

Chapter 1021: Love Or Hate

“Really?” She coldly stared at him. Judging by her expression, she didn’t seem to believe him.

“Believe me.” Li Qiye calmly said: “I have to end everything before the great war. I went to the corpse burial ground to find you to let you know about the matters of Chu Yuntian back then. I knew that you would have the drive to leave the burial ground alive after finding out the truth.”

“Hmph.” The princess scowled and coldly responded: “It sounds like everything is as you have planned.”

“But you still came to the ferry.” Li Qiye looked at her: “After finding out about Chu Yuntian, you tried your best to leave the burial ground. I want to conclude our matters in this generation, so at the underworld river, I left one boat for you. Aren’t you alive and well right now after leaving?”

She only stared at him quietly, as if she was not yet appeased by his words. Or perhaps, Li Qiye hadn’t convinced her just yet.

“Are you sure you didn’t come here for this silver river?” The princess spoke coldly while staring at him.

“If you still think so, then all I can say is sorry, you don’t get me at all. In your eyes, I am only a stranger, a contemptible liar.” He dully said: “If you think everything was just a plan of mine to obtain the silver river, then so be it. The mistake was mine back then, I’ll pay you back!” He lost interest and turned around to leave.

“Stop right there!” The princess shouted after seeing him wanting to leave. However, Li Qiye ignored her and continued on.

“Chu Yuntian! Stop, you can’t forget everything that you said in those letters!” She shouted loudly: “What did you promise me! Don’t tell me you have forgotten! You said that you would protect me forever, where is this promise now?!”

Li Qiye stopped and turned back to slowly look at her before speaking dismissively: “I did promise that, but it is difficult to find someone who can match you now. You don’t need my protection any longer.”

The princess coldly responded: “It’s not over between us! Don’t think that just because you picked the underworld boat for me, our matter is resolved!”

Li Qiye calmly replied after a short pause: “I know that I lied to you and made you waste your whole life. All of this started because of me...”

“You put it so lightly.” The princess replied: “Do you know what I have been through? In order to find out the truth, I traveled all around the nine worlds in the shadow of the Ancient Ming and opposed them and everyone else. I only wanted an answer, the resting place of Chu Yuntian! For this, I didn’t care about antagonizing anyone...”

“I know.” Li Qiye flatly said: “So, I kept my promise. Without people secretly helping you, do you think you could have gotten away unscathed from Immortal Emperor Tian Tu?”

“It was you?” The princess’ eyes narrowed while staring at Li Qiye.

“It doesn’t matter who it was. I just wanted to say that I kept my promise.” Li Qiye calmly spoke: “If you still think that this was all part of my plan to obtain this silver river, then all I can say is that I’m very disappointed.”

He looked straight at her and said: “Yes, I am a liar who tricked you. However, if you say that I created a plan that required hurting you in order to obtain this silver river, then your words truly are insulting my intelligence!”

“Hmph, you have always been a liar.” The princess scowled, but at this time, her act was much weaker than before. It was not as cold and aggressive as earlier. Without a doubt, she felt that she couldn’t posture much longer due to a lack of logic.

“Yes, I am just a liar in your mind.” Li Qiye heaved a sigh and didn’t want to say anything else.

The princess took a deep breath. She looked up and stared at him with a cold expression once more: “How did you find this place?”

“It wasn’t hard for me.” Li Qiye flatly revealed: “After your Middle Continent Kingdom was destroyed, the old elders escaped and converted to Buddhism. I knew that your ancestors already had a path of escape. Your progenitor simply didn’t bring this silver river into the dynasty and instead left it here from the beginning.” Li Qiye looked at the princess’ cold eyes straight on: “If I truly wanted this river, I wouldn’t have needed to wait till today! Back during the Ancient Ming Era, this item was indeed a very good card, but even without it, I could still destroy the Ancient Ming! And I’m always true to my words!”

This time, the princess didn’t want to meet his gaze. With her still-icy demeanor, she casted her eyes downward without saying anything.

Li Qiye eventually took out the Yin Yang Immortal Mirror and placed it on the ground: “I am excited for you being able to prolong your life and come into being. Since you have made it this far, this treasure should return to its owner.”

The princess coldly said: “You think it will end just like this, this is your repayment?”

Li Qiye gently shook his head: “No, this is only to show my sincerity. Just say the word and I’ll make it up to you.”

“What will you do to compensate?” The princess asked with an icy glare.

He turned silent for a moment. He knew very well that the princess didn’t want any treasures!

In the end, she chillingly spoke: “It’s not over between us!”

He looked at her emotionless demeanor and nodded: “Very well, if you want to get even, I won’t hide. I trust that you will be able to leave this place very soon. I’ll be waiting at the Buddhist Funeral Plateau for you.”

“Hmph.” The princess only scowled. Who knows if she was feeling hatred or something else.

Eventually, he turned and walked away. He didn’t get too far before he turned around and looked at her with an austere expression: “My name is Li Qiye, not Chu Yuntian. Of course, if you want to find Chu Yuntian to get even, then Chu Yuntian will still be waiting for you!” With that, he finally left.

The princess watched his departing shadow and was quiet for a long time. A while later, she beckoned and the mirror fell into her hand. She sighed at Li Qiye's departure and murmured quietly: "Fate..." [1. This is a contextual localization. The words 冤家 here is a bit strange to translate to English. "Enemy / foe / (in opera) sweetheart or destined love" — these are the official translations. As you can see, none of these makes sense in the context. In this usage, she is using it to say that Li Qiye is an ill-fated or star-crossed person to her. The most common usage of this word in Chinese is to describe a pair of lovers. They bicker with an unstable relationship for both internal and external reasons; however, they would always be intertwined due to fate and karma. It is also a declaration of love or feelings, especially when the princess is the one saying it, showing that he is "connected" to her. Perhaps there is a suitable word that carries the same sentiment in English and fits this situation, let me know if you have one.]

After leaving the temple, Wo Longxuan stuck to Li Qiye again as if she was his tail.

He couldn't help but leer at her: "You are still the tyrant of an entire region, why are you following behind my butt?"

At this point, Wo Longxuan was quite calm, as if she had copied Li Qiye's demeanor: "The great path is long with all kinds of people walking on different sides. Why are you saying that I am following you?"

Li Qiye looked at her with one eye and threatened: "Girl, do you think I won't throw you into a terrifying evil den that even you would never be able to come out from?"

"Do it, throw me in then." Wo Longxuan shrewdly postured with both hands on her thin waist while arching her towering fair breasts.

Li Qiye saw this and was too lazy to retort. He turned around and kept on going.

Wo Longxuan hastily gave chase and walked with him shoulder to shoulder: "What's wrong? Not having a good day? Who was that woman earlier? Your dao companion or girlfriend? You guys had a fight?"

The gossipy soul of the dragon cliff's sect master was burning right now. She was as inquisitive as a little kid, asking questions all the time.

Li Qiye ignored her and continued on while she didn't give up and followed him step by step.

"Okay, we won't talk about that, how about we change the subject?" Wo Longxuan said: "Tell me a little bit about you. What sect are you from? How come I've never heard of the name Chu Yuntian before?"

Li Qiye gave her a look and said: "Girl, what do you want to know?"

She tilted her head. Her appearance was actually kind of cute, no longer resembling an untouchable genius or a high-powered tyrant of a region. She smiled: "I want to know your background."

If it wasn't for her face being hidden, one could definitely see her beautiful flower-like smile.

"Not telling." Li Qiye dismissively replied and went on his way.

Her mood was particularly good. She copied his demeanor and leisurely said: "Then how about we talk about the dwellers from the deep?"

“You want to know about your mystical bloodline then.” Li Qiye looked at her again with an unfriendly demeanor.

“That’s right.” She didn’t hide it at all: “Just like you said, our cliff knows very little about the ancient bloodline, so please enlighten me.”

“That’s not out of the question.” Li Qiye relaxingly spoke: “But what can you give me?”

“What do you want?” She was not long-winded and went straight to the point.

Li Qiye looked at her and answered: “To tell the truth, your cliff doesn’t have that many items that can tempt me, despite being an ancient lineage that consisted of ancient sea dwellers. Your ancestors did bring along a few good things, but it’s a shame that almost all of them are lost. What little is left of your resources might be tradable, but I’m not necessarily interested in them.”

Chapter 1022: Bai Jianzhen

“You...” She couldn’t help but grumpily stare at him. The Sleeping Dragon Cliff was an ancient and great sect in the Northern Grand Sea with immense resources and power. However, Li Qiye made it sound as if it wasn’t worth a single coin.

“However.” Li Qiye revealed a rare grin while looking at her to leisurely say: “If you become my bed-warmer, I can think about teaching you a little bit.”

“Less daydreaming.” She glared at him and spoke with great dissatisfaction.

Li Qiye shrugged: “This is you giving up on a godsent opportunity.” He walked faster after saying so.

Wo Longxuan had no intention of giving up. She hastily followed and asked: “Where are we going to now?”

Li Qiye didn’t answer and continued on. She didn’t mind and kept right on his tail while wearing a confident expression, as if she was getting what she wanted.

Eventually, Li Qiye came before a huge temple and stopped to look at it.

There were many worshippers in front of the temple. Some prostrated on the ground, others were converting to Buddhism, and a few were kneeling and kowtowing nine times to pay their respects. A group inside were offering incense. The more pious ones kneeled for a very long time with the intent of seeing a high monk...

There was no lack of cultivators among them. In general, cultivators did not worship Buddhism, but things were different at the plateau. The weaker cultivators would be affected by the area and turn silly after staying here for a long time. They were affected by the Buddhist affinity in the air and would slowly give up everything to convert to Buddhism.

In this place, their best choice for conversion was the Nalanda Temple or the four grand void tribulations, the eighteen temples under Nalanda. Not to mention Nalanda, even the other eighteen temples were exceedingly difficult to enter. Even if one was a peerless genius or a powerful Godking, they would still find this endeavor challenging. Without certain accomplishments in the dao of Buddhism, the temples would deny them entry.

However, if this was an impossible affair, then there were many other choices at the plateau due to the large quantity of temples. Thus, many chose to train in the other temples before attempting to join the eighteen so that they would show some improvement.

“What are we doing?” Wo Longxuan asked after seeing Li Qiye entering this temple.

“Scripture debate.” Li Qiye laughed as his Buddhist aura filled the air. His entire body immediately changed, seeming as if he had become an accomplished high monk.

Afterward, Li Qiye traveled to many temples. He chose both famous and nameless ones on the plateau. After entering, he debated with the monks in these temples. However, rather than calling it a debate, it was closer to him delivering a sermon. Whenever he was listening to a Buddhist sermon or having a debate, he would often ask a difficult question that the other monks couldn’t answer.

It could be said that he convincingly defeated them with just one phrase. They candidly admitted their defeat and accepted his superiority in this aspect.

Wo Longxuan, who was following him the entire time, was quite shocked. It was not only because he only needed one word or one phrase to defeat his opponents. The scarier part was that all of his words and actions were meticulously in tune with the perfect Buddhist laws.

It was just like he said before, he was Buddha. His words were Buddha’s words! This was a very unnerving spectacle.

One word to become a law — this was beyond imagination. There had been legends of holy monks turning into Arhats and Bodhisattvas once they reached the highest level. This group was capable of preaching laws with their words as well. However, in her eyes, Li Qiye was most likely far above these Arhats and Bodhisattvas!

His actions puzzled her quite a bit. Could it be that this Chu Yuntian ahead of her was a real monk? Perhaps he really wanted to obtain enlightenment in the Buddhist dao.

However, her intuition was telling her that this matter was not so simple.

After Li Qiye continued on his visits to these temples, her puzzlement turned into astonishment. The whole journey was also a great trial for her because Li Qiye’s Buddhist affinity was becoming more and more powerful. It had a great impact on her dao foundation.

Even though he was not purposely doing so, her close proximity left her feeling this great power of conversion despite his attempts at containing it. She had no choice but to protect her dao foundation with great caution. Otherwise, this Buddhist affinity would infiltrate her heart like mercury, reaching every nook and cranny!

This made her even more determined to stay by his side. In her eyes, Li Qiye was a very big test. He was a sharpening stone; his powerful Buddhist affinity could polish her dao foundation.

As a contemporary expert and a highly talented genius, Wo Longxue was able to protect her dao foundation. However, this was not necessarily the case for other people.

In recent days, Li Qiye's travels to the great temples had made it so that his Buddhist affinity was affecting many worshipers, especially the mortals and cultivators who wanted to convert to Buddhism. Under this influence, they actually became his believers and followed him wherever he went.

Even when Li Qiye didn't preach to them or pass down any dharmic teachings, they were still converted by his aura. The number of followers increased continuously.

"Buddhism... this is far too scary." Wo Longxuan was shocked by this. Even before any preaching, Li Qiye was already able to gain so many followers. This type of power could only be described as demonic.

"If this wasn't the case, how do you think the Buddhist Funeral Plateau came to be?" Li Qiye chuckled: "Buddhism has a far-reaching power. This is the difference between Buddhism and Daoism!"

Wo Longxuan pondered for a moment. Buddhism was not cultivation. However, after reaching a certain level, especially one that resembled Li Qiye's, the words of Buddhists would turn into laws. This was much more terrifying than what cultivators could do, even those at the Virtuous Paragon level.

As they went on their way, many more experts and even paragons were present. Some of them were from famous imperial lineages.

Of course, this type of crowd didn't come to worship Buddhism. Their presence, however, made this prosperous plateau even more lively.

The arrival of these big shots caused many speculations to run wild. The cultivators from the smaller sects didn't know why they were here.

"I heard a Buddhist kingdom is about to open. Some Godkings want to go on the pilgrimage." This rumor was spread across the plateau.

A little bird told the crowd: "It is not the opening of a Buddhist kingdom, it is someone ascending, a great holy monk. As long as he ascends, the Buddhist kingdom will naturally open. For many cultivators, even untouchable Virtuous Paragons, to be able to watch an ascension with their own eyes is a great fortune. There are many other benefits entailed in watching this event as well!"

"Ascension..." Many cultivators who wanted to convert to Buddhism felt their hearts beat faster.

One of them spoke: "Rumor has it that when a holy monk is ascending, they will cast everything away. At that time, someone who obtains the teachings and legacy of the holy monk would definitely be able to attain enlightenment in Buddhism."

Many speculations spread across the plateau. The ascension made even more cultivators pour into this area because they all wanted the legendary legacy.

The majority of the younger generation came to the plateau in these several days. The most brilliant among them were the Jewel Pillar Mortal King with the moniker of War Fanatic, Deity Jikong Wudi, and Zhan Shi from the western wasteland!

The Mortal King had the greatest limelight with an unstoppable momentum at this moment. He had once again defeated Wo Longxuan, making him even more famous. Some even said that he was already above Jikong Wudi or at least on the same level as him.

In fact, more and more people came to the plateau in droves besides this group. Among them were other brilliant geniuses.

Bai Jianzhen was one of them. She came without great fanfare or a domineering pomp. It was just her and the sword in her embrace. Her sword energy didn't soar and her demeanor wasn't cold and murderous. She had changed quite a lot compared to the past.

She had returned to the origin. Just like her name, she walked calmly and naturally as someone who was one with the world and myriad laws. [1. Jianzhen = Truth of the Sword or True Sword.]

"Bai Jianzhen is here." Someone exclaimed after seeing her enter the plateau. It brought about quite a stir.

"The greatest contemporary sword user!" Even a Virtuous Paragon from the previous generation had to concede this point.

Someone speculated after seeing her: "Why is she here? I think even the holy monk's legacy shouldn't be enough for her to come here from the western wasteland."

"Maybe it is because of Zhan Shi." A cultivator from the western region added: "Her feud with Zhan Shi is not over. She lost to him last time, so maybe she wants to challenge him again."

"That could be true." Another spoke: "They fought twice. Zhan Shi lost the first time and won the second. But now, her dao of the sword is invincible, so she will definitely challenge him again!"

"If that is the case, then she will probably win." A big shot murmured: "Her dao of the sword has reached grand completion and can be described as invincible. Even the Mortal King doesn't dare to challenge her."

"Hmph, who says the War God doesn't dare to challenge Bai Jianzhen?!" His words made the Mortal King's supporters quite unhappy.

Chapter 1023: Bing Yuxia

The king currently had many followers and admirers. Some even said that his entourage was even bigger than Jikong Wudi's.

The reason was very simple — the difference between the two. Jikong Wudi was a supreme genius who came from the Space Trample Mountain. Because of his triple saint aptitudes, he was destined for greatness. It gave him the ultimate advantage.

In the eyes of many, he was the descendant of an Immortal Emperor, born with a golden spoon in his mouth. He was not in the same world as ordinary cultivators.

The Mortal King was different since he came from the Jewel Pillar Sacred School. Though the school was a great power, it was far lesser than an imperial lineage. The king's talents during his younger years were much weaker than Jikong Wudi's as well.

With an ordinary background and ordinary talents, the king won some and lost some to eventually become famous across the world. Now, he was on the same level as the unmatched group of Jikong Wudi, Mei Suyao, and Heavenly Emperor Lin.

In the eyes of many people, the king came from humble beginnings and was very similar to them. Perhaps one day, through sheer effort, they would be able to reach his level and fame as well.

This was the reason why he had so much support from the community. In their minds, the Mortal King was the War God who would definitely become an Immortal Emperor in the future.

So now, when someone claimed that he didn't dare to challenge Bai Jianzhen, this naturally made his supporters unhappy and made them immediately defend him.

Not everyone found the Mortal King pleasant. Moreover, Bai Jianzhen was very brilliant at this moment as the number one sword user. To top it off, she was quite pretty as well. All of this resulted in her having a lot of fans.

"Hmph, War God? That's only a self-proclaimed title. It is fine if you call him War Fanatic though." A Bai Jianzhen fan immediately sneered: "The Mortal King might have a fine battle record, but it was built upon many defeats. If he had died in any of those battles, he wouldn't have the same accomplishments today. The only reason he is still alive is due to his backing."

"And?" A Mortal King supporter fired back: "Bai Jianzhen might be strong, but she is still much weaker compared to the War God. Their record is two to one in favor of the War God right now. This shows the War God's superiority."

The Mortal King had fought Bai Jianzhen three times. He was the challenger for the first two bouts and had won both.

Bai Jianzhen's admirer smiled sarcastically: "Really now? Yes, Sword Goddess Bai lost twice before, but don't forget that on the third duel, her dao of the sword reached the limit and crushed your War God until he had to muster all of his strength just to escape like a baby sucking on his mother's breasts. He was being chased so hard that he almost had to hang himself and commit suicide out of fear..."

"... If someone didn't come to save him, would your so-called War God still be alive? Hehehe, he would have become a pile of bones, just another soul dying under Sword Goddess Bai's sword!"

"You!" This made the king's admirer turn ugly.

After losing twice to the Mortal King, Bai Jianzhen challenged him later on with all of her might. Under her rage, she was able to exert the limit of the sword dao. It was simply a display from a berserk god. Even the experienced Mortal King couldn't match her.

That duel was the most miserable defeat the Mortal King had suffered. He was covered in injuries after being completely defeated by Bai Jianzhen. He ran for countless miles while she chased right behind and trapped him into a corner. Eventually, someone succeeded in secretly rescuing the king.

No one dared to underestimate Bai Jianzhen after this battle. They even called her the number one sword user!

Someone saw her carrying her sword and speculated: "I wonder if Sword Goddess Bai will challenge Zhan Shi at the plateau this time."

Zhan Shi, a peerless genius, came from the Rampaging Divine Mountain of the western Desolate Wasteland. Bai Jianzhen, on the other hand, came from the Sword God Sacred Ground in the same region.

As the saying goes, a mountain does not have room for two tigers. Zhan Shi had challenged Bai Jianzhen before. He lost the first time and won the second.

However, Bai Jianzhen's dao of the sword was now untouchable. Her Supreme Sword Dao was a source of dread for just about anyone. Thus, many people guessed that she would challenge Zhan Shi to wash away the shame of her past defeat.

A big shot from the last generation stated: "Zhan Shi is going to the Four Buddhas Temple. I heard he wants to challenge the Buddhist law over there and use his dao foundation to withstand its power of conversion!"

"So strong, to dare to challenge the Buddhist law in that temple. I'm afraid even Jikong Wudi wouldn't dare to do so." Such news startled many people.

"Zhan Shi is different, he is on a different path than Jikong Wudi." Another big shot from the western region who knew about Zhan Shi spoke.

He analyzed the situation: "Zhan Shi is following the footsteps of Immortal Emperor Bu Zhan. One step, one battle; he's taking his time with each step while building a solid dao foundation and sturdy dao heart! He is not aspiring to be strongest in the same generation but rather to be the last man standing, slowly becoming unbeatable with each battle. Among the current youths, Zhan Shi is perhaps the one with the lowest cultivation. However, with respect to perseverance in a bloody battle, Zhan Shi will be the ultimate victor."

"Zhan Shi's endurance, Bai Jianzhen's dao of the sword, Jikong Wudi's supreme nature, the Jewel Pillar Mortal King's love for war, and Heavenly Emperor Lin's astonishing talents..." A talented youth with a high status helplessly spoke: "To be in the same generation as them is truly a tragedy. This is a time where devilish talents could be found everywhere, regular geniuses are as numerous as dogs and simply not worth mentioning."

"Don't forget about the Icy Feather Palace Master." A cultivator from the Hundred Cities interjected.

"Bing Yuxia is coming too?" Someone else was surprised: "She's someone who isn't afraid of messing with anyone."

"Right..." The eastern cultivator arched his chin and said: "Look over there, that's her coming."

Hearing that, many people turned around. They saw a divine chariot slowly approaching. There was a pretty young man sitting on it. No, it was a supreme woman cross-dressing as a man!

Who else could it be besides Bing Yuxia? She was surrounded by beauties at the moment. One in her embrace and a few more charming ones sitting next to her.

Witnessing Bing Yuxia being adored by so many beauties on her chariot left some people envious and others speechless.

She had become the palace master of Icy Feather, but she was still unbridled. It was well known that she liked the fairer-sex, it wasn't a secret at all.

"Palace Master Bing, long time no see." When Bing Yuxia arrived, a transcendently pure aura emerged as well, heralding the emergence of a cool and elegant character. He seemed to be from a different world. His most notable characteristic was the intelligent air surrounding him, making him appear to be a scholar more than a cultivator.

Someone recognized him and exclaimed: "Heavenly Emperor Lin is here too!"

The person accompanied by this pure energy was the most famous genius in the southern region, referred to as the number one of the Barren Earth, Heavenly Emperor Lin!

"So you are that Lin guy." Bing Yuxia only gave him a quick glance, her focus still on the beauties next to her. She leisurely spoke: "You already had a good name, yet you still claim to be a Heavenly Emperor. That's not a good omen." Bing Yuxia's arrogance was famous. She acted like this no matter who she was speaking to. [1. Author explicitly stated that Tiandi is a title with this sentence now, so it is Heavenly Emperor Lin.]

"Palace Master Bing is messing with me." Heavenly Emperor Lin did not become angry. He gallantly laughed in response: "This is only a title given to me by others, a title that can't reach the apex."

"So? Do you want to fight? I heard the Buddhist Funeral Plateau has been very lively recently, I don't mind adding to the fun." The untethered woman was full of arrogance.

"They're about to fight?" A spectator became excited after hearing this and murmured: "The fourth fight, I wonder who will win."

"I bet my money on the palace master." Someone immediately placed their bet.

Another followed suit: "My money is on Lin Tiandi. He recently came to the Godwar Mountain and had a huge harvest which puts him at a great advantage."

Prior to this, the two had fought three times. The first was a draw. The second was Bing Yuxia's defeat while Heavenly Emperor Lin lost the third.

This could be said to be a meeting between two rivals. Another battle would definitely cause the crowd to heat up with excitement.

"Geniuses are everywhere right now, my insignificant dao can't reach the apex or enter your sight." The heavenly emperor didn't become angry. He gently shook his head and said: "Among the younger generation, I'm afraid Li Qiye is the number one. There's no need to show off my weak cultivation."

"Li Qiye..." Everyone glanced at each other in astonishment after hearing the emperor praising Li Qiye this much.

"I knew that this jerk would come back to shock the world." Bing Yuxia smiled after hearing this all-too-familiar name. Despite dressing like a guy, her smile was still incredibly enchanting and caused many hearts to beat faster.

“Good, you still have some good insight.” She looked at the emperor to say: “That Li guy is even more powerful than your imagination.”

“To be praised like this by you, he must definitely be unfathomable.” The emperor nodded and said: “I have some business to attend to so I must set off first, see you later.” With that, he flew away with his boundless pure energy.

No matter what, Heavenly Emperor Lin’s charm was truly unmatched. He didn’t have the domineering style of other geniuses. His temperament was unique and made him appear out of the ordinary.

Chapter 1024: Spirit Mountain

Li Qiye traveled across the plateau and entered numerous temples to debate against the high monks. Despite the countless temples located here, he couldn’t find a match. No matter how great the monks were, they would be stumped the moment he spoke one or two Buddhist sentences or revealed a mudra.

His visits to the temples had gained him many followers. Wherever he went, a large group of followers consisting of both cultivators and mortals would be right behind him.

When he walked around, spectators from the distance saw this and couldn’t help but point at him: “Which high monk is that? To have so many followers...”

“So young yet they have such high attainments in Buddhism. This is truly incredible, maybe he can join Nalanda.” An expert commented with a tinge of emotion.

After being uncontested through all the temples, Li Qiye’s Buddhist affinity was at the highest level. At this time, although he didn’t have any holy radiance and spouted no mantras, each of his actions affected the rhythm of the entire plateau. Just like he said before, he was Buddha.

“We’ll go to Spirit Mountain.” Eventually, he told Wo Longxuan who was following right behind him.

She was still shrouded in black so no one could see her true appearance. She couldn’t help but look back at the followers and ask: “What about them? They’re coming as well?”

She had witnessed the power of Buddhism in these last couple of days. Once they were converted, they would act completely different, as if they were lost in a dream.

Just looking at the followers behind her made it apparent. They didn’t know who Chu Yuntian was, but after listening to his scripture debates and dharmic preachings, they immediately joined him and became his devout worshipers.

They had different expressions; some were peaceful, some were dazed, and some were unchanged. There was one similarity despite the variety of expressions — a fanatic level of certainty!

At this time, Li Qiye placed his palms together vertically and shouted: “The dharma is boundless, repentance is salvation!” [1. Just a common Buddhist saying.]

His shout resounded like thunder. It was an awakening like a bowl of cold water being poured on one’s head or a thunderclap resounding in one’s mind.

In this split second, the Buddhist seal in the minds of these followers set off many ripples that affected their soul. They were all roused and became clear-headed again. Some looked around and one even asked: “Where is this place?”

It resembled a group of drunkards turning sober; they were completely unaware of their location. At this moment, they were at a loss.

Wo Longxuan took a deep breath and even felt a chill run down her spine. Cultivators had a name for this — possession.

Entering the Buddhist mindset at the plateau was just another kind of “possession”. Once entranced, they would be mesmerized and forget all else while indulging in the Buddhist rhythm, bringing about peace of mind and a firm conviction.

After waking up the crowd, Li Qiye only smiled and left, leaving behind the confused followers that didn’t know where to go.

Wo Longxuan calmed down and quickly caught up to him. She walked shoulder to shoulder with him and had to ask: “Was that the dharma?”

“Of course.” Li Qiye chuckled and flatly said: “The doctrine says, the dharma is boundless, repentance is salvation! Once they enter this boundless state, they would travel forever within the boundless dharma if a high monk doesn’t give them an answer.”

She exclaimed: “This is a demonic art!” She was not a closed-minded person. Prior to this, she had a very positive view of Buddhism — peace, kindness, equality. However, after coming to the plateau and seeing Li Qiye’s peerless dharma, she felt a bit creeped out.

Because of this, whenever he debated against the high monks, she didn’t dare to linger nearby as she was afraid that she wouldn’t be able to protect her dao heart and would fall into the boundless dharma like the other followers.

“One thought to become Buddha, one thought to become Devil. Don’t forget, this is the Buddhist Funeral Plateau.” Li Qiye leisurely smiled: “Even if you don’t believe in Buddhism, you will more or less be affected after staying in this place for a while.”

She looked at him and asked: “What about you? Are you affected?”

Of course she knew about the long-term effects of the plateau. Because of this, many would only stay here for one or two years before leaving.

In fact, a huge group had been affected by it before. Even extraordinary Godkings who stayed here for long felt the urge to convert to Buddhism.

“Me?” Li Qiye unhurriedly answered while his Buddhist affinity continued to spread: “I am Buddha. I am the one affecting the plateau, not the other way around.”

She contemplated quietly. These words were not empty and meaningless. She was a bit shaken and wondered if this Chu Yuntian had been a Buddhist believer and practiced this doctrine since a young age.

“Why is it that Buddhism in the plateau is different? Why is it so much stronger compared to other locations? High monks have a much greater influence here. Is there a secret? Is it because of Nalanda?” She unleashed a barrage of questions.

In fact, she was not the only person who had these questions. Many had wondered why the power of the Buddhist faith was greatly amplified in the plateau.

In the nine worlds, there had been many Buddhist temples. However, no place was like the Buddhist Funeral Plateau in terms of its influence.

“It’s a secret and always will be. If a secret can be easily found out by others, then it would no longer be a secret.” Li Qiye laughed and continued onward.

“Forget it then.” She snorted and went after him. In her eyes, it was not only the plateau hiding a secret, this person named Chu Yuntian was hiding something as well.

Eventually, the two reached the most important location of the plateau, the most sacred area with the name Spirit Mountain. This importance remained true for all the Buddhists in the nine worlds.

A mountain does not need to be high; the presence of Buddha alone makes it divine. This phrase was very appropriate when used to describe Spirit Mountain.

There were countless tall peaks at the plateau. Some even reached far into the sky with stars surrounding it. Spirit Mountain was not small, but when compared to the other great peaks, it was definitely not a match.

However, this fair-sized mountain was very famous. Millions of believers kneeled with numerous high monks chanting at its base.

Spirit Mountain, the most sacred location in the plateau where the Nalanda Temple was located!

While staring at the mountain, one would find flashing Buddhist radiances everywhere. Even those who were very far away could see them no matter the time of day. They still flashed and illuminated this world.

It was as if Spirit Mountain was upholding this area for the Buddhist Funeral Plateau. No matter the time and place, its Buddhist light was eternal and burned bright even during the darkest era.

The temples built on its adjacent hills were sacred and majestic. There were holy monks chanting above while being protected by heavenly dragons. Arhats and Bodhisattvas were performing sermons. The entire mountain seemed to be a celestial kingdom, away from the mundane world and the maddening crowd.

Anyone would have the urge to prostrate while standing at the base of this mountain. They would want to bow every three steps or to forever prostrate before its grandeur!

Because of this, there were countless followers kneeling right outside. There were mortals, cultivators, and even rulers. Even famous Virtuous Paragons could be found here!

In this place, whether one was a mortal or a paragon was no longer important. All sentient beings were equal before Buddha!

Outside of Nalanda, there were also eighteen temples referred to as the four grand Void Tribulations. They were different from the other temples at the plateau; they belonged to Nalanda. In this vast plateau, only these eighteen were recognized by Nalanda.

The four Grand Void Tribulations were the Four Buddhas Temple, the Three Grand Temples, the Six Tribulation Temples, and the Eight Void Temples. The Four Buddhas Temple had the highest status outside of Nalanda and was the most mysterious and powerful.

The Three Grand Temples were directly below the Four Buddhas Temple. They were divided into the Grand Heaven Temple, the Grand Earth Temple, and the Grand Mortal Temple. These three were almost on the same level as Nalanda and Four Buddhas.

The Six Tribulation Temples were a level below them. They consisted of the Deity Tribulation Temple, the Saint Tribulation Temple, the Sage Tribulation Temple, the Mortal Tribulation Temple...

The Eight Void Temples were next. They were made up of the Zen Void Temple, the Comprehension Void Temple, the Capability Void Temple, the Heart Void Temple... These eighteen temples right below Nalanda were full of golden lights. Inside were Buddhist hymns and phenomena of great Buddhist existences. Before one knew it, they would find themselves in a kingdom of Buddhism.

As for the eminent Nalanda Temple, it was built at the peak of Spirit Mountain. It was also dazzling with radiance. However, its gates were closed so no one could see inside.

Chapter 1025: Eighteen Temples Of Spirit Mountain

Until now, when people said that the Buddhist gates were opened at the plateau, they were not talking about Nalanda but only the eighteen temples.

Nalanda rarely opened its gates. Legend states that Nalanda would only open its gates a few times each era and sometimes not at all. There were too many tales about this temple. Some even said that top Godkings still were not eligible to enter!

On the contrary, the gates to the four Grand Void Tribulations were usually open. Of course, there were generations when they were closed as well. For example, the Difficult Dao Era was one of them!

"Nalanda Temple." Li Qiye couldn't help but smile while standing outside of Spirit Mountain, looking to the far hills.

Below the mountain was countless kneeling believers and experts watching on the sidelines with excitement. They gazed towards the temples on top of the mountain. Some even lost their patience and climbed the mountain in order to enter the Buddhist gates!

"Even though the gates of the four grand tribulations are usually open, but getting through them is easier said than done. The gates of the Eight Void Temples are hard enough already, let alone the Six Tribulation Temples and Three Grand Temples." Someone emotionally commented.

Anyone could try climbing the mountain, but not many really wanted to because the effect up there was too fearsome. Once one's dao heart started to shake, they would quickly be drowned in a Buddhist sea.

Of course, some willingly accepted this challenge. They even went straight to the door by entering the Buddhist gate to challenge the dharma of the eighteen temples!

A cultivator said with feeling: “Zhan Shi is still so amazing. He is battling it out step by step starting from the Eight Void Temples all the way to the Four Buddhas Temple. Right now, he is inside there. I wonder if he can handle the chanting from the Arhats and Bodhisattvas in there or not...”

“His dao heart is strong for sure. Maybe no one among the younger generation can match him, not even the Jewel Pillar Mortal King’s group.” A Virtuous Paragon added.

“Zhan Shi is great, but Jikong Wudi is incredible as well. He went to the Grand Heaven Temple in order to sculpt. Once he is able to sculpt a Bodhisattva’s position, it will be quite scary.”

“Right, Jikong Wudi is scary enough now with his three saints aptitude. If he gains the enlightenment of a Bodhisattva as well, then he would be invincible among the youths. Anyone would have to walk around him!” A famous youth spoke dejectedly.

In the current generation, too many people had lost to Jikong Wudi. Due to the sheer number of them, these losers were not worth remembering outside of people like the Mortal King.

“The enlightened fruit of a Bodhisattva.” Many people felt envious after hearing this. [1. Normally, enlightenment is the meaning here for the English translation. But sometimes, this term is actually visualized in the shape of a fruit in some novels. This is to play it safe and keep it closer to the raw.]

The eighteen great temples here were not only in charge of the entire plateau. The cultivators that traveled for long distances from all over the nine worlds didn’t do so just for Buddhism.

Outside of a small portion who were actual devout believers, the majority were here for treasures, benefits, and merit laws.

It was very easy to obtain treasures and laws in this place. As long as they could pass the tribulations from the temples, they would obtain what they wanted. Of course, different trials had different results.

There were three types of trials in the eighteen temples: scripture hark, attainment sculpting, and Buddhist debate.

Scripture hark was intuitive with its name. The high monks of the temples would preach scriptures to people. As long as they could listen in an unwavering manner, they would be able to obtain the desired treasures.

Of course, if they couldn’t stabilize their dao heart and became influenced by the dharma, the most obvious result was Buddhist conversion. They would ultimately have to stay at the plateau.

Attainment sculpting was also very simple. The eighteen temples would insert a Buddhist seed into the examinee’s body. If they were able to bear the seed growing and eventually turning into a Buddhist relic, they would reach their goal. With this enlightenment, they would become even more powerful and gain the protection of the vast and powerful dharma in the Buddhist Funeral Plateau. [2. The relics here are sarira. After cremation, monks will sift for sarira through the dusty ashes of venerated saints and teachers. In Korea, unburnt bits of bone are set aside to be ground up, mixed with meat, and then left for animals. The sarira themselves stand out as little chunks of crystal or colored stone. In most novels, these relics are in the form of Buddhist beads.]

But if they fail, then the most direct consequence was also Buddhist conversion and having to stay behind at the plateau.

A Buddhist debate was a conversation about the dharma with the high monks from the eighteen temples. If the challenger won, then they would harvest from it. Losing had the same consequence as the other two trials.

In fact, after losing in any of these trials, the eighteen temples did not force people to stay behind.

However, losing signified the instability of one's dao heart. This meant that they would be drowned in the endless Buddhist sea. The only path left for them was to convert to Buddhism.

For tens of millions of years, many people came for the treasures and laws at the plateau. During all of this time, the plateau produced countless sacred monks. Furthermore, countless cultivators had joined the Buddhist faith with no lack of Godkings and True Gods or even Emperor Candidates among them. After their conversion, they would leave behind their numerous treasures.

Meanwhile, the legendary Buddhist treasures of the eighteen temples were even more coveted by the salivating crowd.

Many came due to their interest, but the majority of them had to stay here forever. Some couldn't pass the trials while others stayed here for too long and became affected by the Buddhist affinity, ultimately joining the doctrine.

Li Qiye went on his way with a carefree smile as he looked at Spirit Mountain. He went forward step by step with Wo Longxuan right behind him.

At this point, there were many cultivators and mortals on the mountain. If it wasn't for their own greed, they wouldn't want to go up Spirit Mountain due to its powerful Buddhist influence.

Anyone who stepped onto this mountain would hear Buddhist hymns in their mind, as if there was a supreme Buddhist Lord preaching to them, granting them their protection and blessings...

It was a feeling of basking in a Buddhist baptism, a satisfying and peaceful sensation, as if there was nothing else worth remembering in this world.

Many people with unstable dao hearts would immediately give in to this feeling and kneel down to convert to Buddhism!

It was needless to talk about the mortals. Upon entering, they would be uncontrollably excited with tears rolling down their cheeks. In their eyes, they had finally found the Buddhist kingdom!

The gates to the eighteen temples were always open regardless of day or night. Only Nalanda was closed. However, being able to enter or not depended on one's creations and fortunes. The Buddhist Lord once stated that all living beings were equal. This was also the case when one was before these gates. However, whether this equality truly existed or not was something only the Buddhist Lord knew.

There were two methods of entrance, both were quite difficult. The first required one to have a strong enough dao heart. The second required one to have a high enough Buddhist affinity.

As long as they had one of these two, they would be able to enter. Otherwise, no matter how powerful or talented they may be, the Buddhist gate was not meant for them.

The smiling Li Qiye aimed for the Zen Void Temple with Wo Longxuan as his companion.

One could pick any of the three tests if they were able to enter the gates. The same was true for any of the temples as long as they have the ability.

Of course, one could also challenge all eighteen, but this was very unlikely since few were up to the task.

Outside of the Zen Void Temple was a vast Buddhist gate. A Buddhist light soared to the sky and instilled a sense of awe and reverence, causing people to prostrate on the ground.

Li Qiye chuckled and didn't linger at all. He took one step at a time to enter the Buddhist gate. At the moment of his entry, an endless Buddhist light rose. Countless phenomena rushed to the sky. There were images of brothers kneeling and sacred monks bowing as well as Arhats and Bodhisattvas...

This scene frightened everyone regardless of whether they were on the mountain or at the base. All had to take deep breaths to compose themselves.

The crowd was aghast and someone murmured: "Is this an Arhat or Bodhisattva coming to our world? Or is it the Buddhist Lord himself?"

As for the worshippers prostrating below, they kowtowed even more and shouted: "Buddha is here!"

Wo Longxuan followed right behind him. The moment she stepped into the gate, a dragon began to roar continuously with water vapor filling the sky. She also easily entered.

"Who are those two?" The spectators outside the mountain were astonished. Wo Longxuan was one thing, but Li Qiye's visual phenomena were simply too shocking.

"Maybe they aren't cultivators. Perhaps it is a sacred monk of the order, still practicing with his hair long." A person murmured as they watched Li Qiye disappearing into the Buddhist light and infinite aura.

Someone curiously asked: "Since when did the Mortal Emperor World have such an unfathomable sacred monk?"

Someone from the previous generation gently shook his head in response: "Cultivators like us worry about realms and levels, who would pay attention to people in the Buddhist faith? Outside of the plateau itself, there are not many Buddhists around. It isn't strange that none of us knows who he is."

People found that this elder made sense. In fact, daoists only cared about strength. No one would worry about the depths of one's dharmic comprehension.

In the minds of many cultivators, Buddhist laws were useless. At best, they were only able to influence and convert people.

Chapter 1026: Zen Void Temple

After passing the Buddhist gate, Li Qiye saw green bricks and white tiles on both sides of the temple. It was full of swaying trees with leaves gently fluttering down. This place was peaceful and quiet, separated from the chaotic mundane realm.

A quiet rustling sound came about with a certain rhythm to it. Wo Longxuan noticed that there was a monk taking his time to sweep away the fallen leaves.

This monk was around twenty years old and had a handsome face. It was apparent that before becoming a monk, he was definitely a lady killer.

“Hai Kuotian—” She was surprised to see this man and murmured: “He, he actually became a Buddhist.”

Of course she recognized this man in front of her. He was once a brilliant genius of the northern sea from the same generation as her. He was definitely incredible, but he disappeared later on.

“This is only training. He has yet to cross over completely. The eighteen temples’ requirement for crossing over is very high. He needs many years of training before he can succeed. Only then would he be considered a real monk, a disciple of Nalanda.” Li Qiye explained.

Wo Longxuan watched the man sweep away the leaves with great shock. She wanted to call out to him because the two of them had met several times before. They could even be considered friends.

The man lifted his head and saw Wo Longxuan and Li Qiye. He only greeted them with a Buddhist gesture before continuing his duty.

After seeing his expression, she knew that he still recognized her. However, he had severed all mundane ties, so even if they were friends in the past, they were only strangers now.

The two continued on. She finally noticed monks meditating on the left and right sides of the pagodas. These meditating monks were completely different from Hai Kuotian. They emitted Buddhist lights while hymns emanating from their bodies. It seemed that their flesh had become that of Buddha. Those with weaker dao hearts would instantly prostrate on the ground before their presence.

“They are different.” She commented after seeing them.

“They could be called high monks with powerful dharma. However, this level of dharma is still only the beginning, it can’t reach the apex.”

“Why do you say that?” She asked curiously.

Li Qiye chuckled and answered: “Look carefully, you will find something interesting about them. It’s just that your intuition is telling you differently, just look again.”

She took a closer look and was astounded. She had to take a step back from disbelief while looking back at Li Qiye to ask: “They, they... are they dead or alive?”

He smiled: “This depends on your definition of what is dead and what is alive.”

The shocked Wo Longxuan exclaimed: “Their blood energy has already withered. With their depleted lifespan and life force, how can they still be living?”

These meditating monks were brimming with a Buddhist radiance and sacred air. However, they had no blood energy, no life.

Even though some ancestors had dried-up blood energies and depleted lifespans, there was still some life force inside them. At the very least, they could still struggle to live for a while longer.

However, these monks had absolutely no life force. In other words, they were dead! Their appearance with their bright holy lights belied their true state.

“How can one become a Buddha without giving up on their bag of skin?” Li Qiye said dismissively.

“Then all the monks under Nalanda are moving corpses? They are all existences without life?” She shuddered at this thought. Although she knew quite a bit about Spirit Mountain, knowing and seeing were two different things.

Li Qiye leisurely said: “Why do people come to the Buddhist Funeral Plateau and Spirit Mountain? Mortals look for a home, but why do cultivators convert themselves as well? Especially those invincible Godkings, they give up everything to join this Spirit Mountain, even starting as a nameless monk. All of this for what?”

“Eternal life, right?” She murmured. She had heard people discuss this topic before.

“Yes, eternal life.” Li Qiye flatly said: “Giving up the physical body to enter the Buddhist faith — this is eternal life. From the very start, the majority of both Godkings and Emperor Candidates would come for eternal life and train in this Buddhist area. Eventually, they were converted and let go of their mundane ways and their fleshly bodies to become real high monks and achieve everlastingness.”

“Eternal life exists in this world?” She spoke with great uncertainty.

Eternal life was a profound and heavy subject. For millions of years, many peerless existences had researched this topic, but no one had heard of a successful attempt.

“This depends on what you want out of eternal life. If, say, you want to keep your blood and flesh, love and emotions, to walk in this world like the rest... this type of eternal life might not be possible.” Li Qiye looked at the horizon and spoke: “At the very least, not right now.”

She looked at the monks sitting next to the pagoda and slowly asked: “Then are the high monks in Spirit Mountain eternal?”

“In a sense, yes.” He nodded: “There is a huge price to pay for eternal life. Letting go of the body and severing mundane ties. From then on, one will drown in the Buddhist sea, no grievances, no hatred, no love... There is nothing except the dharma.”

Having said that, he looked at her and added: “Moreover, everything will turn into smoke the moment they leave the Buddhist Funeral Plateau. Only by staying at this place would they stay eternal.”

“Turning into another person... in other words, this is becoming a puppet.” She couldn’t help but comment. These words sounded disrespectful, but they were the truth.

“These are the enlightened high monks.” Li Qiye smiled and didn’t deny her statement: “All along, eternal life has come at a hefty price. When one’s lifespan is used up, the rest of the world will no longer

matter to them. So what if they have to let everything go? They can continue to live. After all, death claims it all anyways.”

Wo Longxuan contemplated for a moment. Even a Godking at the end of his lifespan would have to face the horror of death. He would die and his dao would vanish.

Just like Li Qiye said, everything became nothing upon death. Thus, before that very last moment, why not give everything that was already gone so that one could live on?

At this time, Li Qiye walked outside of the Hall of Great Strength. A high monk shrouded in Buddhist light came out to greet him. His robes seemed to be gilded, making him seem to be transcending into a Buddha. At this level, the physical flesh was no longer worth mentioning. [4. Hall of Great Strength is the main hall of a Buddhist temple containing the main image of veneration.]

“May I ask where you are from, Sacred Monk?” The high monk quickly placed his palms together after seeing Li Qiye. His Buddhist chant came afterward with a resonating rhythm, giving others the sensation that Buddha was inside everyone.

“Where I am is where Buddha resides, regardless of time and space.” Li Qiye smiled faintly and said: “I am here to debate the ‘Minor-trinal Surangama Sutra’ with Kong Hui.” [5. This is a shortened esoteric phrase that comes from the Diamond Sutra. The latter part means the following: in order to go from one point to another, one would need to travel across space after a period of time. However, Buddha has understood the meaning of the universe; the void is everything and nothing is the void — he is everywhere. From the perspective of myriad existences, both time and space are just concepts and do not actually exist. Thus, time and space don’t matter if he is Buddha. Noted, this is my own interpretation of the text. I am not versed in Buddhism.]

The high monk placed his palms together and asked: “What is your desire?” The monk knew that Sacred Monk Kong Hui was the person who understood the Minor-trinal Surangama Sutra the best in their temple. He was unmatched in this regard.

“Buddha teaches, myriad laws are void while all living things exist.” Li Qiye smiled and answered: “My desire is my ‘will’, there is no need for more.” [6. This is another esoteric term made up of two words. The first letter is: position of existence, everywhere, location, home. The second is: determination, will, temperament. Together, they mean existence of the mind.]

“Amitabha, amitabha, you have reached the true meaning of the dharma, please come in.” The monk bowed again and led Li Qiye into the Hall of Great Strength.

Wo Longxuan didn’t go in because she knew Li Qiye’s power from his debates. Right now, when he was about to go against the sacred monk of the Zen Void Temple, his power might be even more terrifying. Thus, she didn’t want to listen due to its great effect on her.

However, she was quite puzzled. Everyone knew that people came to partake in the three trials on Spirit Mountain because they had desires. Otherwise, who would want to come and risk being converted?

However, Chu Yuntian had no desire and only wanted to debate against Kong Hui. Did this mean that this Chu Yuntian was truly obsessed with Buddhism?

After Li Qiye entered the Zen Void Temple, many people watched them from outside. They wanted to see just how strong this nameless person's dharma was.

"Dum—dum—dum..." At this time, the bell in the temple rang.

"Scripture debate." After hearing the bell, everyone knew what Li Qiye wanted to do after entering. Someone murmured: "To begin so high, he must truly be a high monk. Debating against the sacred monks in the Zen Void Temple — just what kind of powerful resolution is needed for this?"

Even though the eighteen temples welcomed everyone in the world to come and debate with the victor obtaining what they wanted, very few people were willing to do so in the last millions of years. This was because it was the same as teaching a fish to swim. Which cultivator could out-debate the sacred monks in these temples?

"Om—" A buzzing sound came right after the bells. A Buddhist light covered the sky afterward. From the light emerged three giant Buddhas accompanied by Buddhist recitals as if they wanted to save all living beings.

After hearing the faint chants, many cultivators on the mountain shuddered. They knew a mighty sacred monk had taken action, so they quickly exited the mountain.

For the followers below, they hastily prostrated and bowed their heads while accepting the baptism of the chants.

No one could see the debate within the temple. Even those who could get inside wouldn't risk the danger. The debate between two sacred monks would easily subdue and convert them into their followers.

Chapter 1027: Buddhist Debate

"The sacred monks are starting." Even though no one could see the actual debate, they immediately understood what was going on after seeing the three giant Buddhas appear above the Zen Void Temple.

"Minor-trinal Surangama Sutra." An expert versed in the dharma looked at the three Buddhas above the temple and instantly knew which scripture they were debating. He murmured: "Rumor has it that the monk most-versed on this sutra at the Zen Void Temple is Sacred Monk Kong Hui. Some even say that he is only one step away from ascending. If he can ascend to the Buddhist kingdom, then he can obtain true eternal life!"

"I know Sacred Monk Kong Hui." An old sect master with gray hair gently sighed: "He is the tenth generation sect master of our sect, not to mention being an invincible Emperor Candidate during his youth. Later on, he joined Spirit Mountain and became the abbot of the Zen Void Temple."

The crowd was astonished to hear this. An Emperor Candidate was able to compete for the Heaven's Will, yet he still joined the mountain to ultimately become a monk.

However, while the crowd was still jolted, the three Buddhas suddenly lost their radiance and disappeared along with their chants.

The knowledgeable expert exclaimed in horror: "Sacred Monk Kong Hui has been defeated."

Many were amazed. Someone who had witnessed a debate before stated: "Isn't this, isn't this way too fast? I was at a Buddhist city and witnessed two high monks debating. They took a full eight days and eight nights."

"It was not a match of the same level." The knowledgeable expert gently sighed: "This unknown monk with hair is too strong. His dharma understanding is unfathomable and defeated Kong Hui with just a few Buddhist mantras."

Sure enough, Li Qiye and Wo Longxuan left the Zen Void Temple a bit later with a high monk seeing them off.

"So fast, it was basically over in just the blink of an eye. I wonder what treasure he obtained from the temple..." Someone murmured after seeing the two leaving.

After exiting the Zen Void Temple, Li Qiye went to the Divine Void Temple, one of the eight, and easily passed the Buddhist gate.

Someone curiously wondered: "Don't tell me he wants to challenge all eighteen temples on Spirit Mountain?"

Li Qiye's debate went without any surprise at the Divine Void Temple. He easily defeated the sacred monk there, so he went to the Heart Void Temple next...

Afterward, he challenged all the remaining temples of the Eight Void Temples. This scene left everyone outside of Spirit Mountain dumbfounded.

"This... this is too heaven-defying. Where did this sacred monk come from? He still has his hair during his training." Many turned silly at Li Qiye's strong display throughout the Eight Void Temples.

"He is going to the Six Tribulation Temples now." A spectator spoke after seeing Li Qiye walking away from the Eight Void Temples.

"He is actually going to challenge all eighteen..." A sect master who understood Buddhism murmured: "He can't just be a sacred monk. This might be someone at the level of an Arhat or Bodhisattva."

An ancient being muttered: "If he could go through all eighteen temples, then his dharma must be boundless. He can directly ascend to the Buddhist kingdom for eternal life."

Eternal life was very tempting to any expert on the verge of death. Nothing was more important than continuing to live.

Someone else was full of envy: "He took on the void temples and now the tribulation temples, does he want to take all the treasures on Spirit Mountain?" Having said that, he began to salivate.

Everyone knew about the huge amount of treasures and merit laws in these temples and even the coveted Buddhist relics. Li Qiye had defeated the void temples in one breath, this meant that he had at least received eight extremely heaven-defying treasures.

But little did they know that he simply didn't want any of these treasures. He didn't come to debate for the treasures. This was only the beginning, a warm-up session during his trip at Spirit Mountain.

Countless eyes were on the mountain during his debates. Outside of seeing if Li Qiye could challenge the other temples, they also wanted to watch what the others could do.

“Jikong Wudi came out.” A keen-eyed spectator shouted while Li Qiye was inside the tribulation temples.

Many people turned to look. Sure enough, Jikong Wudi came out of the Grand Heaven Temple in an easy and comfortable manner.

Prior to this, Jikong Wudi already had incredible visual phenomena accompanying him, with myriad laws and control over the rhythm of the universe.

However, after coming out from the Grand Heaven Temple, he was even more extraordinary. His temperament was calm while he stood, looking down on the world with disdain. Nothing could enter his sight; it was as if he had countless Bodhisattvas protecting him and the blessing of the supreme dharma. Even the judgment of the high heavens wouldn’t be able to harm him.

“He has successfully sculpted an attainment and obtained a Bodhisattva’s enlightenment fruit!” A discerning paragon murmured.

Many people felt a chill and muttered as well: “Jikong Wudi, is he really going to be invincible? Three saints aptitude — this is enough to make him invincible. I’m afraid we won’t be able to find anyone who can truly defeat him anymore. Now that he has the enlightened fruit as well, it will increase his power to another level.” [3. Wudi = invincible, unmatched.]

“Only a Buddhist Lord’s enlightened fruit is better than a Bodhisattva’s fruit, but how many people across all the eons actually managed to get one?” A young genius became dejected: “Jikong Wudi’s three saints aptitude was already strong enough, but now he has that fruit too. How can other people handle this? With this, both the Jewel Pillar Mortal King and the others would find defeating Jikong Wudi even more difficult than reaching the heavens!”

“The truth is that not many people can get the Bodhisattva’s fruit either.” A big shot from the previous generation shook his head: “I’m afraid from now on, even the Mortal King won’t be able to defeat Jikong Wudi.”

Someone immediately shushed: “Shh, Jewel Pillar is coming.”

The Mortal King landed right outside of Spirit Mountain at this moment. He stood with both hands posed behind his back like a giant. His Hell Suppressing Physique had reached half completion, so he gave others the sense of having immeasurable weight. No enemies would be able to move him.

He watched Jikong Wudi leave the Grand Heaven Temple with a serious and profound gaze. Who knew what he was thinking?

At his current level, he was a threat to the rest of the world. He stood outside of the mountain and not too many dared to come closer. The younger generation stared at him in awe.

“Buzz—” Next, several visions emerged. Each of them was earth-shattering as if countless Buddhas were descending.

In a short period of time, Li Qiye actually finished challenging the tribulation temples. Starting with the Divine Tribulation Temple and ending at the Mortal Tribulation Temple, the whole process only took two hours.

People were at a loss for words when they saw these phenomena appearing one after another. The lights in the six temples dimmed after each time.

Even Jikong Wudi and the Mortal King turned somber upon seeing this astonishing spectacle.

“This is no Arhat or Bodhisattva, it has to be a Buddhist Lord. Who else could defeat the tribulation temples in such a short time? Buddhist debates are the most profound dharmic art.” A sect master murmured.

“It’s okay.” A young expert patted his chest and felt lucky: “At least he is a sacred monk and trains in the dharma. Otherwise, if he cultivated, he would be able to sweep through all of us!”

People became filled with curiosity about the monk’s identity. A Buddhist practitioner keeping his hair. Just who was this man that was able to sweep through all of these temples?

“He wants to go to the three Grand Temples now.” Someone murmured as Li Qiye approached the Grand Earth Temple.

“If he can actually defeat all eighteen, then it will definitely be a miracle.” Some were eagerly waiting for this miracle to appear.

“Amitabha...” After Li Qiye entered this temple, a Buddhist chant came out from the Four Buddhas Temple. A radiant sacred monk personally flew to the sky in order to escort a young man out.

This young man walked with a special pace, each step was perfectly measured. His steps were firm and decisive. It felt as though even if the sky were to fall down, it wouldn’t hinder his path.

“Zhan Shi...” Someone exclaimed after seeing the youth: “Zhan Shi did it. He was actually able to withstand the Buddhist law inside the Four Buddhas Temple, he was able to endure the chants of the sacred monks!”

“So heaven-defying, a successful scripture hark. Just by this feat, he has definitely proven himself to be a future Immortal Emperor candidate.” The older generation praised him as well.

The Four Buddhas Temple was the leader of the eighteen temples. The sacred monks there were all incredible, though no one knew just how strong they were. Legend states that anyone who heard even a single word from these sacred monks would instantly burst into tears and kowtow on the ground to join the Buddhist faith!

“Zhan Shi actually listened to a whole scripture. Just how strong is his dao heart?” Anyone would feel a chill after hearing this. They were amazed by his fortified dao heart.

Both Jikong Wudi and the Mortal King were serious when they saw Zhan Shi walking out.

For them right now, talents were not as important, the dao heart was the crucial aspect. Both had the qualifications to compete for the Heaven’s Will, but the person to have the last laugh would not necessarily be the one with the highest talent. This had been the case for tens of millions of years. The

Immortal Emperor was not always the most brilliant one, but they surely had the most persistent dao heart in that generation!

Chapter 1028: South Emperor

Li Qiye went against the Three Grand Temples, causing strange visual phenomena to emerge. In just a moment, the mountain was filled with Buddhist lights and blooming golden lotuses. Golden Springs gushed out from the ground as well.

Buddhist hymns majestically echoed across the region as if a Buddhist Lord was about to come into being.

The temple fought hard against his challenge. A torrent of endless runes rushed out from above the temple. A single glance was enough for people to immediately know that an extraordinary Arhat or Bodhisattva had appeared.

Each of the temples here had their own great characters chanting and debating against him. A Buddhist world opened on this side of the land, causing the entire mountain to become quite holy.

“Amitabha...” More chants echoed as if countless Arhats were singing together. They wanted to use the supreme mantras to defeat Li Qiye.

As the chanting continued, a magnificent Buddhist rune emerged in the sky as if a Buddhist Lord himself was coming out to fight. He spewed out mantras and endless laws.

These supreme phenomenon would leave anyone speechless no matter how powerful they were. The image attracted many experts in the plateau. Amazing geniuses like Lin Tiandi all came to watch.

The worshipers outside were filled with reverence from seeing these images. They started prostrating and wouldn't get up. Some were in tears and shouted: “Merciful Buddha!”

In just a short time, the crowd was shocked to see Li Qiye challenging the Three Grand Temples. He defeated the Grand Earth Temple in a short time, so even geniuses like Jikong Wudi, Zhan Shi, and Lin Tiandi became serious.

Someone murmured: “I think only Immortal Emperors would dare to challenge the eighteen temples like this.”

A particular expert who had been staying at the plateau for a long time spoke: “Judging by this phenomenon, it seems like the Grand Earth Temple sent out a Bodhisattva to debate against him. This is too amazing. In some legends, a Bodhisattva from this temple converted a God-Monarch with just one phrase. But now, the challenger defeated them in a debate, how heaven-defying is this?”

“A Bodhisattva from the Grand Earth Temple...” When this level of existence was brought up, even God-Monarchs felt dreadful: “This kind of dharmic existence... it is best to stay far away from them if you don't want to join Buddhism. After all, he only needs one mantra to convert you, to make you kneel on the ground and worship Buddha!”

“Is this the birth of a new Buddhist Lord?” Even the monks on the plateau came to watch because this phenomenon was too frightening.

“Amitabha.” A monk placed his palms together and spoke: “To be able to debate at this level, this must be a sacred monk, or maybe even a Bodhisattva. Since he can defeat the Four Buddhas Temple’s Eight-faced Radiant Bodhisattva, he can obtain enlightenment and ascend, enter Nalanda and then the Buddhist kingdom.”

“The Buddhist kingdom is the real immortality of legend.” Someone enviously spoke.

Everyone in the plateau ran over. The newly arriving monks started chanting as well. They were all in awe of the phenomenon.

Right now, no cultivators dared to step foot on Spirit Mountain due to the great Buddhist aura surging about. Even those with strong dao hearts could be converted to Buddhism!

“Extraordinary.” While people were looking at the phenomenon, a youth appeared out of nowhere. His arrival immediately attracted a lot of attention.

His appearance came with an abundant ancient aura, as if he had lived for countless years. He did as he pleased with a free style. No matter where he stood, people would think that he was standing tall among the heavens. His aura also gave the feeling that he was insurmountable. No matter how strong and heaven-defying one might be, they would feel unable to surpass this young man.

Zhan Shi, Jikong Wudi, and Lin Tiandi, all of their expressions changed the moment they spotted this youth.

It didn’t matter if they recognized him or not. As supreme geniuses, they immediately knew that they had met a terrifying opponent. An existence comparable to a true dragon — matchless in all the eons!

“Let me come take a look at the era-famous Spirit Mountain.” He laughed after seeing the supreme image on the mountain. With just one step, he instantly stood before the Four Buddhas Temple.

“Is he taking the Four Buddhas Temple on?” Many people rolled their eyes after seeing this.

This temple was the leader of the eighteen and directly below Nalanda. Even the most supreme of geniuses wouldn’t dare to challenge it so carelessly.

Jikong Wudi was invincible enough. He attained an enlightened fruit, yet he still didn’t dare to challenge the Four Buddhas Temple! Zhan Shi had a powerful dao heart. He challenged it, but only in a scripture hark and not in attainment or debates because he was not confident at all in these two.

The young man smiled and declared outside of the temple: “Monks of the temple, listen up. Today, I, South Emperor, have arrived to try your Grand Diamond Formation. Let your eighteen Vajras come out now.”

Everyone could hear his soft-spoken words clearly for they carried the weight of gold.

“Challenging the Four Buddhas Temple with force?” The crowd glanced at each other. Some even turned silly after hearing this.

In fact, outside of the three trials, there was another one. It was something that people never used, a challenge via combat against the eighteen temples. No one wanted to use this method because it was well-known that the sacred monks in the temples were ridiculously strong.

Although Buddhism did not promote violence, the majority of these sacred monks were terrifying beyond imagination before their conversion. Some sacred monks used to be Godkings and others were Emperor Candidates. There was a legend that some sacred monks were actually True Gods before they converted...

Who would dare to challenge these powerful existences in force? These Godkings and Emperor Candidates had only become even more unfathomable after turning into Arhats and Bodhisattvas.

But now, this youth was not only challenging the temple, he was specifically aiming for the eighteen Grand Vajras. This made many people's hearts skip a beat.

"Four Buddhas Temple's eighteen Grand Vajras!" An ancestor who had been a devout worshipper of the plateau for a long time murmured: "These vajras are combat warriors. An arrogant Godking considered himself to be invincible and went inside the temple alone to fight against the eighteen vajras. In the end, he was captured alive."

"South Emperor..." A lot of people hadn't heard of this name, but they quivered inside. A person daring to proclaim himself an emperor. Outside of the foolish ignorant ones, those who dared to do so were definitely frightening.

This youth was definitely not an ignorant person, so he must belong to the latter.

"Amitabha, benefactor, please come inside." The Four Buddhas Temple was not afraid of this challenge. With a Buddhist chant, the entire temple lit up with a golden radiance with images of vajras inside.

"Good." The youth was very straightforward. He smiled and passed through the Buddhist gate.

The entire mountain shook after the youth made his entrance into the temple. Buddhist chants echoed across the entire plateau. A boundless Buddhist power pressed down on the entire sky. Under this endless energy, the plateau resembled a leaf in the middle of a torrential ocean. This power could crush the entire plateau at any time.

The people here were terrified. Many characters kneeled on the ground and didn't dare to get up. Even ancestor-level characters felt their knees give in and couldn't stand straight anymore.

Prior to this, the Buddhist aura at the plateau was very gentle and peaceful. No one had imagined the scene of Buddhists becoming angry. But now, with this suppressive power, they finally understood that Buddhism was not just peaceful. Once enraged, this power was no weaker than an imperial aura!

Someone murmured while aghast: "Vajras are emerging to subdue the demon, the Buddhist Lord has become angry!"

"How fun..." The battling youth continued to laugh inside the temple that no one could peer into.

"Amitabha..." A thunderous chant resounded. A Buddhist kingdom opened in the sky and eight races of deities came out while the vajras defended the temple.

"Deva, Naga, Yaksha, Gandharva, Asura, Garuda, Kinnara, and Mahoraga... The eight deities..." The crowd was petrified when they saw the deities protecting the temple.

"Just how powerful is the Four Buddhas Temple?" A God-Monarch quivered after seeing this.

In just a second, only silence could be found both on and off of Spirit Mountain. Both the temple and this youth named South Emperor were powerful to the point where people had no choice but to retreat.

“Fighting the Four Buddhas Temple with force... Legend states that Immortal Emperor Min Ren did so as well in his youth.” An ancestor was lost in a daze while commenting.

“So tough, just who is this South Emperor?” Even the arrogant geniuses couldn’t stay arrogant at this time.

Jikong Wudi and the other top geniuses were quiet as well. This person called South Emperor was too powerful. Some people even speculated that he was an Emperor Candidate that was only one step away from becoming an Emperor! Anyone would shiver after hearing the title of Emperor Candidate.

Chapter 1029: Challenging The Four Buddhas Temple

“Rumble!” No one could see the battle raging on inside the Four Buddhas Temple. However, one could tell its great intensity from the shaking of Spirit Mountain. Not too many people were able to affect the mountain to this level, but the youth was capable of this task.

Although the temple was protected by the eight deities and vajras, it still shook all the same, albeit to a lesser extent.

Many people gasped at this moment. Jikong Wudi’s group was speechless and austere. Even if they were called invincible, they still didn’t dare to challenge the Four Buddhas Temple, let alone call out the eighteen famous evil-subduing vajras!

“The Grand Heaven Temple lost.” Someone shouted. While people were astonished by the South Emperor’s invincibility, they had forgotten that Li Qiye was debating inside the other temple.

They all looked back and saw the Grand Heaven Temple turn listless. All of the phenomena that emerged disappeared without a trace at this moment.

Sure enough, Li Qiye and Wo Longxuan came out of the temple before everyone’s eyes. He was still as carefree and nonchalant as always.

“Is the world turning crazy? Two invincible characters coming out on the same day. This guy just challenged the Three Grand Temples, Six Tribulation Temples, and the Eight Void Temples in one breath!” A spectator was dumbfounded.

Even the monks were terrified and had to murmur: “This is the coming of a new Buddhist Lord...”

“In less than a day, he defeated the sacred monks and even the Bodhisattvas from the holy temples. Just how great is his dharma?” Even those who didn’t truly understand Buddhism were frightened quite a bit.

“It’s fortunate that he isn’t a cultivator or we’d be done for this generation. People like Jikong Wudi and Lin Tiandi are already oppressive enough. And now, this South Emperor came out of nowhere as well, what a desperate situation to be in.” A young man stated: “At least this devil isn’t gifted in both Buddhism and daoism, or else we’d just have to hang ourselves in shame.”

Li Qiye exited the Grand Heaven Temple and looked at the eight deities as well as the vajras defending the Four Buddhas Temple: "This brat is coming out again. Sigh, he can't defeat his own inner demon or else he would still have a chance."

Wo Longxuan was astonished as well while she looked at the Four Buddhas Temple. She was a brilliant genius, but she wouldn't dare to challenge the temple like this.

Right now, this South Emperor that no one knew about dared to do so alone. Such a heaven-defying act was beyond words. She and her peers were overshadowed by this South Emperor.

"There is always a higher mountain and a better person." She spoke with a tinge of emotion.

Li Qiye smiled and slowly headed for the Four Buddhas Temple. She followed right after him, but he gently shook his head and said: "You should go down, there's no need to follow me."

"Why?" She frowned before revealing a smile capable of causing hundreds of flowers to bloom. Alas, no one was able to see it.

"I will be debating against the Eight-faced Radiant Bodhisattva at the Four Buddhas Temple. His affinity isn't something you can handle. Even if your dao heart is strong, the moment he finishes chanting part of a scripture, you will be converted and drowned in the endless Buddhist sea." He said dismissively.

After hearing this, she didn't refute and immediately left Spirit Mountain. Meanwhile, Li Qiye leisurely spoke: "It is time for the Nihilism Temple to come out as well. I want to see if your Buddhist laws are boundless or if my dharma is invincible."

"Buzz!" As he was heading for the temple, the eight deities and vajra protecting it suddenly disappeared.

The mountain turned quiet again and no longer quaked while the Four Buddhas Temple remained unchanged at the top.

Many people realized it and murmured: "It's over..."

In just a second, all eyes turned to the Buddhist gate of Four Buddhas. They wanted to know who the victor of this supreme battle was.

Eventually, before the nervous crowd emerged a figure from the Buddhist gate of the Four Buddhas Temple. It was the young man called South Emperor. Although he appeared quite ragged at this time, he was still spirited as he slowly walked outside.

Countless people took deep breaths after seeing him still able to walk. Jikong Wudi's group was even more astonished. Some even took a step back.

"The eighteen great vajras lost... this, this is too heaven-defying." A monk didn't dare to believe his own eyes after seeing that the South Emperor was still alive and well.

Jikong Wudi's group all had ugly expressions on their faces. They knew that they had met a terrifying foe in this generation, one that would be very difficult to overcome.

Despite his sorry appearance, his overwhelming aura still suffocated and awed people.

He saw Li Qiye slowly walking by and walked to him instead of flying. In the blink of an eye, the two of them stood face to face. Everyone outside of Spirit Mountain held their breaths in anticipation.

One was an invincible user of the grand dao while the other had a boundless dharma. One was someone of this mundane world while the other was quite otherworldly. Despite coming from two different worlds, both of them were impressive all the same. [1. Not too sure about this line. This would imply that daoism is the current model in this world which makes sense while Buddhism is a foreign dao. If I read this passage by itself, the author would be implying that Buddhism has its own world/realm.]

In the eyes of others, they were not too different from each other. Both were unbeatable in their own field. One was a peak cultivator while the other was a Buddhist sovereign.

Li Qiye smiled and performed a slight mudra. The South Emperor bowed his head and placed his palms together then respectfully spoke: "Sacred Teacher..."

Li Qiye nodded softly and didn't stop. He continued on towards the Four Buddhas Temple. The South Emperor descended Spirit Mountain and quickly disappeared into the horizon.

"Such an invincible character actually performed that grand gesture towards him." Many people were startled to see South Emperor acting so respectfully towards Li Qiye.

"Even though he trains in Buddhism, he is still incredibly accomplished. He can definitely fight against Bodhisattvas and Arhats as well as defeat the other temples." A monk had to comment: "It is natural to be called a Sacred Teacher by invincible existences when he is so accomplished. He can accept such a title without any shame."

The crowd felt that the monk's explanation made sense. A knowledgeable ancestor murmured: "If this young, haired practitioner can defeat the Four Buddhas Temple, then he might even become the new Buddhist Lord. Just think about it, out-debating the eighteen temples, I'm afraid this has never happened before in history!"

The crowd agreed with this ancestor. To be able to defeat the sacred monks and Bodhisattvas of the eighteen temples required a stunning attainment of the dharma. This guy could truly accept the title of Sacred Teacher, fully deserving it.

However, no one knew that the South Emperor called Li Qiye Sacred Master for a different reason, not because of his triumph over the temples.

There was another meaning to the title of Sacred Teacher. It alluded to him being the imperial teacher. Moreover, he was the most sacred among the imperial teachers.

The South Emperor respected Li Qiye as the dao teacher of Immortal Emperors while outsiders thought that it was referring to Li Qiye's boundless dharma.

Li Qiye went before the Four Buddhas Temple and gazed at it. He smiled before entering its Buddhist gate.

"Amitabha..." A monk immediately came to greet him. Behind this monk's head hung a Buddhist radiance. His entire body had transformed into Buddha. The dazzling light made others feel that he was no longer an existence of this world, that he was only one step away from the mythical eternal life.

This monk suddenly paused after he saw Li Qiye. He was frozen for a moment and his Buddhist light was affected as well, pulsing on and off.

The monk stabilized his Buddhist heart. He bowed and placed his palms together to say: "Amitabha, My Lord has reobtained your body, congratulations."

Li Qiye also returned the grand Buddhist gesture and bowed as well: "Blessings be with you, Zen Master Cheng. Zen Master is a foreigner now and no longer a follower of mine, there's no need for honorifics."

This monk ahead was once an invincible general under Li Qiye. Later on, when his lifespan was almost over, he entered the Buddhist faith at Spirit Mountain. He was converted by the Four Buddhas Temple and had severed his mundane ties.

Despite doing so, the Dark Crow was the supreme ruler of eons with a strong influence over his life. Meeting his old lord affected his Buddhist heart.

Li Qiye didn't want to disturb the monk's mind. He spewed out Buddhist mantras so that the monk's light could shine brightly again. That fluctuation from earlier was not a big deal, just a pebble dropping into a flowing stream or a mirror stained by a speck of dust. A gentle brush was enough to cleanse it.

"Praise be the Boundless Dharma..." The monk bowed his head. At this time, he had regained his piety and removed all of his ties to the past. He closed his eyes and spoke: "Thank you, Sacred Buddha, for enlightening me." [2. I'm very specific/literal on these honorifics just so that readers can distinguish the different titles too. The first part is just "Boundless Dharma", but I'm not sure if readers would get that it was a general phrase, not actually him praising Li Qiye, so I added "praise be".]

Li Qiye gently nodded his head and accepted the monk's gesture. In fact, for tens of millions of years, he had countless generals and wise sages under him. There were many among them who chose to join the Buddhist faith and entered Spirit Mountain in search of eternal life.

"I will be debating the Nihilism Scripture with the Eight-faced Radiant Bodhisattva." Li Qiye told the monk with words as powerful as the dharma.

"Please, the Bodhisattva has been waiting." The monk quickly invited Li Qiye into the Hall of Great Strength.

Li Qiye went inside, feeling at ease. To him, this was the final battle at Spirit Mountain. After defeating this Bodhisattva, his next stop was the Nihilism Temple!

This was Li Qiye's ultimate goal in this trip to the Buddhist Funeral Plateau. He aimed to use the dharma to defeat the group of monks at that temple!

Chapter 1030: Eight-faced Radiant Bodhisattva

After Li Qiye went inside the Four Buddhas Temple, everyone outside held their breaths and stared at it.

For countless people, this temple was the highest symbol in Spirit Mountain outside of Nalanda. It was unfathomable; some people said that there were four supreme stone Buddhas protecting it. They came from Nalanda's Buddhist kingdom!

Others also said that the Radiant Bodhisattva was infinitely close to being a Buddhist Lord. If Nalanda wanted to change its lord, then the Radiant Bodhisattva could definitely become the new lord.

“Dum—” The temple finally rang its bell. The Buddhist debate had begun!

Hearing this bell, many people’s hearts slowed down by half a beat. An unbelievably tense atmosphere filled the area.

“Buzz!” It seemed as if this temple was opening the curtains of the Buddhist kingdom. A Buddhist radiance drowned the sky, completely different from the lights of the prior temples.

This light gently poured down in an incredibly bright and holy manner. Many people palpitated and wanted to drown themselves in the light.

In the blink of an eye, Jikong Wudi, Lin Tiandi, and even the ancestors were shocked.

“Back off, now!” They used their ultimate speed to quickly run away from Spirit Mountain. They chose to spectate from tens of millions of miles away. [1. I’ve made this note a few times before, but ED’s author often uses the numbering system as an adjective for a great amount. Ten million is the raw number, but who knows if he means it literally or figuratively.]

“Eight-faced Radiant Bodhisattva!” An ancestor was aghast. He swung his sleeve and instantly swept all of his juniors inside for safety.

Many big shots reacted in time and ran away as well, acting as if they had encountered a plague!

Time seemed to have stopped at this moment. One could hear the sound of a blossoming flower. Above the Four Buddhas Temple were radiating Buddhist rays. Inside this light was the reflection of a figure.

It was a person dressed in white and shrouded in holy light. He had eight faces with sixteen eyes, capable of watching all the realms in this world. While seated on a supreme sacred lotus, it was clear that he had grasped myriad laws and controlled the universe — his appearance was white and void of imperfection.

He had his hair tied into a bun and a peerless Buddhist body. Although it was only a reflection, the moment it appeared, it gave others the illusion that even were the universe bigger, it would still be naught but a speck of dust. Before a Bodhisattva of this level, everything became insignificant.

This was a Bodhisattva. He didn’t have a towering blood energy or an invincible divine aura. It could even be said that there was nothing on his body that connected him to the mundane world. Even his body that had completely converted to the Buddhist way didn’t have the untouchable Buddhist aura that one would expect.

However, this existence that might not even know a single technique instilled fear in everyone.

“Amitabha...” A Buddhist chant resonated from the temple. Without a doubt, the debate had begun.

“Amitabha...” The entire Spirit Mountain echoed this chant. It even spread to the outside territories.

Many spectating cultivators were instantly converted after hearing this. They kneeled down and kowtowed while repeating the same Buddhist phrase. Buddhist lights emerged from their bodies.

At this moment, these cultivators had forgotten about the mundane world. In their eyes, there was only the boundless Buddhist sea. They simply wanted to drown in this warm and peaceful light. It was capable of making people forget everything!

One Buddhist chant to cross over — this was not just empty talk! The Bodhisattva's true body hadn't even come out and the crowd had only seen its Buddhist light, but with just one word, countless cultivators had already been converted. The ones with weaker dao hearts were now lost in Buddhism with no way to return!

"Run!" Some experts started to frantically run away from the area affected by the Buddhist power.

Among them, some couldn't persevere any longer. They flopped to the ground and started prostrating and chanting: "Praise be to merciful Buddha."

Their bodies started to emit Buddhist lights as well. Many couldn't escape this level of mass conversion, only the stronger ones with unyielding dao hearts were able to hastily escape Spirit Mountain and make it out of the affected area.

For this group who made it out, they were still more or less affected. Some of their dao hearts had even collapsed completely.

"Ah!" Despite managing to get away, a cultivator felt a Buddhist light surging from his body. He instantly shattered his physical body and ran away with his true fate. The Bodhisattva's Buddhist affinity affected them too much. These escapees all fled the Buddhist Funeral Plateau in fear that they would be converted sooner or later!

The geniuses and ancestors who were the first to run were frightened by this scene. This was a different power than brute force, a frightening power that caused others to tremble.

For many people, Godkings were definitely scary because they could destroy the world and flip over the stars! However, they finally learned of a terrifying power outside of cultivation.

Without using a single technique, the shadow and words of this Radiant Bodhisattva were able to change so many cultivators, and he might not even have the most basic dao foundation. What was more horrifying than this?

"Eight-faced Radiant Bodhisattva!" Those who were watching from far away felt apprehensive while looking at this ethereal Buddhist figure.

"The person closest to being a Buddhist Lord! Capable of converting people with just one word." The many monks that were still in the plateau all prostrated before the Bodhisattva.

"Radiant Bodhisattva..." Even Zhan Shi who had entered the Four Buddhas Temple for his scripture hark felt his heart skip a beat. He looked at the holy and peaceful Bodhisattva and felt fear: "If he was the one who read the scripture to me, I would have been converted after just one page."

No one dared to mock him after hearing this. Zhan Shi came out unscathed after listening to one scripture preached by four sacred monks. His dao heart was as firm as a rock. Not too many people would claim to have more determination than him.

But now, even he admitted his powerlessness. Other people naturally felt even more dreadful inside.

“One word to convert a Godking — maybe this isn’t a fabrication. I think it might actually be true.” An expert was in a daze for a very long time and murmured: “Legend states that the Radiant Bodhisattva was born at the plateau and was protected by the Buddhist Lord since birth. He entered Spirit Mountain at eight years old, became a vajra at fourteen years old, and a Bodhisattva at sixteen. He is praised to be the Bodhisattva closest to being a Buddhist Lord!”

“Although the Bodhisattva has never cultivated a merit law before and only read Buddhist scriptures since childhood, even Immortal Emperors viewed him with respect.” An ancestor looked at the figure above the temple with awe.

After hearing this, many people were astounded. Even Immortal Emperors respected him — just how frightening was this? At such a level, it didn’t matter whether they cultivated or had any fighting power at all.

“There is a rumor that after Immortal Emperor Yin Tian carried the Heaven’s Will, he entered Spirit Mountain to listen to the Radiant Bodhisattva’s scripture sermon. After he left the mountain, he told all of his generals that none of them were allowed to meet the Bodhisattva.” A demon ancestor from the southern region explained: “The emperor said that even though the Bodhisattva didn’t know a single technique, Godkings were only specks of dust before him.”

“That... that is too heaven-defying...” A youth was shocked to hear this. For them, Godkings were invincible enough, but they were mere specks of dust before the Bodhisattva? These words were too unnerving.

At this point, they couldn’t help but stare at the temple. Many people didn’t expect Li Qiye to challenge the Radiant Bodhisattva.

“He is too confident. Entering the Four Buddhas Temple and instantly challenging the Eight-faced Radiant Bodhisattva who has the greatest dharma. Just what level has that young man reached?” A person commented with emotions.

The truth was that not too many people expected Li Qiye to challenge the Bodhisattva right away. Those who knew about the Bodhisattva were aware of just how close he was to being a Buddhist Lord.

Challenging this existence was nearly the same as challenging someone infinitely close to being a Buddhist Lord.

“Can he win?” Another youth whispered. For the cultivators here, Buddhism was not their world. A dharmic battle like this was a realm outside the scope of their understanding.

“I don’t know.” Even the older generation and ancestors who knew about the dharma didn’t know. They only shook their heads: “If we’re talking about force, then it is possible to defeat the Radiant Bodhisattva. After all, he only trains in the dharma. However, to defeat him in a scripture debate... To be frank, outside of the Buddhist Lord in the Buddhist kingdom, I can’t imagine someone else who can reach this step.”