

Refining 1581

Chapter 1581 – Why am I Always the One Getting Hurt

Yuan Yibo, the general of the city defense guards, got completely drunk after drinking too much alcohol last night. He had to be brought back to his own residence by his subordinates.

Halfway through the night, the door creaked open. A melancholic voice could be heard, before his blanket was lifted and a soft body slid under the sheets.

He was in the middle of a dream and started to mumble some incoherent words. General Yuan turned around and began to grope that soft body all over. Flipping that body around, he started to ride it, as if he was galloping tens of thousands of miles on a horse on the battlefield. He felt like his life was complete.

As he galloped on and on, the bed creaked all night. When the sun finally rose in the sky, the room was gradually lit up as well. Yuan Yibo looked at the woman in his arms, and his lips started to twitch, "Oh no, I was drunk, please don't blame me for this!"

He got up, got dressed, and quickly left. No matter how that woman screamed behind him, he did not even turn his head to look at her once.

When he opened the courtyard doors, he had only walked a few steps before someone followed him from behind. It was one of his confidants. He had a big smile on his face as he commented, "General, you indeed have the energy of a tiger and a dragon. You went on for the whole night and I could not even get a good sleep, you're truly impressive!"

Yuan Yibo felt embarrassed at first, but then he was suddenly furious at his subordinate's comments. He turned around with a fake smile plastered on his face and said, "Wait for two days, I will give you a recipe for a concoction. When you drink it, you will be able to be as energetic as me."

Still smiling, he was scolding his subordinate internally in his heart, 'I thought you wanted to let me have a taste of that beautiful and charming wife of yours; who would expect that you would send your own sister to me in the middle of the night? Why don't you take a good look at yourself in the mirror first? If I knew that that woman was your sister, I would not even have given her a second glance!'

After dismissing this bratty subordinate, Yuan Yibo walked quickly to leave while thinking about how he was going to deal with him in the future. His subordinate had tried to adapt to his taste, but had incurred his wrath instead.

As he turned the street corner, the light rays from the nine suns hit his face. Instinctively, he squinted his eyes, suddenly feeling light-headed. After a few moments, his body trembled and he regained his senses. He widened his eyes and started to look around in panic.

On the streets, people continued to walk past him peacefully. Some people, however, were alarmed by his movements and their eyes showed confusion.

Yuan Yibo started to walk normally again, lowering his head all the way. When he was far away enough, he then raised his hand to wipe the fine beads of cold sweat that had formed on his forehead.

Even though he was just a soldier who had stayed in the same place for many years, and a general of the city defense guards who had not received a promotion for many years, he had lived long enough to gain a considerable amount of knowledge and experience. Just now, everything seemed to be normal, but he knew that there was probably another reason why he felt like he had entered a trance a moment ago.

However, no matter how much he thought about it, his mind was blank.

Something has happened. Something has definitely happened, but I'm just an insignificant general of the city defense guards; why would anyone bother with me at all?

The more he thought about it, the more nervous he became. His face paled and cold sweat formed on his forehead again.

Right at this time, a light laugh rang beside his ears, "General Yuan, relax. I came to find you today just to confirm one matter. In the future, if there's anything else that requires your cooperation, I advise you to be honest in your responses, otherwise there will be trouble coming for you."

'Pu-tong!' Yuan Yibo knelt directly on the ground. His eyes widened as he looked at the shadow at his feet.

That's right, it was the shadow that spoke just now, but it was the voice of a woman. It was a sweet and delicate voice that was pleasant to the ears.

Gu-dong –

Yuan Yibo swallowed his saliva, and a rumbling noise could be heard before he started to black out!

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Using Yuan Yibo, they finally made a breakthrough. Furthermore, that person back then did not bother to hide his tracks either. By tracing his steps, they were able to lock down the location as Marquis Chongwu's residence.

Unsurprisingly, it was that place after all.

Li Ruhua narrowed her eyes as she waved her hand to dismiss Yuan Yibo. Even though the Central Desolate Divine Area was above all their counterparts, they still had to scheme against them, or at the very least, be aware of what they were up to.

As one of the most powerful and richest families, the Li Family from the Central Desolate naturally had already made some preparations. Putting some of these preparations to use to find out some information was well within their capabilities.

She heard that Li Cangzhou gained an inkling in his heart when he was killed. When she reached Seascape City, she had also seen the karma web behind Chen Sanglue. When she tried to infiltrate Marquis Chongwu's residence in the Imperial Capital, she was forced to retreat with a warning.

Furthermore, after confirming that Li Cangzhou had died, someone else took his body and disguised themselves as Li Cangzhou to visit Marquis Chongwu's residence.

Putting all the pieces together...everything pointed to Marquis Chongwu Ning Qin!

Li Ge was expressionless, but there was a heavy look in his eyes. He said slowly, "I can't help but feel that things have been going too smoothly." He paused and looked over, "I'm not doubting your judgment of the situation, but this is a fact."

Li Ruhua nodded, "I know what you mean. You're right, we have to be more careful so that we don't fall into a trap."

The Barbarian King had been reborn and for some unknown reason, had managed to isolate his aura. Even the thirteenth floor was unable to secure his aura. It was easy to imagine just how incredible his skills were.

The top cultivators within the Central Desolate Divine Area had been ordered to search for traces of the Barbarian King by the thirteenth floor. This was a rare event.

Therefore, having found such clues that were put in front of them so casually made them feel slightly uneasy.

"But we still have to try. What if he really is the Barbarian King?" Li Ruhua spoke slowly and her eyes were bright. "Even if he is not, since we have detected a few strands of the Barbarian King's aura on him, it means that he is somehow related to the Barbarian King."

Li Ge thought about it for a while before he nodded his head, "Alright, but we have to be careful about this."

"Of course. After all, we are here to investigate the death of Parasol County's Li Cangzhou. We also have Li Zicheng with us," Li Ruhua smiled. Li Zicheng was merely part of a side branch of the Li Family. If he could be used as a shield, or a chess piece for times of emergency, she would not hesitate to do so.

Li Ge rose and said, "Then let's send Li Zicheng to the Imperial Palace. General Jinwu Ning Qin is now the West Desolate King's chess piece. This is the West Desolate Imperial Capital; we can't be too impolite towards their ruler."

.....

Trouble was far from leaving.

There was no evidence, only intuition. However, Rourou's intuition was far more accurate than hard evidence.

This was truly absurd and beyond any logic.

Of course, there were definitely some existences between the heavens and earth that defied logic. Otherwise, why would the world be unable to go one step further despite suppressing her?

Rourou no longer needed to monitor the phantom cauldron that was suspended in the space fluctuations. Since that person said he was willing to lend it to her, Rourou was not afraid that a problem would occur.

Otherwise, that person's debt would not be cleared.

Pacing back and forth, Rourou looked at the house in which Qin Yu was undergoing closed-door meditation.

Hiss –

Little Qin Yu indeed has a high endurance. He managed to hold on until now and has not fainted yet.

Tsk tsk, this time, he has indeed suffered quite a bit.

However, as the saying goes, 'Only those who have endured the most difficult hardships become the most outstanding people'. I'm only doing it for his own good.

Qin Yu would definitely understand her good intentions, right?

Cough, cough, why do I weirdly feel slightly guilty?

Rourou raised her hand and touched her nose, suddenly realizing that this movement was quite similar to what Qin Yu did. Suddenly, her face showed contempt.

It annoys me to even look at that brat, yet unknowingly, I am developing the same habits as him. How disgusting.

Let's just leave this matter alone and let him suffer a bit. If everything goes too smoothly for him, he will start becoming complacent and full of himself.

"What?"

Rourou mumbled to herself as she took a step forward. Her figure disappeared and reappeared on the eaves of the house she was in. She raised her head and looked at a certain area of the Imperial Capital. Her eyes brightened slightly and looked slightly shocked.

"Impressive. I'm not in the best condition, but for someone to hide so much for so long right under my nose, it is truly impressive. If they did not take the initiative to reveal their aura, I would not have been able to detect it at all."

"Oh, so there is a kind of formation that borrows the hustle and bustle of human life to hide one's aura. This is an extraordinary method; no wonder they could settle in the West Desolate's Imperial Capital for so many years."

Rourou subconsciously raised her hand to rub her chin. However, she did not know that this action was also very similar to someone else's.

Perhaps there was something to be learned from this.

If they handled this well, this trouble could not only be resolved, it could even clean up Qin Yu's identity even more.

Otherwise, if his true identity was exposed, those idiots on the thirteenth floor would go crazy and then it would be really troublesome.

After pondering for a while, a faint smile appeared at the corners of Rourou's lips. But quickly, this smile disappeared once again.

I am a mysterious, powerful and unpredictable being from space time. I have conducted deals with millions of creatures and beings, taking from them their lives and even their souls. All along, I have sat on the altars of gods, looking down at these pitiful, struggling worms from above.

When did I become like this? This...why do I do all of this? Rourou was disappointed and frustrated, and her whole body suddenly felt drained of energy.

She sat on the roof and leaned back. Under the warmth of the sunlight, she tapped her fingers lightly against the tiles. After a while, her fingers paused. She wrapped her hands around her head and with a miserable whimper, she rocked her body back and forth.

Far away, a chicken that was curled up in a female servant's arms suddenly trembled. It lifted its head and looked to the roof. It saw that there was something wrong with that big demon Rourou, so with a flap of its wings, it flew out of the female servant's arms and ran away.

But suddenly, its vision blurred. When chicken overlord regained his senses once again, he found that he had already been caught by someone again. Even though this person's breasts were even fuller and softer than the female servant's from before, he did not dare to move at all. He stayed extremely still and his eyes widened, full of misery.

He wanted to cry but had no tears!

Why am I always the one getting hurt?! I was just taking a walk but I was so unlucky to encounter that big demon going crazy. If you're unhappy, you should take it up with Qin Yu; why are you always bullying such a cute and handsome chicken like me!

.....

Borrowed items could not last long, as expected. After leaving the Imperial Capital and going through another two Teleportation Portals, he finally left the West Desolate's core area. He then changed into another outfit.

His reputation could not be compared to the Li Family of Parasol County, but his background was rather clean and he had somewhat made a name for himself. He entered the border area smoothly.

Then, he changed his outfit again. Now, he looked like a West Desolate scout. He felt like a fish that had returned to the sea, and then he entered the Western Barbarian Land and all traces of him were gone.

A few days later, the corpse of an ordinary-looking scout turned up at the West Border Army's main camp, but something like this happened almost every day, so it naturally would not arouse their suspicion.

Then, this brat hurried on his journey without stopping at all. A few times, he was so tired that he started to pant nonstop. He could not help but raise his head, and he wanted to ask, 'Why does the Great Shaman not build some Teleportation Portals in the Western Barbarian Land? This journey is too tough'.

However, just as the thought passed through his mind, the space around his body started to contort. A powerful grasping power wrapped around him.

"Ah! Great Shaman, I was wrong, please spare me!"

The space continued to twist and turn, and by the time he had stabilized and made out his surroundings, he realized that he could hear the strong screams of the wind blowing against him and could feel the relentless snow slamming against him.

Chapter 1582 – Your Ancestor

The bone-piercing chill had really pierced into the bones. The man who had run all the way here fell onto the snow even before he could make a sound. He continuously rolled on the ground while screaming and wailing.

“Great Shaman, spare me! Please spare me!”

Before him, there was a particularly eye-catching black temple that stood out amongst the white snow.

A calm voice rang out from the temple that sounded slightly helpless, “Stop your pretense. This bit of cold power is not enough to kill you.”

The figure who was rolling in the snow thought for a while and felt that he had indeed overdone it. Wouldn't he just be fooling around with the Great Shaman now? Startled, he quickly turned over, got up, and said respectfully, “Yes.”

“Iron Wire, you have caused a lot of trouble this time. It's okay if you're not in any danger, otherwise...I'm afraid I can only kill you myself to atone for whatever you've done.”

This man's name was Iron Wire. He was a middle-aged man of unusual origin. At this moment, his eyes widened and he looked like he was at a loss.

...I haven't even met that person...how have I caused any trouble...Great Shaman Mengshan, who was in the temple, did not bother to explain himself much. “Go, tell her to get to the Imperial Capital as quickly as possible.”

The space suddenly started to distort, causing Iron Wire to be distorted along with it. Then, he disappeared.

The mountain was very quiet. There was only the sound of the wind and snow. A sigh came from the black temple.

A storm is coming!

I just hope His Majesty can safely get past this storm, otherwise...he can only go against the thirteenth floor with his pitiful life.

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Min Xiangtai felt extremely sleepy again not long after he woke up, as if he had been messing around all night yesterday.

He tried to ignore the sleepiness, but finally, with a 'plop' sound, he fell asleep on the table once again.

The two female servants in the study, Shi Shu and Shi Qi, seemed like they were under a spell too as their bodies suddenly weakened and they collapsed on the ground.

With a squeak, the door was pushed open. Lord Min walked in. He frowned and his face was extremely gloomy.

He walked to the round table, poured himself a cup of tea, and gulped it down instantly, only to realize that the tea was extremely hot. He immediately stuck his tongue out and fanned it with his hand.

“Even drinking tea has caused me to scald my tongue. How unlucky!” Lord Min exclaimed miserably as he turned around and walked to the side with a sullen face.

He raised his head, glanced at one of the precious and rare books on the shelf and smiled wryly, “Miss, you have already been in my foolish son’s study for so many days, when are you going to come out to say hi to me?”

A wisp of smoke poured out and it condensed to form a woman’s figure. Her eyes were as clear as water. Yingying curtsied respectfully and said, “I have been rude, please do not blame me, Lord Min.”

Lord Min’s eyes lit up as he quickly raised his hands to cover his eyes. He swallowed his saliva as he said loudly, “Miss, you can wear more clothes. I’m already old, and I won’t be able to overcome this mental battle.”

The lady lowered her head and glanced at her snow-white and soft skin. She suddenly laughed coquettishly a few times and walked over, “Lord Min, this is interesting and unexpected. I came over uninvited, disturbing the peace of your house, so I’ll let you have a few glances as a form of repayment.”

After a pause, she took a few more steps towards him, leaned forward slightly, and looked slyly at him, “Alternatively, Lord Min, you can have a few touches too.”

Gu-dong –

A loud gulp could be heard clearly. Lord Min moved his hand away, and his adam’s apple moved up and down as he stared at the snow-white, soft skin in front of him. He endured for a while until he could not hold back any longer. His hands trembled as they reached out to touch her body.

“Ah!”

The woman suddenly screamed in pain. Her figure flashed, and she instantly appeared behind the desk. Staring at Lord Min, her eyes were filled with coldness and resentment, and there was also a bit of shock and anger.

On her chest, there were now several bruises. It was even more obvious due to the contrast between the purple bruises and her pale skin.

With a calm expression on his face, Lord Min slowly retracted his hand. He raised his head to glance at the lady opposite him, but was now staring at a nine-tailed demon fox instead.

“I am indeed horny and like all kinds of beauties, whether they are young or old. If you come up to me of your own accord, surely I will not hold back. I will directly grab you and rush to the bed.

“However, I like humans. I have no interest in coquettish foxes like you at all. I was a bit heavy-handed this time, so that I could teach you a lesson not to try and seduce me. It won’t be so simple next time.”

The corners of his mouth were upturned and he smiled as he said, "Do you understand?"

The nine-tailed fox exclaimed, "Who are you exactly?"

"Your ancestor," Lord Min replied blandly.

The nine-tailed fox gritted her teeth. Her eyes turned bloodshot and a fierce light surged violently within. She wished she could show her true body and tear this old man in front of her to shreds with her claws. However, for some reason, she felt uneasy and terrified.

Looking down at the bruises on her chest, she clenched her jaw and suppressed her anger. A wisp of smoke flashed past, and she turned into a white-clothed fairy with a calm demeanor.

With a slight smile, she curtsied respectfully, "Lord Min, I will do as you please."

"Clever." Lord Min smiled, "So, remember the wise decision that you made today and don't forget it in the future.

"For the next few days, stay in the study properly. You are not allowed to go anywhere else. Leave as soon as the storm has passed."

Getting up, Lord Min's face was full of disdain as he looked at his hand that touched the nine-tailed fox just now. "I have to go and take a shower. This smell is unbearable."

The nine-tailed fox watched expressionlessly as he left, but her eyes showed that she was deep in thought.

The fox clans in this world had always had the reputation of being wise and clever, and everyone knew this. Everything that happened just now – the viciousness that she showed – was merely an act.

Her intention was to test him.

It was a pity that Lord Min was hard to read. Without a question, he was indeed an outstanding person. Otherwise, who else could easily harm her demonic body with just the touch of a hand?

After much consideration, the nine-tailed fox took in a deep breath. She turned and transformed into a wisp of smoke, returning to that precious and rare book that sat on the shelves. The West Desolate's Imperial Clan was still chasing after her for now. Since her wounds had not healed completely yet, she would have to stay here to recover for the time being.

As for the future...of course she would have to wait and judge the situation. If there was an opportunity, she definitely would not mind setting this Min Residence on fire!

Min Xiangtai and the two female servants woke up one after another. They looked at each other, but they only thought that they fell asleep because of the warm weather and did not think too much.

Turning back to look at the shelf and realizing that the book was still there, Min Xiangtai smiled, feeling assured in his heart. Then, he turned back to continue studying.

This was because the fairy in the book had promised him that they would become husband and wife as long as he succeeded in his studies and at the examinations.

Once he thought about this promise, Min Xiangtai felt that he was filled with energy once again.

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The Old Ancestor from the Li Family who came from Parasol County, Li Zicheng, came to request an audience with the West Desolate King.

Perhaps because it was a reasonable request, or because of the promise that was made back then, the Imperial Palace had no reason to reject this meeting. Very quickly, the palace doors were opened for him. Madame Wu, whom he had met a few times before, respectfully greeted him and started to lead the way.

Looking at Madame Wu's back, his face was slightly alarmed, like he was suspecting something. It was not clear what he thought about, but he did not say anything in the end.

They did not meet any obstacles along the way. Madame Wu stopped outside the Hall of Longevity and bowed slightly, "Ancestor Li, His Majesty is waiting for you inside."

She was courteous enough to him, and her eyes were calm.

Li Zicheng cupped his hands and said, "Thank you." He glanced again at the cold and sharp old lady who had excused herself to the side, before walking into the hall.

"Ancestor Li, after saying goodbye last time, it has been about a thousand years since we've met, right?" His Majesty's laughter rang out, sounding like a spring breeze.

They started to have a long conversation and were going to end this meeting on good terms.

This Old Ancestor from the Li Family had proposed to investigate the murder of Li Cangzhou thoroughly, and was quite satisfied when His Majesty agreed to this proposal.

They also talked about some stuff regarding Parasol County and the Li Family in the Central Desolate, before the old ancestor got up to leave.

The West Desolate King personally escorted him out which was the highest courtesy that could be offered to any guest. Li Zicheng smiled as he was walking out, telling the king that he did not need to do this, yet he happily let the king walk all the way out of the Hall of Longevity.

"Your Majesty, it's enough to escort me up to here. Otherwise I would not dare to come to the Imperial Palace anymore."

The West Desolate King smiled and nodded, "Fine. Then, Madame Wu, please escort Ancestor Li out of the palace on my behalf. I still mean what I said: if you need the Imperial Clan to be involved, you just have to say the word."

"Thank you, Your Majesty," Ancestor Li cupped his hands.

Madame Wu greeted the West Desolate King first, before extending her arm outwards, "Ancestor Li, this way please."

Ancestor Li nodded his head as he left the Hall of Longevity with Madame Wu leading the way.

Standing outside the hall, watching those two silhouettes leaving, the West Desolate King sighed and said softly, "I really want to chop his head off and let him realize the might of an empire's ruler."

Behind him, the young eunuch walked out slowly and said softly, "Your Majesty, you need to bear with this for a while longer. The Li Family from Parasol County are not worth much, but they are still someone else's chess piece. If you make a move against them now, it will only invite trouble."

"You're right, and that's why I am still putting up with him." The West Desolate King raised his head and looked at the view of the vast Imperial Palace in front of him. A cold smile appeared on his lips, "Having to put up with outsiders even in my own house...after all, I am not powerful enough. Otherwise, who would dare to do anything to me even if I threw out a punch?"

"I want to be the one who throws the first punch, but there are many mountains weighing down on me, and under my feet is a smelly swamp. I don't know when any of this will end."

The young eunuch maintained his silence for a while before saying, "As long as Your Majesty is willing to put in the effort bit by bit, there will be a day when you achieve your goal."

The West Desolate King turned around and pointed at the young eunuch. He started to chide him in a joking manner, "You old man. When I first ascended to the throne, that's what you told me. Now, things are still the same, but I am no longer that young man I used to be. I don't have so much patience anymore, nor do I have as much time anymore."

Waving his hand casually, as if to sweep away the despair and unhappiness in his heart, the West Desolate King changed the topic, "How are your investigations going?"

The young eunuch replied, "We've already completed the investigation. Li Cangzhou entered the Imperial Capital through the Xuanzhen Gate and went straight to Marquis Chongwu's residence. This matter was leaked by the city defense guard who was in charge that day, General Yuan Yibo."

The West Desolate King frowned and said, "This name sounds slightly familiar."

The young eunuch said, "It was one of the candidates that you selected in the year you ascended to the throne, but because of an incident, he was never promoted and wasted his life until today."

The West Desolate King looked calm as he spoke blandly, "Indeed, even I can be a poor judge of character at times. You can learn from these instances that reputation and promises are the kinds of things that rulers in this world should not have."

The young eunuch accepted this teaching willingly and bowed, "Your Majesty is absolutely right."

Outside the Imperial Palace, Li Zicheng wanted to say something but he hesitated.

Madame Wu only said, "Ancestor Li, take care."

Then, she turned and left.

Watching Madame Wu's back, there was a complicated look in Li Zicheng's eyes. He then sighed and left as well.

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The death of one of the sons in the Li Family from Parasol County happened so unexpectedly. His murder case was like a big asteroid that slammed into the depths of the Imperial Capital. The tortoises in the deep pool that was located in the Imperial Capital slowly opened their eyes in shock, wondering what the truth of the mysteries behind this murder case was. After all, Li Zicheng had even personally made a visit to the Imperial Capital; this alone was enough to prove that there was something unusual about this case.

Everyone was waiting for the latest news. When the general stationed at Xuanzhen Gate, Yuan Yibo, was taken away by the Justice Division to be interrogated, it pretty much confirmed that Li Cangzhou's body had been stolen and occupied after his death, and after that, the perpetrator had entered the Imperial Capital.

Very quickly, big news followed – Li Cangzhou, whose body was stolen and occupied by someone else, had gone somewhere after entering the Imperial Capital before leaving. His whereabouts after leaving were still being tracked down, but as for now, no one was in the mood to pay much attention to that.

That was because the place that 'Li Cangzhou' visited was Marquis Chongwu's residence!

In recent years, within the West Desolate's ruling class, it was no doubt that this new marquis was the most outstanding person.

Not only was he promoted very quickly, becoming a great general of the empire's military, even a single rumor in the Imperial Capital could spread General Jinwu Ning Qin's name far and wide, and now, fewer people dared to challenge him. Even the dignified Later Ye Family, one of the pillars of the military, were suppressed by the Imperial Clan because of him.

Instantly, countless eyes looked in the direction of Marquis Chongwu's residence, eager to know about the latest developments.

Common people were probably not familiar with the power, background, and strength of the Li Family from Parasol County, but the court ministers were very educated on it.

If Marquis Chongwu was implicated in Li Cangzhou's murder case, there would definitely be an uproar!

Chapter 1583 – The Wife Goes Into Action

Li Zicheng entered the Imperial Palace once again to meet the West Desolate King. Because the case regarding Li Cangzhou's death was related to a great general of the West Desolate's military, he needed His Majesty to give him permission to continue investigating.

Such basic courtesy was necessary especially when it came to the West Desolate King. To this, he merely said, "Ancestor Li, rest assured. I will immediately order some men to summon General Jinwu Ning Qin into the Imperial Palace to be interrogated."

However, very quickly, they received a reply saying that Marquis Chongwu Ning Qin was still in closed-door meditation and had yet to come out.

The West Desolate King slapped his forehead gently and laughed as he said, "Oh, I must have forgotten. A few days ago, Marquis Chongwu came into the Imperial Palace and asked for a few treasures because

he had reached a bottleneck in his cultivation and needed some external materials to help him break through to the next realm. That must be why he's in closed-door meditation now."

Li Zicheng frowned slightly and replied in a low voice, "Your Majesty, of course I believe your words, but I still have to ask Your Majesty to let me personally take a trip down to Marquis Chongwu's residence. I promise that I will not act rashly, otherwise I am willing to endure a punishment by lightning."

The West Desolate King smiled and waved his hand, "I trust you, Ancestor Li. If you want to make a trip to Marquis Chongwu's residence, you may do so."

"Thank you, Your Majesty."

Li Zicheng said his farewells to the king and then excused himself.

"The Li Family from Parasol County are truly extraordinary. They said that they trust me, but they still want to personally take a trip, and they still want me to agree to that request..." The West Desolate King lamented softly with a deep look in his eyes.

A gloomy and gentle voice rang out, "Why don't I accompany Ancestor Li to Marquis Chongwu's residence?"

The West Desolate King shook his head, "No need, it is not the right time to use you as my chess piece yet." A faint, cold smile appeared on the corner of his lips, "Furthermore, I am also curious to know what that old fox Li Zicheng is planning to do."

This was the Imperial Capital and he was the West Desolate King. As long as he still sat on the throne, he could alter the empire's fortune as and when he liked.

It was okay if Li Zicheng was abiding by the rules, but if he really crossed the line without any fear, did he really think that the West Desolate King would not dare to kill people?

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Li Zicheng was very efficient. The moment he left the Imperial Capital, he got onto the horse carriage and ordered, "Go to Marquis Chongwu's residence." The carriage then turned around and moved forward, and the carriage behind him followed closely.

In the carriage behind, Li Ge was hugging his sword with both his hands while sitting straight, as if he did not care about his surroundings at all. In the corner, Chen Sanglue's face was pale as a sheet. Under his sleeves, his fists were tightly clenched as he coughed lightly every now and then.

Li Ruhua opened her eyes, "Li Ge!"

Her eyes were bright, but her gaze was fierce and cold.

Li Ge frowned slightly, though his eyes were still closed. However, the invisible sword aura around him gradually disappeared.

Chen Sanglue breathed a sigh of relief, cupped his hands, and said, "Immortal Li's sword will is extraordinary; I am in great awe."

Li Ge ignored him and did not react at all, but Chen Sanglue was not upset as he cupped his hands and thanked Li Ruhua.

Li Ruhua only smiled and looked at him, without saying a word.

Silence fell in the carriage once again.

Luckily, the Imperial Palace was not very far from the vermilion and purple East City, and the horse carriage quickly came to a halt.

Li Ge opened his eyes and was the first to open the door to disembark from the carriage.

Li Ruhua got up and walked two steps before turning around to ask, "Chen Sanglue, do you want to come with us?"

Chen Sanglue shook his head without any hesitation, "I will stay in the carriage and wait for Immortal Li and Immortal Teacher Li to return."

Li Ruhua looked at him with even more admiration now, as she nodded her head and came out of the carriage.

Li Ge stood outside the carriage, not caring if Chen Sanglue could eavesdrop on them as he said, "You should know your status. There are some thoughts that you should not have at all."

Li Ruhua smiled brightly and replied, "What do you mean? I don't understand what you're saying."

"It's best if you really don't understand."

Li Zicheng walked over, and the two of them did not talk any more as they bowed together, "Ancestor."

"Cough...this is Marquis Chongwu's residence. His Majesty has given us permission to come personally to interrogate him. The two of you, follow me."

The Li Family from Parasol County came to visit, and the doorman did not dare to get in their way or waste their time. He immediately ran to report this matter.

Hundred Saint was in the residence today, but whether it was his status or his cultivation level, he was not qualified enough to welcome Ancestor Li into the house.

The great general was in closed-door meditation, but Hundred Saint did not dare to alert the 'old grandma' who stayed in the rear courtyard. Just when he was scratching his head, not knowing what to do, Rourou came to the front courtyard and looked at Hundred Saint, "What are you doing? Open the door and welcome the guests in."

Even though her tone was not very nice, Hundred Saint breathed a sigh of relief and he beamed.

Since the 'old grandma' had shown herself, suddenly, a big figure like Ancestor Li seemed quite ordinary.

His heart that was palpitating in his chest instantly relaxed. He cupped his hands and saluted her, "Right. I will do that right away."

All the way to the front door, Hundred Saint held his head up high. He bowed and greeted the three people from the Li Family, "General Jinwu's counselor, Hundred Saint, greets Ancestor Li and the two

immortal teachers. The general is in closed-door meditation so he will not be able to come out for the time being. The lady knows about your visit and instructed me to welcome all of you.”

It was a proper and courteous greeting, worthy of the Li Family.

After all, Hundred Saint was born to a side branch of the Imperial Clan. He was Lord Chengtian’s nephew and a proper noble gentleman of the Imperial Capital. With these thoughts in his heart, he now carried himself in a calm and unhurried manner.

Li Zicheng nodded his head, “Thank you.”

“Ancestor Li and two immortals, this way.” Hundred Saint then turned around and led the way.

In Marquis Chongwu’s main hall where guests were received.

Rourou sat on the main seat as she blinked slowly and said, “The marquis is in closed-door meditation. As a woman, I should not casually show my face to strangers, but since it is Ancestor Li who visited today, I have come to greet you personally. I hope you do not blame me.”

Just looking at these words themselves it did not seem very courteous, but it was an acceptable level of politeness.

However, it indeed seemed slightly disrespectful coming from Rourou. Additionally, her nonchalant attitude and casual posture was enough to show that she did not take them seriously.

Anger flashed past Li Zicheng’s eyes. The Li Family from Parasol County had always been superior to everyone in the West Desolate. Even though all these years, they were ‘content with what they had’ and rarely interacted with the outside world, anyone who met them was extremely respectful towards them. Furthermore, it was the dignified Ancestor Li who had personally paid a visit, not just any member of the Li Family from Parasol County. Even the West Desolate King had to be courteous towards him.

As the thoughts rushed through his mind, it affected the outside world as well. The air suddenly became heavy, and the female servants who were standing at the side instantly paled. They felt like they had fallen into quicksand; they were unable to move their bodies and even breathing was difficult.

Hundred Saint, who was guarding the door, had a change in his expression as well. However, it quickly returned to calmness. Firstly, it was because Li Zicheng had not crossed the line and confined his aura within the main hall. Secondly...the ferocity and might of this aura was nothing compared to Rourou’s.

He was not worried at all.

Rourou laughed coldly and said, “Ancestor Li, this is not Parasol County. You’re a guest here; it’s a bit rude to use your cultivation level to bully the host, is it not?”

She sat straighter now, and there was a strict and oppressive expression on her tender face, “Before you came, you should have heard that the marquis is currently in closed-door meditation. Other than that, there is a treasure that is being refined in a cauldron too. If the marquis’ cultivation is affected or if the treasure is spoiled because of you, are you sure that you will be able to bear the consequences?”

The moment she opened her mouth to speak, the suppressive aura that wrapped around the main hall disappeared. At this moment, as she looked at Li Zicheng, and it made him, an old monster with an unfathomable cultivation level, feel uneasy.

Li Ruhua suddenly stepped forward and cupped her hands, "The Li Family of Parasol County was indeed lacking in manners. Lady, please forgive us."

Rourou looked at her calmly, but it made her heart palpitate, and an uneasy feeling washed over her.

"A few days ago, there was someone who tried to spy on us from outside our residence. It was you, wasn't it?"

Li Ruhua was alarmed, but maintained a calm exterior. She smiled and said, "Indeed, it was me. Lady, you have such good methods. As a younger cultivator, I am full of admiration."

Rourou merely waved her hand and replied, "Don't call yourself 'younger', we don't even know who's older between the both of us." Of course, Rourou was referring only to the age of her physical body.

However, Rourou's bold and confident tone seemed to have worked in misleading Li Ruhua. Li Ruhua's gaze trembled slightly, as if she was pondering.

Not giving her any more time to think, Rourou continued, "Our residence is aware of the murder case, but whether you believe it or not, the case has nothing to do with the marquis."

Li Ruhua said softly, "We are willing to believe you, lady, but we need hard evidence, not empty words."

"You're right. Then, let's end this matter here today. Come again when the marquis has come out of closed-door meditation," Rourou ordered the guests to leave.

Li Zicheng's face became even more hideous.

Rourou looked at him and said, "How old are you, yet you still don't understand your position here. Even this lady over here has not shown any expression."

As she spoke, she turned her head to look at Li Ge, who had been silent all this time. "The sword that you're holding is not bad, but I have seen better...sword cultivator, ultimately, you have to cultivate yourself. There is no future in relying on external help."

Whoosh –

Li Ge raised his head abruptly and a divine light surged in his eyes. It was as if there were invisible swords that were revolving around his body and would fly out at any time.

Rourou looked slightly interested as she raised her eyebrows, "Unhappy? You can make a move. I will sit here and not move an inch. If you can injure me, I will admit that you are powerful."

"Li Ge!" Li Ruhua frowned and warned him in a low voice.

Li Ge took a deep breath, closing his eyes and then opening them again slowly. The sword intent surrounding his body dissipated.

He turned and left.

Li Ruhua smiled brightly, "Lady, then we will come again next time."

There were no daggers drawn in the end, but they definitely did part on bad terms.

Hundred Saint escorted the three Li Family members out of the residence. He stood straighter now, not thinking that Rourou had done anything wrong at all.

You people from the Li Family claimed to be just paying a visit, but now, the whole Imperial Capital already knows about those rumors.

They're saying that our general killed a young member of your Li Family. Does this not obviously mean that we are enemies now? Of course we will not be polite!

Furthermore...the marquis' wife was indeed powerful. It was a one-versus-three situation. An Old Ancestor from the Li Family and two extraordinary immortals had come, yet Rourou always had the upper hand, and managed to suppress all of them in the end.

"Ancestor Li, immortals, take care," Hundred Saint cupped his hands as he bid goodbye, being neither servile nor overbearing.

"Hmph!"

Li Zicheng scoffed coldly before getting into his carriage.

Li Ge and Li Ruhua entered the carriage behind and left.

"It's her?" Li Ge suddenly opened his mouth to speak.

Li Ruhua thought about it, before shaking her head, "I can't be sure, but I'm unable to see through this lady at all." After a pause, a heavy expression formed between her eyebrows, "It is to the extent that even if she was sitting right in front of us, I couldn't be sure that she was actually there."

Li Ge added in a low voice, "My sword is unable to detect that lady's aura at all either."

These two young people who came from the Central Desolate Divine Area were always able to push the boundaries and look down on everyone in all eight directions. But now, they started to feel fear in their hearts.

Now, it seemed that General Jinwu Ning Qin held yet another secret. His wife turned out to be such an imperceptible character.

However, with this turn of events, the possibility of him being the new Barbarian King was greatly reduced.

Simply because, if General Jinwu was indeed the new Barbarian King, he would try very hard to keep his identity a secret, instead of being so unrestrained and fearless. They did not believe that Rourou's actions today had been decided by her alone; she must have discussed this with General Jinwu beforehand.

The carriage fell silent as the two young people from the Li Family pondered in silence.

Chen Sanglue suddenly opened his mouth to speak, "Immortals, even though I don't know what both of you are doing, since things have come to this point, it will not be good to retreat."

"Hmph!"

Li Ge scoffed and Chen Sanglue suddenly coughed out blood, his face pale.

"Keep your thoughts to yourself, otherwise, I'll kill you right now."

Li Ruhua had a calm expression as she said, "Li Ge, Chen Sanglue did not say anything wrong. Even though you and I covered our identity and went to the Li Family in Parasol County, I'm afraid we won't be able to hide this matter from the West Desolate.

"We don't have to care about Parasol County's reputation, but the both of us cannot damage our family's reputation, otherwise, there will be trouble."

Li Ge said, "If it were not for that, I would have killed him already."

Li Ruhua smiled. "This is interesting. I have not met Marquis Chongwu yet, but I'm becoming more and more curious about him."

"Even if he is not the one that we are trying to find, I still somehow think that he must have some kind of relation to the Barbarian King. This is not an inference from my divine sense, it's just my intuition...believe me, sometimes, a woman's intuition, especially one who's not married, is shockingly accurate."

She looked at Chen Sanglue, who had his head lowered. He was constantly coughing and blood trickled out of his mouth.

.....

Marquis Chongwu's residence.

After dismissing some servants who had yet to recover from the trauma of Li Zicheng's suppressive aura, Rourou scoffed.

These two bastards. Trying to play tricks with her? You two are not worthy.

Based just on your intuition, you want to bite and not let go? Don't worry, you can keep on coming, the show's not over yet!

She stepped forward and in the next moment, her figure vanished.

Chapter 1584 – Don't Bite The Hand That Feeds You

Lord Min exhaled a long sigh, looking depressed. In the last two days there had been new concubines in the house, but even so, it was not enough for him to perk up.

Every day, he held onto a wine jug and constantly drank from it. He also kept mumbling to himself, "I haven't even done anything, but trouble is coming for me...my fortune is indeed terrible."

"It's not that terrible, otherwise I would not have come here," a voice suddenly rang out from behind him.

Lord Min froze. He put down his wine jug and turned around. He saw a beautiful lady, who was as pretty as a flower, sitting under the pavilion.

She looked delicate and timid, but her gaze made him feel like he was in a mountain of daggers and a sea of flames and he could die any time.

'Gu-dong!' Lord Min swallowed his saliva and greeted with a pale face, "Min Changjing greets the fairy, I'm not sure why you..."

Rourou flicked her fingernails and said, "If you're going to blabber on some more, I'm not going to be polite any longer. I will make a move and hit you with such force that your true body flies out."

Lord Min grimaced and begged, "Fairy, please spare me!"

Rourou said, "I'm going to assign you a task, and after you are done with it, we'll take it as us having never met before." Afterwards, Lord Min's lips trembled, but there was no other response.

"Do you understand?"

Lord Min coughed lightly, "Fairy, I swore an oath when I was young; if I betray Nine-tailed Fox today, my conscience will have a hard time."

"They can die, but you won't. Don't you understand that? Furthermore, didn't you once say that everyone under the heavens is a family?"

Lord Min's face was full of helplessness as he replied, "I did not say that."

Rourou scoffed, "Well, I don't care. You have two options. Do as I say, or I can beat you to death right now!"

Giving a long sigh, Lord Min got up and saluted her, "I will do as Fairy says."

Rourou snapped her fingers, "Good."

She got up to leave. As she stepped forward, she instantly vanished.

Looking at the empty space where she was just now, Lord Min frowned and slowly sat down. He grabbed his wine jug and raised his head to take another sip.

Unfortunately, he did not pour the wine very accurately. The wine did not end up in his mouth and instead splashed all over his face, making him shudder on the spot from the coldness of the liquid.

Hu-chi –

Hu-chi –

He panted rapidly, and suddenly, it was like a dam of cold sweat had burst. No matter how he tried to wipe it away, it kept forming. Very quickly, his robe was drenched and started to stick onto his body.

Looking down at himself and at how he had become a trembling mess, Lord Min laughed bitterly. He certainly did not think that he would encounter such a terrifying existence.

Back then when he was talking to her, he was struggling and hesitating to agree to her request. In actual fact, that was all an act. When he first met Rourou, he almost knelt on the ground instantly.

There was nothing he could do about it; he was very good at seeing through people's abilities.

Betraying Nine-tailed Fox indeed broke the oath that he swore, but this brat was courting her own death. Who told her to provoke such a powerful figure? The earlier she was gotten rid of, the better. Otherwise, she might cause more trouble in the future and bring down a catastrophe that would endanger the whole Demon Clan.

He was not wrong. If that woman just now wanted to, she could definitely massacre the whole Demon Clan.

Min Changjing had no doubts about this, after all, he had also once seen what true, peak power looked like from a distance.

It was just that, why would this matter involve the Li Family from Parasol County? He thought about the recent buzz of Li Cangzhou's murder case that was happening in the Imperial Capital and his eyes widened. He then looked in the direction of somewhere east in the city.

"Little brat, you're pretty clever. However, the smarter you are, the more yummy your brain must be. Do you want to know how I know that?"

A cold laughter and these words could be heard in his mind.

Min Changjing instantly knelt with a 'pu-tong' sound. He started to tremble violently, unable to utter a single word.

"Hmph!"

The terrifying aura that he felt gradually disappeared.

After a long while, Lord Min got up. He took a deep breath to calm his emotions before walking out.

There were a few pretty female servants that stood in the pavilion in his courtyard and also Lord Min's most trusted housekeeper. They stood outside with worried expressions on their faces. When they saw him coming out of the courtyard, they hurriedly greeted him.

They were here all along, but they did not know what happened just now.

"Housekeeper, didn't the madam's granduncle send his birthday banquet invitation over already? Get Min Xiangtai to attend the banquet immediately and prepare a generous gift."

The housekeeper looked hesitant before bowing to receive the order, and added, "Master, Granduncle's banquet starts in about half an hour. Do you want to let the Young Master go right now?"

Lord Min said blandly, "Since he had been enlightened recently and seems really interested in studying properly now, a great scholar like Granduncle is the best person that he can learn from."

After a pause, his tone became more indifferent, "Let Min Xiangtai know that if he dares not to attend the banquet, I will break both his legs."

The housekeeper turned to leave, feeling slightly puzzled in his heart. Lord Min rarely mentioned Granduncle, and even if he did, it was always mocking him for being an unimpressive scholar. Why would Master ask the Young Master to go and learn from Granduncle?

Furthermore, those that were familiar with Master's temperament would know that he was most serious when he had this slightly strict expression on his face.

Min Xiangtai made a ruckus for a while, but he was dragged by the housekeeper who warned him in a low voice. He struggled for a while, before laughing bitterly.

"Uncle, please head out first. I have to pack my stuff."

The housekeeper breathed a sigh of relief and replied softly, "I will be waiting for you outside then. Young Master, please hurry."

After a few moments, Min Xiangtai changed his clothes and walked out of his house with a listless expression.

The fairy told him that the Min Residence was a place of great fortunes, which was why she could be born from these books and could not leave easily, otherwise her soul would dissipate.

Min Xiangtai did not have the heart to let his beloved fairy suffer, so he told her that he would return as quickly as possible and that she just had to sit and wait patiently for him to come back.

The carriage left the Min Residence and headed towards his granduncle's residence. Nearby, the breakfast store owner smiled and waved at him, "Young Master, are you heading out?"

Min Xiangtai was instantly energized and returned the greeting, "It is my uncle's birthday and he is holding a banquet which my father told me to attend. Please carry on with whatever you were busy with."

The store owner laughed and nodded, and when the carriage had gone far away, he wiped his hands on his waist apron before removing it. Then, he passed it to his daughter who was behind him and said, "Brat, there are not many guests now. Please take care of the store for me, I have something to do so I will go home for a while."

The store owner rubbed his belly. Him and his daughter had already built a mutual understanding, so his daughter only smiled and nodded her head.

After greeting a few of his guests, the store owner walked back to his house, which was near the Min Residence's back courtyard.

.....

In the boundless Western Barbarian Land, at the Traverse Mountains near the west boundary, the winds howled fiercely. There was a sickly sweet and fishy smell which filled one's nose and mouth.

The figure at the summit of the huge rock knit his eyebrows together and a cold light flashed in his eyes.

In a sheltered place behind this huge rock, there was a man who had a wretched appearance. Both his hands held tightly onto a depression in the huge rock as he wailed, "It's true, I'm not lying to you! When

Lord Great Shaman brought me here, it's what he told me himself! Let's hurry, if we're late, Lord Great Shaman will beat me to death!"

Without waiting for a response, the man howled even louder, "Mother, I am about to die. I won't be able to pay my respects to you in the future anymore. Please take good care of yourself.

"My dear wife, I will never be able to return anymore. You're still young, in the future, you'll be able to find yourself a better man. Please take good care of my children; they are my blood and flesh.

"My younger sister..."

"Shut up!"

The man instantly went quiet, raising his hand to wipe a few tears away. He looked upwards.

Dong –

Dong –

Far away, a loud drum sound was produced near a boundless sea.

Whoosh –

A dazzling white rainbow soared to the sky. The man wailed miserably and hurriedly covered both his eyes. This time, he had indeed suffered a lot.

His eyes were red and tears were spilling out uncontrollably, which were mixed with a bit of blood.

The next moment, the man was lifted up into the air. Strong gusts of wind slapped against his face, causing him to feel as if the skin on his face was going to be blown away.

"Can he really save me?"

"Wuwuwu...Wuwuwuwu...Wuwuwuwuwu..." The man shouted nonstop, but it was a pity that not a single word could be heard as they were swallowed by the wind.

Yet, the figure, who was an incarnation of the Sword Shadow, could understand what he was saying. He laughed coldly and said, "If he can save me, I don't care what requests he has, I will agree to all of them! However, if he tricks me, I will kill him!"

The man clutched his head with both his hands as he curled into a ball. He felt as if his whole body was about to be torn apart into eight pieces by the frantic jet stream of air. He thought to himself, 'I don't know if Marquis Chongwu is alive or not, but if this goes on, I will die first'.

Xiu –

The majestic sword rainbow roared through the sky at a speed faster than thunder, disappearing without a trace.

.....

Rourou suddenly raised her head and looked to the west. She raised her eyebrows, looking a little surprised.

But...that was it.

There were not many existences in this world that could grab her attention, and even fewer that were worthy of her caring at all.

However, today, there was another exception to this.

Rourou, who retracted her gaze, started to frown as she looked at the house where Qin Yu was undergoing closed-door meditation.

“This brat is indeed quite tough, and his cultivation base is deeper than I thought.

“However, it’s not the right time for him to break through to the next realm yet. I have to suppress it.”

Rourou took a sip of tea from her tea cup and with a soft ‘pop’ sound, she disappeared from her original spot. In the next moment, she appeared in front of Qin Yu. In his room, there was a thick and vibrating cryptic energy flowing.

Whoosh –

Qin Yu opened his eyes and stared at Rourou. He moved his dry lips, his voice as hoarse as sandpaper as he said, “You’re here? I originally thought that you would somehow feel guilty after seeing the plight I’m in. However, it seems that it was all my wishful thinking.”

Rourou coughed lightly, “Qin Yu, as the saying goes...”

“Only those who have endured the most difficult hardships become the most outstanding people’? You’re right, so I really have to thank you,” Qin Yu said seriously.

Rourou was indeed slightly guilty, but the energy in the room told her that the breakthrough was on the verge of happening, and there was no more time for her to hesitate any longer.

“Qin Yu, since you’re aware, I will not bother explaining it to you...just know that this is not the right moment for you to break through yet, so you have to stifle it for a while longer.

“Believe me, it won’t be too long. You just have to experience a few more small obstacles at most. Your safety will definitely not be compromised.

“Alright, it is decided then.”

She walked up, lifted her finger, and put it on the space between Qin Yu’s eyebrows. It was as if she had sealed the only outlet in a kettle full of boiling water.

In the blink of an eye, Qin Yu’s face was flushed red. He widened his eyes to look at Rourou, and opened his mouth to say something, but instead, all that came out was a miserable howl.

Those who understood Qin Yu’s temperament would know how much it took to cause him to howl miserably like that...as he continued to stare at her with red eyes, Rourou felt uneasy as well. She coughed lightly as she prepared to leave, “Continue holding on for a while longer, hehe, I’ll leave first.”

Whoosh –

She was gone.

“Rourou...ahhhhh!” In the cultivation room, Qin Yu’s pained screams rang out.

Hiss –

Sitting back on the chair, she finished the tea in her cup. She felt like it did not quench her thirst, however, so she gulped some more tea straight from the teapot, not caring about the fact that it was scalding hot.

Qin Yu must really be angry this time, right?

Of course he is. He had suffered the pain equivalent of being skinned alive and his tendons being ripped apart, and was about to be relieved of the pain, yet he had been kicked into the pot of boiling oil once again.

Anyone who went through this would be full of resentment.

But I am doing it for your own good! If you break through now, you won’t be able to get extra benefits in the future...Rourou had a helpless expression on her face as she rubbed the area between her eyebrows. In her heart, she was scolding internally, ‘Don’t bite the hand that feeds you!’. She was also extremely frustrated at how worried she was feeling now.

Qin Yu, who are you exactly?!

Chapter 1585 – Source of Trouble

Two maids were asked to leave Min Xiangtai’s study room. Min Changjing sat down and drank some tea. Wisps of mist floated up into the air from the Heaven Concealment Book.

Nine-tailed Fox was wearing a white skirt as she greeted graciously, “Greetings my lord. May I know what you are here for today?”

Her face was neutral but there was confusion in her eyes. However, internally, she was extremely apprehensive and guarded.

Min Changjing sighed softly as he placed down the tea cup, “There have been some changes. I sent Min Xiangtai off so I could speak to you.”

Nine-tailed Fox replied, “Lord, please speak.”

Min Changjing said, “You can’t hide in my house anymore. The West Desolate have started to notice some things linking to this Heaven Concealment Book.”

Nine-tailed Fox frowned as she looked up. There was a hint of mockery in her expression, “Lord, are you making fun of me for not having experience? The Heaven Concealment Book is the Demon Clan’s spiritual object. Even though we are in the West Desolate, how can it be detected? Moreover, with you around, it will be even easier to hide it.”

Min Changjing looked at her and said slowly, “I can explain to you but don’t take it as if I have the duty to shelter you. You have to understand that this is not the same.”

He took another sip of his tea. With a ‘pak’, he placed the cup down. Nine-tailed Fox felt a chill in her heart as the apprehension in her eyes grew.

“The Heaven Concealment will not be detected by the West Desolate. But someone knows that I have the book. The trouble that you created on that day was too much. His Majesty has ordered for you to be found. Although he is probably more concerned about his own problems at the moment, as long as he does not give up his seat, he will still be the king of the West Desolate.

“Our Min Family has had a stable position in the capital for many years. We will not allow our position to be shaken because of you. You have to leave it.”

Whether Nine-tailed Fox believed him or not, it did not matter because the truth was not the crucial point now. She looked cold, “If I leave the Heaven Concealment Book, I will be found very quickly. And like you said, the West Desolate will not let me go. Since I know this, I will not leave so easily.”

Although she did not specialize in head to head killing like the Fox Clan, she still had the confidence of a demon. While she could not figure out this seemingly ignorant Lord Min, she would not let things go so easily.

Min Changjing said slowly, “I asked you to leave but I am not asking you to die. If not, I would not have let you stay...ultimately, I still owe the Demon Clan.

“Someone from the Li Family from Parasol County is here in the capital. Although you are hidden within the Heaven Concealment, Shi Shu and Shi Qi’s essence is about to be consumed by you, and you should know this.”

Min Changjing looked at her and spoke blandly, “Of course, these are all minor things. It is normal for demons to consume people. I am not annoyed because of this. The two people from this Li Family from Parasol County were born in the Desolate Divine Area. The Li Family they are from is also connected to the one in the Desolate Divine Area.”

Nine-tailed Fox eyes lit up.

Min Changjing spoke, “Do you understand what I mean? As long as you are protected by the Li Family, you will be able to leave the West Desolate safely, and who knows, maybe something good will happen.”

Nine-tailed Fox thought about it and bowed respectfully, “Thank you Lord. But I have to confirm something. Please let me use this Heaven Concealment Book for two days.”

Min Changjing sneered, “Naughty fox. It seems like I have been too nice and you are trying to overstep your boundaries! The Heaven Concealment Book is mine. If you take it away, it will only provide you a shadow for at most two days. Think of ways yourself.”

Nine-tailed Fox smiled and bowed, “Okay, then I will do as you say.”

Very soon, there were white shadows in the Min Residence. Nine-tailed Fox reverted to her original form and disappeared. Because the Heaven Concealment Book’s shadow covered it and blocked off its aura.

Lord Min stood outside the study as he held onto the Heaven Concealment Book. The book felt like it was a lot more shabby than it was before.

Lowering his head to look at it, he sneered before his face turned calm again.

.....

“Your Majesty, Marquis Chongwu’s Mansion sent a secret message.” Eunuch Wei Ming knelt as he presented the jade slip respectfully with two hands.

Behind the bead curtains, the king’s eyes flashed, “Bring it to me.”

“Yes.”

Wei Ming walked carefully up the Nine Layers and placed the jade slip on the table.

He stood up, bowed, and left the room.

The king picked up the jade slip. Using his divine sense, he read the message. His eyes lit up in an instant and a burst of energy surged.

Pak –

The jade slip broke and looming shadows appeared in the king’s hands. His eyes turned sinister.

“That clan?” In the hall, a startled and low muffle could be heard as a young eunuch walked out from the shadows.

The king said slowly, “Marquis Chongwu’s Mansion sent it over. They said that it was some of the aura released from Li Cangzhou when he died.”

The young eunuch thought about it, “Your Majesty, you cannot easily believe it.”

The king narrowed his eyes, “I can choose not to believe it, but it is not possible to create a fake aura of that clan...things are getting interesting.”

Though he used the word interesting, his tone was filled with menace!

As he thought of the Li Family from Parasol County and the Li Family from the Desolate Divine Area...and even the Nine-tailed Fox that appeared in the capital, he felt as if there was something amiss.

Whether it was that clan or the Li Family, he was not able to deal with them now. The only one he could deal with was that Nine-tailed Fox!

Taking a deep breath, the king said, “Li Zhouqing, I will give you three days. You have to find the Nine-tailed Fox.”

It had been many years since the young eunuch was called by his real name. He paused and frowned slightly as pain flashed through his eyes. He soon looked calm as he bowed, “Yes Your Majesty.”

.....

The Li Family from Parasol County stayed in their territory for many years. Hardly anyone left. But in the capital, there was a place that was as fancy as the residences for princes and dukes. When Li Zicheng arrived in the capital, he stayed in one of these residences that had been left empty for many years. The residence was immediately filled with life.

Although none of the important court ministers outrightly expressed their relationship with him, he had many guests arrive to give him gifts. The number of guests was surprising to say the least.

After all, it was the 'Li' in the Li Family, that had more power than the country. The Zhou Dynasty had been ongoing for several years and both parties were still completely fine. This meant a lot and there were several that were starting to hedge their bets. It was not that they were looking to gain something immediately. They just wanted to form a relationship such that it would be easier in the future.

"Young Ancestors, that woman from Marquis Chongwu's Mansion is despicable! I will send a message to Parasol County right now and ask the two other clan members to come over. We will make her pay!"

Li Zicheng said murderously in a low voice.

Li Ge was expressionless. Ever since he left Marquis Chongwu's residence, he had been frowning as if he was thinking about something.

Li Ruhua smiled slightly as she waved, "There is no need to go through that trouble. That woman is not easy to deal with. Let's just not get in her way...we can let the West Desolate deal with her."

Li Zicheng bowed, "Young Ancestors, you are magnanimous." He spoke a few more sentences before taking his leave. After leaving the place where the two ancestors were, he looked calm.

Not only was he someone who had lived for many years, he was from the Li Family in Parasol County. He was also a peak Ruler and was just a few steps away from the King realm. He was smart and would not make such a big fuss over something so small. The reason why he did that was to show his stance to the two young people from his family.

As for that woman in Marquis Chongwu's Mansion...she was hard to decipher! It would be best if they did not have to deal with her.

Li Ge looked in the direction that Li Zicheng left in, "Old man. If we really wanted to take action, he would be the first one to back away."

Li Ruhua was still smiling as she looked over, but there was a seriousness in her gaze, "On the other hand, you don't seem right. Why are you so bothered by that one statement?"

Li Ge frowned as he looked solemn, "I am fine."

Li Ruhua nodded, "That is good. Rest well."

Li Ge stood up to leave.

Looking at his back, Li Ruhua did not relax. She lowered her head and stretched out her fingers. She looked at the red dot in the middle of her palm.

"Go and investigate that woman from Marquis Chongwu's residence. I want to know everything about her."

As he returned to his residence, the sound of a sword rang out. Sword intent flowed outwards like water, encompassing the entire residence and separating it from the outside world. It was like a peaceful small world.

Li Ge sat down cross-legged. The long sword was placed across his legs. He looked down at the sword and Rourou's words rang through his mind – sword cultivator, ultimately, you have to cultivate yourself. There is no future in relying on external help.

He had studied the sword since he was young and was naturally talented. The clan had outrightly accepted him as the Sword Immortal embryo and he had a bright future ahead. All this while, he had been focused on the thought that his sword was his life and sword cultivation was the most important thing to him.

He had to find a sword that matched with him perfectly in order to be unified with the sword and continue on the sword path. However, today someone told him that counting on external help was not the way – this was completely contradictory to what Li Ge had always believed in.

Li Ge had been born with a silver spoon and his cultivation journey had been smooth. He had never suffered many setbacks and has always been firm on his sword cultivation beliefs. He had never been shaken by what someone else said.

But that woman...the image of Rourou sitting and looking down at him condescendingly appeared in his mind. What she said...felt like...there was no reason. Yet this thought grew stronger and stronger in his mind.

Li Ge groaned as he paled. The sword on his legs started to vibrate by itself.

Humm –

He suddenly looked up. The long sword unsheathed and fell. It moved extremely fast and small cracks could be seen in the space where it had cut.

“Come out!”

A ball of white flashed from behind his bed. A mist formed and turned into a lady. Looking at her, Li Ge frowned slightly as he pointed his sword out, “Nine-tailed Fox!”

“Greetings Li Ge, Sword Immortal from the Central Desolate Divine Area. I am Su Yan from the Fox Clan.” She greeted pleasantly and respectfully.

Li Ge was emotionless, “What are you doing here?”

Nine-tailed Fox Su Yan spoke softly, “I almost completed the calamity to break through my realm in West Desolate. However, I was distracted and caused my original form to appear. I have caused some trouble and the West Desolate is now looking for me. I have approached you hoping that you will be able to save me. I will serve you in order to repay you.”

“Repay?” Li Ge was expressionless, “What gives you the right?”

Su Yan looked up, “The realm of a Nine-tailed Fox is many times more versatile than a demon.” As she spoke, her appearance changed multiple times. Her expression was icy and she looked aggressive.

“Li Ge, do you want to die?”

Li Ge fell silent for a while before he growled, “Come over!”

Chapter 1586 – Lunatic

Li Ruhua gave an order for all information about that woman from Marquis Chongwu's Mansion to be found out. But before she ordered this, someone else had already done it.

The West Desolate's Intelligence Agency has been operating for a long time and had long since been able to find out all the things that were happening. They even had spies in the isolated residence of the Demon Clan.

Very soon, all the information regarding Rourou was assembled, sorted, and screened before being sent to the palace secretly.

"I can allow General Jinwu to have secrets, but these secrets must be within a controllable range." The king was indifferent as he placed the messaging jade down. His expression was neutral but a firm determination filled his eyes.

Lord Chengtian bowed, "Your Majesty, there is nothing amiss from the information...it is just that we still do not know about the lady's birth origins."

The king replied, "Then continue investigating. There shall be no secrets in the West Desolate that I do not know of."

"Yes Your Majesty." Lord Chengtian bowed. Without waiting for any reply, he turned to leave.

As he thought of Hundred Saint, who was now following Marquis Chongwu, he could not help but frown and look worried. Although His Majesty now looked highly upon Marquis Chongwu, from his actions, it was clear that he had concerns and did not fully trust Marquis Chongwu.

Lord Chengtian had always known that the king was someone who was suspicious. However, when it came to Marquis Chongwu, his suspicions seemed to be greater. He felt that there was something that no one knew...but this did not stop Lord Chengtian from making an assumption – His Majesty did not feel close to Marquis Chongwu!

Until the Boundary Breaking Seal was set up, perhaps the king would favor him greatly. But once it was done, Marquis Chongwu Ning Qin would definitely be in trouble!

It seemed like he had made a rash decision to allow Hundred Saint to get close to Marquis Chongwu back then...but His Majesty also did not stop it even though he knew all this. If something happens to Marquis Chongwu one day, Hundred Saint may be implicated because of their close ties. How could he stay out of it?

As he thought of this, Lord Chengtian took a deep breath as he felt a coldness fill his heart. As he walked on the long path leading away from the palace, his footsteps grew heavier and heavier.

In the study room, the king was expressionless. After staying silent for a while, he waved his sleeve and isolated himself in a small world away from the outside world.

Not only because of the king's own cultivation, but the continuously changing aura field in the palace would prevent even someone of the King realm from detecting it.

He turned, sat, and did not move. The air in front of him shook and fragments of darkness and deathly silence appeared. Just looking at it made one feel fearful!

The king frowned and his finger twitched. A light instantly appeared in the darkness. The extinguished torch on the wall lit up once again.

Though the light could brighten up the darkness, it was not able to cause the coldness to dissipate. A figure in chains was lit up by the light and he slowly opened his eyes. His eyes were completely red, like two blood abysses.

The corners of his mouth pulled up. The long hair that was let down hung over the sides of his face and exposed half of his handsome and white face. "Your Majesty, my dear beloved father, you are here again. It seems like you listened to what I said."

"Hmph!"

The king snorted and the chains holding the figure suddenly shone and a horrifying lightning energy passed from the chains into the figure.

The figure twisted and cried out miserably. Under the effects of the lightning, the figure's long hair turned to ashes and a familiar face could be seen.

Li Quanji, the third prince. Of course, according to the agreement with the ancestors, his actual full name should be Li Zhou Quanji. But his name was too long and before he came of age, the king set out a decree to remove the 'Zhou'.

But this did not mean that the king did not like the third prince. On the contrary, he had always been pleased with the third prince. Whether it was his quality, his mindset or his actions, he had always been the ideal successor to the king's position should the king be forced to abdicate.

He had had high hopes for this son of his.

But now, he had turned into this thing that was neither a human nor a ghost. Even he himself did not know who he was. He had turned into a complete lunatic.

As the lightning subsided, Li Quanji was panting heavily. Yet, he was still smiling and laughing. He was laughing so hard, he was out of breath.

"Your Majesty, if you don't want to see me, you don't have to come. As long as you lock the stone door, I will never be able to leave and no one will ever know anything. Your reputation will not be damaged."

"Shut up!" The king growled. He leaned forwards slightly as he stared into the red eyes, "Let me ask you one more time regarding General Jinwu Ning Qin..."

Before he could finish his sentence, he was cut off by laughter. Li Quanji had a strange look as his lips turned up in a mocking smile, "Your Majesty, actually you know best. Since you are here and willing to waste time with a criminal like me, it shows what you are feeling.

"You are the king of the West Desolate, one of the most powerful people in this world. Why can't you face what you are feeling inside and stop giving yourself excuses?"

He tore the king's hypocritical cover away.

The king's eyes were icy and the lightning appeared once more. It entered Li Quanji body through the chains, causing him to cry out as his entire body was covered in lightning strikes.

The air shook once more and the king's illusion disappeared. The suffering figure stilled and fell silent.

Li Quanji looked up and there was a weird smile on his twisted face. He then swallowed hard. All the intense lightning energy crackled and with a groan, he swallowed all the energy.

The place fell silent once more and Li Quanji looked at the torch that was still burning on the wall. The flame grew smaller and dimmer before it extinguished with a 'pfft'.

This place fell into darkness once again. The coldness grew more and more intense.

.....

Li Ge pushed open the door and walked out. He looked calm and his aura was stable. There were no signs of his wavering from the previous day. Taking a deep breath, he drew his long sword and lifted it to the heavens. He confronted the nine suns in the distance.

This was an extremely profound refining method. It did not look like anything, but he was constantly cultivating his sword mind in the process. He was also continuously improving the quality of the sword he was holding.

On the roof, Li Ruhua spoke softly, "It seems like you had a good rest last night."

As she spoke, she looked at the window of Li Ge's room. She could vaguely make out a woman looking at herself in the mirror.

Li Ge said blandly, "Don't worry about what is in the room."

"I can ignore it, but you had better cover up her aura. The West Desolate is currently on a search and the woman in your room better not cause any trouble."

The room's door was pushed open and Nine-tailed Fox Su Yan walked out. She looked composed as she greeted respectfully, "Lady, please do not worry. I offered myself to ask for help in hiding. Once I leave the capital, I will not bother you."

She said it blatantly and outrightly. Li Ruhua looked over, "That better be the case."

She turned to hop off the roof and disappeared.

Su Yan frowned slightly as she stepped forwards, "Lord, sorry to trouble you."

"It is okay." Li Ge put his sword away and looked at Nine-tailed Fox, "But you must remember that Li Ruhua is higher ranked than me in the clan. You had better not clash with her."

Su Yan lowered her head and bowed, "Yes."

"Go back, don't move around freely. When I leave the capital, I will bring you out of this cage."

.....

Min Residence.

Lord Min Changjing was having breakfast. He was eating a steamed meat bun at the place where he has always frequented.

As he was enjoying his food, the corners of his mouth pulled up in a mocking look.

All these demons really liked to die. Of all things, she had to take on an appearance to seduce others.

Tsk tsk, they said that the Fox Clan was smart. But to him, they all seemed like a bunch of fools that thought they were smart.

The owner of the restaurant smiled at him warmly and honestly, he stepped forward to refill his tea, "Lord, there were some changes to the recipe of the bun and there is now a hint of spiciness to it. What do you think?"

Lord Min raised his thumb, "Not bad. It tastes pretty good."

The store owner smiled a brilliant smile. He was not good at speaking and did not know how to reply. He wiped his hands on his apron and seemed to hesitate.

As a longtime neighbor, he immediately laughed and teased, "Store owner, are you thinking of offering your daughter to me as a concubine? Tsk tsk, although my body still looks good, I am really very old and may not be useful. I cannot ruin the girl's future. If you really want to, my lad at home is not bad. How about that?"

The restaurant store owner smiled and waved his hand, "No no...mmhm, of course if you are willing, I would definitely be happy. As for your son, my girl is coarse, she is no match for him."

A guest teased, "You are usually bad with words but how come you suddenly seem so good at talking when you reject!"

Everyone burst out laughing and the owner's daughter, who was helping out at the store, immediately blushed like red paper.

Lord Min joked with them for a bit. Although there was nothing to gain from this, the feeling was easy and relaxed. This was what life should be like.

He waved his hand and threw them a look seeming to say that it was enough. He looked at the store owner, "What are you standing and staring for? Go do your things."

The store owner understood and breathed a sigh of relief internally. He smiled and turned to return to his work.

That day, he had actually entered the residence. The housekeeper and him were friends so it was no big deal to use the washroom.

But the lord did not need him and the store owner felt slightly indignant. He thought that the fox deserved to die for being so rude.

He was old and did not have many years to live. He had always wanted to repay the lord for his kindness before he died. If not, he would not be able to leave in peace.

Since the lord did not need him to do anything now, he would wait.

Chapter 1587 – Demon Destruction Flame

Later Ye Family.

Due to the storm in the capital, the Imperial Border Armies in the east, north and south all stopped sending urgent military reports as no one wanted to suffer the rage of the king.

Moreover, there was Marquis Chongwu Ning Qin, who was bound to rise to power.

Ye Gui entered Bohu Hall once more. He bowed respectfully to Ye Bohu before turning to sit on his own seat. He did not say anything.

Since the marshal called on him, there must be something for him to do. He just had to wait.

Ye Bohu looked at him appreciatively. He murmured, "Ye Gui, you are the smartest one in this generation of our Later Ye Family. If you want, I can give you a chance to choose."

He paused, "I can even let you take over the position of head of the family in the future...but this is not a promise. I can only promise to give you a chance."

This itself was already a huge sign of respect and recognition. Those who knew Ye Bohu would know that this was the highest level of recognition he could give to anyone.

Ye Gui looked calm. He did not say anything as he shook his head.

Ye Bohu maintained a neutral expression. He did not let any disappointment show and also did not attempt to persuade him. He knocked his knuckles on the table, "Since this is your decision, I am going to use you as a dead chess piece."

Ye Gui put his hands together, "Marshal, please give me the orders!"

"The Li Family from Parasol County is bound to have a dispute with Marquis Chongwu Ning Qin...I want you to move on your own." Ye Bohu looked at him and his voice turned colder, "Remember that we have already come to an agreement with His Majesty. We cannot do anything in the capital. So no matter what, this cannot be linked back to us."

"Marshal, don't worry." Ye Gui stood up and walked up the hall. He kneeled down, "Farewell Marshal!"

He kowtowed, stood up and left.

There was a soft sigh in Bohu Hall as emotions were suppressed. Ye Gui has always wanted to die. He lived just for today.

He was getting what he asked for!

There was a grave look in Ye Bohu's eyes. He also wanted to know what kind of secret that lady from the Demon Clan had? His Majesty has always been someone highly suspicious. Yet, he could only stand by the side and watch. He was not afraid that the chess piece in his hand would die by her hands.

Although the king was a suspicious person, he was very talented and was the leader of the world. Anyone who passed his test would gain his trust for a period of time.

They could be tested again in the future and if they passed, they would gain even more of his trust. If not, they would be reduced to nothing...like that fool Chen Yuanshen from Seascap City.

So Ye Bohu could not understand why the king kept testing General Jinwu Ning Qin. There must be something going on.

This made Ye Bohu feel slightly strange. The Later Ye Family was now thinking only about killing people. Even if he did not die now, he was bound to die later.

It was a pity that time waited for no man and the Later Ye Family could not wait.

.....

Though the West Desolate was made up of 108 main cities and it looked to be easy to get from one city to another, it was not easy to move around.

Having a solid background was one of the most important things. People who had unknown backgrounds would not have a chance to step into the cities' Teleportation Portals. They were very strict on this.

That was why when Iron Wire entered the West Desolate previously, he had to borrow clothes and pretend to be Li Cangzhou. That unlucky bastard.

He was truly unlucky. Initially, Iron Wire had all sorts of ways to enter the capital. However, because of the assassination attempt against Marquis Chongwu, they were extremely strict at the border's Teleportation Portals. He did not dare to delay as he was under orders from Lord Great Shaman. He also coincidentally heard that someone from Parasol County's Li Family was at the Moon Brothel. So he thought that things would be easy.

The reputation of the Li Family from Parasol County was easy to use and it made entering the capital straightforward. As for killing someone from the Li Family, there would definitely be trouble...but this was not something that Iron Wire was scared of as he changed identities as easily as he changed clothes.

Moreover, Lord Great Shaman had helped him to cover his tracks. But it was only now when he tried to re-enter the West Desolate that Iron Wire realize what a huge mistake he had made...no wonder Lord Great Shaman said that if anything happened, he would personally kill him to apologize.

Iron Wire was pale and sweating buckets as he borrowed this identity. It was a disaster. Now, he really believed what Lord Great Shaman said.

He wanted to cry but there were no tears!

Iron Wire looked up at the figure in front of him as he cried miserably, "Lord, I did not do it on purpose. You have to save me!"

Only the eyes of the person, covered in a white robe, could be seen. They looked extremely calm and emotionless, "If he can save me, then there will not be an issue. If not...if the Li Family does not die, he will die in my hands."

Two days later, Iron Wire borrowed another set of clothes as he brought the strange-looking lord with him. They successfully stepped into the Teleportation Portal.

Coincidentally, it was Seascap City again.

"I always feel like this place clashes with my elements. I wonder if anything will happen..." Muttering to himself, the Teleportation Portal lit up and the two figures disappeared.

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Marquis Chongwu's Mansion.

Rourou opened her eyes. Her eyes were calm – finally, it was here! She took a step and disappeared. When she appeared once more, she was near the border.

It was extremely peculiar that this kind of long range teleportation could remain undetected by the West Desolate capital's array.

Rourou stood on the path heading towards the capital. Everyone rushed past her but did not seem to see her. Even if they bumped into her, they merely passed through her.

It was as if they were in the same place but in two different worlds.

Rourou was expressionless as she looked down and played with her fingernails, "Come out. You have already looked for a while. Tell me what you found out."

In front of her, the air seemed to vibrate and two figures appeared. Iron Wire's face was pale and he looked bitter. It felt as if his mouth owed a lot of favors.

Why did he do this?!

Rushing forwards, he fell to a kneel, "My Lady, please have mercy!"

You should know that this is not my idea. I would not dare to do something like this. Yes, it is the person behind me. She said that she must have a look. No matter how much I disagreed, I cannot object.

He was crying and begging internally but did not say more.

It was because both the people in front and behind him were so close to killing him. One with a death glare and another with a sword...he could not offend either of them!

Rourou looked at him before looking at the person in the white robe. There was an appreciative look in her eyes, "Your sword cultivation is not bad. I have a sword technique, do you want to try it?"

There was a moment of silence under the white robe, "Okay."

Rourou snapped her fingers. The air shook and the three of them disappeared.

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Another two days passed. Lord Min was in a room, hugging his concubine and kissing her. All of a sudden, his eyes flashed. He sighed and patted her, "Get off, I have something to do."

His concubine nodded obediently but there were some grievances in her eyes.

Lord Min pinched her cheeks, "Hey hey, I have no choice. I have to deal with this in order to continue living a peaceful life."

He stood up and left the concubine's room. Lord Min walked all the way to Min Xiangtai's residence. On the way over, he came across a few female servants and merely said a few flirtatious sentences to them, clearly not in the mood.

The servants in the residence were all used to the lord's personality and did not react much. Most of them threw back flirtatious looks at him. This made Lord Min sigh as he realized how these ladies were getting more bold.

It was only because he was getting old and had to take care of his body. If he were younger, he would have carried all of them to bed and taught them what earth-shattering meant!

Shi Shu and Shi Qi had just recovered from a bout of illness and had been sent home. The Lord had given them a huge sum of money and everyone in the residence envied them. So now, there was no one in the study room.

Lord Min walked to the bookshelf and reached out for the Heaven Concealment Book. As he looked at how worn it appeared, he seemed annoyed.

"There is no way to escape a calamity brought upon oneself.

"Stupid fox. You asked for it. You cannot blame me."

He walked to the stove that was used to heat up the teapot. He reached out for a lighter and blew on it. Very soon, a fire sparked.

Looking at the Heaven Concealment Book in his hands, Lord Min was expressionless as he threw it into the stove.

Hoo –

The flames burned and reached up, engulfing the Heaven Concealment Book and burning it to ashes.

There was regret in Lord Min's eyes, "I killed a nine-tailed fox and lost a treasure from the Demon Clan. I will consider it the price to pay for breaking an oath. So this thing has nothing to do with me from now on. There had better not be karma."

He muttered to himself, putting an end to this situation. With this, he cut off the effect of karma.

Mysterious. The future was unpredictable!

Very soon, the contented look on Lord Min's face turned to bitterness as he cut himself off from this thing.

But it was obvious that the person in Marquis Chongwu's Mansion would not forget him. As long as this person was still around, there was no way for him to pull away from this.

Hopefully, that lady could be trusted. If not, there was going to be trouble!

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The Li Residence in the capital.

In Li Ge's room, Su Yan was sitting at the table and reading a book. All of a sudden, her expression changed.

Without any warning, an intense fear came over her. Her instinct made her feel as if a calamity was about to happen – as if the sky was about to fall and the earth was about to cave in. Everything would collapse and she would not be spared.

“Li Ge, save me!”

Her cries were interrupted by the flames surging up into the air and engulfing Su Yan. But what was strange was that the flames resembled a shadow and did not seem to affect the temperature. Even the books right beside the flame did not seem affected by it.

However, it was ultimately not just a shadow. Or at least to the demon fox Su Yan, its power surpassed any other flame in this world.

This flame came from the Heaven Concealment Book. At the cost of self-destruction, it produced the Demon Destruction Flame. When the book remained perfectly intact, it was a sacred object of the Demon Clan and was able to help any demon in the world cover their aura.

But if the book was destroyed, it could create a flame that would kill any major demon in this world and make them disappear.

This was the origin of the Demon Destruction Flame.

In the flame, an elegant-looking fairy wearing a white gown was burned into a pile of rotten flesh and looked extremely disgusting.

Very soon, she could no longer hold up her human figure and her original nine-tailed fox appearance came out. As it scrambled in the flame, it caused Li Ge's residence to shake and get destroyed.

The Demon Destruction Flame was like a bone-eating maggot. Once one was infected, it would not stop until death. It did not matter that the nine-tailed fox transformed to her original form that was a hundred times bigger than when she was in human form. The flame still burned her and there was no way for her to escape.

Miserable cries could be heard. The body of the nine-tailed fox was extremely huge as it burned and a lot of attention was on her in an instant. For example, from the Imperial Defence Division that had been under pressure due to the numerous incidents in the capital.

Additionally, there was also the young eunuch from the palace that the king had ordered to search for the nine-tailed fox. He walked out of the shadows and looked up at the Li Family's residence. There was a serious look in his eyes as he thought about how the nine-tailed fox was suddenly exposed and was getting killed by the Demon Destruction Flame.

The nine-tailed fox was actually hiding in the Li Family. Could the king's assumption be right? But this was all too coincidental. Moreover, where did the Demon Destruction Flame come from?

The Li Family? It was highly unlikely that they would sacrifice something as precious as a sacred object of the Demon Clan over the West Desolate's matters.

After all, this was something rare even in the Desolate Divine Area. Everyone would want to have it and attempt to do a trade.

That means that someone had intended to kill the nine-tailed fox and expose her...there was a huge price to pay for this and there must be a scheme behind it!

It did not seem like it was just to target Parasol County. Could their target be the Li Family from the Central Desolate?

Chapter 1588 – Great Vortex Array

A feeling came over the young eunuch and he turned. He immediately bowed respectfully, “Your Majesty.”

The West Desolate King had a neutral expression but there was a hint of a sneer pulling at the corners of his mouth, “I never expected the capital to be so lively. Stay hidden and watch this with me.”

His eyes were cold as he looked at the Li Residence. In there, the nine-tailed fox was crying out painfully as she was getting burned by the Demon Destruction Flame.

“Yes Your Majesty.” The young eunuch stepped back and hid in the shadows. He looked at the king’s silhouette and could sense the sinister aura emitting from him.

His Majesty was extremely angry and an explanation was needed for what happened today. The nine-tailed fox, the Li Family, the person who created the Demon Destruction Flame...none of them could escape unscathed!

The Imperial Defence Division acted fast to prevent themselves from losing face. They quickly surrounded the Li Residence and blocked anyone from entering or leaving.

The main door of the residence was opened and Li Zicheng stepped out. He said in a low voice, “I will give His Majesty an explanation. None of you shall enter.”

With some hesitation, the group suddenly split into two and Lord Chengtian stepped forwards. He was expressionless, “Ancestor Li, this is the capital.”

The atmosphere was tense outside the residence. Within the flame, the nine-tailed fox could feel her death about to arrive. Her white fur had been burnt and started to fall off in sections. Her rotting flesh was exposed and her cries sounded even more miserable.

“Li Ge! Li Ge! Save me. You promised to bring me out of the West Desolate capital!” Nearby, Li Ge stood up with his sword in hand. His eyebrows raised before returning to being neutral.

Li Ruhua was expressionless but her eyes were cold, “I reminded you not to create trouble.”

Li Ge said slowly, “The nine-tailed fox will die from the Demon Destruction Flame. The West Desolate knows who we are and will not apply too much pressure. At most, the Li Family from Parasol County will pay a bit and the issue will pass.”

Li Ruhua glanced at him, “That better be the case.” But now, the red spot on her hand kept becoming hotter and hotter. This made her uneasy.

She knew of the existence of the Heaven Concealment Book. If the other person had paid such a huge price, how could they let this pass so easily? She was afraid that the situation today had been directed at the two of them.

Li Ruhua's face fell even more as she thought of something.

At this moment, the nine-tailed fox's eyes filled with resentment as she realized that Li Ge did not plan to help her. If the Li Family from the Central Desolate did something, she would have a chance to survive. If not, she would definitely die!

"Li Ge!"

The nine-tailed fox cried out. She did not understand how that thing had suddenly become hostile and attacked her, but this was not important. If she did not want to die, the only way was to drag more people into the mud with her. They would either die with her or save her.

Everyone knew that the Fox Clan used passion and their love as opportunities. But other than that, if those from the Fox Clan truly loved someone, they would form a connection in their hearts. This was called Heart Connection.

This connection consumed a lot from the fox demon, and the higher the realm, the greater the loss they had to suffer. So Li Ge never thought that nine-tailed fox Su Yan would have secretly formed a Heart Connection on their first night without caring about how much she had to pay.

As they say, couples are united...this could be seen as a gift from a demon fox to the person they liked. It was great for one's cultivation and that was how Li Ge's unstable sword intention was stabilized after a single night. But if that love grew into hatred, they would still be bound together and would have to live and die together.

Hoo –

An invisible flame suddenly appeared and engulfed Li Ge. His head shot up and his eyes filled with anger.

Woosh –

He drew his sword. A majestic sword intent was emitted from him and it covered his body. It temporarily separated him from the Demon Destruction Flame. However, he was visibly turning pale and beads of sweat started to appear on his forehead.

Li Ge could temporarily stop the effects of the Demon Destruction Flame with his sword. However, he could not cut off the pain that was coming from the nine-tailed fox. This pain was not in his physical body but directly impacted his soul.

"Heart Connection!"

Li Ruhua's expression changed as she looked at Li Ge. Her stunned expression slowly gave way to disappointment. The future Sword Immortal of the Li Family, the one that was said to have extraordinary aptitude, amounted only to this? He had been set up by a demon fox without even knowing.

It was laughable!

However, she could not just watch Li Ge perish. Because even if there was a reasonable explanation, it would not be viewed well by her clan.

To become a high ranking person in her clan, protecting a useless clan member was the first important test.

The nine-tailed fox was tossing and turning in pain. Her nine tails had been burnt till her flesh was mangled. Her huge tails were violently sweeping the area causing vibrations. In a blink of an eye, the luxurious residence was getting destroyed.

Numerous short pieces of wood and broken stones, containing a terrifying energy, were getting thrown in all directions.

The Fox Clan was astute. They were not as stupid as Lord Min made them out to be.

Otherwise, nine-tailed fox Su Yan would not have damaged her cultivation to create the Heart Connection when she first got the chance. Now, what she needed to do was to create a bigger scene and disrupt the West Desolate's Imperial Clan Array. If she died, Li Ge would also die. She was forcing the Central Desolate Li Family to take action to save them.

Boom boom –

There was a loud rumble from the sky and a Great Vortex Array appeared. It stretched for over a hundred miles and covered the entire Li Family residence.

This was the array of the West Desolate Capital's Nation Fate and it could defend even against a King realm Nether Vortex. It was a horrifying array. It stretched over a huge area and even reached the borders.

What was shown today was just a small portion of the entire array's power. It was not even ten percent of it. But even so, the energy emitted from this vortex caused the space time around the Li Family residence to freeze.

Li Zicheng took a deep breath as he flew into the air and looked at the vortex, "I am from the Li Family of Parasol County. Who dares to be so brazen!"

Lord Chengtian was expressionless, "Ancestor Li, it was your family that first broke the agreement between the Imperial Clan and your ancestors. Move away...otherwise I will activate the power of the Great Vortex Array. On the basis that there is a threat to the capital, I will kill you along with everyone else!"

Li Zicheng was furious. His peak Ruler cultivation burst out from his body and a Heaven Reaching Ancient Parasol Wood Illusion appeared from above his head. It in itself was already extremely powerful and shocking. However, the shock increased even more.

Lord Chengtian narrowed his eyes, looking extremely cold and sinister. He did not hear any orders from His Majesty to stop. If he made a move against Ancestor Li, it would bring about a lot of trouble. But as the king's close confidante, he had no choice.

Even though he knew that this would bring endless misfortunes, he could only bite the bullet and go ahead. He could not show any hesitation or resistance.

When His Majesty watched, he looked at the details.

If not, even if he killed Ancestor Li today, in His Majesty's heart, he would not have made any achievements. He would even be alienated, disregarded, and eventually abandoned. He would at most be a replaceable chess piece.

Taking a deep breath, Lord Chengtian raised his hand. A token appeared in his palm.

The token was about as big as his palm. On it, there was a carving of the vortex. It looked extremely lifelike, as if it was turning constantly.

Boom boom boom –

When the token appeared, the vortex above the Li Family's residence started to expand furiously and it grew even larger in a blink of an eye. The center of it grew even darker, like a mouth about to swallow everything.

Li Zicheng paled and horror filled his eyes.

Firstly, it was because the Great Vortex Array from the West Desolate capital was a lot stronger than he had imagined. Secondly...the West Desolate actually harbored intentions to kill him!

With the current situation, it would be impossible for him to stop even if he wanted to!

"Li Zicheng, come back." A calm voice could be heard. As he saw Li Ruhua fly into the air, Li Zicheng felt relieved. He thanked his lucky stars before flying behind her and lowering his head.

At this moment, everyone's attention was on Li Ruhua. They looked stunned as they saw her pretty and elegant face.

Li Ruhua glanced at Lord Chengtian, whose expression did not change and was as cold as stone. She looked up at the Great Vortex Array, "Greetings Your Majesty. I am from the Central Desolate's Li Family. I am Li Ruhua, from the third generation of the Li Family."

There was a moment of silence before the king's calm voice sounded from the vortex, "The Central Desolate Li Family's prestige spreads far and wide. I have always admired your family and never thought that I would see you today."

Li Ruhua greeted, "Your Majesty is too polite. We do not have any ill intentions towards the West Desolate for our trip here. Please help me to save my clan member."

There was silence from the vortex. It seemed as if the king was not pleased with her explanation.

Li Ruhua took a deep breath, "I will give you an explanation and...the Li Family will owe the West Desolate a favor."

"Okay."

The king's voice could be heard from the vortex. In the next moment, a majestic aura formed.

Woosh –

Like a bolt of lightning, it cut through the air and into the body of the nine-tailed fox burning from the Demon Destruction Flame.

“Ahhh!”

She cried out and the huge demon body split into two. Her eyes turned bleak as she lost her life.

Boom boom boom –

As the demon’s body fell, it destroyed half of the residence.

Even with Li Ruhua’s cultivation realm, she could barely catch a glimpse of the light illusion...with a single sword, it suppressed the Nation Fate and was cleansed by incense power. This was the true divine tool of the West Desolate!

This was the only reason why the sword was able to kill the nine-tailed fox and cut the Heart Connection, saving Li Ge.

But this only saved his life.

Pfft –

Li Ge was shaking and he spat out a mouthful of blood. Blood flowed out from his eyes, ears, mouth, and nose. The long sword in his hand was broken into two. The cut was extremely clean and resembled the cut that split the nine-tailed fox.

The person was saved but the sword was destroyed...the sword of the sword cultivator was broken to save his life. But from another perspective, this was also equivalent to death.

Li Zicheng paled and shock filled his eyes. He never expected that even after the two young ancestors revealed their identity, the West Desolate King would still hit so hard.

“The fox demon is dead and Li Ge survives. I kept my word. Now, I will wait for your explanation.” From above, the immensely huge vortex slowly disappeared.

Chapter 1589 – Incense Feedback

Imperial Palace, Hall of Longevity.

The king looked gloomy. He took a step forward and disappeared.

In the next moment, he appeared in the Imperial Palace’s internal warehouse. There were hints of fierceness lingering in the air.

Like a sword that could cut through anything, his appearance cut all the lingering aura to pieces.

Four Old Four Claws were sitting cross-legged. Their faces were pale and numerous scars covered their bodies.

At this moment, they opened their eyes and struggled to stand up and greet, “Your Majesty.”

The king waved his hand, “Focus on healing.”

He took a few steps forward and his gaze fell into an area deep in the storeroom. The broken lotus. It had only a few green lotus leaves remaining.

A sword gash could be seen in the internal warehouse and it was sealed in the space. It was less than thirty centimeters away from the lotus. Looking at this sword gash, the king frowned and his eyes grew colder.

Despite all the hints that had been placed before him, he did not believe any. But this sword gash was the nail in the coffin...that clan. It was really that clan. The ones that lost their names and ended up with no country or home. The hated people.

This lotus in the warehouse was extremely precious. Although it was displayed openly, finding it was not as simple as it seemed.

How did they know about this?

One of the Old Four Claws spoke respectfully, "Your Majesty, the person who came merely did a single attack and committed suicide before the restrictions from the palace could be activated. We investigated the corpse but could not find anything out...what was left behind was just a shell, and the soul's location is unknown."

The king waved his sleeve and the lotus in the storeroom disappeared, "I know." Earlier on, he had been at the Great Vortex Array. He had noticed something was amiss at the warehouse and that was why he had made that move with his sword.

The Central Desolate Li Family was colluding with that clan. No matter how they were using each other or what kind of complications there were, this was an undeniable fact.

So that was why the king got rid of Li Ge with that one sword attack. Although he let Li Ge live, not having a sword cultivation was equivalent to death to a sword cultivator.

This was the coldest and most brutal warning that the king was giving the Central Desolate Li Family. But he still decided to wait it out and observe more.

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Min Residence.

Lord Min, who was watching the battle from afar, sneered. He knew that things would not end so easily like this. That lady had indeed not forgotten him. Since it had been asked...he did not dare to reject.

Not only because he had personally experienced the horrifying aura from the lady.

More than that, it was because Lord Min found out something astonishing from all this – that lady had already found out about his backing. If not, she would not have asked him to do this.

"Difficult. Very difficult!"

Lord Min sighed and closed his eyes. When he opened them again, they flickered in a golden color. His pupils were constricted and looked extremely icy. He was able to see through space and looked into the Li Residence, which had been turned to ruins.

The nine-tailed fox corpse was cut into two and completely devoid of any aura. It had turned into a real corpse with nothing left behind.

Two white-colored balls of demon energy slowly formed in the air. Lord Min waved his sleeve and the two white balls vibrated before disappearing.

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Marquis Chongwu Mansion.

Rourou nodded in satisfaction. Everything had been done pretty well.

Although there were some ends left behind, it was settled. Unless that old man wanted to die, he should know what to say.

After so long, it was probably time to let Qin Yu break through.

At this moment, the capital's Great Vortex Array had been activated and the Nation Subduing Sword had been used. After the tsunami, the surface of the sea was still turbulent.

The aura had not been stabilized and this was the best time to use it!

Woosh –

Rourou crossed through space and appeared in the closed-door meditation room. She looked at Qin Yu, who was extremely red and bloated. His blood vessels looked like they were about to explode. Her mouth twisted, and then she looked calm.

“No pain, no gain...this is a very cliché saying that seems to be appropriate for us. But this is the truth. Qin Yu, you will soon find out that if I had given you a chance to choose, you would have come crying to me to let you redo everything.”

She did not know whether she said so much to convince Qin Yu or to set her own mind at ease.

Rourou lifted her hand and touched Qin Yu's forehead, “The chance is now. How much you gain will depend on yourself.”

“Ah!”

A thunderous shout could be heard from Qin Yu and the entire closed-door meditation room shook. The aura that had been sealed and suppressed suddenly flowed out like a flooded river.

Qin Yu had been at the brink of breaking through but had been forcefully held back by Rourou. When Rourou released the seal, he completed the last steps and entered the Ruler realm.

A Ruler from the True God Path was not the same as others. At this moment, he could sense the interlaced rules that filled the earth.

It was like a huge web that contained all living things in the world.

Magnificent, vast, and infinite. In addition to making one feel awe...there was also a very apparent feeling of suppression. Like a stick in one's throat, one was reminded of its presence with every breath.

It was like with every breath, numerous tiny thorns scratched one's throat.

Rourou's eyes lit up and she stretched her hand out towards Qin Yu. 'A drop of clear water' flew out and the silhouette of the Incense Child within it was clear.

At this moment, he suddenly opened his eyes and bowed respectfully.

Rourou was expressionless as she reached out and tapped.

Pak –

With a soft sound, the water droplet broke. The Incense Child was free and its first instinct was to escape into the world.

However, this thought only lasted for a moment before it was pushed away.

Rourou spoke, "Smart. That's why you are still alive. Go. As long as you do your best, I will give you a chance to become a person in the future."

The Incense Child was delighted as it bowed repeatedly. It then turned and entered Qin Yu's forehead. It turned into a gold spot before disappearing.

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The Imperial Capital's Defense Division. Beneath the ground of the main general's residence, there was a huge underground palace.

The sword that had killed the nine-tailed fox and destroyed Li Ge's sword was in the underground palace.

The sword did not have a sheath and was like a feather suspended in mid-air. Yet it did not move.

But when the Incense Child entered Qin Yu's body, there was a buzzing sound and the sword vibrated.

In the underground palace, sword intent surged and the immense incense power that was gathered from all corners of the West Desolate started bubbling furiously.

However, no matter how one looked at the Nation Subduing Sword, nothing seemed amiss...it was as if the feeling from before had been a mistake.

The sword moved very slightly and eventually stilled once more. The frightening sword intent that filled the palace dissipated.

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It was only at this step that it was finally considered a success. Rourou breathed a sigh of relief. If there was a problem, she may not have been able to defeat that sword.

If a problem had happened, she may only have been able to drag Qin Yu, who would have lost several limbs, away and find a way to revive him after.

Hmm...of course, she may have failed as well. After all, although that sword's grade was somewhat low, as the item that collected incense power, it was still powerful.

Forget it. Since nothing happened, there was no need for her to think of these scenarios.

Rourou lifted her hand and two white balls appeared in her palm. They were like balls of mist. This was the demon energy from the nine-tailed fox that Lord Min had taken. It could be seen as a divine medicine, a perfect supplement. This was the flesh and bones of the living dead...tsk, this was not accurate. After all, this was the entire essence of a major demon!

Rourou subconsciously licked her lips. Gritting her teeth, she flicked them into Qin Yu's body.

"Lad, just to help you, I really put in a lot of effort. If you wake up and do not know how to be grateful, or if you turn into a dog, I will kill you."

Qin Yu, who had the Incense Child within him now and was in a half-awake state, seemed to be able to sense her and his mouth twitched.

.....

In the Imperial Palace, the king had just left the inner storeroom when he suddenly looked up. He looked east, towards an area in the palace. A picture formed in front of his eyes. Gold light dots rose and fell continuously.

In a part of the picture, there seemed to be an invisible attraction, attracting all the gold light dots. All the gold light dots moved towards it, forming a mini gold vortex.

The vortex did not seem big in the wider picture, but this picture represented the entire incense power in the West Desolate's capital.

Who was it?

The king touched it and the vortex started to spin even faster. Soon after, aura started to be released from it.

He looked surprised as he frowned.

Marquis Chongwu...Ning Qin!

Not long ago, he asked for a few treasures and then announced that he was going into seclusion. This meant that he must have succeeded in breaking through to the next realm.

Him...it was actually him...

From the amount of incense power, it was clear that he had gotten the recognition and approval of the Nation Fate.

Could it be that the king was wrong?

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The West Desolate was a huge country and a huge Divine Nation. The different levels in the country were all part of the Divine Nation.

In the world of cultivation, all cultivators were bound by rules and were willing to serve the Imperial Clan...it was because they had something to gain from doing so.

It was not just their official title that would prevent people from finding trouble with them. More importantly, they had the support of Nation Fate!

Or rather – it was Incense Gift.

As officials of the nation, they each held a seal. These were Incense Transit Stations. Although most of the incense power would eventually be transferred away, the cultivators holding them would be able to absorb a small amount and improve their cultivation.

It was not much. However, by accumulating over the years, it became a substantial amount.

More than that, when cultivators broke through to the next realm, if they were sufficiently loyal and gained the approval of Nation Fate, they would get Incense Feedback.

This was the case when Qin Yu broke through to the Ruler realm today. Of course, though the Incense Feedback was good, it would also depend on how much the cultivator is able to attract.

And even if they were able to attract the incense power, they may not be able to absorb it all. As it was said, how much one could eat depended on one's appetite.

So the two demon essence balls that Lord Min collected were useful here.

Chapter 1590 – Different Entry Levels

After the noise and activity, the people in the capital fell into shock. Attention from all the various residences was now focused on Marquis Chongwu Mansion.

As important court officials of the West Desolate, they were one with the nation. Although they were not able to directly see the golden incense power vortex, they could sense the incense power flowing into Marquis Chongwu Mansion...it was more than they could imagine!

No one expected that Marquis Chongwu Ning Qin, someone from the fragmented area, could be so loyal to the nation even though it had not been long since he entered the West Desolate.

But the incense power could not lie. What they were witnessing today was the best proof.

Other than shock, their eyes also filled with admiration. As loyal court ministers of the country, they had personally experienced the benefit of the incense power to their own cultivation.

Marquis Chongwu Ning Qin was undergoing a huge change. Although he had just broken through to the Ruler realm, his actual power would not be like that of normal early level Rulers.

Beyond these court ministers, even His Majesty looked solemn. He could not help but doubt his own assumption and he was uncertain.

Taking a deep breath, he was calm again. "Go to Min Residence. I have always stuck to the promise with the Imperial Clan and have never bothered Lord Min. But today, it was Lord Min who broke the rules first. I have to ask what is going on."

In the shadows, the young eunuch appeared. He bowed, "Yes Your Majesty."

He turned and disappeared.

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Li Family Residence.

Li Ge was unconscious. He was covered in blood and his aura was faint.

Although he was alive, he was basically handicapped after his sword cultivation was destroyed.

Li Zicheng withdrew her hand and stood up, "Second Lady, don't worry. I have already given Young Ancestor Li Ge the Nine Reversal Pill. His condition is stable."

Li Ruhua was expressionless, "Understood. You can leave."

Li Zicheng respectfully nodded and left.

As the door was shut, Li Ge opened his eyes. His eyes were bleak, "I won't go back."

Li Ruhua frowned, "When you return to the clan, with the elders' power, they may be able to help you fix your ruined sword cultivation."

Li Ge shook his head. This small action caused his wounds to hurt and he coughed violently. Blood spurted out of his mouth and nose and he looked extremely miserable. But in his eyes, he looked calm. Amidst the calmness, there was even a hint of ridicule.

"Second Lady, it is not like we don't know the clan elders' attitude. Why would you say this to comfort me? If it was just a normal injury, or even a serious one, the clan could just give some treasure to heal it. It would not be a big deal. But now, my sword cultivation was cut by the West Desolate King using the Nation Subduing Sword. The power of an incense item...at the minimum, it would require an elder to be willing to risk losing his own sword and dropping a realm to help me regain my sword cultivation."

Li Ge's eyes grew even more bleak, "Second Lady, do you think the clan would be willing to pay such a huge price to rescue me? Even if the clan is willing, which elder sword cultivator would be willing to sacrifice for me? Or my parents?"

He could no longer hide the ridicule in his eyes. He expressed it openly in front of Li Ruhua. This made Li Ruhua, who knew what he meant, fall silent.

"What do you want?"

"To leave the Li Family." Li Ge looked at her, "You should know very well that this is my only choice if I want to become a sword cultivator again. If not, I will just be treated as a disabled person when we return to the Central Desolate. I will be a disgrace to my family till the end of my life.

"This is not the path I want to take...so Second Lady, I am begging you to help me!"

Li Ruhua was silent before she looked at him and nodded, "Okay." She turned and left. Li Zicheng was frowning outside the room as he had obtained news from elsewhere.

"Second Lady, Marquis Chongwu has broken through. The situation has changed again!"

Li Ruhua frowned even more. Bad news was pouring in. It seemed like Li Cangzhou's death was truly a trap.

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Lord Min sighed and occasionally stole a glance in the direction of Marquis Chongwu Mansion. He felt his heart ache to the point that it was hard to breathe.

The essence of a nine-tailed fox. He had yet to even take a bite before he had to give it all away. Now, the more he looked, the more painful it was. He could only drink to numb himself.

But even if he was drinking to drown his sorrows, he did not feel good. Lord Min sighed as he threw the cup onto the ground. He lifted his hands to massage his head.

“Young lad. It has been many years. Since you are already here then enter.”

In a flower patch outside the house, a figure shifted and the young eunuch walked out. He bowed respectfully, “Greetings, Lord Min.”

Lord Min glanced at him and sighed, “According to our identities, I should call you uncle. There is no need to degrade yourself.”

The young eunuch remained neutral, “A disabled person is naturally a servant of the imperial family. The past is the past.”

Lord Min grunted, “As long as you believe it. You don’t have to tell me.” He knocked the table, “Why don’t you sit for a cup of tea?”

He did not seem to care that the table was in a mess.

The young eunuch bowed, “Thank you Lord Min but I am on His Majesty’s orders and do not dare to have a drink.” Looking at his expression, he seemed to be sincerely happy for the invitation but also regretful that he could not accept it.

As a special person in the palace, the young eunuch knew Lord Min better than others.

He knew clearly that being invited for a drink; disregarding how messy the table was, even a cup being thrown by his feet was a huge honor.

“Okay, if you are not willing to drink, then let’s get straight to it.” Lord Min looked at him, “Are you here because of the nine-tailed fox?”

The young eunuch bowed, “His Majesty wants to know why you would break the peace that had existed for more than a thousand years.”

Lord Min sneered. Of course it was because of the lady from Marquis Chongwu Mansion who was so scary that she made him despair.

But this remained only in his thoughts and he did not say it out loud. He wanted to live for a long time and treasured his life.

“Go back and tell the West Desolate King this. I made a move because I did not want to be dragged into the vortex. His Majesty should understand what I mean.”

The young eunuch bowed, "Yes. Thank you Lord Min. I will take my leave." He stepped into the shadows and disappeared.

Looking at the cup he threw out, Lord Min hesitated and picked it up. He poured himself a cup of wine and drank it in one go.

The stuffy feeling that he had slowly disappeared. What he said was the truth. As for how far the king wanted to take and think about his words, that was the king's problem. It had nothing to do with him.

Tsk tsk, I am so smart!

.....

The young eunuch relayed what Lord Min said. His Majesty was behind the beaded curtain above the Nine Layers. There was a cold look in his eyes.

Proof!

Alas, it was that clan colluding with the Central Desolate Li Family to use each other.

Thinking of the top secret messages sent from the Central Desolate Divine Area recently, the king seemed to have some understanding.

That clan was originally from the Central Desolate Divine Area and their ancestors had a close relationship with the Li Family.

It would not be difficult for them to join hands given their history.

That sword mark in the palace was that clan's true objective. Targeting Marquis Chongwu Ning Qin was just a distraction.

And the Li Family probably worked with them to find something...or rather, someone...he could find out more about this after reviewing the information sent by his spies in the Central Desolate Area.

"Call Lord Chengtian. Tell the Li Family that I am still waiting for their explanation."

There was a glimmer in the king's eyes.

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Qin Yu opened his eyes and took a deep breath before exhaling. There was a strength and a pressure that he had never felt before. These two conflicting feelings were tangled in him and his expression was complicated.

Before breaking through to the Ruler realm, he had never thought that he would face this...how should he continue?

If the Ruler realm was like this, what about the King realm? Would he explode and burst before he could even break through?

Rourou sneered, "You haven't even eaten and you are thinking about what to do if you are full? Little Qin Yu, though it is important for cultivators to have a good understanding of their sufferings, you are going a bit overboard."

She paused for a while as her tone became cold, "Even if the sky falls, there will be taller people to deal with it...moreover, cultivation is going against the heavens and changing your fate. It is natural to deal with it as the problem arises. You don't have to worry about things in the future."

What she said at the end seemed to be wanting to cover up and end the matter. Rourou was not someone who was patient and liked to explain things.

Qin Yu looked at her thoughtfully.

This made Rourou grit her teeth, "Now that you have broken through, your mind should be clearer. You should understand the rationale behind all these cliché things!"

This was a clear indication. Qin Yu smiled and put his hands together, "No pain no gain. I understand."

"Hmph!" Rourou could not stand how he was being and turned to throw something at him, "It is done but it is mine...I can lend it to you to use for now. You better not spoil it."

Qin Yu reached out to take it and his eyes lit up. His smile widened, "Yes yes. If I spoil it I will be in big trouble right?"

He lowered his head to look at the thing in his hand. There was a look of admiration in his eyes. He looked up and said, "Good move."

Rourou's expression improved. She made a 'hmp' sound, "Of course. Since I am the one that made it, it has to be good." She yawned, "You can explain yourself when you head out later. I am tired, don't bother me if there is nothing important."

Woosh –

She turned and disappeared.

Qin Yu was already used to her supernatural behavior. He flicked out a finger and a drop of blood flew into the item in his hand.

It vibrated slightly and the seemingly frozen surface appeared to melt. It spread outwards and covered Qin Yu's entire body. Following his wishes, it transformed into a white robe.

Reaching out to touch the robe's material, Qin Yu looked satisfied.

What a great thing!

With this robe and his own strong physical body, his defensive side could finally catch up to his strange realm now.

Early Ruler realm...but this was a very different early realm!