

Refining 1611

Chapter 1611 – White-Robed Qin Yu

Qin Yu sucked in a deep breath of air and then turned to look at Rourou.

She rolled her eyes but stayed silent. However, her eyes were clearly saying, ‘Are you blaming me for your cowardice?’

“Cough!”

Qin Yu stretched his hand forward and pressed it down. The violent space time rules quickly became calm. The mist disappeared and the Spirit Embryo of the world appeared before the two of them. However, it did not have an aura and it seemed to have lost all of its spirit. Now, it looked like an ordinary stone.

Of course, Qin Yu knew that it was in this state because it had been frightened. He walked forward and patted it, “Don’t worry. Rourou is on the same team as us; she won’t harm you.”

There was still silence from the Spirit Embryo.

Rourou scoffed, “If you don’t come out, then I will take action to force you out!”

‘Pitter patter’, a ball of light dropped on the ground. It sprawled on its back and there was a rumbling sound as it climbed up and hid behind Qin Yu. It was a small person that was only a foot tall.

Looking closer at it, this person shared about seventy to eighty percent of Qin Yu’s features. As he curled himself up, his smooth and tender skin made him appear very cute. At this moment, he was very fearful and his hands wrapped around Qin Yu’s calf, making him look extra pitiful.

Rourou narrowed her eyes but her expression remained calm, “Qin Yu, although the debt you have to me has been reduced by half, it isn’t cleared yet. You haven’t forgotten this have you?”

The little person hugging Qin Yu’s calf was quivering in fear and tears dripped down his face. However, he shook his head fiercely.

Qin Yu hesitated before nodding, “Yes.”

Rourou stretched an arm out, “The rest of the debt can be paid by this little guy instead of you. After all, strictly speaking, there is no difference between the two of you.”

The little person immediately burst into tears.

Qin Yu’s face scrunched up, but before he said anything, Rourou cut him off, “I am the debtee and I make the calls. Also, I already know what you are about to say. If you agree to this, I will promise to help.”

Although it was said in a roundabout manner, Qin Yu understood what Rourou meant and his eyes brightened.

The little person cried louder and he appeared so pitiful. He could break hearts with his cries.

Frowning, Qin Yu said, “Can you promise not to harm...” Rourou scoffed and cut him off, “No.”

She glanced at Qin Yu whose frown had turned even deeper. She snapped impatiently, "Don't worry, he won't die and I won't harm his origins. Are you going to agree to it or not? Otherwise, I am going to rescind the offer."

Qin Yu thought about it and slowly nodded. If Rourou was truly going to harm the Spirit Embryo, he would not be able to stop her either. In other words, there was no need to cause more trouble because of this.

The little person wiped away his tears as he looked at Qin Yu's attitude. His expression turned into one of resolution and he shut his eyes and sobbed quietly to himself.

"Don't worry. Rourou is our friend. If you suffer today, I will think of a way to make it up to you in the future."

Qin Yu spat out before he turned and left Misty Ghost Grotto. A layer of array suddenly appeared and shut off all sensory auras from both sides of the array. Frowning slightly, Qin Yu looked back. He found that Rourou's actions seemed slightly off.

After Qin Yu left, there was only Rourou and the foot-tall little person in Misty Ghost Grotto. His eyes were still closed and he was sobbing in a hushed voice. Tears continued to fill his eyes and his body was shivering from fear.

Rourou's eyes narrowed and the smirk across her face disappeared. It turned into an indifferent smile. "Alright, he is gone. Who are you putting on an act for?"

The foot-tall little person lifted his head and showed a look of confusion. His red eyes blinked and he looked innocent.

Rourou was expressionless, "I will get to the point. If you continue to act pitiful here, little brat, do you want to die?"

The little person lifted a hand to wipe his tears. He said, "Your honor's aura is really scary. I am weak and I acted pitiful to get some pity. Is that going overboard? Of course, if your honor doesn't like it, then I will speak properly."

He shook his head and then knelt down to the ground and bowed respectfully, "Greetings, your honor!"

Rourou scoffed, "Then guess what I am about to do next."

The little person frowned as he fell into deep thought, "Your honor, are you afraid that I will cause harm to the original body in the future?"

Rourou said, "Smart."

The little person laughed bitterly, "Your honor, you don't have to worry. I was born from a fragment of the original body's soul and I will live and die together with the original body. The original body's will is my master and I will not do such a thing."

"Oh, is that so?"

The little person felt a terrifying aura and his expression turned to shock. In the next instant, his body disappeared and the space in front of Rourou broke apart unexpectedly. The horror-struck little person was inside.

Rourou stretched an arm forward and grabbed the little person's neck. Her expression was dark and cold, "Little brat, I think you really want to die."

The little person screamed, "You promised the original body that you will not kill me!"

The grip of Rourou's fingers tightened and she threatened, "I did say that, but I've changed my mind. What can you do?"

The little person's face turned bright red and he struggled, "Why don't you believe me? I was just born. I have never harmed the original body and I don't have any intention to kill him and replace him!"

A flicker of a smile crossed Rourou's face, "Replace him. This phrase is used really well. No wonder both of you are the same person, your literary skills are good too."

The smile faded away and she pulled the little person in front of her closer such that they were almost pressed together. She stared menacingly into his eyes and said, "It seems that you still don't know who is standing in front of you right now. The understanding that I have of your species is far greater than you have ever imagined."

"After all, there is no reward in this world that comes for free. Most pastries that drop from the heavens have been messed with."

The little person stopped struggling and his expression changed to become as hostile as Rourou's. There was no longer fear in his eyes.

"You won't dare to kill me."

Rourou nodded, "You are right, I will be in trouble if I kill you. However, I can seal you and make sure that you are only a white lotus flower that looks pretty from the surface, or a crybaby ghost. What do you think? Will I do that?"

The little person jerked in response and he wailed, "I believe, I believe you! What are you going to do? The original body was chosen by you first and I won't fight you for him. Is that enough?"

Slap –

A huge slap instantly bruised the little person's face and the handprint could be clearly seen, "It seems that you really are foolish. Even now, you don't understand what I am saying."

"Remember, Qin Yu, your original body, is mine. If you dare to touch him, I will make sure you live like you are dead."

Rourou licked her lips and she released a bit of her aura from her sealed body.

The little person's eyes immediately widened and his limbs thrashed around wildly as he struggled in her grasp, "It is you, it is you!"

Rourou slowly said, "Now, do you understand?"

The little person nodded violently.

Rourou swallowed her saliva, "Since you understand, Let's carry on and begin the settling of the debt. Your original body owed me quite a sum. Let me think of how I am going to settle this with you."

She grabbed an arm of the little person and pulled it off. He cried in pain as the arm turned into a ball of light. She shoved it down her throat and gobbled it up. Rourou's eyes burned with passion.

This taste was amazing. She had to bury her urge to directly eat him whole.

Qin Yu's face had turned pale and he could feel the pain and fear from the little person. His legs jerked but he stopped himself. As he stared at the entrance of the Misty Ghost Grotto, his face was as dark as the night.

After careful consideration, Qin Yu sighed deeply and suppressed the uneasiness in his heart. He remained at his spot.

Since he chose to bring Rourou here, he had to give her some degree of trust. Otherwise, the situation would be worse.

Thankfully, nothing else happened after that and he could only sense the utter fear that the little person had.

A few moments later, the entrance of the Misty Ghost Grotto flashed and Rourou walked out. There was a pale-faced child who followed behind her. He looked roughly eleven or twelve years old and he wore a white robe. Together with his red lips and white teeth, he was dashing and he looked like an immortal that had descended to earth.

Qin Yu frowned in puzzlement. Rourou simply stated, "I already briefed him. This lad is willing to serve you and he will be tested in the Western Barbarian Land. However, it is too early to tell whether this will be a success." She looked at Qin Yu and her lips curled up in satisfaction, "I can see through whatever you are thinking."

The white-robed boy walked forward and bowed, "Please give me a name, Master." He appeared to be very respectful and his expression was calm. However, he was gritting his teeth internally and he was the only one who knew his feelings currently.

His real name could not be given out easily; it could be used against him to cause him harm.

Furthermore, this name would be given to him by Qin Yu. In the future, he could not harbor any evil thoughts against Qin Yu. Otherwise, he would be courting his own earth!

Qin Yu observed Rourou nodded her head. Disregarding the truth, he thought for a while before saying, "Your white robe floats in the wind like feathers(羽), making you look like a saint. You shall be called Qin Yǔ(羽)." [1]

The white-robed boy looked as though he had been struck by lightning. He stared at Qin Yu blankly and then wailed loudly.

Rourou was slightly stunned as she stared at Qin Yu. There was a flicker in her deep eyes.

Qin Yu helplessly said, "If you don't like the name, I can change it. Will I need to change it?"

Rourou waved her hand. "No, this name is very good. Qin Yu(秦宇) and Qin Yǔ(秦羽) are similar-sounding. There is nothing better than this. I think Qin Yǔ is crying tears of joy from getting his name."

Even though the white-robed Qin Yǔ nodded his head strongly, Qin Yu found the atmosphere weird. However, he observed how Rourou did not say anything else, and Qin Yǔ's name was settled like this.

Rourou glared at Qin Yu, "What are you staring at? Give him the materials. The lad has just been born and he has to leave here as soon as possible. However, if the heavens' lightning senses him and strikes him, he won't be able to dodge it."

Qin Yu nodded quickly and stopped crying.

Qin Yu kept twenty percent of the remaining materials in his hand and gave the rest to Qin Yǔ.

"Farewell, Master!" Qin Yǔ knelt on the ground and bowed respectfully. He stepped forward and vanished into thin air.

Qin Yu was surprised. He knew that Qin Yǔ did not have any cultivation now and he was only an ordinary person. However, he could control space.

Rourou scoffed, "Spirit Embryos born from the world are naturally different from ordinary people. What is there to be surprised about?" She lifted a finger and pressed it forward. There was a shriek, "If you dare to spy on us, I will dig out your eyeballs and make you blind!"

The shriek gradually grew further away.

Qin Yu realized that Rourou's expression was suddenly turning pale and her body swayed as though she could not keep her balance.

He quickly jumped forward and grabbed her, "What happened to you?"

Rourou gritted her teeth angrily and she almost cursed out loud, 'What? Isn't it all because of you that I could not pull myself together? If I lose it, you will understand what happens when you help the wrong person.'

However, she kept all this to herself and only massaged her temples angrily, "It is nothing. Help me back to rest."

Qin Yu sighed deeply, "Alright."

They crossed through the darkness and quickly left the underground mine. They arrived back at the residence silently.

Rourou's expression was getting more pale. She poured some tea for herself and gulped it down. Lifting her head to look at Qin Yu, she said, "Aren't you going to leave? I am really tired. Stop bothering me!"

Qin Yu's lips twisted awkwardly and he thought to himself that she was really harsh. Sighing again, he said, "Rest well."

He turned to leave but suddenly stopped after taking two steps. He asked, "What did you do in the underground just now?"

Rourou frowned. However, when she saw the serious expression on Qin Yu's face, she explained, "I simply ensured that the brat understood what sort of aspirations he should not have."

Qin Yu cupped his hands together and bowed, "Thank you."

He turned and left briskly.

1. In Chinese, there are characters that sound the same but have different meanings. The 羽 (Yu) for the Spirit Embryo's name means feather. Meanwhile, the 宇 (Yu) for the MC's name means universe. 宇

Chapter 1612 – The Different Opinions in the Barbarian Clan

Although Rourou claimed that she was fine, her circumstances later proved that things weren't as simple as they seemed on the surface.

Discovering the Spirit Embryo of the world and successfully planting and then germinating the Soul Seed was something that came with pros and cons.

Thankfully, Qin Yu had been willing to share this with Rourou and he gave her sufficient trust. Luckily, Rourou was also by his side. Otherwise it was hard to imagine what the consequences of this would have been.

Looking at Qin Yu's back, Rourou's lips twisted and her face filled with disdain. What she said did not align with what she thought at all.

However, her gaze eventually turned warm and there was even satisfaction in it that surprised herself.

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"Bad luck, I really have bad luck. I thought that after so many years, I could finally come out of hiding. Who knew that things would take a turn again and I would meet that demon-exorcizing couple who would throw me into an abyss of suffering again. How many years will I need before getting out of it? Unless, am I going to be suppressed for my whole life without any possibility of flipping my situation around?"

The boy in the white robe had been given the name Qin Yu. As he thought of this, his eyes welled up in tears again and his sadness flowed like the river. He could not hold in his sorrow. He lifted a hand and wiped his tears as he continued to sob, "You have been looking at me for so long. If you are not going to come out, I am going to run."

The space shifted and a figure appeared wearing an oversized black-colored robe that hid the person's entire body within.

A gust of wind blew the black robe and wrapped it around the person's figure. She was a tall and slender lady.

After a while, a voice came from the black robe, "I don't know who she is, but I know that we may be able to cooperate."

Qin Yu was still sobbing and he looked at the lady through his tear-filled eyes. He asked, "Why should I trust you?"

The black-robed person stretched out her hand and spread her five fingers open. There was a red dot on her hand that looked like a flame.

Qin Yu rubbed his tears away and looked at it carefully. He mumbled, "The meeting of two unlucky souls...alright, let's give it a try."

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Half a month later, Zhou Dafu finally received an order from the marquis. He had been waiting for so long and he was bored. Now, he had to organize the entire team to get ready for setting off the next day.

Qin Yu definitely had not forgotten about the real reason for why he returned to the West Border Army camp.

As such, on the day that Ye Sangdu was dragged back to the capital for questioning by the envoy from the capital, Marquis Chongwu made an announcement that he was going to cultivate in seclusion again. Naturally, no one knew what he was going to do.

Big Head Wang was excited but also afraid, because the marquis had ordered him to select twelve men to head off first.

It was similar to being personal guards of the marquis when he returned to the capital, but it was also different...after all, they were going to the Barbarian Clan territory now and there was not much use for them.

They were men who were by the marquis' side. Aside from being display items outside the door, there wasn't much use for them.

He did not understand and remained confused, but he did not intend to shy away from his duties. Looking at the jealous eyes of the people beside him, he knew how envious they were of him.

Wang San was naturally among the twelve selected. Although the military always favored capable men first, people were always selfish. Big Head Wang was not afraid that people would accuse him of playing favorites; this was just the natural social order.

After all, working for the marquis and getting him to recognize you was not wrong.

Like the first time they entered the Barbarian Clan territory, the team that left the mine disappeared silently at the border. Zhou Dafu and the rest of the smugglers were familiar with the route. It was only natural that things would be peaceful and no mishaps happened.

As for the twelve personal guards of the marquis...although the smugglers did not understand the need for them, no one said anything. All of them had established their roots with the marquis already and they were in the same boat. They naturally knew when they should be blind followers.

That's right, the smugglers under Zhou Dafu knew their place. Big Head Wang and the others thought that they were insignificant peasants, but these professional smugglers who continuously brought in

resources from the Barbarian Clan territory and sent large amounts of materials back to the empire were living the real peasant life.

It was said that the smuggling was to steal Barbarian Clan resources so that they could be used to enhance the abilities of the army during a future war...while it was true that they could be used in this way, the real reason for the smuggling was for the big figures in the empire.

The smugglers did not desire much and they were willing to serve the marquis as long as they could be protected. They did not want to be stray dogs that could be abandoned causally. Protection alone was enough to satisfy them.

Big Head Wang and the others heard rumors that the smugglers were violent and disorderly men who craved blood and fighting. Hence, they were rather afraid of the smugglers. Yet, they slowly realized they were wrong and the smugglers were more pathetic than they thought. Both sides nevertheless got on well.

In Big Head Wang and the others' view, these smugglers were scared of the marquis' might. Otherwise, these insignificant peasants would not deserve their attention.

As such, Big Head Wang's group felt very prideful and they tormented themselves because of this. Every day, they would desperately train and cultivate to raise their strength.

Unfortunately, these men were ordinary people with regular skills. It was a futile dream to think that their strength would surge in a short period of time.

In the horse carriage, Qin Yu slowly opened his eyes as he completed his cultivation. He exhaled and his eyes shimmered. He could feel his strength increasing and he was hugely satisfied. A grin spread across his face.

He looked up and realized that Rourou, opposite him, was looking at the two strange trees that had appeared some time ago. They were serving her dutifully.

When Qin Yu woke up, a tree branch extended towards him silently. Qin Yu did not hesitate before he plucked a wine fruit. Compared to his previous debt, eating and drinking was nothing, and hence, Qin Yu cut open the wine fruit and gulped it down. The taste of it was as delicious as before.

Qin Yu wiped his lips and followed Rourou's gaze outside. He asked, "I still don't understand why you had to bring Big Head Wang's group along."

Rourou replied while still looking away, "Is it my problem if you don't understand?" She then turned towards him and pointed at the wine fruit, "You owe me again, I am recording this debt down."

Qin Yu's lips twitched. Although he was prepared for this, having her record a debt so casually felt weird to him.

Forget it. Since Rourou was not willing to explain, he would let her be. After all, it was nothing bad. By this point of their interaction, Qin Yu could confirm this.

After drinking the wine fruit, Rourou did not seem to give any instructions to the root people to cook a meal. Qin Yu licked his lips and closed his eyes to cultivate.

Evidently, his cultivation efficiency was much better than before.

Take, he had to take more of it. Even if he knew that his debt would only continue to accumulate, he would not let this opportunity slip through his hands.

Rourou turned around again to stare out of the window. Big Head Wang and the twelve other troops in the group were drenched in sweat as they cultivated while on horseback.

Her lips twitch and her expression turned into one of disdain. With the way that they cultivated, they would remain useless even after a thousand years passed.

A few days went by. One night, Rourou left the horse carriage without a sound. Qin Yu was still cultivating and he did not sense anything wrong. The smugglers who were on guard duty that night bowed respectfully to Rourou after they saw her.

Most of them had been in the previous smuggling expedition and they knew that the lady was no ordinary lady. Even Marquis Chongwu was respectful towards her.

Rourou remained silent and she arrived outside the tent of the twelve troops from the mine. She placed a foot down lightly.

The ground below her feet shook and shocked the team of twelve away. Big Head Wang's heart jumped in fright and he stared blankly at Rourou. Then, he quickly got up and bowed, "My Lady!"

Rourou scanned the group and lightly said, "From today onwards, you guys will change your cultivation method."

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Only on the tenth day after they entered the Barbarian Clan territory was the group really considered to be deep within the Barbarian Clan territory. The Barbarian Clan had already taken note of the smuggling group's activities.

On this day, Qin Yu frowned slightly and woke up from his cultivation state. He raised his head and looked at Rourou opposite him. She was staring outside at a barren plain in the distance. There was cold aura dissipating from her body.

"What is it?"

Rourou answered, "Someone has locked their eyes on us. It is a powerful person in a barbarian tribe, and he cultivates a special technique that allows him to remain invisible. He is hidden well."

Qin Yu narrowed his focus and used the World's Net suppression to pinpoint the person. Finally, he found an anomalous point in a certain spot of the World's Net of rules.

It seemed like the person that Rourou was talking about was hidden there.

Rourou glanced at Qin Yu. Since he gave the Spirit Embryo the name 'Qin Yu', it was only natural that he could sense the world's essence. She was not surprised that he could pick the target out.

"Should I act and kill him?"

As she spoke, she licked her lips.

Qin Yu thought for a bit but shook his head, "Let's continue observing. I feel like something is wrong." Based on what happened the previous time they left the barbarian tribes, this should not be happening.

Unless, did something bad happen?

Right at this moment, Rourou's eyes flashed and she suddenly said, "It seems like we don't need to take action anymore."

Qin Yu immediately activated his senses. Someone was flying towards the team, and from Rourou's reaction, he was not a threat.

Shoosh –

A sharp sound split the air and many people turned to look at the figure. Ascetic Prajna had a warm look in his eyes as he lowered himself into the middle of the group. His heart jumped and he turned to look towards the tent where the twelve troops from the mine were. Surprise filled his face.

Zhou Dafu walked forward at this moment, smiling brightly as he bowed, "Greetings Master Prajna, we meet again!"

The feeling that someone was watching them had suddenly disappeared.

Prajna looked at the tent again, and this time, there was nothing out of the ordinary with the troops from the mine. He directed his attention to Zhou Dafu and placed his palms together and bowed, "I am here to welcome the general."

The horse carriage stopped and the doors opened. Qin Yu walked forward and cupped his hands together, "Master Prajna."

"General!"

"Shall we make a move?"

"Alright."

Qin Yu jumped out of the horse carriage and instructed the team to remain there as he left with Prajna. The anomaly point in the World's Net had disappeared. Evidently, the person who had been watching the team left voluntarily after he noticed that Prajna had arrived.

Qin Yu's eyes flashed and he slowly asked, "Master Prajna, why did you greet us here?"

Prajna smiled, "General, you should know that the Barbarian Clan welcomes friendly guests." He paused and bowed, "I should call you Marquis instead. The marquis position is high and respected. Congratulations."

Qin Yu shook his head, "It seems that there is trouble brewing. You came all the way here and are not willing to tell me the truth."

He lifted his hand and pointed in a direction, "Before you arrived, someone was there observing us for a very long time."

Prajna fell silent. A while later, he laughed bitterly, "I knew I could not hide things from you. That's right, there is some internal trouble in the Barbarian Clan now."

With that, Prajna did not hold anything back and he explained everything to Qin Yu – there were multiple opinions in the Barbarian Clan. Some were suspicious that General Jinwu was scheming something by helping the Barbarian Clan totems to evolve, and they demanded a thorough investigation be held.

Qin Yu rubbed his nose uncomfortably, "Strictly speaking, these men are not wrong. It seems that I did not cover things up well."

Prajna slowly continued, "Marquis, please rest assured. My appearance here is a symbol of my teacher's attitude; they will not dare to cause any trouble."

Qin Yu stared at Prajna, "Stop lying. If it was that easy, you would not have to come personally." Qin Yu inhaled and then sighed, "Don't worry. Isn't it just an investigation? Let them go ahead; I am not afraid."

Prajna was relieved. He paused and bowed towards Qin Yu, "Marquis, please rest assured. I will do my best to protect your team."

Qin Yu burst into laughter, "Thank you for your efforts Master Prajna!"

Chapter 1613 – Devouring Heart Bug

The feeling of being watched continued to appear and disappear a few times during their journey. However, the other party seemed to fear Prajna and did not take action for a long time, choosing to remain hidden away.

This happened repeatedly. After ten days or so, the group entered the territory of the Green Willow Tribe. Qin Yu had announced in the past that he would set up camp in the Green Willow Tribe when he returned to the Barbarian Clan territory in the future.

As human beings, he should abide by his words unless he had no other choice.

However, it was obvious that the atmosphere in the Green Willow Tribe was not right.

Prajna had turned down Qin Yu's invitation to enter the horse carriage and he sat on horseback. He frowned slightly and his expression turned serious.

Very quickly, there was the sound of booms in the distance and a black line appeared on the horizon. There was a team of barbarians coming over here on horseback.

The team stopped and took up defensive positions. Master Prajna stared at them and his expression lightened, "They are from the Willow Tribe."

The old Tribe Leader was among them but he was a distance away. The Green Willow Tribe men stopped and the Tribe Leader hopped off his horse and quickly walked over. He bowed respectfully, "The Green Willow Tribe welcomes Marquis Chongwu!"

"Greetings Marquis!" The men on horseback got off their horses and bowed to express their utmost respect.

The door of the carriage opened and Qin Yu walked out, "Tribe Leader, at ease."

The old Tribe Leader stood up and smiled brightly. In the short time since they had last met, his appearance had grown much more youthful and he seemed more lively as well.

"Marquis, you keep to your promises! I brought my subordinates here today to escort you back to the Green Willow Tribe personally. Please rest in your carriage as the ride ahead might be bumpy. If you trust me, don't bother with anything and wait until we reach the tribe."

Qin Yu was silent for a while before he said, "Old Tribe Leader, you don't have to do this. The Green Willow Tribe has a long history and it is unable to attain its peak performance in a short period. If there is any inconvenience, I will change my campgrounds."

"Marquis!" The old Tribe Leader shouted and his eyes bulged wide open as he stepped forward eagerly, "My Green Willow Tribe does not have any regard for what other people think. If you didn't help us, everyone in my tribe would be dead by now. Therefore, your campgrounds can only be in my Green Willow Tribe. Anyone who dares to oppose this will have my subordinates to answer to!"

"Hey-ha!"

"Hey-ha!"

The Green Willow Tribesmen roared and chanted with a vigorous aura and a strong fighting intent.

Qin Yu thought about it before he smiled and waved his hand, "If that is the case, I will have to trouble you."

He was direct and to the point. Qin Yu turned and returned to the horse carriage. Since the Green Willow tribesmen had already made their decision, what did he have to fear?

The different opinions within the Barbarian Tribe were normal and he ought to take the chance to see who was stirring up the storm.

Prajna smiled and he bowed with his palms placed together, "Tribe Leader, I will go with you to make way for Marquis Chongwu."

The old Tribe Leader burst into laughter, "I see. Thank you Master."

He bowed respectfully but did not pass the responsibility to Prajna. This was also the reason why he was very confident.

The Holy Land was silent for many years and it hardly interfered with internal affairs of the barbarian tribes. It seems like many had forgotten how terrifying the Holy Land could be.

The Green Willow tribesmen turned their horses around and trod slowly across their land. The noise of horse hooves clamoring against the ground sounded like deep roars of thunder in the distance. There was a strong aura in the air that circulated around the area and it made people look on at the team in jealousy.

The feeling of being watched appeared again. This time, it was much stronger than before. Evidently, the other party had reached the maximum of his tolerance.

Finally, right before they reached the Green Willow Tribe, the Green Willow tribesmen who were leading the team suddenly stopped. There were shouts in the distance.

The war horses seemed to have sensed the incoming battle and they started to get jittery as they plodded with their hooves. The atmosphere became increasingly nervous.

A general of a Barbarian Clan assumed an attacking position as he blocked the road ahead.

The old Tribe Leader urged his horse forward. His face was fuming with anger as he threatened, "Don't forget that this is still the territory of the Green Willow Tribe. By blocking our way to return to camp, are you trying to instigate a war with us?"

He raised his hand and his voice bombed like thunder, "My fellow tribesmen, hold onto your horses and raise your swords. Use our flesh, blood, and lives to preserve the honor of the Green Willow Tribe! Everyone in front of us shall be treated as an enemy!"

Shoosh –

Shoosh –

Shoosh –

The sounds of swords being unsheathed split through the sky and numerous bright sword flashes reflected an ice-cold aura from the sun. The Barbarian Clan army in front of them jumped into action and the men at the frontlines instantly frowned as their eyes burned with anger.

The old man from the Green Willow Tribe was truly a stone in a pit. He was really smelly and stubborn! A few barbarian clans had allied together and they were not afraid of the Green Willow Tribe, as they were a tribe who had barely escaped the grave and had yet to regain their peak strength.

Although this was the case, the barbarian clans did not take the Green Willow Tribe lightly. Otherwise, they would need to pay a price in battle even if they won.

More importantly, there might be hidden dangers in doing this.

They gritted their teeth and tolerated the Desolate Area men. Taking the perspective of the barbarian clans, they were in a good position. This was why the Holy Land did not take action.

However, if they crossed any boundaries and an internal battle ensued where the Holy Land interfered...they were fearful of that!

Prajna urged his men forward. His calm voice was enhanced by his powerful cultivation and his voice boomed through the land, "Are you sure that you want to use the swords and knives in your hand to kill an ascetic? My teacher is the one and only Great Shaman Menshan in the black temple of the Traverse Mountains!"

There was another violent movement as the troops of the allied barbarian clans grew fearful. The Great Shaman was the highest title awarded to an individual in the Barbarian Clan. The black temple among the white snow of Traverse Mountain was the Holy Land in every barbarian's heart.

Offending the Holy Land and killing the disciple of Great Shaman Mengshan, a powerful and respected ascetic...this thought alone could make people tremble in fear.

On the battlefield, the leaders of the tribes exchanged looks. They knew that starting a war here would be an unacceptable outcome that no one wanted. One person hopped off his horse and bowed, "Oh high and mighty Master Prajna, we unintentionally offended you and your teacher, Great Shaman Mengshan. However, there is deep hatred between the Desolate Area men and us barbarians. I suspect that Marquis Chongwu, Ning Qin, must have done something terrible that endangers all Barbarian Clan tribes."

He tilted his head and spread his arms out, "As such, the four barbarian tribes, Black Pagoda, Heavy Mountain, Long River, and Purple Forest have allied together to come here. I hope that Master Prajna can represent the Holy Land and give us a believable answer. If facts prove that Marquis Chongwu is truly innocent, us four tribes are willing to express our apologies with the most valuable treasures. We will take our troops and leave the territory of the Green Willow Tribe. If not, even if we have to start a war, and even if blood flows like a river or an internal battle and massacre starts within the barbarian tribes, we will not back down!"

The other three Tribe Leaders simultaneously stepped forward and bowed, "Master Prajna, please represent the Holy Land and give us an answer. Otherwise, we will not back down!"

The atmosphere was heavy.

The old Tribe Leader of the Green Willow Tribe had eyes that were as cold as ice. He raised his hand and the gaze of the Green Willow Tribe warriors behind him turned intense and violent.

Prajna suddenly sighed and he stopped them with his arm, "Tribe Leader, we cannot allow an internal conflict to start between the barbarian tribes again. I will explain this to Marquis Chongwu. I believe that he will definitely be able to understand our choice."

Behind him, a calm voice came, "I understand it."

Qin Yu directed a look towards the two of them, signaling that they did not have to worry. He walked to the front of the military formation and faced the four tribes opposite him. His expression was calm, "There is indeed some grounds for your worries. As such, regardless of what you guys think, I am willing to cooperate with you and give you a chance to confirm things."

He raised his head and looked at the nine dazzling suns hanging in the sky. His eyes narrowed, "Therefore, tell me what you guys want to do."

The Tribe Leader of the Black Pagoda Tribe was wearing a black piece of armor. He was a tall and burly man and his eyes flashed. He gave a thumbs up, "Desolate Area man, Marquis Chongwu. Regardless of whether you harbor evil intentions towards the barbarian tribes, I admire your decision as a man today."

Qin Yu was expressionless, "I do not need your admiration."

The Black Pagoda Tribe Leader scoffed. He flipped his hand over and a wooden box with black mist covering it appeared. He said in a loud voice, "This is a Devouring Heart Bug that a powerful black barbarian shaman sacrificed his life to refine. Master Prajna you can test it. Marquis Chongwu, do you

dare to swear a blood vow that you have not done anything to harm the Barbarian Clan after you entered the Barbarian Clan territory?"

Qin Yu shook his head, "No." He looked at the Tribe Leader of the Black Pagoda Tribe like he was looking at an idiot and said, "I am the leader of the smuggling group of the Desolate Area men. I take items from you barbarians, and although I am not sure what is going to be done with these items, I can confirm that a portion of them will be used on the battlefield. As such, your words are meaningless."

"You..." The Black Pagoda Tribe Leader was furious. He gritted his teeth and inhaled sharply. "Alright, you can also make a blood vow and swear that you have not harmed the basis of the Barbarian Clan."

Qin Yu turned to look at Prajna. He did not trust the barbarians opposite him and he had to confirm it with Prajna.

Of course, Qin Yu did not dare to completely believe Prajna's examination. As such, he turned to look at the horse carriage.

A few moments later, Rourou's voice sounded in his head, "There is nothing wrong."

At this moment, Prajna had also taken a look at the wooden box in the Black Pagoda Tribe Leader's hand. He nodded slowly, "It is the Devouring Heart Bug and it is a high grade. Even a Great Shaman would not be able to lie after consuming it."

The Black Pagoda Tribe Leader raised his head and his cold eyes locked onto Qin Yu, "Marquis Chongwu, now, are you willing to agree to the terms?"

Qin Yu's expression was calm. "Thank you for the trouble Master Prajna. Please tell me how to use the Devouring Heart Bug."

After a moment of hesitation, Prajna looked at him.

Qin Yu was smiling.

Prajna walked over and muttered a few sentences in a low voice. He briefed Qin Yu about the essentials.

In fact, it was very easy to use it. After making a vow, feed a drop of your blood to the Devouring Heart Bug.

A drop of blood dripped off Qin Yu's finger and he lifted his hand and swore. "If I did anything to harm the basis of the barbarian tribes ever since I entered the barbarian territory, I will suffer the hatred of the world and my soul will be destroyed."

Buzz –

The drop of blood vibrated slightly, signifying that the blood vow was complete with the Devouring Heart Bug as a witness.

The wooden box opened and a strange cry came from within it. The blood vow was sucked into it in a flash.

Chapter 1614 – Battle

Prajna sighed. Although fallen black barbarian shamans were a pitiful group of people that ascetics would have to chase and kill, they had some methods that were extraordinary.

For instance, the Devouring Heart bug was a secret technique of the black barbarian shamans and it was a mysterious treasure that was artificially made. It could pick out any waver in a person's heart.

Although Marquis Chongwu, Ning Qin, was a capable person under the Barbarian King, he was still a Desolate Area man.

Thankfully, the worst case scenario did not occur. After the Devouring Heart Bug was consumed, nothing happened. This was the best evidence for his innocence.

The Green Willow Tribe Leader smirked. Suddenly, black energy burst through the air and there was a piercing scream before a fierce and ugly insect emerged.

The insect looked like a hybrid between a moth and a centipede. All over its white abdomen were a lot of strange, black-colored marks. Its wings beat furiously and it glared at Qin Yu.

Black Pagoda Tribe Leader's eyes flashed and he shouted, "Marquis Chongwu, you have evil intentions. Devouring Heart Bug, tear open his chest and savor the sacrifice!"

Blood vow, blood drop, Devouring Heart Bug...all of these were related. After the blood drop was devoured, it opened a back door in the Devouring Heart Bug. As long as it determined there was falsehood, it would ignore everything and attack the person's heart mercilessly.

Buzz –

The beating sound of its wings grew louder and the Devouring Heart Bug screamed as it dashed forward. Right at this moment, Qin Yu looked up and glanced at it.

His gaze was calm and far-reaching. It seemed like gods in a heavenly palace were looking down at a struggling insect in the dirt.

A powerful suppression force with boundless fear instantly overwhelmed the Devouring Heart Bug. It screamed painfully before there was a sudden 'boom' and it exploded and died on the spot.

There was utter silence in the world and even the sound of a dropped pin could be heard. Many barbarians' eyes bulged wide open in shock and they stared blankly at the scene. A fallen black barbarian shaman was terrifying, and most of them had heard of the Devouring Heart Bug. However, who could tell them what had happened? The Devouring Heart Bug was about to consume a heart, but before it could start, it exploded. What was this?

The Black Pagoda Tribe Leader shouted in anger and he pointed an accusing finger at Qin Yu, "Marquis Chongwu, you dared to kill the Devouring Heart Bug! Regardless, you have revealed your true self!"

Qin Yu was expressionless, "I am sure all of you are very clear as to why the Devouring Heart Bug would suddenly explode. Trying to force it to do something that it doesn't want to do. Naturally, the Devouring Heart Bug doesn't want to attack me and so it self-destructed."

Prajna's body flashed and he got to the spot of sticky goo where the Devouring Heart Bug exploded. He knelt down and used a finger to scoop up some substance. After smelling it, his face immediately

darkened, "Cinnamon!" He raised his head and stared at the four Tribe Leaders opposite him, "I will definitely investigate this and find out who was scheming here...the Holy Land will not let the perpetrator off easily!"

The Black Pagoda Tribe Leader's expression faltered. Before he could speak, a female barbarian walked forward and bowed, "I am Flower Thorn of the Purple Forest Tribe. Greetings to Master Prajna."

She straightened herself and her expression was humble, "We do not dare to counter your judgment. The cinnamon can cause the Devouring Heart Bug to go crazy and it is a secret that only a few people in my tribe knows. The thought that someone dares to manipulate a Devouring Heart Bug is scary regardless of the motive. I request that the Holy Land investigate this thoroughly and finds the person behind the events today to prevent a recurrence of this."

Prajna looked at her and nodded, "Tribe Leader Flower Thorn, please rest assured. I will naturally investigate this thoroughly and will not let the perpetrator off."

Flower Thorn smiled, "Very well." She turned to look at Qin Yu, "However, the fact that the Devouring Heart Bug was manipulated does not mean that Marquis Chongwu is innocent. I am even wondering if this is a scheme that the Desolate Area men created beforehand. Otherwise, how can the self-destruction of the Devouring Heart Bug be explained? Firstly, it creates unrest within the Barbarian Clan, and secondly, he can remove the suspicion on him."

She paused for a while before she bowed. Her tone was respectful, "As such, the four tribes will not trust his innocence. Master Prajna, please forgive us. After all, we are only doing this out of the concern for the Barbarian Clan's security. We do not have any selfish intentions behind this."

Master Prajna was silent. Although it felt like he was being forced, he had to admit that Flower Thorn's reasoning made sense. Even if Prajna knew very clearly that she was lying, not everything in this world could be ignored despite knowing the truth.

As a disciple of Great Shaman Mengshan, and someone born in the Holy Land, his status was invaluable and it was also a protective symbol for him. However, from another angle, it was chains on him. He had to be careful with everything he did or he would jeopardize the reputation of the Holy Land.

When he held down the Green Willow Tribe back then, this was the case. Now, he was also being forced into a corner by Flower Thorn's words.

"Ridiculous! The Devouring Heart Bug came from you guys. Now that something is wrong, you are throwing the blame onto someone else. Tribe Leader Flower Thorn, I truly admire how shameless you can be!" The old Tribe Leader of Green Willow Tribe scoffed and his eyes turned icy cold, "The facts are in front of us. I don't care about your schemes, but Marquis Chongwu has done what he promised you. Since this problem happened because of you guys, move aside!"

He waved his hand, "Green Wood Soldiers, make a path for the important guest of the Green Willow Tribe. Anyone who dares to stand in our way is my tribe's enemy!"

Master Prajna was bound because of his identity and he had to hold back many times. However, the old Tribe Leader would not be polite with the rest!

The old Tribe Leader had a good grasp of the situation and he knew that the four tribes had made preparations beforehand and would not let things go easily. Even if the Devouring Heart Bug did not explode and die, they would have come up with another reason to bite onto Marquis Chongwu without letting go.

Since that was the case, he might as well get straight to the point. Let's see if they would continue to challenge him!

"Hey-ha!"

"Hey-ha!"

The Green Wood Soldiers of the Green Willow Tribe started making war cries. To them, their tribe's camp was right in front of them but they were being blocked by the allied forces from four tribes. This was a blatant challenge.

As for the large difference in strength...in this world there were only sons of barbarian tribes that died in war. There weren't useless cowards who cower in fear.

Even if they had to die, they would drag a few down with them!

Flower Thorn's expression turned dark. This was not because of the relentless cursing and ridicule that she received. As a woman, she was proud to be the stable Tribe Leader of the Purple Forest Tribe. She had lots of tricks up her sleeve and she was not afraid of being spat on.

The old man from the Green Willow Tribe was truly a thorn and he pricked their soft spot immediately...it was not a big deal for four tribes to ally together to surround the Green Willow Tribe's homeground and crush the Green Willow Tribe.

However, an internal conflict within the barbarian tribes was a sensitive taboo. It was also a deadly sin that the Holy Land forbade.

No one dared to look down on it easily!

Kaboom –

Opposite her, the auras from the soldiers of the Green Willow Tribe exploded and crashed like roaring waves.

Qin Yu frowned slightly as he looked at the allied forces. Rourou's voice came to his mind, "Interesting. Looking at these barbarians, their backing must be pretty strong. They are really going for it when they are forced to a corner.

"Little Qin Yu, you are the Barbarian King. Now that an internal conflict is about to happen between the barbarian tribes, how do you feel? I am afraid that ten thousand Barbarian Clan members are going to die from this."

He laughed bitterly to himself and raised a hand to massage his temples. He did not mind killing those in the Barbarian Clan that had evil intentions.

This did not come into conflict with the Barbarian Mark that he inherited.

The Barbarian King was responsible for the entire Barbarian Clan. Since he was responsible for its governance, using violence and killing some people was a natural thing.

In his opinion, the Green Willow Tribe members should not die. When he pleaded with Rourou to save the Divine Willow to give the tribe another chance, it was not to make them sacrifice their lives and bring the entire tribe to extinction.

Qin Yu stomped down. There was a loud sound as the earth's surface cracked beneath his feet and formed a large crater. Soil rolled outwards in a huge wave and screams pierced the air as shockwaves struck the barbarian soldiers and bound the war horses.

The expressions of the four Tribe Leaders' changed and there was shock in their eyes. Obviously, they had not expected that Marquis Chongwu would be so strong.

Qin Yu calmly said, "I entered the Barbarian Clan territory so that we can both get our take. Everyone should benefit, and a war is not what I desire."

He stepped forward, "I have already taken a step back. Since you are not willing to let this go, let's proceed according to the customs of the Barbarian Clan and fight with each other. I have two subordinates. If you can defeat them, I will turn around to leave and never set foot in the Barbarian Clan territory again.

"But if you guys lose? I want one person." Qin Yu lifted a finger and pointed it at a skinny, silent barbarian beside the four Tribe Leaders who had his head lowered. "Give him to me and I will make arrangements for him!"

The barbarian who was singled out by Qin Yu did not react and he maintained the same posture as before.

Sometimes, the lack of a response was the biggest response.

This man seemed like an ordinary barbarian. However, looking at his silence now, he felt like an unmoving mountain.

It was tall and its summit peeked through the clouds; no one could see its real shape!

The old Tribe Leader from the Green Willow Tribe frowned and there was a grateful look in his eyes. He knew that if Qin Yu had not intervened, the Green Willow Tribe would have ceased to exist in the barbarian tribes in the future.

Since the four tribes had taken action, they would eliminate all weeds and would not leave any residue behind...this was very simple logic. If they switched places, he would do the same too.

Prajna walked to a side and bowed respectfully, "I thank the marquis on behalf of the sons of the Barbarian Clan who could have died in battle today."

At this moment, the last thread of suspicion in his heart disappeared.

Marquis Chongwu was the one chosen by the Barbarian King. There must be a reason why the king chose a man from the Desolate Area.

Qin Yu smiled, "They are not dead; you don't have to thank me. I have to trouble Master Prajna to be a witness for me. They shall not continue harping on about this in the future."

After a pause, his eyes narrowed, "Otherwise, I will lose my patience. At that point, please do not blame me, Master."

The allied forces of the four tribes...so what? Even if he did not do anything, Rourou could easily take care of them. The only problem was that she disliked foul-tasting food and she would not be satisfied with things she could not chew.

"You are wrong here. If there is anything, we can talk things through. The lack of quality can be made up for with quantity. As long as you nod, I can help you for free this time. I won't hold a grudge."

Rourou's voice was calm but Qin Yu could swear that she was not kidding.

Opposite him, an odd icy feeling started to form in Prajna's heart. He looked at Marquis Chongwu and nodded solemnly, "Marquis, please rest assured." He turned and walked towards the allied troops, seemingly unafraid for his own safety.

As mentioned before, his status was a binding force but also a protective measure. Unless the four tribes went mad, they would not attack him.

"Master Prajna!"

The four Tribe Leaders bowed simultaneously and the troops behind them also bowed to show their respect.

Prajna said, "Regardless of the decision you guys make in the end, do not forget your identity as barbarians. The Holy Land still has the power to decide your destiny."

This was the first time that he threatened them directly. With his status, this was a very crude act. However, this was how he showed that he was not joking around!

The four Tribe Leaders' faces fell and they lowered their bodies further, "Please tell us your instructions, Master."

Prajna said, "Are you going to agree to Marquis Chongwu's suggestions? Or are you going to start a battle today?"

The Black Pagoda Tribe Leader hesitated and did not speak. Instead, he turned to look at Flower Thorn. Evidently, this female barbarian was the real decision-maker among the four allied tribes.

With Prajna's gaze on her, Flower Thorn was hesitant and she bowed, "We are willing to accept it." At this moment, she could feel a very strong sense of unease and she chose to lower her head.

In fact, she had made the right choice. If she had turned it down, Prajna would have killed her instantly on the spot!

Chapter 1615 – Winning Both Battles

Prajna placed his palms together and bowed. There was a calm and warm look in his eyes, “Flower Thorn Tribe Leader and everyone else, please swear on your own totems and the Holy Land. My teacher, Great Shaman Mengshan, will be the witness for this vow.”

Flower Thorn sighed deeply and said, “Alright!”

She, Black Pagoda Tribe Leader, Heavy Mountain Tribe Leader, and Long River Tribe Leader made their vows simultaneously.

Prajna sensed that the vows had been made and he turned to leave.

Qin Yu did not turn around. “White Iris, Leftover Dog.”

A horse carriage behind him was pushed open from the inside. White Iris had a cold look in her eyes and was wrapped entirely in a white robe. She walked forward.

At the same time, at a location away from the battlefield, the pale-faced disciple of the Li Family carrying his long sword coughed as he appeared.

Flower Thorn’s eyes flashed and she suddenly said in a loud voice, “Marquis Chongwu, the rules from the barbarian tribes say that the winner is determined if anyone wins two out of three rounds.”

Qin Yu glanced at her, “There is no need for that. As long as you are able to defeat either of my two subordinates, it will be considered your win.”

White Iris stepped forward and gave a strange bow. Her eyes were calm.

On the other hand, Leftover Dog laughed bitterly and he looked at Marquis Chongwu, “I am considered a cripple now. Marquis seems to be very confident in me. Aren’t you afraid of losing?”

Qin Yu calmly replied, “If you lose, you die.”

Leftover Dog frowned slightly and muttered to himself, “It seems that I will have to give my life this time.”

The first person to represent the four allied tribes was the barbarian who Qin Yu pointed out.

He looked mostly like an ordinary barbarian, except he was considered skinny for a barbarian. However, since the four Tribe Leaders were willing to make him step forward, they must be confident in his skills.

Qin Yu narrowed his eyes, “Spare him.”

White Iris nodded and stepped forward. Her white robe floated in the wind and she showed off her curvy figure. There was instantly laughter among the barbarians and greedy eyes landed on her chest.

Her steps were stable and she did not waste any movements. However, her eyes grew more and more cold and it felt like she could turn the entire world to ice.

The young barbarian opposite her could instantly feel the pressure. He frowned and suddenly stomped down...the first mover advantage!

Boom –

The ground shook violently and cracked apart, revealing a giant stone puppet. Having been summoned, it threw its head towards the sky and roared loudly. There was a thick blood color in the stone puppet's eyes and it lifted its foot and stomped onto the ground heavily.

White Iris' head was tilted up and she stopped moving. Strong winds slammed at her and made her white robe plaster against her curvy figure.

Above them, the skies were getting darker. The stone puppet's massive foot had blocked the entire sky.

Shoosh –

A sword flash suddenly appeared. It was like a rainbow that pierced and slashed through the space and it sliced through the stone puppet.

White Iris turned to leave. Behind her, the giant stone puppet's body had been sliced into two. The cut was so clean and smooth, it looked like a mirror!

The stone puppet fell to the ground and broke apart to form large rocks. The young barbarian who had summoned the stone puppet frowned and slowly said, "That's a good sword technique."

A trickle of blood appeared in the middle of his forehead. Then, like the stone puppet, his body split into two and his inner organs spilled to the ground in a pool of blood. It was a grotesque sight!

"Marquis, my sword only kills and I am unable to preserve his life. I hope you will understand." White Iris did not turn around. She bowed respectfully, understanding the current situation.

Qin Yu glanced at her and calmly stated, "I will not blame you since you won a round for me. However, the lady may not be that understanding."

White Iris started to shiver.

Qin Yu waved his hand, not giving her another chance to speak.

With a sigh, White Iris turned and returned to the carriage.

At this point, her body was still very elegant and men who stared at her would want to gobble her up. However, no one dared to show any greed in their eyes right now. Instead, they were filled with fear and respect.

The four Tribe Leaders were utterly shocked and there was anger in their eyes. They never expected that a servant lady under Marquis Chongwu would have such terrifying cultivation. That sword had been very powerful and they were not even sure whether they themselves would be able to take it.

The pitiful third generation disciple of the Li Family was now living a dog's life. He sighed, "If the jade was taken out first, what should I do?"

He looked at Qin Yu with an accusing look.

Qin Yu ignored him and repeated his words, "If you lose, you die."

Leftover Dog sighed, "Can't you change your way of speaking? Die here and die there, it is so misfortunate."

He shook his head and stepped forward. His pale face was filled with helplessness and he said, "Can you send a weak person out? If he voluntarily takes my sword strike and loses, I will owe him a big favor to be repaid in the future!"

Since White Iris attacked before him, no one dared to look down on this sickly person who appeared like he was half dead.

The Black Pagoda Tribe Leader sighed deeply and gritted his teeth, "I will battle myself!"

Flower Thorn's eyes narrowed but she did not oppose him, "He is heavily injured and he can only throw out one strike at best. Be careful and don't lose your life."

The Black Pagoda Tribe Leader licked his lips, "Don't worry." He stepped forward. With every step he took, the aura around his body grew stronger.

'Crack crack.' The bones in his body cracked continuously and his body grew bigger. The flesh and blood on the surface of his skin took on a shiny black color.

He laughed in a wild manner as he took a step forward, "Little white boy, let me see how fast your sword is!"

Leftover Dog muttered to himself, "Little white boy...in my hometown, this can be considered a compliment for someone." As he spoke, his feet shifted beneath him and he looked like a light feather that slid around.

In the next instant, the area where Leftover Dog's foot was cracked apart and the earth turned to dust. Violent forces burst forth.

The Black Pagoda Tribe Leader smirked and he said, "Aren't the swordsmen of the Desolate Area meant to be good at killing people? Why do you only know how to run! It seems like little white boy is just a little white boy. All looks but no power. Are you someone who assassinates your target when they are in bed?"

Leftover Dog was expressionless but his face was starting to grow more pale. His body flashed and he darted around to avoid attacks. His opponent threw punches out continuously, shattering the ground. However, Leftover Dog could only maintain a distance and dodge the attacks.

Flower Thorn was right with one point. He was not in a good state and he could only make two sword strikes at the most. However, Leftover Dog knew that he could only actually unleash one attack. If he made a second move, he would die immediately. As such, he was waiting for the opponent to reveal a loophole. That was the only way he could defeat his opponent with a sword strike that could take his life.

The Black Pagoda Tribe Leader cursed non-stop and he looked extremely furious. However, deep within his eyes was an icy cold aura.

The sickly little white boy was waiting for his opportunity to strike and the Black Pagoda Tribe Leader could sense this in the battle. This was because he could feel a threatening aura from the boy.

It was not strong but it was enough to make him feel suffocated. It felt like an ice blade that was as thin as a cicada wing. It was as fast as lightning and it could tear through his skin and take his life.

The Black Pagoda Tribe Leader could not help frowning. His defense was in its strongest state now but he needed a lot of energy to sustain it.

The little white boy in front of him looked like he was gasping for air and would die at any moment. However, he did not slip and he avoided danger the whole time.

If this continued, before the Black Pagoda Tribe Leader could kill the boy in a single blow, he would deplete all his energy and have to sacrifice his defense.

Another three blows came as fast as lightning. However, Leftover Dog seemed to have predicted his movements and he stealthily avoided every attack.

He could not delay it any longer!

Black Pagoda Tribe Leader sucked in a deep breath of air and his chest expanded. He yelled as he stomped his foot down and flew into the air. With one strike, he unleashed a secret technique unique to the Black Pagoda Tribe.

The ground shook and cracked apart like an earthquake as it caved in. A terrifying binding force rushed out from the cracked surface of the earth and it felt like an invisible cage had surrounded Leftover Dog.

By lifting his feet off the ground he revealed an opening to lure Leftover Dog to attack him. At the same time as this was an opening, it was also a chance to kill Leftover Dog. Even if Leftover Dog continued to run, it would be hard for him to escape because of the binding force from the earth.

Regardless of whether Leftover Dog attacked, death was his only way out!

Leftover Dog was absolutely worn out after dodging three continuous blows. His black hair was drenched in sweat and his face was as pale as a sheet. However, his gaze was calm as he stood in the middle of the cracked earth.

He lifted his head to look at the Black Pagoda Tribe Leader suspended in mid air. Without hesitation, his long sword slashed forward. The entire process was as smooth as flowing water and it seemed as though he had been waiting for this moment to attack the entire time.

The Black Pagoda Tribe Leader's eyes flashed and a violent feeling rushed out, "Little white boy..." With just three words, his entire body stiffened and he looked down at his chest where a hole could be seen. Where his heart should be was empty air.

The sword had been too fast and the Tribe Leader did not even see it clearly. It was so fast that at the point when it struck him, his heart and the flesh surrounding it turned to dust instantly and all life force was gone!

The Black Pagoda Tribe Leader fell forward. His enhanced, muscular body returned back to its normal state and the vicious, powerful aura disappeared.

Leftover Dog coughed violently and there was a streak of redness on his face that looked incredibly out of place. With one hand pinching his nose, his body curled forward and he heaved. It felt like his lungs were going to explode from all his coughing and he was going to spurt it out from his nose.

“Whew...little white boy...although I...can...take it...compliment...” He straightened himself and wiped the blood from his face, “But I...am still not very happy...”

He turned and stumbled back to the camp. It felt like he could be pushed down by a single finger, but every elite in the Black Pagoda Tribe was looking at him with bloodshot eyes.

Shoosh –

Prajna’s body flashed. His expression was calm as he stood in the middle of the battleground, “Marquis Chongwu won both rounds; you guys have lost.”

Flower Thorn sighed deeply and bowed, “We accept our defeat. Master Prajna, we will take our leave!”

She turned and left.

The Tribe Leaders of Heavy Mountain and Long River followed after her with stiff expressions.

The Black Pagoda Tribe members hesitated and stayed still, not daring to move from their spots.

Chapter 1616 – That Clan Makes a Move

Like a tide, the four other tribes retreated. The Green Willow Tribe soldiers started to cheer and celebrate with ‘hey-ha’ noises soaring to the sky.

Leftover Dog walked to Qin Yu while gasping for air and asked, “Now, can I live?”

Qin Yu was expressionless. “I can only decide whether you die. Whether you live is not up to me.”

Leftover Dog was slightly blank as he gave Qin Yu a thumbs up, “You’re formidable indeed.”

He walked out to the distant plains with his crooked body, like a lone wolf that had been gravely wounded. However, looking at his silhouette now, no one dared to underestimate or belittle him.

Those who were familiar with the wilderness knew that wounded wolves were the most terrifying. Before they died, they would try to bite their enemies’ throats at all costs!

In the team of Desolate Area cultivators, in one of the carriages, White Iris looked at Leftover Dog who was now far away and raised her eyebrows. She had an eager expression in her eyes, but in the end, she took a deep breath and suppressed the urge in her heart.

Pa –

The loud sound of a slap rang out, and White Iris was directly hit with such force that she landed on the ground. The space in the carriage was completely separated from the outside world and no one could use their divine sense to hear or see what was going on inside.

White Iris touched her cheek and knelt on the carriage floor, “My Lady, I was not lying, my sword can only kill people; it’s unable to hold back at all.”

Rourou was expressionless. “If that was not the case, you would already be dead!” She raised her hand and slapped White Iris hard again.

Blood seeped out from the corners of White Iris' mouth, yet she did not dare to wipe it away as she struggled to kneel properly.

"Remember, in this team, whether anyone lives or dies is up to me. Even if it is just a dog, you are not qualified to do anything about it.

"Just now, thankfully you suppressed your urges instead of trying to make a move. Otherwise, I would have killed you." Rourou's gaze was icy, and it was also filled with disgust. She used one leg to forcefully kick White Iris, "Remember what happened today. If there is a next time, I will extract your brains with my hands!"

Whoosh –

Rourou disappeared.

White Iris coughed out blood. She struggled to get up as she went to a corner of the carriage and curled up into a ball. There was no hatred in her eyes at all. She raised her hand and gently caressed her face which was swollen from Rourou's beating, and she mumbled to herself, "My Lady, one day, you will understand that everything I do is for you...even if I die, I would never let anyone harm you...even if you are the one trying to harm yourself."

The team continued on their journey and Qin Yu returned to the carriage. He saw that Rourou was using a white piece of gauze to examine her palm. When she saw that he had returned, she merely raised her head to just give him a glance before continuing what she was doing.

Qin Yu sat down and thought about it for a while before saying slowly, "The person White Iris killed was a cultivator from that clan." He was sure about it even though he had only taken one look at the other party. Then, Black Pagoda, Heavy Mountain, Long River, and Purple Forest had so boldly defied orders from the Holy Land, and this only goes to show how powerful their backing was.

It was no wonder that Prajna was so cautious. Everything had an explanation now.

That clan was able to seize control over the southwest fragmented area from the West Desolate, which showed how powerful they were. It was a no-brainer that they would already have a scheme in place in the Western Barbarian Territory. After all, the West Barbarians posed the biggest external threat to the West Desolate currently.

There was a saying that went, 'the enemy of my enemy is my friend'. This was a very simple thing to understand.

As for why that clan would secretly mobilize the four other tribes, it was probably because they had noticed Qin Yu's precarious position in the West Desolate.

Not to mention that clan who had definitely infiltrated the West Desolate, there were countless people in the Imperial Capital who wished for Qin Yu to die.

For example, the Later Ye Family.

Selling information about Qin Yu and even taking the initiative to stage a collaboration with that clan was not too far-fetched; only then it would be possible for them to succeed at 'exposing' his identity.

Of course it was impossible for White Iris to have really killed that cultivator from that clan. At most, he would only have been heavily injured. However, she had ruined Qin Yu's plans. Originally, he wanted to capture that person and make use of him in the West Desolate.

After all, those Old Four Claws in the Imperial Palace were now hiding in the wilderness. On one hand, they were protecting Qin Yu, but on the other, they were monitoring him as well. As long as they detected the presence of that clan, the conflict between the West Desolate and that clan would intensify.

Of course, White Iris' actions were not without their benefits. At the very least, it destroyed the possibility of Qin Yu's identity being 'exposed'. After all, he could now lock onto that clan's aura. Who knew if they had the capabilities to see through the fact that there was something wrong with Qin Yu's crafted identity?

Rourou said, "White Iris' sword is indeed only capable of killing people; she was unable to hold back." After a slight pause, she revealed a cold smile, "Therefore, she took the initiative to be the first to kill in that battle. You didn't notice it so you can't blame her."

Qin Yu nodded and voiced out his concerns, "I don't blame her completely. After all, it is very likely that White Iris' actions have helped me. However, the appearance of that clan is something that I can make use of. Do you have any way to let the Old Four Claws notice this?"

Rourou shook her head, "They have probably brought a very powerful and hidden treasure from the Imperial Palace with them. It is fully integrated into this world, and unless they choose to release their aura, it is difficult to find them in my current state."

It was difficult, but not impossible. However, doing it would exhaust too much of Rourou's power. It might even cause the seal on her own body to break.

Qin Yu sighed, "If that's the case, then we can only act as we go along. Since that clan has already made their move, they would not back down that easily. In the future, there will be more opportunities to deal with them."

Rourou nodded, throwing away the white gauze in her hands. A flame appeared from thin air and burned the piece of gauze to ashes. She had a hint of disgust in her eyes.

Qin Yu felt that something was strange, but intuition told him not to ask too many questions.

The rest of the journey was rather smooth. Once they entered the Green Willow Tribe, everything that they needed had already been taken care of.

Qin Yu got down from the carriage and had a brief chat with Prajna and the Tribe Leader. Neither of them stayed behind for long as they insisted that the Marquis needed to rest early since he had a long journey.

Evidently, the Green Willow Tribe had put into a lot of thought constructing the campsite. They prepared a style of courtyard that was commonly seen in the West Desolate. Even though it was not as majestic and luxurious as the one in the mine, it was still very refined.

The Green Willow Tribe seemed to have gotten some information from the Golden Crow Tribe. In the area that was dedicated to the Desolate Area cultivators, there was a huge empty space that could be for the two large trees that served Rourou.

Rourou seemed to be very satisfied with this arrangement. The two trees jumped off from the carriage, each picked a space, and rooted themselves onto the ground. Then, their bodies started to grow in size.

Just like before, Rourou walked into the treehouse and lay comfortably on the reclining chair made from branches. She yawned before quickly falling asleep.

Qin Yu looked from afar at the two trees that were very busy right now and then at Rourou who had fallen asleep. His eyes appeared like he was deep in thought.

He ordered everyone not to go near the treehouse. Rourou slept for three days and three nights before she walked out of the treehouse groggily.

Qin Yu could sense this, so he stopped his cultivation, left his courtyard and walked towards the two big trees.

When he saw Rourou, the first thing he said was, "How do you feel now?"

Rourou looked at Qin Yu before raising her hands to rub her temples. Then she slowly lowered her hands back down and said, "I'm alright, I feel much better after sleeping."

When she saw that Qin Yu had nothing else to say, she added, "So what if I'm not alright? What can you do? Are you going to tell me to eat these Desolate Area cultivators or those barbarians from the Green Willow Tribe?"

Qin Yu touched his nose but did not say a word.

Rourou laughed and said, "Men. They're just full of shit; whoever dares to believe what they say will be unlucky!"

Qin Yu helplessly said, "You can't generalize us like that. There are many men in this world, and nine out of ten of them are bad, but there are always those one or two good men..."

He was then harshly interrupted by Rourou who scoffed, "If you dare to say that you are one of these good men, I will chase you away right now and you can forget about eating and drinking here."

Qin Yu instantly shut his mouth and did a 'zipping' motion. His eyes were bright.

He drank from a few wine fruits on the way back. However, he truly missed the culinary skills of the 'root people'.

Ever since they returned to the Imperial Capital, he had not gotten to enjoy it.

Hiss –

I can't think about it, my saliva is dripping!

Rourou rolled her eyes at him, probably thinking that Qin Yu was a good-for-nothing. She waved her hand, and the 'root people' obeyed her orders and instantly began to cook. Very quickly, they prepared a table full of delicacies.

Qin Yu consecutively plucked three wine fruits, and when he was just about to pluck his fourth, he was stopped by Rourou's glare. She frowned as she said, "Do you want to die?"

Qin Yu understood what she meant. With his current limits, he could only drink three wine fruits at once.

Hehe, it was a rather big improvement from before. It seemed that entering another cultivation realm brought about bigger changes than he thought.

That's right, I have to cultivate whenever I have the time, so that I can improve to the next step as soon as possible. When that time comes, I'll be able to eat and drink even more!

Rourou's eyes were about to roll into the back of her eye sockets, probably feeling shocked and speechless from what Qin Yu was using to motivate himself.

However, these small things were like a drizzle to him, unable to ruin his appetite.

Just like before, Rourou only occasionally used her chopsticks to eat the dishes in front of her. Mostly, she was holding onto a wine fruit, drinking from it slowly sip by sip.

Qin Yu, on the other hand, did not stand on occasion. With one sip of wine, he took three mouthfuls of food. He ate happily like a deity.

He ate and drank as much as he could!

He was not feeling very well anymore, but he still drank the wine to the last drop before he got up shakily. "Uh...you should rest well, I'm going to leave first."

Rourou's eyes were half-closed as she responded with a grunt. She leaned backwards on her chair, and naturally, the dexterous branches quietly cleaned up the mess in front of her.

After changing into a more comfortable position, Rourou was lying down on her side as she watched Qin Yu leave. Her eyebrows started to rise.

"Where exactly is the problem?"

She closed her eyes and quickly fell asleep. However, before Rourou really fell asleep, her divine sense of the whole world reached its peak.

It was a pity that like before, Rourou was still unable to find out what was wrong.

It was as if there was an extremely thin curtain in front of her that she could not see, covering her eyes. It was not heavy, and light could pass through it, but it still made everything blurry and she could not tell what was real and what was not.

.....

The team of Desolate Area cultivators settled into the Green Willow Tribe. The first thing that they did was to return everything that they owed the tribe to them, even though the tribe insisted that they were not in a hurry to get anything back. They even tried to hint that they could remove whatever debt was owed to them, as long as Marquis Chongwu was willing to lend them his assistance.

Without him, their totem would not have transformed.

The Golden Crow Tribe's totem, the Golden Crow, was now very powerful. Many barbarians who went to visit the Golden Crow Tribe were green with envy when they saw this.

For the Green Willow Tribe, their Divine Willow that had almost died due to being struck by lightning back then and had only one remaining branch left, had also become extremely powerful after being revived once again.

It was said that even though it was still in its newborn state, it had given the Green Willow Tribe the same amount of benefits as it did back then before it was destroyed.

One must know that the newborn state and mature state of barbarian tribe totems were completely different from one another. At the mature state, they were tens of times stronger than they were at the newborn state.

This also meant that the Green Willow Tribe's totem, the Divine Willow, had advanced!

It might have been a coincidence that the Golden Crow Tribe's totem evolved and Marquis Chongwu might have had a hidden agenda in saving the Green Willow Tribe's totem.

However, now that both totems had advanced, was there even a need to doubt Marquis Chongwu?

Earlier, Black Pagoda, Heavy Mountain, Long River, and Purple Forest had joined up. No one dared to say anything against them. However, now that they had retreated, the situation stabilized once again. If they still sat by and did nothing instead of asking for Marquis Chongwu's assistance, it would be equivalent to waiting for a death sentence to be levied on them by their tribe totems!

It was said that in some big tribes with even stronger totems, some Tribe Leaders were given a death order. If they were unable to invite the Desolate Area cultivator Marquis Chongwu to their tribe, they would be eradicated!

Whatever it was, in the Green Willow Tribe now, it was very lively.

The old Tribe Leader also felt what the Golden Crow Tribe Leader Cutuo had felt last time. It was a painful and happy feeling, but if you have the guts, you should just take whatever gifts are being handed to you!

Chapter 1617A – Divine Stone Tribe

Having spent many years in the Western Barbarian Territory, Zhou Dafu, who had become very experienced, never realized that the Barbarian Clan was actually such a nice group of people to conduct deals with. One after another, he had completed many deals at an astonishing speed and a low cost. It was simply beyond his imagination.

Profit, it was a huge profit! Just this one trip was enough for him to achieve the same returns as he had gained in ten years...in order to suck up to the marquis, these barbarians were selling things to him for 'almost nothing'. It was almost as if they were giving it to him for free.

If it was before, Zhou Dafu would feel uneasy whenever he earned money. After all, what the marquis did in the Western Barbarian Territory was rather taboo. However, when they returned to the Imperial Capital, nothing happened to the marquis. In fact, he had received a promotion...so, what else did he have to worry about!

Mentally calculating the profit that he could keep for himself when this deal was over, he and the team of Desolate Area cultivators were all smiles. They could not help but feel that following Marquis Chongwu and doing things under his command was a fortune that was hard to come by in all their lifetimes!

Of course, it was important to earn money, but Zhou Dafu also did not dare to interfere in matters where he was not needed. These barbarians had secretly and outrightly tried to get more information from him for the sake of getting closer to the marquis. Hmph, I can tell the difference between having to earn money and acting appropriately! There are some things that I will never divulge.

As a result, those barbarians that had tried to bribe him but did not get anything in return were scolding him frantically and cursing his ancestors in their hearts.

However, when they turned around to meet him, they were full of smiles once again and greeted him warmly.

It was to the point where some strong barbarians felt sullen over their own behaviors...these people never thought that there would be a day when they would look so pathetic in front of Desolate Area cultivators!

Zhou Dafu could play dumb, but as the saying went, 'there is no such thing as a free lunch'. The Tribe Leader of the Green Willow Tribe felt happy, but at the same time, he very quickly felt the burden of receiving so many gifts.

After hesitating, it seemed like if he still did not make a trip down to visit Marquis Chongwu, those strong barbarians who had been showering them with gifts were going to go against them. He could only grit his teeth and request an audience with Marquis Chongwu.

The good thing was that he was successful. After entering the camp, Marquis Chongwu, who had shut himself in closed-door meditation, very quickly accepted his request.

"Greetings, Marquis," the Tribe Leader bowed and greeted him.

Qin Yu looked at him thoughtfully before smiling, "Tribe Leader, your face is glowing. It seems that during this time, you've been enjoying a huge fortune."

The Tribe Leader laughed bitterly before cupping his hands, "Marquis, please stop teasing me." He took out a storage ring and offered it with both hands, "Inside this storage ring are half the gifts that we have received recently. The Green Willow Tribe has been penniless and we need expenses in every aspect to continue developing our tribe, so I will be thick-skinned and take some of the gifts that were meant for Marquis."

Qin Yu looked inside the storage ring, "I don't want the things inside here; just take it as the rent that I'm paying for staying here at your tribe." He then continued, "After all, our team of Desolate Area cultivators have also become rich because you were willing to give us this piece of land for us to stay on."

The Tribe Leader hesitated for a while before he raised his head to look at Qin Yu's expression. He then nodded and put the storage ring away, his smile becoming bigger, "Our Green Willow Tribe would not complain if there were many generous customers like Marquis!"

Of course he knew that 'paying rent' was just an excuse. What Marquis Chongwu really cared about was the Green Willow Tribe's attitude from when they were facing the four other tribes that had joined forces.

This was what 'reciprocation' looked like. It was precisely because of this that he hesitated to just keep the storage ring for himself in the first place and tried to give it to Marquis Chongwu. It might mislead the marquis to think that the Green Willow Tribe had huge ambitions for itself. Doing it this way showed his intentions more clearly.

Qin Yu laughed and extended his arm, "Don't just stand there and talk. Tribe Leader, please take a seat. I brought with me some tea leaves from the West Desolate and the taste is rather good. Try it."

He reached out to grab the teapot, but the Tribe Leader quickly stopped him, "I do not dare to trouble the marquis to make tea for me! Let me do it myself." The Tribe Leader poured a cup of tea for himself, drank two sips, and gave a thumbs up, saying, "It's good tea, good tea!"

Qin Yu half-smiled, "It seems that Tribe Leader did not visit today just to share fortunes with me. If there is anything else, please just say it."

The old Tribe Leader looked astonished as he coughed lightly, "Marquis, you are wise! There is an old saying amongst barbarians that goes, 'if you eat your neighbor's cattle, you have to repay them with some fertilizer' ...in short, our Green Willow Tribe has accepted many gifts, so we need to do some favors for them in return."

Taking a glance at Qin Yu, the Tribe Leader took out an old sheepskin scroll from his sleeves and said, "These are the tribes that gave us the most lavish gifts. All these tribes are extremely powerful and rich and they hold most of the wealth in the Western Barbarian Territory. They have already given their word, that if the marquis is willing to help them, they are willing to fork out a huge amount of money to repay you."

Qin Yu sipped on his tea, drumming his fingers lightly on the table.

The old Tribe Leader regained his composure and nervously added, "Marquis, please rest assured. Our Green Willow Tribe has made the necessary checks beforehand. I assure you that these tribes did not participate in whatever has happened before."

Qin Yu smiled, "Tribe Leader, you've worked hard. I'll take a look then." After a pause, he continued, "But I can't promise that I'll choose to help some of them."

The old Tribe Leader smiled and nodded, "When I accepted their gifts, I only promised them that I would bring this list to the marquis. Now, I have already completed my end of the bargain. Whatever you decide is up to you; the Green Willow Tribe has no opinion."

On the sheepskin scroll, there were the names of six barbarian tribes. Qin Yu looked through all of them before he put the scroll down without a word. The Boundary Breaking Seal needed to continue being built, otherwise, he could not cement his position in the West Desolate. This was Qin Yu's goal for entering the Western Barbarian Territory this time.

In actual fact, in this period of time, even though he had always been cultivating, he had already formulated a plan in his heart. The Boundary Breaking Seal could not be built at any random place.

For example, this time, Qin Yu had gotten a blueprint along with the materials needed to build the Boundary Breaking Seal. The Divine Stone Tribe was the West Desolate's top shortlisted target, and they happened to be the first one on this list.

The Tribe Leader sipped his tea quietly. Like he said before, he had completed his end of the deal once he sent the list to Qin Yu.

As for who the marquis would pick at the end, that was up to him...indeed, the old Tribe Leader was a smart man.

"Tribe Leader."

"Yes, Marquis?" The Tribe Leader put down his tea cup.

Qin Yu smiled as he rolled up the sheepskin scroll, "The Divine Stone Tribe is the first on the list. Did they give you the most gifts?"

The Tribe Leader's face reddened slightly as he nodded, "I do not dare to hide it from Marquis. The Divine Stone Tribe sent over Stone Essence that was produced by their totem in the newborn state. It can greatly speed up the growth of my tribe's totem. In terms of price and usefulness, it is indeed the most precious gift we can receive.

"However, that is not the reason why the Divine Stone Tribe is the first on the list. Marquis, you know that our tribe's totem was struck by lightning and was struggling to live for all these years. Because of this, my Green Willow Tribe had been on the decline ever since and our status has fallen drastically. The only reason why we could hold our ground for so many years despite our totem's health and not have anyone bully us was because of the Divine Stone Tribe's assistance. Thus, my Green Willow Tribe has a very good relationship with the Divine Stone Tribe. Even this time, when the four big tribes joined forces, the Divine Stone Tribe also outrightly condemned them and put huge pressure on them."

Qin Yu nodded, believing that the Tribe Leader would not lie to him about this matter. After thinking for a while, he smiled and said, "Then, I'll pick the Divine Stone Tribe."

The Tribe Leader was ecstatic and he got up to bow to Qin Yu, "Thank you, Marquis!"

Qin Yu replied, "Friendship is important, but there are some other things that can't be lacking as well. Tribe Leader, do you understand what I mean?"

The Tribe Leader pounded on his chest and said, "Marquis, please rest assured. The Divine Stone Tribe's totem, the Divine Stone, has been stuck at a bottleneck for two hundred years. Because of this matter, the tribe has pulled out a lot of their hair. As long as Marquis is willing to help them, even if you wanted the stars from the skies, I'm sure they would get them for you!"

He blinked a few times before continuing in a low voice, "In fact, to tell you the truth, out of all these wealthy tribes, the Divine Stone Tribe has a much better background..."

Qin Yu raised his eyebrows, "Tribe Leader, you seem to have more to say."

Chapter 1617B – Divine Stone Tribe

The Tribe Leader raised his hand to rub his face. He laughed bitterly and said, "Marquis, you're indeed observant." He hesitated for a while before his voice lowered even more, "I've heard...hehe, it's only what I've heard, but about six hundred years ago, because of some special qualities of the Divine Stone, they actually caused a Perishing Star to change its direction and fall directly into their tribe's camp.

"It is said that this occurrence would definitely be a catastrophe. However, in reality, the Divine Stone Tribe did not suffer from many casualties. In fact, the Divine Stone Tribe's Tribe Leader smiled very widely, as if he had picked up...hehe, picked up some wondrous, precious treasure..."

Qin Yu looked at the Tribe Leader whose eyes were filled with playfulness.

"Uh...so that's what happened. Marquis, you can decide for yourself what to do; I will not disturb you for any longer and leave now," the Tribe Leader got up to salute Qin Yu and left.

The Perishing Star seemed to really be a great treasure. Back then, the Divine Stone Tribe Leader had probably overdone his reaction. 'Tsk tsk', indeed, it was wise not to let others know about your wealth. Otherwise, even after a few hundred years passed, people would still be coveting it.

The corners of Qin Yu's mouth turned up. He was thinking about the Green Willow Tribe Leader's words. Though the Tribe Leader appeared to be joking, Qin Yu understood in his heart that the reason why the Tribe Leader had told him about this treasure was because he did not wish for Qin Yu to hear about it from someone else in the future, which would break their current relationship.

Just at this moment, Rourou's voice suddenly rang out, "I want this Perishing Star."

Qin Yu touched his nose and said helplessly, "Surely you won't always be listening in to my conversations, right? I believe that you should give me some privacy."

Rourou laughed coldly, "Privacy? Sure, I can give that to you. As for this matter regarding the Divine Stone Tribe, I'll have to trouble Marquis Chongwu to take action yourself."

Qin Yu felt suffocated and laughed bitterly, "Alright, alright, it's all my fault. Lady Rourou, I will do whatever you say!"

"Hmph!"

"So, you've woken up? You slept for a few days in a row again; you must be hungry," Qin Yu said as he walked outside, "Hurry and let the 'root people' make some dishes for you. I will accompany you for a meal. Staying here alone is too boring."

Rourou surprisingly did not mock him, and after a few moments of silence, she agreed.

This abnormality made Qin Yu feel so anxious that he almost turned around to walk away. In his heart, he was thinking, 'There shouldn't be any problems with Rourou's current condition, right?'

Outside the treehouse, Rourou was leaning back on her reclining chair made from branches. She was gritting her teeth, thinking to herself, 'Qin Yu is such a bastard, he's really hateful!'

After hesitating for a while, Qin Yu was still unwilling to give up the opportunity to eat and drink.

Thankfully, even though Rourou's face was slightly ugly, the whole process was still rather smooth.

He had a full meal once again!

Qin Yu felt a bit sleepy and his eyelids started to droop. He looked at Rourou, who was opposite him, and asked, "I probably have to sleep for a while, could you let me sleep here?"

Rourou frowned and her face was full of disgust. However, in the end, she just coldly humphed and waved her hands. Immediately, a bunch of branches extended towards them and made the same reclining chair for Qin Yu.

"Haha, thank you!"

Qin Yu leaned back and turned his body around, thinking to himself, 'There is really no one else who could give me this kind of enjoyment!'

They are just two trees, but they are so experienced in serving people. I don't know where they learned all these techniques from, but it must have been really hard on them.

The wine that Qin Yu drank was indeed very strong, and in addition, he had been focusing a lot on cultivating recently. He was completely exhausted, and he fell asleep very quickly.

Opposite him, Rourou was still sipping on her wine slowly. When she saw that Qin Yu had fallen into deep slumber, the corners of her lips twitched a bit and she thought to herself, 'This brat indeed has big guts, daring to sleep in front of me like that.'

However, her gaze softened considerably. Hesitantly, Rourou got up and knelt down beside Qin Yu and started to take a good look at his face.

The changing of one's appearance, no matter how ingenious, was merely illusions to Rourou. This was because she recognized people through looking at their souls.

Qin Yu was indeed a stranger. She had no recollection of him whatsoever, but why couldn't she control her thoughts around him? Raising her hand, Rourou used her finger and lightly brushed it against Qin Yu's eyebrows.

She frowned and retracted her hand. A piece of white gauze appeared out of nowhere, and after observing it for a few seconds, it was burnt to ashes.

"Hmph!"

She scoffed and went back to sit down on her reclining chair, "Forget whatever happened just now. If either of you dare to remember it, I will burn you!"

The two subservient trees did not move at all and gave no reaction. This was indeed the best and wisest answer they could give. We are just two trees who don't know anything, of course we can't hear what our master is saying!

However...this Qin Yu person must have an extraordinary place in our master's heart. It seems that we have to treat him better from now on. Who knows, there might come a day when he ends up sleeping on the same bed as our master.

Hu –

A ball of flames flew out and engulfed the two trees. A huge branch was instantly burnt to ashes, and the busy 'root people' that were on the ground held their heads as they knelt down.

Rourou gritted her teeth and said, "Do the two of you really wish to die?"

The two trees started to tremble aggressively.

However, the branch that was burnt off by the flames recovered to its original state in the blink of an eye. After all, from another angle, these trees were indeed creatures that were immortal and could not perish.

Of course being 'immortal' meant that they were hard to kill off, otherwise, it would be no use if they had a great longevity but were easily cut off by people.

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While Qin Yu was fully asleep due to all the alcohol he drank and food he ate, the Green Willow Tribe Leader, who had returned to his own camp, had already paid a visit to that elder from the Divine Stone Tribe and told him about the news.

"Thank you, Tribe Leader!" the elder from the Divine Stone Tribe exclaimed, his face flushed with excitement.

The old Tribe Leader coughed lightly, "There is one thing that I feel I should remind you of. Please pass on the message to the old monkey. You must prepare the most precious treasure that the Divine Stone Tribe has, otherwise, Marquis Chongwu will not be satisfied and he might choose to not help you fully. If that happens, your tribe's totem, the Divine Stone, will be furious. You, the old monkey, and others might be scolded to death."

The Divine Stone Tribe elder widened his eyes and his lips started to tremble as he looked at the Green Willow Tribe Leader.

The Tribe Leader's face was full of innocence as he said, "Why are you looking at me? Do you really think that even if I did not mention it, Marquis Chongwu would not learn about that treasure? Hehe, if you want to blame someone, you should blame that old monkey. Who asked him to be so arrogant back then? Saying things like 'good fortune follows disaster'...now, he gets his retribution!"

The Divine Stone Tribe elder was very aware that the Green Willow Tribe Leader had grown up together with his Tribe Leader. They had a long and deep friendship, and it was normal for the both of them to curse at each other, so he was not angry over what the Green Willow Tribe Leader just said.

He merely smiled bitterly, also vaguely feeling that what the Green Willow Tribe Leader said was right. His own Tribe Leader was good in every way, but his love for showing off had not yet changed even though many years had passed. He could only cup his hands and say, "I will report this matter to the Tribe Leader."

Chapter 1618 – Rourou's Strange Feelings

The Divine Stone Tribe elder quickly left.

The Green Willow Tribe Leader had a calm expression as he watched him leave. He thought to himself, 'That old monkey is not foolish. After he gets my reminder, he will surely know what to do. After all, the Perishing Star is a good and powerful treasure, but even after a few hundred years, they have not found a way to use it.'

Giving the Perishing Star that they were unable to use in exchange for the advancement of their tribe totem was a very cost-effective transaction. After all, for these barbarian tribes, the strength of a tribe totem was related to many other things, and most importantly, the foundation of their tribe.

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The next day, the Divine Stone Tribe elder returned hurriedly once again and expressed his agreement to Marquis Chongwu's request.

The old Green Willow Tribe Leader frowned, "Since you've already agreed to his request, did you bring the Perishing Star with you?"

The Divine Stone Tribe Elder shook his head.

The Green Willow Tribe Leader frowned even more, "What does the old monkey mean by this? He is asking someone for help, but he is not being sincere in his actions!"

The Divine Stone Tribe elder smiled bitterly, "Tribe Leader, please don't get angry. You have been longtime friends with my Tribe Leader; don't you know what his personality is like? Even though it is a bit...hehe, though he likes to exchange tribal treasure with others, he is still a very cautious person. Tribal treasures are hidden in a rather deep place. The Perishing Star is hidden somewhere especially deep...even if we want to take it out now, it will require a bit of time."

The Green Willow Tribe Leader raised his hand to rub his face and sighed. This was indeed...embarrassing!

Opposite him, the Divine Stone Tribe elder also looked slightly embarrassed and said, "However, old Tribe Leader, please rest assured. My Tribe Leader is working as fast as he can. As soon as Marquis Chongwu arrives, he will definitely be able to get his hands on it."

Taking a deep breath and suppressing whatever strange feelings he had, the Green Willow Tribe Leader smiled bitterly and got up, "What else can we do now? Let's go, I'll bring you to meet Marquis Chongwu. However, whether things change or not is up to your tribe's luck."

The Divine Stone Tribe elder added, "You have to add in some compliments for my tribe and help us express our sincerity!"

The Green Willow Tribe Leader merely scoffed.

This time, they only had to wait for a few moments before being able to meet with Marquis Chongwu.

"Tribe Leader, this is...?"

The Green Willow Tribe Leader replied, "Marquis, this is an elder from the Divine Stone Tribe. You can call him 'Third Stone'."

Third Stone, who had not been called that in many years, bowed politely, "Greetings, Marquis Chongwu!"

Qin Yu nodded his head, "Elder Stone, get up quickly. It seems that the Tribe Leader has already conveyed my intentions to your tribe."

Third Stone replied respectfully, "Yes. My tribe is willing to hand over the Perishing Star as compensation for you. However..." He looked at the Green Willow Tribe Leader to save him.

The Tribe Leader scoffed. After hesitating for a while, he still decided to help Elder Stone explain the whole situation, "Sigh! I'm sorry Marquis, my old friend truly makes me speechless. It is his tribal treasure, but he's making it seem like someone is trying to steal it away from him. Even taking it out is so troublesome! However, I am willing to guarantee that the Divine Stone Tribe will definitely not go back on their words. When you arrive at their tribe, you will be able to get your hands on it immediately."

Seeing that Qin Yu did not have much of a reaction, the Tribe Leader gritted his teeth and continued, "This time, I will make a trip with you!"

Third Stone's face was full of gratitude, knowing that the Green Willow Tribe Leader was indeed doing them a huge favor this time.

Qin Yu thought about it before slowly nodding his head, "Since Tribe Leader is willing to guarantee this, I naturally believe you. Then, I invite the both of you to wait for a moment while I make some preparations."

Third Stone rejoiced, "Thank you, Marquis!"

The old Green Willow Tribe Leader stroked his beard lightly and said, "Marquis, please take your time. We will wait."

After Qin Yu got up to leave, Third Stone turned around and bowed politely, "Old Tribe Leader, you are truly my Divine Stone Tribe's best ally. Thank you so much for doing us this favor!"

The Green Willow Tribe Leader merely smiled and waved his hand, "It's alright. I just happen to be more familiar with Marquis Chongwu."

In his heart, he felt extremely satisfied and was even more grateful towards Qin Yu.

As the saying went, 'long-term friendship goes both ways'. Friendships where people only gave or only received were not going to last for a long time.

In the past few hundred years when the Green Willow Tribe was faced with all kinds of difficulties, they had obtained a few hundred years' worth of help from the Divine Stone Tribe. This was a burden that sat heavily on the Green Willow Tribe Leader's heart. Additionally, if it were not for the fact that they were good friends, the Green Willow Tribe Leader would not try so hard to help the Divine Stone Tribe.

The advancement of the Divine Stone Tribe's totem was a major matter. Being able to provide timely help in this aspect meant that in the future, when the Green Willow Tribe Leader met its old friend, it would be as equals.

Although it seemed like these favors were all for a utilitarian purpose, in actual fact, this was how true friends interacted with each other.

Qin Yu's 'making preparations' was just him needing to find out when it was convenient for Rourou to get on the move. When he walked to the two trees, before he could open his mouth to speak, a branch landed in front of him and Rourou walked down.

She looked at Qin Yu and frowned for a while before returning to a calm expression.

"What's wrong?"

"Nothing."

Rourou extended her hand and pointed behind her, "Two of you, follow me."

Hong-long-long –

The earth started to shake violently and crack open as countless thick roots were plucked from the ground. The two big trees shrunk quickly until they were about the size of a fingernail. They jumped and hopped until they landed and clung tightly onto Rourou's ears, like two fancy and intricate earrings.

Qin Yu frowned, a heavy expression in his eyes, "Is there something wrong?"

Rourou thought about it for a while before she said, "I don't know, but I feel strange, like things have been going too smoothly so far. It feels like something is going to happen."

As she spoke, she looked towards the sky.

Qin Yu took a deep breath and said, "I'll go and reject them then, let's not go anymore."

Rourou shook her head and spoke calmly, "Whatever is going to happen is bound to happen; we can't hide from it. In short, you should be more careful."

Qin Yu felt reverence in his heart.

If there was something that could make Rourou look so unconfident, it must be something very dangerous and unknown.

Rourou blandly added, "Let's go."

After a few moments, several carriages rode out of the camp. The news about the Divine Stone Tribe coming out on top and managing to get Marquis Chongwu's help first quickly spread.

In an instant, waves of envy and jealousy were ignited. However, they had nothing to say about the Green Willow Tribe's choice. After all, in these few hundred years, the Divine Stone Tribe had given massive help and assistance to the Green Willow Tribe. This was something that everyone was clear about.

It was a gamble, but they had actually managed to gain such a world-changing opportunity. This made many strong barbarians feel endlessly resentful inside their hearts. At the same time, they became even more polite and friendly towards the Green Willow Tribe.

The Divine Stone Tribe was indeed strong and powerful, but in the Western Barbarian Territory, there were many other big tribes that were on par with them. Why did Marquis Chongwu choose the Divine Stone Tribe out of all the other tribes? It was obvious.

As for why the various big barbarian tribes were so impatient...the reason was simple. It was because no one knew how long they could bargain with Marquis Chongwu for.

Back then, when Black Pagoda, Heavy Mountain, Long River, and Purple Forest joined forces, many other barbarian tribes held their silence. Of course, the strength of the four tribes was a key reason why they kept silent, but the most basic reason was because they...also had such suspicion.

The Barbarian Clan and the Desolate cultivators were blood enemies for generations. They had been killing each other since the beginning of time and hoped for each other to completely disappear or for the other's bloodline to cease. Why would the Desolate cultivator, Marquis Chongwu, be so kind to help in the advancement of a tribe totem?

Furthermore, after he helped the Golden Crow Tribe and Green Willow Tribe, there was no trouble for him even after he returned to the West Desolate. On the contrary, he was promoted at an astonishing speed. Anyone could tell that there was something wrong with all of this.

As for the reason why the Holy Land would take the initiative to defend Marquis Chongwu, no one could guess, but no one wanted to know why either.

In short, the most important thing now was to quickly and successfully invite Marquis Chongwu to their tribe!

As a result, the Green Willow Tribe did not quiet down because the Tribe Leader had left. Instead, it became even more boisterous and lively. Streams of gifts poured in desperately, with many people trying to rely on their connections to get into the good graces of Marquis Chongwu, and people were saying things like, 'If you do not accept these gifts, you are looking down on us!'

.....

The team that rushed towards the Divine Stone Tribe was quiet and peaceful. Whilst on the journey, Qin Yu had already received information regarding the Divine Stone Tribe totem, the Divine Stone. He had also received a fragment that was sent specially to him.

This fragment was the size of a knuckle and was black throughout. Under the sunlight, it shone with a luster similar to jade.

Rourou had already taken a look at it and confirmed that there was nothing wrong with it. Even though Qin Yu never doubted Rourou's abilities, he could tell that Rourou did not look too relaxed when she was nodding her head.

In actual fact, after he learned from her that something did not seem right, Qin Yu's spirits had been on high alert all the time. He used his divine sense to examine the Divine Stone's fragment, but could not find anything wrong with it.

Rourou looked at him and said, "Don't waste your energy. If you have the time, you should cultivate..." She leaned on the couch, her eyes half-closed as she added, "With your cultivation realm, if something really were to happen, you would not be able to be of much help."

Qin Yu rolled his eyes at Rourou's comment. He thought to himself, 'Even the powerful assassin outside the marshal tent who was in the Ruler realm was directly injured by me. You just did not see what I'm capable of!'

Rourou scoffed, "Yes, you're indeed very capable. So when something happens, remember to stand in front of me."

Qin Yu directly rejected her offer, "The most important quality is self-awareness...thank you Lady Rourou for this constant reminder."

Rourou raised her hand to rub her temples and her face was full of helplessness. She could not help but think that this brat Qin Yu was becoming more thick-skinned by the day. She touched her 'earrings' and a soft green light emanated from them.

A light flashed in Qin Yu's eyes. "Before we left, those words that you said...did they have a double meaning?"

Rourou changed her posture and faced away from Qin Yu as she said, "Think about it yourself."

Her body lines were enchanting.

It must be because he had been drinking a lot of wine recently, as Qin Yu was astounded to realize that he was starting to feel some things that he could not control.

This...this would be seeking death!

Instantly, beads of forehead formed on his forehead. Qin Yu quickly looked away, closed his eyes, and breathed slowly.

Rourou, who was still facing away from Qin Yu, knitted her eyebrows together. However, deep in her eyes, there was an unmistakable glint of satisfaction.

A day later, they had arrived at the Divine Stone Tribe.

The reason why they could provide help to the Green Willow Tribe in these last few hundred years was because they were very close together.

Otherwise, the two Tribe Leaders would also not have been able to be friends since they were young.

Outside the carriage, Elder Stone's respectful voice could be heard, "Marquis Chongwu, the Tribe Leader has personally come to welcome you."

The carriage doors were pushed open and Qin Yu walked down. The Green Willow Tribe Leader was a step ahead as he jumped in front of a skinny old man. The first thing he did was to raise his hand to examine the difference in their heights and he scoffed, "It's been a hundred years since we last met, yet, you haven't changed a bit."

The skinny old man rolled his eyes, "How old are you already, why are you still so childish? The younger ones are looking at us from the side. You old fart, you might not want your reputation, but I want to keep mine!"

The people from the Divine Stone Tribe who were standing at the side had a strange expression on their faces.

The Green Willow Tribe Leader's lips twitched. "We have an esteemed guest today, so I'll let you keep your reputation. Go and meet with Marquis Chongwu."

While he spoke, he took a glance at the marquis.

The skinny old man nodded his head. The Green Willow Tribe Leader sighed before turning around with a huge smile on his face, "Marquis, this is the Divine Stone Tribe Leader, Old Stone!"

"Greetings, Marquis." Old Stone was just his nickname. His real name was Shi Gan, and he smiled brightly as he greeted Qin Yu.

Behind him, a bunch of barbarians from the Divine Stone Tribe followed suit and bowed together with him.

Qin Yu smiled in return and said, "Tribe Leader, you don't have to be so polite. Everyone, get up quickly."

After a brief chat, Shi Gan extended his hand. "Everyone, let's enter the camp. We have already prepared a banquet to welcome our esteemed guest."

Chapter 1619 – Unsatisfied

The banquet at the Divine Stone Tribe proceeded smoothly. Tribe Leader Shi Gan and a few other elders were all present, showing their gratitude towards Marquis Chongwu who had come to help them. In short, many nice words were being exchanged, which made all the guests feel comfortable and at home. Everything was done appropriately.

Of course, the more important thing was that as soon as the banquet started, Tribe Leader Shi Gan gave Qin Yu the Perishing Star that he had taken out from a secret place in the camp. He then expressed his apologies again for making the marquis wait to get his compensation.

Qin Yu smiled and waved his hand, indicating that he did not mind waiting. He received the Perishing Star and took a glance at it before putting it away. It was a good treasure, and he could confirm this at

the moment he received it. However, since Rourou wanted it for herself, there was no point for him to keep looking at it. Otherwise, the only person who would have to suffer was himself.

The Green Willow Tribe Leader accompanied Qin Yu to the banquet. It could be seen that he had a very good relationship with the Divine Stone Tribe Leader. They laughed with each other and scolded each other, but their energies ensured that the lively atmosphere was sustained.

This was a testament to their synergy.

The Divine Stone Tribe was extremely warm and Qin Yu had drunk quite a lot of wine. However, perhaps because he had been drinking a lot of the wine fruits from Rourou, his alcohol tolerance had been built up and he did not feel very drunk.

Of course, even if this was the case, he could not show it. Pretending to be drunk was also a skill. It could prevent one from getting into trouble and it could also save precious time.

There was another reason why he had to pretend he was drunk. Rourou did not attend the banquet. Although the distance between them was nothing to Rourou, Qin Yu felt it would be better if there was no distance between them at all...cough, after all, it was not safe for her to be alone!

Seeing that Marquis Chongwu was drunk, whether it was real or not, it meant that their goal had been achieved. Shi Gan had properly welcomed them into the tribe with the right amount of hospitality. So, together with the tribe elders, he ended the banquet with laughter and ordered some men to escort Marquis Chongwu back to his quarters to rest.

The Green Willow Tribe Leader informed Qin Yu that he wished to stay here to have some drinks with his old friend and catch up, and that Qin Yu could go back first.

When Qin Yu left, the tribe elders took turns to dismiss themselves. Shi Gan got up and said, "Let's go to another place to continue drinking."

The Green Willow Tribe Leader nodded, "Did you prepare any smoked fish?"

Shi Gan replied, "A few days ago, I guessed that you would come here too, so I specially ordered someone to prepare it in advance. Have a taste and see whether it's to your liking."

After a few moments, these two tribe leaders with a long and deep friendship that spanned over a thousand years went to sit at a corner courtyard in the Divine Stone Tribe camp.

There were only four dishes on the table. One was the smoked fish mentioned earlier, and the other three dishes were commonly seen vegetables. They were not exquisitely prepared and could not be compared with the wonderful delicacies that were prepared for the banquet just now.

The Green Willow Tribe Leader, however, smiled when he saw these dishes, "Not bad, old monkey. It's been a few hundred years, but you still remember what I like."

Shi Gan scoffed, "So you do remember that it's been a few hundred years since you've sat down and had a meal with me."

The Green Willow Tribe Leader looked slightly guilty as he sighed, cupping his hands, "You know what I'm like. It's hard to lower my head in front of someone, but this is indeed my fault. I'll drink as punishment."

He poured some wine into the cup and drank it all in one gulp.

Opposite him, Shi Gan's face softened considerably. He took up his wine cup and accompanied his friend in drinking, "I've heard from Third Stone how you helped my Divine Stone Tribe this time. Now, you can straighten your back in front of me."

The Green Willow Tribe leader was radiant with delight, "Of course! Haha, I'm not trying to praise myself, but if it were not for my persuasiveness, would Marquis Chongwu even be here? Old monkey, you have to thank me properly."

As the saying goes, 'wine doesn't make men drunk, men get themselves intoxicated'.

The matters that had been gnawing at the Green Willow Tribe Leader's mind for many years had finally come undone. The Tribe Leader, who had been completely sober during the banquet, already felt a bit drunk after just drinking one cup of wine.

His eyes squinted as he laughed gleefully, not noticing that there was a hint of strangeness on Shi Gan's face.

It was an expression that came and went quickly. Shi Gan raised his wine up, "Thank you, my old friend!"

After finishing those four dishes and a few jars of wine, the Green Willow Tribe Leader was extremely drunk. Not a single bit of the smoked fish was left behind. According to him, the taste had somewhat changed and was not the same as back then.

Shi Gan looked at the Green Willow Tribe Leader who was lying on the table asleep and said slowly, "Old friend, everything in this world changes."

After ordering people to escort him back to his quarters to rest, Shi Gan stood in that small courtyard and looked at the bright moon above him. His back looked lonely.

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Qin Yu, who had returned to his quarters, had waited for the Divine Stone Tribe members to leave before restoring a sober look in his eyes. He got up and went to knock on Rourou's door.

"It's not locked, come in."

Qin Yu felt more relaxed when he heard the calm voice. He was truly a bit worried that something had happened without him knowing.

Inside the room, the candles were brightly lit. Whether it was his residence in the mine or Marquis Chongwu's residence in the Imperial Capital, she did not seem to like darkness.

Rourou was drinking some tea. Qin Yu was not sure if it was the light in the room, or whether it was just a misperception, but he couldn't help but feel that Rourou's profile looked incomparably gentle now.

"The Perishing Star is in my hands now, I came to give it to you. See if there's anything wrong with it."

As he spoke, he took the treasure out and put it in front of Rourou.

In the room, there was instantly endless starlight that fell like spring rain. It splashed outwards from the Perishing Star, filling the room with a mysterious and wondrous beauty.

Even though the Perishing Star was only the size of an infant's fist, its whole body was black and looked unassuming in the day, but in the night, it gave birth to such bright stars.

Rourou looked at it and nodded, "There's no problem with it. The Divine Stone Tribe do not have the methods to do anything to this Perishing Star anyway."

After thinking about it for a while, she said, "This Perishing Star is very precious, at least to me. Since I have managed to get it for myself, it will be beneficial for you too. So, because of this treasure, today, I will wipe out all the old debts that you owe me."

Wiping out all the old debts was something that was supposed to make Qin Yu happy. However, for some reason, he felt slightly uneasy in his heart instead.

Taking a deep breath, he stared at Rourou, "Tell me honestly, did a big problem really occur? Even if you think that I shouldn't be worried about you, you should still understand that I still really need your help, so if something has happened to you, you should let me know."

Rourou shook her head, "Finally, you said something sincere. However, I've already told you about the situation previously...at least for now, there is no problem."

She waved her hand to chase him away, "The Perishing Star is very useful to me. I am going to eat it right now. You should leave quickly; don't waste my time."

Qin Yu took a deep breath and said, "I'm going to stand guard at the door, if not, I won't be able to rest assured." He did not wait for Rourou to reject him as he turned to leave, "You're right, my current cultivation realm is really weak from your point of view. However, no one can beat my vigilance and alertness. Don't you dare chase me away! Even if you do, I won't go!"

Bang!

The door slammed shut.

Detecting Qin Yu's aura outside the door, Rourou's lips twitched. She took the Perishing Star from the table. The moment it touched her hands, starlight exploded from it.

There was a sticky and viscous substance like a flame that had condensed. It continued to burn and the black body quickly dissipated, releasing clusters of starlight.

Rourou swallowed it in one gulp, burped, and then she patted her belly. Her eyes were filled with satisfaction.

The power that this Perishing Star held was far stronger than what she imagined. After completely refining it in her body, she could show her true abilities in a fixed radius.

Qin Yu was still outside her door, but Rourou could not be bothered with him. She walked to the bedside, lay down on it, and then closed her eyes and fell asleep. For some existences, sleep was the best kind of cultivation, and this was something that made people extremely envious of them.

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The Divine Stone Tribe Forbidden Land was a place that Shi Gan created in his early years. It contained their most important tribal treasures, and other than him, there were only two or three other elders who had access to it.

After sending away the drunk Green Willow Tribe Leader, he sat alone to admire the moon for a long period of time. Suddenly, he seemed to have thought of something in his heart as he walked alone into the Forbidden Land.

The Forbidden Land was actually just a huge cave that led to the Divine Stone Tribe's totem. It was very spacious inside, like a whole underground world on its own.

Pieces of natural and unique crystals had formed on the stone walls. They shone brightly in the darkness and they were incredibly colorful and radiant. However, today, perhaps it was a misperception, but there was a hint of gloominess beneath this colorful light.

"She has already eaten the Perishing Star and is currently refining it."

Shi Gan slowly opened his mouth to speak. It had been a few hundred years since the Divine Stone Tribe had gotten the Perishing Star, and after trying everything they could for a hundred years, this was the only thing they could do.

Originally, it was something that caused them a lot of sourness in their hearts. But today, it was the most important thing they could have done.

Without getting any reaction, Shi Gan did not really care either. It was as if he had come here just to mumble this sentence to himself.

He turned around to leave, and Shi Gan's figure disappeared at the exit of the cave.

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"I'm really curious now, what exactly are you?" Under the broad, black robes, a woman's soft voice could be heard. Her eyes were full of curiosity as she looked over.

Wearing a white robe, there was a handsome young man who looked like an immortal. When he heard those words, he rolled his eyes and said, "We agreed to work together, but just this one time. Don't try to find out about my origins."

Under the black robes, a light laughter rang out, "Of course. Whatever you say goes."

She got up. "Then I'm going to go and meet them now."

The white-robed young man nodded his head nonchalantly, but after the woman in the black robe turned around and had walked a few steps away, he suddenly added, "There are some things that I have

to remind you about. Do not think about anything or say anything, otherwise, it is very likely that she will find out. If that happens, all of you will have to die and it will be a tragic death.”

The woman in the black robe froze for a while before nodding and quickly left.

The white-robed young man fell onto the bed on his back. Underneath the covers, he turned continuously, wrapping himself in many layers. “I’m scared, so scared! I must be going crazy to join forces with these idiots and go against that person.”

“But I can’t not go crazy. After so many years, I finally made it and managed to see this world. If I don’t defeat the Great Shaman, how am I supposed to live a carefree life and travel to the ends of this world?”

The white-robed man was firmly cocooned in the blankets and only his head was outside. He panted and mumbled to himself, “If I die, then I die! I still have to try, otherwise, I will feel unsatisfied!”

.....

The whole night passed by peacefully.

Qin Yu, who was outside Rourou’s door, had his eyes wide open. He did not cultivate, but because of his anxious spirits, he did feel slightly tired mentally.

However, there was a flash in his eyes.

Using his divine sense, he detected that Rourou was still asleep. This made Qin Yu feel like his eyelids were getting heavier.

For something to force Rourou to fall asleep to refine it, the Perishing Star must also be powerful enough to have taken a toll on her body.

As for why she was so impatient to refine it...of course it was because she was not a hundred percent sure that it would work.

Chapter 1620 – What Does it Have to Do With Me?

After making a decision, Shi Gan was the first to get up and leave. He said that he wanted to gather the tribe elders to make some arrangements and delegate some matters to them. He hurriedly left, and when the news had spread, very quickly, the tribe elders had gathered together.

“Today, Marquis Chongwu will make his move to help our tribe’s totem, the Divine Stone, complete its transformation and advancement,” Shi Gan went straight to the point as he looked at the elders in front of him. “Regarding this matter, I don’t have to say much about what this means to our Divine Stone Tribe.”

He got up and added, “Relay my orders. Mobilize the tribe’s forces and set up a defensive formation. Until the tribe’s totem completes its advancement, no one is allowed to enter or leave our tribe’s territory.

“All the elders are to assume your positions and appease the tribespeople. If there are any interruptions during the advancement of the tribe totem, without my orders, no one will be allowed to go near the Forbidden Land.

“From now on, no one in the tribe is allowed to make decisions or act without authorization...”

Orders were meted out one by one and enacted with the greatest efficiency. The huge and mighty Divine Stone Tribe was like a well-oiled machine that quickly came to life.

Everyone was understanding towards the Tribe Leader’s cautiousness and carefulness. The Divine Stone had been on the edge of advancement for over two hundred years, and if it succeeded in advancing, it would also be equivalent to a huge growth in their tribe’s power.

This involved the tribe’s future, and carelessness could not be tolerated!

.....

There was something wrong with Rourou’s emotions. Other people would not be able to sense it, but Qin Yu could.

Using the excuse of needing some peace and quiet to readjust his body, he chased the Green Willow Tribe Leader away. He looked at Rourou and asked, “Does the Divine Dragon City have something to do with you?”

Rourou looked at him, “You’re indeed becoming smarter, now that you’re able to guess something so hidden.”

She finally admitted it!

Qin Yu’s heart was shaken as he thought about that rumored True Dragon...uh, I don’t mean to think this way, but I can’t control my thoughts either. I can’t help but think that this True Dragon has been...eaten by Rourou?

“Hmph! What gibberish are you thinking about?!” Rourou rolled her eyes, “I don’t feel like talking about this, so you can stop asking.”

Just one sentence was enough to make Qin Yu swallow all the words that he was about to say.

He had some understanding of Rourou’s personality now. As long as she was not willing to share, there was no point in trying to get something out of her.

After thinking for a while, Qin Yu asked, “Why did you choose today then?”

Rourou was expressionless. “You were the one who picked the date.”

Qin Yu was speechless.

He could only admit that he indeed did do such a thing, but why did he feel like he was being suffocated to a point where he was gasping for air?

However, at least there was something that he had gotten confirmation about. Rourou’s current mood was indeed not very good. Qin Yu turned around and sat down beside her, no longer bothering to ask any questions. Yet, in actual fact, he did not feel relaxed in his heart at all.

After half an hour passed, Shi Gan came over personally and greeted solemnly, “Marquis, Lady, my tribe has already made the necessary preparations, please come with me.”

The Green Willow Tribe Leader was not here at this time and this was to be expected. Since it involved the advancement of the Divine Stone Tribe's totem, it was not good for an outsider to be present. Just because the two tribe leaders had a close relationship, it did not mean that he could act inappropriately.

The Divine Stone Tribe's camp seemed to have been emptied out completely. As the Tribe Leader led the way, there was no one to be seen anywhere else at all.

Sensing the doubtful look in Qin Yu's eyes, Shi Gan explained, "Due to its nature and cultivation needs, my tribe's Divine Stone Totem has been integrated into the earth beneath our feet. Once it starts its advancement, there will be a huge phenomenon that happens, like a ground dragon rolling in the earth. Because of this, I ordered my tribespeople to stay inside to prevent any unnecessary injuries."

Qin Yu nodded his head, "Divine Stone Tribe Leader, you are very careful indeed."

Shi Gan laughed and cupped his hands, "Everything that is about to happen today is still in your hands, Marquis. When my tribe's totem has successfully advanced, our Divine Stone Tribe will express our endless gratitude to you."

Very quickly, the three of them arrived at the viewing point beside that mountain where a mirage could be seen at dawn. Shi Gan extended his arm, "My tribe totem, the Divine Stone, is cultivating in the mountain base. Marquis, Lady, please follow me."

After a few moments of hesitation, there was some astonishment on his face, "Perhaps Marquis and the lady have heard some things about me from that old fart. Hehe, the rumors are not without basis...there are some formations inside; please follow me closely to prevent any accidents."

They walked through an illusory formation, a trapping formation, and a maze formation. This took up quite a lot of time before the three of them arrived at a crack at the foot of a mountain. It was not very big. Whatever could be seen from the outside was not even the height of a grown man, and to enter this crack, one would have to bend down.

Shi Gan coughed lightly, "This is the tunnel that leads to the mountain base."

Qin Yu glanced at the Divine Stone Tribe Leader who was leading the way in front and thought to himself, 'Your cautious and careful personality is indeed quite extreme.'

In the cave, it felt like there was a whole new world on its own. The entrance was very narrow. If one did not enter in person, one never would have thought that there would be such a huge and hidden underground space.

Various crystals shone brightly, like the 'mirage' that they saw this morning. It was quiet all around, and they could only hear the sound of their footsteps.

Shi Gan continuously reminded them to avoid triggering the mechanisms in a soft voice. Their journey was smooth, and after half an hour, they finally saw the Divine Stone Tribe's totem, the Divine Stone.

"Marquis, Lady, today is the day when the Divine Stone recycles its aura. Please wait for a moment; I will go and wake it up."

Shi Gan bowed and walked to where the Divine Stone was, however, he did not stop and continued to walk up even nearer to it.

Then, his whole body became like a shadow as it integrated into the Divine Stone and instantly disappeared.

Qin Yu's expression changed slightly, and he was pulled back by Rourou in the next moment so that he was now standing behind her.

Buzz –

The Divine Stone Totem started to tremble. A yellow halo was produced from it and it swept across the whole cave, covering everything in it.

On the ground, the pebbles also started to tremble. They moved to assemble around the Divine Stone until its whole body was covered by these pebbles.

Rourou stepped forward and rushed in front. The yellow halo instantly dissipated and formed a square, blank space of over a hundred square meters.

She raised her head to look at the Divine Stone with an icy gaze, "I guessed that there was something wrong with you, but you dare to make a move against me all by yourself?"

"Of course he does not dare to," another voice rang out in the air. "Your Excellency is incredibly mysterious and your abilities are not within our comprehension. We will use whatever methods we have against you today. Sorry to be rude."

Rourou scoffed, "Are you trying to hide yourself in front of me? Are you sure you won't die?" She raised her hand and pointed at the space in front of her. The space shattered and instantly, a black hole appeared.

A pained groan came out from the black hole, followed by an angry growl, "Take action! Kill him, and you guys can be free."

Whoosh –

Whoosh –

Whoosh –

One by one, figures appeared out of thin air. They were all wrapped in black robes and only their icy and indifferent eyes could be seen.

Without any hesitation, these people all took action at the same time...rushing towards Qin Yu!

That's right, their attacks directly evaded Rourou. It was extremely clear that their goal was to kill Qin Yu.

Light rays were produced from the use of various Divine Ways and they covered the whole space. The weakest cultivator was at the Ruler level, and there were two people who were high-level Rulers, stronger than the assassin Qin Yu encountered previously outside the Marshal Tent.

Even though back then, Qin Yu managed to inflict heavy injuries upon that assassin, it was only one person that he had to deal with. Now, there were at least ten people in front of him.

Quantitative changes would eventually lead to qualitative changes. There were more than ten Rulers who had joined forces; it would not be difficult for them to kill a peak Ruler.

Qin Yu's face was ashen and he thought to himself, 'Something is wrong. Rourou clearly felt that something was off beforehand, but why are these people going after me instead?'

However, evidently, no one was going to explain themselves to him.

At this moment, the gauze that had been covering Rourou's eyes suddenly disappeared. She could finally see through the causes and effects of this whole situation.

"It looks like not eating you back then was the wrong decision."

Mumbling to herself, Rourou did not hesitate and waved her sleeves, causing a big tidal wave to suddenly appear, shattering all the Divine Ways that were rushing towards Qin Yu.

Those assassins that had appeared out of thin air were like big fish in the ocean that were forced backwards.

She did not kill anyone.

It was not because she did not want to, but because she could not.

The other party already knew about her 'flaws', so now their best choice was to leave this place. However, since they had already dared to let Rourou understand the whole situation, it would be hard for them to get out of this easily.

But they would still have to try.

Rourou stomped down heavily and the whole grotto started to shake violently. A violent force hit the ground.

Bang –

Bang –

Bang –

The stone monsters that were surrounding the Divine Stone instantly shattered into powder.

Ka-cha –

A crack formed on the Divine Stone's surface and Shi Gan's face appeared, with a pained expression. However, with the surging of the yellow halo once again, the crack quickly disappeared. The stone monsters, which had been shattered into powder, condensed once again and went back to their original positions.

Rourou looked at Shi Gan's face on the Divine Stone that was twisting and turning. His eyes were shut as he cried out in pain, fresh blood flowing out of his eye sockets.

At this moment, the assassins that were forced to retreat rushed towards them once again.

Rourou stomped heavily on the ground once more. The cave started to tremble and the assassins flew back again. This time, the injuries that they sustained were not as heavy as before. It could even be said that they were not hurt at all by Rourou's attack this time, as they were wrapped by a gentle energy.

"I'm not going to kill people, what can you guys do?"

She raised her head to look at the Divine Stone, "I'll see how long you can hold on for!"

Hong –

She stomped heavily on the ground again!

The stone monsters were shattered and a crack appeared on the Divine Stone again. Shi Gan howled angrily, "Hurry, make your move!"

He realized that he had underestimated the power that Marquis Chongwu's wife had. If this went on, the whole cave and the restraints that he had arranged would be smashed with just three to five more stomps.

If that happened, he would also die!

Suddenly, the black-robed assassins' eyes turned red and their violent auras exploded from their bodies.

"Ah!"

They howled in anger and pain.

However, very quickly, there was only destruction and extinction, and they went into a mad craze.

While they roared, they widened their red eyes and rushed towards Qin Yu.

Rourou's gaze became even colder. She extended her arms and wrapped them around Qin Yu. In the next moment, a terrifying rumble sounded, like continuous thunder.

Qin Yu could not even think of enjoying Rourou's warm and gentle touch. He only felt dizzy and there was a very uneasy feeling in his chest.

All fourteen powerful Ruler cultivators had self-destructed!

Rourou's face turned pale and she did not move. She had an indifferent expression as she said, "What does their self-destruction have to do with me?"

A soft sigh sounded from beside Rourou's ears. A woman dressed in a black robe appeared where the assassins had self-destructed and said, "Whether you say it has anything to do with you or not, I'm afraid it does not matter."