

Refining 1551

Chapter 1551 – There's a Problem

Qin Yu could not wait to continue to 'eat and drink'. However, his dreams were put to a halt before they could happen.

One had to be reliable and do what they promised.

Of course, more importantly, according to Qin Yu's agreement with Prajna, the first Boundary Breaking Seal should be in the Golden Crow Tribe!

Time was tight and he had to take action now.

"Let me follow you." Rourou did not give a reason and Qin Yu did not ask as he nodded in agreement.

Although there would most likely be no danger on this trip to the Golden Crow Tribe, nothing was one hundred percent certain.

At least with Rourou by his side, Qin Yu was guaranteed to be safe. There was no reason for him to reject her.

Zhou Dafu took the initiative to say that he would follow the General and prepare for the journey.

Qin Yu rejected him without even thinking about it.

This guy was vicious. With Zhou Dafu by his side, he might even have to kill him if he found out something he should not know.

Putting the troublesome factor aside, he might even cause Qin Yu's effort to go to waste.

Ignoring Zhou Dafu's begrudging look, Qin Yu walked ahead while Rourou followed him. The two of them boarded the carriage heading to Golden Crow Tribe.

"Let's go!"

The group turned and headed to the Golden Crow Tribe.

In the carriage, Qin Yu glanced at Rourou, who was calmly looking at the passing scenery.

Back at the camp, she behaved boldly and unrestrained. It was rare for her to be so quiet. As Qin Yu looked at her side profile, he suddenly felt that she was pretty good-looking.

As soon as this thought filled him, his expression changed and he quickly erased it.

Across from him, Rourou turned and looked at him, seeming to laugh, "Qin Yu, you are getting very bold. Don't forget my warning!"

Qin Yu coughed lightly. When he indulged himself in the food and drinks, he had suffered quite a bit from her mockery. He felt that his skin had grown thicker from facing her.

This small sarcasm was nothing. His expression did not change as he pretended not to hear her.

"I have things to do in the Golden Crow Tribe. Don't create trouble."

Rourou pursed her lips and rolled her eyes, "I know. I am following you this time purely to watch. I will not do anything."

Qin Yu nodded and his expression turned calm again. He chuckled internally.

As if I believe you!

If you didn't have a motive, you would not have been able to bear leaving the treehouse. Look how lazy you have become.

Qin Yu knew that Rourou was going to the Golden Crow Tribe for a reason!

It was fine if she did not tell him; he had already warned her. According to how she usually behaved, she would control herself.

As he thought this, Qin Yu closed his eyes and worked to control the last bit of misbehaving energy.

The road from the camp to the Golden Crow Tribe was quite far.

Even without resting, it would take them at least two days.

Although he remained in the carriage, Qin Yu could sense numerous glances.

Among them, there was curiosity, exploration, and puzzlement, but more of them were hostile and cold!

These gazes served to remind Qin Yu that he was in the Barbarian Clan territory. However, it also caused a strange feeling to rise within him and he could not help but chuckle bitterly.

After he became the Barbarian King, he did not have any predecessors to learn from nor anyone to support him – it was suffocating!

Thankfully, the Golden Crow Tribe was a deterrent.

So even though Qin Yu sensed numerous malicious intents in the air, they all backed off after a while.

Two days later, they reached the Golden Crow Tribe!

Woosh –

Qin Yu opened his eyes and they glimmered before turning calm. It seemed like there was no change within him but his eyes were clearer. They resembled the clear sky after rain.

The recent increase in energy in his body had been thoroughly controlled.

Across from him, Rourou looked surprised. She did not think that Qin Yu would progress so quickly. But when Qin Yu looked over, she remained nonchalant and did not expose any of her thoughts.

As they looked at each other, the carriage came to a stop. A Golden Crow Tribe warrior spoke, "General Jinwu, my Lady, we have reached."

That's right. The Golden Crow Tribe only invited Qin Yu. Rourou needed an appropriate identity to follow along.

Lady...as a couple, she would naturally qualify.

Rourou made a 'hmp' sound and looked annoyed. It was obvious that she was not satisfied with being called this.

Qin Yu's mouth twitched. If you don't like it, you can not come. I didn't drag you here!

He stepped out of the carriage and hesitated for a while before turning, "My Lady, please come out."

You don't like it? I will say it even more!

Rourou's face flushed and she had a weird look. She did not say anything as she placed her hand in Qin Yu's and allowed him to help her out.

Her obedience made Qin Yu feel uneasy.

After they took a few steps, they silently let go and put some distance between each other.

It was clear that the Golden Crow Tribe was well aware of their arrival. Young Tribe Leader, Culi, was waiting for them and he stepped up to greet, "General Jinwu, my Lady. Thank you for coming."

He stood up and gestured, "The celebration will take place today. The Tribe Leader is attending to guests in the main tent and asked me to welcome you."

Numerous gazes fell on Qin Yu. From their attire and aura, they were clearly from the Golden Crow Tribe.

They had most likely been invited to the ceremony, just like Qin Yu.

Although the barbarians already knew that the Golden Crow Tribe had invited General Jinwu to attend, they still found it hard to believe as they saw the Young Tribe Leader welcome him.

From the West Desolate's point of view, they had much to gain when it came to smuggling. To the Barbarian Clan, the smuggling was also a way to become stronger.

The barbarians who were qualified to be invited by the Golden Crow Tribe were all supportive of the trade.

But being supportive did not mean that they thought the Desolate people were reliable friends. After all, they had been mortal enemies for generations. The smuggling was just something that allowed both sides to benefit.

The Golden Crow Tribe's attitude was difficult to understand!

"Hmph!"

Qin Yu heard a loud snort and he looked up. His eyes met with a cold gaze.

The aura of this person was completely opposite to those from the Golden Crow Tribe. If the latter was like the sun, burning high in the sky, then this person was a ball of darkness, never ever seeing the light of day. It was like an ancient ice cave, a lump of tough ice!

Amongst the burning fire of the Golden Crow Tribe, the existence of these frosty 'ice lumps' was very jarring.

As such, when they harbored murderous intent, their eyes grew even colder.

That's right, Qin Yu could sense the murderous intent from them.

An intense smell of blood. It was like a sword, dripping with fresh blood and hiding in the darkness.

As if in the next moment, it would fall and cut Qin Yu in half.

It was obvious that these 'ice lumps' were not going to do anything to Qin Yu now. After snorting and staring for a while, they turned to leave and disappeared into the tent.

Young Tribe Leader, Culi, was awkward as he explained, "They are from the Ice Carp Tribe. They were invited to the ceremony and they view anyone from the Desolate Area as enemies. However, please don't worry. We will ensure your safety and make sure no one disturbs you."

Qin Yu nodded as he sneered internally. This time, it would be hard for the Golden Crow Tribe to keep to their promise.

Ice Carp Tribe...he had never seen or crossed paths with them. Did they really view anyone from the Desolate Area as enemies like Culi said? Or was there something else?

Qin Yu knew that he had to build a steady foundation in the West Border Army in order to progress. But the person who disliked him was still around, and he was extremely powerful in terms of status and strength.

Marshal Wu was undoubtedly the strongest. Moreover, Lord Chengtian seemed to have come to an agreement with him. If not, Lord Chengtian would have said something before leaving.

The former valued his reputation. The higher one was, the more one would care about their reputation. Though it was possible for Wu Tongtian to do things secretly, the probability was not high.

Moreover, there was the other one. The Great General of the West Border Army from the Later Ye Family – Ye Sangdu.

Qin Yu entered the barbarian territory alone to handle the imperial smuggling affairs. Qin Yu did not believe that Ye Sangdu would let such an opportunity slip by.

The sound of Rourou mocking him could be heard, "Look who is the one making enemies now!"

Qin Yu rubbed his nose and did not argue back as things were truly as she said. So he was going to pretend not to hear her.

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The camp of the West Border Army.

Ye Sangdu's tent.

Ye Sangdu was looking solemn and a sinister look filled his eyes. He was the second most powerful person in the camp and belonged to the Later Ye Family.

He was at the camp but he knew what was going on in the Western Barbarian Land.

Zhou Dafu had betrayed him!

Useless shit. He had seemed to be ruthless but who knew he was so useless.

At this moment, General Jinwu was prestigious and he was in control of smuggling. No one could stop him.

Thankfully, Ye Sangdu merely wanted to create some trouble for General Jinwu by using him.

He had never thought of entrusting such an important mission like killing General Jinwu to Zhou Dafu.

The group of smugglers may have seemed arrogant and ruthless, but they were far from qualified to kill a General.

“General Jinwu, let me see how you escape from this one!”

Sneering, he picked up his tea cup and took a sip.

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In the Golden Crow Tribe’s main tent.

Strong cultivators filled the space like clouds in the sky, causing the entire sky to be obscured.

Qin Yu was invited to enter and he saw numerous strong barbarians. He could not help but feel relieved.

They were the backbone of the Barbarian Clan. In the future, he would lead them to rise and would need to borrow their power. His thoughts affected his mood and he could not help but smile and greet, “General Jinwu from the Desolate Area. I was invited.”

The Tribe Leader immediately felt elated as he saw Qin Yu’s smiling face!

Although he had already learned of Qin Yu’s identity from Prajna, there were people in the tent who were not aware.

He knew very well what kind of attitude they would have towards Qin Yu, who came as a General from the West Desolate border army. They had lost numerous barbarian cultivators over the years.

Even in such a scenario, General Jinwu was able to smile freely. It was not easy.

“General Jinwu, I am Cutuo, nice to meet you. Please have a seat!”

He gestured and the barbarians in the tent realized that the eye-catching seat reserved beside Lord Ascetic was for this Desolate Area man. They could not help but frown, expressing their displeasure.

Cutuo pretended not to see this.

Qin Yu smiled and thanked him. Facing numerous cold glares, he led Rourou to take a seat.

Prajna waved, “General Jinwu, we meet again.” He spoke calmly and there was a faint intimacy.

Qin Yu nodded, “Hello.” Thinking, he turned and introduced, “My Lady, have you met Master Prajna?”

Rourou glared at Qin Yu, sending him a look that said – do you want to die?

This brat wanted her to say her greetings. Hehe, he was not qualified!

Prajna shook her head as he looked at Rourou. He slowly spoke, "My Lady is of a high status and is extremely powerful. There is no need to greet me."

Thinking, he added, "I hope I don't offend you. May I ask where the two huge trees at the camp came from?"

Rourou looked at him and felt that the way he spoke was acceptable. He was smarter than Qin Yu.

Hence, she explained, "I got them incidentally and have been growing them."

Prajna nodded and did not ask further.

Qin Yu took in this conversation and his eyes flashed.

At this moment, the leader of the Golden Crow Tribe coughed lightly. The noise in the tent quietened down. He stood up and looked at everyone smiling, "Thank you everyone, for taking time out of your busy schedules to attend the celebration of our Golden Crow Tribe's new totem. Just now, our tribe's shaman already confirmed that the totem has started breaking out of the egg and will come out within four hours.

"Now, I would like to invite all of you to follow me to the Spring Valley, where the totem is, to witness this together."

Pragna stood up and said softly, "The Golden Crow Tribe is very pleased with your gift. I believe many people will know the origin of the Golden Crow Totem."

Qin Yu smiled slightly. This was the decision he and Prajna had made earlier.

The Golden Crow Tribe issue was bound to attract widespread attention. By spreading a little information through the ascetic, it gave them the opportunity to follow up.

At this moment, the ring on Qin Yu's finger turned cold and it was extremely apparent amidst the heat in the Golden Crow Tribe.

He had already realized this when he neared the Golden Crow Tribe.

It was obvious that this place was ideal to set up the Boundary Breaking Seal – this matched what Qin Yu and Prajna had guessed – since the Boundary Breaking Seal would be used to ruin the Barbarian Clan, then the required location for it had to be close to a major tribe. This was so that when it exploded, it could cause more damage!

Qin Yu got up and followed everyone out of the tent.

He glanced at Rourou. Her face was calm, as if she was just a bystander watching and did not care about anything.

However, instinct told Qin Yu that what she was feeling was not as calm as what she was expressing.

There was a problem!

Chapter 1552 – Unruly

The Spring Valley was actually referring to magma. It collected in the shape of a circle and was bubbling violently.

Golden Crow Tribe members lived in it and were Fire Spiritual Beasts. This environment for them was like the ocean breeze to us.

Sss –

Numerous canopies were set up outside the Spring Valley today. They were not physical canopies, but were made up of an invisible force.

It was not that the barbarians wanted to do anything in the Golden Crow Tribe but it was because the sea of flames was intense. The barbarians would have to use energy to maintain their composure amidst this heat if not for the canopies.

The fiery egg appeared in everyone's vision. Numerous golden crows lay on the ground and allowed the magma to cover their bodies. They were expressing their awe and subservient attitude.

As the barbarians assessed the fiery egg that was half-buried in the magma, they were surprised by the aura they felt.

It was extremely strong!

It wasn't only that. It gave them a feeling that the being inside it was a predator at the top of the food chain.

No wonder the Golden Crow Tribe made such a big event out of this and invited everyone to observe. They had really found a treasure!

When the Golden Crow Totem had been killed by the Desolate men, everyone thought they would fall. But no one expected such a twist.

There must be something going on.

The barbarians stared intently at the fiery egg, willing it to tell them the secret.

How did the Golden Crow Tribe do it?

Tribe Leader Cutuo smiled and said slowly, "Everyone, you are currently seeing our tribe's new totem. It will break out of its shell very soon."

Looking at everyone, he released an intense pressure amidst the silence, "I believe you all know the rules and I won't have to say them. Please observe in silence."

Boom boom –

As soon as he spoke, an intense aura burst through the valley and the magma started to bubble violently, creating a roaring sound.

All the barbarian cultivators seemed to be stunned. As their hearts stilled, they could not help but chuckle bitterly. They felt that this Cutuo was being extremely pretentious. The Spring Valley was the Golden Crow Tribe's heavenly formation and they could release enormous energy with just a thought.

Even if someone wanted to create trouble, they would not dare to do it here. Otherwise they would be really asking for death.

It was precisely because of this that the Golden Crow Tribe dared to announce their totem's arrival to the world rather than keeping it a secret.

The few 'ice lumps' from the Ice Carp Tribe looked gloomy. They were looking at the flame with jealousy.

Although the barbarians and the Desolate people were each other's biggest enemies, there was not complete unity within the barbarians either.

There was internal strife and infighting as well. Since ancient times, the Golden Crow Tribe and Ice Carp Tribe had been known to be big enemies.

When one side was strong, they were bound to try and suppress others. If not for the Holy Land restrictions, they would have killed each other.

Now, they were evenly matched, and hence their relationship was peaceful.

But with the Golden Crow Tribe's new totem, their powers would definitely increase and this period of 'peace' would soon end.

As they thought of this, the eyes of the 'ice lumps' from the Ice Carp Tribe immediately hardened.

The hesitation they had felt was completely erased.

They could reject working with the Desolate Area people, but they had to do something for the future of their tribe!

Qin Yu frowned as he turned to look to the side.

The sinister aura was especially obvious in contrast with the hot magma spring.

He saw a pale face. He had seen this face before – it was the strongest barbarian from the Ice Carp Tribe.

What was he doing here?

As he thought of this, he sensed the murderous intent. Qin Yu frowned harder as he became guarded.

As if noticing what Qin Yu was thinking, Rourou silently took a step back, falling behind him.

Qin Yu turned around to look at her. Rourou stared back at him with wide eyes filled with innocence. She blinked back at him, clearly expressing that she had no desire to suffer with him.

This woman was too petty. She must be taking revenge on Qin Yu for labelling her as his wife.

Just when Qin Yu was thinking about whether to involve Prajna to help act as a shield, the barbarian from the Ice Carp Tribe had arrived.

However, things did not turn out as he had expected. He merely sneered and looked at him sinisterly...but did not do anything more. He simply brushed past.

It seemed like he was heading to the Tribe Leader of the Golden Crow Tribe. Alas, he stopped beside Cutuo and exchanged a few words.

Though they spoke softly, fragments of their conversation could be heard amidst the silence.

He heard words like 'Desolate Area men' and 'enemies'.

Cutuo frowned and looked solemn as he started to argue with the barbarian from the Ice Carp Tribe. He spoke louder and became more forceful.

The other barbarians subconsciously looked at Qin Yu as they frowned slightly and became more unfriendly. The war between the Barbarian Clan and the Desolate Area had gone on for years and the animosity had been carved into their bones. It could never be erased.

When the Ice Carp Tribe expressed their displeasure, it triggered the Golden Crow Tribe's dissatisfaction as well. What were they doing? How could a Desolate Area man be qualified to attend today's celebration?

"Our tribe has considered all of this, and we don't need you to worry about it!" Cutuo looked sullen as he spat out, putting an end to the argument.

He could sense the unhappy looks from the people around him and could not help but sneer internally.

A bunch of fools. Even Master Prajna, who was born from the Holy Land, has remained silent. Who are you all to speak? Your brains must be spoilt not to notice such an obvious thing!

Of course, these people probably did not even know Master Prajna's identity.

The cultivator from the Ice Carp Tribe snorted as he turned sharply. He glared at Qin Yu, a sinister aura flooding out from him.

This made him feel slightly annoyed. Was there a need to treat me with such high levels of animosity even though we have never met? Moreover, do you think you are qualified to look at me as if we are enemies? Just wait for it. If I reveal my identity, you will be begging and crying to submit to me!

What happened to the murderous intent? I am sure that I sensed it. But why have you all not made a move?

Could it be that you are all really restricted by the Golden Crow Tribe?

The man walked closer to him. The man snorted...just that. It was exactly the same as before.

Just when the Ice Carp Tribe cultivator was about to brush past, he was suddenly thrown back as if he had been hit.

Blood spurted out from his nose and mouth and it turned into blood jades resembling water crystals. Each and every piece released coldness into the air around it.

As the man flew towards the magma spring, he glared at Qin Yu. His eyes were full of menace. His expression seemed to say, I cannot believe that you dare to hit me in front of everyone.

Qin Yu was speechless.

He had never expected that the man would do this.

Coarse, it was so coarse.

Any normal person would be able to see that Qin Yu would never make a move against the Ice Carp Tribe in a situation like today.

But they had apparently done this!

Rough and arrogant. They did not care about reputations and merely looked at results.

The Ice Carp Tribe had determined that this was a situation that would not require scrutiny.

All the people present today were barbarians and they were definitely biased.

No one would side with the Desolate Area men who had infiltrated their world.

So Qin Yu was bound to be implicated.

Pitter patter –

It was the blood jade crystals that had been spat out from the Ice Carp barbarian. They fell into the boiling magma pit.

Seeming to be ‘wounded’, he spat out fresh blood that contained his own life essence. It possessed an extreme cold power.

As soon as it fell into the magma, the temperature dropped drastically and the magma spring turned black and coagulated. An ice layer formed over it.

When the Ice Carp barbarian had been thrown back, he had spat out blood like it was free. Hence, it caused blood jade crystals to rain down.

Though the quantity was not a lot, the results were astounding!

The parts of the magma spring that had been affected quickly turned into ice. In an instant, it disrupted the hot energy flow.

The fiery egg that was buried in the magma vibrated slightly. The light rays that were emitted from the veins seemed to flicker.

It was obvious that because the Ice Carp man had been ‘attacked’ by the Desolate Area man, his blood turned into ice and fell into the magma spring. This then caused a huge disturbance to the last part of the totem’s birth.

Cutuo was furious as he paled. His eyes grew sinister as he watched the Ice Carp barbarian get thrown back into the depths of the magma spring.

If he had not known the true identity of General Jinwu, he would have had to reconsider this.

But since he knew the identity of General Jinwu, he was sure that the Ice Carp Tribe was creating trouble in order to prevent the new Golden Crow Totem from being born!

A heinous sin. Simply unforgivable!

Without hesitating, Cutuo lifted a finger and the heat in the magma spring rose exponentially.

Boom –

The red magma started to boil violently and an intense destructive aura was released from it.

A red column, so hot that it looked black, surged into the sky. Like a giant flame extending its hand, it reached out to the Ice Carp barbarian.

There were shouts as numerous barbarians were shocked. They never thought that the Golden Crow Tribe would aim to kill.

However, they could understand as it was their totem in the magma.

But if the Ice Carp barbarian was killed now, it would cause a huge clash.

Golden Crow and Ice Carp were two huge tribes. Their years of animosity would explode and would give rise to a cruel battle!

And this was all because of General Jinwu. The glares of the barbarians turned even colder.

Qin Yu was calm. When the Ice Carp barbarian had 'coarsely' set him up, he knew that this issue would not pass easily.

But he was not panicking.

Golden Crow Tribe Cutuo knew his 'identity' and would never allow anyone to hurt him.

Moreover, there was Master Prajna, who had remained silent. If he announced Qin Yu's identity, no barbarians would dare to say anything.

If worse came to worse, there was still Rourou. If it came to it, they would be the ones to suffer.

But as the Barbarian King, hopefully this would not happen.

The cultivators from the human side must be frantically searching for him.

If he announced his identity, Qin Yu would suffer a miserable plight.

How should he choose between sacrificing himself or others? Tsk, was there even a need to choose? Qin Yu was not a saint!

As the flame's hand that was reaching out to the Ice Carp barbarian was about to mold this coarse and sinister 'ice lump' into 'powder', something strange happened.

Just as the flame's hand was about to land on the Ice Carp barbarian, it passed through it as if the man was an illusion.

Pak –

The fire imprint on the Ice Carp barbarian was destroyed.

"Fire Talisman!"

Cutuo growled angrily.

Behind him, there was a young man and his face paled. His eyes filled with endless fear.

The Spring Valley was in the Golden Crow's territory and was the Heavenly Formation of the Golden Crow Tribe. There were only a few tribes that could get the Fire Talisman and enter this place.

Cutuo turned and looked at the pale-faced young man. Pain and frustration filled his eyes. Although his eldest son had always been weak and useless, he never thought that he would be stupid enough to give the Fire Talisman to the Ice Carp Tribe.

Because of this delay, the Ice Carp barbarian who had been 'thrown' into the magma spring had reached its deepest part.

Below him was the half-buried fiery egg.

Pfft –

He opened his mouth and spat a mouthful of fresh blood mixed with his strong life essence at the fiery egg.

Destroy the Golden Crow Tribe's totem!

Chapter 1553 – Accepting Punishment

Water and fire do not mix.

Outside of the magma spring, the faces of all the barbarian cultivators changed drastically.

It was like they saw an immensely powerful Golden Crow Totem get destroyed just as it was about to be born.

It was like porcelain that had just been fired. But before it could cool naturally, a bucket of cold water was thrown on it.

When extreme heat and cold clashed, anything would be destroyed. Moreover, this was something that had not built its foundation.

No matter how biased the barbarians were, at this moment, they could not help but come to a realization – what happened today was the Ice Carp Tribe's scheme.

But what had this got to do with them? Although their expressions changed, this was just external, and internally, they felt slightly happy.

None of us have such a strong totem, so how can the Golden Crow Tribe have one?

The barbarians were not unified and also had internal factions. For them to be invited here meant that their tribes were not that far away from the Golden Crow Tribe in terms of strength.

If the Golden Crow Tribe rose to power, the others would lose out, and no one doubted this.

Furious growls could be heard as several Elders from the Golden Crow Tribe rushed into the magma spring.

But everyone could see that they were too slow to stop it.

Pitter –

Patter –

Like hail falling to the ground, the surface of the fiery egg was getting hit. However, the red shell of the egg was very firm and would not crack like this.

However, the red veins on the surface of the egg was rapidly being put out. ‘Click’, a layer of ice covered the egg.

In a blink of an eye, the light rays vanished and it turned into a black stone without any aura.

Boom –

There was the sound of something heavy falling. The cultivator from the Ice Carp Tribe finally fell. He rolled over and coughed out more blood. He shouted, “Desolate man General Jinwu, how dare you attack me!”

At the same time, he turned to look at the fiery egg. After confirming that it was completely destroyed, there was a look of relief in his eyes, “Today, I accidentally created a huge trouble. I will pay with my death.”

Lifting his hand, he hit his forehead.

The dead could not talk, and one death settled everything.

He committed suicide in front of everyone. Even though they might not believe him, there was no way to make a dead man change his words.

General Jinwu had to take the blame for this!

Moreover, this prevented Golden Crow Tribe from saying anything. No matter how resentful they were of the Ice Carp Tribe, they had no choice.

After all, he was also a victim and...the one to blame was General Jinwu!

With his death, he could accomplish the deal with the Desolate men and ruin the Golden Crow Totem. One stone to kill two birds.

The corners of his mouth pulled up very slightly, in a hard to detect smile. ‘Bam’ his entire head exploded and blood and flesh spurted everywhere.

Since he was going to commit suicide, he was going to do it properly. He would die thoroughly and give no one a chance to intervene.

There was a deathly silence!

Everyone looked at the headless corpse on the ground. Despite everything that was going on, they could not help but internally praise this man for being vicious.

These ‘ice lumps’ from the Ice Carp Tribe had hearts of ice. They were vicious to others as well as themselves.

Plop –

Behind Cutuo, a young Golden Crow Tribe man could not help but fall to the ground as he could no longer bear the torment.

He was trembling and the scent of pee wafted in the air.

Cutuo frowned and said slowly, “The Young Lord has lost his mind. Bring him down to rest.”

The young man who fell to the floor shivered as he heard this. He suddenly looked up and shouted, “Father! I know my mistake, Father! It was them. They forced me. I had no choice. Father, please give me a chance!”

He spoke hurriedly and everyone could hear the fear and despair in his heart.

Cutuo waved his hands and two Elders from the Golden Crow Tribe stepped forward to hold the Young Tribe Leader. Their faces were ugly. It was as if his spine was removed; the young man was dragged away limply.

Amongst the Ice Carp Tribe, one barbarian spoke, “We can explain regarding the Fire Talisman.” Since they had planned to make a move, they were well-prepared to push all the blame onto others.

Cutuo did not give him a chance to speak as he waved his hand and cut him off, “That is not important. What is important is...how do you want to die?”

Everyone’s expressions changed as they could sense the violence in the air. No one took it as a joke.

The faces of a few barbarians from the Ice Carp Tribe changed, “Cutuo, Elder Black Cold was set up and thrown into the magma spring, causing things to end up like this. Elder Black Cold committed suicide to make up for it. Are you trying to make us stay here as well?!”

“Set up? Do you think we are blind?!” Cutuo stepped towards them. As he moved, the fire from the magma spring grew bigger and magma surged to the heavens. ‘Boom boom boom’, it rolled and bubbled as magma started to fall like rain.

“Cutuo, if you have proof, we will allow you to deal with us as you pleased. But if you don’t...” The Tribe Leader of the Ice Carp Tribe turned and greeted Prajna, “Master, please uphold justice for us!”

The ascetic from the Holy Land was their key.

For so many years, the Holy Land had been controlling the clashes between the two groups. If the ascetic did not do anything today, their reputation would suffer.

Prajna opened his eyes and looked over calmly, “Tribe Leader Black Hand, you are right. Everything boils down to proof.”

Black Hand bowed, “Master, you are right!”

His eyes flashed.

Since the Holy Land had made its stance clear, who dared to disobey?

As for proof...Elder Black Cold has committed suicide and could not be questioned. It was not like Golden Crow Tribe could make a dead man talk!

Cutuo halted and the fury all over his face disappeared all of a sudden. He looked at Black Hand and the other Ice Carp Tribe barbarians. An inscrutable smile appeared on his face

“Just because a dead man can’t talk, it does not mean that there is no proof.”

He dampened his aura and the violently bubbling magma spring became calm. The magma fell and the air was clear again.

There was a startled shout. Black Hand’s heart froze as he looked at the spring. Unbeknownst to them, the layer of ice covering the fiery egg that had been buried in the magma was gone.

The veins on the surface of the egg started to glow once more.

But something was different. Half of the egg looked like how it was previously, surging with an intensely powerful aura. However, the other half had turned an azure colour. The light rays emitted from it made it like a huge crystal, reflecting a dazzling halo in the air.

An intense absorption energy could be felt from the fiery egg, continuously helping it to absorb fire energy from the magma spring.

Whereas the other half of the egg was absorbing cold energy from Elder Black Cold, who had committed suicide. The remaining energy from his corpse was getting absorbed.

“Fire and ice!”

Black Hand shrieked as his face turned pale. He trembled as he stared at the sight before him.

Cutuo smiled softly, “That’s right. Tribe Leader Black Hand, this is the fire ice fusion.”

Delight shone through his eyes, “Initially, we were wondering how to get you all to take action to help our tribe’s totem successfully come into this world. After all, everyone knows that our tribes do not get along. However, I never thought that this would happen without needing me to do anything.

“The cold power from an Elder of the Ice Carp Tribe is enough to help our tribe’s totem fuse fire and ice into one. The result is superb. Hence, I really have to thank Elder Black Cold from the Ice Carp Tribe for his help.”

Dead silence.

Outside the magma spring, all the barbarians were staring intently. The change in situation was hard to accept.

Everything was part of the Golden Crow Tribe’s plan. They had expected the Ice Carp Tribe to make a move and turned their plot against them.

It sounded simple but after witnessing everything, one could not help but shout – superb, extremely superb!

The vicious Ice Carp Tribe had tried to gain an advantage but ended up losing thoroughly.

They lost an Elder and helped the Golden Crow Tribe to successfully bring their totem into this world and achieved the fire ice fusion.

Just thinking about the result made one feel like vomiting blood!

Black Hand's face turned pale before darkening. His face then flushed before changing into a shade that was a mix of black and red.

It felt like he was about to explode on the spot.

Everyone from the Ice Carp Tribe looked as if they were mourning and were in intense pain.

The worst thing in this world was for your enemy to possess a power stronger than yours, causing you to feel suppressed.

Moreover, they had a part to play in helping them get this power...this was the worst feeling in the world!

However, this was not the only thing that the Golden Crow Tribe had. If not, Cutuo would not have needed to pretend to 'burst out in fury'. He had prepared a hole such that the Ice Carp Tribe would step into it without hesitating.

There was a cracking sound in the Spring Valley. The 'fire ice fusion' egg cracked and fell.

A fledging golden crow flew out. When it extended its wings, it was less than three meters. Its entire body was covered with flames but at the top of its head, there was a light blue feather. It was like a crown that emitted cold aura.

Intense heat and extreme cold. These two conflicting energies did not seem to clash as they flowed harmoniously.

The golden crow suddenly flew up into the sky and tore through the cloud layers. It moved as fast as lightning. Feeling the aura released by the golden crow, Cutuo smiled even more brilliantly as he looked comforted and excited.

All the other barbarians watched jealously as they could sense the potential of this golden crow. With some time, it would mature and the Golden Crow Tribe would have astounding power!

Woosh –

The golden crow flew back. It did not return to the spring but instead flew towards Qin Yu. It furled its wings. Looking intimate and respectful, it landed in front of him and gently touched the back of Qin Yu's hand with its head.

Qin Yu's eyes flashed as he reached out to pat its head. He resisted turning back to look at Rourou.

Others might not be able to tell, but Qin Yu could sense that the golden crow's goal was the being behind him.

It only turned to Qin Yu after receiving a warning from her and expressed intimacy.

There was a slight bitterness and admiration in Cutuo's eyes. He chuckled, "Our tribe's totem has arrived in this world and it is inherently able to sense danger. If General Jinwu was the one who attacked, this would not happen now...this is the best proof!"

Pfft –

Black Hand spat out a mouthful of blood as he fell to the ground.

The Ice Carp Tribe was utterly ruined!

"Tribe Leader!"

Amidst the cries, a few barbarians from the Ice Carp Tribe rushed forwards to help him.

They glared at Cutuo with hatred and animosity. Yet, there were hints of panic in their gazes.

Cutuo could not be bothered to talk to them as he bowed, "Master Praja, please make your decision!"

When Black Hand from the Ice Carp Tribe spoke earlier, several powerful barbarians made guesses about Prajna's identity. As they watched this now, they trembled as they confirmed Prajna's origin.

Everyone quickly bowed and lowered their heads respectfully.

Prajna's eyes were as still as the lake as he looked at those from the Ice Carp Tribe. He said slowly, "There is unambiguous evidence. Do you have anything to say?"

Black Hand struggled as he pushed the people helping him away. He gritted his teeth and said, "Master, it is my mistake for not being able to control Elder Black Ice. I am willing to be punished."

The Ice Carp Tribe could never admit to this. The consequences would be too severe.

"Hmph! Are you trying to brush it off as just a mistake?" Cutuo sneered.

Prajna replied, "The Ice Carp Tribe behaved inappropriately. Their tribe's territory will shrink by three thousand miles. For the next three years, your tribe has to present the Golden Crow Tribe with ten squares of Mysterious Ice every year."

"Master!" Black Hand suddenly looked up.

It was bad enough that their territory would be reduced by three thousand miles. However, Mysterious Ice was a sacred object created by their tribe and they had a limited quantity each year. It was able to help their tribe increase the power of their members.

Ten squares every year for the next three years was too much!

Prajna was calm, "If you disagree with the judgement, the Ice Carp Tribe can appeal to the Holy Land." He looked deeply, "But this will add twenty more years."

Black Hand coughed out more blood as he smiled miserably, "We...accept the punishment!"

Chapter 1554A – Finish Setting Up

After the totem arrived in the world, the barbarians from the Ice Carp Tribe took their leave. With this huge win, the Golden Crow Tribe began the real celebration.

With music and dance, flames roared in the sky!

All the other barbarians looked at them enviously.

It was not only because the Golden Crow Tribe obtained their Golden Crow Totem and their power increased with the fire ice fusion.

Rather, it was because it was obvious that the Golden Crow Tribe had gotten the favor of the Holy Land.

Previously, when Cutuo was digging the hole, Master Prajna's silence clearly showed that they were cooperating.

Thankfully, Black Hand did not complain. Hehe, if not they would have suffered a lot more.

The temple on Traverse Mountain had always taken the stance of not interfering with internal strife in the Barbarian Clan.

But this did not mean that they had no power to interfere...on the contrary, as long as the temple wanted to, they could easily help any barbarian tribe to become the ruler of the Barbarian Clan territory.

The rise of the Golden Crow Tribe could not be prevented!

.....

As the sounds of celebration filled the outside, inside the Tribe Leader's tent, it was silent.

Cutuo's face was serious as he bowed respectfully, "Your honor Ning Qin came to my tribe and was willing to take a risk. Please accept my bow."

Qin Yu accepted his greeting and said lowly, "It is my duty. However, please keep my identity a secret."

Cutuo replied, "Your honor, please do not worry. I have sworn to Master Prajna and will not say anything."

Prajna smiled, "No barbarian will dare to go against something they have sworn on the Holy Land. If they do, their bloodline will suffer backlash and vanish forever."

Qin Yu felt assured and looked much more friendly, "Tribe Leader Cutuo, in order not to raise suspicions, I cannot stay for long so I will get straight to the point. I entered the Barbarian territory because I have something to do, and I hope your tribe will cooperate."

He then looked at Pragna.

Prajna looked serious and said slowly, "Tribe Leader Cutuo, you don't have to know the details, but don't worry, the Holy Land will ensure the Golden Crow Tribe's safety such that nothing will happen."

Cutuo hesitated before gritting his teeth and putting his hands together, "Since it is a plan by the Holy Land, the Golden Crow Tribe will do our best to cooperate!" He then smiled bitterly, "But as the Tribe Leader, I have to be responsible for the tribe. Master Prajna and Your Honor Ning Qin, please be extremely careful."

After a secret discussion, Qin Yu took his leave and Cutuo personally sent him off. They muttered softly and Cutuo then put his hands together apologetically.

.....

News always spread fast. The more exciting it was, the faster it spread. So by the time Qin Yu and Rourou sat down in the Golden Crow Tribe's carriage to head back to the Desolate camp, everyone already knew what happened at the Spring Valley.

"Welcome General!"

Zhou Dafu led everyone to greet respectfully. His eyes were filled with awe.

Based on the rumors, General Jinwu did not seem to have made any huge moves. However, for him to be able to pull himself out of the Ice Carp Tribe's trap and knock them down was enough to show how powerful General Jinwu was.

As the saying goes, good fighters have no illustrious achievements!

There were some things that had to be done. Delaying would only cause a problem.

"General, I have something to report!"

Qin Yu looked at him, "Let's talk in the tent." He looked at Rourou, "You have a lot of things. Go and pack up."

"Okay." Rourou turned and left.

Watching her leave, Qin Yu could not understand. From the start till the end, she did not do anything at the Golden Crow Tribe. This did not seem right...going to the Golden Crow Tribe and back used up a lot of time. Did she go just to watch what happened?

In the tent.

Qin Yu turned and sat down. Zhou Dafu bowed and stepped forwards to pour him a cup of tea. He then took a few steps back and fell to a knee, "General, I have sinned!"

Qin Yu took a sip of his tea as his eyes flickered, "What?"

Zhou Dafu took out a jade slip and presented it with two hands, "Before leaving the border army, Ye Sangdu sent this to me. He wanted me to become a spy to hurt you when we are in the Barbarian Clan territory!"

His face was pale as he wiped away cold sweat, "Initially, I did not report it because I did not want to offend Ye Sangdu. But now that you are in trouble, I cannot hide it any longer."

He rapidly kowtowed, sweat drenching his clothes.

Qin Yu placed the tea cup down. The soft sound caused Zhou Dafu's body to stiffen. What he said next caused Zhou Dafu to look horrified.

"The Golden Crow Tribe was the trap you set, right? However, you did not expect that the golden crow who came would be a half human barbarian, causing your plan to fail."

"General, you are right!" Zhou Dafu looked horrified.

Qin Yu sneered. The air suddenly condensed and there was a heavy pressure.

Zhou Dafu spat out a mouthful of blood and stayed on the ground. He looked frightened.

“Did you think that I won’t bear to kill you because I will use you?” Qin Yu leaned forwards slightly. ‘Crack crack’ the sound of bones cracking could be heard from Zhou Dafu’s body. Blood flowed out from his eyes, nose, ears and mouth.

His eyes widened but he could not make a sound. The horror in his eyes intensified. His vision was turning black and blurry, and Zhou Dafu felt the shadow of death.

Just when he thought that he was going to die, the scary energy lifted.

Hoo –

Hoo –

Zhou Dafu was panting as he laid on the ground in a sorry state.

Qin Yu’s cold voice could be heard, “Today was a lesson for you. I have things for you to do, but you are not indispensable.

“Get lost!”

Zhou Dafu kowtowed and left the tent looking extremely disheveled.

Zhou Xiaoshan was waiting outside. Looking at his father’s exhausted state, his face changed as he ran over.

Several of Zhou Dafu’s confidantes followed behind him.

Without waiting for them to speak, Zhou Dafu waved his hand to cut them off. Panting heavily, he forced a smile on his face, “It’s alright. The General punished me slightly, but from now on, we will have someone to lean on.”

He was severely injured but it was not obvious. But no matter how severe, it was better than death and he could slowly recover.

Taking a deep breath, Zhou Dafu said lowly, “Remember, from today onwards, we are the General’s lackeys. We will never have second thoughts. If anyone dares to betray even in the slightest, I will tear off your skin!”

In the tent, Qin Yu smiled slightly. Even if Zhou Dafu had only said these words for him to hear, he would not have any chance to betray Qin Yu from today onwards.

It was not only because he suppressed Zhou Dafu’s courage but it was also because Qin Yu had done something to his body. It was not obvious and Zhou Dafu would not be able to detect it. However, it had the ability to kill Zhou Dafu whenever and wherever.

Looking at the jade slip, Qin Yu visualized Ye Sangdu’s cruel eyes. It seems like the Later Ye Family was trying to kill him.

Initially, it was most likely because of Ye Wangu.

But now, it was not easy to say. Perhaps it was because Qin Yu embarrassed Ye Bohu.

Or perhaps, it was his position now...the Later Ye Family would definitely not want someone with the same power as them in the imperial army.

That would mean that there was a possibility of the Later Ye Family getting replaced.

There was a cold look in Qin Yu's eyes. Although he was far from being on the same level as the Later Ye Family now, he was also not easy to kill. With how things were progressing, he would most likely get the support of the West Desolate Imperial Clan.

The ascetic bloodline of the Barbarian Clan...it was worthy of death!

.....

Two days later, the Golden Crow Tribe announced that they would invite the Desolate smuggling group to their tribe and complete their exchanges.

The reason was to guard against anything happening to the smuggling group in the later part of their exchanges.

Everyone could guess that this referred to the Ice Carp Tribe. Since they suffered a huge loss, the ice lumps would have a motive.

Another two days later, the Desolate Area men packed up their camp and followed the warriors of the Golden Crow Tribe to enter deeper into Barbarian Clan territory.

Amongst all this, the most eye-catching thing was the two giant trees. Their roots were removed from the soil and the trunks resembled two thick legs as they stoop upright and imposing. Every step they took caused the ground to shake.

At the same time, there was secretive gossip from the Golden Crow Tribe – the reason why the Golden Crow Totem was able to complete its final step of fire ice fusion lay within the Desolate Area group.

The Golden Crow Tribe behaved as per normal. Ignoring the shock to the world, they invited the Desolate Area men in order to prevent this news from spreading out further.

One stone could cause a thousand waves. Numerous eyes fell on them and stared intently!

Before the truth was out, no one dared to offend the Desolate Area men. So their entire journey was smooth. With the two big trees swaggering through, they did not meet with any trouble.

Cutuo, the Tribe Leader of Golden Crow Tribe, personally came to welcome them. He was smiling widely as he invited General Jinwu. Once they neared the Golden Crow Tribe, the two eye-catching trees extended their roots into the ground.

The numerous emerald leaves on the branches did not seem to be affected by the intense heat in the air. On the contrary, they were even greener and more beautiful. They resembled carefully carved jade leaves.

When others saw this, they felt the rumors were all the more true.

Chapter 1554B – Finish Setting Up

Golden Crow Tribe territory.

In the tent, Qin Yu and Prajna sat facing each other.

“Master, this is important and I have to verify once more. Are you sure?”

Prajna bowed, “General, don’t worry. I guarantee it with my life.” Flipping his hands, he took out a moon-white, pebble-like object. “General, once the Boundary Breaking Seal is set up, place this in it.”

“Okay!”

Qin Yu’s eyes flashed, “Then, I will have to make my move.”

.....

Desolate men camp.

After a day of silence, someone finally could not take it and knocked on their door.

It was the Green Willow Tribe!

It was rumored that this tribe’s totem was an ancient willow that had been in this world since ancient times.

Five hundred years ago, the Divine Willow tried to break through but failed. It suffered lightning strikes from heaven. Although it did not die, it suffered huge losses.

In the next five hundred years, the Green Willow Tribe spent a lot of resources and did everything they could. However, they were unable to change their status. The Divine Willow was deteriorating and was close to death.

Because of this, they were the first to come and ask for help. If the Desolate men were the ones that caused the Golden Crow Totem to have such a change, maybe they could save the Divine Willow.

Of course, this was just an assumption. But to the Green Willow Tribe, who were at their wits’ end, they would grab hold onto anything. Even if it was a weak straw.

“General Jinwu, our tribe’s Divine Willow Totem is in danger. If you are able to help, we are willing to consider any conditions that you have. If you have any concerns, our Green Willow Tribe can swear to shift away from Traverse Mountain and not fight with the Desolate men anymore!”

The Tribe Leader of the Green Willow Tribe had a haggard face with wrinkles extending from the corners of his eyes.

Qin Yu was waiting for this. He had no reason to decline. Moreover, as the new Barbarian King, it was his duty to help his people.

“I can try. However, I need a branch from your Divine Willow...the result will be up to fate.”

It was hard to predict fate. But, whether the Divine Willow could be saved depended on Rourou. She was a key factor in Qin Yu’s plans.

No one knew what Qin Yu promised Rourou for her to agree to help. But very soon, General Jinwu announced that he was going into seclusion to try and save the Green Willow Tribe's Totem, the Divine Willow that was about to wither away.

This required a special Divine Way and would cause something strange to happen. He could not be disrupted while this happened.

The Tribe Leader of the Green Willow Tribe immediately ordered his entire tribe, or what was left of them, to set up a formation around the Desolate camp. The tribe only had one group of about ten thousand people left.

They threatened everyone else and prevented anyone from trying to enter while General Jinwu was in seclusion. They swore to guard him with their lives!

No one doubted the resolution of the Green Willow Tribe and no one was dumb enough to challenge them. On that day, although the Desolate men were in the barbarian territory, they were the safest they had ever been.

Numerous gazes looked on, waiting to see General Jinwu come out to verify for themselves whether he was speaking the truth!

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Capital, West Desolate.

Behind the beaded curtain sat the king. He suddenly frowned. He stood up and stepped forwards before vanishing.

A moment later, he appeared in a deep part of the palace. It was a fortified palace. The king's figure appeared as he looked up at a huge light curtain.

Above this light curtain was a picture of the vast territory of the Barbarian Clan. The markings were extremely clear. It ranged from huge mountains and rivers to smaller tribal grasslands. It was obvious how much effort the West Desolate had put into penetrating the Western Barbarian Land.

For example, the smuggling was an important element.

Of course this Light Curtain Map was not only to annotate the details in the Western Barbarian Land.

At this moment, an earthquake seemed to occur in the picture. It was like a stone dropping into the water, causing numerous waves.

The king lifted a finger and the Light Curtain Map zoomed in quickly. It presented everything around the earthquake source clearly.

The Golden Crow Tribe!

The source of the earthquake was around this tribe.

The king immediately willed himself to use his divine sense to connect to far away.

Closing his eyes, he was like a statue and did not move.

Two hours passed without him moving. He occasionally frowned.

Finally, he let out a long breath as he opened his eyes. There was a smile on his face.

His smile widened as it stretched across his face. He eventually burst out laughing.

“Hahahaha!”

His laughter reverberated around the most secretive place in the imperial palace and echoed. The old eunuchs standing guard outside all remained bent over, not looking up at the palace at all.

However, in their dim yellow eyes, there was relief and curiosity. They wondered what could cause the usually thoughtful king, who hid his emotions, to laugh like this.

Success!

On the Light Curtain Map, the source of the earthquake disappeared and a bleak red dot appeared where the Golden Crow Tribe was.

If there were outsiders and they looked closely at the map, they would realize that there were many red dots on the huge map.

The king slowly stopped smiling as he looked slowly at all the red dots. His eyes lit up.

Compared to the entire territory of the Barbarian Clan, the number of red dots now was not a lot.

But as long as enough time passed, they would accumulate slowly and eventually cover the entire thing.

The fight between the Desolate area and the barbarians had existed for many many years. There were shifts in power, with each side occasionally becoming stronger and weaker. Yet, there had been no one who could pacify the war.

But now, there was hope!

Destroy the West Barbarians and end this war. He would become a king that the West Desolate had never had before.

When that time came, all the rules and obstacles blocking him would crumble.

He was going to become the true ruler of the West Desolate. As long lasting as the sun!

.....

Desolate camp.

Qin Yu's tent.

The turbulence in the air slowly faded away.

The illusion from the formation finally disappeared completely. It was like a drop of clear water falling into a clear lake. It did not leave any signs.

The Boundary Breaking Seal was complete!

Although Qin Yu was the one who set it up, he could not sense it even though he was concentrating with all his might.

It was brilliant!

But Great Shaman Mengshan could actually deactivate the Boundary Breaking Seal with a single stone. Extremely powerful.

Qin Yu was the one who set up the Boundary Breaking Seal and Stone Pagoda played a huge role here. However, it was all thanks to Rourou that they were able to be so efficient and achieve success on the first try.

This mysterious being possessed unfathomable powers!

So no matter how she mocked and treated Qin Yu with dissatisfaction, he always smiled at her.

Skin would always grow thicker to the point that it could become invulnerable!

As he looked at the leftover material from making the Boundary Breaking Seal, Qin Yu's eyes flickers.

They succeeded in one try and yet still had enough material for a second one.

All of the materials were extremely precious. If not, the materials would not have been handed to Qin Yu personally by a Half-King's illusion.

Keeping it a secret was one thing, but the second reason was because the materials were extremely precious!

Before this, Qin Yu already had a plan, but he was not able to confirm and find a suitable way to execute it.

But now Qin Yu sensed the darkness far away. There was a small possibility, but he still had to find out how.

He waved his sleeve to store the materials. He then put his hands together and said seriously, "Thank you for your help."

Rourou rolled her eyes, "Anyone can say good things. If you are really sincere, then give me something concrete."

Qin Yu looked solemn, "Please speak. If I can do it, I will!"

Rourou lifted her finger and pointed, "This pagoda is quite nice."

She had a similar request before.

"Cough!"

Qin Yu chuckled bitterly, "I have use for Stone Pagoda and I have made promises to him. I can't do anything until I fulfil them."

Stone Pagoda nodded rapidly. As he saw Rourou glare at him, he was shocked and his illusion immediately vanished as he hid back in Qin Yu.

“Hehe! Man cannot be trusted!” Rourou turned to leave, “Then put it on the tab. Little Qin Yu, let me remind you that credit is temporary. When you have to return it, I hope you won’t be too upset.”

3/3 – Changing Destiny

In the Desolate camp.

Space was crashing violently like a river overflowing its banks. Massive waves threatened to destroy everything in the world.

Although General Jinwu had given a warning before he went into seclusion to cultivate, it was still unnerving.

Tribe Leader Cutuo of the Golden Crow Tribe was drenched in sweat. If Master Prajna did not look as steady as a mountain in front of him, he would not be able to hold it in and he would rush out to investigate what happened.

The disturbance was too large and terrifying.

The Green Willow Tribe men stood unwavering. Even if they were shoved aside by the turbulent space waves, they would rush back.

They guarded the round tent with an icy cold and hostile expression. They looked like evil wolves who would devour men.

This was the last chance for the Divine Willow where all the remaining life force of the Green Willow Tribe was.

It could not vanish!

It would be a lie to say that the numerous peeping eyes on the Desolate camp were not surprised after seeing the dramatic disturbance.

However, the Golden Crow Tribe’s silence and the stern expressions of the Green Willow Tribe men made all the other people suppress their hearts.

After an hour, the massive disturbance finally subsided. It went away quickly and it completely vanished a few seconds after the first sign appeared.

The Tribe Leader of the Green Willow Tribe licked his pale lips. His eyes were focused on the tent and he was nervous.

Shoosh –

The round tent was opened and Rourou briskly walked over. She stared back at the Tribe Leader but coldly walked away without changing her expression.

This made the Tribe Leader’s heart sink. His body grew weak and he almost fell to the floor.

There was only one thought in his mind – finished, they were finished!

The willow branch was the last remaining life force from the Divine Willow. Its last struggle and trial ended in failure and things could not be saved again.

The Green Willow Tribe had been ruined in his hands!

His eyes darkened and tears spilled down. The old Tribe Leader's vision was blurred and he could barely make Qin Yu out when he walked out of the tent.

Qin Yu noticed the tear-stricken face of the elder when he stepped out and he immediately frowned. Could it be that the Green Willow Tribe's totem, the Divine Willow, did not make it when he was constructing the Boundary Breaking Seal?

Tsk –

If that was the case, he was so unlucky. Qin Yu's subsequent plans would be affected too.

The next moment, Qin Yu heard someone inhale sharply.

Some exhaled, some inhaled, some grunted. Everyone seemed to have gotten a cramp suddenly and there was silence in the area.

The group of ten thousand warriors from the Green Willow Tribe had their eyes bulging wide open.

They were tensed as they stared at the willow branch in Qin Yu's hands that was brimming with life.

As though they feared that they were hallucinating, they exhaled and quickly inhaled that breath again.

The tear-stricken elder Tribe Leader of the Green Willow Tribe finally noticed the weird atmosphere. He lifted a hand to rub his face and clear his nose. Then, he blinked rapidly and his eyes rolled back.

He saw the fresh willow branch in Qin Yu's hands.

He had personally retrieved this willow branch from the charred Divine Willow. Every leaf vein was carved into his mind and hence the old Tribe Leader immediately recognized it as the willow branch that he brought.

Leaves or not, the thickness of the willow branch did not change but the thick life force that seemed to be wafting off of it was at a level never before seen ever since the Divine Willow suffered the calamity.

His hand struck his chest like a broken drum, creating hollow booms. The old Tribe Leader finally stabilized his breathing and avoided fainting.

He walked forward as his lips quivered violently. His top and bottom lip clashed against each other so much that they looked like they were fighting and he could not form a sentence.

Qin Yu calmed himself down. He did not expect this and he coughed lightly to pass the willow branch back to the Tribe Leader, "Fortunately, luck shines upon it. Tribe Leader, please bring it back to the tribe's totem. The Divine Willow will recover."

Thud –

The old Tribe Leader kneeled on the ground. His body shivered and his shaky hands stretched forward gingerly. However, the moment he held the willow branch in his hands, he stopped shaking and he became as stiff as iron.

“Saving the Divine Willow is akin to saving the entire Green Willow Tribe. I will deliver the willow branch back to the tribe and return to express my thanks.”

He held the willow branch carefully as he stood up. Turning to meet the gazes of the rest of his tribesmen, his face twitched and he burst into tears again.

“Go. Let’s deliver the Divine Willow back home!”

Cheers erupted and there was a lively and happy atmosphere. All the warriors had red eyes and they were so emotional their bodies were shaking from excitement.

They finally saved the Divine Willow.

The survival of the Divine Willow also ensured the continuity of the Green Willow Tribe. Their old parents and young children would also live.

Without hesitation, the group of ten thousand men stood up and surrounded their old Tribe Leader. Like a torrent, they rushed back towards their tribe as quickly as they could.

The thick aura in the air was as sharp as a knife that was strong enough to slice the world in half. Nothing seemed to be able to stop them from returning home.

Anyone who stopped them would be killed!

The old Tribe Leader wiped his tears away. He stared at his surroundings with a look of gratefulness.

Five hundred years had passed since the Divine Willow was struck by lightning. Ever since then, the Green Willow Tribe warriors had never experienced so much vigor and life force.

The Green Willow Tribe had returned!

Numerous eyes that were focused on the Golden Crow Tribe were filled with shock. The Divine Willow totem of the Green Willow Tribe’s state was not a secret.

Could men from the Desolate Area really save the Divine Willow? That was not possible!

The Divine Willow surviving the heavens’ catastrophe was due to its long existence in the world.

Its origin had been dispersed and its roots were destroyed. Death was its only way out.

However, what they just witnessed told them that the Green Willow Tribe had made a comeback from a desperate situation!

Cutuo stood outside the tent and observed the Green Willow Tribe. He was stunned when he felt the aura drifting off from the willow branch in the old Tribe Leader’s hands.

With his cultivation realm, he could see the state of the willow branch when it was near. He arrived at one conclusion – the totem of the Green Willow Tribe, the Divine Willow, had really been saved!

Although his own tribe’s Golden Crow made a transformation and fused fire and ice because of the gift from the men from the Desolate Area, he was utterly stunned by what he saw.

Sighing deeply, Cutuo looked at Master Prajna beaming with smiles opposite him. Yet, Prajna's eyes were calm and it seemed like he already expected this.

Tribe Leader Cutuo came to a realization and he suddenly felt like he had uncovered the truth - General Jinwu's real identity might not be as simple as he thought!

Opposite him, Pragna's eyes were deep. "Tribe Leader, regardless of what you think, you have to keep it a secret."

Tribe Leader Cutuo shivered and he quickly bowed, "Master, I swear on my holiness that I will never reveal a single thing."

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The focal point shifted from the Golden Crow Tribe to the Green Willow Tribe. Their totem, the Divine Willow, was dying and this made the tribe undergo a slow wilting process as well.

As many eyes watched on, the group of ten thousand men from the Green Willow Tribe escorted the old Tribe Leader back to the tribe with the willow branch.

Compared to the surge in aura from the Golden Crow Tribe, the Green Willow Tribe was covered with an atmosphere that felt like a decaying sun. It was almost like that of a bedridden old man.

All the tribesmen who could still move struggled to walk to the tent. It had been long since they wore an expectant expression, but it was not very hopeful.

After all the pain and bitterness experienced by the barbarians of the Green Willow Tribe, they did not dare to have much hope.

This was the case despite the fact that they had already received news that the Divine Willow Totem had been saved...they would only believe what they personally witnessed.

As such, everyone forced themselves to walk over.

At that moment, powerful barbarians from other tribes disregarded hiding themselves and they flew into the sky and stared at the Green Willow Tribe.

They wanted to verify for themselves whether the Divine Willow of the Green Willow Tribe would be dead or alive.

In the middle of the tribe was a dry, barren patch of land. It was starved of water and there was no life in it.

This was the terrifying scene left behind after the heavens' lightning struck the Divine Willow and sapped it of all its strength.

The Divine Willow totem of the tribe was planted in the patch of land. Its thick tree branch had been split open by the heavens' lightning and its branches fell lifelessly onto the ground. By now, they were dried up dead branches.

All that was left was a single willow branch that slumped to the ground. It was darker than the black ground and it was the last remaining life force of the totem.

Everyone stopped outside the patch of land while only the old Tribe Leader stepped forward. Holding the willow branch carefully in his arms, he stood before the Divine Willow. He kneeled down and bowed till his head touched the ground, "Divine Willow, I am back!"

The old Tribe Leader knew the state of the Divine Willow and he did not delay further before he stuck the willow branch into the ground.

Next, he took hold of the water sack hanging from his waist and watered the ground.

The lustrous leaves on the willow branch swayed along with the wind.

The thick, powerful Divine Willow behind it that had survived painstaking for five hundred years after the heavens' calamity was reduced to dust.

The dust was not blown away by the wind and it gathered into a mass on the ground. In the blink of an eye, the barren land that was struck by the heavens' lightning recovered.

Roots sprouted out of the willow branch and it grew rapidly. A few moments later, it was already a small willow tree.

Although it could not compare to the massive body of the Divine Willow in the past, it was now a young tree that was filled with life. This was far better compared to the dying tree whose roots were already destroyed.

The old Tribe Leader mustered all his strength and shouted, "Congratulations on the rebirth of the Divine Willow!"

The entire Green Willow Tribe erupted with cheers and tears flowed like a river. They were no longer in despair.

Outside of the tribe, numerous other barbarians had personally witnessed the Divine Willow's rebirth. Their eyes were filled with passion at the same time as they were surprised.

The totem of the Golden Crow Tribe had its bloodline undergo a transformation by the Desolate Area men and it was now able to fuse fire and ice.

The totem of the Green Willow Tribe, the Divine Willow, had been doomed to hell after it suffered the heavens' calamity. However, it was reborn from a willow branch.

Once might be a coincidence, but when this happened a second time, everyone knew what it meant - the totem's importance for the Barbarian Clan did not need to be emphasized.

The news of the successful rebirth of the Green Willow Tribe's totem spread like wildfire and a tsunami through the entire Barbarian Clan!

.....

Traverse Mountains was the name the Barbarian Clan gave to the mountain range that stretched out to the heavens.

It seemed to split the heavens and earth as the mountain peaks peeked through the clouds.

Yet, the mountain range was barren and there weren't any lifeforms there. An endless blanket of snow fell halfway through the year and drowned the mountain range.

In the vast, endless horizon of white, a black temple stood on the mountain. It was like a dead leaf in the snowy country and it was particularly eye-catching.

This place was the respected Barbarian Clan Holy Land!

A skinny figure sat down cross-legged on the white floor. Something seemed to have piqued his interest and he slowly started to open his eyes.

There was another vast world within his eyes that seemed mysterious.

However, there was surprise in his eyes and it felt like he had sensed something unthinkable.

Changing destiny...this was something that was very hard to achieve. If he was in perfect condition, he might have been able to do it.

How did His Majesty do it? From what he knew, the Barbarian King bloodline only gave him immense strength.

It did not gift things like Divine Ways.

He blinked and the surprise in his eyes slowly changed to understanding.

If it wasn't the king, then it should have been that person beside the king.

Previously, he had sensed the aura of that individual.

It was deep and vast and it felt as high as the skies but also felt as vulnerable as an illusion of a bubble. It was hard for anyone to capture its essence.

Hidden in space time, every time the fates of the world interchanged, a mysterious being could come into existence...its roots and realm were unknown. However, it was undeniable that it was one of the oldest and most terrifying existences in this world.

As the Great Barbarian Shaman, the memories were passed down in bloodlines and hence, he had knowledge that surpassed anyone in this world.

Yet, it was precisely because of this that the Great Barbarian Shaman was confused. Why did it remain by the king's side?

Even if the king made a contract with it, something like this should not happen according to what he knew.

There must be a hidden secret that he did not know about.

The skinny-looking old man had a weak aura and he looked like any ordinary old man in a temple. However, his true identity was the Great Shaman Mengshan of the Barbarian Clan.

He pondered it carefully and rubbed his temples as he closed his eyes.

Back then, his disciple passed down the skill to connect divine senses across vast distances.

This was a precautionary measure to ensure the safety of the king, but it did not only stop there.

Great Shaman Mengshan wanted to discover the intentions of that mysterious being in space time with His Majesty.

If its intentions were to devour the new Barbarian King, he might sacrifice himself and try to force it away.

He could not compare to the mysterious being based on strength and cultivation realm, but this was his world and the king was his king. He could sacrifice himself and take the main stage...this was probably within his means.

A few moments later, Great Shaman Mengshan opened his eyes. He placed a finger down and there was some hesitation and confusion in his deep eyes.

Finally, that slowly changed to understanding.

He started to cough. Though it was not violent, small droplets of blood spurted out of his nose and landed on the clean white floor. They were like sakuras in the snow and were extremely eye-catching. They bloomed splendidly with the snow and wind.

Chapter 1556 – Holy Judgment

In the Desolate camp.

Rourou wore an ugly expression as she scoffed.

So what about the Great Barbarian Shaman! He tried to investigate her and he ought to be punished. However, she was lenient because she wanted to save Qin Yu's face.

If it was another person who dared to challenge her, she would have chased after him and devoured him a long time ago.

She wiped the corners of her lips and wore a helpless look. She had been vegetarian for too long. Although she ate a small snack, it barely filled her tummy and she was not satisfied with the bland taste.

She had to find a way to get something fresh that would satisfy her. Otherwise, her days of torment would continue.

As she thought of this, Rourou clenched her teeth. Qin Yu ah Qin Yu, if it weren't for you, I would have directly gone and ate him.

So you better unleash your talent to 'create havoc' quickly and send a suitable talent to me soon.

Life cannot be too peaceful.

.....

Prajna was currently checking on Qin Yu's condition after he built the Boundary Breaking Seal. He wanted to record it and report it to his teacher.

Qin Yu knew many things and he did not stop talking as he explained what happened during the entire process.

Although the construction of the Boundary Breaking Seal went smoothly on his first try, the reason why the West Desolate took so long to complete Boundary Breaking Seals came in twofold. Firstly, the disturbance created during the Boundary Breaking Seal's construction was very large and the Barbarian Clan would be able to detect them easily. Secondly, its construction process was very hard.

Without Stone Pagoda's help and Rourou's pointers given during the critical moment, Qin Yu would not have succeeded on his first try given his current realm and knowledge. He would not have succeeded even after three tries and consuming all the materials if he had done it by himself.

Once Qin Yu was finished with the last bit, he concentrated his thoughts and ensured that he did not miss anything out. Then, he said, "This is all that I remember."

Prajna nodded and went over the details. He clarified a few points and smiled after Qin Yu gave him more explanations.

"Thank you for your trouble, General."

Qin Yu said, "No problem, Master, we are simply doing what we can for the Barbarian Clan."

A hint of worry formed in Prajna's eyes and he said, "I am afraid that the Desolate Area men will be unhappy with this and they will start becoming suspicious of you."

Qin Yu assured him, "Master, don't worry. If the Desolate Area men do not detect the Boundary Breaking Seal, they will choose to remain silent."

Prajna thought about it and slowly nodded, "There are so many incidents in the world. If something wrong happens, General, please prioritize your own safety."

Smiling, Qin Yu nodded, "Alright."

Suddenly, Prajna closed his eyes. Qin Yu's eyebrows lifted in puzzlement and he felt that strange fluctuation of divine sense once again.

Great Shaman Mengshan!

Did something go wrong during the construction of the Boundary Breaking Seal? Qin Yu's expression immediately turned solemn when he thought of this possibility.

However, Prajna opened his eyes a few moments later and the spiritual sense fluctuation around him vanished.

He looked at Qin Yu's eyes and said, "General, don't worry, there is nothing wrong with the Boundary Breaking Seal." He paused and his expression turned strange, "Just now, Master asked me a question through divine sense. He wants to know if you suffered repercussions from changing the destiny of the Green Willow Tribe's totem, the Divine Willow?"

Qin Yu immediately understood what the shaman was asking about. He fell silent, but not because he wanted to refuse to answer. Instead, he did not know the answer to that question himself.

Although Rourou saved the willow branch, Qin Yu could not conclude that it had been an easy task just because she had done it quickly.

Prajna took in Qin Yu's silence and he immediately thought of the worst possibility. His voice deepened and said, "I hope we have not placed you in a tight spot. Teacher told me that we should pretend that this was never mentioned if it troubles you."

Qin Yu waved his hand, "Master Prajna, you have misunderstood me. I am not sure if I can do it." As the Great Shaman Mengshan, he would not raise requests so easily. That weird expression from Prajna probably came because he also did not expect that his teacher would make a request to another person one day.

As such, this was definitely not an easy thing to do.

After thinking about it, Qin Yu said, "The Divine Willow is the Divine Willow and the Golden Crow is the Golden Crow. Each barbarian tribe's totem has its own divine nature and they are all different. Therefore, I would need to assess each of them to determine whether or not it can be saved."

Prajna smiled, "That makes sense. I will inform Teacher. I believe there will be news soon."

He closed his eyes and the mysterious divine sense spread out again. Qin Yu's eyes narrowed as he observed this scene.

Back then, Great Shaman Mengshan sent Prajna to give him this mind-linking divine sense technique.

It therefore meant that Great Shaman Mengshan was willing to establish a direct connection with Qin Yu.

However, the Great Shaman did not use it but instead continued to seek his disciple out first and made him a middleman...there must be another reason for this.

Woosh –

Prajna's eyes flung open, "Teacher said that he will send a messenger to greet you. You don't have to do anything, he will find you."

Qin Yu nodded, "Alright."

.....

Once again, the Golden Crow Tribe became the focus of the Barbarian Clan. There were many more eyes filled with passion focused on it this time and it felt like the air was going to be ignited from the intense heat.

In the Desolate camp, the smugglers were individuals who were used to life and death. However, it would be a lie to say that they were not scared now that they were in the Barbarian Clan territory.

Like before, the Golden Crow Tribe warriors would first raise a challenge to them and they would take it on. This happened yearly. They were lucky to survive, but this did not mean that everyone had such luck.

This was the kind of danger that was presented on the surface, but there were many other hidden dangers. For instance, barbarians who hated Desolate Area men may target them and people would go missing randomly. Sometimes, the barbarians would also launch sneaks attack...all in all, every time they smuggled, people would die.

Never would they have imagined that one day, the barbarians who used to glare at them with so much animosity and hatred would treat them as their most important guests.

Outside the camp, a few Desolate Area men who were in charge of guarding the camp saw the huge smiles plastered on the faces of the barbarians. These barbarians put on their most modest expression and the Desolate Area men felt like they were dreaming.

“My brothers, please pass on the message that the Obsidian Tribe wants to make a deal with the Desolate Area men. We are offering a thousand pounds of obsidian as a gift and we wish to seek an audience with General Jinwu.”

“Hmph! Everything needs to be reasonable. First come first served; my tribe were the first to arrive and the General will naturally meet us first. My fellow brothers from the Desolate Area, this is our best wine. Don’t be too polite and please take it!”

“Your tribes are sucking up only when there are advantages. You came here to curry favor with the general when the opportunity was presented. However, my Boundless Tribe have been a longstanding trade partner of the Desolate Area men. Brother, you look familiar. We must have met before. You should know that the Boundless Tribe have always been close with the Desolate Area. Please deliver the message and tell the General that my Tribe Leader would like to meet him!”

The cultivator from the Desolate Area was stunned.

This man in front of him from the Boundless Tribe was all smiles and he was definitely an Elder of the tribe. They truly met before, three years ago.

However, back then, it was Zhou Dafu who was all smiles while the Elder reluctantly agreed with a hostile face. He had glared at the smuggling team like they were ants in dirt.

He would ignore them because they were insignificant.

However, the Elder stepped forward and called him a brother with such a warm tone to try and establish a close relationship with him.

Sss –

This feeling was amazing!

It seemed like after General Jinwu became their master, these poor insects surviving through the dealings between the two sides were going to have a better life.

Although they felt uncomfortable with the whole matter, this did not stop the smugglers from feeling pride at the moment.

Pride was pride and feeling good was just that. No one was going to neglect their duties.

Regardless of who was here, the same reply was given – the General needed to cultivate in seclusion to heal himself after the toll on his body. He would not receive any visitors.

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After permissions were granted, Zhou Dafu bowed and scurried into the round tent.

He looked up and scanned the area and saw General Jinwu with a pale face sitting behind the table. Zhou Dafu respectfully saluted, "Greetings to General."

Qin Yu waved his hand, "Stand up." He appeared tired and he raised a hand to rub his forehead, "What is it? Tell me directly."

Zhou Dafu answered, "There are more and more barbarian tribes requesting an audience with you. Some of the tribes are strong. Are we going to continue turning them down?"

Qin Yu made a small 'mm' sound as an acknowledgement and he closed his eyes. He had given his answer.

Zhou Dafu continued, "The second thing is that some barbarians are making requests to trade with us after learning that we turned them away from seeing you."

Qin Yu frowned, "Didn't you say that the items brought for the smuggling trip have already been exchanged?"

Zhou Dafu wore a strange look, "Yes but these barbarians are willing to trade with us in advance. They are willing to give us their items first and we can make it up to them in the future."

After so many years of doing business and accumulating much knowledge, this was the first time Zhou Dafu experienced something like this...it had never happened before!

Naturally, Zhou Dafu knew the reason why. Looking at how pale and tired General Jinwu was, Zhou Dafu felt worried and uneasy, but he admired Qin Yu.

Qin Yu smiled bitterly to himself. These barbarians must have been too excited after looking at what happened to the Golden Crow Tribe and the Green Willow Tribe.

Granted, Qin Yu could understand their actions because of the importance of a totem to the tribe.

After thinking about it, he waved his hand, "Since that is the case, you can record the dealings and take the goods for now."

Zhou Dafu bowed respectfully but there was still a look of hesitation in his eyes.

Qin Yu calmly answered, "I know what you are thinking about. I have my reasons for doing so, so you don't have to worry about it. You may leave."

Sweat dotted Zhou Dafu's forehead and he felt like he had been completely seen through.

No secret could be hidden from General Jinwu.

This feeling was not good and after Zhou Dafu left the round tent, his face was still as white as a sheet.

A few people surrounded him. Although they did not speak, the look in their eyes revealed their thoughts – what did the General say?

Zhou Dafu sighed and informed them, "The General said that he has planned for everything; we don't need to bother with it."

Phew –

The group of men sighed out a long breath of air.

If General Jinwu had said this in the past, they would not believe it.

Think about it, the barbarians had been enemies with the Desolate Area for so long and there had been numerous clashes between both parties in the past. So many sons have died in the battlefield.

The grudge between them was like a sea of blood and both parties were destined enemies where only one should be allowed to remain in the world. If you survive, I shall perish!

Although the smuggling was rampant, there were many times when they would overstep their boundaries and the smuggling itself could be regarded as part of the war. They spied on the barbarians for intelligence and familiarized themselves with the barbarian territory. They even secretly provoked some of the tribes.

No one thought that they would be welcomed in the land of the barbarians.

However, the price to pay was that the totem of the Golden Crow Tribe had evolved to fuse ice and fire. One could only expect that the Golden Crow Tribe would surge in power in the near future.

The Green Willow Tribe had been about to perish along with the death of their totem, the Divine Willow. However, General Jinwu stepped in and revived it, thus protecting the Green Willow Tribe.

Undeniably, he was helping the Barbarian Clan become stronger...this was treachery!

If this was someone else, the group of smugglers would be certain that he would die.

However, General Jinwu was a mysterious man who did not reveal much. After much experience with him, the group of smugglers believed in him.

As long as the General said that nothing was wrong, everything would turn out fine!

Who knew why 'nothing was wrong'.

The little uneasiness in the camp was extinguished before it could even spread out.

.....

In the Great General's round tent in the West Border Army camp.

Both sides suffered huge casualties from the great war between the border army and the Barbarian Clan. After the Barbarian Clan retreated, the border army gradually resumed their normal operating status.

Small conflicts happened from time to time but there were no longer large scale battles that shook the stability of the entire scene.

However, everyone knew that the Great General had been in a bad mood. His face was black the whole day and the aura around him was dreadful.

The only person who knew the reason why he was in such a bad mood was the old man from the Later Ye Family who was a close military counselor to him – the Great General had made a mistake again!

Not only did General Jinwu not drown under the Ice Carp Tribe and suffer a miserable ending, he even gave the Ice Carp Tribe a lesson.

He virtually cut off the hands and legs that the Great General painstakingly planted in the Barbarian Clan territory.

However, new events changed the scene again in recent days. A few days ago, the Great General received a dozen secret reports about the Barbarian Clan. Though the military counselor did not know the contents of the reports, the Great General smiled after reading them.

The people gathered in the tent heaved a sigh of relief and they were curious what the reports were about.

A few tried to inquire about it, but Ye Sangdu only smiled, "This isn't a secret, you will find out soon too."

With that, he turned to leave the tent and head towards Marshal Wu's tent.

General Ning Qin was no longer an ordinary person, but even if he had concrete evidence to file an impeachment with the military of the capital, he needed Marshal Wu's approval to put more weight on his report.

Although Ye Sangdu already knew about the arrangement between Marshal Wu and Lord Chengtian, this would not affect how Marshal Wu would team up with him to deliver General Jinwu a blow if the General faced a huge trouble.

Marshal Wu would not turn down this chance either.

Very soon, a military report was filed under Ye Sangdu's name and Marshal Wu's approval. It was delivered to the military in the capital using the quickest teleportation arrays.

Like a dragon that had awakened in the land, a huge wave was stirred up from this – the military report could be summarized in a single sentence: General Jinwu, Ning Qin, has been helping the enemy since he entered the barbarian territory!

The content of the military report was about the Golden Crow Tribe and the Green Willow Tribe. This was the greatest form of betrayal for the Desolate Area men.

Because of the previous trick General Jinwu played back then, the military was shocked, but the first thing they did was to contact the West Border Army camp to verify if the report was true.

Otherwise, they would be a laughing stock again and the military would be shamed. After three confirmations from the border army, the military sent the report to the Imperial Palace as fast as possible.

The holy judgment would come!

Chapter 1557 – Too Much is as Bad as Too Little

The Marshal Tent of the West Border Army camp.

Wu Tongtian smiled to himself as he stood before a map of the West Border and silently studied it.

Behind him was a military counselor who had followed him for many years and two close Generals. They exchanged looks and smiled bitterly to themselves.

“If you have anything to say, tell me. There is nothing to hide between us.” Marshal Wu spoke.

One of the Generals was highly favored by Wu Tongtian. He was a distant relative to the Marshal and could be considered his nephew.

This man knew that his uncle would be his only backing in the military and hence he remained loyal to Marshal Wu.

He gritted his teeth as he stepped forward and bowed, “Marshal, I have already obtained the latest news from different barbarian tribes...doesn’t this seem too straightforward? It feels like the barbarians are profusely feeding us this information. How can General Jinwu remain ignorant of it? Despite that, he continues to help the Golden Crow Tribe and Green Willow Tribe. Something feels off about this.”

He tried to not be offensive with his words and he was attempting to give Marshal Wu a warning.

The counselor nodded too, “Marshal, he is right. Shouldn’t we observe the situation further?”

Although the Desolate King sent Lord Chengtian to establish a deal with Marshal Wu where they appeared amicable on the surface, everyone knew that Marshal Wu was already enraged.

He had suffered a great humiliation when General Jinwu faked his death. If this happened a second time...the consequences would be unbearable.

Wu Tongtian turned around and glanced at the men. He lifted his cup and casually sipped from it, “I am in charge of the West Border Army and I command many troops. Great General, Ye Sangdu raised the report to me, informing me of Ning Qin’s treachery. This is the truth.”

He placed his cup down and stared into the distance. Distance did not matter in his eyes and he looked like he could see the capital of the West Desolate despite how far it was.

“Your Majesty, I do not know about the arrangements made by the Imperial Clan. However, everything I do is for my duties as the Marshal. Even if things are wrong, nothing will go on.”

This was the reason why Wu Tongtian had not hesitated when Ye Sangdu stepped into his tent with the report.

He would not be faulted, and as the Marshal of the border army, there was nothing he needed to fear.

Even if this would cause the capital to be furious again...so what?

If he couldn’t protect himself, why help others? How long was the king going to be able to hold his seat? Marshal Wu only needed to ensure he keep his position. Once the new king was coronated, he would naturally play up to him.

Wu Tongtian knew his legacy was not going to happen now. It lay in his future.

This was why Marshal Wu did not care much about what he did.

The counselor was naturally Wu Tongtian's most trusted person and he knew the Marshal the best. At that moment, his eyes were glowing brightly.

He smiled and a look of admiration crossed his face, "I understand. Marshal, you are wise!" He observed the slight smirk at the corners of Wu Tongtian's lips. Then he turned to the other Generals present and said, "The evidence about General Jinwu helping the enemy is conclusive. As long as the matter opens up, it will be a big blow to him. Regardless of whether there is a secret within this, we need to determine whether the Imperial Clan will continue to protect General Jinwu. It is a huge mountain ahead of us in addition to the smuggling.

"The outcome of what happens from this in the capital is no longer important. General Jinwu's path will be cut off. If he does not take control of the military before the new king takes the throne, all that will be left for him is a sad ending."

Wu Tongtian turned and continued looking at the map with a cold smirk. Great men are generous and forgiving others is for the greater good. However, he was only a Marshal at the West Border; was he not allowed to be hateful?

After this, General Jinwu Ning Qin was going to be a skeleton in a tomb. The outcome had been decided!

.....

In the capital of the West Desolate.

The news about General Jinwu helping the enemy stirred up huge waves and caused a lot of undercurrents to be kicked into motion.

Back then, the West Desolate King reprimanded the border armies and humiliated Marshal Wu. The situation was temporarily stabilized from there.

However, they saw another opportunity to make things difficult.

The West Desolate King had sat in the seat for way too long and it was time for him to abdicate. Like the previous Desolate Kings, he would retreat to the imperial tomb and cultivate there.

The military was the first to go to court with the matter and request an investigation into this. If the report was true, General Jinwu Ning Qin should be sentenced to death.

After the military, various officials requested the king to pass an edict that demanded General Jinwu to return to the capital to be interrogated. This was to appease and calm the other troops stationed at the border.

The last group to seek an audience was the Generals stationed in all corners of the empire. They were agitated and aggressive and they asked the king to kill the traitor. Sons of the empire should not continue to bleed on the battlefield in vain.

At that moment, the capital was in chaos and the situation continued to worsen. It seemed like all troubles stemmed from General Jinwu Ning Qin.

Although he had a stable foothold in the West Border Army and he made a grand opening with his coming to power, he was receiving the sort of attention and impeachment that only a Marshal ought to have.

It was evident to everyone who the real target of this exaggerated swordplay was. It was the West Desolate King in the Imperial Palace who controlled the West Desolate.

Lord Chengtian was called into the palace by an imperial edict and all the officials and servants present were told to leave.

The king's facial expressions could not be made out as he stood behind the curtains, but the cold tone in his voice was clear, "Lord Chengtian, remember these men who are kicking up the greatest fuss at the moment. Once I am ready, I will take care of them accordingly."

Lord Chengtian knew the king well and he immediately understood and bowed respectfully.

Yet, he could not help smiling bitterly to himself.

This time, many people were going to lose their heads again.

Although these men would die by the king's orders, Lord Chengtian was the one who put together the name list and he would receive the same animosity as the king.

This bound Lord Chengtian to the king and there was no way for him to change sides.

Your Majesty, you are truly wise for your last resort!

Sighing deeply, Lord Chengtian bowed, "Your Majesty is forward-looking and wise. Although this matter has stirred up some trouble, it will not shake you."

The king scoffed, "A lot of people are planning to take advantage of this, but they have no choice and they can't take any actions now."

He stood up and paced behind the curtain, "General Jinwu, this man can be considered a blessing to me."

Lord Chengtian remained in a bow, "What do you mean, Your Majesty?"

The king calmly said, "Aren't many officials asking me to pass an edict to demand an interrogation of General Jinwu in the capital? Fine, I will grant their request and call General Jinwu back. Then, I will reward him for his merits. I shall see what face those old clay figures will have to continue crying to me."

A few days passed and there was still no reply to all the memorandums that were passed to the palace. The Imperial Palace's attitude was undetermined.

The atmosphere in the capital slowly started to turn weird and many of the officials who had jumped out to express their opinions felt uneasy.

Finally, an edict was passed. The capital summoned General Jinwu back for a report on his duties.

Things seemed to have gone according to their wishes, however, many officials could not help feeling that something was strange about this.

.....

Golden Crow Tribe.

Desolate camp.

Although Qin Yu did not know that he was already a common name in the capital of the West Desolate, it was easy to guess that he had stirred up a commotion there.

Nonetheless, this was alright. Before he determined his plan, he had already mentally prepared himself and he was not nervous because of this.

The West Desolate men thought that they had calculated everything, but they did not know that they were wrong from the start.

Like solving a problem, as hard as one tried to crack it, if one started off on the wrong foot, one would ultimately end up with the wrong answer.

Qin Yu was now wondering whether he ought to return to the West Border Army camp.

As the saying went, too much is as bad as too little.

He first helped the Golden Crow Tribe to enhance their Golden Crow Totem and then he changed the destiny of the Green Willow Tribe by healing their Divine Willow Totem. Each of these matters was startling enough, and hence, he gained the status and reputation he had in the Barbarian Clan.

However, once or twice was okay but the third time would be too much...there were going to be troubles if he continued taking requests. Firstly, Qin Yu may 'run out of' resources for the Boundary Breaking Seal. Also, the barbarians might start having other thoughts even though they were currently respectful of him.

Think about it, if General Jinwu, a Desolate Area man, casually helped the totems of barbarians tribes transform, the barbarian tribes might go crazy and may demand him to stay within the Barbarian Clan forever at any cost.

The reason why the West Border Army was able to confirm what happened with the Golden Crow Tribe and the Green Willow Tribe so quickly was because they set up some secret spies in the Barbarian Clan territory. Also, the various barbarian tribes purposely spread the news.

They could not wait for the West Desolate to blame General Jinwu and demand that he be beheaded for his crimes. This way, General Jinwu would surrender to the barbarians and beg them for shelter.

Qin Yu did not want the barbarian tribes to go crazy. Otherwise, even if he exposed his real identity, he might not be able to escape.

Furthermore, there were more considerations that he had with regards to the Imperial Clan of the West Desolate.

After successfully constructing the first Boundary Breaking Seal, he had been excited. However, if too many good things came too quickly, it would only result in suspicion.

In the short term, Qin Yu still needed the identity of General Jinwu, this was why...too much was as bad as too little! It was time for him to leave. He would return to the border army camp and wait for new directions from the capital.

Qin Yu frowned as he pondered to himself. Although what he did was slightly out of hand, it was a small issue compared to the Boundary Breaking Seal.

After all, from the perspective of the Imperial Clan of the West Desolate, once the Boundary Breaking Seal was activated, these barbarians tribes would perish in a second regardless of the benefits they had obtained for their totems. It was unnecessary and not worth mentioning in the grand scheme of things.

Qin Yu hugged and turned to leave. Three days ago, he already informed Rourou to leave the Barbarian Clan as fast as she could.

However, she did not reply to him and Qin Yu wanted to check on what she was doing.

When he arrived at Rourou's round tent, he realized that it was empty. After some questioning, he learned that she left to the territory of the Golden Crow Tribe yesterday.

Qin Yu's eyes flashed and he turned to leave.

With his current status, entering and leaving the Golden Crow Tribe would not be a problem.

Tribe Leader Cutuo personally came out to welcome him with bright smiles, "General, are you here for your wife?"

Qin Yu saluted and confirmed, "Yes, where is she?"

The Tribe Leader extended an arm and led the way, "General, please follow me."

Rourou was in the Spring Valley.

This place was the heart of the Golden Crow Tribe territory. It was a natural formation of heaven and earth and it could gather spiritual energy from heaven and earth.

With the transformation of the Golden Crow Totem where ice and fire could coexist, the atmosphere here changed. The air was hotter and everything felt slightly distorted.

However, thick clouds were in the sky above and snow drifted down, releasing an astonishing chill.

When the snow fell into the valley, it merged smoothly with the sea of heat like an extremely cold fuel that only made the magma become more red.

It was a strange sight!

Magma boiled within the valley, and occasionally pillars of fire would shoot up to the sky.

This happened continuously and it blocked off the view from the outside world, isolating the scene within.

Tribe Leader Cutuo raised a finger, "Yesterday, your wife entered the valley. Although I do not know the details, the Golden Crow Totem told me not to interfere."

Qin Yu thought about it and asked, "Tribe Leader, may I enter?"

Tribe Leader Cutuo said, "This is the territory of the Golden Crow and his will determines everything. Yesterday, the Golden Crow and the lady were allowed to enter."

As he said this, he wore an apologetic look and he could only smile bitterly to himself. After the Golden Crow transformed, even he, the Tribe Leader, could not enter the valley without permission.

However, Rourou was a person from the Desolate Area but she was allowed into the valley by the Golden Crow...even though he knew Rourou was the wife of the General and the Golden Crow only managed to evolve with their help, he could not help but feel bitter over this.

Nonsensical thoughts filled his mind. Did the Golden Crow suddenly understand 'beauty' after it evolved? If that was the case, then Tribe Leader Cutuo felt terrible about himself. He lived with his appearance for a thousand years, changing it would not be difficult, but if people guessed the reason, wouldn't he be a laughing stock?

Thankfully, General Jinwu was average-looking too. General Jinwu was better-looking than him but he was not exceptionally handsome.

Suddenly, the columns of magma that came from the valley suddenly stopped raging and it simmered down near Qin Yu.

The boundless sea of fire opened a path for him.

Qin Yu cupped his hands together, "I will make a move, farewell." He turned and left. As he walked, the magma shot into the sky again and sealed the path.

The Tribe Leader stood dumbfounded as he stared blankly at what happened. A bitter feeling rose in his chest.

If he didn't know that the Golden Crow totem could not live without the Golden Crow Tribe, he would really be concerned that the Golden Crow became another person's spiritual pet after it evolved...otherwise, how would this make sense?

He laughed bitterly to himself. After thinking about it, Cutuo instructed an Elder to look over the valley. He turned and left in a hurry to find Master Prajna. If he did not clarify his doubts, he would feel uneasy.

It was swelteringly hot in the valley.

With a thought, the time and space around Qin Yu shifted. As he used the Soul Seed more and more, controlling space time in such a small area became easy for him.

He isolated himself from the surrounding heat and continued forward. Magma and flames retreated for him and he went deep within the valley.

Finally, he saw Rourou with her eyes shut as she sat on a black stone in the magma. She was cultivating and she opened her eyes, took a peek at Qin Yu, and shut them again.

Meanwhile, Qin Yu coughed in awkwardness and he turned his body slightly, "I didn't hear from you for three days so I came to take a look."

He struggled to speak, but if he did not say anything, it would be hard for him to divert his attention.

As Rourou cultivated with her eyes closed, her clothes could not withstand the high heat. Spring was coming and it was bright everywhere.

In the past her clothes covered her assets, but now that Qin Yu saw her, he realized...she was not small at all!

Chapter 1558 – Seal Myself

Rourou's eyes remained closed but she smirked, "You are a man and you have already seen it. Hiding and dodging away is so laughable."

Qin Yu did not want to be agitated by her. He asked, "What are you doing?" He was an expert at changing the topic after so much practice and he successfully got over the awkwardness.

"See for yourself!"

From Rourou's tone, it was easy to see that she was in a bad mood.

However, she was not covered up and Qin Yu could not get angry in this situation.

Although Qin Yu did not abstain from such blissful scenes, he did not want to peek at her.

"Cough! I wanted to ask you, how much longer do you need? It is time for us to go."

Rourou calmly said, "Now." She spread her arms out wide and tilted her head to the sky.

There was the cry of a bird and the Golden Crow Totem flew out of the magma pool and circled around Rourou.

Boom –

Heat surged in the entire valley and the scorching hot air started to shake with heat currents.

Bright red and deep blue-colored light specks started to appear in the currents and they gave off hot and cold auras.

There was a mass of these light specks and they looked like a galaxy of stars that shrouded Rourou. Mysterious, deep energy continued to spread out from them.

The more the Golden Crow squawked, the more tired it became and it was evident that creating these light specks was draining its energy.

Qin Yu's heart fell and he put aside his honor and peeked at her. The light specks were sparkling as they circled Rourou, and she was frowning like she was enduring some pain.

Bits of light specks dotted every inch of delicate and smooth skin that she exposed.

When he looked closer, Qin Yu realized that the position of the light specks on her body was identical to those in the vibrating space currents. Furthermore, the light specks on her body and the space were exactly identical; each position of light specked mirrored each other.

It felt like Rourou was now a mirror that was imprinting everything that happened here.

This entire process was evidently not comfortable for her to do.

Her light specks on her white skin were shining brighter and brighter while the light specks in the air were slowly becoming dimmer.

Qin Yu took in a deep breath and stared at Rourou. At that moment, his mind was completely clear of any messy thoughts.

He could clearly sense that her aura was vanishing as the two forms of light specks were imprinted onto her body.

It was a seal!

That's right, this was the feeling. Rourou was currently sealing her own aura such that nothing was released to the outside world.

A realization jumped into Qin Yu's mind. The reason why Rourou came with him to the Golden Crow Tribe was for this. The pearl that she gave to help the Golden Crow Totem transform was also a part of her plan.

However, what was her objective for doing this?

Right at that moment, Rourou's eyes suddenly flung open. Without any movement, a green sphere appeared in front of her.

A lively aura was being released from the green sphere and there was a clear and bright aura that felt like pureness from a newborn was drifting out from it.

This was the Divine Willow Totem of the Green Willow Tribe!

Qin Yu personally touched that willow branch before and he recognized the aura. If he didn't know that the Green Willow Tribe had sought them out themselves voluntarily, Qin Yu would have thought that all of this was Rourou's arrangement.

Unless, was Rourou controlling everything?

Rourou gulped down the green sphere in one shout and two light spots appeared on her body. They gradually stabilized and appeared lively.

'Crack crackle'. Sharp cracking sounds came through the air and the light spots broke apart and dispersed. At the same time, Rourou's aura completely disappeared and it was almost like she was a shadow.

If he closed his eyes, Qin Yu could not sense her presence even though she was right in front of him. She was an existence that went beyond heaven and earth; she could not be sensed or locked on to.

The Golden Crow Totem squealed, announcing its fatigue. It furled its wings and landed beside Rourou. Its eyes that were red and as pure as jade looked dull.

Rourou lifted her hand and stroked its features. The Golden Crow instantly jumped in excitement. After rubbing against her hand a few times, it jumped off her shoulder and went into the sea of magma.

My goodness, sure enough, the Golden Crow Totem only cared about Rourou!

Qin Yu...was like a shooting target that was placed on the surface.

Although he already sensed this previously, Qin Yu could not help rubbing his nose after personally witnessing what happened.

“Little Qin Yu, remember this. You will owe me more after today.” Rourou glared at him, “Are you done peeking?”

She lifted her hand and maneuvered flames to cover her petite figure as though they were clothes.

Rourou took one step forward and almost stumbled into the magma pool directly. She glared at Qin Yu angrily and demanded, “What are you staring blankly at? Aren’t you going to hurry over and lead me out of here?”

Her face was red and her forehead was dotted with sweat. She looked like she could not withstand the heat from the valley now.

Qin Yu’s heart clenched and he threw aside his honor. He jumped towards her and pulled her out.

There was a complicated look in his eyes as he stared at her and his lips quivered although he did not speak. By now, Qin Yu had a good guess for the reason why she sealed her aura.

No wonder she said that he owed her a lot more now.

Rourou waved her hand. “You can close your mouth and swallow back your thanks. Just remember it in your heart.”

Qin Yu nodded, “Let’s go.” He pulled Rourou along and strode out. The two of them walked forward and the pool of magma separated to form a path for them. He greeted the Tribe Leader with a smile on his face.

“General, Lady.”

The Golden Crow Tribe Elder who was waiting by the valley hurried to send a message to the Tribe Leader. He smiled brightly before walking forward to greet the two of them.

“General, Lady, Tribe Leader has some things to attend to, please wait here for a while.”

Qin Yu knew that Rourou did not like to talk to outsiders and he said directly, “Thank you. Please inform Tribe Leader Cutuo that we will be leaving directly.”

The Elder did not dare to stop them at all and he quickly bowed and showed them the way.

Qin Yu and Rourou headed out directly, but right before they left the Golden Crow Tribe, Cutuo caught up to them. In a deep voice, he said, “General, Lady, why don’t you stay for a while, I will order the servants to prepare a banquet.”

Qin Yu gleaned at him with a deep look in his eyes. Cutuo suddenly felt like Qin Yu saw through him with his eyes. A look of uneasiness crossed his face.

Coughing lightly, he laughed, "There are indeed a few friends who asked me for a favor. I can't push them aside and I had to give it a try."

Master Prajna had already given him a clear answer that he did not have to worry about the Golden Crow Totem. This was why he was able to divert his attention to this.

Granted, his 'friends' had given him favors. Since Cutuo asked Qin Yu, he must have obtained some gifts. The various tribes must have been very generous for the Golden Crow Tribe Leader to have taken a fancy to them.

Qin Yu smiled, "Tribe Leader, please announce in my stead that I and my Lady have expended a lot of energy and we can't handle any more requests. We will head back tomorrow."

"Ah! General, are you going..." A look of panic crossed Cutuo's eyes.

Qin Yu immediately knew that the Tribe Leader of the Golden Crow Tribe had received a lot of bribes. He did not stop after Qin Yu turned him down the first time.

Blinking his eyes, Qin Yu said, "If you are willing, I can help you add a sentence for you and announce to everyone that we are good friends."

Cutuo's eyes brightened and he laughed, "What are you saying General? We are already very good friends!"

He walked over and grabbed Qin Yu's hand without a sound. Then, he placed a storage ring in Qin Yu's hand. Between a long term profit and a short term gain, it was obvious which was the better choice.

Rourou frowned, but Qin Yu's smile remained, "Farewell."

Tribe Leader Cutuo ushered them out personally. Once they left, his forehead was covered with sweat and he was frowning.

The Lady was very strange and hard to grasp. No wonder she was the General's wife...just now, she rolled her eyes at him. This was supposed to be a cute gesture, but his heart had clenched and he had to try his best to hold in his fear.

What was more frightening was that he could not sense her aura at all.

She was right in front of him but she felt far away!

.....

The Desolate camp men were returning soon.

Although the Golden Crow Tribe made a prior announcement of the news and also reassured the tribes that General Jinwu would come back soon, many people were gathered outside the camp.

Many barbarians came and their eyes were fixated on something.

They had deliberately spread news previously. As long as the men in the Desolate camp were not deaf and blind, they would have gotten the news.

However, a few days passed without anything happening. It was like a large rock that dropped into a lake. The muffled drop felt stifling to the barbarian tribes.

Some people had wild thoughts that included capturing General Jinwu and binding him in the Barbarian Clan regardless of the consequences.

Yet, after they saw the calm Master Prajna near the horse carriage, they quickly suppressed these wild thoughts.

They could not violate the will of the Holy Land!

“Farewell General Jinwu, please return to the Barbarian Clan soon. The Boundless Tribe will set up a camp for you beforehand and welcome you back!”

“Hmmp! The Boundless Tribe will set up a camp beforehand? My Obsidian Tribe have already arranged men to build a camp. General Jinwu, if you are looking for a place to stay, please consider my tribe and receive our sincerity!”

“Us too...”

Voices shouted over each other and powerful barbarians disregarded any shame. This included Elders of the various tribes.

With an opportunity presented in front of them for their tribe’s totem, what was shame?

Right at that moment, the crowd parted and the chaos subsided. The old Tribe Leader of the Green Willow Tribe hurried over.

With a ‘thud’, he knelt on the ground and bowed repeatedly, “General Jinwu, this servant is late. Please forgive me.”

The elites of the Barbarian Clan were annoyed by his bootlicking attitude. However, when they thought about the Green Willow Tribe’s circumstances, they could understand.

Anyone who was in a desperate situation for the last five hundred years would act the same way after they were saved and given a chance at life again.

Qin Yu’s voice came from the horse carriage, “Tribe Leader, you don’t need to be too polite. Please rise.”

The old Tribe Leader rose. With a deep voice and a determined look, he said, “I am here to fulfill my previous promise. The Green Willow Tribe is willing to give up all our territory for permission from the Holy Land to enter Traverse Mountain and head west.”

West of Traverse Mountain...

A few images formed in Qin Yu’s mind. The bloodline of the Barbarian King gave him knowledge.

The sincerity from the Green Willow Tribe was sufficient!

Abandoning the eastern territory of Traverse Mountain to head west...not everyone would be able to put this down with such determination.

Before Qin Yu could think further, the old Tribe Leader gave him a ring storage device with two hands.

“General, this is all my tribe has to express our thanks. Please keep it.”

Rourou suddenly spoke, “There isn’t much but the grade of the items is good. I didn’t expect that the starving Green Willow Tribe would still have such treasures.”

Qin Yu thought about it and said, “Tribe Leader, please come in.”

The carriage doors opened.

The old Tribe Leader was taken aback. He wore a humble look and hurried into the horse carriage.

Behind him, the carriage doors closed automatically. He immediately felt that energy from space time surround him.

As he looked at the two people in front of him, he could not help being in awe of them.

Space time rules were not only the hardest form of rules to control for Desolate Area men, it was also a very powerful force.

This applied to barbarians too!

At that moment, the old Tribe Leader thought of the terrifying tremors in space time when the Divine Willow was being saved. Now, he looked at the inconspicuous pair of hands before him. They looked normal but they could maneuver space time.

The old Tribe Leader bowed, “Greetings to General and Lady.”

Qin Yu raised his hand, “There are many eyes on us, I will just speak directly.” He knocked on the carriage and said, “Firstly, the Green Willow Tribe will not need to give up your territory and move to the west of Traverse Mountain.”

“General...” A look of worry crossed the old Tribe Leader’s face.

Qin Yu smiled, “I know that you are doing this in hopes that I will not be faced with too much pressure when I return to the West Desolate.

“But old Tribe Leader, rest assured. Since I made my move, I have everything under control and I will not be put in a tight spot.

“The Green Willow Tribe has gone through a lot and made it through this hardship. Please rest here...the west of Traverse Mountain isn’t a place that you guys should be now.”

The old Tribe Leader was taken aback and he stared at Qin Yu in shock. He obviously did not think that General Jinwu of the West Desolate would know about the west of Traverse Mountain.

Qin Yu smiled and ignored his gaze, “Secondly, I will keep the items. However, sometime in the near future, I will need to borrow a space in the Green Willow Tribe. I hope I will have your permission for that.”

The wide eyes of the old Tribe Leader were filled with emotions and he understood what Qin Yu meant – the next time the Desolate Area men entered the Barbarian Clan territory, they would stay at the Green Willow Tribe!

This was also what the elites of the Barbarians Clan were pleading for as they stared at the horse carriage with passionate eyes.

Establishing close relationships could grant benefits and a horse would not get fed if it wasn't fed...look at the Golden Crow Tribe today. Tribe Leader Cutuo benefited greatly from the Desolate camp and he was greatly envied by many.

Qin Yu waved his hand, "I have my reasons for choosing the Green Willow Tribe. Old Tribe Leader, don't be too bothered about it."

"Thank you General, the Green Willow Tribe will definitely make the preparations beforehand to welcome you!" The old Tribe Leader bowed respectfully.

Qin Yu nodded, "Alright, I won't keep you further. We will meet again soon."

The old Tribe Leader stood up too and left. Once he got off the horse carriage, he was met with jealous and envious gazes from the rest of the barbarians. His lips twitched and he felt like he was still living in a dream.

Inside the carriage, Qin Yu said, "Master Prajna and fellow barbarians, all feasts come to an end. You don't have to send me off."

Prajna smiled, placed his hands together, and bowed, "Farewell, General Jinwu."

The rest of the barbarians cupped their hands together and shouted, "Take care, General Jinwu!"

The hatred between the Barbarian Clan and the Desolate Area ran deep. However, the ascetic of the Holy Land expressed his attitude. Although the barbarians did not know the truth, they knew fear. This was also the key as to why Qin Yu was welcomed and respected by the various barbarian tribes.

The wheels of the horse carriage started turning and the group from the West Desolate headed back to the empire without stopping.

Chapter 1559 – White Glare

The wind howled, carrying a damp and foul smell with it. However, the strange thing was that a bright red color would appear where the wind swept past. It felt like the wind was whipping up dried blood floating in the air.

A stone emerged from the ground. It was a hundred feet tall and its surface was jagged after many years of erosion.

A man dressed in a white robe was curled up and he raised his head with much difficulty but still could not find that man, "My lord, I spent so much effort to find you. Even if you do not see my efforts, please send me off with the grace of the Divine Seat."

The howling of the wind was his only reply. The white-robed man laughed bitterly; he had survived the torturous winds for seven days. If this continued, he would really lose his soul and blood in the wind.

Of course he wanted to leave, but the will of the Divine Seat had not been fulfilled. The white-robed man did not dare to turn and leave.

There was no other choice and he could only succumb to his fate and lament. His head dipped again and he hugged the big stone and curled his body as much as he could. With a pained look, he continued to endure the harsh conditions.

“Hmmp!”

An angry scoff came from the stone. It was obviously annoyed by the complaints from the white-robed man. If he wasn't the envoy for the Divine Seat, it would have already taken action and smashed him into bits.

Right at that moment, the sound of a horn came from afar. No one knew what the horn was made of but its blare shook the heavens and earth and entered his soul. It came with the pressure of a mountain and pressed on his heart.

Kaboom –

After the deafening explosion, the ground below shook violently. However, the stone that the white-robed man held on remained unmoving!

The white-robed man stiffened and horror filled his eyes. His luck was awful and he did not know what to do.

Suddenly, a white glare shot up from the stone. It instantly grew to a thousand foot long light pillar that pierced through the skies like a terrifying bolt of lightning that struck down.

Boom –

Like a burning meteorite above the heavens, its long tail stretched across the sky as it pierced through the air and smashed into the ground.

The earth shook violently!

The white-robed man picked up and looked where the white glare had slashed. As far as he could see, the sky was dark and grey. It looked like a huge wound had torn open the skies and the pure light that was revealed by the opening made the white glare more dazzling.

Waves fluctuated across the endless sea. A thousand foot long warship was sliced cleanly in half. The two parts of the broken ship were continuously being devoured by the raging sea.

As this happened, there was a strange silence on the ship. There was no panic, screaming, or struggling. The white-robed man's eyes narrowed and he was in awe – the instant the white glare cut the warship in half, everyone on the ship was killed!

Suddenly, the man screamed. His head dipped down and his eyes were tightly shut. However, blood still trickled down from the corners of his eyes.

He wiped his hand over his bloody face messily a few times. The pain felt sore and unbearable like needles and he blinked several times. At least he did not go blind.

The white-robed man let out a long breath. A low shout came by his ears, “Take it and go!”

A tuft of hair, with each hair as long as a finger, drifted down from the large stone. The hairs were thin but each of them was as heavy as a rock. The tuft was not shifted even by the howling wind and it fell down to the stone without being wavered.

The white-robed man was jumping in excitement. Ignoring the piercing pain in his eyes, his eyes widened and he grabbed all the hair. Even after he collected everything, he was not assured and he continued to scour the floor for a long time. Only after he confirmed again that he had not left any hair behind did he give a long sigh.

He took out a box and placed all the hair inside. Then, he put a yellow talisman on it and put the box away.

Without further delay, the white-robed man bowed and took off as fast as lightning.

.....

A gap between the heavens and earth did exist, but it was not possible for anyone to seal out natural Yin and Yang energy to isolate themselves from the living and the dead.

An eternity seemed to have passed in the silent darkness but suddenly, a cold laughter echoed through the space.

“I want to go out, what can you do?”

There was a pause.

“Incredible, truly incredible, you can try!”

Another pause.

“Hey! Are you for real? Don’t forget that we are old friends. Do you really have to do this?”

There was another long wait.

“Are you done? I am truly scared of you. After so many years, you still have this habit of playing possum. Is it that hard to change?”

A few moments passed again.

“Are you done? You are so naggy! Even if I return, I can’t do it in a short moment. Didn’t you say that I have to wait for the seal to weaken if I want to leave?”

There was a helpless sigh in the darkness, “I abide by your words, I will definitely do so. By then, I will return.”

Silence filled the area again.

Like before, a long time would pass before the silence would be interrupted again.

.....

Inside the horse carriage, Qin Yu’s eyes flung open and he stared at Rourou who was leaning against her seat. Her eyes were still closed but a strange expression started to form on Qin Yu’s face.

She was still in the red long skirt formed from the flames in the valley that made her seem more delicate.

When she was naked, Qin Yu had peeked at her for a long time, but he was not enchanted by her. Right now, he was just thinking that her casual holiday was far more enjoyable than other travels.

For instance, the soft seat that she was sleeping against was actually numerous layers of wood from the shrunken ancient tree that had been bound together to form the bed. Although it was not big, it was comfortable for Rourou and it fulfilled all her desires.

Below it was a stubby tree trunk and further below it were numerous roots that burrowed into the horse carriage. Somehow, the tree roots had successfully breached the iron lining of the horse carriage that was further enhanced by an array. The roots merged perfectly into the horse carriage and didn't look out of place.

What was most amazing was that once the tree roots merged with the horse carriage, they perfectly isolated the inside of the carriage from the outside world and no one was able to sense what was going on inside.

Right now, Qin Yu was using space time rules to construct a small, independent space that was much more secure.

Aside from that, the second ancient tree had also shrunk a lot and the mass of wine fruits on it created a thick, fragrant scent in the horse carriage.

The tree that made the soft bed was one step ahead. With its root system integrated into the horse carriage, it could only let its tree roots turn into root people who served Rourou.

The life that she was living now went beyond the definition of pampered.

Her life was out of the league of common men.

The first priority of the horse carriage was sturdiness but there wasn't much done to the inside space. However, the presence of the two ancient trees made it very cramped and Qin Yu automatically gave in. He took a small corner and sat down cross-legged.

Of course, there was a reason why he gave in.

Eat and drink!

The great cause that had been interrupted by the Golden Crow Tribe was going to be restarted. Rourou chose to remain silent because she would subtly remind him that his debt to her was growing the more he chose to eat and drink.

In the beginning, Qin Yu felt unsettled because of his growing debt – yet, as the saying went, once there were too many lice, he stopped itching and grew numb to his uneasiness.

Either way, with all the debt that he had accumulated since the start, was the mysterious being from space time going to kill and eat him directly?

Qin Yu knew that although his cultivation was considered to not be bad, his physical body was not enough to pay off all his debt to her.

In summary, Qin Yu slowly came to a realization – the more he owed her, the more safe he was!

If the mysterious being wanted to take payment from him, it had to ensure that he remained alive. Only a living man would create value.

This was simple logic.

Qin Yu did not know if Rourou saw through him but he felt his eyelids twitching and he could not stop laughing bitterly to himself. Luckily, Qin Yu was skilled in managing his facial emotions. Otherwise, he would not feel so at ease with feasting right now.

Suddenly, Qin Yu frowned and he stared at Rourou. Although he could not feel her aura, Qin Yu felt that something strange had happened to her.

She suddenly appeared heavier!

The trunk of the ‘soft bed tree’ suddenly curved and the horse carriage started to creak.

It felt like it was on the brink of splitting apart.

The root people immediately dispersed while the wine tree jumped over. Its main tree trunk, its roots and its branches wrapped around the ‘soft bed tree’ and the two of them combined forces to help the ‘soft bed tree’ withstand the weight.

Pulling the horse carriage were two beasts gifted by the Golden Crow Tribe and they were incredibly strong and fast. Yet, the two beasts made a shriek and knelt down onto the ground.

Firstly, the horse carriage had suddenly become heavy and it felt like a mountain that had dug its roots into the earth. It was impossible for the beasts to continue pulling the carriage.

Secondly, there was a terrifying aura that came from nowhere and it made them shiver with fear.

“Stop!”

Zhou Dafu yelled and rushed in front of the horse carriage as fast as he could. Looking at the two collapsed beasts, he sighed deeply and bowed, “General, Lady, is something wrong?”

A few moments later, Qin Yu’s voice came, “Nothing is wrong. Make camp here, you don’t have to worry about it.”

Zhou Dafu heaved a sigh of relief but he did not dare to let his guard down. He quickly instructed the group to set up tents around the horse carriage.

During this process, he could not help glancing at the horse carriage from time to time.

Every time, his heart would tremor and awe and fear would form deep within his heart.

It felt like a strange creature was hidden in this horse carriage. If it opened its mouth, it could devour all of them easily.

Zhou Dafu did not dare to speak about it and he quickly sought out Lotus Lady. This beautiful lady remained low key after entering the Barbarian Clan territory. Her eyes were tightly shut and her pale face was drenched with sweat.

Zhou Dafu's mouth fell open but he did not know whether he should ask her the question.

Lotus Lady's small voice rang, "My Lord, if I were you, I would pretend that I do not know anything."

With that, Zhou Dafu could only sigh and turn around to leave. He made a resolution that he would not go near the horse carriage unless the General gave him instructions.

Lotus Lady returned to her carriage. She curled herself up in fear.

She never imagined that there would be such a terrifying aura in this world.

It was deep and dark and it felt like it could devour every living creature in this world and destroy them!

.....

Only powerful tribes in the Barbarian Clan had the privilege to know about General Jinwu's status in the Barbarian Clan.

However, this did not mean that the small and mid tier barbarian tribes had not received a prior warning.

As such, the journey of the Desolate men went smoothly and there were no incidents.

They were right at the edge of the border and were going to leave in a couple of days. However, the group suddenly stopped to rest.

It was a normal thing for the group to take a rest to recuperate before leaving.

However, the group rested for three days and showed no intentions of moving. Things started to become suspicious.

On the fifth day, a few surrounding small barbarian tribes reluctantly sent men to inquire about the situation.

They had long since received warnings from the elite tribes that they had to be respectful to the Desolate Area men.

However, only the Tribe Leaders and Elders of the barbarian tribes knew about this. It was not apt to let all the tribe members know that they had to be respectful of a Desolate Area man.

Otherwise, trouble would unfold.

The encounter with the Desolate Area men went smoothly. The team informed the barbarians that the General was about to have a breakthrough in his cultivation and he needed some time to cultivate. Otherwise, the circumstances for him would turn bad.

A few Tribe Leaders of the barbarian tribes gathered together to discuss. They made the decision to move their tribes the next day with the excuse of finding more fertile land.

This decision felt very rushed and confusing, but there was no way that the truth would be revealed.

To avoid trouble, they were willing to move and leave their territory behind. Who knew what trouble they would get dragged into?

The tenth day.

The fifteenth day.

The twentieth day!

The atmosphere in the camp slowly turned strange and everyone stared at the horse carriage unconsciously.

More than half a month had passed but nothing seemed to be happening. The uneasiness in everyone's hearts grew stronger.

Zhou Dafu appeared calm and he continued to manage the camp. However, he had let go of the Great General Ye Sangdu and hugged onto General Jinwu's leg.

If something happened to General Jinwu...hm, he would meet a pitiful outcome.

Groundless fear and anxiety also sat at the bottom of his heart. Zhou Dafu felt that he would be implicated if something happened to General Jinwu.

Furthermore, this feeling was growing stronger as time passed.

.....

On the thirtieth day.

The Desolate Area men had been camping here for a full month.

Finally, there was a voice from the silent horse carriage. Qin Yu said, "Alright, let's go."

His voice was hoarse and weak. It was evident that he was also tired.

The two beasts were lying down. When they stood up, they turned their heads towards the carriage with a hesitant look in their eyes.

They had felt that terrifying aura disappear.

Phew –

At this point, every person in the group let out a long breath of air.

It felt like they could finally breathe after being buried in the ground for a long time.

Zhou Dafu's pale face was instantly filled with joy and he announced, "Let's set off!"

This month had been tortuous to him. After he shouted, his vision turned black and he fainted.

There was another frenzy after he fainted. Thankfully, Zhou Dafu regained consciousness and the group headed off.

Around them were many barbarians who had been secretly observing the Desolate Area men. They quickly sent messages informing their tribes of what had happened.

The Desolate Area men resumed their journey after a month!

Chapter 1560A – Imperial Decree

In the carriage.

The two big trees quickly shrunk, becoming two uniquely-shaped hairpins that appeared on Rourou's head. Their emerald green appearance dimmed slightly.

Obviously, in order to bear her previous 'weight', they had sustained a lot of damage.

Rourou, who had been sleeping for a month, rubbed her eyes as if she still had not regained her senses.

She glanced at Qin Yu who was sitting in the opposite corner. His face was pale and his eyes were dim. She asked, "How long has it been?"

Qin Yu replied, "One month." He thought for a while, "What happened?"

Previously, even though Rourou had periods of drowsiness, it was not this bad. In addition, there was a drastic change in her aura, which became as deep and terrifying as an abyss. Something obviously went wrong.

Rourou yawned, "I've spoken some words to someone; I'm fine now."

'Some words'...that took a month? Qin Yu spent a lot of energy trying to keep himself from rolling his eyes.

Rourou seemed to have noticed what Qin Yu was thinking, and the corners of her mouth showed a cold smile, "You don't have any knowledge about this, do you? Don't you know the old saying that goes 'a day in the heavens is equivalent to a year in the human realm'?"

She waved her arm, "With your cultivation realm, of course you don't know this and you may or may not get the opportunity to learn this in the future. Tsk, tsk, pity, what a pity."

Qin Yu frowned and did not say a word. He found himself believing what Rourou was saying. One of her unique characteristics was that she did not tell lies when she was mocking people.

'A day in the heavens is equivalent to a year in the human realm'.

It did not necessarily mean that one would have to be in the heavens; this may apply to talking to someone in the heavens.

Qin Yu shook his head and restrained his thoughts. It seemed that Rourou was fine now, so he did not need to worry anymore.

In addition to his own safety, he needed her help to build the Boundary Breaking Seal.

Taking in a deep breath, he closed his eyes and felt the weakness in his body, but a smile appeared on the corners of his mouth.

When Rourou became 'heavier', the two trees could barely hold her up together. Zhou Dafu and the others had been able to feel the invisible pressure weighing down on them just by looking in Rourou's direction.

Moreover, Qin Yu was very close by since he was right in the carriage with her, so he bore the brunt of this pressure. Of course, he felt even more tormented during that period.

He stayed in the carriage for a month without moving even half a step, worrying that the person in Rourou's body would encounter a problem. But more importantly, Qin Yu found a way to sharpen himself under this pressure.

After many days of eating and drinking, Qin Yu's soul and physical body had improved substantially, but this short-term improvement was like building a house on sand – the foundation was quite unstable.

In this way, the taller and bigger the house was built, the more of a catastrophe it would become in the blink of an eye when it collapsed one day.

However, Qin Yu used this one month to endure the pressure and tempering that felt like a sledgehammer, and his whole body had been hardened because of it.

The process was a little hard, but in exchange for a solid foundation, it was very beneficial to him.

More importantly, Qin Yu could feel himself vaguely reaching a bottleneck in the past few days, confining him within the limits, and he even had trouble breathing.

When he reached this bottleneck, his mind suddenly became enlightened – this was his boundary.

He was going to break through, stepping into the cultivation realm of a Ruler. His level of life was going to increase once again!

Opposite him, Rourou glanced at Qin Yu and suddenly said, "If you want to get more benefits, you should not rush to break through. There are many Rulers in this world, but they are also divided into three, six, and nine classes."

Qin Yu opened his eyes, "What should I do then?"

Direct and straight to the point, without beating around the bush.

This involved the improvement of his own strength and the journey of his Great Dao. Of course, pretentiousness and carelessness could not be tolerated.

Qin Yu was naturally able to handle it with a clear mind.

Rourou spoke, not concealing the truth from him, "If you want to become a Ruler, you have to at least wait for that darkness in front of you to disappear."

Qin Yu frowned, took a look at Rourou, and his thoughts turned quickly. He could quickly determine what she was referring to.

The world's Spirit Embryo that he found in the underground mines!

It seemed that this mysterious and powerful being from space time had already noticed it. Qin Yu suddenly thought about the time when he felt a sense of panic through the world's Spirit Embryo, as if an invisible force was peeping at him.

Afterwards, Qin Yu searched again and again, but did not find anything. Looking at it now, there was a high probability that the invisible force was Rourou.

The 'Soul Seed' Spirit Embryo was a different approach taken by Qin Yu after communicating with Stone Pagoda. Judging by Rourou's words, it seemed that there was another chance for Qin Yu to improve his strength.

Looking at Rourou who was opposite him, Qin Yu hesitated for a little while. In the end, he did not ask anything.

Four days later, the West Desolate team, which had been recuperating for a long time, finally crossed the hidden mountain gorge and officially stepped into Great Desolate territory.

They had returned!

.....

It was mentioned previously that everyone could know about Qin Yu being part of the smugglers secretly, but this matter could never be put on the surface. As one of the top three Generals of the West Border Army, now that he has returned to West Desolate territory, it was time to separate himself from the smuggling team.

Zhou Dafu respectfully saluted, "General, don't worry. Lotus Lady has already completed the accounts. After the handover is completed and it is confirmed that there are no loopholes, I will personally deliver your shares."

Qin Yu nodded casually, convinced that even if he gave Zhou Dafu a hundred more guts, he still would not dare to embezzle Qin Yu's profits.

After waiting for a few seconds, Zhou Dafu did not speak, nor did he take the initiative to leave.

Qin Yu's eyes flashed as he looked at Zhou Dafu, "If anyone makes trouble for you, feel free to use my name."

"Thank you, General!" Zhou Dafu was full of joy after receiving Qin Yu's guarantee. He respectfully saluted and left.

After a few moments, the smuggling team that was returning to the West Desolate disappeared into the vast wilderness.

Qin Yu turned around and said, "Let's go."

Rourou stretched out her hand and he took it, then with a stomp of their feet, they rose into the sky.

.....

In the mine.

General Jinwu, who had announced to the outside that he was in closed-door meditation, had finally returned to the place where he was supposed to be 'meditating'.

Rourou said that she was tired from the journey and went straight back to the residence to rest. The news of her appearance in the mine quickly attracted the attention of all parties.

General Jinwu was back!

However, he did not show up. He continued to maintain the state of undergoing 'closed-door meditation' that he previously declared to the outside world.

The guards that had come from the imperial capital were sweating anxiously. They looked at each other again and again, but no one dared to knock on General Jinwu's door.

It had been more than a month since Hundred Saint was recalled to the imperial capital. These guards felt like they were not qualified enough to meet with General Jinwu!

Never mind. Since His Majesty and the other big figures in the imperial capital had been waiting for more than a month, they probably would not mind waiting for a few more days.

.....

Deep underground, it was dark everywhere.

Qin Yu walked quietly; his whole body seemed to have completely integrated into the darkness. There was no indication of his activity or his aura at all.

He entered the underground secretly this time to carry out some business, and he did not want anyone to know about this.

Along the way, he encountered many underground sinners, but they did not notice him passing by at all.

Finally, he had arrived at the Misty Ghost Grotto.

Qin Yu raised his head and glanced at the grotto. His figure flashed and he entered directly.

Inside were intertwined laws of time and space. Naturally, they were ineffective against him now.

After a few steps, the scenery in front of him suddenly became bright. The world's Spirit Embryo, which looked like water droplets, appeared in front of Qin Yu.

After planting the 'Soul Seed', he had a close relationship with the world's Spirit Embryo.

However, coming here personally to sense its growth was very different from using his divine sense.

He examined the 'Soul Seed' carefully for a while, and then the corners of Qin Yu's mouth upturned slightly, revealing a bit of a smile.

It was going very smoothly!

The Soul Seed had taken root and sprouted, and it had also successfully merged with the Spirit Embryo.

Rourou reminded him that to break through to the Ruler cultivation realm, he would have to wait until the Spirit Embryo opened its eyes...the day for that to happen did not seem to be too far away!

He checked the state of the world's Spirit Embryo once again. After confirming that there was nothing wrong, he turned around to leave.

Like before, he did nothing after subduing the underground sinners in the mine.

Keeping everything as per normal was the best camouflage to avoid people noticing the secret hidden under the mine.

Chapter 1560B – Imperial Decree

The Generals guarding the mine were eager to see General Jinwu coming out of his closed-door meditation. They did not dare to delay the matter any longer, and several guards hurried over to meet him.

“Greetings, General!”

They kneeled on the ground to salute Qin Yu respectfully.

Qin Yu nodded his head and said, “Get up. During this period while I was in closed-door meditation, was everything alright?”

“General, everything in the mine is stable and there have not been any mistakes.” After restoring his human body, he still did not live the carefree life that he imagined. Big Head Wang smiled bitterly as he continued, “However, an imperial decree has come from the imperial capital. The messenger has already been waiting for a long time.”

Between the words, there was a reminder.

Qin Yu's eyes flashed slightly and he seemed to be pondering as he said, “I got it.”

On the way back, because Rourou suddenly became ‘heavier’, their journey was unexpectedly delayed for a month.

Thinking about it, he must have left the many people who were eagerly waiting to meet him in an unlucky situation.

Big Head Wang cursed at his nephew at every turn, but of course he did not dare to speak like that to the General. The bitter smile on his face became even more apparent.

“General, the messengers represent His Majesty. It was fine when you were still in closed-door meditation; cultivation is the most valued thing in the world anyway, so no one can find fault with you. However, since you have come out of closed-door meditation now, you should invite the messengers to come and read out the imperial decree as soon as possible so that the people at the imperial capital do not misunderstand your intentions.”

The other low-ranked Generals nodded their heads earnestly too.

Qin Yu looked at their faces that were filled with worry, and a smile appeared at the corner of his mouth. “Okay, send the messengers in at once.”

As soon as he finished speaking, there was a noise outside that quickly approached. Then, the door was pushed open harshly.

The several guards looked helpless and flustered as they hurriedly knelt down, “General, the messengers heard that you had come out from closed-door meditation and insisted on coming to see you. We were unable to stop them, please punish us!”

Amidst the crowd, a pale-looking young eunuch walked over and said in a shrill voice, “We have come to the mine and have been waiting for more than a month. When we heard that General Jinwu had come out from his closed-door meditation, we rushed over to visit him. After all, we are bringing His Majesty’s imperial decree, so we do not dare to delay this matter any longer. Otherwise, we might be beheaded.”

Obviously, there was another meaning between his words. The eunuch seemed to be talking about himself, but he was actually referring to Qin Yu.

Qin Yu had only entered the Imperial Palace a few times. He had never seen this young eunuch before; this eunuch was probably not an important character in the Imperial Palace. Otherwise, he would not have dared to show such an attitude towards Qin Yu.

For the West Desolate King to send such a blind and minor character to the West Border to give a decree, what kind of news was it going to be?

As he pondered it, Qin Yu said lightly, “I prioritize military affairs – I’m sure His Majesty will not blame me if he learns of this.”

Although he was sitting, he glanced condescendingly at the eunuch, “Since you are going to announce the decree, do it now then.”

The young eunuch’s face turned red and he could feel the contempt in Qin Yu’s attitude. He gritted his teeth and took out the yellow imperial decree before announcing, “General Jinwu, receive His Majesty’s decree!”

Qin Yu got up, cupped his hands, and said in a low voice, “Present!”

Like thunder, his voice exploded in the room!

The high-ranked Generals in the army did not have to kowtow when receiving an imperial decree. This was the courtesy that the Imperial Clan had always shown to the military.

With Qin Yu’s current status as the third-ranked officer in the West Border Army, he was in fact a Great General.

Furthermore, the mine was now Qin Yu’s foundation where he was in control of more than 100,000 troops!

The young eunuch’s face changed, and his mind that was filled with anger started to calm down little by little. Suddenly, he felt a chill down his spine.

The imperial military’s strength was highly regarded by important members in the Imperial Palace. He had learnt this after spending many years in the palace.

Not to mention that he was a mere eunuch who had been favored recently. He seemed to be well-regarded, but it was superficial.

Thinking of this, and then thinking of the favored imperial concubine who backed him, that young eunuch bit his lip until there was a bloody smell from between his teeth. His eyes were full of hatred as he glanced at the two guards who escorted him here. He finally came to his senses, and realized that he had actually been sent here as a scapegoat.

At any rate, with the widespread politics in the Imperial Palace, only people who took risks could climb up the ranks. These people were naturally going to be more outstanding than others.

Keeping his composure, the young eunuch read out the imperial decree which contained a lot of cumbersome wording. The brief summary was that Qin Yu had been summoned to return to the imperial capital to report his duties.

"This subject receives the decree!" Qin Yu took the yellow scroll with both hands, a calm expression on his face. He naturally would not panic about what he had already expected to happen.

The young eunuch had a smile on his face, "General Jinwu, you don't have to be too polite. We know that you have worked hard during your closed-door meditation, but His Majesty has urged this matter many times. If not, we would not have barged in like this. I hope you forgive us."

Qin Yu replied indifferently, "You're taking this too seriously. After I go back to the main camp and let Marshal Wu know about this, I will leave for the imperial capital immediately."

The young eunuch nodded his head repeatedly with approval.

Qin Yu cupped his hands and said, "I won't send you off."

The young eunuch's smile looked slightly stiff as he led the guards away with him. Compared to the aggressiveness that he had when he first came, obviously he looked a lot more frightened.

Leaving the residence, the young eunuch walked at the forefront. He suddenly stopped and turned to look at the two guards with resentment, "Such good methods the both of you have! You two lured me in just like that!"

He thought of General Jinwu's attitude when he was receiving the decree earlier, and he thought again about the strange situation the imperial capital was in now. He started to panic even more, and he looked at the two guards with an even colder gaze.

"What are you saying? We are just deputy messengers who accompanied you here to read the decree to summon General Jinwu to the imperial capital."

"That's right, we don't understand what you're saying."

The two guards sang in harmony, claiming to be treated unjustly, but they did not cover up the calm expressions in their eyes.

The young eunuch's expression changed a bit. He took a deep breath and nodded without smiling, "The two of you are right. I must have been confused and said things that I shouldn't have, I hope the both of you do not mind."

He then turned to leave and his face quickly returned to calm. After all, General Jinwu was a top figure.

The two guards behind him frowned at the same time, looked at each other, and then regained their composure again. This little brat was learning very fast.

If he was given some time, he would definitely have a promising future. However, some people were doomed from the beginning to not have a future at all.

.....

General Jinwu arrived at the West Border Army camp to visit Marshal Wu.

Everything went well. Wu Tongtian, who stamped his seal on Ye Sangdu's military report, was full of smiles as he talked to Qin Yu without the slightest hint of embarrassment.

After talking a bit about matters regarding the Barbarian Clan and some instances of small talk, Qin Yu got up and excused himself.

Wu Tongtian smiled and said, "As the person in charge who leads the West Border Army, since some matters have been placed in front of us, we have no choice but to intervene. However, thinking about it, I'm sure there will be no trouble when General Jinwu goes to the imperial capital this time...there might even be another opportunity."

Qin Yu cupped his hands, "I hope the Marshal's auspicious words come true."

Packing up his tent to leave, the convoy of messengers were already waiting for him outside the West Border Army camp.

Qin Yu boarded the carriage and set off without any pause.

Rourou looked out the window with a bored face, and when Qin Yu came in, she raised her head and glared at him.

"Rushing here and there, we're always rushing. It was my one chance to have a good vacation, but now it's being ruined by you!"

Qin Yu thought to himself, 'I'm not the one who asked you to come along'. However, he could not say this out loud no matter what.

With Rourou around, his safety was guaranteed...perfect!

She wanted to stay, and Qin Yu also had to think of ways to make her stay by his side.

"Cough! The West Border Army camp is in such an isolated place. When we reach the West Desolate's imperial capital, you will see how prosperous the place is. You won't be disappointed."

Rourou thought about it for a while before she humphed. However, deep in her eyes, there was a hint of anticipation.

With a smile, Qin Yu turned around and sat down. He tapped his knees slightly and he pondered over Wu Tongtian's words.

With his status, he would be ambitious. Since he said that, he had probably obtained some secret information in advance.

There should not be much danger waiting for him this time at the imperial capital, but accidents were always bound to happen. As such, he reminded himself to be cautious no matter what.

In addition, if there was a chance, he should do some homework in advance to see if he could achieve what he previously thought.

If it was possible, hehe, the West Desolate had probably dug a big hole for themselves!