin had been ordered to guard the mine. Once he went, he would probably never come back again.

Tsk tsk, tragic! How tragic!

