

A glimpse of "ARENA"

HON Seon's death is imminent

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It is wise to use HON Seon as the story of "ARENA". HON Seon's life is a drama of its own. He is an outstanding general born in a war-torn era, able to master his troops like a god, and all prepared for a very promising career. But like everyone else, he cannot fight his own destiny. Just when he thinks that there is no pursuit

worthy of his attention, he met LAU Bong, allowing him to display his talents. Unfortunately LAU Bong is paranoid and easily jealous. Although HON Seon has won the war for him, LAU Bong still wants him dead.

Unlike LAU Bong, HON Seon is not a pretending person and speaks straight from his heart. At one time when LAU Bong asks HON Seon: "How many troops do you think I can command?" HON Seon says: "100,000". LAU Bong asks again: "So how can you command?" HON Seon says: "there is no such thing as too many", LAU Bong instantly feels slighted and says: "Then are you saying that I am less competent?" HON Seon does not see this coming, and can only reply: "My expertise is in commanding troops, Master, your expertise is in commanding generals." As time goes by, HON Seon becomes a thorn that grows in LAU Bong's heart, and LAU Bong only allows him to stay because he needs his help in the war, but he remains a threat in his eyes.

At the beginning of the Han's dynasty, LAU Bong wants to be regarded as a merciful ruler and allows his opponents HONG Jyu and his family to live. ZUNG-LEI Mui, one of HONG Jyu's subordinates, is not as lucky and killing ZUNG-LEI from LAU Bong. not letting HON Seon has too several cuts already, for he is The main purpose of his order is HON Seon's loyalty to him, when Seon treasures his friendship secretly trys to persuade ZUNG-LEI, not wanting LAU himself instead, to enable HON When HON Seon presents ZUNG-LEI's head to LAU Bong in a silk-linen box, he could barely suppress his anger.



HON Seon bears the order of LAU Bong has been cautious of many troops, which he has made afraid that he will be overturned. not to kill ZUNG-LEI, but to test LAU Bong well knows that HON with ZUNG-LEI. HON Seon ZUNG-LEI to escape. However, Bong's trick to succeed, kills Seon to bring his head back.

Some people think that the reason why HON Seon dies is because he wants to overturn the Han

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dynasty. Historian SI-MA Cin in Shi-ji gives HON Seon such comment: "If HON Seon is humble, is quiet about the effort that he puts in the war, and is not proud of the talent he has, then his achievement would be comparable to those great men such as Zau Gung, Ziu Gung, Taai Gung, and his descendants will also live in his glory, and will lead very good lives. If HON Seon still wants to overturn the Han dynasty with his troops when the war is over, isn't it appropriate to kill him and his whole clan!" SI-MA Cin thinks HON Seon knows little about human psychology. HON Seon should be aware that the people that he serve, like LAU Bong and his family, coming from humble backgrounds, have no confidence in themselves. HON Seon is only important to the LAUs when they need his talent to win the war. However, once LAUs' empire is established, HON Seon's death is predictable. GWAAI Tung, HON Seon's counsel, has warned him, "You are only a subordinate, yet your fame surpasses your Master and your name becomes bigger than his, I cannot but think you have put yourself in a very dangerous situation." HON Seon's loyalty is never an issue to the LAUs, it is his fame (which surpasses his master) that kills him.

Historian of the Ming's dynasty MAAU Kwan thinks that of all the generals in previous dynasties, HON Seon is the best. HON Seon employs smart strategies to win all 3 wars (defeating the Ngai's Kingdom with wooden vases), (defeating the sand bags), and Cai's Kingdom with (defeating the Ziu's Hon's flag), and has never engaged blood baths. This is why MAAU thinks the god of literature, god of poetry, WAT of speeches and the god of wine, that SI-MA Cin is LEI Baak is the god of lyrics, LAU Jyun is and HON Seon is the god of troops. The military intelligence of HON Seon is so outstanding that he is given the status of a god, so it is especially sad to watch HON Seon died in "ARENA", not only because he cannot die in a way he deserves, but it reveals the non-embracing side of the Chinese culture. To ask for humility in others, is in fact jealousy in disguise. We have always been taught not to be proud of our talents, especially in front of those in power, otherwise we will have no futures. It is more important that you are aware of what others think of you, than to accomplish the tasks that you face, and the former often determines your success in life. From this perspective, no wonder HON Seon's death is inevitable.



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