

Refining 1621

Chapter 1621 – Rushing Against the Heavens' Lightning

Boom boom boom –

With the rumble of thunder that engulfed the Divine Stone Tribe's territory, countless clouds descended in the blink of an eye. They were thick and low, as if they were about to touch the mountain where the Forbidden Land was.

The Divine Stone Tribe's elders who were standing guard outside had a change in their expressions. They could feel the aura of destruction and violence lingering in the air. Could the Divine Stone have met with an accident in the process of breaking through its bottleneck?

The Green Willow Tribe Leader's figure blinked and he reappeared on the roof of a courtyard. He looked far into the distance where the storm clouds were and frowned heavily.

Something seemed wrong. There was a terrifying feeling of suppression that fell from the sky, and it was even more scary than the backlash that occurred when their totem, the Divine Willow, failed to advance.

What was happening?

There was hesitation in his eyes and the Green Willow Tribe Leader took a deep breath. He stomped onto the ground and flew outwards. He did not bother to cover his tracks and he quickly arrived at where the two Divine Stone Tribe elders were.

"Green Willow Tribe Leader, my tribe's totem is undergoing an advancement; please don't walk around casually," one of the elders warned in a low voice.

Beside him, Third Stone laughed bitterly, thinking to himself, 'This newly-promoted elder is too ignorant'. He glared at him and hurriedly explained, "Green Willow Tribe Leader, please do not be angry. He lost propriety because he was worried."

The old Tribe Leader said in a low voice, "I'm not going to argue with him. However, now, it is obvious that something has affected the advancement of the Divine Stone. Are you guys going to keep waiting?"

Third Stone cupped his hands, "Our Tribe Leader just sent out word that even though there have been some accidents, the whole situation is still under control. He ordered us to wait and not to act so that we can prevent anyone who is scheming from affecting the process."

Even though his tone was respectful, there was also a hint of warning in his voice. After all, in the Divine Stone Tribe, the Green Willow Tribe Leader was still an outsider.

The old Tribe Leader's expression was dark and he humphed, turning around to walk away. Third Stone's words did not give him peace of mind at all. On the contrary, he felt even more worried and uneasy.

With that old monkey's careful and cautious nature, something was not right if he could still keep so calm and not make a move when there had been such a big change of events.

Something had happened, something must have happened!

The Green Willow Tribe Leader was extremely worried. However, he could not do anything at all, other than waiting outside with widened eyes.

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A thin strand of red karmic fire poured out from Rourou's body and shrouded her figure within. At this moment, the terrifying thunder that descended on the outside world had nothing to do with the Divine Stone Totem. It was targeted at her.

As a person who should not exist in this world, coming into this world was a huge taboo in itself. It was only because Rourou managed to seal herself in and minimized her interference with this world that she was allowed to continue staying here.

However, after today's 'massacre', more than ten Rulers had died. It was Rourou who had accumulated this debt of 'death'.

Just like what the black-robed lady said just now, whatever Rourou said did not count. The only one who could truly pass a judgment was the world itself.

Obviously, its patience had reached the limit, and it was using some rather underhanded methods to chase Rourou away.

This was because her existence was a hidden threat to the world to begin with.

As for why it did not kill her directly...it was only because she was unable to be killed. She was a true and perfect existence of longevity.

Rourou pushed Qin Yu away, not letting him come into contact with the Karma Blood Flame. Her gaze landed on the black-robed lady and she coldly said, "What's the point in wearing a robe in front of me?"

After a brief silence, the black robes dissipated like smoke, showing Li Ruhua's figure. This third-generation disciple of the Central Desolate's Divine Area bowed to greet them, "Your Excellency's Divine Ways are unimaginable. Since I have already shown myself, I never thought that I could continue to hide my true identity."

She straightened up with a serious expression on her face and said in a low voice, "I only came to let Your Excellency know that everything I did today was for a reason. You took half of my luck away and transferred it to Marquis Chongwu Ning Qin; it was equivalent to shattering my Great Dao. Naturally, Li Ruhua has to get it back."

She looked at Qin Yu with an extremely cold and indifferent look, with no other emotion passing through her face. Even if there was an emotion, it could only be said to be bone-piercing resentment or ruthless killing intent.

Her gaze made Qin Yu feel like everything was quite absurd. He thought to himself, 'Back then, it was your Li Family who took the opportunity to scheme against me. No matter how you think about it, I should be considered the victim!' As for taking away half of her luck, Qin Yu thought that it was just gibberish. 'If this really was the case, how did I not know about it?'

However, right at this moment, Qin Yu froze. He suddenly thought about those memories he had in the Grandeur and Millet Realm. Could it be that it had something to do with Li Ruhua...the expression in her eyes was too scary; it was almost as if she had given her virginity to Qin Yu or something!

Seeming to have guessed Qin Yu's thoughts, Li Ruhua's heart started to beat faster and she looked at Qin Yu with an even colder gaze. You bastard, you asshole, how dare you act like you're the innocent one here? You really deserve to have all your limbs pulled out!

Rourou scoffed, "This time, you are truly being extremely shameless. You told them quite a number of things through that little brat, and you even made arrangements beforehand to clear the karma that linked back to you. However, do you really think what you did will change anything? Or, are you not afraid of death?"

The 'you's that she used at the start and the end of her words were referring to two different things.

Li Ruhua's face paled, "There's no difference between dying now and dying next time...I'm willing to give it a go!"

Rourou's gaze turned icy and a cold smile formed on her lips. Her aura changed drastically, like a female emperor who looked down upon all eight directions, "Then, I will grant you your wish."

Hong –

Rourou punched outwards. Li Ruhua's expression changed greatly, but before she could make any reaction, her whole body became like a ripe fruit as it exploded. Flesh, blood, and bones flew everywhere.

Hu –

The Karma Blood Flame that was pouring out of Rourou's body instantly expanded by a great amount – more than what she accumulated from consecutively killing over ten Rulers just now.

"Indeed, it was a reincarnation. It seems that they had achieved a lot in their previous life."

Boom boom boom –

Even if they were underground, they could hear the roar of thunder from the skies that was filled with anger and suppression.

It seemed that Rourou's lack of hesitation in killing Li Ruhua had angered this world.

Her face turned pale from the Karma Blood Flame, however, her eyes were brighter than usual. She lifted her head despite all the obstacles, and looked at the sky, "Why are you making so much noise? Do you think being louder makes you more reasonable? If you have the abilities, make your move directly like a man."

Hong –

A terrifying thunder pillar fell from the clouds in an instant, faster than a lightning strike, smashing into the big mountain in the Divine Stone Tribe's Forbidden Land.

“Ah!” A pained howl rang out from the Divine Stone Totem. Countless cracks instantly appeared, covering every inch of its surface.

The ugly stone monsters that were packed around the Divine Stone were all completely shattered in an instant as well.

And they only suffered from the aftershock of the thunder attack. It was Rourou who suffered the full force of the thunder pillar.

Within the red Karma Blood Flame that was pouring out of Rourou’s body, there were countless lightning bolts jumping around. ‘Pi-pa! Pi-pa!’ Crackling sounds constantly rang out, every one of them showing their terrifying destructive power.

Rourou’s face turned even paler, but the corners of her lips curled up, “It has been so many years, but you still haven’t made any progress. Brother, your brain power is indeed limited.”

She waved her sleeves and wrapped them around Qin Yu. Then she stomped her foot and rushed towards the sky, going against the thunder pillar that was still coming down from the clouds and directly exiting the Forbidden Land’s mountain.

The Green Willow Tribe Leader widened his eyes at this moment. Even though he was very far away, the perfect eyesight of a cultivator allowed him to clearly see who just rushed out of the thunder pillar...it was Marquis Chongwu and his wife!

What exactly happened? Why did things turn out this way?!

Shi Gan’s roar of hatred and anger rang out from the underground, “The Desolate cultivators plotted against our tribe’s totem. The plot has been foiled. Divine Stone Tribe, listen to my orders! Kill them at all costs!”

The Green Willow Tribe Leader’s eyes widened. His ears buzzed and his mind went blank.

The Divine Stone Tribe elders were frozen for a few moments, then their eyes turned cold. They did not doubt their leader’s words at all.

Of course, the more important thing was that they had felt for themselves the Divine Stone’s anger and weakness. It was like the totem was on the verge of death, and was feeling fearful because it was about to be destroyed.

“Kill the Desolate cultivators!”

The first Divine Stone Tribe elder roared as he rushed into the sky.

As the Karma Blood Flame followed Rourou around, and she was also wrapped by layers of lightning energy, Rourou looked like a demon god. Yet, her eyes had a very calm expression.

She did not do anything other than lower her head to take a look at the Divine Stone Tribe elder who was rushing towards them with gritted teeth and angry eyes. Then, with a loud bang, that elder exploded into pieces and turned into a blood red mist that was swallowed by Rourou in one gulp.

She licked the corners of her mouth and mumbled to herself, "It has truly been a very long time since I've enjoyed this pleasure of killing people."

Somewhere in the depths of Rourou's eyes, thin strands of blood appeared. It was not very obvious, but it made Qin Yu feel like he was facing two endless seas of blood.

He took a deep breath and said in a low voice, "Rourou, don't let your instincts control you. If you kill more people, it will become more and more troublesome!"

Rourou turned her head to look at Qin Yu, "I know, but it's already too late."

Bang –

Bang –

Two more Divine Stone Tribe elders who had rushed into the sky exploded and turned into a blood mist which was sucked up by Rourou.

Now, it was like she had become a black hole that only fed on flesh and blood!

Boom boom boom –

Above their heads, thick and gray clouds formed. They turned darker by the second, as if day and night had been reversed. The whole land was now shrouded in darkness.

There was the sound of an explosion, before endless thunder light surged and covered every inch of the clouds. An even more terrifying thunder pillar shot outwards towards Rourou.

She raised her hand and grabbed the space below her where the Divine Stone Tribe soldiers were standing in battle formation. In an instant, it became an empty space. All the barbarian soldiers and their horses directly turned to ashes.

In the next moment, a huge ball of blood appeared in Rourou's hands. She laughed coldly and this ball of blood quickly extended to form a huge Blood Umbrella.

Holding the umbrella in her hands, even under the pelting of endless lightning bolts, she was safe and they could not touch her.

"Rourou!" Qin Yu shouted in a low voice.

He was still the Barbarian King after all.

Rourou was expressionless as the blood continued to flow in the depths of her eyes, "If they don't die, you will die."

Qin Yu's heart clenched.

As Rourou held the Blood Umbrella, drops of blood continuously evaporated while it endured the force of the heavens' lightning. The umbrella also started to become dimmer and thinner, and not waiting for it to be shattered completely, Rourou reached out towards the ground once again.

Boom boom boom –

Countless Divine Stone Tribe soldiers instantly died and turned to blood mist. They combined with the Blood Umbrella, restoring it to its original form.

Rourou raised her head and looked towards the clouds, mumbling to herself, "How long do you want to play this game? I'll play it with you for as long as you like, but he is my bottom line...don't cross this line. You'd better not, otherwise you are very aware of how much power would be released when an existence with a huge longevity breaks their Longevity Great Dao."

Chapter 1622 – Soul Separation

There was a sudden pause amidst the raging thunderclouds. Rourou smiled, "That's right. We should all know our place in order to live on better."

Boom –

As if angered by her challenge, the third lightning column struck. Rourou extended her hand once more and grabbed onto the Blood Umbrella, soaked with the blood of tens of thousands of barbarian warriors.

She remained smiling and her smile seemed to have widened. Endless Karma Blood Flames covered her entire body. A very soft sound could be heard, "It seems like you do not believe what I just said."

Crack –

A soft sound could be heard from Rourou's body. In an instant, her aura contracted. It was like a stone or a wooden column. It did not budge at all.

However, everyone else could clearly sense the despairing and violent destructive force. It was enough to destroy everything...even the world would not be spared.

The thunderous cloud above her fell silent and slowly dissipated. In a few moments, it was completely gone.

The sun came out and its warm rays shone on everyone from the Divine Stone Tribe, making them feel alive again. If not for the person above their heads, covered in blood flames and still having the occasional stray electricity escaping, they would have believed that everything had been in their imagination.

But it was not.

The entire Divine Stone Tribe had suffered the aftermath and was almost completely destroyed. Only twenty percent of the warriors that had formed battle formations were left standing.

The rest had been turned to dust and vanished completely from this earth because of Rourou.

As for the regular clan members, the number of deaths was at least ten times higher and maybe more!

Were they in the wrong?

Not necessarily! Perhaps up until their deaths, they still did not know what was happening.

But the Tribe Leader of the Divine Stone Clan, Shi Gan, had made the choice for them to die.

This was the sorrow of the weak. They could not decide their births, and even their deaths were in someone else's hands.

Woosh –

Rourou turned and left. Taking a step, she vanished.

The old Tribe Leader of the Green Willow Tribe looked pale and exhausted. He was swaying as he stood.

Rourou reappeared a distance away from the Divine Stone Clan. The Karma Blood Flame was being suppressed.

As Qin Yu looked at this extremely pale face in front of him, he thought about all the barbarians from the Divine Stone Clan that had died today. He wore a complicated expression.

Rourou sneered, "Though the title of Barbarian King sounds good, don't think that is all there is to it. This was just a few tens of thousands of people. So what if it's hundreds of thousands? There is only meaning if you are alive. Remember this and don't find trouble in the future."

Qin Yu sucked in a deep breath, "Let's not talk about this. How are you?"

"I am good."

"The truth."

Rourou fell silent for a while before she said slowly, "I have to go."

Qin Yu frowned, "Just like that?"

Rourou replied, "I will be sleeping for a while and will not be able to descend. It is good that the score between us has been settled. Otherwise I would lose out if I couldn't get what I deserve and it would be hard to sleep."

Qin Yu sucked in a deep breath, "How long?"

Rourou glanced at him. Before she could speak, Qin Yu interrupted, "I want the truth!"

Pursing her lips, she said slowly, "Perhaps for a long time. But I won't die and I will definitely be back. So Qin Yu, you must continue surviving for a very very long time. You had better not die and not leave even a fragment of your soul behind before I come out."

Qin Yu frowned harder. This meant that it would really be a long time. It could be so long that they would never get a chance to meet again.

Looking at Rourou, sorrow suddenly flooded his heart. Though Qin Yu tried his best, he could not stop his eyes from turning red.

He took a deep breath and leaned to the side, "Is there any way to help you?"

Rourou sighed and spoke gently, "There is nothing. As I said before, your current cultivation level is too weak."

Whether this was really the case or she just said it to poke fun at him, Rourou smiled, "Work hard on cultivating. One day, when you can punch a hole in the net, you will be able to save me."

Qin Yu fell silent.

Rourou waved her hand, "Okay, I really don't have time. I have some things that I need to tell you. The first is related to the Grandeur and Millet Realm. I left something for you. If one day, you are in dire straits and are about to die, don't give up. Believe in 'hope in desperate situations' and the meaning behind that.

"Secondly, the Ruler you have is not simple. Really. This is the most that I can give you. Other than that, I may have some relation with her. Hmmm...I can't say exactly as I am not too sure either. Just be careful. She might be an existence equivalent to me, but may not be as patient as I am.

"Thirdly, always carry with you the treasure that I created in the capital. This is so that...if you really reincarnate, I will be able to find you and help you recall the memories of this lifetime.

"Lastly...to satisfy your curiosity, I am indeed familiar with Divine Dragon City. Strictly speaking, this is because that only true dragon in this world, is a pet that I raised."

Rourou smiled widely as she waved her hand. Traces of the Karma Blood Flame that she had suppressed started to appear once more, "I have to go. See you next time, Qin Yu."

"Wait!" Qin Yu suddenly said as he stared at Rourou, "Hold on a while longer...before I wake, don't leave."

Rourou frowned, "I told you that it is no use..."

Qin Yu already closed his eyes.

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Far away, at the half-abandoned Heaven and Earth Gap, the eyelashes of the sleeping Ruler fluttered. She slowly opened her eyes.

At this moment, numerous stars were shifting in her eyes and they were extremely beautiful.

After a short while, she suddenly raised her hand and clutched her head as she groaned, "Qin Yu, little Qin Yu, are you poison? Why are you always interrupting my beautiful dream!"

As she said this, she gritted her teeth and really wanted to reach out and drag that brat here to give him a good beating!

The Ruler struggled to get up before massaging her brows, "Even I think this is difficult, why must you bother?"

"It is not like she will die. She will at most sleep for a long time and will eventually be able to come back out. If you interfere and something goes wrong, someone might really die."

She lifted her hand to knock her head. She looked angry, "You can't understand? I think you are choosing lust over your life. You are asking to die!"

The Ruler lay down sideways, "I don't care, I don't care. You can do what you want!" She closed her eyes and covered her ears. However, she could not block him out. "Ah!" she jumped up and scolded, "Bastard, I am warning you. Don't go overboard! After all, I am you...if you annoy me, I will deal with you!"

She waved her sleeve and sealed the half-abandoned Heaven and Earth Gap, cutting off all senses.

"Hehe, look at yourself before you want to save others...unless that one helps you, you can forget about succeeding."

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Qin Yu opened his eyes. In front of him, Rourou was covered entirely in Karma Blood Flames. Far behind her, the world was shaking. He could sense that the trembling world was emitting a strong repulsion force, about to separate her from this world.

"I have a way to help you. Trust me. Bring me with you!" Qin Yu shouted.

Amidst the fire, Rourou massaged her brows, "Stop it. You can't go to where I am from."

"External objects cannot enter, but souls are different. As long as you are willing, you can bring me in!"

Rourou frowned, "Qin Yu, have you thought about this properly? Once you go, you will die!"

Qin Yu shook his head, "I won't die and neither will you." He stepped forward, "After sleeping for a long time, you will definitely wake up and descend into this world once more. But when that happens, you may not remember me. You told me to carry the treasure made from cicada wings and deceased jellyfish with me. You want to find me again after you forget me right?"

In the fire, Rourou's eyes widened.

Qin Yu smiled, "Are you surprised? See, I even know secrets like this. I am not spouting nonsense. You have no more time. If you stay here any longer, your injuries will worsen by one third. Bring me home with you. I can definitely bring you back!"

Rourou muttered, "I did not force you. You did this willingly..." She reached out and grabbed. In a flash, Qin Yu's soul left his body. Before he could feel anything, he fell into darkness.

In the next moment, the Karma Blood Flame disappeared. Rourou and Qin Yu fell onto the ground. They fell into a coma with their souls having left their bodies.

A moment later, the sounds of swords could be heard. With a swoosh, there was silence again. White Iris appeared in front of the two of them. She hurried to Rourou's side. She dropped to one knee and hugged Rourou. When she felt the coldness from her body, her eyes became icy and murderous.

"Although I don't really like Marquis Chongwu, I advise you not to do anything."

"If he is dead, I will die as well."

A young man holding a sword called Leftover Dog appeared beside her without notice. His face was extremely pale and he seemed to barely have any breath left.

White Iris looked up. With only her eyes visible, she spoke sinisterly, "Are you going to stop me?"

Leftover Dog coughed a few times and wiped the droplets of blood away. He spoke seriously, "No, I just want to live."

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Everything was foggy as if he had hit his head against a huge rock. He could not open his eyes and was only half conscious.

He could make out some noise. Someone was calling a name...a woman....

Who is she calling? Is she calling me? But who am I? Where am I? I want to get up, but my head is so heavy. I can't do it.

After struggling and wasting some energy, he fell into a deep sleep once more and the sound he heard faded away.

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The old Tribe Leader from the Green Willow Tribe looked at Shi Gan, who appeared as if he had aged a hundred years in a single day. He spoke slowly, "Tell me what exactly happened."

Shi Gan was expressionless, "Desolate man, Marquis Chongwu killed my tribe's totem, Divine Stone..."

He got interrupted. The old Tribe Leader slammed the table, "Old monkey! You may fool others with this, but you cannot fool me!"

He leaned forward and stared straight into his eyes, "If you don't feel guilty, then look into my eyes and repeat what you just said."

Shi Gan lowered his head and drank his tea, "Even if I say it a thousand times, it will be the same."

The old Tribe Leader took a deep breath, "You must know that Marquis Chongwu is our Green Willow Tribe's benefactor. We owe many lives to him. A large part of the reason why he chose the Divine Stone Tribe is because of me..."

Shi Gan replied, "What are you trying to say?"

The old Tribe Leader turned and left, "From today, we are no longer friends."

Shi Gan did not ask him to stay and allowed him to walk out of the garden that had managed to escape the battle. A figure shot to the sky, leaving the Divine Stone Tribe's territory.

Pak –

A tea cup was thrown onto the floor and smashed to pieces. Shi Gan lowered his head. His pale old face was hidden in the shadows.

"Old friend, I am just indignant. I just want to live. Is that so wrong of me? The Heavens are too unfair!"

A suppressed growl could be heard that echoed in the garden.

Chapter 1623 – The Coldest Place

Flames that were so red they resembled blood burned in the air. A woman's figure was quickly forming amidst the flames. When the physical body was complete and her hair fell, she opened her eyes. 'Putong', she landed on the ground.

Panting heavily, her now exposed chest drew arcs in the air with her every breath.

They were shockingly white!

It was a pity that the only person to appreciate this sight was a young man, aged around twelve. He wore a snow white robe and was as handsome as an immortal.

As he heard the movement from the woman, he merely turned his head and casually looked at her before twisting his lips and turning away.

"Eh! I am just a young boy now. Don't you think you are going overboard by using these kinds of seductive techniques? Hurry and put some clothes on. Though I am fine, if you scare the flowers and plants by the side, it is also a sin."

The woman who just landed on the floor managed to calm her breathing. Reaching out, she summoned a long red dress and put it on. She walked over and bowed respectfully, "Thank you Your Honor, for reviving me."

The young man in white smiled, "There is no need to thank me. This is what we agreed on and I am someone who keeps to my promises." He stood up and dusted his butt. There was not a single speck of dust on his white robe. "Now that you have been revived, our deal is completed. Goodbye."

"Wait!" The woman in the red dress bit her lip, "Half my luck has not recovered. Marquis Chongwu Ning Qin is still alive."

The young man in the white robe shrugged, "This is none of my business. After all, our agreement did not cover this.

"I am leaving. Don't call for me anymore. Even if you do, I will not respond."

Woosh –

There was a flash in the air and the young man in white disappeared.

The woman in the red dress frowned as a sinister look appeared in her eyes. She lowered her head to look at her palm. There were many more red dots on it and her expression immediately worsened.

All of a sudden, the woman in red clutched her chest and cried out in pain. Biting her lip, she turned to leave.

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The young man wearing the white robe, called Qin Yǔ, did not go far. He disappeared and then reappeared. This happened a few times before he arrived next to a half-hidden cave.

Though he did not go in and he was separated from it by a huge rock, the short distance was enough for him to 'see everything'.

“Original body, you are very daring. You actually dared to go home with that being. Does that mean you will never return?”

Thinking of this, the young Qin Yǔ smiled and was in a good mood. Everything he saw looked beautiful, as if the world was filled with happy birds and blooming flowers.

Having been given a sophisticated name like Qin Yǔ (秦羽), it was impossible for him to do anything to Qin Yu (main character – 秦宇).

Even if the original body was now soulless, Qin Yǔ could only watch from afar but not get close to prevent any cause and effect from affecting him.

Previously, Li Ruhua’s problem could be easily solved, but Qin Yǔ thought about it and did not tell her.

The original body was now undergoing different time flows where a day in the heavens was a year on the ground. Moreover, having been separated from the physical body, the soul would be drained very quickly and eventually die.

To him, this was the safest and most reliable way. He would not need to worry about trouble.

Smiling, the young Qin Yǔ turned and left. He was going to let the original body slowly die. He was going to see this wonderful world!

Woosh –

He disappeared.

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The West Desolate Imperial Palace.

The king rarely showed his emotions, whether he was happy or angry. But this time, he was furious.

An angry roar could be heard filling the Hall of Longevity. The eunuchs outside all stuck their heads down and did not move. They were afraid that even their breathing would anger His Majesty.

But in the capital, everything had been stable. His Majesty had just gained a hundred more years and his dominance had more or less restored to that of his peak period. No one dared to challenge His Majesty. Everything was peaceful at the borders and there had not been any urgent military reports.

So why was the king angry?

Very soon, Lord Chengtian rushed over after being summoned. He entered the Hall of Longevity. Then he spoke with His Majesty and left looking ashen.

Without any delay, Lord Chengtian immediately departed from the capital along with two other officials. They disappeared and no one knew where they went.

Of course, if someone really wanted to find out. They would definitely be able to find traces using the country’s network.

But at a time like this, no one dared to instigate something and risk triggering the furious king. Everyone chose to pretend not to see.

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Later Ye Family.

The old man's face looked serious as he held a black chess piece in his hand. 'Pak', the chess piece shattered.

The disabled advisor sitting across from him frowned and said, "What happened?"

It had been many years since he saw the grand marshal be out of it.

The old man took a deep breath and said slowly, "Marquis Chongwu is missing. It is not clear whether he is alive or dead."

The advisor frowned harder and his eyes grew hard, "His Majesty sent four Old Four Claws with him, how can it be?"

"They were in the barbarian area." The old man lifted his hand and massaged his eyebrows. His pale old face turned calm again.

After living for so long and going through so many things, they would naturally build resilience.

The advisor sighed, "We have to hold back for now. If Marquis Chongwu is really dead, the Later Ye Family will not fall. Voluntarily holding back is different from if His Majesty asks you to."

The old man nodded, "You are right. Then let's wait and see."

He let go and allowed the fragments of the chess piece to fall on the ground. His eyes were icy, "I underestimated Ye Bohu!"

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His head still felt groggy but it was a lot better than before. After struggling for a while, he could finally see some blurry light.

He was about to awaken!

He got excited and the voice beside his ear became clearer, "Qin Yu, if you still don't wake up, you are going to die!"

Woosh –

His eyes shot open. The sudden influx of light was too much and he had to shut them again.

Qin Yu? Is that me? Am I Qin Yu?

"Ah" There was a pained groan and he grabbed onto his head tightly with both hands. It was as if his memories had been lost for a million years and were suddenly flooding back to him. They were rushing and rolling into his brain.

Remembering. He was remembering everything.

Qin Yu slowly opened his eyes, adjusting to the piercing glare. He could finally see the person in front of him clearly.

“Rourou...”

He tried to speak but his throat felt like it was burning. It was as if he had not had a sip of water for many years and his throat was glued shut.

Rourou had one finger lifted up. Her finger was like a torch, and the flame Qin Yu saw was from it, “You are awake? You are really awake?” With her other hand, she lifted two fingers in front of him, “How many fingers am I lifting?”

Qin Yu almost burst out laughing as he replied weakly, “Two...”

Rourou smiled, “You are truly awake. Qin Yu, you can really sleep. I almost thought that you would sleep until you died.”

Qin Yu’s expression changed, “How long did I sleep for?”

Rourou fell silent.

Qin Yu felt uneasy and ignored the discomfort that he felt. He took a deep breath and forced out a smile, “Don’t worry, I can take it. Just tell me the truth. How long did I sleep for?”

Rourou looked guilty, “Sorry Qin Yu, there was an incident at the beginning and I was not able to successfully bring you to my home...when I found you, many many years had passed. Then I used many more years to wake you up and recover your memory. So I am unable to answer you as to how many years have passed.”

Qin Yu’s vision darkened and he almost fainted. There was only one thought in his head – he was finished. Utterly finished! According to Rourou, then how many years had passed? No, it was most likely that he had to add tens of thousands to whatever number she had.

As he thought of this, Qin Yu’s mind went blank. He tried to imagine his life. It was all going fine until he closed his eyes, and when he opened them again, everyone he knew had died and was gone.

Whether they were comrades or enemies, they were all gone. What kind of feeling was this? He felt despair.

“Pfft –

“Hahahahahaha! Qin Yu, you are too funny. You actually believed it!” Rourou’s body swayed back and forth as she laughed.

“I lied to you. I lied to you. You at most slept for four days in here.

“Really, don’t give me that strange look. I swear on the light from my finger that what I am saying now is real.”

Phewwwwww –

Qin Yu let out a long, long, long, long breath. He struggled to lift his hand. His finger trembled as he placed it on Rourou’s mouth.

That was too scary!

Just you wait!

Rourou lifted an eyebrow, "Oh, Master Qin, are you learning to bear grudges now? Do you recall where you are now? Hehe, let me tell you. This is my home. If I don't let you out, you have no choice but to accompany me for the rest of your life. Understand?"

Instinct told Qin Yu that Rourou was not lying. If she wanted, she could really keep him here forever.

A wise man knew better than to fight when the odds were against him. A man knew when to give in and when to push.

Qin Yu coughed lightly and attempted to move his body. He felt a lot better and slowly sat up, "It was in the heat of the moment, Lady Rourou, please be magnanimous and don't take it to heart."

Rourou sneered and yawned. She turned and sat down, "Tell me. How do you intend to save me? Let me tell you. When I returned, I should have slept immediately but I resisted until you awoke. I am feeling very very uncomfortable. You had better tell me everything, quickly and clearly."

Qin Yu thought about it and a strange look appeared on his face. He hesitated for a while, "I have a sun..." He was telling the truth, but as for what it meant, he really did not know.

And the situation back then was urgent and did not give him much opportunity to ask.

However, it seemed like Rourou understood immediately. Her eyes widened slightly as she looked at Qin Yu seriously. Who knew if she was pretending or if she really understood. She suddenly nodded, "So that is why. Maybe there really is a chance to leave this godforsaken place."

Reaching out, she patted Qin Yu's shoulder, "Qin Yu ah, then I will entrust this to you. All the best."

She then made a cheering gesture before she lay down on the spot where Qin Yu had just woken up from. In a split second, she fell into a deep sleep.

Pfft –

The flame extinguished, throwing the area into darkness. Thankfully, darkness was one of Qin Yu's powers. Hence, although the darkness here was denser and different from the darkness back in the other world, he was still able to roughly make out the surroundings.

His gaze fell onto Rourou. Perhaps because she fell into a deep sleep and was no longer able to hide her true appearance, her face was pale and the exhaustion showed.

It seemed like she did not lie. In order to wait for Qin Yu to wake up, she had struggled to remain awake. If not, she would not have fallen asleep so quickly.

Qin Yu took a deep breath and said slowly, "Don't worry. I said I will bring you out of here and I will keep my word."

'Sha sha', a sound could be heard from all directions. Qin Yu's expression changed. Did trouble arrive just because of what I just said?

Thankfully, it was just a false alarm because it was only a tree branch that was slowly extending over. Qin Yu looked at it and immediately found it familiar. That tree branch gently scooped Rourou up. It moved expertly and intricately, forming a soft bed under her.

Very soon, a similar one appeared in front of him. He smiled and hopped on, "With you two around, it will be much easier. Let's go. Bring me to the coldest place in your memory!"

Chapter 1624 – Disappear

Qin Yu finally understood why Rourou liked to stay in brightly lit places. Perhaps she was really sick of the unending and constant darkness. The darkness was so thick it looked like black ink, dyeing the entire world black.

And also...she must have been very very lonely. This made Qin Yu think of her sudden gentleness.

This vast and dark world did not seem to have an end. There was no concept of time and space here. Just neverending emptiness and never changing silence.

And this was Rourou's home. She had lived here for so many years. No wonder when she descended into the world, even the barren wild country hills looked interesting to her and she kept talking about planting all sorts of crops to enjoy life.

To her, that was already a luxury.

Lying on the soft bed made from the branches, he turned and the branches immediately rearranged into the most comfortable position for him.

It was not likely that the two big trees were trying to flatter him. It was more likely that they had coexisted for so many years and this became second nature to them.

From this perspective, they were like professional chefs of the 'root people'. It was probably because they had to do it so many times and became skilled over time.

Qin Yu let out a breath. In this world, there was karma affecting everything and one could see it arising in all ways.

He kicked back and crossed his legs. It was not because this position was comfortable, but Qin Yu needed to move to prevent himself from losing his mind.

This place was extremely strange. When people stayed in here for too long, it was easy for them to stop thinking.

Qin Yu occasionally realized this and was guarded. He knew he could not fall in or he would be in deep trouble.

He thought seriously.

First, about his current condition.

It was not that Qin Yu was selfish and only cared about himself. There was always a sequence to things.

Rourou was sleeping now. She had to wake up in order for them to leave this place, and this relied on Qin Yu. If he had an issue himself, it would be a huge problem and nothing else could be done.

Hmm...this place was indeed strange. Qin Yu entered this dark world as a soul separated from his body. But now, he did not feel like anything was off. He felt that his soul was very solid and there was no difference from his physical body.

This probably had something to do with Rourou. Qin Yu had clearly sensed that in this dark world, the energy from his soul was constantly fluctuating.

But now, his soul felt as stable as his real body and the fluctuation had been suppressed.

Simply put, Qin Yu could stay here as a soul for a long time.

Of course, even so, he had to quickly try and open this dark world.

He did not know why, but staying in this darkness gave him an uneasy feeling.

The second thing was to find the supposedly coldest place in this dark world. Actually the word 'coldest' referred to a feeling felt by his soul.

As it went, where Yang ended, Yin started, and where Yin ended, Yang started. By finding a suitable place, it would increase his chance of success by a lot.

Now that he was trying to find the way, these two trees of Rourou's were very useful.

Thirdly, Qin Yu did not know if this was real or not, but ever since Rourou fell asleep, he felt as if there was something watching him.

It was extremely faint and emotionless. Yet, it caused him to be extremely alarmed.

Despite using his divine sense, he was not able to find anything out. It made Qin Yu feel as if he had imagined it in this darkness.

But instinct told him that it was not an illusion...he had to be cautious.

The only good news was that the two trees had accompanied Rourou for numerous years and they were very familiar with this place.

As time passed, Qin Yu could sense the 'temperature' of this dark world falling. He took a deep breath and straightened his body. Rubbing his hands together, he looked forwards.

He was going in the right direction. Now, the only thing left was to wait.

.....

The place where Divine Stone Tribe once lived was now a wasteland. The various stone pieces that covered the area had been dug out and split.

Other than the occasional ruins, it would be hard to believe that a powerful barbarian tribe used to live here.

After the Divine Stone Totem fell, Tribe Leader Shi Gan went missing. There was internal strife amongst the remaining elders and the last opportunity for the Divine Stone Tribe vanished.

The tribe members had either died or fled. The mighty Divine Stone Tribe was destroyed in a few years.

Several barbarians from smaller tribes were rummaging and scavenging through the ruins of the Divine Stone Tribe. A skinny camel was still bigger than a horse. Though the Divine Stone Tribe was ruined, there might be some treasures that no one had found yet.

For example, the stone fragments that had absorbed the aura of the Divine Stone Totem. Each and every piece was a good resource. It was rumored that a few days ago, someone had coincidentally found one as big as a fist. It even emitted a soft glow under the sunlight. It was enough to delight a small tribe.

“Let’s rest for a while, our luck is not good today. I don’t think we will get anything.” A somewhat older barbarian said as he spat a mouthful of saliva mixed with sand. He turned and sat on a stone.

It was a pity that though this stone was big; it was useless. At most, it was somewhere to sit.

“Yeah, I think we should not come anymore. The Divine Stone Tribe is too poor. There is nothing good left!” Several junior barbarians grumbled.

The old barbarian lit his cigar and took a puff. He sneered, “It is only now that you all dare to say this. If it were a few years ago, even if you gathered your courage for eight hundred years, you would not even dare to spout half a word.”

The junior barbarians shrunk back and looked sullen. The old barbarian was right. As the major and powerful tribe in the area, the Divine Stone Tribe used to have over a hundred subordinate tribes. These people were all from a small tribe, and back then, they were not even qualified to help clean shoes, much less have the courage to say such crude things.

“Old uncle, we all know that your information is the most accurate. Do you know what exactly happened to the Divine Stone Tribe? How can such a powerful tribe have been wiped out in such a short time?” A young barbarian smiled. He wiped his dirty hands before moving over to massage the shoulders of the old barbarian.

Everyone else’s eyes widened as they looked curiously. They had wanted to know about this but did not get a reply when they asked previously.

For such a big thing, even if they knew a small part of it, it was enough to go back and brag about it. If they added more flavor to it, like how they played certain roles etc, perhaps they could even impress some ladies.

The old barbarian sneered.

But his reaction caused several of the junior barbarians’ eyes to light up. If he did not reject, it means that there was a chance.

“Old uncle, tell us!”

“That’s right. The Divine Stone Tribe has completely fallen. Even if you tell us, there will not be any trouble.”

“We have tight lips and won’t say a single word!”

The old barbarian snorted and looked unhappy, “I have seen you all grow up and know exactly what you all are thinking. Saying all this is useless.”

He took another two puffs and breathed out spicy smoke, “But there is one thing that you are all right about. The Divine Stone Tribe has completely fallen. Even if we speak about it, there will not be any karma.”

Clearing his throat, he spat out a wad of phlegm. The old barbarian pointed at a ruin, “Five years ago, the Divine Stone Tribe invited a Desolate man, Marquis Chongwu. They were asking for his help to improve the Divine Stone Totem. However, this was a trap. At least four tribes had colluded. They had different objectives: to kill, to chase people away, and some wanted to live for a few hundred more years.

“The ones that were to be killed did not want to die. Those that were to be chased away were not willing to leave. So they clashed. In the end, because they were at the Divine Stone Tribe, the Divine Stone Tribe suffered the brunt of it and was doomed. But it was not because of this that they lost hope of survival. After all, the Divine Stone Tribe had been a very obedient dog and it is not easy to find such a tribe in the Barbarian Clan.”

The old barbarian’s mouth twisted before a mocking look appeared on him, “It was a windy and dark night. Four sneaky old cripples snuck in and attacked the Divine Stone Totem that was about to revive. After paying the price, they managed to completely destroy it. That is how the Divine Stone Tribe was doomed. Shi Gan ran away, but he is like a grasshopper in autumn. No matter how much he struggles, he can only live up to five more years. He is destined to die.”

The eyes of the young barbarians started to glow. Alas, this old uncle was a famous capable man. Though what he said was slightly confusing, it all sounded extremely real. Tsk tsk, when they spread this, they would be able to scare a lot of people.

Seeing the young barbarians’ faces, the old barbarian knew what they were thinking and chided them, “Get lost, get lost. Hurry and look around once more. Let’s go if there is nothing left!”

The group of young barbarians were smiling as they left.

The old barbarian picked up his cigar and took a few more puffs. His eyes narrowed as he let out a puff of smoke, “Self-inflicted sin. Doomed, doomed...”

At this moment, none of the young barbarians saw the stone under the old barbarians. There was a pained look on the surface of the stone and its eyes seemed to be begging.

The old barbarian looked down at it. His expression was calm, “That’s right, I am talking about you. Hurry up and die, I am waiting for my treasure.”

He waited for a while more and saw that it was getting late. However, the stone he was sitting on still did not show signs of cracking. The old barbarian was slightly impatient. He hesitated for a while before picking up the copper ashtray he was using and knocking it on the stone.

Crack –

The stone cracked open. The face on the surface faded away, looking despairing and indignant.

“Aiyo! My butt!”

The old barbarian jumped up and scolded before bending over and picking up the stone, about as big as a fist, resembling a crystal, “My baby, my baby!”

As soon as he shouted, he hurried to cover his mouth. He looked at the young barbarians that had rushed over, “What are you all looking at. Hurry and go! Are you staying behind to wait for death!”

The old barbarian hopped on a carriage and the younger barbarians pulled it. It left like the wind.

The old barbarian turned back to look at the Divine Stone Tribe territory that was now in ruins. His eyes were bleak and did not show any emotions.

It was from this moment that things were truly considered closed...Divine Stone Tribe, disappear!

Chapter 1625 – Heart Chill

In a cave, White Iris held a cloth in her hand. She was kneeling as she slowly and carefully cleaned Rourou’s face.

Her eyes were filled with devotion and respect. She did not dare to rub too hard, afraid of waking Rourou.

For five years, no matter what happened, White Iris had done this daily. The respect White Iris had for Rourou did not diminish, despite Rourou having been asleep for a long time and showing no signs of awakening.

After she finished, she cleaned the cloth. She then kneeled and greeted respectfully, “Apologies for disturbing you, I hope you are not offended.”

A soft cough could be heard from behind her, followed by a loud panting sound, “The lady’s soul is not even here. She cannot awaken. What you are doing is useless.”

White Iris was expressionless and she did not change even after hearing him. She turned to look at him coldly, “It seems like you really want to die.”

Leftover Dog raised an eyebrow and rubbed his nose nonchalantly, “How did you know?”

White Iris replied, “You talk too much.”

Leftover Dog fell silent before he sighed, “I did not know that you are pretty clever. But since you are clever, then why can’t you sense the disgust the lady has with you?”

White Iris’ eyes grew icy and the surrounding temperature dropped significantly. Traces of ice slowly appeared.

The corners of Leftover Dog’s mouth pulled up, “Why? Did I touch a sore spot? Are you going to fight me?” Using his hand to prop himself up, he sat straight and hit his chest, “Come on, don’t be shy. You can just cut me here. If I dodge, I am your son.”

White Iris’ eyes grew colder, “You are really asking to die.”

Leftover Dog's mouth twisted, "Two years ago, you said this. Yet today, I am still here. Don't you think this is interesting?"

White Iris said, "Two years ago, you could make two more moves with your sword, but now, you only have one use left." She paused for a while before continuing, "If you use your sword, you will die."

Leftover Dog clapped in appreciation, "You are right. Absolutely right. But do you believe me when I say that my last sword move can bring you down with me?"

White Iris nodded slowly before retracting the icy aura that was emitting from her. She sat back down on the floor and closed her eyes to regulate her breathing. She did not say anything, but through her last look, it was clear. It was only because of this that Leftover Dog was able to survive till today.

Under normal circumstances, after the two bickered every day, they would fall into silence until the next day when White Iris helped to clean Rourou's face.

But today, Leftover Dog felt like saying something more. He frowned, "Eh, White Iris. Aren't you curious how I can have such a frightening move left even though I am almost on my last breath? To the point that even you do not dare to attack me."

White Iris opened her eyes, "If I ask, will you tell me?"

Leftover Dog nodded, "Yes."

"Then tell me."

Leftover Dog rubbed his chin, "Your attitude is too insincere. But never mind, this is something I want to say, so I will not bother about your attitude."

He lifted a hand and pointed to himself, "Look at me. That's right. Look at me. Did you realize that I am a sword?"

Leftover Dog laughed. He had lost his sword cultivation and was suffering every day. Yet, he never exposed that he was from the third generation of the Li Family. Even if he had to kneel and become someone's dog, he was able to remain calm.

But today, it was the first time that he showed any emotion.

He pointed and pointed again, easily creating a few holes in the ground. He smiled brilliantly, "Look, this is the best evidence."

White Iris frowned slightly as she stared at Leftover Dog. There was surprise in her eyes as well as a hint of worry.

"Do you understand?" Leftover Dog laughed out loud, "Do you think that it is very strange that there is someone as strange as me in this world? It is actually very simple. My parents were considered to be two of the strongest sword cultivators in the world. All they cared about was the sword and not their family. The only reason why they chose to give birth to me was to use this kind of method to create a sword embryo with natural blood relations to them.

“But later on, they realized that there was a small problem. If they wanted to continue, one of them must die. Neither of my parents wanted to die, so they abandoned me and went into the mountains separately to continue cultivating. That is how I survived and was named the Sword Immortal of the Li Family. Tsk, tsk, isn't it a joke? If you want to laugh, go ahead. Even I think that my existence is a joke.”

White Iris was expressionless. She thought for a while before speaking slowly, “You've told me all this and let me know who you are. What are you trying to get?”

Having spoken so much, Leftover Dog felt slightly tired. There was a faint redness on his pale face. After panting for a few breaths, he smiled, “I can promise you that until my deadline, I will try my best to keep the sword intent within my body and not let it leak out. When you get my body, you will be able to create a perfect sword for yourself. Not only can it solve your flaws, your power can also improve...I believe that you will not doubt this. After all, this was also the lady's original plan.”

White Iris said, “What do I need to do?”

Leftover Dog held up two fingers.

White Iris frowned.

Leftover Dog smiled and shook his head, “White Iris, you must be patient and let me finish speaking, okay? The first thing is that you cannot do anything to Marquis Chongwu before I die. You have to swear on this. Even if I faint one day, it will still be effective.

“Secondly, after you create a sword out of my body and you have a chance to visit the Central Desolate Li Family...don't glare at me, I won't ask you to help me seek revenge. That would be equivalent to asking you to commit suicide. Find my parents and show them the sword. Tell them that I am thankful to their ancestors for letting me live in this world.”

White Iris was silent.

Leftover Dog chuckled coldly, “Don't go overboard. The terms that I set are very reasonable. The first is just the start and the second is just a quick meeting. I also will not fix a time frame, and you can wait until you are confident enough to do it.”

He narrowed his eyes, “Otherwise, before I die, I will take out the sword within me and you can watch this perfect sword get destroyed.”

White Iris nodded, “Okay.”

She lifted her hand and swore on her sword mind without playing any tricks.

Leftover Dog smiled and nodded. He then lay down and fell into a deep sleep.

White Iris could see that he had reached his limit. As he slept, he could die at any moment.

Was it a trick?

If she did not agree, Leftover Dog could very well retrieve the sword and it would most likely be pointed at her!

She looked at the sleeping Leftover Dog, then she looked at Marquis Chongwu's soulless body. White Iris closed her eyes to rest.

It was just a while. She could wait.

.....

The darkness grew colder. Qin Yu had to sit cross-legged and utilize all the power in his soul to resist it. But this caused his soul energy to circulate faster...that meant the amount of time Qin Yu could hold on for was significantly reduced.

The two trees beside Rourou continued to move forwards, but they were now moving slower. Qin Yu could sense the fear that they were emitting. It seemed like there was a force that was suppressing them in the darkness beyond.

An estimated four hours had passed and a white frost started to appear on the branches of the trees. It quickly accumulated and became thick like ice crystals. It was as if they were wearing clothes made of ice.

Pipa –

Pipa –

Tree branches started to break. They turned into snow as they fell. The movement of the two trees was severely reduced, and it seemed like every step they took was difficult.

Qin Yu opened his eyes and let out a long breath. For them to be able to persist until here and bear with the cold and fear, it was enough to show their loyalty. If they continued forwards, they would suffer irreparable damage.

Bodies and heart were one.

Since the 'cold' came from the heart, if one believed it, it became real. But that was not to say that if one didn't believe it, one would be able to ignore it...it was more like anything that fell within the range would unknowingly 'believe' in it.

Unless one could go beyond the limits of the realm and break the illusion to see the truth. If not, one had no choice but to believe in it!

The two trees could not do this, and neither could Qin Yu. But perhaps because Rourou had helped him stabilize his soul or because he was holding the sun, he was able to persevere.

Of course, even though he could withstand it, he still felt the cold and a layer of frost formed over his soul.

The frost seemed to melt and then freeze again. It repeated a few times, causing Qin Yu to be completely drenched. In this cold, it was not a good feeling.

Qin Yu tried to get rid of the wetness around him, but since it came from the frost, it seemed to carry a strange characteristic and nothing worked.

He decided not to waste his energy and allowed it to remain.

“Stop, just wait here. There is no need to continue.” Qin Yu got up and exhaled a cold breath. He rubbed his hands together and turned to look at Rourou. She was sleeping as soundly as before. The cold in the darkness was not affecting her at all. This made Qin Yu extremely jealous, but also slightly scared.

Back then, ‘in the heat of the moment’, he followed Rourou home. Now that he was facing a life and death situation, he started to panic. If he failed, he would really be gone. He would be stuck in this place and eventually his soul would wither.

Lifting a hand to massage his head, Qin Yu waved his sleeve and flew off.

This dark world was a really strange place. Nothing seemed to be of substance, and people could just move around in all directions freely with just a thought.

Like in water.

Sss –

No. As soon as he thought about water, he felt cold.

He had a similar experience when he crossed the Abyss and the deep cold sea to return to the Vast Brightness World.

But now, Qin Yu’s cultivation was more than a hundred times stronger than back then. It was enough to know how frightening and horrifying the cold in this dark world was.

Chapter 1626 – Created the World

On the journey forward, Qin Yu hugged his wet clothes as well as a wet tree branch.

On the surface, the branch looked like it was in a trance and was emitting a very faint green light as it pointed out the direction for Qin Yu.

Without it, it would be extremely easy for Qin Yu to lose his way in this unending darkness with no directional indications.

An hour had passed since Qin Yu had moved by himself.

The coldness in the darkness had increased by a third.

This was already very scary. The heat that his soul was emitting could no longer melt the frost quickly enough. The water froze to become ice. With every step that Qin Yu took, there was a soft cracking sound.

It was the thin ice around his body that was cracking, but to Qin Yu, it felt as if his bones and flesh were tearing.

It was hard to describe the feeling.

The soft green light from the tree branch grew dimmer and the speed at which it pulsed was now a lot slower. Frowning, Qin Yu touched the tree branch and his face grew paler.

By giving the branch some warmth, Qin Yu had to withstand more of the damage from the frost, and the ice layer on him grew thicker.

Following that, every step Qin Yu took brought him an even greater amount of pain when the ice layer cracked.

But this was necessary. If he lost the navigation from the tree branch, Qin Yu would not find the right 'place'.

The matter of how important it was to find the right spot was emphasized earlier.

Crack –

Crack –

The cracking rhythm sounded through the darkness. Each and every step brought a bone-breaking pain that was equivalent to getting his bones scraped.

In front of him was pure darkness with no end in sight. This brought even more hopelessness than the pain he was feeling.

But having reached this point, it was not possible to turn back. They would either both live and leave this place together or he would die here and Rourou would remain sleeping. After she woke, she would still be that impressive and powerful mysterious being from space time. She would merely lose a small fragment of her memories from her long life.

As he thought of this, Qin Yu bit his lip with determination in his eyes.

Two hours later, the tree branch in his arms seemed to have fallen into a deep sleep. The thick ice covering it was stuck to Qin Yu and it would flash a green light every once in a while.

Qin Yu seemed to be wearing thick, heavy ice armor. The sound of the pieces of ice knocking against each other could be heard with every step.

His vision seemed to blacken slightly. This showed that his mind was on the verge of giving in, as if he could fall at any second.

However, this had happened multiple times but Qin Yu still pressed on. Albeit slower, but never stopping.

Another hour passed and Qin Yu was completely covered in ice. He was like a moving ice cube. Only a soft 'crack crack' sound could be heard from inside the ice, showing that he was still alive. The speed at which he was progressing was very very slow. Often, he had to take several breaths before he could take a step.

'Pa', a soft sound could be heard amongst the 'crack' sounds. It was the tree branch in Qin Yu's arms. It could no longer withstand the cold and it had frozen completely before disintegrating into powder.

"Why do you still want to go forwards? If it is because you think that you have nowhere else to go, I can give you another choice." A calm voice could be heard. Qin Yu paused for a while, confirming that it was not his imagination.

"Who are you?"

“That is not important. What is important is that I can let you leave this place alive. You just have to take a different path.”

“Why?”

“Because I think you are an interesting being. It would be a waste for you to die here.”

“I don’t believe you.”

“It is simple.”

There was a warmth that seemed to shine on Qin Yu. He felt as if he was a traveller about to die of thirst in the desert who had finally received a sip of sweet cold water.

At this moment, his heart throbbed. His survival instinct reacted.

That voice sounded once more, “As long as you are willing, you can leave at any time. You don’t have to do anything, you just have to be willing.

“After leaving this place, you will realize that you did not lose anything from being here. In fact, you might have even gained something after experiencing the dark cold wave. When that time comes, you will become stronger. If you focus on cultivating, it might be possible for you to return to this place to rescue her.

“And death...especially dying in here, is forever and permanent. Your soul fragments will become nourishment to the one that you are trying to save. They will be collected, separated, and absorbed. Of course, though this might not be her intention, believe me when I say that this will be how it ends.”

Qin Yu was trembling and there was still the soft cracking sound from the ball of ice. He did not know who the owner of this voice was, but he believed whatever he was being told.

However, he remained silent and did not move, enduring the heart-wrenching pain.

“Qin Yu, you are a lot more outstanding than I imagined. If you had agreed to what I just said, you would have lost a prize that I would have given you. Yes, it was a test, and you passed. If you choose to leave now, I will help you undergo a huge transformation. For example, letting you see the entrance of the King realm much earlier.

“You have persisted until now and this shows your loyalty sufficiently. No one will doubt you. Moreover, no one will know about this. This is a promise that I am giving you.

“Believe my sincerity, take what I am offering you and leave this place...I promise that this is your only chance.”

Qin Yu could no longer speak. But because of the unknown power, all of his thoughts could be heard out loud in this world.

There was a short moment of silence in the darkness before his calm voice could be heard, “You have not experienced enough. When you are doing things like this, you must have more emotion in your tone in order to have more persuasive power.

“Additionally, I believe that you have been watching me ever since Rourou fell asleep right...you hid for so long and only came out now to offer me the terms. It seems like you really do not want me to rescue her from this place. This also means that I am very near to my goal right?”

After waiting for a few moments, Qin Yu thought that the voice would not speak up again. However, it sounded once more, “Qin Yu, you are a lot smarter than I thought. As someone who is clever, you should be aware of the meaning to your existence.

“Saving her means that you will die. This is the sentence that I give you...it is effective from now!”

Qin Yu’s heart contracted intensely. A strong fear of death overcame him. There was no reason for it, but instinct made Qin Yu believe that whatever this thing had said would become reality.

If he saved Rourou, he would die!

Qin Yu’s emotions were running wild and his strong sense of survival was fighting back.

Nod, Qin Yu, hurry and nod.

With just a thought, you can do anything. You will be able to leave this scenario that you are fated to die in and achieve a change that is unimaginable.

Do you know what the doorstep of the King realm means? After being able to see it earlier, you will be able to prepare in advance and build a solid ladder. Eventually, in time you will be able to step through it and become the true peak existence in the Desolate world.

When that time comes, what can that clan do? Saving Ning Ling will also a possibility and a bright and brilliant future awaits. It is so much better than this ending where you are fated to die, and this is all achievable with just a single thought.

What are you waiting for? Nod, hurry and nod!

Internally, his instinct was pushing him and rumbling like crazy. Blood spurted out of Qin Yu’s nose, mouth, and ears. Strangely, it did not freeze from the coldness. Instead, it flowed into the ice. Like blood dripping into clear water, it spread outwards and turned the block of ice red.

“I –” Qin Yu’s body trembled and the blood ice continuously broke. ‘Crack crack’. It was like a rapidly beating heart, “Reject you!”

Woosh –

In his mind, the instinct cried out and disappeared. Along with it, the voice that Qin Yu heard also disappeared.

He had made his decision.

It was not that Qin Yu did not fear death, but he knew that in this world, anything he gained required a price.

The more he gained, the bigger the price!

Leaving this place alive, the door of the King realm...this meant that Qin Yu would pay an even higher price than what he was going through now.

What would it be? Qin Yu did not know, but it would not be good. It might even allow him to live, but he might live a life in which he would rather be dead.

Then why didn't he take the gamble?

The reason why Qin Yu gave the other option a shot was simple. It was because the owner of the voice only dared to appear after Rourou fell asleep.

This had a deeper meaning that he could decipher...must I die just because you say so? Maybe not.

Moreover, what he bet on had optimistic projections for the future. The difference between having Rourou by his side and not was massive.

The bigger the risk, the bigger the wins. This time, Qin Yu was even betting his life. He just needed to win!

"Your choice is right."

A warmth emerged from within his chest. It was Qin Yu's beating heart. It was now like a sun emitting warm rays.

The ice covering his body started melting and disappeared rapidly.

Panting, Qin Yu quickly closed his eyes. Under the rays, he was extremely, extremely pale.

A sun rose from his chest and appeared in front of him. A vague figure could be seen within it, and it was looking at Qin Yu with a complicated expression.

Qin Yu massaged his eyebrows as he struggled to open his eyes. He allowed tears to flow out, "I am guessing that there is a but after your sentence."

"You are right." The figure in the sun spoke calmly as it looked focused, "You were wrong on one thing. The reason why he appeared only after the owner of this place fell asleep is not because he could not appear before, but because it was agreed upon between the two of them."

Qin Yu frowned, "Did I bet wrongly?"

The figure in the sun nodded, "No one can change their judgement." Leaning forward slightly, he looked at Qin Yu, "Now, are you regretting your choice?"

Qin Yu blinked, "Is there a point in regretting?"

The figure in the sun shook his head.

Qin Yu smiled, "Then why should I regret?" He looked up at the darkness above him, "Since you came out by yourself, it means that I am at the right place. Is it here?"

"Yes."

Qin Yu pointed and made a dashing gesture, "Go!"

Woosh –

The huge sun rose up. ‘Boom boom’ there were loud sounds as light erupted in the place like waves, crashing in all directions.

In a flash, it lit up this world that had been shrouded in darkness for eternity.

This was where the Ancient Divine Spirits had created the world!

Chapter 1627 – Back

As the light pushed away the darkness, Rourou was lying on the soft bed made from the tree branches, and her eyelashes fluttered slowly before she opened her eyes.

When she opened them, the first thing she saw was the sun emitting heat above her. Her eyes widened slightly as she looked helpless, “Little Qin Yu, you actually took this step.”

Woosh –

She stepped out and her figure disappeared. When she reappeared, she reached forward and managed to catch Qin Yu, who was falling on his back.

To save one, one must die. This was the sentence of fate and no one could change it.

Since Rourou was awake, Qin Yu would naturally die.

.....

West Barbarian Land. At the peak of Traverse Mountain. A black-tiled temple stood there, looking solemn amidst the falling snow.

Inside the temple, the floor was clean. Great Shaman Mengshan sat cross-legged and he suddenly felt something.

His eyes shot open as sorrow filled his face and despair filled his eyes.

Six years ago, when His Majesty’s aura suddenly disappeared, Great Shaman Mengshan was able to sense that His Majesty’s life force was not gone.

He could sense that it was in some strange place and in an unknown circumstance.

But at this moment, he could clearly sense the grief from the Barbarian Clan’s bloodline.

His Majesty, the Barbarian King...was gone!

Great Shaman Mengshan took a deep breath as he slowly move to a kneel, he growled, “Rest well Your Majesty. May your body and soul return to this vast land!”

At the peak of Traverse Mountain, a strong gust of wind could suddenly be felt and the falling snow turned red. In a blink of an eye, the entire mountain peak was covered.

The white snow was now blood red, symbolizing sadness and desolation.

On this day, in all the Barbarian Clan territories outside the Great Desolate, all Barbarian Clan totems showed their true bodies and knelt down to mourn. They expressed their immense sorrow in losing His Majesty, the Barbarian King.

The entire world was shaken!

.....

The totem of the Flowing Fire Tribe was only as big as a fist. It was born from the spirit of the underground fire veins. Now, a pained crying sound could be heard from within the flame.

“My king has passed on!”

“The Barbarian Clan’s fate has been cut off. There is no more hope!”

“Gone, we are utterly finished. Everyone has to die, no one can live!”

The Tribe Leader of the Flowing Fire Clan, along with two elders, Big Cat and Small Cat, fell to the ground in a kneel. Their faces were pale as they felt utter despair.

It was not that they were really this sad. It was because they could sense endless despair in their bloodlines.

It came from their hearts and they could not control it!

Their eyes were widened as fear filled their hearts. What was going on?

Last year, their clan had received a precious stone and they were about to regain power. How did things change to become like this in such a short period?

Barbarian King? Since when did our Barbarian Clan have a new king? And how could he die so suddenly without warning?!

A few young barbarians rushed over in a frenzy, “Old Uncle, uncles! The clan is saying that our new king has fallen and the Barbarian Clan is screwed!”

Their faces were filled with fear and panic.

They then realized that the elder barbarian across them was trembling immensely as if he was a sieve, and he had a strange look on his face. His face changed from red to purple and his eyes were so wide open that they looked like they were about to explode.

“Old Uncle, are you alright?” A young barbarian looked as if he was about to cry as he slowly reached out his hand. He was afraid that the old uncle could not take the shock and would just pass on.

Pak –

Before he could touch the old barbarian’s face, his hand was slapped away, “Hehe, haha, hahahahaha! You old bastards. I was not wrong. You all were wrong. I knew that you were all wrong.

“The end was not the end. Only rebirth through death can welcome the real chance. It is a glorious day for my Barbarian Clan!”

Rushing out of the tent, the old barbarian knelt on the floor as he kissed the ground repeatedly. Tears streamed down his face in excitement.

The young barbarians from the Flowing Fire Tribe looked like they were about to cry as they saw their old uncle act so crazily.

Damn, their old uncle had gone crazy!

.....

Central Desolate Divine Area, Thirteenth Floor.

News travelled from all directions and was sent at the fastest speed possible.

Many years ago, an old ancestor of the Xu Family, betrayed his clan and joined the Thirteenth Floor. He did not hold back in using his cultivation and eventually got what he desired – the Barbarian King was dead!

There were celebratory cries emerging from the Thirteenth Floor. The Qin Empire ordered that everyone was exempted from tax and amnesty would be given.

All the elders from the four clans and four sects breathed a sigh of relief. Other than the Xu Family's Yin Yang Realm, which had a suppressed atmosphere, everyone else was smiling.

To all nine areas in the Great Desolate, the Barbarian King's existence was like a thorn in their flesh.

With him dead, everyone was relieved!

On the same day, the Central Desolate Li Family's third generation disciple, Li Ruhua, returned home through Parasol County's array.

She was met by all the elders in her clan followed by the strong cultivators from the Thirteenth Floor. They did some kind of confirmation of Li Ge's death. All the links and consequences of it had been wiped off.

Li Ruhua was added to the name list of the Thirteenth Floor and it was rumored that one of the seniors on the Eleventh Floor had chosen Li Ruhua and was willing to accept her as a disciple.

Delighted laughter filled the Li Family. At least to the elders, it was a huge thing for their direct disciple to enter the Thirteenth Floor.

Li Ruhua, who already enjoyed a special status and position, became even more prominent in her clan.

In the Li Family, there was news saying that once Li Ruhua returned from the Thirteenth Floor, she would be given the title of elder of the clan. She might even become the next head of the Li Family as a female in the future!

But no one knew that at this moment, while Li Ruhua sat in her cultivation room alone, her face was extremely pale as she looked at the red marks on her palm.

.....

Without any different or strange feeling, Qin Yu slowly opened his eyes. He felt as if he had awoken from a very very long sleep. At this moment, his vision was slightly blurry and he seemed to be able to see a huge door that crossed the heavens and earth. It was golden and shining brilliantly under the light. It did not look tacky but instead looked extremely majestic.

He blinked and struggled to see more clearly. However, the door quickly vanished and a familiar face appeared in front of him.

“Oi! You are finally willing to wake up? Hurry and wipe the drool off your face. Disgusting. What did you dream about?” Rourou was looking at him with disgust, and her gaze fell on a suspicious spot of Qin Yu’s. However, there was no evidence and she merely rolled her eyes.

“Rourou!” Qin Yu mumbled before sitting up. He looked around and felt the familiar aura. A smile appeared on his face, “We are back!”

Rourou’s eyes looked warmer, “Mmhm, we are back.” She stood up and headed out. “You should clean up first. You are so gross and smelly! Go and have a shower and take a nap. It will do you good.”

There was a faint green liquid in a big wooden tub. Steam was coming out of it and it was filled with bubbles.

Qin Yu walked to the side and looked at it. He immediately frowned. His hair was extremely messy and his beard had grown, making him look like a wild man...

“How long did I sleep for?” The corners of his mouth twitched as he suddenly recalled the scare Rourou gave him previously.

There was some lingering fear!

“No, if that was really the case, Rourou would not be so calm. I am just scaring myself.” Qin Yu rubbed his chin as he entered the wooden tub.

Sss –

It was as if numerous ants had crawled into his bones. There was a slightly painful and numbing feeling before he felt comfortable.

“In the blink of an eye, I am back. I feel like so many things happened...” Qin Yu only managed to think this before exhaustion overtook him like a wave and he fell asleep, leaning on the wooden tub.

Rourou appeared beside the tub. She reached out to touch his forehead. She focused on checking him before letting out a sigh of relief.

“Qin Yu, you are doing well. A lot better than before.” Behind her, there was a calm voice.

Rourou turned and glanced at him, “Let’s talk outside.”

“Okay.”

They walked out. Outside the cave, White Iris was kneeling on the ground and Leftover Dog had awoken. He was now so skinny that he looked like skin and bones. However, his eyes were exceptionally shiny.

They carefully looked at the two people walking out of the cave. They knew that if the two people wanted to, they could ruin them with a single thought!

They were used to the lady and how mighty and mysterious she was. But who was the man? He was unreasonably handsome and he was also very powerful.

Leftover Dog was purely curious and in awe. For White Iris, other than these two emotions, there was also a deep jealousy and animosity.

The man walking behind Rourou suddenly turned and look over. Leftover Dog heard a suppressed groan from the side.

He turned and saw that White Iris had become paler. There was blood flowing out of her nose and mouth.

Strong, very strong. He was so strong, he made others feel despair! However, this just made Leftover Dog's eyes shine even brighter.

Rourou did not turn and merely said, "She is my maid. Even though she is a little stupid, you should see who the owner is before you hit the dog."

Behind her, the man smiled, "If not for that, she would have been dead."

Rourou thought about it before nodding. She seemed to accept this explanation. She stopped and made a move to wave her hand. However, she suddenly paused, "You do it."

The man lifted a finger and touched the air, creating a small sealed world. He looked at Rourou and seemed to hesitate, "Was it worth paying this kind of price to save Qin Yu?"

Rourou replied, "Is there a chance for regret?"

The man shook his head.

Rourou sneered, "Then it is useless."

The man thought about it before putting his hands together, "Ultimately, I have to thank you."

Rourou waved her hand, "There is no need. When Qin Yu saved me, he did not think much either." She paused, "There are some things that he will definitely ask you. Tell him everything according to our agreement."

The man nodded, "Okay."

Rourou looked at him, "I find it strange. Since you agreed to make a move and expose yourself to him...you and I both know that there is a risk. Can you give me an explanation?"

The man fell silent before smiling, "The explanation is that to save you, there is a need to believe in instinct.

"Other than that, the situation is not as dangerous as you make it out to be. The fact that we can both stand here and talk is the best proof."

“Hmph!” Rourou sneered, “He just has apprehensions. If there is a chance in the future, he will definitely not go easy.”

The man did not deny this and simply said, “Then I won’t give him a chance...moreover, other than the both of us, Qin Yu has another trick.”

He then looked thoughtful.

Although his memories had not returned, having reached this point, he could sense that Qin Yu was different.

Or rather, he had noticed this earlier on.

Back then, was it a coincidence that he chose Qin Yu as his bearer? Or was it something that had been predestined a long time ago?

Chapter 1628 – 9900 Capabilities

Rourou could guess what he was thinking. She calmly said, “Some things should be left for time to tell. There is no need to be bothered by it.”

The man thought about it. Then he cupped his hands and bowed, “Thank you for your guidance.”

He stood up and said, “Your current circumstances are similar to those of the other being. As for the one who has not been released from the seal...I believe we can take a deeper look again.”

Rourou said, “I agree.”

She turned around and looked in the direction of the cave. “Qin Yu is awake. You should go over, but remember not to reveal too much.”

The man smiled, “Alright.”

He turned and left. This time, White Iris lowered her head and did not dare to reveal any degree of disrespect to him.

Qin Yu woke up in the wooden tub feeling completely energetic. He was in a peak state that he had never been in before. Closing his eyes, he got a feeling of his physical state.

When he heard footsteps, his eyes flung open and he looked at the man who walked into the cave. He directly asked, “What happened after I lost consciousness?”

The man passed beside the tub and frowned slightly, “I promised her that I would not say too much.”

Qin Yu scoffed, “It seems you have forgotten whose side you are on.” He straightened himself up and threatened to pull the man into the tub.

The man flashed and avoided Qin Yu. Shaking his head helplessly, he said, “Even if you want to commit suicide, you should not try and harm me.”

“Tell me!”

The man raised his head and stared into Qin Yu’s eyes, “You died.”

He paused for a while and then added, "But you were revived."

Qin Yu frowned, "Don't speak like that, it is very hard for me to listen...to also, how big a price did she have to pay?"

"A lot." The man had a serious look on his face, "So I feel like you should treat her better."

Qin Yu raised an arm and rubbed his temples. He was the one who disregarded his life and saved her. How did he end up owing her again?

The man's smile grew even brighter, "A truly intelligent man would not be calculative with a lady by his side."

Qin Yu stared at him, "You have experience?"

The man's smile froze.

"Hmph!" Qin Yu's lips twisted, "Then stop trying to act all-knowing! Get to it – this time, did we lose or gain?"

The man said, "At this point, we have gained."

He raised one finger, "Firstly, Rourou is back. With her by your side, it is very hard for you to die if you don't seek it out. Secondly, you saw that door right? You don't need to be suspicious. It is that door that you are thinking about. Since you saw it, your future Dao path is promising. However, it is not because of the fulfillment of that commitment. Instead, it is an opportunity that Rourou gave you. That is why I said you ought to treat her better. Thirdly, the Barbarian King has died and the human cultivators have confirmed this fact. As such, you don't have to worry about being chased anymore and you can be more at ease."

Qin Yu glanced at him, "Tell me about our losses."

The man curled his fingers into a fist and then started to raise a finger, "Firstly, I have been exposed. There will be repercussions because of this, but not in the short term. Secondly, Rourou lost something and her abilities will be lessened in the future. Thirdly, the Barbarian King's death...this thing was ultimately fake. Furthermore, your identity has already been exposed."

He looked at Qin Yu with a serious look in his eyes, "Thirty years. You have thirty years before everything will be exposed. By then, the human cultivators will disregard everything and try to kill you...believe me. You only have a chance of survival if you enter the King realm. Otherwise, you will definitely die. Even if Rourou and I help you, and you use all your hidden cards, you will not be able to save yourself."

Qin Yu massaged his temples again. Thirty years to enter the King realm. Even though he saw that door, the pressure on him was as large as a mountain.

He was not exaggerating it, this was really the case.

Known as the peak boundary, it was the highest attainable realm beneath the heavens. In the history of the Desolate Area, so many creatures had lived under the sky, but how many were able to enter the King realm? In the entire West Desolate Area, this massive empire had only produced seven of them after so many years.

Stepping into the realm was immensely difficult!

Look at the man opposite him, Qin Yu's expression faltered, "Half?"

The man shook his head.

Qin Yu's expression turned as hard as steel.

This was the situation, and he still claimed that they had gained from this ordeal? Why not just tell him to peacefully pass his time for thirty years? When thirty years was up, he should just obediently go and die.

"There is a chance, neither of us want you to die...however, thirty years is a very short amount of time. You cannot make any mistakes during these thirty years." The man slowly continued, "Rourou has already made detailed arrangements. You need to move faster."

He turned and walked towards the exit.

Qin Yu gritted his teeth, "You are leaving just like that?"

"Yes, I am leaving."

"Aren't you going to think further in case you missed anything out?"

The man did not turn back and he threw something at Qin Yu. The object opened and revealed its full body and circled on Qin Yu's palm. It turned into a light green bracelet. Qin Yu could feel its slight excitement as it entered his mind.

"I am lending this to you. Remember to return it...also, only six years have passed in the Desolate Area. You are truly scaring yourself."

He walked out of the grotto without stopping. His eyes landed on White Iris, "Keep all your thoughts to yourself. If you make a move, you will die."

Shoosh –

His body flashed and he disappeared.

White Iris knelt to the ground; her face was as white as a sheet. Like she had just had a high fever, her entire body was soaked with sweat.

The sound of footsteps stopped. White Iris lifted her head with much difficulty and her lips quivered, "My Lady..."

Bam –

White Iris was sent flying with a strong kick, "You made contributions and errors, but I will forgive you now on account of your merits. You will still live for the time being, but don't expect me to save you."

Her eyes landed on Leftover Dog. He struggled to stand up and then kowtowed to her.

"You are qualified to be a dog. I am very satisfied."

He was sent flying with another kick. Leftover Dog tumbled and rolled on the ground in pain. "I told you the place already and you will still live for now too. However, if you can't rush there in time, don't expect to live."

Leftover Dog flipped over and bowed. Without further hesitation, he straightened himself and bounded away.

They were both kicked, but Leftover Dog was given a chance to live while White Iris was forgiven on account of her merits. The difference in treatment was obvious. Her eyes were still calm and did not reveal any hatred or disgruntlement.

She looked at Rourou only with respect and admiration.

"Hmph!"

With a cold scoff, Rourou walked out of the cave and ignored White Iris' gaze. There was no pity. A fool should expect only the treatment for a fool. Otherwise, it would not do justice to intelligent men in this world.

Qin Yu had tidied himself up and it was not an exaggeration to say that he was perfectly healthy now. After he woke up, he realized that he had changed back to his original appearance.

He was much more handsome than 'Ning Qin'!

Rourou's lips twisted and she checked him out, "Not bad."

Qin Yu ignored her interest and slowly said, "White Iris has been loyal to you. The past six years is the best evidence of that..."

Before he could finish, he was interrupted. Rourou scoffed, "Do I need you to teach me?" She sat down, still fuming.

As expected, men could not be trusted! He clearly promised not to say much, but in a flash, he sold her out. Ridiculous!

She sensed the strange look that Qin Yu gave her. Finally, she could no longer stand it. Her eyes bulged wide open as she snapped, "Qin Yu, listen well. I saved you because you saved me first, so we don't owe each other anything. Don't look at me in this way, I can't stand it!"

Qin Yu thought about it before nodding, "If you say it like this, it makes sense. It is like how you wrote off my debt easily in the past."

Rourou's expression turned awkward and she did not return Qin Yu's gaze, "Tell me, what do you want?"

Qin Yu answered, "What is your current state? What price did you have to pay to save me?"

Rourou scoffed, "Don't listen to that guy, he is only trying to make himself look better to make you feel like you gained by living. This...is his responsibility. If he took action earlier, it would have been much better. Why did he wait till the end?"

Qin Yu looked at her silently.

Rourou stretched her arms out and twirled around, "Look, look carefully. I am fine. Nothing is wrong with me."

Qin Yu remained silent and he stared at her intently. In the end, Rourou could only massage her temples in annoyance, "That's right. I did pay a price. If I had 10,000 capabilities in the past, I now have 9,900 capabilities."

Qin Yu demanded, "Tell me in detail."

Rourou snapped angrily, "I am only able to unleash the strength of a Ruler when I am descended in this world. If I exceed that threshold, I will deplete my original source and will need a long slumber before I can wake up again. It is just a limit placed on my strength. Are you happy now?"

Her face was red from anger, "Qin Yu, you are almost there. If I knew you were so annoying, I would have just let you die."

Qin Yu nodded, "Then, I will take it as this for now." He sighed a long breath. Looking at Rourou's black face, he laughed bitterly to himself. She was obviously lying.

Although he did not know who the owner of that voice was in Rourou's home, after the little blue lamp gave him more information, it was not difficult to confirm how terrifying its actual realm was.

With one sentence, it could determine the fate of all creatures. Even Qin Yu, a Ruler, could die from its judgment.

Rourou turned the situation around and forcefully saved him. The price she had to pay must have been much greater than she claimed.

A limit on her strength...it was probably only one of the symptoms that she could not hide from him after paying the price. She was not willing to explain, but that did not mean that Qin Yu could choose to ignore it. He had not cleared his debt with her.

For instance, when Qin Yu mentioned the debt...were simple treasures really enough to make up for the help that Rourou gave him? Not to mention, after he gave those things to her, she 'rented' them back to him.

He had to have a conscience.

That was why Qin Yu disregarded his safety to find the Ruler back then and then the little blue lamp. He was not afraid to reveal his biggest secret to save her.

Some things did not have to be done, but there were some things that he had to do. Otherwise, what was the use of living a thousand years, ten thousand, or even forever? If he turned back to look at his past, he would not feel at ease.

Looking at Rourou, Qin Yu smiled, "Alright, what should we do next? I heard that you already made arrangements."

He would leave it for now and engrave this moment in his heart. When he had the chance to make it up to her in the future, he would do what he had to.

Chapter 1629 – Qin Nation Realm

Beneath the foot of the Cool Mountain of Grandeur Nation was Niu Village. It kept this name even though it was now a heavily guarded Ancestral Dragon Land of the Qin Clan's empire.

It was hard to tell the time in the deep mountains. In the blink of an eye, six years had already passed in the outside world, but in the mysterious land where time flashed by, two thousand years had passed.

Cloud Mist Taoist obtained his Great Dao and his cultivation speed was shocking. He was now the most powerful person in the Grandeur and Millet Nations. He lived a carefree life and it was rumored that he obtained an immortal fruit that allowed him to be one with the world.

The Qin Family was protected by him and their power developed accordingly, growing stronger and stronger over the years. Two hundred years ago, they finally build their own nation and they became the third great nation, Great Qin, outside of the Grandeur and Millet Nations.

It was rumored that after Great Qin was built, the founding king of the nation moved the tombs of the two Old Ancestors of the family into the royal tomb. This was done to suppress the fate of the Qin Nation.

Cloud Mist Taoist appeared in the Qin Palace and he had a conversation with the Qin king. From then, the Qin Nation turned from an area that was eight hundred meters wide into the Ancestral Dragon Land. The imperial palace arranged for men to guard the area heavily, and no one was allowed to touch a grass or tree in that place.

Two hundred years passed. The Qin Nation strengthened and it was prosperous. They could not ignore the protection their ancestors had given them.

As such, the Qin king was going on a month-long excursion and would leave the capital to head to the ancestral lands the next day. He would fast and cleanse himself for three days to pay respect to the ancestors of the Qin Clan. Cool Mountain was originally guarded very heavily, but because of the king's visit, the security grew even tighter and many eyes were watching it each day.

It had been two hundred years since the nation was built and the current Qin king was the fourth king. His royal name was Qin Xuanzong and he was a stern-looking middle-aged man who was about fifty years old. At this moment, he was wearing a white dragon robe in an ordinary-looking horse carriage. There was a lady from the palace with him together with a child. Additionally, there were two old eunuchs present, and they were slowly making their way to the Taoist temple at the foot of Cool Mountain.

Its name was Cool Temple, but it was no longer a famous temple after all these years. Only those who looked through the secret history of the royal family would know that there was a close connection between this Taoist temple and the Great Qin Empire.

Until each king crowned their crown prince, they would return to the ancestral lands every three to five years. This was the case for today's secret expedition.

The two eunuchs were old men from the palace and they could definitely be trusted. One of them was driving the horse carriage while the other was resting with his eyes closed. The noble lady in the horse carriage knew that something was going on and she was nervous. She grabbed onto her son's hand and

gave him a reminder. However, she was also scared that she would reveal too much, and she lost the graceful demeanor that she had in the past.

Qin Xuanzong smiled and ignored her actions. Back then, when he went to Cool Temple with his father, his mother was much more nervous than the noble lady here.

The naming of the heir could not be decided by the Qin king alone. What seemed like scandalous rumors in the palace were actually a willingly accepted secret by the Qin Clan.

Although there were records of how the ancestors resolved immortal karma, nothing in this world could pass the test of time. The small Qin Family from Niu Village in the countryside had built a nation two hundred years ago. It was a stark difference from their origins.

Regardless of how much good will a person had, there was a time when it would be depleted. Without the immortal on the mountain supporting them, the Qin Clan empire would not have this fate. What they could do now was ensure that they maintained good karma with the top immortal on the mountain.

The crown prince who would inherit the throne naturally had to abide by customs without a word, as this was an important karma to accumulate.

As such, it was essential that the old immortal on the mountain in Cool Temple was consulted before the crown prince was named.

Anyone with a discerning eye in the Qin Clan could not help but admire the founding king for coming up with this wonderful custom.

The horse carriage stopped and the two eunuchs jumped off it. They waited respectfully by the side.

Qin Xuanzong pushed open the door and walked out of the carriage. He calmly said, "Wait here."

"Yes, Your Majesty."

He grabbed his son's hand and looked at the noble lady beside him and smiled, "Let's go."

The king personally knocked the door and the Cool Temple doors opened. A young daoist bowed respectfully, "Your Majesty, Master invites you in."

Qin Xuanzong smiled and bowed, "Thank you young immortal."

The young daoist's expression was stiff but he still had a discerning eye. It probably had not been long since he joined the temple.

The fourth prince was a young teen who was roughly twelve or thirteen years old. Looking at the soft and tender face of the young daoist, he chuckled and commented, "You have a charming face and you will definitely be good-looking when you are older."

The noble lady from the palace gasped and her face fell. She was just about to say something but the king gave her a look and stopped her.

The young daoist's face grew bright red but he was not angry. He softly spoke, "You are also good-looking."

Qin Xuanzong burst into laughter.

They entered the temple where the daoists had all been instructed to stay in their own rooms.

The young daoist led the way and brought the royal family to a room in the backyard where his master was cultivating in seclusion.

“Master, the king is here.”

“Mm, come in.”

The young daoist pushed the door open and walked to a side. He gently lifted the curtains and revealed the man inside who looked like he was sleeping.

The fourth prince’s interest was piqued. He smiled as he carefully surveyed the room. He did not know the significance of today’s events and he simply thought that his father was bringing him here to greet an immortal in the mountains.

Qin Xuanzong stared at Cloud Mist Taoist, who had not changed in appearance since a few decades ago. He suppressed the complicated emotions in his heart and cupped his hands together to bow, “I, Qin Cheng, have brought my royal concubine and my fourth son, Qin Cong, to greet old immortal.”

His father was being so respectful and his tone was extremely courteous as well. It shocked the fourth prince and he quickly bowed like his father. He had seen a number of immortals in the past and some were very famous in the three nations too. However, he had never seen his father been so respectful to anyone.

Cloud Mist Taoist smiled and raised his hand, “Your Majesty, you don’t have to be so polite. Please sit.”

He turned and instructed, “Young Daoist, serve His Majesty, the lady, and the prince some tea.”

Qin Xuanzong said, “We don’t have to trouble the young immortal. Qin Cong, you serve tea to the old immortal.”

His eyes as he turned towards the fourth prince were deep and mysterious.

If he did not favor the fourth prince, he would not have stood his ground against all the opposing opinions and chose to bring the fourth prince with him to Cool Mountain.

Qin Cong sighed deeply and answered “Yes Father!”

He stepped forward and bowed respectfully, “Old immortal, I am not familiar with the customs on the mountain. Please forgive me if I offend you.”

He poured the tea till the cup was eighty percent full. Then, he covered the cup and returned back to his spot.

It was a simple task. However, the young royal teen started to sweat profusely.

Cloud Mist Taoist glanced at Qin Cong and smiled as he raised the cup.

Qin Xuanzong immediately started to smile.

Beside him, the lady's eyes welled up with tears and she almost cried on the spot.

Qin Xuanzong bowed, "Old immortal, please give him a name."

At this moment, there was a character that was stuck in Cloud Mist Taoist's head. He smiled, "Mu."

Fifteen years later, Qin Xuanzong abdicated the throne and the fifth emperor of Great Qin, Qin Muzong, inherited the throne.

On the day that he took the throne, at the ancestral lands of the Qin Clan outside Niu Village of the Ancestral Dragon Land, a young man appeared. He stared at a tombstone that had sustained wind and rain for a thousand years. There was a complicated look in his eyes.

Six years ago, Li Mu came here and hesitated on whether to take action or now. He opened the coffin and confirmed his thoughts.

However, he did not take action in the end.

Ever year since then, Li Mu came here. He did not do anything but stay here for a day silently.

No one discovered him, even Cloud Mist Taoist who had a mysterious cultivation on Cool Mountain did not sense him.

Today, as he looked at the tombstone, Li Mu's eyes grew more and more dark. It felt like the bottom of the sea.

He frowned and slowly spoke, "This is the Qin Nation. Is this a coincidence...or is there something deeper?"

Li Mu was filled with respect and fear of the lady that he had not met in person before.

When she was missing, he did not make a hasty move. Now that she had returned, Li Mu also did not take action.

He looked at it and looked at it again.

He never lacked patience. If he could not get a closer look this time, he would wait for the next round.

.....

In the mine at the border of the West Desolate.

The location of Marquis Chongwu Ning Qin was unknown. Although the capital announced that the marquis had to attend to another important matter, as time passed, small news spread through the land and there were the first signs of bad news.

Under the light from the lamp, Hundred Saint frowned as he tidied up military affairs. However, as time passed, white hair started to grow. Evidently, the past few years had not been easy for him.

In fact, if he didn't have the side bloodline of the imperial family in his veins and if it weren't for his uncle, Lord Chengtian, Hundred Saint would be in a much worse position.

"Who is it!"

With a low shout, Hundred Saint whipped around and his eyes flashed brightly.

A figure walked out from the darkness. Looking closer, it was a familiar yet foreign face. Hundred Saint seemed to have met this man before.

The man did not take action but he voluntarily showed himself. Hundred Saint sighed and asked in a cold tone, "Who are you? You dared to enter military grounds. Don't you know that the military rules are unforgiving?"

Qin Yu thought about it before slowly saying, "Southwest fragmented area, East Sea, Ten Thousand..."

Opposite him, Hundred Saint's eyes bulged wide open, "It is you!" Excitement poured out from him but he quickly held himself back. In a deep voice, he asked, "Back then, what did I say?"

A strange look crossed Qin Yu's face, "You...called me Brother Ten Thousand...you wanted to be brothers in arms and fight the enemy...you...your senses are not bad."

Hundred Saint jumped for joy, "It really is you. I knew that after we parted back then, we would meet again in the future."

He walked over briskly and patted Qin Yu's shoulder. "I returned to the West Desolate and I tried to find you but I didn't get any news...you...mm. If it isn't convenient, forget about it. Between us, our identities don't matter."

Qin Yu was rather dumbfounded and he looked at the overly excited Hundred Saint in front of him. Is your white hair fake? Why is it that you did not improve after suffering for all these years?

Unless, did I really subdue you so well? Is your head spoilt after one meeting?

Sucking in a breath of air, Qin Yu massaged his head. His voice changed and he said, "Hundred Saint, look carefully at who I am."

Shoosh –

The face of the man in front of him changed and there was the sounds of bones breaking. The person in front of him was Marquis Chongwu Ning Qin who had been missing for the past six years!

Hundred Saint sucked in a breath of cold air and his eyes widened in shock. He was at a loss for words as he pointed a finger at Qin Yu. Qin Yu started to worry that Hundred Saint would faint.

"You...you...you you you..."

Qin Yu coughed lightly, "I can explain this."

Half an hour later, Hundred Saint sat on the chair, staring blankly into space. He looked like he was dreaming. He wanted to slap himself.

Slap –

Ouch!

His eyes widened.

Real, it was real!

Hahaha, no wonder I was always fond of the marquis. He was so close to me.

So he is my Ten Thousand Saint brother. I, Hundred Saint, really have a good eye for discerning people!

Chapter 1630 – The Jade in the Seizing Heavens Sect

The reason why Qin Yu told Hundred Saint about his true identity was not because Qin Yu could not return without this identity. The real reason stemmed from the West Desolate.

What he was about to do next required massive support from the West Desolate. He had to eliminate the fear and vigilant attitude that the West Desolate King had for some unknown reason.

After thinking carefully about it, the problem probably started from when Qin Yu changed his identity and pretended to be the Darkness Ruler to enter the West Desolate.

With his current importance as a chess piece for the West Desolate, it was not going to be too dangerous if he exposed his identity...it was better than being suspected by the West Desolate in the future. If he was eventually going to spoil the ship for a ha'penny worth of tar, he might as well voluntarily expose himself. At the most, he could just abandon the identity of Marquis Chongwu.

Like the little blue lamp reminded him, thirty years was an incredibly short period of time and mistakes were not allowed. It was better if he took a path full of thorns rather than almost losing his life again on a regular path.

A horse carriage was waiting peacefully in the wilderness. Qin Yu pushed the door open and rubbed his forehead, "I have gotten new proof of my identity, but we are not in a hurry to leave. I have something to do."

Rourou frowned, "Where are you going?"

"Iron Thorn City."

.....

It had been six years since the upheaval in the West Border Army camp. The chaotic Iron Thorn City had already gotten used to the military's intervention in the small city and there was finally peace there. The only thing that made the people in the city sigh was that the big doors to the Wang Family's mansion were abandoned and the mansion itself was in ruins.

In the past, the Wang Family was one of the top-ranked families in Iron Thorn City. For many generations, they enjoyed glory, splendor, and wealth, but one day, they were dragged into the internal battle in the military and more than a hundred men in the family were killed.

Wang Kai was a headless ghost and many elders in Iron Thorn City would secretly curse at him needlessly. He was an example they spoke of to their own disciples, claiming that he forgot his own roots and destroyed his entire family for a moment of selfishness. In death, he would continue to be boiled in hot oil!

On the other hand, Crow Iron Wine was still continuing with business. However, from the brewery to the retail store, every worker was a new face. The fair-skinned woman who attracted even married men was now missing.

Married men who continued to drink at Crow Iron Wine would occasionally think of her and they could not help but sigh. Without that woman, drinking did not feel as satisfying.

There were rumors that the woman married a young man who came to the border to work and live his life. The man was tall, burly, good in bed, and also wealthy. As such, he kept the woman at home and she could rarely go out.

The wives of the men at the border scoffed in disdain. They scowled in disgust as they said that the troublemaker should not live a comfortable life. Rumors could not be trusted!

On this day, a horse carriage stopped in front of the retail store of Crow Iron Wine. Many people looked at the carriage in interest because the driver was a lady.

Many people who lived at the border were strong-willed, and it was not rare to see a lady driving a carriage. However, this lady was dressed in a white robe. Although only her eyes could be seen, this did not stop men from staring at her with fiery desire.

Their eyes were burning with greed, however, no one dared to make a rash move. The capital border area was not a peaceful place. Dead men were a natural sight. As long as nothing too massive happened, the powerful men in the military did not interfere with them. The horse carriage that the lady drove looked travel-worn. The fact that it managed to arrive in Iron Thorn City meant that it was an invisible threat.

The carriage stopped and a young man got out after pushing the doors open. His aura and gaze were calm and peaceful. However, it was evident from his moves that he was more than he seemed. The people who stopped at the side to look at the white-robed lady were like scared cats and they quickly scurried away.

Judging people was not a good thing, but it was a necessary skill to have in the capital border area. Unless they were blind, they could tell that they should not provoke the young man. Otherwise, their heads would roll before they could blink.

The man walked towards the winery and asked for the shop owner. No one knew what they spoke about but the man left quickly and the horse carriage slowly began to move again. Soon, they vanished.

Two hours later, the horse carriage stopped at an ordinary-looking yard in the north of Iron Thorn City. This time the man did not appear, but the white-robed lady hopped off the carriage and knocked on the door.

It seemed like no one was inside. After knocking for a long time, there was still no response. She frowned slightly and the air around her turned cold. In the carriage, the man's calm voice rang, "Alright, since he isn't around, let's go."

The white-robed lady respectfully acknowledged the command and returned to the carriage. She pulled the reins of the horse and left.

On the bed in the room of the yard.

A half-naked lady cuddled in the embrace of a man. She was wearing a long skirt and her face was flushed red. Yet, she was starting to turn pale and her eyes were filled with horror.

The man next to her was tall and burly and he was definitely good in bed. However, it was not like the rumors said where he came to the border to work. He was part of the border army. He was one of the interrogators who investigated the assassination attempt on Marquis Chongwu Ning Qin. After the incident, he sought out the lady and the two made an arrangement. Very quickly, she went out of sight from everyone and she lived in the small yard.

"I am scared..."

The lady's voice shivered as she spoke. Her fair chest was plastered against the man and her arms wrapped around his neck in a vice-like grip. Her body shivered uncontrollably.

The interrogator frowned and his expression darkened, "Don't be scared. The incident was settled back then. No one will wait for six years before making a move against you..."

Pst –

There was a hollow sound and the interrogator's eyes bulged wide open. Blood poured out of his nose. There was now a hole in the middle of his chest and his heart was in the woman's hand. It was still beating very unwillingly as large amounts of fresh blood poured out.

With that, she pushed the interrogator to the ground. The lady stood up and ignored the bloody mess on the ground. She slowly said, "You are right. However, I need to be careful...I used you and hid for a few years. Now, it is time for me to leave."

She blinked and smiled, "Trading your heart for six years of my service is fair."

The lady threw the heart into her mouth and chewed on it. She watched the man take his last dying breath.

A few moments later, the space shifted and a translucent figure appeared in the room. She looked at her surroundings carefully and muttered, "No one. Was I really being overly cautious?"

The moment she said this, the translucent figure froze on the spot. Rourou grabbed her neck and glanced at the pool of blood on the bed. Her frown grew deeper.

"Kill her."

Qin Yu's voice entered her ears and Rourou did not hesitate before she tightened her fingers. With a 'bam', the good-looking evil spirit's soul dispersed.

Shoosh –

Rourou's figure disappeared and she returned to the horse carriage that was now outside of Iron Thorn City. As she grabbed a cloth to wipe her delicate fingers, she frowned.

Qin Yu smiled apologetically, "Sorry to trouble you, but you are the best at this...capable ones have to work hard!"

Was this a compliment? Rourou rolled her eyes, "Listen up. I will not dirty my hands for these kinds of worries again. I still feel disgusted."

Qin Yu chuckled and did not argue with her. He lightly said, "Now, I think I know where Wu Tongtian's power comes from."

The West Desolate's west border commander, one of the elites in the military who controlled one of the four border armies. He was actually...a part of them.

Interesting!

Qin Yu's eyes flashed brilliantly. He wasted valuable time to come to Iron Thorn City and purposely alerted the enemy. Of course he was not doing this out of boredom.

He and the West Desolate were using each other. Regardless of what happened in the future, he would definitely reap benefits when this was revealed.

.....

The Seizing Heavens Sect.

The power of the sect was slowly decreasing in the West Desolate. It had fallen from its first class status. Although this was an undeniable fact, it did not mean that the sect's cultivators were suffering.

In fact, compared to other creatures in the world, the cultivators in the sect were elites.

As a famous sect in the northwest region of the empire, one of its ancestors was a Half-King. Even if its powers decayed and the bloodline diminished, the sect cultivators were still superior to others.

In recent years, the ancestral hall of the Seizing Heavens Sect were overjoyed because they found a unique talent. Many years proved that the seniors of the sect had good foresight, and everyone valued this talent well and they placed hopes on him.

It was rumored that the Sect Master once got drunk two years ago and proudly proclaimed that a peak level Ruler would appear in the Seizing Heavens Sect within a hundred years. They might even have a King in two hundred years.

Once this happened, the Seizing Heavens Sect would regain their spot of honor and glory from the past. They would leap to power instantly and take over the position of the Demon Sect to become the ultimate superpower in the world. They would be able to reverse the standings of the sects and lead all sects as the leader in the highest position.

By then, all sects would owe the Seizing Heavens Sect a big karma favor. This would help to ensure that the sect's roots and power would last for another ten thousand years.

Six years was enough for a young teenager to turn into an outstanding young lord. Furthermore, Qin Yǔ[1] did not stray from his path. Currently, he wore a white robe as he stood on the peak of a mountain. Wind blew gently against his robe, making him look like an immortal who had descended upon this land.

A few female cultivators of the Seizing Heavens Sect stared at him, smitten. If this place could bear cherry blossoms, the cherry blossoms would never wilt.

“Ah!”

Qin Yǔ, who had the look of a young man, sighed and started to frown slightly.

This frown seemed to break the hearts of a few of his senior sisters and junior sisters. An elegant-looking female cultivator in a white robe that looked similar to his stepped forward and gently asked, “Junior brother, is something wrong? If there is something bothering you, tell me about it and I can help you.”

Qin Yǔ smiled and turned around, “The green hills look really charming, but autumn is coming soon and when things dry up, I will feel sad.”

The white-robed senior sister smiled, “This is not an issue. I will tell the sect and ask the Old Ancestor to use a Divine Way to ensure that seasons never pass on this hill. It will remain green for the whole year.”

Qin Yǔ shook his head, “Thank you senior sister for your kind words. But dying and living is part of the cycle of life in this world. How can we easily meddle with it?” He shook his head and a complicated look crossed his eyes, “What will come will eventually come. It is useless to avoid it.”

With that, Qin Yǔ flashed a smile and cupped his hands towards his senior and junior sisters. He stepped forward and said, “A guest has arrived, I will take my leave.”

His body flashed and he vanished like a rainbow. The ladies that stared at him were dazzled and they wanted to embrace him with their arms and dote on him.

A few moments later, the rainbow appeared at another spot. The immortal-like Qin Yǔ fell to the ground with a ‘slam’ and bowed his head to the ground, “Greetings to Master.”

The carriage door opened to reveal Qin Yu inside. Rourou smirked coldly, “Can you avoid the meeting just by avoiding the greetings? Qin Yǔ, what do you think I should do to you?”

Qin Yǔ smiled. At this moment, it felt like the heavens’ light had shined down on the world and every creature was filled with life, “My Lady, what happened in the past is the past. Since we are all alive, we should continue forward.

“Keeping me and pretending that nothing happened is your best option...especially since Master is here, and time is tight. He can only enter the King realm with my help.”

His voice was calm and he spoke slowly, as though victory was in his hands.

Rourou’s lips curled up and her eyes were cold as she said, “It seems like you are confident!”