

Refining 1521

Chapter 1521 – Barbarian Curse

The wind howls, and the water is freezing. The warriors with this one-way ticket...wanted to go home!

My name is Hundred Saint, and I am a member of the West Desolate Royal Family. Because my uncle is trusted by His Majesty, he was given the title of Lord Chengtian.

It was a rather good title.

Basically, even if he did not do anything, he could still be a rich and wealthy man who lived idly and happily for the rest of his life.

But a man's worth was no greater than the worth of his ambitions.

Therefore, I obeyed the orders of my uncle Lord Chengtian and followed General Jinwu into the West Border Army camp.

Originally, I thought that I would be able to make some contributions here, rise in the ranks, and obtain a bright future for myself.

But things are unpredictable.

General Jinwu was ostracized in the West Border Army, and was exiled to guard the mine. As his confidante, I had to follow him and head there too.

The heavens were so ruthless, and I cried tears of sorrow in my heart.

I turn back with every step I take and see that the camp is getting farther and farther away. There is only the whistling of the wind in my ears.

My future is bleak!

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In the West Army Border camp.

At this moment, there were many eyes looking at the two figures who had left.

That's right, there were only two of them.

Because, with the Marshal's order, the general who was responsible for taking care of the camp's everyday needs had disappeared without a trace for fear of being implicated.

The twelve imperial guards did not hesitate to stay out of the matter. Due to their identities, the West Border Army could only acquiesce.

Only Hundred Saint had been Qin Yu's confidante since the beginning, so it was hard for him to escape from this situation. Of course, there were still people in-charge of 'escorting' them to prevent any accidents from happening on the way.

The person in charge of escorting them was a young general with a face covered with scars and coldness. With a cold demeanor, he did not hide his arrogance in the slightest.

It was indeed the soldier who was stationed by the marshal tent.

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“Marshal, General Jinwu is special after all. His Majesty might not be pleased with such an arrangement,” one of the military counselors looked worried.

Wu Tongtian’s expression was indifferent. “His Majesty has never liked me anyway. As long as the barbarians are still around, my position will be stable.”

Although he had got to this position by his own merits, the Ye Family had also made huge contributions in helping him.

Of course, in return, he also ensured the power and authority of the Later Ye Family in the military.

Over the years, the Royal Family had tried to intervene in military matters, and all these attempts had failed. It was largely because of him.

This was no secret.

The military counselor laughed bitterly, “Even if that’s the case, it’s still too obvious if you do it like this.”

Wu Tongtian put down his tea cup and said, “If His Majesty is not satisfied with my actions, he can go and find the Later Ye Family. After all, I’m just going with the flow.”

His eyes flashed as the thoughts turned in his head.

Jiang Chengzi... this veteran was closely related with Lord Chengtian. It was unexpected that he acted out this time.

Ye Sangdu and the rest were indeed resourceful.

This was the only logical explanation.

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“Congratulations, general, for successfully exiling General Jinwu to the mine. It’s the end for him!”

All his subordinates rejoiced loudly.

The corners of Ye Sangdu’s mouth were slightly upturned, revealing a little self-satisfaction.

Of course, he believed that all this was the result of his own planning. Jiang Chengzi had played along so nicely, and Ye Sangdu told himself that he should give him some benefits in the future.

As for the possible consequences for his actions... hmph, that Desolate King who sat in the Imperial Palace would soon be in trouble. He would not have the energy to punish Ye Sangdu.

Furthermore, he was part of the dignified Later Ye Family, one of the two cornerstones of the military. They could not easily be touched.

Even the Royal Family had to show them some respect.

This was the balance obtained after countless instances of friction and compromise between the military and the Royal Family over the long years.

After entering the mine, Ning Qin's path to a bright future was cut off. After a period of time, he would be gradually forgotten. Then, Ye Sangdu would be able to make a move.

Ye Sangdu knew what his cousin meant. Ning Qin must die!

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Jiang Chengzi looked solemn as he stood at the entrance of the tent and looked far into the distance, with a calm expression on his face.

"General, I don't understand this situation."

A colonel spoke from behind him.

Jiang Chengzi waved his hand and said, "I have my own reasons. Say no more."

"Yes, sir." The colonel laughed bitterly and continued, "But soon, I will have to pass a letter to the capital city. How should we explain it to Lord Chengtian?"

His nephew was sent to the mine by his own general. Although it was incidental, it was the case after all.

How could Lord Chengtian not be angry?

Jiang Chengzi assured the colonel, "I will write the letter, you don't have to worry about it. You are dismissed."

"Yes, sir."

The colonel turned to leave, his face full of puzzlement.

Because of some things that happened in the past, Ye Sangdu indeed had something that he could use against Jiang Chengzi.

However, this was not enough to make General Jiang Chengzi, who had always been calm and measured, suddenly make such an abnormal move.

There must be some other reason.

The sound of footsteps faded away and when it was finally silent, Jiang Chengzi breathed in and slowly exhaled.

He shook his head, his mouth showing a faint, bitter smile.

To be honest, he too did not know why Ning Qin had made such a request. He even brought up Lord Chengtian and the Desolate King in their conversations; Jiang Chengzi had no choice but to agree.

But one thing was for sure.

It was Ning Qin who wanted to go to the mine, which meant that in the West Border Army camp, everyone was wrong about him.

The future was not going to be what they expected, it would definitely be unpredictable... But what exactly was Ning Qin planning to do?

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Without a word, the young general with scars on his face led the soldiers who had the same cold temperament as him, clearly unwilling to be thousands of miles away from the camp.

As a result, the morale in the team was extremely low, and it was hard to even breathe.

In the carriage, Hundred Saint's face was pale. He was barely maintaining his composure as he said, "General, you have a solution, right? You must have!"

Qin Yu glanced at him.

Hundred Saint was about to cry. "Brother Ning Qin, my dear general, please stop sitting there and doing nothing. The mine is not a place that we can go to, we absolutely cannot go there. If we do, both of us will be done for."

Qin Yu merely said, "The marshal has already given the order. Other than disobeying the order, we don't have a choice."

After a pause, he continued, "You know the consequences of disobeying an order too. Come to think of it, there are many people in the camp waiting for us to do something like that."

Hundred Saint trembled, understanding what Qin Yu meant.

Disobeying the marshal's order was disrespectful and rebellious. If this happened, only a warrant would be required to summon a troop of soldiers to chop them into meat sauce.

Hundred Saint had no doubts about the terrifying power of the imperial military.

His eyes widened and he looked lifeless, "Then...then we will just...accept our fate like this..."

I want to go home!

Qin Yu closed his eyes. He could understand the despair in Hundred Saint's heart.

The mine...

He suddenly thought about the information he received about this place.

It was not really accurate to say that it was a mine. Strictly speaking, it was just a large and vast area that also happened to be a source of precious metals.

The metals could be used to forge all kinds of military gear and tools to continuously meet the demand since there was always a war going on. It was a key storage place for these military materials as well.

According to common logic, being stationed in such a heavily-supplied place here was a good thing. One could resell the items here privately, and everyone would be trying to bribe one to get access to the items here as well.

After all, military supplies were high in demand, and the quality of these items was good!

There were other reasons why the mine had become such a taboo place that everyone in the West Border Army avoided it.

Long ago, this mineral-rich region was ruled by barbarians. After a huge war, its possession was taken over by the West Desolate's imperial military.

As for the details of that war, Qin Yu had already looked it up using his status of a 'military counselor'. It was no exaggeration to say that it was a 'minced meat battlefield'. Both the West Desolate and the West Barbarians lost at least a few million soldiers here.

It could be said that in this huge mining area, every inch of soil and every piece of ore was stained with blood. There were two peak-level Rulers and a great barbarian shaman who perished here.

The reason why the mine was a taboo place was related to this. Before the death of the great barbarian shaman, she cast a Barbarian Curse with the help of the millions of casualties.

This place was not auspicious at all, and it was also shrouded in barbarian aura. Any human cultivator who stepped into this place would be eroded by this aura.

The consequence for these human cultivators was that they would start showing 'barbaric' signs.

Their blood would no longer be pure, becoming half-human and half-barbarian, an alien that both sides rejected. Other than the first batch of people who had fought for the rights to enter the mine, once the news of the Barbarian Curse broke out, this place became like a 'plague' that everyone avoided.

To abandon it...of course they were reluctant to do so. The West Desolate suffered heavy casualties and used large amounts of resources to get ahold of this mine. It was so they could use it to forge military supplies and reduce the consumption of imperial resources.

Mining must be carried out, and there must be soldiers guarding this place. However, those that suffered from the Barbarian Curse could only stay here forever without a possibility of leaving.

After all, the military had a reputation to uphold as well. Something this scandalous must not be leaked out.

Violating military rules, making big mistakes, losing battles...all kinds of military cultivators had been exiled to this place to guard and to mine for minerals and metals that the empire needed.

And this was the 'problem' that Qin Yu was going to resolve.

It was also the reason why Hundred Saint was in despair.

Once they stepped into the mine, they would be eroded by the Barbarian Curse...the future was no longer bright!

But honestly, would this be a problem for Qin Yu?

He was the new Barbarian King, so there was no need to worry about the Barbarian Curse at all.

This place was the 'taboo' that everyone in the West Border Army avoided. For Qin Yu, however, it was an opportunity to turn the tables.

This was an important location for the military – it was responsible for half of the military’s supplies. As long as this place landed in his possession, he would gain a firm foothold in the military.

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“The West Desolate sent a troop of soldiers to the mine!”

A team of barbarians hid in the ground. In the dark, the violence that was surging in their eyes could be seen.

“The black barbarian shaman’s plan has not yet begun. We have to stop them to avoid any accidents,” a barbarian growled.

His words rapidly received the approval of everyone.

“Kill them!” The barbarians roared as they came out from underground.

The earth quickly shook, and with a loud rumble, the barbarian warriors in heavy armor rushed out from afar.

“Kill!” Roaring, they rushed forth like a torrent.

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In the carriage, Qin Yu opened his eyes and frowned slightly, looking slightly helpless. He thought that he would be able to enter the mine area smoothly, but an accident was about to occur.

Outside the carriage, angry roars could already be heard. The elites from the West Desolate military could sense that something was wrong.

“Defend against the enemies!”

The scar-faced general pulled out his long sword and yelled a battle cry as he stared at the far horizon where the barbarians were rushing towards them.

Time to fight!

The most powerful troops in the Barbarian Clan were able to fight off ten enemies at once.

The marshal was right. The barbarians’ goal was indeed to gain possession of the mine.

Xiu –

Signal flares shot up into the sky.

However, to prevent any sudden ambushes, the West Border Army camp did not have any Teleportation Portals.

Even if they saw the flares, it would take some time for reinforcements to arrive, and they might not be able to hold out against the strongest barbarian warriors.

While the thoughts turned in Qin Yu’s mind, the barbarian cavalry had already arrived!

“Kill!”

Chapter 1522A – The Disturbance in the Deep Mine

With the title 'General Jinwu', it was not appropriate for Qin Yu to take action against the army from the West Desolate.

However, as the Desolate King, it was even worse for him to attack the Barbarian Clan members.

As such, Qin Yu chose not to do anything.

Outside the horse carriage, the cries and shouts were as loud as the waves of an ocean.

The screeching screams as people died frequently sounded through the air.

Hundred Saint's expression was pale and he asked, "General, what should we do?"

Although he was considered strong as a Saint, he did not have much confidence against the cavalry of the Barbarian Clan.

Qin Yu glanced at him and questioned, "Do you want to help?"

Hundred Saint nodded hesitantly.

Although he was not on good terms with the West Border Army, Hundred Saint knew his priorities when faced against the Barbarian Clan.

Furthermore, if the West Border Army was defeated, their turn would come next.

Qin Yu nodded, "Alright, go ahead."

Hundred Saint looked at Qin Yu's unchanging expression. He could not guess what Qin Yu was thinking.

Gritting his teeth, he turned and pushed open the carriage door.

However, just as he turned around, his vision turned black and his consciousness fell into darkness.

Qin Yu glanced at the unconscious Hundred Saint and his lips curled.

He still could not control the lantern fully. He originally only wanted to knock Hundred Saint unconscious for a while.

But unexpectedly, he almost made Hundred Saint's mind explode.

Coughing lightly, Qin Yu ignored the sense of guilt in his heart and he rubbed his chin.

The killing was still continuing outside. However, it was evident that the West Border Army was about to be wiped out.

They could not hold on much longer and they would be massacred. By then, he would be forced out as the Barbarian King.

This was not an acceptable outcome for him.

While killing the cavalry of the Barbarian Clan was a simple task for him, Qin Yu could not do so because he was the Barbarian King.

This was related to the Barbarian Mark.

What a pain!

Qin Yu sighed in exasperation. If he really had no other choice, he could release a tiny bit of aura and order the cavalry to retreat first. He could then take the time to prepare precautions.

The sound of the battle was slowly quieting down and right as Qin Yu was about to take action, his eyes suddenly flashed.

He sensed a familiar aura.

It was him!

Thinking quickly, Qin Yu immediately stopped himself. With a 'bang', he destroyed the carriage door and stepped out, shouting, "I am General Jinwu of the West Desolate. The Barbarian Clan must die!"

His shout boomed through the surroundings like thunder.

Icy cold glares from the eyes of the cavalry from the Barbarian Clan instantly locked onto him.

However, right at that moment, the leader of the cavalry's expression suddenly changed.

"Retreat!"

Clip clop clip clop –

The cavalry of the Barbarian Clan dragged the corpses of their fellow clan members away. As the ground shook uncontrollably beneath their feet, they disappeared across the plains.

The handsome young general who collapsed on the ground was spurting blood out of his mouth. He was flabbergasted by what he saw.

"General Jinwu is so cool..."

Before he could finish his sentence, he fainted.

Qin Yu's eyes swept across the area. He grabbed onto Hundred Saint with one hand and hesitated before carrying the young general too.

Shoosh –

His body shot through the air and he headed into the mine.

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The cavalry who retreated knelt down on the floor in a respectful manner. In front of them was an ascetic who was barefoot.

There was a scary scar that stretched across his face and tore through his scalp. Although the injury had healed, the purple red marks were still hideous.

“Lord Ascetic, why did you stop us from killing General Jinwu from the West Desolate?” Despite being respectful to the ascetic, the cavalry could not allow their men to have died for no reason. They had to give an explanation to the relatives of the dead.

The ascetic’s eyes were soft, a stark contrast from his terrifying appearance, “I will give you an explanation for this in the future.”

He waved his hand, “Go along. Take the black barbarian shaman and stop the mine mission.”

The leader of the cavalry frowned slightly but he did not dare to oppose, “Yes, my lord.”

Clip clop clip clop –

The ground shook again as the cavalry rode away.

The ascetic spit towards the ground and his eyes shone brightly. He never expected that General Jinwu who suddenly rose to power in the military of the West Desolate would be that young man.

Could all of this be related to the Desolate King?

The ascetic turned and left. He needed to report everything that happened to the clan.

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My name is Ironstone.

That’s right, it was the ironstone compound in the ore of iron.

Ever since I entered the army, I have been by the Grand Marshal’s side. After so many wins and defeats, what have I not seen before? I have trained my boldness.

I am not afraid of death!

For military men, dying on the battlegrounds was the best burial.

I, Ironstone, have been waiting for this day.

However, I have to admit that now, I am afraid.

There were many things in this world that were more scary than death.

For instance, I am being dragged into a mine now. Because of my injury, I was unconscious for a while.

Although my physical appearance did not appear to have been changed, I feel that something inside me has changed innately.

I...have been corrupted!

I am no longer a pure human, but...I am a mutant that is half human and half barbarian!

My heart is filled with terror and I can’t imagine surviving like this.

Accompanying this was an endless rage and despair. If my gaze could kill, General Jinwu, Ning Qin would have been killed a thousand times.

Shouldn't he have waited for the reinforcements from the camp to force the Barbarian Clan cavalry to retreat?

Even if you run from the battlefield, you could have chosen any other direction. Why did you choose this way?

Furthermore, if you wanted to come here, why bring me along?

If there was a choice, I, Ironstone, would rather have died on the battlegrounds!

Boohoo –

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The cries of the burly man were full of despair and utter sadness. Had anyone witnessed this scene before?

Hundred Saint's expression was filled with grief and he stared at Qin Yu who was seated cross-legged not far away with a complicated look in his eyes.

After the chase from the Barbarian Clan cavalry, General Jinwu and his subordinates were heavily injured. No one could guard the mine...it was such a perfect reason and opportunity. As long as he gave a nudge, they could get out of this miserable nightmare.

However, General Jinwu refused to!

Not only that, he voluntarily took Ironstone who was sobbing like a lady into the mine too.

Everything was settled.

I, Hundred Saint, have blood of the Imperial Clan in my veins. I am a young man who had a bright future ahead of me.

How did I end up like this?

I am stuck here and I will no longer have a chance to flee from this place.

Goodbye, capital!

Goodbye, all my women!

He thought about how he would start to evolve barbarian-like features in the future as the Barbarian Clan curse intensified.

He would not be a human nor would he be a ghost.

As he thought about this, a painful cry started to emerge from the mines.

Hundred Saint's eyes were flooded with tears.

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Nothing could stop my plan from unfolding.

The mine was the base.

This was the starting point for him to establish himself in the military and gain more control.

Qin Yu could feel Hundred Saint's resentment from his gaze. The young lad was hateful.

It was alright because he would soon learn that 'desperate situations' were meant to be broken out of.

Flicker –

Qin Yu's eyes flung open. He heard footsteps which indicated that someone was here!

"I am the general in charge of guardian the mine. Greetings to General Jinwu."

This low voice that was accompanied with the metallic clanging of armor made the damp and cramped mine seem much more ominous.

As mentioned before, the men who guarded the mine were considered failures in the border army.

Otherwise, they would not be assigned to this place where they would be subjected to the Barbarian Curse.

They finally got over the psychological despair of being here and they struggled to gain power in the mine.

However, orders suddenly came from the border army that General Jinwu would control the mine.

Who would be satisfied with this?

As such, Qin Yu could understand their hostility and rejection.

Qin Yu turned around and noticed that Hundred Saint had stopped wailing. He wore a cautious look in his eyes as he scanned the ground.

These men were all burly but their skin was rough, dry and cracked. There were even scales that lined their bodies.

Their eyes were either pale green or an orange color and their pupils were no longer round but flat horizontal rectangles that made them look like ferocious wild beasts.

This was the Barbarian Transformation!

The Barbarian Curse was not used to change humans into barbarians. Otherwise, there would be many spies from the West Desolate in the Barbarian Clan.

It was scary because it ate at the blood of the human race and forcibly caused the human to undergo a transformation. The cultivators in the mine were trapped in a state where human and barbarian blood coexisted but could not fuse.

This also caused their strange appearance.

As their physical appearance changed, their souls became twisted as well. Hundred Saint sensed a thick evil aura around these men and he could not help drawing closer to Qin Yu.

Although Saints were strong, the aura of a half human barbarian was terrifying. This was especially pronounced for the leader of the group whose head was covered in black scales.

A Ruler!

He was also a powerful Ruler who was not far from the peak level.

Despite his strength, he was not able to resist the power of the Barbarian Clan. If he attacked someone, he would only need one hand to turn them into dust.

Chapter 1522B – The Disturbance in the Deep Mine

“Rise.” Qin Yu glanced at Hundred Saint’s pale expression and he knew that Hundred Saint was stunned. He had to step forward himself.

“I am Ning Qin and I was granted the title of General Jinwu by His Majesty. Under the command of the Grand Marshal, I am here to defend the mine and prevent the Barbarian Clan from sneaking an attack upon us.”

“Therefore...” Qin Yu stepped forward. The ground below him cracked and he stated, “This place is under my command from now on.”

Boom –

A powerful aura burst from his body. It was as strong as a mountain and it crushed the surroundings.

Back in the West Border camp, Qin Yu was restricted and he could only endure grievances.

However, once he was in the mine, he could not be bothered to waste time in this chaotic place.

There was no need for schemes and planning and he did not bother with gaining the loyalty of these half human barbarians.

Suppressing them and gaining their respect and submission was sufficient.

There was a moment of silence. The man whose head was covered with scales was the first to kneel down.

Thump thump thump –

Everyone knelt down.

In the forbidden mine, darkness and cruelty went beyond one’s imagination. Men who could withstand the hardship and gain power were extraordinary in strength and schemes.

Despite that, these men could only go submit to Qin Yu.

Because he was strong enough!

Furthermore, the aura that Qin Yu let out made them fearful.

It felt like he was a Ruler who could easily decide their lives. A single thought from him would throw them into eternal doom!

In fact, these men made the correct judgment. Because they had the Barbarian Curse, they could sense the aura from the lantern.

As such, Qin Yu could use the lantern to control the Barbarian Curse in their bodies. He could destroy their lives.

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“Lord Black Scales, are we submitting like this?” Aside from her rough skin that gave away the fact that she was half human barbarian, this lady had an enchanting figure.

“Snake Lady, he is very strong. I am not confident.” Black Scales slowly muttered; his opinion was obvious.

Snake Lady cried, “The mine is ours. He is an outsider who took control immediately, I am not satisfied!”

Black Scales glanced at her, “If you are not satisfied, think of a way to fix it yourself. I am tired.”

Snake Lady gritted her teeth and she swished around angrily, “Black Scales, once you have thought it through, find me in the snake cave.”

“Hmmp!”

Black Scales coldly grunted and his eyes turned dark, “Snake Lady you bitch, you are trying to provoke me to challenge General Jinwu directly. You are sending me to my death so that you can reap the benefits.”

“General, Snake Lady is vicious but the mine should be under your control. Are you really going to give it away?” One of his underlings questioned in annoyance.

Black Scales scoffed, “General Jinwu is very strong and I cannot take him on. Since he wants control, I can only give it up to him. But this is not the end of the mine. Even if he has the power, if he cannot run it, he will face trouble!”

“General, are you referring to the sinners below?”

“Hurry, go and tell them that the mine’s manager has changed. If they don’t want to be replaced, they should know what to do.” Black Scales’ eyes sparkled brilliantly.

Although General Jinwu was strong, this mine consumed people!

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In the West Border camp, Wu Tongtian stared at the weak, powerless lady in front of him, “Rourou, I have informed Night Demon Sect Master. He will arrive soon and take you back to the Demon Sect.”

“No, I want to go to the mine.” Rourou was a name that rolled off the tongue easily. At that moment, she wore a determined look on her face.

Her face flushed and she bit her lip, “I...I am already his woman...I want to be with him...”

This reason was good enough.

Wu Tongtian’s frown etched deeper, “The mine is no ordinary place. Have you thought through it clearly?”

Rourou nodded her head firmly, "I want to go there!"

Wu Tongtian waved his hand, "Since that is the case, do not blame me."

As the leader of the sects, the Demon Sect may not have a cultivator in the King realm but it was not to be underestimated.

Wu Tongtian was the Grand Marshal of the border army and he wanted to curry favor with the sect. However, since she was not appreciative, he did not need to remain obsessed with it.

As he thought about the mine and Qin Yu, there was a moment of hesitation in Wu Tongtian's eyes.

He had a feeling that things were not that simple.

However, the Barbarian Curse was made by the Grand Shaman with the lives of a hundred thousand souls and his own life.

Not even a King realm cultivator would be able to resolve it. What could Ning Qin do?

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The Barbarian Curse was obviously useless against a barbarian.

Furthermore, as the new Barbarian King, Qin Yu actually felt more comforted with it and he felt empowered.

The mine was considered a terrifying forbidden ground for a regular cultivator from the West Desolate.

However, for the Barbarian Clan, this was a sacred place for cultivation that they could use to speed up their growth.

Opening his eyes, Qin Yu let out a sigh of relief and his eyes shone brightly.

He could feel a strange disturbance deep in the mine.

This disturbance seemed to have sensed his presence too.

It was summoning him...no, more accurately, it was making an enthusiastic call for him.

Qin Yu did not sense evil from it. He thought about the Barbarian Clan and that scary Grand Shaman from the past. It might not be related to him.

It seemed that he had to find an opportunity to investigate the deep part of the mine.

Right now, he had to take care of a small matter in case his men fell deeper into depression.

Thinking carefully, Qin Yu instructed, "Call Hundred Saint over."

After suppressing the half human barbarians, Qin Yu arranged a living location for himself. The mine was plain and simple but those in power could still enjoy some luxury. At least, this involved a residence that was constructed out of countless gems underground.

"General, you called for me." Hundred Saint briskly walked over and bowed.

He tried his best to maintain a calm expression but there was a pang of bitterness in his eyes.

Qin Yu glanced at him and flipped over his palm, revealing a pill. He said, "This elixir can suppress the transformation in your body. It will stop the curse from affecting you for a short period of time."

Hundred Saint shook his head vigorously and stared at the elixir with wide eyes. He was filled with disbelief but also joy.

He gulped down the elixir impatiently and sat down. Closing his eyes, he felt the changes in his body.

As a warm wave passed through him, he felt like the terrifying changes to his body had suddenly disappeared.

He...was pure again!

Ss –

Hundred Saint's eyes flung open and he smiled, "Brother Ning Qin, I knew that you would have a way out. You will not be victimized by others so easily!"

Qin Yu smiled, "I feel like you have been cursing me in your heart numerous times the past two days."

He had been exposed and he could only smile awkwardly.

Qin Yu could not be bothered to argue with him. He retrieved another elixir and instructed, "Give this to Ironstone. Otherwise, I will truly be worried that his tears will flood my residence."

The burly young man, Ironstone, was such a pitiful sight when he cried.

Hundred Saint grabbed the elixir and his face twitched, "General...this..."

In his opinion, an elixir that could suppress their transformation from the Barbarian Curse was invaluable.

Although he ate one already, what if the elixir was ineffective?

Qin Yu instantly saw through him. He frowned, "Do what I asked you to. I still have elixirs, but do keep this as a secret among us three."

His eyes flashed and he said, "Tell Ironstone that if he reveals anything, I will send him to do labor in the mines."

"General, please rest assured." Hundred Saint walked out.

He was confident that Ironstone would be tight-lipped.

After all, the elixir that could temporarily suppress their body transformation from the Barbarian Curse was in Qin Yu's hands.

Offending him would bring terrible consequences.

As long as there was still hope in Ironstone's heart, he should know what to do.

The elixir was actually just an ordinary spirit pill to recover strength for a cultivator. However, Qin Yu placed some aura from the lantern in it and that was why it was effective.

With the aura protecting them, Hundred Saint and Ironstone would be safe as long as Qin Yu did not retrieve the aura.

He had to think broadly. He could not survive in the military by himself.

Qin Yu needed supporters.

Hundred Saint was one and he was putting Ironstone on probation now. Because Ironstone had been cast aside to the mines, he would be abandoned by the marshal tent.

If this lad obeyed him well, he would be treated well. Otherwise, Qin Yu would find a hundred ways to kill him!

Chapter 1523 – Sinners on Strike

Deep within the mine, there was a pitch black cave where a special crystal reflected a soft hue of green light.

There was a cold pair of eyes that looked extra scary in the dark.

“There is news from above. The border army has assigned a new general to take over control of the mine. We are to take action and make sure that this new general knows that the mine is not his to control.”

The low voice sounded like a bubble bursting in a hot spring. Every burst released a thick scent of blood.

From his physical characteristics, this person was a man. However, under the green light, one could vaguely pick out his features. He was not a human at all.

He had three hands, two on the left and one on the right. Two heads rested on his shoulder and the bigger head was the one currently talking.

Once the big head finished speaking, the small head laughed coldly, “Those bastards up top will hand over their control nicely? It seems like this new general is quite powerful.”

The other voice rang again, “Asking us to take action is using us as their weapon. Do they think we are stupid?”

The big head stared into the darkness. There was a pile of objects in the distance. He slowly said, “Make them send five hundred women down.”

Slurp –

Someone gulped down their saliva in the darkness.

“They would typically bargain and protest no matter what. Since they are being so generous now, it means Small Head is right. The new general is truly strong. It might not be the right choice for us to be his enemy.”

“That’s right. We are rats in the basement and it was not easy for us to survive so much hardship to live till this day. We should not risk our lives so easily.”

Small Head shrieked, "Why don't we leave the decision to this new general. If he can give better conditions, we will acknowledge his rule. Otherwise, he should not blame us for not giving him respect."

Big Head slowly said, "That is a good idea."

Very soon, the sinners in the darkness reached an alignment of their views.

Naturally, they had a way to deliver their opinions to the top.

In fact, these underground sinners were very efficient.

Qin Yu noticed a letter on his desk. However, he did not know where it came from.

He opened it and read the contents. The writer used a respectful tone, however, he also conveyed his tough attitude – agree to the terms and everything will be well. They would acknowledge his rule as the general and would complete their tasks on time every month.

Otherwise...hehe, everything would be turned around.

Qin Yu placed the letter down and rubbed his chin. His lips curled into a cold smirk.

It seemed like these men didn't have a grasp of the situation yet. He would need to correct them.

The mine was his to control. Regardless of the top or bottom, no one could bargain with him.

If they made trouble, they would be killed.

An hour later, the half human barbarians guarding different areas of the mine hurried to General Jinwu's residence.

They exchanged looks of confusion. They did not know what happened.

After waiting for a while, they started to get anxious. Just then, Qin Yu called them in.

"Greetings to General!"

Black Scales and Snake Lady were kneeling on the ground.

Since they had already submitted to him, they naturally acted respectfully on the surface.

"Since you are here, continue kneeling." A simple sentence made their hearts clench and their eyes quivered uneasily.

There was silence in the air. A few moments later, Black Scales sighed softly and asked, "General, what happened?"

Qin Yu stared at him, "Good question. It seems that this letter in my hands grew its own legs and ran into my room."

He held the letter in between two fingers and snapped it. There was a sharp sound as the letter flew down like a knife and wedged a hole in the ground.

Black Scales opened the letter and he quickly scanned its contents, "Outrageous! These underground sinners deserve to die. They dared to threaten you. Please give your command and punish them."

Qin Yu snickered, "Of course I will punish them. But I want to know, who gave them the idea of raising these conditions?"

There was silence.

"It is alright if you don't admit it. Women aren't ores. They can be hidden but search a little and you will get them."

"Black Scales, you were the one in charge of the mine previously. Where do you think we should start searching?"

Black Scales frowned and slowly said, "General, I believe that the underground sinners are purposely challenging..."

"So, are you saying that I should not investigate this?"

Black Scales nodded. He was about to say something but he was interrupted. "But, I have already investigated it," Qin Yu said.

Qin Yu looked over the crowd, "Before you guys came, I already gave out orders to Hundred Saint. I hope that you guys will not be too rash. If something happens to Hundred Saint, I will not be pleased."

Shoosh –

A bead of sweat appeared on Black Scales' forehead. He cursed at the underground sinners for daring to play a trick.

After this was over, let's see how he would take care of them!

'It is alright. The women are hidden in a secure manner. Hundred Saint has just arrived and he will not be able to find them.' Black Scales kept these thoughts to himself.

The next moment, he heard footsteps. Hundred Saint marched over and bowed, "General, I found them!"

Black Scales' head whipped around and he looked in the direction where Hundred Saint pointed, "They were kept in an isolated, secret mine by Black Scales."

At that point, his first thought was that there was a traitor!

Then, he refused to admit it. Black Scales' mind spun quickly and he shouted suddenly, "Sorcery, this is sorcery!"

"Hundred Saint just arrived in the mine and he is not familiar with the terrain. How can he find these women in such a short period of time?"

Hundred Saint scoffed, "Don't you believe me? They have already been brought back. We can ask these women to testify who locked them here at any time."

There was a cold glare in his eyes, "After all, they said that you, Black Scales, have already used a few of them."

Black Scales sweated profusely.

Slight anger started to simmer in his eyes but it disappeared at the last instant.

They had been discovered!

Recalling General Jinwu and his expression previously...Black Scales knew that there would be trouble today.

Sighing deeply, Black Scales stood up, "Everyone, General Jinwu, you are despicable. In order to control the mine, you actually came up with this scheme to harm me!"

He turned around and shouted, "Everyone, it is my misfortune today, but the next time, it will be you. If you don't want to be killed one by one, follow me and attack him!"

The half human barbarians behind him started panting heavily. Black Scales had targeted their greatest fear. Now was really the chance for them. Although General Jinwu was strong, if they allied together, they would have a chance.

As for the consequences...all the army camp wanted was the flow of ores from the mine every month.

They would not care about the internal struggles and killing in the mine.

"Hmmp!" Qin Yu snorted coldly. "If I wanted to kill you, I would not have resorted to such troublesome ways."

He raised his hand and pressed his palm down.

Boom –

The ground shook violently and deep cracks stretched across the ground. Black Scales was crushed by the attack and he lay limp on the ground.

There was dead silence in the air!

All surging forces, violence and killing intent instantly disappeared and all that was left was shock.

The powerful Black Scales was in the Ruler realm but he was crushed so easily.

General Jinwu was unbelievably powerful.

At that point, Hundred Saint's eyes were bulged wide open and filled with disbelief.

Although he knew that Qin Yu must have a plan because he took action against Black Scales, he never imagined that Qin Yu would possess such strength.

Did something happen to him during the excursion to the Western Barbarian Land, or had he always been hiding his strength? Regardless of the reason, Hundred Saint was joyous with this.

His future was closely bound to Qin Yu and the area covered by the canopy of the big tree was cool. The more powerful Qin Yu was, the better it was for Hundred Saint!

Everyone felt like Qin Yu was a tall mountain that reached to the clouds. He was unbelievably high and out of their reach.

In fact, he was not that strong. The reason why he could casually crush Black Scales was because Black Scales had the Barbarian Curse in his body.

Of course, Qin Yu would not admit this. He wanted to govern the mine and make it his territory. The more the half human barbarians respected him, the better it was.

Black Scales sweated profusely. He did not know that Qin Yu would be this strong.

If Qin Yu had crushed him single-handedly, the half human barbarians would be running into their own graves by allying against him.

It was no longer possible for them to oppose General Jinwu. No one would be willing to die with him!

“General Jinwu, you cannot kill me!” Black Scales screamed, “The sinners underground heed my orders. If you kill me, the sinners will rise and hold an uprising in rage. Then, the mine will stop functioning and you won’t be able to get ores. You will be in trouble then!”

Qin Yu nodded, “Thank you for the reminder.”

Bam –

There was a muffled bang before Black Scales’ body felt like it had been squeezed by an invisible hand.

His body contorted into a weird shape and blood spurted out of his nose and mouth. Just like that, his aura was gone.

A powerful half human barbarian who was in the Ruler realm was dead!

Terror flooded the mine and it instantly filled everyone’s minds. If he killed the powerful Black Scales just like that, what about them?

“General, please spare us!”

“We do not know anything about this matter!”

“General, please investigate this thoroughly!”

Snake Lady slumped to the ground and her petite body shivered uncontrollably.

Not long ago, she was still instigating Black Scales to oppose General Jinwu.

She never imagined that this would be the outcome. Before Black Scales could do anything, he was killed on the spot.

With this thought, the fear in her heart grew stronger. She looked at the man in front of her and a pure horror overwhelmed her.

“I told you that the mine belongs to me now. I don’t think you guys took it to heart. I hope that this event will carve my words into your minds.”

Qin Yu waved his hand dismissively, “Take this corpse and leave. Anyone who dares to commit such crimes again, this will be your ending!”

The group of half human barbarians gingerly lifted up Black Scales' body and scurried out of the area nervously.

Under normal circumstances, their first thought would be to consider ideas to steal Black Scales' power after he was killed. However, no one dared to overstep their boundaries. The mine had a real master now and they had to listen to his orders.

"Impressive General!"

Hundred Saint's expression was shaking from his feelings and he said, "I will be fully loyal to you and will support you wholeheartedly. General, you will have big achievements in the military!"

Qin Yu glanced at him, "Stop sucking up! I will have to take care of a few things over the next two days. Escort her in and make appropriate arrangements for her."

He calculated the time. 'Rourou' should be arriving soon. When he left the camp back then, Qin Yu had made the arrangements.

Hundred Saint bowed, "Yes, General!"

.....

The underground mine was pitch black and cold. The surroundings carried an ominous aura that gave an uneasy feeling.

Black Scales was dead. The new general, General Jinwu, killed him in front of the public.

It was rumored that he killed Black Scales in a very casual manner. Black Scales did not have the chance to resist at all.

Small Head screamed, "This is a challenge to us!"

There was silence in the air.

General Jinwu used a violent and forceful method that included killing Black Scales to reject the conditions the sinners laid out.

Things were bound to go badly!

More importantly, General Jinwu was stronger than they thought.

"Everyone, it has already happened. What should we do?" Big Head slowly asked. His expression was calm.

"Hmmp!" A large silhouette that was as big as a mountain scoffed coldly, "General Jinwu truly displayed his might by killing Black Scales. At the same time, he is also tearing off our skin and trampling on us."

"We have to give our reply to this. Otherwise, we will not be appeased and we will not benefit from this."

"That's right. Although General Jinwu is strong, he does not know that we control the foundations of this mine!"

Small Head wore a serious expression. He revealed his razor sharp teeth and said, "Then, let's work together and teach him a lesson!"

The sinners underground...were going on strike.

.....

There were people stationed at the mine. However, people had to go deep underground in the dirty and damp darkness. They would dig the ores that were used in the construction of weapons and send them to the surface.

The people stationed in the mines were rejects from the border army camp. However, compared to the sinners underground, these people were already much better off.

More importantly, it was rumored that the altar constructed by the great barbarian shaman back then was underground.

The deeper they went underground, the stronger the curse. Once, a King realm cultivator of the West Desolate went underground to get rid of the Barbarian Curse.

However, after descending deep into the earth, he was forced to retreat without achieving anything.

The greatest criminals of the empire would be crushed and oppressed here...after so many years, there would still be criminals who were thrown into the mines.

No one knew how many 'miners' or sinners there were after so much time had passed.

However, according to that King realm cultivator who descended underground, there were layers and pathways in the underground that wound and interlocked with each other like a spider web. They created a dirty city in the dark underground.

It could even be considered the underground city for the sinners!

.....

"General, the sinners are starting an uprising. The mine has stopped production!" One of the half human barbarians reported urgently with his head covered with sweat.

They were not worried for Qin Yu but for themselves, as they were afraid that they would be affected by the conflict.

In fact, when Black Scales was killed, they knew that this moment would arrive.

However, they never expected that the sinners would react so quickly...it seemed like they wanted to use this chance to teach General Jinwu a severe lesson.

Although the mine was owned by the army of the West Desolate and the border army were stationed there, its real owners were the sinners underground.

The border army and the sinners reached an agreement that the border army would send them resources as long as the sinners continuously supplied ores from the mine.

However, the sinners had already stockpiled their supplies. Even if the border army stopped supplying them, the sinners would be able to survive for a while.

Killing people was an easy task for them.

However, it would be a big trouble if they ran out of ores to supply to the army. Every one of them would suffer the wrath of the army and they would be burned alive!

Chapter 1524 – Found You

“I got it.” Qin Yu set down his tea cup, a calm expression on his face.

Seeing General Jinwu’s reaction, the half human barbarians thought that he did not understand the horrifying consequences of the sinners going on strike.

“General, things are not good. The sinners have stated their demands. They want to get three times more than they were receiving previously before they start working again!” A half human barbarian wiped cold sweat off his face, “We have some ore stored for emergency use. But it’s just a drop in the bucket when compared to the mine production. We have to send the ore for this month in three days. If the sinners do not cooperate, there is no way we will be able to gather enough!”

They did not dare to grumble after Black Scales’ death and seeing Qin Yu’s powers.

Snake Lady gritted her teeth, “General, the only way now is to go along with what the sinners want.”

Qin Yu looked at them and said slowly, “There is no need to go through so much trouble. Since the sinners do not want to work, then put pressure on them.”

The half human barbarians were stunned!

Their eyes widened in shock. Their first thought was that General Jinwu wanted to take the chance to get rid of all of them.

It was simple. He just had to order them to lead people into the mine to put pressure on the sinners and they would never be able to return.

Simple and effective!

They paled as sweat rolled off them. They felt like they were on pins and needles.

Qin Yu’s mouth curled up mockingly, “Don’t worry, I am not sending you all to your deaths. I will personally tend to the sinners going on strike.”

“General!” Hundred Saint panicked, “The mine is deep and dangerous. You are precious and cannot take such risks. We have to consider the long run.”

As he said this, he threw a look.

He knew very clearly what kind of situation the mine was in. It was like a pit. Anyone who went in there would get buried. He could not understand why Ning Qin would make such a stupid decision all of a sudden.

Qin Yu looked at him before waving his hand, "Let's do as I say. You all can leave. In three days, there will be enough ore."

The half human barbarians bowed respectfully before leaving.

As long as he did not ask them to enter the mine, they would do anything he said...moreover, they wished Qin Yu would just die in the mine. When that happened, this place would be theirs and they would no longer have to live in fear.

As soon as the half human barbarians left, Hundred Saint growled, "General, the underground mine is a devil's nest. Back then, the Desolate king sent someone at the King realm to try, but even he failed. You cannot go in!"

Qin Yu replied, "That's enough. I know my limits."

He stood up and walked out, "Remember what I told you."

After a moment, Qin Yu appeared at a path leading to the underground mine.

As he looked into it, light quickly gave way to darkness and it was pitched black at the end. It was like a hole that swallowed people and made one's heart palpitate in fear.

The border army soldiers standing guard all stared, emotions swimming in their eyes.

General Jinwu, who held the most power here, was actually going to enter the underground mine personally and deal with the sinners on strike. He was asking for death!

Snake Lady licked her lips and said respectfully, "General, according to what we found, this mine runs underground but we are not sure how it connects."

She paused, "I have to remind you that the underground mine is like a maze and seems to have a huge curse created by the Barbarian Clan. You have to think carefully."

Qin Yu looked at her, "Although you say this, I bet you can't wait to see me walk in right?"

Snake Lady's expression changed as she fell to the ground, "General, I would not dare!"

Qin Yu sneered. Without looking at her, he stepped into the mine.

"Tell them that I will be back in three days."

The sound of footsteps faded and he disappeared.

Snake Lady looked up at the quiet mine.

Even though she personally saw Qin Yu step into it, she still could not believe it.

Did General Jinwu just enter the mine willingly?

Taking a deep breath, Snake Lady calmed herself down and there was a glimmer in her eyes.

Even someone of the King realm cannot solve it, so how could General Jinwu? He was asking to die by going underground.

Once the sinners informed her of General Jinwu's death after three days, all her work for all these years would pay off.

Black Scales was dead and General Jinwu was going to die in the underground mine. She would become the ruler of the mine!

.....

Outside the mine area, the border army that was escorting Rourou stopped far away.

No one wanted to try and experience the curse from the Barbarian Clan.

"Lady Rourou, we can only guide you till this point." An officer said looking unwilling.

From his point of view, Lady Rourou was too kind. She was clearly being controlled by General Jinwu yet she was willing to follow him.

But he had no say in this.

"Mhm."

Upon replying, the carriage doors were pushed open and Rourou stepped out.

At this moment, she suddenly frowned as she sensed something.

There was something in the distance.

"Watch out!"

The officer shouted.

The news of the barbarian cavalry attacking General Jinwu previously had spread through camp.

But very soon, they realized this was a false alarm.

The person approaching was a guard from the mine and it was obvious from his appearance. The guard knew what to do and stopped a distance away.

Hundred Saint looked troubled as he chuckled bitterly, "Lady, the General ordered me to come and get you."

Rourou replied, "Ning Qin...did he go somewhere?"

Hundred Saint took it that the army had received the news and nodded, "Yes, the sinners are going on strike and the general has gone to deal with them personally."

The officer who had escorted Rourou looked delighted.

Very soon, the news spread back to the army camp.

.....

Wu Tongtian frowned as he fell into deep thought. He felt like he could not understand Qin Yu.

Was this the one who caused Ye Bohu to suffer and the one chosen by the Desolate King?

No matter how he looked at it, it did not seem fitting.

The underground mine was a horrifying place. No matter how powerful General Jinwu was or what skills he had, he would be sure to die.

Forget it. It was his own choice. Even if he died, nothing much would happen.

This was actually good news for him.

.....

“Asking for death!”

Ye Sangdu sneered. How could anyone enter the underground mine?

It was a pity that he had prepared to get rid of him after a few days.

This was an easy way out!

If he had gotten his hands on the general, he would have made the general wish for death.

Very soon, Ye Sangdu focused his attention back on the military reports.

Ning Qin was sure to die. After the sinners killed him, the conditions would be fulfilled and the ore production would return to normal. All problems would fade.

This were not worth his effort.

.....

Jiang Chengzi sighed softly. He started to doubt his initial methods and whether he did not consider enough.

Ning Qin was done for!

.....

Qin Yu was in the underground mine and oblivious to the fact that most people outside already believed he was a corpse.

Of course, even if he knew, he probably would not care.

The truth won over everything!

Darkness and gloom. Other than the sound of his own footsteps, there was the sound of wind blowing from some unknown place, ‘hooooo’.

It sounded like a beast wailing and caused goosebumps to appear.

But Qin Yu was calm.

Not only because he had the lantern, but also because darkness was one of his abilities.

With the Light and Dark Body, walking in the darkness was like a fish swimming in water. He felt very comfortable.

It was as if everything was like day.

Another fork.

Over the years, the underground mine had turned into a maze as they mined ores.

At this point, Qin Yu had already passed more than a hundred big and small forks. He quickly made a decision each time, and this one was no exception.

Woosh –

Turning, Qin Yu stepped into the path on the right and continued forwards. Suddenly he frowned and his eyes glimmered.

There was someone watching him. Was it the sinners?

The aura was strange. It resembled neither humans nor barbarians. It was more chaotic, brutal, and hard to control.

But Qin Yu ignored it and allowed the aura to follow him from afar as he continued into the darkness.

.....

General Jinwu Ning Qin entered the underground mine alone to deal with the sinners!

When the news arrived, the sinners took it as a joke.

But the joke became real. Ning Qin was really here.

Moreover, he had been continuously going deeper and deeper.

A few of the leaders of the sinners gathered everyone in the dirty and sinful place.

“General Jinwu is here and the Magic Eye is following him now.” Above the shoulders, Big Head slowly spoke, seeming to be in thought.

Small Head shouted, “What are we waiting for? He took the initiative to enter, and it has been a long time since I last ate pure human flesh!”

There was a low chuckle from the Meat Mountain, “Kill General Jinwu and swallow his cultivation and power. We will take it as compensation.”

“That’s right. If he is asking to die, we have to give it to him!”

Chuckling coldly, the leaders of the sinners believed that Qin Yu was like prey offering himself to be eaten.

The leader with three arms and two heads growled, “Crow, you can handle this. Release the Dry Bones.”

In the darkness, there was a low and sinister laugh, “Of course, my babies have been starving.”

Black Scales’ death was sufficient to show how powerful General Jinwu was. Of course, they would not take action personally and give General Jinwu a chance to kill them.

In the underground mine, what they had were things that could kill. All they needed to do was wait for his corpse fragments to be brought over.

.....

Qin Yu paused as he tilted his head. He heard a strange sound. It was like a hard object rubbing across ores, causing friction between the surfaces.

Soon, there was a stench. It was as if a coffin had been opened after many years.

Roar –

Roar –

Roars could be heard and Qin Yu finally saw how they looked – a group of...dry-skinned bones!

Simply put, it was after the flesh finished disintegrating and all that was left behind was dried skin covering bones.

The dark eye sockets conveyed endless violence. They were bloodthirsty and when they opened their mouths to roar, it revealed their black teeth. They were the sinners that died and their body rotted from the curse. After many years, they changed and became horrifying creatures.

Dry Bones. They were the most frightening flesh predators in the underground mine. Even the sinners were their prey!

At this moment, they smelled the aura of fresh meat from Qin Yu and countless Dry Bones rushed over as they shouted.

The Dry Bones were frightening because they were indestructible and moved at lightning speed. Beyond that, they also had another shocking point – they were able to get through defenses to a certain level!

When they were alive, the sinners were filled with resentment, and after they died, they had a strong aura of death. They absorbed and accumulated an intense curse power. All this accumulated and caused the corpses to change and gain frightening killing abilities.

No matter how powerful a cultivator was, once they were surrounded by this group of Dry Bones in the narrow and dark paths of the underground mine, unless they were extremely powerful and could break through the ambush, they were sure to die.

But the problem was, how many people in this world had such great power? At least for now, Qin Yu was far from it. But he was the Barbarian King and had the lantern from the Barbarian Clan. The curse left by the great barbarian shaman would not work on him.

So when he saw the frightening Dry Bones rush over, Qin Yu merely held out his hand and clenched his fist.

Bang –

Bang –

Low explosion sounds resonated. It resembled giant stones exploding from their internal energy.

Although the Dry Bones did not have consciousness, there was shock in their eye sockets.

Their chests had been blown open. The dry hearts that were protected by numerous tough bones had now been crushed to pieces.

Under normal circumstances, it did not matter whether these Dry Bones had a heart. But now, as their 'walnut-sized' hearts disintegrated, light bloomed from their chests and the air around them seemed to speed up by at least one hundred thousand times.

The finger that was extended, their wide open mouths, the black teeth...all of these were rapidly disintegrating.

Everything sounded slow but it all happened extremely quickly. As Qin Yu lifted his hand and clenched it, there was silence.

The ground was covered with dust as if trying to tell a story.

Within the depths of Qin Yu's eyes, there was a glimmer, "Found you."

He lifted his hand and tapped!

.....

In the place where the leaders of the sinners were gathered, a grinning figure in the dark could clearly sense the delight from the Dry Bones.

They had found their prey and were going for the kill. He never doubted that this would happen.

Dry Bones were his most powerful skill. It was also how he managed to get this position.

Under the dim green light, his bright red tongue was extremely outstanding. He licked the corners of his lips with uncontrolled glee.

According to the rules, he would be able to get half of the prey that the Dry Bones were after. General Jinwu was able to kill Black Scales in one go. Such a strong cultivator like him must be extremely nourishing!

All of a sudden, his tongue froze at the corner of his mouth. The greed and desire in his eyes froze as well.

"Ahh!"

A miserable wail resounded in the darkness, expressing immense grief. But very soon, the wail sounded more frightened than sad.

Boom –

There was a loud sound from the ground and the figure in the darkness retreated back.

"Found you."

The air shook and the voice that pierced through the silence was filled with murderous intent.

Pfft –

A bloody hole appeared between his eyes and through his head to the back of his brain. In an instant, red and white viscous liquid splashed out!

Chapter 1525 – Suppress

The sinners of the underground, whose bloodlines had long been tainted, twisted and transformed into inhuman monsters.

Even if their brains exploded, although it would be a serious injury, it would not enough to be fatal.

But at this moment, with the sound of heavy objects falling to the ground, the aura of the figure that fell into the darkness dissipated.

One of the leaders of the sinners, one of the rulers of the dirty, underground Sin Nation was killed just like that.

A chill could be felt instantly, and the atmosphere was suddenly grave!

They would not have believed it if they had not seen it with their own eyes, but this was undoubtedly the truth.

Dry Bone King, the most terrifying existence in the underground...was dead.

And the one who did this was undoubtedly the owner of the voice just now.

It was also the one who they laughed coldly at and were so sure would die – General Jinwu Ning Qin!

“Magic Eye, what happened?” the big head of the two-headed creature spoke, trying his best to remain calm.

The small head howled furiously, “Go and investigate it immediately, we need to know the truth!”

A sheep in wolf’s clothing.

But at this moment, no one laughed at the small head, because the other leaders of the sinners were also frightened at that time.

Since General Jinwu could kill Dry Bone King in one blow, he could kill them too!

Very quickly, a huge eyeball appeared in front of the leaders of the sinners. Its surface had countless scarlet blood vessels wrapped around it, and it also had vertical pupils.

Hum –

With a tremor, the eyeball shot out light, and an image appeared in the dark underground space.

No sound could be heard, but this did not prevent the leaders from having cold sweats at this moment.

The image was very clear. This was the special ability of the Magic Eye. They could very clearly see Qin Yu’s appearance in the image.

They saw him raise his hand and clench it, killing Dry Bone King who was rushing towards him.

They also saw him laugh coldly, and after saying something, he raised his hand and pointed forward.

“I found you.”

This was probably the sound they heard just now when the air was shaking.

Then, it was needless to say how Dry Bone King ended up.

What made the other leaders more terrified was the look in General Jinwu’s eyes when he killed Dry Bone King. He had stared straight ahead...the one who he killed was Dry Bone King, but it also seemed like he was determined to kill them all.

After a moment of silence, the small head screamed, “We have no choice...unless you think General Jinwu would let us go!”

Surrender...

To be honest, they had already thought of this from the start.

For these leaders of the sinners, changing the ruler of the underground had little impact on them.

As long as the mine was required to operate normally and continuously produce ore, they would still be needed.

As for lowering their heads and losing face...it was not part of their considerations at all.

They were not even human anymore; why would they need face?

However, the small head’s words had shattered the fantasies they harbored in their hearts.

Dry Bone King had been killed instantly!

It was clean and neat. There was no room or time for him to even surrender.

This showed Qin Yu’s attitude.

The mountain of meat suddenly trembled. The layers started to surge and the eyes hidden in it opened up, “General Jinwu is going to kill us, of course we can’t just sit here and wait to die!”

The countless eyes flashed with icy light, “Furthermore, we were forced to retreat when someone from the King realm came to the underground. I do not think that General Jinwu is more powerful than a cultivator in the King realm.”

A bright light flashed in the big head’s eyes, “Do you mean that General Jinwu killed Dry Bone King with the help of external forces?”

“That’s right!” Meat Mountain laughed coldly, “This is the only logical explanation.”

Silence fell.

The fear and shock in their eyes started to dissipate.

If that was the case, General Jinwu was still terrifying, but not to the point that they would feel hopeless about the situation.

Having the support of external forces was undoubtedly terrifying, but its use would eventually come to an end.

“We need to test this theory,” another leader of the sinners voiced out.

The small head shrieked, “Then, what are we waiting for? Let’s begin now!”

.....

Once again, Qin Yu was surrounded by enemies in the depths of the mine. This time, what appeared was a strange kind of bug, and they seemed to be the extreme opposite of Dry Bone King.

Dry Bone King was skin and bones, but these bugs swelled so much, like a mass of fat without bones that could be twisted at any angle. Their only way of attacking was to get close to the prey and self-destruct with a ‘bang!’

Using self-destruction as a way of attacking seemed to be extremely stupid, but the crimson liquid that was sprayed out fell into the mine. A sizzling sound was made and large white smoke was produced. People were unable to laugh when they saw the terrifying traces of corrosion.

At the very beginning, the underground criminals used this type of bug to mine the ores. The terrifying corrosive ability that these bugs possessed had greatly increased the production capacity of the mine.

Later, it was used as a weapon during a battle that happened before the leaders of the sinners had their territories clearly drawn out. It was a nightmare for countless sinners.

There were many corpses that had been completely corroded by that crimson liquid!

Qin Yu frowned. He snapped his fingers, and all the bugs that were rushing over at him exploded to death.

The crimson liquid drowned them in an instant and white smoke was produced. When the smoke dissipated, all that was left behind was a large hole in the ground.

.....

The third time, the trouble that Qin Yu encountered was the underground sinners.

This was the first time he had seen the appearance of the sinners since entering the mine.

They looked very hideous and very terrifying.

Compared to the guards who stayed on the surface and had already shown signs of turning into barbarians, these sinners had completely lost their human appearance.

It was as if the darkness in the underground bred monsters!

Apart from the killing intent and violence that could be seen in their crimson eyes, there was nothing else.

They did not know fear, so they were not afraid of Qin Yu’s aura.

Roaring and howling, the sinners charged towards Qin Yu and tried to drown and suppress him with their own corpses.

But in the end, they still failed.

Bang –

With a muffled sound, the last sinner exploded in front of Qin Yu's eyes.

He furrowed his brows and a gloomy look appeared in his eyes. When he looked down, he saw a wound on the back of his hand.

This was the trace left by a powerful sinner before he died.

On the wound, the blood turned black, and there were black spider web-like lines that spread outwards.

Taking a deep breath, Qin Yu stepped across the 'mountain of corpses' and, surrounded by the pungent scent in the air, he continued towards the depths of the mine.

.....

Then, he encountered trouble for the fourth time.

.....

And the fifth!

The leaders of the sinners gathered together, and their faces paled slightly. They did not think that Qin Yu would have such a terrifying object.

Thankfully, the first one who made a move was Dry Bone King. Otherwise, it would have been one of them who was killed!

Also, the good thing was that the external force Qin Yu relied on would eventually be consumed. According to the image that was transmitted by Magic Eye, they had come to a clear conclusion – Qin Yu's power was weakening.

Or, to be more precise, he was about to run out of trump cards!

The leaders of the sinners who were fearful and pretended to be helpless suddenly showed a fierce and hideous look in their eyes.

Over the shoulders, the big head and the small head roared at the same time, "General Jinwu will run out of tricks soon. It's time for you and I to send him to his death!"

Meat Mountain's thousand eyes flashed with cold light.

In the darkness, killing intent surged and trembled endlessly.

As the masters of the underground Sin Nation, even though they were just dirty reptiles, they were still free and unfettered.

For a long, long time, no one had made them feel such fear and hopelessness. General Jinwu must die, and he must die in the most tragic and terrifying way.

Only with this could they ease the resentment in their heart!

“Wait.” The leader who was in the dark said, with fear in his voice. “I feel that General Jinwu is not that easy to deal with. We should wait and see before acting, to prevent ourselves from falling into a trap.”

Meat Mountain fell silent as fear and hesitation filled his eyes.

No matter how much resentment the leaders of the sinners had towards Qin Yu, they also had an equal amount of fear. There was a possibility that they might fall into a trap that was deliberately luring them to show their true bodies!

Xiu –

A Magic Eye flew over and shot out rays of light. It projected an image in front of the leaders of the sinners.

General Jinwu...was retreating!

Even though it was difficult to identify which direction he was heading towards because of the caves that sprawled densely like spider webs, as leaders who lived in this place, they could tell straight away that General Jinwu was retreating to the surface.

He was running away!

At this moment, all the hesitation and anxiety in the leaders’ hearts was instantly swept away.

“We can’t let him escape!”

“If he dared to break into the underground and commit murder, then he should not even think of making it out alive!”

“Kill him!”

As the leaders howled, they swarmed out to catch Qin Yu.

In fact, all of them were very curious to know what the trump card in Qin Yu’s hand was, since it was able to cause such terrifying damage to these underground creatures.

It made them become like clay chickens and pottery dogs, completely powerless in front of him.

If they killed General Jinwu, they could get their hands on his treasure...and from then on, the one who possessed this treasure would become the true master of the underground Sin Nation!

.....

Qin Yu was very helpless. He found that the underground leaders of the sinners were too cautious and prudent.

After he killed Dry Bone King, his performance was perfect. Even though there was no chance for his acting skills to explode even more, he did not make any mistakes.

He had already pretended to be so miserable, so why did the leaders not make their moves yet?

Unable to bear it any longer, Qin Yu killed Dry Bone King before he started to have any second thoughts.

If he knew that the leaders were going after him now, he would have been more restrained.

Subtly shaking his head, Qin Yu's eyes swept across his surroundings. He had already used his last move, if these leaders still did not come after him...then he could only finish what he was doing before going to suppress them.

But this was a waste of time, especially underground where the tunnels were very intricate, like countless overlapping spider webs.

If the leaders of the sinners were frightened and tried their best to hide, it would be very difficult for Qin Yu to find them again.

Just at this moment, Qin Yu, who was about to exit the mine, had a glint in his eyes, and then he looked relieved.

It was not easy, but using this trick of 'retreating in order to advance' had finally baited them.

Hong, long, long –

The rumbling of the mine filled Qin Yu's ears.

He stepped forward and took the initiative to rush over. The leaders of the sinners had finally come, and he was scared that they would escape once again.

Let's just take the initiative this time!

The leaders', with their faces grim and full of murderous intent, were suddenly startled.

General Jinwu had already used his final trump card, and was trying so hard to escape the underground. Why was he now rushing towards them?

The small head screamed, "Do not be afraid, General Jinwu is about to exhaust all his powers. He is trying to bluff us!" He took over control of one arm and threw the ore out of his hand, "Look how I am going to smash him into meat mush!"

The two-headed, three-armed creature underwent a mutation, and its abilities became infinitely more powerful.

This was not an exaggeration, it really became shockingly powerful!

The ore whizzed through the air silently. It was not that no sound was produced, but because the ore was traveling too fast.

As the ore broke the sound barrier, the shrill sound of the air cracking could be heard. The sound could not catch up to the speed of the ore at all.

Bang –

With a terrifyingly loud boom, Qin Yu took a few steps back from the impact of the ore hitting him. He could feel the blood tumbling in his chest.

If his physical body had not been trained to be tough, at this moment, both his arms would have been broken and a huge hole would have been created in his chest.

Numbness engulfed half of his body. This feeling...ah, it's indeed sour!

Qin Yu looked at the leaders who were opposite him. When he killed Dry Bone King, he managed to get a glance at all of them.

Good, they were still there.

However, Qin Yu's thoughts took a huge turn.

The leaders of the sinners were really powerful. Having been hit by the big piece of ore, he had experienced their abilities first-hand.

If he just killed them like this, it would be a waste. However, if he could control them, it would probably be a better option.

In addition, if they were really killed, there would be a power vacuum in the underground which would inevitably lead to competition and turmoil.

This was not the result that Qin Yu wanted to see. It was a valuable mine, so stability was a priority for him.

The production of ores could not be reduced, otherwise it would affect his plans in rising through the ranks in the military.

Qin Yu stepped forward, and the lantern quietly emerged above his head.

The flames in the lantern were burning, and the light that was emitted from the flames was not very bright. However, it was enough to illuminate all the figures of the leaders.

"Ah!"

Shrill howls rang out.

The flames of the lantern were like the enemies of these underground leaders. Under the light, their bodies started to corrode quickly.

Furthermore, the most terrifying part was that the leaders discovered that under this light, they lost all control over the powers of their bodies.

It was like they had become wooden stakes as they stood rooted to the ground, unable to move at all.

Suddenly, the flames in the lantern flickered slightly.

The miserable cries of the leaders of the sinners became even louder now. Their exceedingly strong bodies that were made of ironstone and large pieces of flesh started to rot and fall apart.

The black skeletons that were formed by the curse's power were exposed, and a strong aura of destruction and death completely enveloped them.

The leaders of the sinners finally knew what General Jinwu's trump card was.

It was just that the price of uncovering the truth was too great...so, this was really just a trap!

Mister Small Head screamed, "Ah! It hurts! It hurts to death! General Jinwu, I am willing to surrender to you; please don't kill me!"

Mister Big Head and the leaders of the sinners wanted to tear Mister Small Head to pieces very badly now.

Bastard!

It was you who said that we could not let him go, and now you are the first to beg for mercy!

General Jinwu had a hard time baiting them; why would he give up the opportunity to catch them all at once?

Begging for mercy? Fat hope!

"Sure."

The calm voice traveled to the leaders' ears, and the pain and injury caused by the lantern was greatly reduced.

The corners of Qin Yu's mouth turned upwards and light flashed in his eyes, "Give up your resistance, let me imprint on your soul, and you can continue to live."

In the face of life and death, this multiple choice question ironically did not really offer a choice.

The leaders who were stuck in this desperate situation could only tightly grab onto the straw that Qin Yu was offering!

.....

"The rest of the sinners and I greet General Jinwu!"

The two-headed, three-armed creature and the other leaders of the sinners all knelt to the ground.

All of them showed a humble and respectful attitude.

Meat Mountain was about to cry. In its current form, no matter what it did, it was still upright.

It could only desperately try to flatten itself. "General, I do not have legs..."

Qin Yu's mouth twitched before he waved his hand, "All of you, get up!"

He did not expect that these sinister-looking leaders would have such an exceptional talent for being funny.

"I have been instructed to guard the mine. From now on, I will leave all matters regarding ore production in your hands."

He then continued, "Remember, I do not like trouble, so all of you have to work hard!"

The leaders took a long sigh of relief in their hearts as they replied, "Yes, General!"

Even though they lost their freedom, and even though the matter of whether they were kept alive or dead was now controlled by someone else, at least they were still alive. They even retained their rights in the underground.

As of now, the sinners' strike has been suppressed!

For Qin Yu, who was the new Barbarian King and possessed the lantern, this was rather easy to resolve.

However, this was originally just a small part of Qin Yu's plan.

This time, he entered the mine because his true purpose was to find the source of that fluctuation.

A gleam of light flashed in Qin Yu's eyes. He wanted to know what the great barbarian shaman who had cast this curse had left behind for him!

Chapter 1526 – Misty Ghost Grotto

In the deep underground mine, there was a large stone cave.

It was unlike the surrounding tunnels that were obviously man made because they intertwined with each other in a structured manner. There was evidence in this cave that showed it was natural.

Waves of black mist continued to flow out from the cave entrance. They dispersed into the air and disappeared.

The leader of the sinners looked at this scene in horror. His face was pale and there was fear in his eyes.

Gulp –

Small Head gulped down saliva. His voice was shaking nervously as he asked, "General, are you going into Misty Ghost Grotto?"

Qin Yu nodded, "Wait here." With that, he stepped in decisively.

"You can't!" One of the sinners shrieked, "General, Misty Ghost Grotto is very dangerous. For so many years, there has never been anyone who returned from it after entering."

Big Head's voice was low and he confirmed, "That's right. Misty Ghost Grotto is terrifying. Please reconsider, General!"

The sinners were not worried about Qin Yu's safety because they surrendered to him.

It was because their souls were had been 'imprinted' by Qin Yu and they were now bound to him. They would share his experiences.

Simply put, if Qin Yu died in Misty Ghost Grotto, they would follow him to his grave.

Qin Yu's lips curled and he laughed coldly. Without turning back, he said, "I have made up my mind, you don't have to waste your words!"

He stepped into the cave and disappeared inside.

"It is over." Meat Mountain wailed. Its eyes were barely visible behind the layers of meat on its face and it cried miserably. It had barely survived, but who knew that General Jinwu would be such a dimwit.

The Misty Ghost Grotto, it was the Misty Ghost Grotto before him. It was the scariest place in the mine.

No one who entered it managed to survive!

Small Head cried, "I don't think so!" He scanned the crowd, "General Jinwu is full of vigor. Since he dared to enter it, he must be confident of coming out."

Although his attitude had been inconsistent and many despised him, the sinners felt much more at ease after hearing his words.

Big Head spoke, "Right now, all we can do is wait."

Aside from that, there was nothing else they could do.

The best case scenario was for General Jinwu to survive and come out. If he died...all of them would die together with him!

The moment Qin Yu stepped into the mine, his vision was blurred by a layer of fog. The name Misty Ghost Grotto was truly appropriate. Qin Yu came here because he sensed the aura earlier on.

The origin of the aura was here!

A flicker of violent nature rushed up from his heart. Like an unrelenting piece of rattan string, it crawled up his heart and flooded his mind.

What was terrifying was that this process happened very suddenly.

Amidst the fog, Qin Yu could sense the violent aura and he could feel it strengthening bit by bit.

There was a huge sense of unease in him, but he could suppress the feeling and keep calm such that he was still in control.

All of a sudden, like a threshold had been passed, the violent aura gushed up through his body and erupted in all directions like a volcano.

His mind was in chaos and his eyes turned bloodshot. Qin Yu lost his ability to think and there was only endless destruction and despair left in his heart.

Buzz –

The lantern suddenly appeared, floating above Qin Yu's head. The fire within came to life and the bloodshot color in his eyes gradually dissipated.

His consciousness started to clear up again and Qin Yu heaved a sigh of relief.

He finally understood why this place was called Misty Ghost Grotto and why the leaders of the sinners were so scared of this place.

As the new Barbarian King, he was not scared of the curse. Despite how strong his consciousness and will was, he fell into a trap. If he did not have the lantern with him, the consequences would be unthinkable.

Granted, if Qin Yu did not have the lantern as a hidden card, he would not be so daring to step in the grotto directly and he would have made other preparations.

His eyes flashed brightly and he stared deep into the mist. The fluctuations of the aura were becoming clearer; Qin Yu was certain that it came from this direction.

With a thought, the flame in the lantern grew more lively. An invisible force rolled forward like flowing water and dispersed into the surroundings silently.

The mist surrounding Qin Yu was pushed away and there was an empty space that acted as a protective barrier around him.

Because of the sudden ambush previously, Qin Yu was now more cautious.

Perhaps, whatever it was that the great barbarian shaman left behind in the past was not a good thing for him as the Barbarian King.

Whether that was the case or not, there was no harm in him being more cautious.

Qin Yu stepped forward.

Like water being pushed away, the mist around him dispersed.

The grotto that was hidden deep within the mines was much larger than he imagined, but this was not all that Qin Yu felt from it.

Qin Yu sensed a mild shift of space in this mist.

While this feeling was very weak, the cause of it may not be weak. There might be a stronger force that was hiding the cause of it.

Qin Yu frowned slightly. He sensed that the violence he had expelled out of his body before had reappeared in his heart.

As he went deeper into the grotto, it felt like the force hidden by the mist was growing stronger.

“Hmmp!”

With a grunt, the flame of the lantern above Qin Yu’s head grew brighter.

Qin Yu heard soft whispers of painful screams beside his ear.

A cold feeling spread out from the middle of his forehead like a cold dew drop that fell on his head.

Qin Yu narrowed his eyes and looked at the mist. It was much thicker and it was flowing smoothly like the tentacles of a creature that wriggled slowly.

His eyes flashed with coldness.

His cautiousness and wariness was not excessive. Although the great barbarian shaman was a barbarian...the shaman did not care for the new Barbarian King.

He lifted his head and glanced at the lantern above him. Qin Yu hesitated before he continued to trudge forward.

Although this lantern was merely an imitation of the little blue lamp, it was seen as a treasure by the Barbarian Clan and Qin Yu naturally had expectations for it.

Furthermore, Qin Yu had no other choice but to rely on it now.

Ruler...cough cough. Now, Qin Yu had no intentions of 'disturbing' her before he thought through how he was going to explain the events in the Tomb of the Barbarian King.

The mysterious being from space time was now an ant that was on the same rope as Qin Yu. They could be considered 'close'.

If he was in trouble, he could summon it.

Although Qin Yu did not have a complete understanding of the mysterious being, it was undeniable that the mysterious being was very strong. Its strength was not ordinary at all!

For instance, it hindered the humans during their investigation of the Barbarian King despite it claiming that it paid a high price for that.

However, the mysterious being still looked very lively. It did not look like it suffered.

All in all, Qin Yu was confident in the mysterious being.

If it took action, he would no longer need to fear the Misty Ghost Grotto!

With this resolution, Qin Yu continued forward.

As though the force sensed Qin Yu's determination, the thick mist suddenly disappeared.

That's right, it disappeared into thin air!

Qin Yu finally took a look at the Misty Ghost Grotto. It was not large.

More accurately, it was much smaller than he imagined.

It was only about a hundred feet wide. There was a single stalactite growing from the ceiling of the cave. A black chain was wound around it and upon a closer look, one end of the black chain emerged from within the stalactite.

Scattered around the cave were a bunch of mummified corpses. Each of their mouths was wide open and their bodies had been pierced through by the black iron chain.

Even though the corpses had dried out, the look of violence and madness on their faces could be made out. There was no pain nor fear and it felt like they were the predators instead of pitiful bugs who were killed by an iron chain.

Qin Yu frowned slightly but he remained calm. He scanned the bodies in the cave and said, "You should know that you don't need to hide any longer since I am here."

There were a few moments of silence before a sigh could be heard from the cave, "Your Majesty is right."

A face appeared on the stalactite. There was a peaceful look in its crystal clear eyes. They looked like the surface of a lake, and there was no disturbance in them.

An aura that could be attributed to the Barbarian Clan was coming from the stalactite.

Qin Yu said, "I still don't know your name."

The face hesitated for a moment before it slowly said, "Your Majesty, you can call me Lost."

Qin Yu nodded and he looked up, "Shaman Lost, no one would have known that you would live till this day after what happened."

"It was an accident..." There was a bitter smile on Lost's face.

Cling clang –

The chains that pierced through the corpses suddenly started to move.

"Your Majesty, did you know that these chains were originally meant to prevent accidents. I personally made them to suppress myself."

Qin Yu said, "Shaman Lost, it seems that your preparations were not enough."

Lost fell silent before nodding, "Your Majesty, you are right. I underestimated this place. It is so powerful."

There was a sudden flicker of confusion in his eyes, "Your Majesty, can you believe it? A dead person can be revived. Furthermore, I am sure that I am still myself."

Qin Yu's eyes flashed, "Reviving after your death. So you don't want to die again."

"Yes." Lost sighed, "Without personally experiencing it, no one will be able to imagine how death feels."

"It is lonely, dark and cold. After descending into it, all senses and all life is stolen. The world becomes black and white. It becomes so silent as it cuts off all contact with me...that, is a really terrifying feeling."

Lost's face on the stalactite looked up and his eyes stared at Qin Yu. There was some fear and guilt in his eyes, but deep within it, Qin Yu could see passion.

Qin Yu calmly said, "Although I have never experienced death personally, I can understand you."

"Thank you, Your Majesty!" Lost respectfully exclaimed.

Qin Yu's eyes glistened and he said, "So you can attack me now."

Buzz –

The stalactite suddenly vibrated and a ball of light flashed.

"Your Majesty, if I can continue living, I will definitely do my best to restore our clan to its former glory. However, if I die, this ball of light will contain everything you want to know."

Qin Yu nodded, "Alright!"

Bam –

Bam –

The mass of corpses in the cave suddenly burst into pieces.

An outpouring of chains rushed towards Qin Yu at lightning speed. They looked like numerous spider threads that were about to tear Qin Yu apart! In the blink of an eye, the chains morphed into a large ball...it looked like an organ that was constantly wriggling and transforming!

.....

Outside Misty Ghost Grotto was a thin layer of mist that continuously flowed through. The leader of the sinners waited silently outside with solemn expressions.

No one whose life and death was linked to another person would be able to relax and welcome the grim reaper.

It had been an hour!

The good news was that they were still alive. The bad news was that no one knew how long this torture would last.

Suddenly, a holy light burst forth from the middle of Big Head.

He raised his head and touched his forehead using the arm that grew out from their chest.

Pst –

There was a crisp bursting sound as the flesh in the middle of his forehead tore and blood flowed out from within.

However, there was no pain revealed from his expression. There was only a moment of confusion before he was filled with excitement and joy!

He had not been mistaken!

He was certain that the imprint left on his soul had vanished.

That meant the connection with General Jinwu was gone!

Happiness came to him too suddenly and out of the blue. Although Big Head was typically calm, he made hysteric movements out of pure joy.

He wiped off the blood on his face and placed his hand down. Then, he burst into laughter and exclaimed, "We are free!"

Deep roars came from the sinners. They stared at the Misty Ghost Grotto. Aside from the respect in their eyes, there was also a look of mockery.

Don't believe in loyalty. In this world, the only thing that made sense was strength. Although they did not know what happened, it was undeniable...General Jinwu was dead!

This was the only reason why the soul imprint would suddenly disappear.

It was strange that they were not dragged down to die together with General Jinwu. However, gaining their freedom after surviving was more important.

Nothing else mattered!

They had to thank General Jinwu for stupidly overestimating himself. He dug his own grave with how rash he was.

Puppets whose lives were controlled by others could not compare to free people in the underground world who could govern themselves.

Meat Mountain hesitated and asked, "Should we check?"

He could not be at ease and he was still in disbelief.

The powerful General Jinwu was dead?

The moment he said that, he knew that he had spoken like an idiot.

Eyes flicked over at him and he received looks of sympathy for how brainless he was.

That was the Misty Ghost Grotto!

Was General Jinwu strong? He was a person who could casually crush all of them and determine their lives.

He stubbornly went in and died there, returning the sinners their freedom.

Check? Why check? Anyone who went in would die!

"Hmmp!"

Meat Mountain slowly grunted. Its eyes opened wide and glared at the rest of the sinners. It was evident that it was boiling with anger and was about to flip.

Big Head smiled and said, "Alright. This day is a joyous occasion on which we obtained our freedom."

It cupped its hands together and announced, "Everyone, General Jinwu is dead but we have things to do."

Small Head's laughter sounded ear-piercing. He raised his hand and pointed to his forehead, "Don't forget, there are still people outside who are waiting for our news."

"One thousand five hundred women...no, I want three thousand. I won't stand for anyone missing! Also, I want ten times more flesh and blood to compensate us for our losses!"

There was a low laughter in the darkness, "Mister Small Head is absolutely right."

The leaders of the sinners took one last glance at the Misty Ghost Grotto. Then, they turned and left, grinning from ear to ear.

General Jinwu's death. No one could ask for a better outcome!

Chapter 1527 – Can't Take it

General Jinwu had died underground!

Although she had been hoping for this news all along, Snake Lady felt like she was dreaming when she read the words that projected from the jade slip delivered from underground.

Her many years of preparation would finally be effective!

The strongest among the half human barbarians, Black Scales, was killed by General Jinwu.

And now, General Jinwu was dead. Her way ahead was no longer obstructed by anyone...the mine, was her mine.

“Servants!”

Snake Lady called as she walked out.

Since she could make arrangements with the underground sinners long ago, the rest of the half human barbarians may have done the same thing.

If she wanted to act, the faster she did, the better it would be!

One day later, the rest of the half human barbarian leaders stationed in the mine had submitted to her. There were six of them, excluding the dead Black Scales.

She recorded the news of the death of General Jinwu in a jade slip before she sent it out of the mine and delivered it to the border army camp as fast as possible.

As she stared far into the distance, the enchanting Snake Lady had a flushed face full of excitement.

Once the border army camp recognized her, she would be the new leader of the mine!

This included commanding the people who came with General Jinwu and the additional slave who tagged along.

A flash of coldness appeared in Snake Lady’s eyes!

Women, especially beautiful women, were a hidden danger that could not be ignored anywhere.

Snake Lady was most certain of this logic since she took painstaking steps to arrive where she was today.

As such, she would never give another person any opportunity.

.....

Generals gathered in the tent of the marshal. There was a meeting going on.

All of a sudden, the entrance was opened and a soldier hurried in wearing a serious expression.

Wu Tongtian frowned. The situation had stabilized and after crazy battles with the Barbarian Clan, they seemed to be retreating.

What had happened? Why did the soldier have to interrupt the meeting in the tent?

Zhao Chong recognized that the person who entered the tent was an officer who was valued by Marshal Wu. He smiled and turned on his seat, seemingly unaffected by the sudden intrusion.

“What is it?” Wu Tongtian asked.

The officer bowed respectfully, “Greetings to Grand Marshal and fellow generals!” He took out a jade slip and offered it to Wu Tongtian with both arms while he bowed, “There is an urgent message from the mine!”

Ye Sangdu’s eyes flickered and he smiled coldly. It was about time.

Ever since he heard that Qin Yu entered the underground mine by himself, he knew that this day would come.

That brat was probably now a meal that was consumed by the underground sinners.

Wu Tongtian stretched his arm forward and the jade slip flew towards him. He channeled his divine sense into it and after a few moments, his eyebrows knitted together and he wore a solemn expression.

He scanned the tent and said, “The mine has reported that General Jinwu offended the sinners underground and died unluckily!”

That’s it!

Zhao Chong lowered his head and his expression darkened. However, he was secretly smiling to himself.

The Eldest Princess told him to make convenient arrangements for Ning Qin.

Whatever happened in the capital was no secret to him, a general in the border army.

Of course, he knew that the Eldest Princess did this as a last resort.

As such, deep down, Zhao Chong was not close to Qin Yu. This was to the extent that he felt satisfied when he knew that Qin Yu was isolated and suppressed.

Now, Ning Qin was dead!

Ignoring all else, the Eldest Princess had rid herself of a hidden danger.

Jiang Chengzi’s expression remained unchanged. However, if one took a closer look, one would notice that this old general was sitting stiffer in his seat.

General Jinwu was dead!

Honestly, this was the complete opposite outcome of what he expected.

None of this was important now. With General Jinwu dead, Jiang Chengzi did not know what happened to Hundred Saint.

This time, he really made the wrong judgement!

As he thought about Lord Chengtian and the information he just received from the capital...Jiang Chengzi felt his head throb from a headache.

Ning Qin, you let me down!

Wu Tongtian calmly observed the reactions of everyone.

"I am saddened that General Jinwu has lost his life underground. I will report to the capital and request that he receives appropriate posthumous recognition." As he said this, Wu Tongtian's eyes sparkled and he continued, "However, the mine is an important resource for the army. We need another person to take over the mine in case the sinners start to rebel."

Ye Sangdu stood up and said, "Grand Marshal, may I ask who was the person who sent this news?"

Wu Tongtian replied, "It was a general stationed in the mine."

Ye Sangdu scoffed, "May I request that you give an order to have this general killed. Send his head to the capital."

He turned and scanned the others in the tent and said, "It has not been long since General Jinwu arrived at the West Border Army and he was unfamiliar with the mine. He rashly went underground and lost his life as a result.

"Someone must have instigated him with bad intentions. This was what caused his death! This general must be the culprit!"

There was a hint of admiration in Wu Tongtian's eyes.

With this, the generals present in the tent knew that these two people were trying to throw the blame.

General Jinwu was chosen by His Majesty. The higher he rose in the military, the more influence the Imperial Clan would have had.

However, not long after he arrived, he died underground.

As the first and second most powerful men in the West Border Army, what would His Majesty think of them?

Although His Majesty could not directly shake the positions of the Grand Marshal and main general in the army, the past has shown that the Desolate King bore grudges.

It was dangerous for them if they were eyed by the Desolate King.

As such, the West Border Army needed a scapegoat. More accurately, they needed someone who they could turn His Majesty's anger on.

This was a thought shared by the rest of the generals in the tent. No one wanted to be seen as a shadow by His Majesty.

After all, the West Desolate was still controlled by the Imperial Clan. If they wanted a comfortable life in the future, they needed to know their place.

"Great General Ye is right. The general overseeing the mine must be the culprit pulling strings in the dark!" Zhao Chong sneered as though he had hard evidence already.

"That's right. Grand Marshal, please give your orders to kill this person. We will use his soul to appease General Jinwu's soul!" Another general added.

The rest of the generals in the tent supported this idea.

Why should they oppose something that did no harm to them?

Killing a general who was a half human barbarian subjected to the Barbarian Curse could ease their troubles. They welcomed this idea.

Wu Tongtian nodded. His gaze lowered and he suddenly said, "Jiang Chengzi, I order you to go and kill the mastermind behind this!"

As the Grand Marshal of the border army, this sentence was virtually a death sentence for Snake Lady. It was pitiful that this foolish evil woman was still celebrating the achievement of her dreams.

Jiang Chengzi stood up and bowed, "Yes, Grand Marshal. I will head out right now!"

He turned and strode out of the tent.

Ye Sangdu stared at Jiang Chengzi leaving without a change in emotion. He glanced at Wu Tongtian and secretly cursed at the old fox.

Who could not guess what the other was thinking?

Wu Tongtian wanted to use this matter to get on the good side of Jiang Chengzi and hence increase his influence in the West Border Army...this was also what Ye Sangdu has been trying to do all along.

As the top two most powerful men in the West Border Army, they had a lot of wisdom.

Although Hundred Saint was a favored nephew of Lord Chengtian, compared to the battle between the family clans, he was not worth mentioning.

Furthermore, Jiang Chengzi was the person who recommended him to guard the mine and it was hard for him to escape the blame.

Once this was over, the relationship between Jiang Chengzi and Lord Chengtian would turn sour...this would also give them a chance.

Ye Sangdu frowned slightly. He wondered what he should do to grow closer to Jiang Chengzi.

After all, when Ning Qin first arrived at the border army, he used a secret technique that upset Jiang Chengzi.

.....

In the mine.

Rourou stared at Snake Lady who stepped out of the door wearing a sly smirk. She sighed gently and there was a look of helplessness on her face.

"Servants, capture all of them. Anyone who dares to resist shall be killed on the spot!"

Hundred Saint's expression turned pale and it looked like his soul had left him. He heard that General Jinwu was dead.

His heart was conflicted. First, he was annoyed that Ning Qin had not listened to his advice. Secondly, he was confused by everyone's reactions.

Most importantly, he was boiling with rage!

Hundred Saint never told anyone, but he always felt weirdly close to Qin Yu.

It felt like this person was his long time best friend.

But now, he was dead.

As he looked at Snake Lady, Hundred Saint's head jerked up.

However, before he could make his outburst, he heard a gentle sigh, "Tell them your identity directly."

It was Rourou.

She met his gaze and rolled her eyes, "What are you looking at? General Jinwu is not dead. You will be sacrificing your life if you resist now."

Hundred Saint's eyes bulged wide open, but before he could speak, she rolled her eyes in a more exaggerated manner.

Then, he realized that no one else had heard what Rourou said.

He recalled how Qin Yu had fought for her, unafraid of offending the Demon Sect...adrenaline rushed through Hundred Saint's heart.

I knew that General Jinwu was not someone who was greedy for women.

He had a reason for doing this!

Perhaps, there was a connection between General Jinwu and Rourou that he could not sense.

In other words, Rourou could be trusted!

Sighing deeply, Hundred Saint yelled, "Stop it! My uncle is Lord Chengtian. If you guys dare to touch me, you will all die!"

The half human barbarians from the mine that pounced for him were startled and they looked back in confusion.

Snake Lady hurriedly lifted her hands and with an uneasy look on her face, she asked, "Are you telling the truth?"

Hundred Saint scoffed, "This is not a secret in the border army camp. If you don't believe me, you can go and ask them."

Snake Lady had heard of Lord Chengtian before. He had the bloodline of the Imperial Clan in his veins and he was a trusted confidant of the Desolate King.

What would be the consequences if she killed the nephew of a powerful man in the upper class of the empire?

Snake Lady took in a deep breath and forced a smile. Her vicious expression turned into a soft one and she said, "Hundred Saint, why didn't you say so earlier? This is a misunderstanding. Servants, please arrange a nice place for him to stay."

Her eyes flickered to Rourou.

Rourou had an outstanding figure and a seductive charm that could lure any man to protect her. Snake Lady could not help being jealous of her.

The third time Rourou sighed, Snake Lady heard it.

Her gaze was soft and gentle, but when she spoke, she was very rude.

“Sister, aren’t you curious why I came to the mine later than the rest? Furthermore, when I arrived, I had men from the marshal tent escort me.”

Snake Lady’s expression faltered slightly.

Rourou looked down, “I am from the Demon Sect and am the adopted daughter of the Night Demon Sect Master. Of course, I am closer to him than his real children.”

Hundred Saint nodded, “I can vouch for this.”

He looked at Snake Lady and smirked, “Also, the Night Demon Sect Master is the leader of the Demon Sect. He is a peak-level Ruler!”

Snake Lady’s pupils shrink and there was surprise in her eyes.

Below the King realm, a peak-level Ruler was the strongest and they would be the most powerful-ranking individuals right below the King realm cultivators.

No one would come into contact with a peak-level Ruler under normal circumstances.

This fact alone was enough to prove that the Night Demon Sect Master was not inferior to Lord Chengtian.

Rourou waved her hand dismissively, “I know you are not satisfied. Then go ahead and investigate it and check if I am telling the truth.”

Snake Lady led the group of men away grudgingly. She gritted her teeth angrily. She had just become the controller of the mine but she was slapped in the face not too long later.

Her heart was boiling with rage and she was filled with hatred!

However, she did not dare to have an outburst and make a rash decision while she was angry.

Lord Chengtian and Night Demon Sect Master were both people she did not want to offend.

“Go! Contact the border army camp and verify whether they are both telling the truth.”

After sending Snake Lady and the rest of the people off, Hundred Saint wore a cold smile. However, before he could say anything, he suddenly felt a chill down his spine.

“Hundred Saint, I believe that you are someone who can keep secrets and remain tight-lipped right?” Rourou commented.

Pst –

Her eyes were soft and she had a gentle demeanor. However, she felt like a bully.

At that point, Hundred Saint felt like his body had frozen when he met her gaze. His expression paled and as time went by, he became as white as a sheet.

“Ah! I am so sorry I scared you!” Rourou licked her lips and put on a sorry expression, “I am used to it, but I will pay closer attention next time.”

Hundred Saint felt like he had been picked out of the icy cold arctic waters.

He panted heavily and sweat dotted his forehead. His robe stuck to his body and he felt gross.

There was a persistent fear in his eyes as he stared at Rourou.

“You...”

“You should not ask what you should not know and you should not say what you should not say.” Rourou blinked her eyes, “Do you understand these two points?”

Hundred Saint shuddered and he nodded his head urgently.

Rourou flashed a smile and waved her hand, “Alright, you may go.”

Once Hundred Saint left, she sighed and hugged chicken overlord who was lying on her legs close to her.

Her clean, skinny and soft hands pet his feathers and it felt very soothing.

“Little chicken, you have to behave. I am very good at cooking roasted chicken and spicy chicken.”

Chicken overlord shrunk and forced himself to stay very still. There was an endless desire in his eyes as he stared ahead.

Qin Yu, you have to return quickly...I can't take this much longer!

Chapter 1528 – ‘Soul Seed’ Spirit Embryo

Dry Bone King was dead. The land that he left behind had to be divided up.

The leaders of the sinners regained their composure after the initial celebrations.

Meat Mountain was the first to speak. Its voice was low but harsh and it showed that it had no intention of backing down.

“My territory is not close to Dry Bone King but I want a piece of this fat meat!”

The bigger the area they governed, the more the production of the mine and the greater the influence it had in the interactions with the surface.

Since this matter involved critical interests, he would not back down.

It was an intense quarrel where many shouted till their faces and ears turned red from anger. The yells almost caused the stone room to tumble down.

However, the leaders of the sinners gritted their teeth and did not really fight.

They had roughly the same strength and if there was an outburst, they would only be taken advantage of.

Ever since the last leader of the sinners committed suicide by doing this, the leaders of the sinners learnt their lesson.

Finally, they sorted out most of their differences and there was only a small issue left. However, that could be settled with the 'compensation' that would come soon.

"Alright, that's it then!" Mister Small Head announced. He was trembling in excitement as he said, "Snake Lady said that she will send a beautiful girl down. I am taking the first pick; she is mine. No one shall steal her from me!"

There was a roar of laughter. Meat Mountain's layers of flesh vibrated, "Who can compare to me in this regard? This time, I want a few dozen!"

The leaders of the sinners wore pleased looks on their faces.

However, right at this moment, time seemed to stop and there was dead silence in the underground mine.

All of the sinners froze on the spot and there was surprise and fear in their eyes.

They felt that the imprint on their souls...had reappeared!

.....

In Misty Ghost Grotto.

Crack –

The sound was sharp and clear in the silence.

Numerous black chains criss-crossed over each other and formed a large ball. Suddenly, the sphere of black chains shattered.

Qin Yu appeared from within. He was still for a few seconds before he finally opened his eyes.

His eyes were glistening brightly and it created a mysterious and wondrous aura around him.

The light from the lantern above his head was soft and the light rays gently shone on his body.

It felt like there was a layer of golden light surrounding him.

Slap –

The ball of light floating in the air snapped and disintegrated. There was no use for it since Qin Yu learned about everything.

He lifted his head to look at the stalactite. The face of Lost was gone. After some silence, Qin Yu said, "Shaman Lost, it seems that I am the one who survived till the end."

He cupped his hands together and bowed.

This bow was not because Shaman Lost was strong.

It was also not because Qin Yu received gains from this.

Instead, it was his respect and acknowledgement, as the Barbarian King, to Shaman Lost's efforts to change the destiny for the Barbarian Clan after so many years.

The frontline of the battle between the West Desolate and the Western Barbarian Land was shrouded by the curse and a large number of border army soldiers could not avoid it...who knew that all of this was just a pretense.

Who would have imagined that the deep underground that was covered by the terrifying curse would have such a secret!

This secret was right in front of Qin Yu, it was the stalactite – it was a naturally formed Spirit Embryo!

It was born as a Saint...and this was only the start of its life.

As many years passed, it would continue to grow and awaken. Its strength would also increase continuously.

Becoming a Saint and then a Ruler...the Spirit Embryo was a culmination of Time and Space Rules.

This was why Qin Yu saw what he did after entering the cave.

In fact, if a piece of Shaman Lost's soul had not been sucked in by the Spirit Embryo unintentionally, he would not have lived till this day.

However, the Spirit Embryo already had a consciousness.

It was really alive now!

Buzz –

All of a sudden, a slight tremor came from the Spirit Embryo.

Qin Yu's expression faltered. He could sense that the Spirit Embryo was giving birth to its consciousness.

It happened very quickly and just as this thought passed through Qin Yu's mind, a weak consciousness had already formed in the Spirit Embryo.

He could vaguely hear the soft cries of a fetus.

This crying felt like an endless plea. The Spirit Embryo already had the ability to make sense of the world.

It was pleading for Qin Yu to stop it from forming.

Qin Yu frowned but he maintained calm. His eyes were clear as water and he pointed a finger out.

The finger touched the Spirit Embryo and Qin Yu's divine sense lunged into it like a large wave.

Wa –

The crying grew louder and clearer, but there was despair, dissatisfaction, and hatred in it.

In the next instant, it disappeared completely!

Despite being formed from a Spirit Embryo of heaven and earth, the newly formed consciousness was too weak.

It could not withstand the rush of divine sense that Qin Yu channeled into it and it vanished like the passing of a cloud.

“Apologies, but this is the opportunity of the Barbarian Clan. I cannot let you be born.”

Qin Yu lifted his hand and placed a finger on his forehead. His expression instantly grew pale and he shivered.

‘Crack’, the sound came as a gap was revealed between his eyebrows.

Dazzling light rushed out. This was the light from his soul.

Within it were layers upon layers of light. These were fragments of his soul.

The cracked soul was trying to mend the harm done to it automatically.

Furthermore, Qin Yu was trying to make a complete separation from his own original self.

As a result, his soul was incomplete and there was now this gap.

This was the outcome that Qin Yu wanted.

Shoosh –

Cold sweat formed beads on his forehead. The bright light from his soul was dazzling and multicolored.

Qin Yu grabbed forward and forcefully placed the fragment of his soul into the Spirit Embryo.

There was nothing to obstruct him and the soul fragment merged into the Spirit Embryo.

Phew –

Qin Yu breathed out heavily. He stepped backwards and sat down to heal his soul.

One day later.

Qin Yu’s eyes opened. His complexion was still pale and this was from the physical harm to his body after he broke his soul. It was not a simple injury that could be fixed in an hour, and he needed a much longer time to heal it bit by bit.

He stared at the Spirit Embryo. He could feel the close knit connection with it.

It was like a seed that had been planted in the ground and it required time to grow before it would sprout.

By that point, Qin Yu would have fully grasped the Spirit Embryo.

Because his soul fragment had merged into the Spirit Embryo, Qin Yu could sense the gift it had for him.

More accurately speaking, Qin Yu was now tied to the Spirit Embryo and he would be nurtured by the heavens and earth.

Since the Spirit Embryo was naturally born from the heavens and earth, it would grow as time passed.

Qin Yu was also going to be 'looked after' by the heavens and earth!

This was also why he was willing to sacrifice a soul fragment and harm his own origin to create this connection with the Spirit Embryo's Soul Seed.

Now, he had succeeded!

Buzz –

The space vibrated and a projection of Stone Pagoda appeared. His voice was emotional and he was very excited.

"Congratulations, Master, congratulations! With the Soul Seed in the Spirit Embryo, your cultivation will be enhanced!"

Qin Yu could not help grinning too.

Stone Pagoda was right.

From this moment on, he and the Spirit Embryo would receive the same nourishment from the heavens and earth. His cultivation path would be bright and smooth!

Back then, Shaman Lost also found this natural-born Spirit Embryo in the underground and that was why he defended the mine with all his might.

This resulted in a terrifying battle between the West Desolate and the Western Barbarian Land that lasted for centuries. Both sides suffered heavy casualties.

The West Desolate always thought that the Barbarian Clan never backed down because of this mine that was full of potential.

After all, mines were integral because of the resources they had for weapons construction. This was the foundation of the Barbarian Clan.

They never imagined that something else was hidden within.

Shaman Lost knew that he was not able to guard the mine and hence he sacrificed himself and a hundred thousand soldiers in the battle to create this ominous curse of the Barbarian Clan.

His objective was to protect the Spirit Embryo here.

It was possible that he already had some understanding of the Spirit Embryo before he died.

The black chains that Shaman Lost created were an attempt to seal his remnant soul. In another way, he wanted to seal the Spirit Embryo's body.

What happened in between was no longer important to Qin Yu.

Shaman Lost's remnant soul miraculously survived and he took over as the controller of the Spirit Embryo.

After he found out about Qin Yu's identity as the new Barbarian King, he purposely revealed his aura and lured him here.

This was a test for Qin Yu and himself.

If he won, he would control the Spirit Embryo and devour Qin Yu. After merging their strengths, he would become the strongest Barbarian King in the history of the Barbarian Clan.

It would then become truly possible for him to lead the declining Barbarian Clan and restore it to its former glory from when it dominated the world's creatures in the ancient times.

On the other hand, if he died, it was the Barbarian King's choice as to how he would treat the Spirit Embryo – Qin Yu chose to split his soul and create a 'Soul Seed' that would share the nurturing of heaven and earth with the Spirit Embryo.

This was the decision he made after three days after pondering over it.

Otherwise, if he wanted to 'possess' the Spirit Embryo for himself, he would have to sacrifice his soul and take over the Spirit Embryo like Shaman Lost.

However, doing this meant that his soul would be merged with the Spirit Embryo and he would need a long gestation period where he would grow stronger bit by bit.

This was a safe option. Under normal circumstances, the Spirit Embryo would be hidden well underground. Back then, a King realm cultivator from the West Desolate tried to enter the underground but he U-turned and did not achieve anything. This was the best evidence for it.

Yet, Qin Yu did not have much spare time and he had a lot of things he had to take care of. As such, after consulting Stone Pagoda, he decided to plant a 'Soul Seed'.

There were benefits and costs to this, but since he made his choice, he was not going to regret it.

Qin Yu glanced at the Spirit Embryo. It required strict supervision for a period of time.

At least, until the 'Soul Seed' grew into a seedling, it would still be very weak.

As he thought about this, Qin Yu turned and headed out of the cave.

Snap –

With a snap of his fingers, a thick blanket of fog filled the entire grotto. Time and Space Laws rolled out and silently morphed into the space.

However, this time, it was not harmful to Qin Yu.

This place was now his territory!

The cave entrance appeared before him and Qin Yu stepped forward.

He suddenly flashed a cold smirk and stood still as he gazed upwards.

Bom –

Bom –

Bom –

The leaders of the sinners knelt down to the ground heavily without making a sound. Their expressions were pale and sweat rained down their faces!

Chapter 1529 – Urgent Military Report

There was dead silence underground. The leaders of the sinners were in agony and their faces were filled with dread and fear. They did not know what their punishment was going to be. Evidently, General Jinwu was going to kill...all of them were going to die!

“This is the first time and also the last.” Right as the sinners were unable to stand it any longer and thought that their souls were about to crumble apart, Qin Yu suddenly spoke.

Their eyes bulged wide open and they were filled with disbelief. Next, an indescribable feeling of happiness washed over their hearts as the leaders of the sinners thought that they escaped death.

“Thank you General, we know our wrongs and we will not disobey you again!”

“General, your generosity is as vast as the sea. We can never compare to you!”

“I swear that I will stay loyal to you forever. I am willing to fight with you through a sea of flames!”

The sinners kowtowed continuously, their voices rang out loudly, and they were fully sincere with their words.

Qin Yu smirked coldly as he took in all the words. As long as he was strong enough, these sinners would not dare to rebel against him.

The opposite was true too.

“I will cultivate in seclusion for a period of time underground. Pass on the message and ask Hundred Saint to take care of the mine for now.”

Qin Yu did not elaborate much on the production and work in the mine. He trusted that the leaders of the sinners did not want to die, and hence they would know what to do.

“Yes, General!”

The leaders of the sinners bowed.

The sound of footsteps gradually moved further away. After a long while, the leaders of the sinners finally wiped the cold sweat off their faces and they stood up gingerly.

Phew –

They heaved a long sigh of relief and they could only put a bitter smile on their faces as they exchanged looks.

Their emotions had taken a rollercoaster ride, going up and down in the blink of an eye...this was the perfect description of what they had experienced today.

General Jinwu had survived!

Not only that, he felt more scary than before.

Although they could not put a finger to their fear, the sinners felt like he had become more mysterious.

All of a sudden, one of the leaders sucked in a cold breath, "Oh no!"

Everyone jumped in fright and they whipped their heads around to look at him.

The person wiped his sweat nervously and uttered, "Everyone, I think we forgot something."

He raised a finger and pointed upwards.

The rest of the sinners quickly reacted. They sank inwardly and started to panic.

Not long ago, they thought that General Jinwu was dead and they sent his 'death report' up.

This must have set off a wave of shock on the surface.

The underground sinners and the guards stationed aboveground knew each other well after so many years of interactions.

General Jinwu killed Black Scales and gained surface control of the mine.

After his death, the half human barbarians stationed here would definitely have rebelled and taken revenge...if General Jinwu's family members and close friends had been dragged into this and killed...

Pst –

The sinners simultaneously sucked in a cold breath of air!

They already used their free pass to avoid death, so if something else happened...they knew without a doubt that General Jinwu would wash them all away.

"Hurry! Inform the surface!" Big Head's lips were trembling and he prayed that the stupid idiots on the surface did not do anything irreversible...

Qin Yu only left behind one instruction before he closed himself in seclusion. No one knew where he went and the sinners naturally could not inform him about this.

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Outside the mine.

The border army had tried many times to do something about the Barbarian Curse. Although they could not get rid of it completely, they could pay a small price and temporarily relieve themselves of it.

Jiang Chengzi led a hundred of his troops and entered the mine with a solemn expression. This seasoned general had vast experience with battles but he could not help the ominous feeling in his heart that gave

rise to an evil aura that surrounded him. The self-elected half human barbarians who were stationed at the mine were anxious.

Without hesitating, he barged into the army camp of the mine, the place that had the highest authority here.

Snake Lady had just gotten control of the mine and she was indulging in the luxury of power. She did not want to abandon it at all. At this moment, she was in the camp lecturing the half human barbarians who recently submitted to her.

After hearing news that men from the border army camp had arrived, Snake Lady jumped in shock and quickly ordered men to usher them in.

The two parties met right outside the doors of the guard division.

Looking at Jiang Chengzi, Snake Lady put on a serious expression and she did not dare to act flirtatious. Bowing quickly, she said, "Greetings to Old General!"

The great general who was ranked fourth in the West Border Army had personally taken the risk to come here.

Something was wrong!

Something was definitely wrong!

Snake Lady immediately thought about the dead General Jinwu underground and she started to break out in cold sweat.

However, she did not understand. All the information she received hinted that the border army was excluding General Jinwu and they did not favor him.

Otherwise, with such an honorable status, why would he be sent to guard the mine?

The group of half human barbarians also wore startled expressions as they knelt down.

Although the mine was near the edge of the border and it was virtually isolated from the border army camp, if the higher ups in the army were willing, they could always send someone powerful enough to do a clean sweep of the mine.

Jiang Chengzi was definitely someone who could do it.

"Are the people who came with General Jinwu to the mine doing well?" Jiang Chengzi demanded to know in a deep voice.

Snake Lady's heart relaxed slightly and she nodded, "Old General, Hundred Saint and Miss Rourou are doing fine. They are currently resting in a room."

She heaved a sigh of relief. Thank goodness they revealed their identities. Otherwise, she would be in deep trouble!

Jiang Chengzi was more at ease. The good news among the bad was that Hundred Saint was still alive. However, he could not stay here for long or he would be subjected to the power of the curse.

Nonetheless, being alive was better than being dead.

Jiang Chengzi's hard gaze fell onto Snake Lady. This old general had an aged look but his eyes were as sharp as arrows and they could pierce through a person's exterior.

"You are Snake Charm? Are you the one who reported General Jinwu's death to the camp?"

A feeling of unease started to form in her heart. She hesitated before saying, "Old General, I am Snake Charm. I could not stop General Jinwu in time..."

As she said this, she observed his expression. Her mind spun quickly but she could not find the reason for her unease.

Jiang Chengzi scoffed and cut her off directly, "Servants, take her!"

A number of troops behind him jumped to their feet.

"Old General!"

Snake Charm yelled as her wide eyes filled with disbelief.

Why would they capture her?

General Jinwu voluntarily went underground. Even if he died there, he brought it upon himself.

She noticed the icy cold gazes in the troops who were about to capture her.

Fear overwhelmed her...they are going to kill me!

"Ah!"

She screamed hysterically and turned to run.

A flash of coldness crossed Jiang Chengzi's eyes and he threw a punch.

This old general gave a very old and seasoned feeling.

He rarely took action in front of people and not many knew his strength.

As he punched, it felt like a mountain had collapsed and there was a crushing feeling that came instantaneously.

He was not a Ruler, but this punch contained boundless killing intent and murderous aura that he had accumulated while in the army. Its strength was frightening.

Boom –

The shrieks of Snake Lady who had managed to run a distance were stopped abruptly. Her body was torn apart and her head rolled on the ground.

Her eyes bulged wide open and filled with terror and confusion...even at the point of her death, she did not know why she was killed.

Jiang Chengzi lowered his arm and swept his eyes across the trembling half human barbarians, “The general of the mine, Snake Charm, schemed against General Jinwu, ultimately killing him. She tried to run from her punishment and I killed her directly! Did any of you participate in this too?”

General Jinwu’s death was a scheme by Snake Charm? Did the flirtatious bitch really have such means?

Although the half human barbarians thought that this was strange, Jiang Chengzi did not seem to be targeting them and they did not hesitate.

“Old General, this was done by Snake Charm alone!”

“We were forced into submission by her and we do not know anything!”

“Old General, please investigate this thoroughly!”

Jiang Chengzi waved his hand. A soldier stepped forward and wrapped up Snake Charm’s head.

The man bowed and bounded straight for the camp.

The marshal tent was waiting for this head. Marshal Wu would lead troops to the capital.

General Jinwu died in the underground. As the Grand Marshal of the border army, Wu Tongtian had to give an explanation to the capital.

This was the only way that the matter would come to a close.

Even if the Desolate King was not happy, the capital was not in a stable state now.

Also, the military had always been independent and it did not fear being suppressed by the Imperial Clan.

The most likely outcome was that the Desolate King would acknowledge this.

Jiang Chengzi sighed and suppressed his thoughts before he called, “Call Hundred Saint over!”

He had to take the nephew of Lord Chengtian away as soon as possible.

He was also having a headache regarding how he would mend his relationship with Lord Chengtian.

“Yes, Old General!”

Very soon, Hundred Saint hurried along. When he saw Jiang Chengzi, his eyes brightened and he bowed, “Greetings to Uncle Jiang!”

There were no outsiders here and he naturally chose to greet Jiang Chengzi in a familial manner.

As he thought about the cold oppression he felt in the border army and then the fright he got from the mine, Hundred Saint felt a gush of emotions and his eyes turned red.

Jiang Chengzi assumed that Hundred Saint was reminiscing about his painful experience and he felt guilty, “Hundred Saint, it is truly my fault for not taking care of this properly. You have suffered.”

He sighed slowly, “Don’t worry, I am here to take you today. The Barbarian Curse is terrifying, but there is still a way to get rid of it.”

Hundred Saint rubbed the corner of his eyes and he bowed, "Thank you Uncle Jiang but I am fine. I am here to wait for General Jinwu to come out."

"Mm, no one could have imagined that General Jinwu would die underground..." Jiang Chengzi said. Suddenly, he frowned and doubled back. His eyebrows lifted slightly.

Looking at his expression, Hundred Saint jumped to his senses. He smiled and gave a confirmatory nod, "That's right. The general is still alive. The half human barbarians made fools of themselves!"

He smirked coldly.

These bastards. Once General Jinwu is out, they will be ruined. At this time, he still did not know that Snake Charm had been killed.

Jiang Chengzi was at a loss for words.

General Jinwu, Ning Qin, was not dead!

If that was the case, what about these men in the cave? The border army were the real ones who had been fooled.

"Hundred Saint, are you telling the truth? Do you have a way to confirm that General Jinwu is not dead yet?"

Hundred Saint shook his head. Then, he thought about the lady living in the manor who appeared weak on the surface.

Pst –

A cold shiver passed through him and he suddenly felt like there was some sinister smile looking down at him.

He shivered, his face turned pale and he forced out a smile, "Uncle Jiang, don't ask me any more, but I can guarantee that General Jinwu is still alive."

Hundred Saint did not doubt what Rourou said.

Nonsense, if you personally interacted with her, you will also understand.

That feeling was really terrifying!

General Jinwu opposed the Demon Sect and demanded to take her with him. Hundred Saint did not know the extent of the nightmare that Qin Yu brought back with him.

Jiang Chengzi observed Hundred Saint and could feel his uneasiness and fear. He frowned and did not press Hundred Saint further.

In fact, Jiang Chengzi did not know that he just avoided some trouble.

That lady in the manor was quietly observing everything that happened here. If Jiang Chengzi had continued asking, he would not have been leaving this place so easily.

Jiang Chengzi was silent as he sat on his seat.

The initial news startled him, but he had regained his composure and he could begin seriously investigating this.

He thought about it; Snake Charm's head should not have arrived at the camp yet.

This also meant that the army of the marshal tent should not have left for the capital yet.

If Jiang Chengzi was willing, he could stop all of these from cascading.

However, why should he stop it? If he pressed on things and took a side seat to watch it all unfold, wasn't this the better choice?

As this thought crossed his mind, Jiang Chengzi looked at Hundred Saint, "Hundred Saint, pretend that you did not have this conversation with me today...General Jinwu truly died in the underground."

Hundred Saint's eyes flashed and he quickly understood that Jiang Chengzi was planning something.

Although he did now know the details, he thought about the border camp's consistent schemes and attitude. His lips curled into a smirk.

Hundred Saint bowed, "Uncle Jiang is right. I did not say anything and I don't know anything."

.....

In the capital of the West Desolate.

The whole empire was watching the conflict between the West Border Army and the West Barbarians closely.

An urgent report from the marshal tent of the Border Camp would not be delayed by anyone. After signatures and stamps were given to indicate approval, the report was sent to the Imperial Palace as fast as possible.

The messenger held a wooden box and his forehead was drenched in sweat.

After many years working for the military, this man had experienced similar things in the past – there was a human head in this box!

The Grand Marshal of the frontline military executed the person first before informing the palace. Something must have gone very wrong.

He recalled the gossip he heard and his face turned pale.

General Jinwu had joined the West Border Army under the Desolate King's directions. It was obvious what the Desolate King's intentions were.

If the military report was related to this...the Imperial Clan and the military would have a conflict.

This conflict would not blow up, but if he was dragged into it, he might be killed!

He entered the Imperial Palace and headed to the study room. The eunuch who came to greet him took the military report and the wooden box from him.

By that point, the messenger's knees grew weak and he stumbled, almost falling to the ground. The eunuch glanced at his disheveled appearance and then he looked at the wooden box. His expression turned serious.

He quickly entered the hall and knelt down while holding the wooden box above his head, "Your Majesty, there is an urgent report from the West Border Army camp!"

Chapter 1530A– Fated To Be a Pawn

In the Desolate King's study.

Lord Chengtian was at the front and several important officials from the Imperial Clan were behind him. Their eyebrows were slightly furrowed, and sweat was visible on their temples.

The military report had been read by the king, and the wooden box had also been opened. There was indeed a human head inside it.

No matter how beautiful a woman was, if only her head was left, people would not be interested at all.

The highly-respected Desolate King sat behind the bead curtain which made it difficult to make out his expressions, but his aura was calm and motionless.

However, everyone could clearly feel the rage in His Majesty's heart.

It had been many years since His Majesty had lost his composure. What exactly had been written in the military report?

Pa –

A soft sound came from behind the bead curtain as the Desolate King placed the military report's jade slip onto the table.

He raised his head, his eyes cold and indifferent as he looked at the important officials from the Imperial Clan.

"General Jinwu Ning Qin has died."

In the hall, the air instantly became condensed and everyone stopped breathing!

At this moment, they finally understood why His Majesty was so angry.

The West Border Army camp, Wu Tongtian...how dare he do something like this?!

Then, they also thought about how His Majesty had summoned them today to discuss the turmoil in the capital city.

These officials from the Imperial Clan suddenly felt a sense of precariousness, like something bad was going to happen.

His Majesty must be furious.

What was even more maddening was that even though he could see through all these things, he could only choose to endure it.

The Imperial Clan would not support the king, who was on the verge of abdicating his throne, in shaking the stability of the military.

Especially now...a situation where the imperial power and military power were competing with each other. It was a critical time and they would not allow the king to act out.

“Your Majesty!”

Lord Chengtian knelt on the ground and said, “I am willing to go forth to the West Border Army camp!”

His statement made the other officials of the Imperial Clan feel slight surprise, shame, and even a trace of admiration.

His Majesty was about to abdicate and transfer his power. They had no courage to fight against the military at this time.

Behind the bead curtain, the Desolate King’s voice was calm. “No need. Marshal Wu has already investigated the matter and has executed the murderer. I trust Marshal Wu’s judgment and way of handling the matter.”

A trace of sadness appeared in Lord Chengtian’s eyes...His Majesty was giving in to the military after all.

This was the first time the king was giving in after countless years, but now that he had done it once, it would not be the last time.

Perhaps this incident lit the fuse for everything that was going to happen in the future.

The Imperial Clan’s elders had already made all the preparations...abdication was already an unavoidable outcome!

His Majesty’s plan had failed to materialize in the end. Perhaps this had been decided by fate from the start.

Lord Chengtian and His Majesty were reluctant to accept that despite having fought for so many years, they still failed in the end.

At this moment, the eunuch who had been outside suddenly rushed in, his forehead covered in sweat. He was crying as he said, “Your Majesty, an urgent report from the West Border Army!”

There was a saying that went, ‘a change of sovereign brings a change of ministers’. This was not lost on the eunuch. In fact, he felt it more than anyone else.

When the new king was crowned, they would expel his predecessors’ servants.

The best outcome for them was to enter the Imperial Palace’s secret area and guard it for the rest of their lives.

If they were unlucky, they might be exiled instead. And someday, they might be completely wiped out for some unknown reason.

The eunuch cursed in his heart. These military barbarians were going too far; they even dared to intimidate and force His Majesty into a corner!

When he was sweating and scolding inwardly, the two who were in charge of sending the letters into the study also stood there, speechless and choked up.

His Majesty might not do anything to Marshal Wu who was stationed at the West Border, but these two soldiers were like inconspicuous ants to him.

Any reason would be enough to make the both of them fall into a tragic fate!

As they waited silently, tormented by their unknown fate, these two military cultivators' robes were quickly soaked with cold sweat.

They looked battered!

After an unknown amount of time passed, both their ears began to buzz from the silence. Just as they started to feel dizzy and their vision began to blacken, they were suddenly awoken by a burst of laughter.

Their hearts shrank suddenly and they were at a loss for what to do. They looked at the study in front of them and listened to the cheerful laughter that came from there.

The laughter...it came from His Majesty!

This...what exactly was going on?

The door to the study opened. The eunuch, who looked like he had been mourning for a concubine just now, trotted out with a rosy and delighted face.

"His Majesty has already written a reply; take it back and let the military leaders know that His Majesty wants to rectify the issue of ignorance that has been festering in the border army over the years!"

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The content of His Majesty's reply soon spread throughout the military divisions. The whole story and the truth finally came to light.

It could be roughly summarized as follows:

In the first military report, the West Border Army's Marshal Wu reported that General Jinwu Ning Qin went to the underground mines to suppress the sinners that went on strike, but had unfortunately died during battle. When the camp learned about this matter, they caught the murderer, killed her, and sent her head to the capital city.

But then, not long after the first military report was sent to the capital city, a second letter was delivered. It was not in the name of Marshal Wu, but its contents were quite interesting. It mentioned that the sinners in the underground mines had surrendered and stopped going on strike. They even handed over an amount of ore that could only be produced in the span of one year.

Everyone was not foolish, especially people in the capital city.

The sinners surrendered and even turned in a large amount of ore. The only explanation was of course that General Jinwu had successfully suppressed them.

Then, the first military report that had been sent from the West Border Army's marshal tent naturally just became a joke.

Or to be more precise, Wu Tongtian had become a joke.

In a short period of time, people in all the corners and alleyways of the capital city started discussing this matter before, after, and during their mealtimes. When they mentioned Marshal Wu, who was well known for his military achievements and reputation, their faces could not help but show a strange expression.

Vaguely, it seemed that everyone was saying that Marshal Wu had become old and foolish, to the point where he was confused about whether his generals were alive or dead.

But all of this was rather superficial conversation. Only those who were involved could see through and understand the essence of the matter. Marshal Wu had adhered to the will of a certain party and tried to test His Majesty, but was powerfully defeated and suppressed.

This made the gazes that focused on the throne a little more cautious and fearful.

The most direct consequence of this matter was that the turbulent situation in the capital city of recent times was suddenly eased.

The military headquarters publicly reprimanded all the border armies, but everyone knew that they were referring specifically to the West Border Army.

They also did not mention Wu Tongtian, but everyone also knew that this was a slap to Marshal Wu's face...an extremely loud slap!

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The mine resumed normal operations.

No, to be more accurate, they were now in a super efficient state.

The half human barbarians stationed here had never seen the underground sinners with such a humble attitude.

Therefore, towards General Jinwu, who they had only met once and felt very unfamiliar with, they now only felt awe and respect from the bottom of their hearts.

Even though they were half human barbarians who had suffered from the Barbarian Curse and were treated like aliens by the border army, they were still once soldiers.

The honor of a soldier ran in their bones.

And soldiers had always respected and admired the strong.

Chapter 1530B – Fated To Be a Pawn

Jiang Chengzi laughed dumbly and shook his head, showing a little helplessness. His plan was not supposed to go like this; he needed to wait a little longer.

But General Jinwu seemed to have really frightened the underground sinners, since they delivered the ores without any delay.

It spoiled his plans.

This matter definitely could not be concealed, and he was clear about Marshal Wu's methods.

The mine seemed to be a taboo that everyone in the camp avoided, but he must have made a setup here, a backhanded move.

The second military report that was sent out from the camp...no matter whose name was used, it was definitely not Marshal Wu who sent it.

As his general for many years, Jiang Chengzi had quite a deep understanding of what Marshal Wu was like.

"Hundred Saint, since General Jinwu has returned safe and sound, I will return to the main camp now."

"Farewell, General!"

Hundred Saint was full of joy. Even though he had believed Rourou's words, he still rejoiced at getting confirmation that Qin Yu was indeed still alive.

And more importantly, he discovered General Jinwu's secret.

People avoided the mine like a plague, but in General Jinwu's hands, he was able to make it profitable and beneficial for his own goals.

For example, at the beginning, the pill that he took with Ironstone. For example, General Jinwu had entered the underground mine but returned safe and sound. For example...Marshal Wu fell into trouble today.

It was not a big problem, but it still really hurt Marshal Wu's reputation.

More importantly, this event marked the moment whereby General Jinwu was going to officially gain a firm foothold in the West Border Army camp.

As Hundred Saint stared at Jiang Chengzi's silhouette, Hundred Saint stood up, a smile plastered on his face.

At this moment, he suddenly felt full of hope for the future!

"The future is indeed bright and hopeful, but if someone ratted this out, who knows? You might die." A serious voice rang out. Hundred Saint stiffened. He turned his head to see Lady Rourou, who was looking at him very sternly.

She raised her hand and patted his shoulder, "Hundred Saint, do you understand? General Jinwu is coming back soon!"

Hundred Saint nodded his head repeatedly. Perhaps he twisted his head at the wrong angle just now, but 'ka-cha' sounds could be heard whenever he nodded his head.

"Good!"

Rourou nodded back in satisfaction, hugging the chicken overlord in her arms and walking into the manor.

A chicken head emerged from her shoulders and looked at Hundred Saint, his eyes full of anxiety. He opened his mouth and even though no sound came out, he successfully conveyed his inner emotions.

Save me! Please save me!

Hundred Saint was expressionless and pretended like he did not see anything. It was not because he did not want to help, but because he really did not dare to.

But this did not prevent him from understanding the despair in chicken overlord's heart.

All he did was stand there and get patted by Lady Rourou on the shoulder, but he already felt like he was going to die.

Not to mention the chicken overlord that was directly in her arms.

That pair of white and beautiful hands were constantly stroking his feathers...hiss, just thinking about it made his hairs stand on end!

If she wanted to, chicken overlord could be blown into a pile of broken bones and rotten flesh, with blood splattering all over the place at any moment.

General, Brother Ning Qin, come back quickly.

You invited me here, so I'll wait for your orders on how to deal with this matter!

.....

In the underground mines, at a specific corner that had been abandoned for a long time.

Qin Yu sat cross-legged, his whole silhouette was like a shadow of the night and had completely integrated into the darkness.

There was no aura coming from his body at all.

A few chubby bugs, like wriggling pieces of fat, slowly crawled towards Qin Yu.

They were called 'mine worms' by the underground sinners, and they were essentially extremely timid creatures.

Once frightened in the slightest, they would literally scare themselves to death, bursting with a 'bang', and crimson corrosive liquid would explode in all directions.

Their power was quite terrifying!

But now, it seemed that these worms perceived Qin Yu to be a piece of ore.

A mine worm climbed onto his body and wriggled for a while. It found a comfortable position and quickly fell asleep.

In the darkness, Qin Yu opened his eyes slightly and glanced at it. A faint smile appeared on the corner of his mouth.

In the distance, there was still darkness shrouded in Qin Yu's eyes.

However, in this darkness, there seemed to be a more lively atmosphere.

The Soul Seed was starting to germinate!

.....

At the West Border Army camp.

In the marshal tent!

The discussion was held as scheduled. Wu Tongtian's expression was calm and unchanged like before.

At least, in the marshal tent, no one could notice any change at all.

He was still that strong and wise marshal who had a keen judgment.

Ye Sangdu laughed coldly in his heart!

The more he appeared to be indifferent, the more it showed that Wu Tongtian was not at peace in his heart.

As the second highest-ranked figure in the West Border Army, Ye Sangdu was not sure what to feel about Wu Tongtian.

He hoped that the damage to Wu Tongtian's reputation would improve his own influence in the West Border Army camp.

However, Wu Tongtian was a strong supporter of the Ye Family in the military.

There were some things that he could not interfere with, though, no matter how he felt towards Wu Tongtian.

For example, it was a fact that Wu Tongtian's reputation had been severely damaged. The reprimand issued by the military headquarters was like a big slap on his face.

His Majesty in the Imperial Palace stepped on Marshal Wu's prestige which not only temporarily stabilized the situation, but also managed to delay it.

However, in reality, Ye Sangdu was not optimistic about the king's plans.

The Imperial Clan ruled the West Desolate, but His Majesty, who controlled most of this power, needed to be replaced. This was a custom that had been set at the beginning of the West Desolate's establishment and no one could change it.

Even if His Majesty had great talent and superb means and could stabilize the situation for a while, so what?

Eventually, there would be more and more voices and powers forcing him to abdicate.

After all, this involved everyone's interests!

After the discussion was over, the generals got up and saluted, showing more respect than before. They were all old foxes who had been in the top positions for a long time. No one wanted to get on Marshal Wu's bad side at this time.

Furthermore, it was just a slap in the face by His Majesty. At the end of the day, Marshal Wu's position and status were still stable.

There would be a day when he would become the commander-in-chief of the West Border Army. They would not dare to underestimate him or treat him with the slightest contempt.

The marshal tent fell silent.

Wu Tongtian rubbed his face in a rough manner. Over the years, he had formed this habit to recover from fatigue. A cup of strong tea had been brewed and placed in front of him. Steam rose from the cup and a slightly bitter tea fragrance wafted in the air.

The tea leaves were not of good quality; they were produced by a few old tea trees on a mountain located at the West Border.

But Marshal Wu had gotten used to its taste after drinking it for many years, so he did not change the tea leaves.

The counselor who served the tea had a bitter smile on his face. After hesitating for a while, he said, "Marshal, do you want to send a report to the Imperial Palace to explain things?"

It was a piece of advice from a seasoned and experienced man.

After being reprimanded by His Majesty, as a courtier, you have to take a stance.

Marshal Wu was never liked by His Majesty, but he had a high status. As long as he was willing to lower his head, the Imperial Capital would give some face.

For example, the buzz created by the headquarters rebuking of the four border armies could be eliminated as soon as possible.

Marshal Wu drank a few sips of hot tea, shook his head, and said, "These matters are trivial."

His gaze was blocked by the steam, so it was hard to see clearly, but it was deep and profound.

As if he had crossed into another space, falling far away.

"General Jinwu...Ning Qin..."

Marshal Wu mumbled to himself with a hint of self-deprecation in his eyes. He had to admit that he had underestimated this pawn from the Imperial Clan. A person who was selected by His Majesty would not be ordinary after all. He had been too careless.

After this matter, General Jinwu had finally gained a firm foothold in the West Border Army.

General Jinwu had shown enough potential such that even if His Majesty abdicated, the Imperial Clan and their successors would still fully support him.

It was foreseeable that he would achieve great things in the future.

But...

A cold smile appeared on Wu Tongtian's face. Based on his understanding of His Majesty, since he was so cautious, he would have room for maneuver apart from putting this pawn in the military.

General Jinwu was fated to be a pawn. He was a pawn now, and he would be one in the future too.

No matter how glamorous and splendid your life was, living like this was meaningless!