

Sharing the Warmth

Part.1

Anime : InuYasha

Characters : Inuyasha and Yokai

Containing : Surprise

Note : Inu – Dog, Neko – Cat, Youkai - Mystical Spirit/Creature (translated in the InuYasha English dub as "Demon", I believe, but I feel that causes too much confusion with people associating them with Western Demons such as the kind in the bible).

It was a bone-chillingly cold winter day in the Warring-States Era of Japan. The kind of frigid weather that would numb your fingers and toes, as well as make your teeth begins chattering. This kind of temperature was rare in the often hot climate of the area, leaving many youkai unprepared to deal with it, since, unlike humans; many of them didn't have a place to call home. Of course, luckily, some did. It was usually the more human-looking youkai who took shelter in a cave, keeping warm by a brightly burning fire until it got warmer again.

One such being was an inu youkai named Touken, who, if not for his dog-like ears and tail, could probably pass himself for human at least for short time. Someone would notice the claws and fangs eventually. The fair-skinned youkai looked about 16. He was fairly scrawny for his age, about average in height, but below the average weight by a fair amount. Still, his body was in good shape. He wasn't overly muscular, but what he had was toned. His long, flowing crimson hair hung all the way down nearly to his hips since he rarely cut it.

It was nearly dusk now. The sun was setting as Touken continued back to the cave he had taken shelter in, carrying a huge bundle of firewood in his arms. It was difficult to navigate his way back due to the pile of wood partly blocking his vision, the darkness of the night, and the frigid wind that howled as it carried big snowflakes toward him. The youkai trudged along, practically numbed from the cold as his bare feet sunk into the deep snow with every step. Many youkai went barefoot at all times, likely because they found it to be more comfortable than wearing shoes. Even though Touken's soles were tough, though, he could still feel the unfamiliar cold penetrating them, causing his toes to go numb.

With the entrance in sight, Touken pushed himself forward, wanting to get away from the freezing winds outside. He knew he was back when his feet touched the rocky floor of the small cave, the scent of smoke from the nearly-burnt out fire greeting his sensitive nose as he took a few more steps in, setting down the huge pile of firewood. The inu youkai teeth chattered a bit as he sat down in front of the fire, feeling frozen to the bone. He grabbed a few pieces of wood, chucking them into the fire and setting it brightly ablaze once more, already feeling himself warming up.

Touken huddled close to the bright orange flame, sticking his legs out in front of himself to get his freezing feet as close to the heat as possible. The youkai sighed in relief as his now pink skin started to turn to its normal tone again, the fire feeling as if it were thawing out his body.

Of course, Touken wasn't the only one staying in this cave. On the side of the fire opposite to Touken lay a currently napping boy who looked about the same age as him, or possibly just a bit younger. Of course, one wouldn't expect these two males to be staying together, since, while Touken is an inu youkai, this other boy is a neko youkai. It really wasn't often that members of rival species would be able to get along, but here they were, a cat and a dog, sharing a cave.

The neko's name was Sanryu, though he preferred to be called San for short. He appeared to be about 15, and was had a fairly average height and weight for that age. San also had red hair like Touken, but unlike him, he didn't let his grow out nearly as long, the neko boy's hair reaching only down to his shoulders. Both youkai had tails, but unlike Touken's dog ears, San's ears were not cat-like, but instead mostly human-like other than being more pointed than the typical shape. The two friends had been traveling together for a while now, being both complete opposite breeds, yet still quite similar otherwise.

Touken sighed, quite annoyed as he looked toward the dormant neko. Because San had decided to take a nap, he had ended up having to go fetch firewood to keep them both warm. Of course, he had to nearly freeze himself doing so, but he supposed it was his turn to help anyway, since San was the one who had found the cave. He'd have to at least do something to earn his stay.

With the snowstorm still blowing fiercely outside, Touken was stuck huddled by the fire, annoyed with the fact that he had absolutely nothing to do. He knew that his friend was tired, though, so he tried his best to let the neko sleep without disturbance, meanwhile looking for something to occupy his time with. Finding nothing of interest, he simply continued to look at San, closely inspecting the other male's features as though he had never really done so before.

The two youkai had recently come to the age when they began thinking about potential mates, hormones flooding their minds and taking control of them. Though Touken didn't want to admit it, through the time they had spent together, he had started to see San as more than a friend. Of course, he didn't have the guts to actually tell the neko, and simply took a good look at the other male any chance he got, even having occasional fantasies about him.

He thought San was very cute, from his sky blue eyes and the bit of fang gleaming in the corner of his mouth, all the way down to his fluffy, red cat tail. The one part of San that Touken found especially cute, though, and that he was actually sneaking a glance at right now, was the neko youkai's feet. Like Touken's, San's feet were always bare, leaving them wide open for the inu's eyes to feast on. He often found himself sneaking looks at the cat boy's feet, taking in every last detail of them. The dog boy looked from the rough heels of San's feet, his eyes traveling up the comparatively smooth soles and shapely arches to the tough balls of the feet, and finally to the cute, round toes which, like a cat's, were fitted with retractable claws.

Touken's mouth watered a bit as he stared at San's beautiful feet, wanting not only to see them, but to also smell and taste them. Then he remembered that San was sleeping, his mind filled with desire, driving him to crawl across the cave floor quietly, closer to the cat boy's bare feet. The inu youkai's tail wagged excitedly as he came before the works of art, swallowing the lump in his throat as he thought about ways to play with San's feet without waking him up.