

The Wolf's Bride by Coffee's Tea

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Then, he said to Kate, "Kate, Andrius did a great favor for the Medicine Sect this time. Accompany him on the trip to the Northern Desert and meet the Turtle Sage."

"Okay, Grandpa!" Kate immediately agreed.

Seeing this, Andrius said, "There's no time like the present. Let's set out now."

"Um..." Kate hesitated and then said, "The journey to the Northern Desert is thousands of kilometers away. Give me some time to prepare."

"Sure." Andrius thought for a moment and said, "Kate, you stay here and prepare while I go to Kiyoto, then we'll depart together."

"No problem."

After making the arrangements, Andrius left Mount Cura.

Back at the Forbidden Palace, Andrius found the emperor.

Wade's breakthrough to the Martial Saint realm was a significant leap. With him overseeing the Medicine Sect, the other ancient martial forces would not dare to cause trouble. It was time to deal with the Insect Ruler.

He came here to inquire about the emperor's plans and see what other arrangements Old Hagstorm made.

Andrius went straight to the point. "Registus, do you know where Master is?"

Registus shook his head. "After Master came back from Flandom, he headed straight toward southwest Murrfield and hasn't sent any news back. However, I suspect it won't be long before he takes action against the Insect Ruler."

It was finally time to deal with the Insect Ruler. A sharp glint flashed in Andrius' eyes at those words.

"As for the internal situation in Florence..." Registus looked at Andrius and smiled wryly. "Ordinary soldiers can't do much against the ancient martial forces. I'll have to rely on the Lycantroops."

He knew about the Lycan Manor under Andrius' command.

Andrius nodded and said, "It's not just the Lycan Manor. Master also established the Dragon Manor in the past. There are Martial Emperor experts in that organization."

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“Furthermore, the Medicine Sect Master won’t stand idly by. With these three forces keeping an eye on the internal affairs in

Florence, those ancient martial organizations probably won’t dare to come out and make trouble for a while.”

Registus was relieved after hearing Andrius’ words and asked, “Did you come to me in such a hurry for something?”

Andrius replied, “I’m going to the Northern Desert.”
“The Northern Desert?”

Registus glanced at him in surprise and asked, “The Northern Desert is thousands of kilometers away, and the situation is very tense there right now. Why are you going there?”

Andrius immediately told him about the Flame Emperor. Then, he asked, “Have you heard of the Flame Emperor before?”

Registus shook his head. “No.”

Florence’s new dynasty was established less than two hundred years ago. Although Registus was the current emperor, it was hard to find out secrets from previous dynasties.

Andrius could only give up.

“It seems I have no choice but to go to the Northern Desert.”

Andrius could only hope that the legendary Turtle Sage indeed had records related to the Flame Emperor and his family.

“Don’t overthink it, Andrius.” Registus thought for a moment and suggested, “Since you haven’t gone to the Northern Desert yet, why don’t you accompany me to the Hidden Arts Tower? You can cultivate the rare techniques stored there and enhance your strength.”

The imperial palace’s techniques!

That was something that countless people coveted. Andrius thought about it. Registus’ suggestion made sense, so he agreed. “Sure. I’ll go there and see if there are any techniques suitable for me.

Registus laughed and patted his shoulder. “It’ll blow your mind.”

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After saying that, the two of them headed toward the Hidden Arts Tower.

“Your Majesty.”

“Your Majesty.”

The guards at the tower immediately saluted respectfully when they saw Registus.

Registus nodded and said, "I'm taking the Wolf King to choose a few techniques. Open all the secret rooms inside."

"Yes, Your Majesty!"

Then, the guards opened all the secret doors. The Hidden Arts Tower was fully open to Andrius.

"Go ahead. Learn whatever you want to learn."

Registus grinned and did not follow him in.

Andrius nodded and strode in.

Looking up, he saw a massive study. It was much larger than an ordinary library, showcasing the richness of Florence's

collection of techniques. The bookshelves were made of precious sandalwood, and each technique had detailed descriptions of its power and learning requirements next to it.

Andrius felt overwhelmed.

However, with his extreme righteousness and extreme heat inner energy, many techniques → were not suitable for him. Thus, he selected quite a few techniques for Noir and the experts

in Lycan Manor.

"sigh..."

After an unknown amount of time, Andrius had almost finished walking around the tower, but he still had not found a suitable technique for himself.

He sighed and prepared to leave since Kate might be waiting for him.

At that moment...

Hum...

A faint energy seemed to guide Andrius from the depths.

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“What...”

Andrius frowned slightly and headed in that direction.

Soon, he arrived at a bookshelf. On it was an introduction to the ice type of inner energy. Andrius only glanced at it before withdrawing his gaze.

completely unrelated and almost the opposite of The essence of ice was still water, so it was his extreme heat. Thus, it could not possibly guide him. He looked down instead.

“Hm...”

Andrius saw a shabby stone. It was covered in dust as if it had not been touched for a long time.

The moment Andrius saw it, the guiding feeling intensified.

This was it!

Without caring about anything else, he picked up the stone and wiped away the dust on it.

The stone revealed its true appearance. The overall surface was very smooth and shiny as if it contained some kind of magical

power. Furthermore, many strange characters were engraved on it along with some little figures in various poses.

“Could it be...“.

Andrius had a vague guess and immediately started circulating his inner energy following the poses of the little figures.

Hum...

He was just trying it out, but it unexpectedly resonated with the technique.

“T–this is...”

Andrius could not help but be stunned.

That was because the resonance caused by the circulating inner energy came from the needle techniques passed down by the

Flame Emperor!

In other words...

This dusty stone was one of the clues he had desperately sought!

He searched high and low just to find it beneath his feet!

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‘It was worthwhile coming to the Hidden Arts Tower.’
As he thought, his actions did not slow at all, and he continued to circulate his inner energy following the technique revealed on the stone.

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“Hiss...”

Andrius soon discovered another problem.

Although the needle techniques passed down by the Flame Emperor were extremely mysterious and ingenious, he could faintly feel some

delays. It was clear that it had some imperfections.

As Andrius performed the technique on the stone, it immediately began to compensate for those flaws.

This both surprised and delighted him.

The reason was simple.

It was like a university student checking and correcting the homework of an elementary school student. The technique on the

stone stood at a higher level, allowing it to systematically resolve the shortcomings in the Flame Emperor's needle techniques.

Andrius truly struck gold this time. He immediately focused on studying the poses of the little figures on the stone.

Following the poses and the circulation on the stone, he repaired the defects in the Flame Emperor's needle techniques one by

one, making them flawless and perfect!

After a few weeks, Andrius finally felt that the Flame Emperor's needle techniques were indeed smooth and perfect.

Then, he looked at the characters on the stone.

These characters...

Even with Andrius' extensive knowledge, he could not fully understand them. He could occasionally comprehend a few, but it

was far from enough for complete understanding.

'No! The poses on this stone contain a powerful cultivation method, so these characters must hide even more profound secrets. I

can't let them slip through my fingers.'

Thinking that the stone was very important and possibly related to the Flame Emperor, Andrius was determined and had no

intention of letting it go.

He walked out of the Hidden Arts Tower.

Registus was still waiting outside. When he saw Andrius come out, he grinned and said, ”

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What do you think about my Hidden Arts Tower? It didn't disappoint you, right?”

“Registus!” Andrius was absorbed by the stone and had no time to engage in idle conversation. He immediately said, “I found something inside. Come with me.”

“Hm?” Registus made a confused sound but followed Andrius into the tower.

Andrius took him to the stone. He pointed at it and said, “I felt that the poses of the little figures on this stone are quite mysterious, and I gained some insights by cultivating along with it.

“However, the characters on the stone are truly obscure and difficult to understand. Can you make out what they are?”

Registus frowned slightly as soon as he saw the stone.

After Andrius finished speaking, Registus replied evasively, “Andrius, to be honest, this stone is quite strange. It's better not to cultivate the technique it has.”

“Strange?” Andrius was stunned and looked at Registus.

“That’s right.” Registus nodded and said, “This stone has been collected in the Hidden Arts Tower since the establishment of the new dynasty of Florence.

“Many experts have been drawn to it over the hundred years. However, no one has successfully cultivated the technique on the stone before.

“Many powerhouses and experts tried to cultivate it based on the poses of the little figures to solidify their foundations, but they all ended in failure.”

That was also the reason why Registus advised against Andrius cultivating the technique. “They failed?” Andrius raised his brows and could not help but say, “But I succeeded.”

“What?” Hearing that, Registus could not help but ask in surprise, “Andrius, did you say that you succeeded in cultivating the poses of these little figures?”

“Yes!”

Andrius immediately recounted his experience, from when he discovered the stone and activated the resonance with the Flame Emperor’s needle techniques, to repairing the defects of said techniques.

In the end, he added, “I suspect that this stone should be related to the Flame Emperor in Obaro. That’s why I’m asking you for help to decipher the characters.”

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Registus did not expect this.

Andrius hit the jackpot. He actually found a clue regarding the Flame Emperor.

“Sure!” Registus agreed excitedly. “Wait for me here. I have a collection of classical texts in my private collection. We should be able to understand what the characters describe by cross -referencing them.”

Then, Registus walked away.

A few minutes later, he returned holding a thick, yellowed scroll.

“I haven’t opened this book much before, but it contains rich and detailed texts. It should be useful for reference,” Registus explained briefly and began to cross-reference the small characters on the stone with the texts. Half an hour later, he finally matched all the characters.

“Andrius, these texts are quite mysterious,” Registus sighed and began to explain.

Andrius listened intently.

“The first part of the text talks about the origin of the stone.

“The first emperor of the new dynasty had an extraordinary encounter in his early years and obtained a stone left behind by a sage, which is this very one in front of us. The technique on the stone also comes from that sage.

“Unfortunately, the technique is too obscure and difficult to understand. Even the emperor back then couldn’t learn them, so the stone ended up in the Hidden Arts Tower, covered in dust until now.”

An item from a sage!

Andrius’ eyes

widened when he heard those words. He figured that this stone must have an extraordinary origin, but he never expected it to come from an actual sage!

After all, from all the information he had so far, sages were beings beyond the Martial Saint realm.

“As for that sage...” Registus glanced over the contents and shook his head. “It’s not much different from what you told me

earlier about the Flame Emperor. There are no more detailed records or information.”

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Andrius fell into silence.

From what he knew, anything regarding what was beyond the Martial Saint realm, whether it be a person, technique, or other treasures, they were all vague. It was as if there was an invisible hand covering everything, preventing detailed information from being exposed.

“Tsk, tsk, tsk...”

At that point, Registus could not help but click his tongue and said teasingly, “I didn’t expect this seemingly inconspicuous stone to actually have some connection to the Flame Emperor you mentioned.”

Andrius smiled and asked expectantly, “What else does it say?”

“It’s a detailed cultivation method. I’ll translate it for you.”

Then, Registus carefully explained the content of the stone word by word to Andrius. without any errors.

After all, if cultivation

was not done properly, it might lead to deviation.

“The ideal is to be like water, benefiting all things without contention...”

“A whirlwind does not last all morning, nor does a rainstorm last a whole day...”

Andrius felt a bit confused. However, he understood the method and approach for the technique. Thus, he could not help but give it a try.

Hum...

With just a slight movement, Andrius suddenly sensed a change in his body—the Flame Emperor’s needle techniques he cultivated before were starting to evolve.

In other words, the Flame Emperor’s needle techniques were just a small part of the techniques on the stone. It was more like an introduction.

Now, as Andrius continued to cultivate the stone’s technique, the Flame Emperor’s needle techniques were gradually perfected into a complete set!

“This is...”

Andrius was delighted when he realized this. Then, he immediately immersed himself and focused on cultivation.

Time slowly passed.

“Andrius?”

Seeing that he was entirely focused on cultivation, Registus only called out softly once then stopped bothering him and left the

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Night fell.

Eventually, the eastern sky brightened, and the morning sun rose.

Andrius continued to cultivate until the next morning.

“Oh my God...”

When the first ray of sunlight shone through the window and scattered on Andrius' face, he finally slowly opened his eyes.

Brilliance continuously circulated in his starry eyes.

He succeeded!

Moreover, with just the results of the first part, he had broken through from the late-stage Martial God realm to the early-stage of

Martial Saint. He became a genuine top-tier expert!

If he finished cultivating all the parts...

It was hard to imagine how powerful he would become.

“Phew...”

Andrius took a deep breath, suppressed the excitement in his heart, and walked out of the Hidden Arts Tower to test the power of this technique.

“Andrius!”

Registus approached just as he stepped out. Seeing the joyful look on Andrius’ face, he could not help but ask, “Did you succeed in cultivation?”

“The first part was successful!” Andrius smiled and answered truthfully.

“Hiss-” Registus sucked in a breath and said excitedly, “Come. Let’s test its effects.”

Andrius had the same thoughts.

The two arrived at the martial arena in the palace. At the edge of the arena was a large stone called the Verification Stone. It was covered with grooves from knives, spears, and halberds used to test its power.

Barn!

Without saying a word, Andrius infused his power and hit it.

Rumble...

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After a loud explosion, a deep pit appeared on the surface of the stone.

“Oh my God...”

Seeing this, Registus widened his eyes in disbelief and opened his mouth, mumbling non-stop, “This is the Verification Stone!

It’s a meteorite from beyond the sky. Because of its special material, it’s not suitable for making weapons, so it’s placed here for testing.

“It’s said that only those with strength beyond the Martial God realm can leave a mark on it. To cause such destruction, you must have the strength of at least a mid-stage Martial Saint expert!”

At that point, Registus could not help but gulp. This technique was truly powerful.

“Gah...”

However, beside him, Andrius suddenly coughed out a mouthful of blood. He felt an obstruction in his meridians when he activated the technique!

“Andrius!” Registus snapped back to his senses when he heard the movement and was shocked to see Andrius injured. “What’s wrong? What happened?”

“I don’t know either...” Andrius adjusted his breathing, wiped the blood from the corner of his mouth, and recalled, “I felt that things weren’t going smoothly inside me when I activated the technique.”

At that point, he looked up at Registus. “Registus, are you sure you didn’t make any errors or leave anything out when translating the technique?”

Registus also sensed the seriousness of the problem. He did not reply immediately but carefully recollected.

After a while, he suddenly looked at Andrius and said, “I know! Do you remember when I translated it for you, there were some very vague parts? For example: Walking on the road, they suddenly encounter a mountain range and a river, unable to connect.”

Andrius instantly remembered.

That was true.

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“Registus, you mean...”

Registus took the lead and led them back to the Hidden Arts Tower again. "Come, let's cross - reference it again."

"Okay."

Then, Registus translated the content once again and even wrote it down on paper beside him

With this comparison, both of them discovered a problem. Although the technique on this stone was profound, it was still

incomplete. It was only part of the entire thing!

That was most likely the reason why Andrius coughed up blood when he activated the technique.

"What a shame..." Registus looked at the stone with regret. "It could unleash the power of a Martial Saint with just one

incomplete part. If all the parts were complete, it might truly lead to a realm beyond Martial Saint."

At that point, Registus became determined and muttered, "No, I'll immediately send people to search for clues. We must obtain the complete technique."

Andrius thought of what he sensed yesterday and said hoarsely, "Registus, since this technique is related to the Flame Emperor,

it probably won't be easy to find. It might be better if I visit the Turtle Sage first and see how much

information he has about the

Flame

Emperor.

“As for the technique on this stone, it won’t be too late to deal with it when I come back.”

Before Registus could respond, a guard stepped forward and reported, “Sir- Your Majesty, Wolf King, the Medicine Sect sent a message saying the Maiden is fully prepared. She is ready to depart to the Northern Desert at any time.” Seeing this, Registus had no choice but to agree. “Go to the Northern Desert, Andrius. As for the complete technique on the stone, we can discuss it when you return.”

Andrius thought the same.

However, before he left, he still had something to say, “Registus, during the trip to Praxis, the Insect Ruler obtained several Martial Saint level insect soldiers, as well as countless Martial Emperors and Martial Kings. They could strike at any time. You mustn’t let your

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guard down.”

Andrius said solemnly, “As for the ancient martial forces, you need to keep an eye on them in case anything unexpected happens. I’ll tell the Medicine Sect, the Lycan Manor, and the Dragon Manor to respond together.”

In fact, Registus also understood the seriousness of the current situation.

“I know, Andrius. Just go and come back quickly.”

Andrius nodded and took a stack of secret manuals before leaving the palace. Then, he called Noir and asked him to come to the main gate.

“Andy.”

Noir arrived before long.

Andrius nodded and said, “Noir, lead the Lycan Manor elites to be stationed at key points of Kiyoto. Keep a lookout for any movements.

“Meanwhile, the Lycan Manor experts must not stop training for a moment. I found some good techniques in the Hidden Arts Tower. Let the members who need them choose an appropriate one for cultivation.”

Noir saw the many manuals and quickly said, “I understand, Andy.”

After giving a few more instructions, Andrius left.

“Andrius, you’re here!”

Kate had already prepared everything and was waiting at Mount Cura.

“Let’s go.” Andrius nodded and was ready to set off. Unexpectedly, Kate smiled mysteriously and said, “Wait. I’ll take you to someplace first.”

Then, she took the lead and headed in a certain direction.

Someplace?

What place?

Andrius did not understand, but he still followed her.

Half an hour later...

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Kate brought Andrius to a desolate place

There were faint traces that this was once a luxurious place, but all that met the eye now was just abandoned broken walls and

ruins everywhere. There were even some dark red stains in certain places. Judging from Andrius' experience over the years, they were likely bloodstains dried by time.

"What is this place?" Andrius felt a sense of oppression and could not help but ask

"The Klein family's ruins," Kate slowly uttered, her expression solemn.

The Klein family's ruins?

In other words, this was where the Kleins, a once prominent ancient martial family in Kiyoto, was exterminated.

Andrius was stunned but quickly snapped back to his senses. His expression flashed with complex emotions, accompanied by sorrow and sadness.

These emotions did not last long, and he asked, "Why did you bring me here, Kate?"

Kate continued to lead Andrius and said, "We're almost there."

Andrius suppressed his impatience and stopped asking.

"Over here."

After a while, she led him to a valley. She introduced while walking. "This was the Klein family's armory.

Unfortunately, the once prosperous scene has become ruins..."

As she spoke, a meaningful look appeared in Kate's eyes, but she trailed off.

Andrius fell silent.

The Kleins were once the most outstanding family among the ancient martial families in Kiyoto.

Unfortunately, they ultimately faced destruction. As a result, even the armory which had once been admired by countless people had become a place overgrown with weeds.

After a moment of silence, Andrius asked, “Why did you bring me here?”

Kate said truthfully, “To get a weapon.”

Get a weapon?

Andrius looked at her and frowned slightly, asking in confusion, “The Klein family was

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exterminated by the other four families twenty years ago. All their techniques and weapons. were looted.

“What sort of weapon would we find here?”

Andrius’ question made sense.

It was not just the four martial families. After the annihilation of the Kleins, many other people with ulterior motives repeatedly trespassed into the grounds. Even all the heavy and valuable stones were taken away

What could be left here?

There was only humiliation and vengeance!

Kate did not respond to Andrius’ words and led him straight to the deepest part of the valley.

Awoo-

Awoo-

As the two passed by some ruins, they seemed to step into the territory of wolves. Mournful howls sounded from deep inside.

Rustle...

Whoosh, whoosh...

At the same time, numerous wolf shadows appeared in the grass and under the shade of the trees.

“Hmph.”

A curled his lips slightly and raised the Argentum Qilin Spear, advancing.

The wolf pack charged, howling.

“Seeking death!” Andrius snorted angrily. The Argentum Qilin Spear danced in the air, unfolding like clusters of pear blossoms, bringing a chilling feeling.

With each strike, he took a wolf’s life.

These beasts were too weak for Andrius now. He overwhelmed them just with the first form of the Burden of Nine Skies.

A few minutes later, the wolf pack was mostly eliminated, leaving behind carcasses on the

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ground. The remaining wolves fled.

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“That’s strange.” Andrius watched the departing wolf pack and sighed. “This place doesn’t seem suitable as a wolf habitat, but

there are wolves here... It’s inexplicable.”

Kate could not help but laugh. “It’s not strange.

Although wolf packs prefer mountainous and grassy areas, they’re highly

intelligent and are often attracted by treasures. The wolf pack here is guarding a treasure.”

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Andrius could accept that point.

The snow wolf pack on Mount Valdez used to inhabit outside the seal of the demon snake's territory.

“Follow me.”

Kate led Andrius around and finally arrived at an altar.

As soon as Andrius looked over, he was shocked. On the altar, there was nothing else aside from a rusty iron rod.

However, it was precisely this seemingly unremarkable and decayed iron rod that caught his attention. It was bound by several dark iron chains as it stood in the center, making it appear shocking.

Although the iron rod emitted an imposing aura, at that moment, Andrius could not imagine it as a powerful divine weapon.

Instead, he only thought of two words—lightning rod!

Its appearance indeed resembled a lightning rod. Andrius glanced around again but did not find anything else. He asked in confusion, “Kate, when you mentioned a precious weapon earlier, did you mean this lightning rod?”

“Yes, that’s right!” Kate stared at the ‘lightning rod’ with a burning gaze and said firmly, “Just last night, Grandpa told me that the most formidable weapon of the Klein family is this unassuming lightning rod.”

The most formidable weapon?

Andrius’ eyes w

widened when he heard those words. He walked forward to examine it but could not discern anything. Just as he was about to ask, Kate explained,

“Andrius, don’t underestimate it just because it looks ugly.

“This spear is called the Linebreaker Overlord. It’s a renowned divine weapon. The rusty appearance you see now is a special craftsmanship used during its forging which protects the inner layer beneath the rust. No matter how rusty the outer layer is, the material inside remains undamaged.”

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That was quite remarkable.

Andrius asked curiously, “If this spear is so powerful, why has it been standing here in the Klein ruins for so long without anyone taking it?”

Kate seemed to anticipate this question.

Just as Andrius finished speaking, she explained with a smile, “This spear is indeed renowned, and the reason it has continued to stand here even after the Kleins’ annihilation is because no one has been able to move it!”

No one could move it?

Andrius was skeptical. How hard could it be for heroes in the ancient martial world to move a rusty iron rod? It seemed like an exaggeration.

“I’ll give it a try!”

Then, Andrius walked up and gripped the iron rod. It felt extremely cold in his hands as if it were millenium–old ice from the far north. It made even a Martial Saint like Andrius uncomfortable.

“Ha!”

The next moment, Andrius held on tightly and tried to pull it out.

However...

The iron rod was extremely heavy.

Although Andrius had gathered all the inner energy in his body to strengthen his efforts, the rod did not budge as if it were fused with the earth itself.

“Andrius...” Kate saw him struggling and explained with a smile, “Grandpa told me that to pull out this Linebreaker Overlord, you cannot use inner energy. You need to rely on your own physical prowess.”

His own physical prowess?

Andrius was slightly surprised, then gave it a try. He dispelled his inner energy and relied solely on his strength.

However, no matter how hard he tried, the iron rod remained unmovable even when the veins on his arms bulged and his joints creaked due to the force.

Andrius failed.

“Tsk...”

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After releasing his grip, Andrius took a brief rest, and his expression grew serious. He acknowledged the Linebreaker Overlord in front of him and no longer thought of it as just a simple iron rod. “It’s quite tough.”

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