

Domination 1081

### **Chapter 1081: Devil World's Secret**

After his monologue, Li Qiye stopped for a bit before eventually sighing softly: "Even the Buddhist Funeral Plateau has persisted from one generation to another, this is all because of a single pursuit."

"Since you think you know everything, what do you think the plateau's plan is?" Heaven Relinquish finally took the initiative.

"Heaven Relinquish, there's no need to test me." Li Qiye shook his head: "I know full well what the plateau wants to do, or rather, what Di Shi wants to do. How about we make another deal? Tell me what the Devil Lord told you back then and I will tell you the secret of the plateau."

"Hmph." Heaven Relinquish snorted: "It looks like you don't only want the key to the Dark Maxim Palace, you led me out to find out more about the Devil Lord as well."

"Frankly, I don't have much interest in your Devil Lord since I know all the things that I want to already." Li Qiye said dismissively: "I only want to know what he told you back then."

With that, he peered at the king: "If I am not mistaken, before the Devil Lord left back then, he summoned you and told you certain things that the other Devil Kings didn't hear! This is what I want to know!"

After hearing this, the king's gaze immediately turned fierce with evil energy rampaging about him in a frightening manner; all of his attention was focused on Li Qiye.

Li Qiye was unperturbed; he leisurely sat there: "There's no need to look at me like that, you know full well that you can't do anything to me. Plus, this wasn't considered a secret either. The other Devil Kings knew about this matter, just not about what the Devil Lord told you."

It looked like the devil king didn't wish to entertain this conversation since he sat there emotionlessly.

Li Qiye took his time speaking: "For millions of years after the Devil Lord went to that world, many dark cultivators and devil kings climbed up the platform and left the Devil World. However, you have been doing nothing while staying in the Devil World's underground, enduring from one generation to another!"

"To tell the truth, I am not looking down on you when I say this. I have analyzed all the devil kings here, you are not the most exceptional or powerful among them. However, one thing is for certain, you are definitely the most patient one! Because of this, the Devil Lord picked you. And sure enough, you have been waiting all this time until you are completely sure before climbing the platform!"

This was also met with nothing but a cold stare from the devil king.

Li Qiye looked him straight in the eyes and spoke: "Tell me the Devil Lord's words and I will tell you the secret of the plateau."

The devil king looked at Li Qiye for a bit before shaking his head: "Not interested. Also, I won't let you borrow the Dark Maxim Key."

With that, he threw Li Qiye's item back to him.

"My Heaven Relinquish." Li Qiye smiled: "You really are patient. However, let me remind you, you yourself can wait, but the opportunity won't wait for you."

"What do you mean by that?" There was a tinge of surprise in the devil king's expression.

Li Qiye sat there leisurely and replied: "Heaven Relinquish, you think that you can't die so there is more than ample time. You feel that you can wait until everyone goes up to the platform and it doesn't matter if you take your time. However, I can tell you something right now, you only have one or two generations at most."

"Such fear-mongering." The devil king coldly spoke: "The Devil World is indestructible and eternal. This has been the case for millions of years."

"Really now? Do you think the Buddhist Funeral Plateau will wait for countless generations? Will Di Shi wait for this long?" Li Qiye laughed.

"So what if they can't wait?" The king retorted: "If the plateau could destroy the Lesser Imperial Devil World, they would have done so long ago. It doesn't matter if the seal has been imposed on this world, this world will continue on forever."

"Heaven Relinquish, you still don't understand." Li Qiye coldly said: "The plateau and Di Shi will not destroy you and the lesser world."

"But..." His eyes turned cold at this point while glaring at the king: "But Di Shi will fight to the end! The Buddhist Funeral Plateau will accomplish its mission! Ever since its inception, it has always been waiting for that day!"

The devil king's expression changed after hearing this.

Li Qiye went on: "Like our conversation earlier, ever since the immemorial era, through the Legendary and even now, great men have been searching for the answer to two questions — immortality and the final battle! Since I have told you this today, it should show my sincerity!"

"The buddhist plateau will take action within three generations. At that time, the Devil World and the Imperial Border — this entire lesser world will only be a chess piece tied to their war chariot!" Li Qiye stated slowly.

The Devil King's expression turned cold. He knew what was going to happen after hearing this.

"Thus, both dark cultivators and imperial soldiers only have two options. They will either have to enter the path or platform earlier or be tied to the plateau's war machine and become Di Shi's cannon fodder!"

He continued on: "You are a devil king so you should be able to sense just how powerful the Buddhist Funeral Plateau has become. Think about it carefully or calculate with your fingers, just how much longer will your so-called immortality last?"

Heaven Relinquish started to contemplate at this moment. Perhaps Li Qiye was right. They really didn't have much time left.

After a while, the devil king looked at Li Qiye and coldly asked: "What do you want to take from the Dark Maxim Palace?"

"This doesn't concern you." Li Qiye flatly responded: "You just need to lend me the key."

"You should know that there is an entry limit. Moreover, you can only take one item." The king replied.

"I know that after thorough investigations. If I came unprepared, I wouldn't have asked you for the key." Li Qiye said.

The Devil King stared at him for a while and formulated another question: "Do you think you will be successful? I don't think so."

At this point, he could faintly guess what Li Qiye wanted.

Li Qiye smiled and nonchalantly stated: "I will. Since I was able to become a Devil King and an imperial monarch, I am destined for success in this."

In the end, the king slowly took out a black key after a long silence: "You can open the Dark Maxim Palace. The key will remain inside and it will naturally return to my hands."

Li Qiye threw the other item back at the devil king and smiled: "You finally thought it through. This is a good thing. A few items will have no use if left back at the palace because you all will never be able to gather the other things."

The devil king snorted and put away Li Qiye's item.

"Wait, I still have a little toy." Li Qiye smiled and took out the devil prayers from the Wooden Sword Dark Saint and others: "Bring these things along after you climb up there. These are some matters you will have to take care of before leaving this world."

The king scowled and accepted these wishes. Since this deal was settled, these prayers were only trivial matters, so he was too lazy to bargain with Li Qiye any further.

Li Qiye stood up and said: "What a pity. I still want to know what the Devil Lord told you, but if you don't want to tell me, I won't force you."

"If you really want to know, you can go ask the Devil Lord yourself." Heaven Relinquish stated insipidly.

"If that day comes, I will." Li Qiye smiled and said: "But at that time, whatever he told you will no longer be important because I would know all the secrets already."

The devil king snorted again, seemingly have lost interest in this matter.

Li Qiye turned around and was about to leave the temple.

"What is your pursuit, your goal?" As he had just stepped out of the door, Heaven Relinquish's voice came from behind.

Li Qiye stopped and turned around to meet the king's gaze. The king continued: "You came from the nine worlds with the ability to become a devil king and imperial monarch, allowing you to have immortality! Then what is your pursuit? Treasures? Or is it just to find out the secrets?"

“No.” Li Qiye shook his head and solemnly answered: “I want to kill to the very end. My pursuit is very simple, all I want is an answer!”

With that, he left the ancient temple.

Heaven Relinquish watched his back and after a long while, he finally murmured: “Immortality and the final battle... for what reason? What is waiting for us on the other side? Your Majesty, I hope you have arrived safely.” Once the words came out, the devil king also disappeared, as if he was never here at all.

“Young Noble, are you alright?” The girls outside saw him coming out and quickly came to welcome him after heaving sighs of relief.

He had been in there for quite a long time so they became worried that a fight broke out. Of course, due to their confidence in him, they stood outside and waited without breaking in.

Li Qiye smiled and said: “What can even happen? It was just a small matter so Heaven Relinquish wouldn’t fight me over it. Plus, even if we fought, he wouldn’t have any advantage either.”

### **Chapter 1082: Entering The Dark Maxim Palace**

“Okay, put away the palanquin since I don’t need to pretend to be Heaven Relinquish anymore.” Li Qiye ordered: “We’ll head for the Dark Maxim Palace.”

Even Mei Suyao had to ask: “We can actually go in?”

Li Qiye looked at the girls and smiled: “With the four of you, we have the perfect number to enter. If we had more, I’m afraid not everyone would be able to enter.”

The group headed for the palace. At this time, he used his true form instead of disguising himself as Heaven Relinquish.

At the base of the mountain where the palace was situated, even though Zhan Shi’s group had left earlier, there were still cultivators here. Many of the late arrivals all tried to see if they could open it. However, regardless of their power and talents, none were able to open the palace, just like before.

“Li Qiye is here!” Someone quickly noticed him even before he made it to the base and shouted.

At this moment, the notorious moniker Fiercest was completely unmatched. His brilliance had overshadowed all the other supreme geniuses.

Thus, no matter where he went, he would be the center of attention, a source of dread.

A person in the distance saw Li Qiye’s group and murmured: “Fiercest is here, don’t tell me he came for the Dark Maxim Palace?”

“No one has been able to do it, can Fiercest do it?” Someone had to ask this question.

An expert from the Barren Earth commented: “Hard to say, Fiercest is too devilish. Just think about it, the Prime Peak of the Godwar Mountain was unbelievable too. No one was capable of climbing it, not even Heavenly Emperor Lin’s group, but Fiercest made it to the summit.”

“Haha, I think that Fiercest can do it and create another miracle. If Fiercest can’t, then no one else can. Nowadays, who can actually compare with Fiercest?” Another commenter added.

In a short period of time, Li Qiye’s fame as Fiercest had spread far and wide. He had supporters and even many fans. This was especially true for the younger cultivators. Fiercest had defeated all the other supreme geniuses and had even recruited the prettiest beauty, Mei Suyao. He was powerful enough and also had ample romantic luck. With all of this, how could the young cultivators not worship him?

The people here quickly made way for Li Qiye’s group once they reached the base of the mountain. No one dared to stand in his way.

They eagerly watched and didn’t dare to make a sound. He had an unparalleled authority among the younger generation.

He glanced at the palace at the peak and flatly said before leading the way: “Come, we’ll go up there.”

The girls followed right behind him.

It wasn’t easy to climb up this mountain because the palace was once the location from which the Devil Lord issued orders to the rest of the Devil World. This area was under the suppression of a seal so one needed to be quite powerful if they wanted to scale to the top.

But of course, for Li Qiye and the rest of the girls, it was not a problem.

The crowd held their breaths and stared intensely at Li Qiye. It could even be said that their hearts were hanging on a thread. Some probably didn’t wish to see Li Qiye succeed. However, many wanted to see a miracle as well.

For millions of years, no one had been able to open the palace. If someone could do so right now, then it would definitely be a miracle. To be able to watch such a miracle was a kind of honor for the spectators present.

The entrance to the Dark Maxim Palace was very ordinary and simple. There were no superfluous decorations since the two doors were painted black and were made from unknown metal. They seemed to be quite heavy. Moreover, there was no keyhole, so it didn’t seem like they could be opened with a key.

Li Qiye smiled while looking at the two doors that joined together at the entrance and murmured: “Dark Maxim Palace, one can only imagine its grandeur when the Devil Lord was still here.”

“There are records about the great prosperity once found at the Dark Maxim Palace and Emperors Citadel. I wonder if they are accurate or not.” Mei Suyao added.

Li Qiye gently nodded his head: “They are accurate. The palace and citadel back then were just like Nalanda of today, or to be more exact, the current Buddhist Kingdom.”

Just from hearing this, the girls could imagine it already. In the present, Nalanda was in control of the entire Buddhist Funeral Plateau, the home of countless monks.

Li Qiye lifted his palm. One could hear a clicking sound. The moment the key flew out from his hand, the palace's gate actually revealed a keyhole. Another click came about. The key inserted itself and unlocked the gate.

"Clank—" The heavy gate of the palace slowly opened and the path inside appeared beneath the group's feet.

"Follow me." Li Qiye took the key and began to walk into the inner palace.

In the blink of an eye, the group disappeared. Another loud clanking sound could be heard as the palace closed its heavy gate.

Everyone at the base of the mountain was shocked by this scene. Even though some of them were mentally prepared, they were still astounded all the same.

"It really opened..." His believers were still astonished by this miracle.

Many took deep breaths and murmured: "Fiercest is far too heaven-defying. He actually opened the Dark Maxim Palace."

Of course, others didn't know about the deal between Heaven Relinquish and Li Qiye. The item that Li Qiye gave to the devil king was extremely unfathomable as well.

Just by the fact that Immortal Emperor Chen Xue used it to redeem the Storm God's life was enough to show its worth. In fact, Li Qiye had wanted to keep it for his own use, but in the end, he still made the choice. He didn't simply want treasures, he needed an answer!

"Entering the Dark Maxim Palace... doesn't this mean he can pick any treasure that belonged to the legendary master of the Devil World?" Some started to salivate after Li Qiye's group disappeared inside the palace.

"Strongest of the younger generation, the future candidate to become the Immortal Emperor, able to create miracles and have countless treasures. If it was me, I would be willing to follow Fiercest as well. What a shame that Fiercest wouldn't care for me." A beautiful female cultivator lamented.

This news quickly traveled across the lesser world. It caused a huge uproar and shock.

Someone else emotionally said: "No one else can be Immortal Emperor but Fiercest. No one is his opponent, he can even create one miracle after another. Opening the Dark Maxim Palace and climbing the Prime Peak, both of these are his feats alone. They are no less than any Immortal Emperor in their youth. Actually, I think they are even more amazing."

Jikong Wudi was astonished after hearing this. Even Venerable Ninesword couldn't stay calm: "This person will definitely be trouble if we don't eliminate him."

Jikong Wudi spoke with ferocity in his eyes: "Not just trouble! If Li Qiye is left alive, I will have no chance of becoming the Immortal Emperor. I feel confident against anyone else in the competition for the throne, but I can't see through Li Qiye!"

"It is best if we eliminate him early." The venerable slowly spoke with a serious expression: "Once his wings propel him into an Emperor Candidate, I'm afraid it will be very difficult to get rid of him. At that

step, countless Godkings in the nine worlds will join his banner! When that happens, he wouldn't even need to do anything to destroy his enemies."

"Ancestor, are you confident in killing him?" Jikong Wudi spoke gravely.

At this time, he felt that the longer Li Qiye stayed alive, the more unfavorable it was for him. In his eyes, his chance of becoming emperor was drifting further and further away as Li Qiye became increasingly powerful.

"Hmm..." The venerable contemplated for a bit: "From my observations, that iron man truly has left already but I don't know if he has any other dao protectors behind him."

"We have to invite the prime general to come out." Jikong Wudi concluded: "The prime general will definitely be able to end Li Qiye even if Godkings are protecting him."

The prime general was the strongest general under Immortal Emperor Ta Kong. According to the legends, he wasn't too far off from the emperor himself.

"It isn't that simple." Venerable Ninesword smiled wryly: "No one can invite him, or at least, I can't. Unless Space Trample Mountain is facing extinction, he won't come out for anyone."

"Should we give it a try?" Jikong Wudi pondered for a bit before asking: "Ancestor, you and I can attack together while Li Qiye is unprepared."

"There's no rush, we are waiting for some people." The venerable spoke deeply.

Jikong Wudi asked: "Ancestor has some reinforcements?"

The old man smiled and said: "They'll be here soon. Li Qiye killed the eight ancestors from the ancient kingdom as well as the Divine Ancestor's disciple, Shen Menghui. The ancient kingdom will definitely not let this go. Plus, he also killed the Soaring Immortal Emissary, so the soaring sect naturally will do something as well."

"I calculated that the Azure Mysterious ancestors and the Soaring Immortal Sect's Chief Ambassador should be here soon. I have sent them a message already; if they come to the Lesser Imperial Devil World, we will talk." Venerable Ninesword explained.

After hearing this, Jikong Wudi was relieved. With sufficient forces, they would definitely be able to eradicate Li Qiye.

### **Chapter 1083: Heavenly Emperor Lin's Background**

Jikong Wudi told the venerable: "No matter what happens or what price we have to pay, we have to eliminate Li Qiye."

This decision had been cemented in his mind. He would pay any price to destroy Li Qiye.

The war for the throne had always been merciless. Even though many of these past competitions were between Emperor Candidates and people said that only those who dared to face their most powerful enemies and overcome them would become emperor, this was not always the case. In fact, for millions

of years, there had always been conspiracies and schemes beneath the surface of these wars. Behind these candidates were an abundance of followers and mighty dao protectors.

A lot of brilliant geniuses died pitifully to schemes, ambushes, and assassinations. Only by surviving this cruel war would one become the Immortal Emperor.

More often than not, these despicable means were looked down upon. However, Jikong Wudi couldn't care less about it at this point. In his eyes, after he became the Immortal Emperor, the public would stop caring about it later on! Who would actually dare to bring it up at that point?

"Li Qiye... I really can't see through you, just how powerful are you, really?" After hearing this news, Lin commented while hellishly training with Zhan Shi.

"Far beyond our imagination." Zhan Shi spoke.

Zhan Shi had entered the Heavenly Dao Academy before. Back then, he was a student of the Sacred Era Hall. Although he was not friends with Li Qiye then, he knew full well of his deeds.

Lin movingly spoke: "I think my senior brother will meet a powerful opponent in this generation. If he isn't careful, I'm afraid he will have to run after suffering defeat."

"It seems like Brother Lin is very open-minded." Zhan Shi told Lin.

"We are having a heart-to-heart talk, there's no need to hide anything." Lin said: "Brother Zhan, you know my background. Just like you said, I don't mind letting everything go even at this point, it's not worth mentioning at all."

Zhan Shi looked at the young man and spoke: "Brother Lin is willing to give up the battle for the Heaven's Will just like that? Immortal Emperor is something everyone will want as long as they have some ambition in them."

"The truth is that I have never thought about competing for the Heaven's Will or becoming the emperor. This opportunity is not being prepared for me, it is meant for my senior brother." Lin smilingly said.

"I am not someone who underestimates myself and I see that you are the same way." Zhan Shi said: "No matter how powerful your senior brother might be, in my opinion, Brother Lin still has a chance to compete."

"No, there is a big gap between us." Lin gently shook his head: "At the very least, right now, I have no way of surpassing him."

Zhan Shi disagreed by shaking his head: "I don't think so. More often than not, the dao heart is more important than talents when it comes to becoming an emperor. Of course, talents are indispensable, but the dao heart is even more crucial. Without a firm dao heart, even the most brilliant talents would only be for show. For ages now, countless great geniuses with weak dao hearts couldn't handle defeat and eventually succumbed to their own inner demon."

"Only by courageously treading forward without caring for trials and hardship would one be able to become the emperor." Zhan Shi's eyes turned profound as his determination became even more resolute.



He looked at Lin and said: "In terms of talents, skills, and dao heart, Brother Lin does not lack any of these. You meet the conditions and have the qualifications to compete for the Heaven's Will."

"The sect chose my senior brother, not me." Lin shook his head: "I will not be the one standing in my sect and my senior brother's way."

Zhan Shi did not agree: "In my opinion, Brother Lin is not a person who is overly adherent to old ideas, so why do you have such thoughts? Your fate should be up to you alone!"

"I am already very satisfied." Lin smiled: "Everything I have today was given to me by my sect. If it values my senior brother, I will let him pass and hope that he will not let us down, that he will become the emperor."

Zhan Shi went on: "If you no longer want to become the emperor, why do you still want to fight Li Qiye? You should quit this game, this path is paved with cruelty."

"This is my attempt to lend the sect a hand by exploring Li Qiye's true worth so that my senior brother can have a better chance." Lin smiled: "Plus, running without fighting isn't my style! I want to have a real battle against Li Qiye, not losing after one or two moves! I can't accept such a defeat!"

"I can't accept it either." Zhan Shi didn't wish to dwell on this matter and smiled back: "Who can accept losing to Li Qiye without even knowing what happened? No matter what, we have to see what he is really about! Even if we lose, we have to understand the process at the very least!"

"That's right, let us work together and give him a good fight." Lin laughed out loud in a gallant manner.

Zhan Shi laughed loudly as well: "If we can defeat Li Qiye, then let the two of us compete for the Heaven's Will in the future!"

"If such a day comes, then I shall compete as well." Lin accepted happily the idea. These words were erring on the playful side.

"If that day comes, Brother Lin, remember that I won't take it easy on you." Zhan Shi solemnly said with a firm glare.

Lin laughed heartily in response: "Don't worry, Brother Zhan, I won't show mercy either. We will fight until the sky collapses!"

Despite his heroic demeanor, Lin gently sighed inside. He knew that that day wouldn't come. It didn't matter whether they could defeat Li Qiye or not, he would concede to his senior brother in the future. The sect had given his senior brother everything, so he couldn't cause trouble for them by standing in his brother's way.

After all, his senior brother was the chosen one. He couldn't act so ungrateful towards the sect!

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Li Qiye and the girls entered the Dark Maxim Palace and continued along the road. Many palaces appeared in their sight.

From the outside, the Dark Maxim Palace seemed to be just one palace, but this was not the case. It was a heavenly grotto with many different palaces inside.

Li Shuangyan and the others felt a suppressive aura. It seemed to be emanating from the palace itself and a different location at the same time.

Eventually, the group came before a huge palace. After entering, the colorful glimmers of treasures were reflected everywhere.

Many different items were displayed inside, ranging from divine metals to immortal steel. Weapons and holy artifacts of all kinds were placed along the palace walls. The shelves collected rare boxes as well.

Outsiders would be driven insane by seeing this. This many treasures could plunge the world into an avaricious bloodbath.

Fortunately, Li Shuangyan and the girls were experienced. She and Chen Baojiao had been following Li Qiye, so they were no strangers to treasures. Needless to say about Mei Suyao, she came from the Eternal River School, a lineage with three emperors. It was a place that never lacked treasures.

Bai Jianzhen's Sword God Sacred Ground was also an imperial lineage, so they had plenty of treasures as well.

"Pick your favorite." Li Qiye smiled: "Remember, each person can only take one item out of the palace, no more."

After hearing Li Qiye, the girls didn't rush for the treasures. They only carefully looked over everything on display.

"This is the Devil Lord's collection. Although the best ones have been taken away by him, there are still many incredible items in here. It is up to you guys to pick the most suitable treasure for yourselves."

The girls took their time. At this point, their harvest depended on their own luck.

After giving the hint, Li Qiye left for another big palace.

There was nothing else besides a huge painting hanging in the main hall of this palace. It was neither a drawing of a devil king engulfed in evil energy nor the Devil Lord of legends. It was a painting of a monk, or rather, a Buddha.

The Buddhist aura coming from this painting was far-reaching and had a great rhythm. Regardless of how many years had passed, it still emitted a faint Buddhist light. One couldn't see this Buddha's face since he was turning his back on all existences while walking to a very, very distant destination.

While looking at the painting, one would think that this Buddha was slowly disappearing before their eyes towards the horizon. But time and time again, he didn't disappear completely, as if his journey was especially long and arduous. It was a never-ending trek across millions of years.

"Was this not drawn?" While Li Qiye was quietly admiring this painting, a gentle voice spoke.

It was Mei Suyao. She had already picked a treasure for herself. She stood next to Li Qiye and looked at the painting as well. With a natural immortal bone, she had a unique perspective both when picking her treasure as well as looking at this painting.

“Right, it wasn’t painted.” Li Qiye smiled and nodded his head.

“A Buddha has imprinted himself in this place.” Her immortal bone could see through the origin. After a careful look, she was startled: “He left his will in this place, is this his attempt to suppress the Devil World?”

“You can put it that way, but it is not to the point of suppressing. To be more exact, he is trying to stabilize the Lesser Imperial Devil World.” Li Qiye explained while looking at the painting.

“Is this the legendary master of the Buddhist Kingdom?” Mei Suyao had to ask.

### **Chapter 1084: Insect Pipe And Mechanical World Vessel**

Li Qiye gently shook his head while looking at the Buddha in the painting: “No, it is not the Buddhist Lord of the kingdom. It wouldn’t be this easy for him to stabilize the lesser world.”

“Then it is the mythical Di Shi!” Mei Suyao was shocked. Di Shi was a being limited to legends. For millions of years, no one had heard of his sighting. Some rumors back in the ancient ages even stated that Di Shi was no longer in this world.

Others also thought that Di Shi didn’t exist and that he was only a myth, a character created by the Buddhist Funeral Plateau.

Li Qiye only smiled and didn’t say anything else. He left this palace for another one with Mei Suyao right behind him.

The next palace was very ancient. There was no scintillating light or immortal aura. It was quite strange due to the fanciful and obscured runes all over the walls.

They were of an archaic age. Even someone as well-read as Mei Suyao had never seen them before, arousing her curiosity. She opened her heavenly gaze while her forehead lit up; she intended to use her immortal bone to see through the mysticisms of the runes.

However, it wasn’t long before she felt the earth spinning and had to stagger several steps back.

“Is this the supreme origin of an era?” She was startled. Her immortal bone could communicate with gods and understand the entire world. It could even easily comprehend Heaven’s Will Secret Laws.

However, when she tried to analyze the runes on the walls, she felt as if she had fallen into a boundless world, as if the runes were connected to three thousand different worlds. It was a complexity beyond imagination.

“The three thousand worlds are also inside.” Li Qiye chuckled and didn’t look at the runes, his eyes were fixated on a stone table in the palace.

At this time, Mei Suyao finally noticed that there was nothing else in this place besides this stone table and an object that resembled a bronze truncheon on top of it.

However, this moderate-sized item was not a truncheon. It was assembled from many exquisite little pieces, giving it an appearance resembling a rod, but also an arm. No one could tell what it was exactly.

Li Qiye reached out and this bronze item fell into his hand. Mei Suyao took a careful look at this unbelievably complex and well-crafted item.

The world had many things that were created by universal laws interlaced together. Some laws were as small as a strand of hair. However, each piece of this item ahead was around that size. The more impressive part was that it was all made out of metal.

Such an item consisted of countless parts. This was a heavenly level of craftsmanship beyond the scope of current understanding.

With a pull from Li Qiye, these little parts of the bronze object suddenly moved while the main body lit up. It was shaking as if it had its own life. At the same time, the runes on the walls resonated with brilliance as if they were waking up.

“Buzzz—” As the pieces on the object rotated faster and faster, they actually sucked in all the runes on the walls. In the blink of an eye, all the runes departed from the walls and went inside the bronze object.

After this absorption, the object seemed to take on a different color and became even more complex and mystical in an unfathomable manner.

Mei Suyao was astonished as well. She thought the runes on the walls were painted on, but that didn't seem to be the case right now. Someone had used an unbelievable method to pull the runes out of the bronze rod.

“The Devil Lord is indeed amazing.” Li Qiye looked at the rod and stated in a matter-of-fact tone: “To be able to remove the runes so perfectly, it is quite heaven-defying.”

Mei Suyao noticed some clues and asked: “Does Vedas Vajra's item and this thing have the same origin?”

“Yes.” Li Qiye nodded slightly: “They do have the same origin. Unfortunately, the Devil Lord couldn't have both items at the same time or else he would have realized something.”

“What is it?” She was full of curiosity. There weren't many treasures that could attract Li Qiye's attention. He didn't even care for Immortal Emperor True Treasures, yet he seemed to be especially attentive towards these two things. It showed that they must have had an incredible origin, even more extraordinary than imperial true treasures.

Li Qiye smiled: “These things probably don't have names. Very few know of their existence, let alone their names. However, after translating the runes, the language of their era, they indeed have a name.” Li Qiye looked at the bronze stick in his hand and said: “This is the Insect Pipe. As for the one you obtained from the Vajra, it also has a name — Mechanical World Vessel.” [1. The original word for Pipe here is difficult. It has too many meanings and I don't know which one is right without more context - to take care (of) / to control / to manage / to be in charge of / to look after / to run / to care about / tube / pipe / woodwind / classifier for tube-shaped objects / particle similar to 把 in 管...叫 constructions / writing brush / (coll.) to / towards.]

“Insect Pipe, Mechanical World Vessel.” Mei Suyao quietly repeated. From just the names alone, she couldn’t understand their uses.

Nevertheless, she was very knowledgeable. She looked at Li Qiye and spoke: “Legend states that the progenitor of the Heaven’s Secret Valley with the title Mortal Monarch also has a body put together by assembling countless exquisite pieces...”

“Your Eternal River School really does know many things.” Li Qiye laughed and didn’t say anything else. He put away the Insect Pipe and left.

Li Qiye and Mei Suyao went back to the treasury. He smiled after seeing the group: “Are you all done with picking your treasures?”

“We’re done.” Chen Baojiao had just chosen something she liked.

There were too many treasures here for them. Picking a favorite out of them all truly left them a bit dizzy.

Li Qiye smiled and said: “Good. If everyone is done, then it’s time for us to leave.”

The girls had no objections and followed him out of the Dark Maxim Palace.

Under the mountain, countless cultivators were holding their breaths while gazing at the closed palace to wait for Li Qiye’s group to come out.

“Clank—clank—clank—” Eventually, the heavy gate was opened and the five of them came out in a line.

“What treasures did they get I wonder?” Many people were attentive to the group’s expressions in order to pick up clues.

However, they were disappointed because the group was very calm. There was no excitement typical of a successful treasure hunt. Perhaps for them, obtaining treasures wasn’t that exciting. Despite the crowd’s curiosity, no one dared approach them to ask what treasures they obtained from the palace.

The mass of people made a pathway for Li Qiye once more as they watched the group disappear into the horizon.

“I’ll give it a shot too.” After seeing the successful opening, some cultivators refused to give up and climbed to the summit again.

Of course, without the key from Heaven Relinquish, they couldn’t open it no matter how heaven-defying they might be, regardless of their attempts.

Not long after their departure from the palace, everyone heard some news from an unknown source: “A dark cultivator wants to climb the Evil Slaying Platform.”

“This is a good timing.” After hearing this, Li Qiye chuckled and told the girls: “I have planned to bring everyone up to the platform already, so now that a dark cultivator is going there, nothing could be better. We can go see the mystical properties of the platform.”

The girls turned quite happy since Li Qiye had brought up the platform many times. They had a difficult time imagining the platform and the climbing process.

The Evil Slaying Platform was located in the deepest region of the Devil World. It was shrouded in an evil energy. At that place, there was no sky or sight of the sun, as if it led to an unknown world.

When Li Qiye arrived, there was already a sea of people right outside the platform. Although they didn't dare to go closer, the entire platform was still surrounded from a distance.

This simple and ancient platform was made from ink colored rocks placed together. It seemed to be one with the ground beneath it.

There was a huge lever-style guillotine at the top. It was completely black like an evil blade from hell, capable of decapitating all gods and devils.

In front of the platform was a precipice containing only a vast expanse in front of it. One couldn't see the end of this void, making it seem as if successfully crossing it would lead to another world.

The guillotine emitted a faint light that exuded a quiver-inducing murderous intent. Because of this, no one dared to approach the platform.

No matter how strong one might be, they would feel this murderous aura from the blade once they got close. Although it was not particularly ferocious, it would instill a primal fear as if it was already dangling over their neck.

### **Chapter 1085: Evil Slaying Platform**

"Fiercest is here." Someone shouted once Li Qiye arrived, attracting countless gazes.

Li Qiye was standing on top of a distant hill and gazed at the platform with the rest of the girls.

He was in quiet contemplation after seeing the profound light being emitted from the guillotine. He was once a devil king back then during his long stay in this world.

Outside of searching for certain things, there was one question that beckoned his curiosity. It was whether dark cultivators could go to a new world after coming to the Evil Slaying Platform.

"What are the requirements for a dark cultivator to go up there?" Chen Baojiao inquired.

Li Qiye shook his head gently: "Nothing. Any dark cultivator can do so. However, their strength does influence the result."

"In what way?" She asked once more.

He glanced at the blade and answered: "Wait a bit for when a dark cultivator goes up there, you will understand right away."

Even Bai Jianzhen, who treated her words like gold, had to ask: "Is there really another world?"

The girls had heard Li Qiye and the dark cultivators talk about another world, but they didn't know the specifics.

"I don't know." Li Qiye answered: "Maybe, maybe not. It is hard to say. Plus, each person has a different opinion about this other world."

Eventually, a dark cultivator climbed up the Evil Slaying Platform before the huge crowd. He had a human form that exuded a terrifying evil aura. Even God-Monarchs would be wary of such an existence.

He silently gazed across the vast expanse beyond the precipice while standing on top of the platform.

The spectating cultivators were stirred. To be able to watch a dark cultivator on the platform was truly a rare event.

Eventually, this dark cultivator made up his mind. He stood before the guillotine that faced the precipice and slowly closed his eyes before placing his neck on top of the frame.

Some cultivators felt their hearts hanging up high at the sight of this dark cultivator situated right beneath the blade. They nervously tightened their fists.

“Crank!” The extremely sharp blade fell down. It easily decapitated the dark cultivator like cutting tofu. His head rolled down from the platform.

“Bang!” In the blink of an eye, a great amount of dark energy rushed out from his severed neck.

This vast energy rushed through the vast expanse beyond the precipice like a tidal wave. This particular dark cultivator was extremely powerful, thus this energy was as majestic as a sea. It tore apart the void and traveled with an unstoppable momentum.

This process continued on with the energy gushing out of his neck for a long time. Eventually, all the energy was gone and the scene became calm again.

At this time, people found that the energy formed a bridge from the precipice to the depths of the expanse.

“Clack!” At this moment, the unbelievable happened. The head that rolled on the ground suddenly cracked and a tiny person walked out from inside.

This tiny person looked exactly like the dark cultivator from earlier. However, he didn’t have a physical body as he was only an accumulation of dark energy.

Li Shuangyan asked: “Is that his true fate?”

“No, it is a devil soul, completely different from our true fate.” Li Qiye gently shook his head.

Everyone held their breaths while watching the tiny person walking out of the skull in astonishment.

The tiny person quickly walked towards the bridge made out of evil energy that stretched into the vast expanse.

At this split second, another shadow suddenly lunged forward. It was a cultivator whose withered blood energy clearly told his old age.

This old man rushed to the long bridge in an attempt to follow the devil soul into the other world.

“Ahh...” However, when he stepped onto the bridge, his feet didn’t make contact as one would expect. The bridge did not accept his body, so he instantly fell into the abyss below.

Cultivators could fly, but not in this vast expanse. Once one fell, they were fated for a death without a grave.

People gasped with shocked expressions after seeing this scene. Perhaps a few of them had the same idea as him and wanted to follow the dark cultivator into the other world. However, it looked like this train of thought didn't lead to a destination.

The tiny person disappeared into the vast expanse after walking along the bridge. After some time, this energy bridge disappeared as well.

"Just what is it over there?" Someone murmured.

In fact, all were curious and wanted to know about the other side. Many stood there and gazed at it for a very long time. It was still nothing but void, no different from before.

Eventually, the crowd slowly dispersed because they understood no answer would come out of this.

"Is he at the other world now?" Chen Baojiao spoke with concern for the dark cultivator.

"Who knows, this is a trip with no answer." Li Qiye sighed: "Because after entering the platform, there is no turning back. No one has heard of a dark cultivator being able to return either."

Chen Baojiao became absent-minded and murmured: "Leaving to never be heard from again."

Going to the platform was similar to going missing. This was a journey with no return. No one knew if it was a successful trip or not. The people on this side would never find out.

"Dark cultivators already have eternal life, why must they go to that other world?" Li Shuangyan was skeptical: "They should know that it is a road of no return."

"They know full well about the journey they are embarking on." Li Qiye glanced at the vast expanse: "As they have said before, this is their will and their fate! No matter how much time it takes, one day, they will step onto this path. This is something all dark cultivators will have to face."

"The dark cultivators' Evil Slaying Platform and the imperial soldiers' Expedition Path." Mei Suyao joined in: "These are unanswered mysteries across the ages. No one knows what lies beyond these paths."

"Outside of dark cultivators, can others not go to the other side? Have Immortal Emperors tried it?" Li Shuangyan curiously asked.

Mei Suyao slightly opened her mouth, wanting to answer, but she stopped herself since she didn't know how to put it.

Li Qiye glanced at her and said: "It's fine to say it. After becoming an emperor, Immortal Emperor Nu Zhan tried it. He started from the platform and tried to forcefully reach the other side through the expanse." [1. Nu Zhan = Furious War.]

"Immortal Emperor Nu Zhan." The girls were shocked to hear this. All of them looked at Mei Suyao while Chen Baojiao exclaimed: "Legend states that he had a grand completion Furious Immortal Tyrannical Physique!"



An Immortal Emperor was already invincible enough, but one with a grand completion Immortal Physique was even more incredible. Immortal Emperor Nu Zhan was the second emperor of the Eternal River School. He was even more powerful and frightening compared to their progenitor, Immortal Emperor Xiu Shui.

“That’s right.” Mei Suyao gently sighed and admitted: “My sect has records of this. After becoming an emperor, he had tried this before.”

“What was the result?” The quiet Bai Jianzhen was drawn in as well: “Is there really another world?”

“I don’t know the exact details, though there are several different theories. The records themselves aren’t very clear. As juniors, we have no way of verifying what happened.” Mei Suyao spoke softly.

“An Immortal Emperor failing is not really a shameful thing. It is just that the Eternal River elders don’t want to talk about it. Otherwise, people will be disappointed thinking that an Immortal Emperor is not unstoppable. A layer of shadows was cast over their might from this event.” Li Qiye said dismissively.

“Immortal Emperor Nu Zhan failed as well?” The girls were horrified by this. In everyone’s opinion, Immortal Emperors were unstoppable! Not to mention one with a grand completion Immortal Physique!

“That’s a possibility.” Mei Suyao spoke unwillingly: “After Forefather Nu Zhan came back, he never brought up this matter with anyone. However, the elders from the sect speculated from his words that he couldn’t do it, so they didn’t wish to talk about it either.”

The others could understand why the Eternal River School was hesitant about this matter. An Immortal Emperor should be a symbol of invincibility. If even they failed, it would besmirch their lifelong prestige.

### **Chapter 1086: Imperial Border**

While the girls were surprised, Bai Jianzhen was in such awe that she blurted: “Immortal Emperor Nu Zhan, he had a grand completion Immortal Physique too...”

The nine worlds had a particular belief. When a grand completion Immortal Physique user was at their peak, they could assail Immortal Emperors. Immortal Emperor Nu Zhan was not only at the top already, he ended up becoming an emperor as well!

Just think about it, his power must have been unfathomable.

“Are there existences in this world that are even more powerful than Immortal Emperors?” Li Shuangyan murmured in a daze.

Li Qiye slightly shook his head and answered: “In the nine worlds, there might not be something stronger than an Immortal Emperor. In a one-on-one fight, Immortal Emperors have always been invincible. The fact that Immortal Emperor Nu Zhan couldn’t get to the other side doesn’t necessarily mean that he wasn’t strong enough.”

“Then for what reason did he fail?” Chen Baojiao quickly asked. Anyone would be curious about a secret like this.

Even Mei Suyao looked over at Li Qiye. Even though she was the main successor of the Eternal River School, not even its ancestors knew this matter very well, let alone its disciples. Immortal Emperor Nu

Zhan rarely talked about this matter. At best, he only left behind a few words. The majority was speculation by future generations.

Mei Suyao realized that Li Qiye knew a lot more, even things that weren't privy to her ancestors.

Li Shuangyan looked at her Young Noble and couldn't help but ask: "What is the reason for the emperor's failure in crossing to the other side?"

In her mind, there was nothing that her Young Noble didn't know or couldn't do. If he didn't know, then others definitely wouldn't know.

"Because there were too many uncertainties on the other side." Li Qiye didn't want to talk about this matter. Back then, Immortal Emperor Nu Zhan had specifically asked him about this, but he wasn't willing to disclose its secrets unless he was capable of solving this mystery.

"Okay, let's go to the Imperial Border. I'll take you guys to have a look at a certain place, it will definitely defy your common sense." Li Qiye smiled.

Having heard this, the girls became happy and even excited. They came with their Young Noble for the experience and to broaden their horizons.

Even the otherworldly Mei Suyao felt quite happy. She didn't come with Li Qiye for treasures or merit laws. She wanted to see a world unreachable and unviewable by others.

Li Qiye and the girls began to head for the Imperial Border at an extremely fast speed.

The Imperial Border was the other half of the Lesser Imperial Devil World. The Imperial Border and the Devil World each took half of the entire land.

No one knew why this lesser world was divided into two regions like this. What was even stranger was that imperial soldiers and dark cultivators existed together in this place, but they never mingled.

A boundary separated the two worlds. Even when the two different existences were right beside each other on opposite sides of the boundary, that small distance was the same as that between heaven and earth.

The Imperial Border gave a completely different feeling than the Devil World. The Devil World was indeed majestic with great sceneries, but it was engulfed in dark energy. This, in turn, resulted in an oppressive atmosphere.

The Imperial Border was different. Anyone who stepped inside would instantly feel a sense of heroism and ambition.

Regardless of whether one was a big shot or a minor character, once inside the Imperial Border, they would instantly feel a free and unrestrained momentum permeating this vast world.

"Imperial momentum..." Mei Suyao couldn't help but murmur after sensing this atmosphere and feeling an ambition rising in her heart.

The imperial momentum was the foundation of the Imperial Border. It was the same as the evil energy in the Devil World and the Buddhist affinity in the plateau.

Because of this atmosphere or perhaps the border itself, everyone would think that this scenic area was magnificent. Each peak and river gave off a royal and righteous aura.

The Devil World had dark cultivators and the Imperial Border had imperial “weapons”. “Weapon” here was not referring to an Immortal Emperor Life Treasure or something of that sort but rather the troops of the border! [1. This sentence won’t make as much sense in English. The word 兵 has the following definitions: soldiers; a force; an army; weapons; arms; military; warlike. In ED, it is often translated to weapons, which is why this paragraph is necessary. I knew they were soldiers from the start due to the context.]

Both dark cultivators and imperial soldiers had a few similarities. The first was that soldiers didn’t have blood energy and had eternal life as well. The second was that they didn’t care for outsiders either.

However, dark cultivators were easier to provoke because at the Imperial Border, messing with one imperial soldier was the same as messing with an entire nation. Any powerful cultivator would still be trampled to bits under a great army.

“Kill!” The screams of war resounded on a plain. Two armies launched a great offensive on each other. In the blink of an eye, the armies collided and an earth-shattering battle ensued.

This was a war between two empires of the border, causing the world to tremble.

In the face of such a battle, powerful cultivators didn’t dare to come close. The powerful imperial momentum and fierce bloodthirst made them turn pale.

The majority of imperial soldiers wore armor. They didn’t have blood energy but rather a powerful imperial momentum instead. Even a little footman would have quite a powerful momentum.

As for the generals, they were much more extraordinary. Their momentum was as powerful as a god’s.

“Rumble!” The two armies raged on in this ruthless battle. However, imperial soldiers couldn’t die. A very strange scene appeared. After imperial soldiers defeated their enemies, they would instantly absorb their imperial momentum. At that point, the losing victim’s momentum would reach an all-time low.

After doing so, the victors would let go and instantly attack someone else while shouting: “Kill!”

The losing side eventually retreated. They didn’t abandon their comrades who had had their imperial momentum sucked dry and instead carried them along to flee.

The victorious side didn’t give chase. They headed for a different location with a mine.

After seeing this, many people learned quite a few things. A battle of imperial soldiers was completely different from that of cultivators. Moreover, it looked like imperial soldiers were quite united!

In fact, the wars between empires here were all like this. They happened quite often as competitions for the mines.

Chen Baojiao saw the losing side retreat and asked: “Do imperial soldiers want to absorb their enemies’ momentum to become stronger?”

“That’s one of the methods. Outside of absorbing momentum, the other is excavating the mines.” Li Qiye explained: “Regal Gold is a very magical type of gold in these mines. Outside of increasing their momentum, it has other important uses as well.”

“Such as?” Li Shuangyan asked further.

Li Qiye watched the victorious side rush into the mine and didn’t answer. Mei Suyao had to answer instead: “For the Expedition Path. If the soldiers want to go there, they have to use Regal Gold. Something that is different about dark cultivators and imperial soldiers is that dark cultivators are solitary beings. For example, when boarding the platform, they will not form teams. This is not the case for imperial soldiers. If they want to embark on the Expedition Path, their entire empire would do so. All of the soldiers would follow their imperial monarch, so they require a huge amount of Regal Gold.”

At this point, the victorious side had entered the mine shaft. This mine could be described as spectacular. From the ground to the area where the veins were located, a mighty imperial momentum could be found surging to the sky like a spring. The unsuspecting would think that it was spewing out pure gold.

“Can we dig up Regal Gold as well?” Chen Baojiao asked curiously.

“Just watch and find out.” Li Qiye smilingly responded.

At this time, a cultivator had watched the whole event play out for the first time in their life. He noticed that the entire army was inside and that there was no one guarding the entrance, so he snuck in, wishing to excavate some Regal Gold as well.

He jumped to a vein inside the mine. What came next was a burst of screams. Everyone saw this cultivator being pushed out into the sky by the gushing momentum. He was instantly torn into pieces and created a bloody downpour.

After seeing this, the other cultivators who also wanted to get closer to the mine lost their courage and quickly retreated far away.

“Let’s go. Even though Regal Gold is essential to imperial soldiers, no one has found any uses of this material for cultivators, at least for now.” Li Qiye smiled and turned away.

The girls followed him as they continued on. They saw a huge citadel along the way. It was no lesser than a great city back in the Mortal Emperor World.

### **Chapter 1087: Lost Era**

The grand imperial momentum from the citadel gave an incomparable feeling of stateliness, the home of an emperor.

The citadel was closed and no one could enter. There were no signs of patrolling soldiers on the city walls either. The entire citadel was quiet, giving off the feeling that it was a city of the dead.

“Each kingdom will have a citadel, the gathering place of all their imperial soldiers.” Li Qiye glanced at the huge citadel from the distance and explained: “When imperial soldiers aren’t excavating or deployed, they will basically all be asleep.”

“Can an outsider enter such a citadel?” Li Shuangyan asked.

Li Qiye gently shook his head: “In theory, outsiders can’t enter, but of course there are always exceptions. And there is only one method of entry — a direct assault.”

“Fighting against the entire kingdom!” Li Shuangyan understood the implications of fighting against an entire kingdom by attacking their city.

“It seems like the Space Trample Mountain is strong enough. Jikong Wudi actually barged into a royal palace and took a cauldron from there.” Chen Baojiao mentioned an exciting event that recently happened.

“They only dared to pick a minor kingdom. They wouldn’t dare to do so against a real empire with just Venerable Ninesword. It is simply impossible.” Li Qiye gently shook his head.

“How many kingdoms are there in the Imperial Border?” Li Shuangyan asked.

Li Qiye stared towards the horizon and replied: “Quite a few lesser kingdoms. However, in the older ages, there were more imperial soldiers than dark cultivators, even more than the monks at the plateau.”

He paused for a moment: “After millions of years, many kingdoms have embarked on the Expedition Path. Even though there are still many lesser kingdoms, there are not more than three or four empires left.”

With that, Li Qiye didn’t say anything else and continued forward. The girls followed him to a new location, an ordinary looking valley.

He took out the map drawn by Blazing Devil and did some calculations before confirming: “This is the place.”

Mei Suyao asked: “Isn’t Blazing Devil a dark cultivator? Why was he born at the Imperial Border?”

Li Qiye responded: “I am not looking for the location of his birth but a vein similar to that place.”

With that, he smiled at the girls and said: “Ladies, is everyone ready? What you will face is an unbelievable world, a lost civilization.”

“A lost civilization!” Mei Suyao was shocked after hearing this since she knew more than the others. When Li Qiye said the words “lost civilization”, she vaguely thought about a few things because she had read records of an extremely ancient era before.

Li Qiye took out the Insect Pipe and inserted it on top of a special location. With his motion, the countless little pieces on the pipe began to rotate.

“Let’s move a little further away.” He pulled the group back to a certain distance before stopping.

“Buzz!” The unbelievable happened. Earlier, the pipe was only a tiny item, but its little parts were continuously changing and building upon itself with extreme speed.

After a short amount of time, the countless intricate parts erected a fortress in the sky. From the placing of the pipe to the creation of the city, this was truly a shocking and mysterious spectacle.

This fortress was supported by the tiny pipe on the ground so it seemed like a flying fortress.

“We need to go now or we’ll miss the chance.” Li Qiye took out the Mechanical World Vessel from Vedas Vajra. With its activation came a rumbling.

This small item also assembled itself into a huge ship with many different metals coming together in a very strange manner.

The group entered this vessel and, under Li Qiye’s control, it instantly flew into the fortress in the sky. There was a field hovering on top of the fortress where Li Qiye parked the vessel.

“Hum—” In the blink of an eye, the fortress instantly became tiny again and took the bronze vessel with it. It turned back into a small pipe and drilled deep into the ground.

At this moment, Li Qiye flew the vessel along. They were traveling inside an incredible world.

Here were countless huge parts with spinning gears and gigantic pendulum clocks swinging back and forth.

They had entered a metallic world as if they were inside a machine with countless gears, gossamers, and moving iron teeth. The girls were instantly stunned. Despite their knowledge, all of them were still astounded. They didn’t know what world they were entering.

After a while, Li Qiye finally flew the vessel out of this area towards a blue sky.

The ship eventually landed on the ground. Li Qiye jumped out first and took a deep breath: “It really is here.”

The girls disembarked one after another. They were still quite shaken since this was an entirely new experience. A bit later, they calmed down and looked up at the blue sky. Strangely, it was different from the sky of the nine worlds.

Upon a glance from afar, one would see the moon hanging in the sky. However, this moon was split in half. The sun was there as well, but something had penetrated it, leaving a huge hole in the middle.

The girls withdrew their gazes and noticed that they were standing in a desert. They had been through deserts before, but they felt that this desert was somehow different. There was a scorching feeling as if this place used to be a rich and verdant land, but later on, a terrifying power had incinerated it, leaving behind a desert.

“Just what is this place?” The quiet Bai Jianzhen stated her bewilderment.

Li Qiye flatly replied: “An ancient lost civilization with no records in the modern age.” His eyes swept through a faraway place and became quite profound.

“Before the Legendary Era.” Mei Suyao murmured. This was an era that existed only in myths without any real records.

“This is unbelievable, the legend is real.” Mei Suyao was shaken. She was now standing on the ground of an actual lost civilization.

“Perhaps even older.” Li Qiye softly spoke: “Who knows how many eras have flowed by in the river of time? Legendary Era, Desolate Era, Desolate Expansion Era, Ancient Ming Era, Emperors Era...”

“Right.” Mei Suyao added: “Some ancient people speculated that there are eras much older than the Legendary Era.”

The other girls were surprised too. In the present times, the oldest traceable era was the Desolate Era. Moreover, there weren’t that many records of it. The Legendary Era only existed in speculations.

If there were even more eras before the Legendary Era, then it would be quite unimaginable.

“There are too many things purposely hidden from the world across the long eons.” Li Qiye lightly commented: “If we were to divide the river of time, then in fact, from the Desolate Era till now can only be counted as one era.”

“Why?” Bai Jianzhen was quite inquisitive at this moment.

“Development.” Li Qiye looked at her and answered: “Why did the Legendary Era disappear? Why were cultivators during the Desolate Era so weak? From the barren Desolate Era to the rising Desolate Expansion Era to the prosperous Emperors Era, this is a process of development!”

“What happens after development?” Mei Suyao’s heart skipped a beat. She knew a little about this, especially after Li Qiye let her see some of his past.

“War!” Li Qiye’s expression sank. He didn’t say anything else and continued forward with the girls.

“This is...” They didn’t get too far before Chen Baojiao felt that she stepped on something. She dug it up but she found that this item buried in the sand was much bigger than expected. The other girls came to help her.

After a while, Mei Suyao finally excavated the item underground. It was a huge iron man that looked just like a god of war.

Li Shuangyan and Chen Baojiao both exclaimed after seeing this iron man: “The Mortal Monarch!”

### **Chapter 1088: Metal Corpses**

The girls dug out this corpse. To be exact, it was a corpse made out of metal. It was very similar to the Mortal Monarch who had an iron-cast body. Each part of the body was made from exquisite parts arranged in a truly breathtaking manner.

However, there was one difference between this metal corpse and the monarch. The monarch had a human head with flesh and blood while the head of this corpse was made from metal. Its skull was even more meticulous and awe-inspiring. It was simply the epitome of craftsmanship.

No cultivators could create such an exquisite skull. Furthermore, this corpse was much bigger than the Mortal Monarch. If the monarch was a growing boy, then this corpse was a mature adult.

The girls glanced at each other after fully digging out this metal corpse. They had seen the monarch before and felt that his body was incredible. Some thought that he was the only one in this world with

such a unique constitution. However, they managed to find a body so incredibly similar to his in this lost civilization.

“There are more down there.” Bai Jianzhen noticed that there were even more corpses underground and got started right away.

They were experts who could move mountains and flip oceans. In the blink of an eye, these metal corpses were all excavated. There were dozens of them, not just one.

The girls were perplexed and ended up staring at Li Qiye. During this whole process, Li Qiye only stood there and watched without being surprised at all; it was as if everything was within his expectations.

Li Shuangyan had to ask while looking at the corpses: “Is the Mortal Monarch related to this lost civilization?”

Li Qiye looked at the corpses. After a while, he looked away while answering: “Maybe, but one can argue otherwise as well.”

“What do you mean by that?” The knowledgeable Mei Suyao found the answer too cryptic.

Li Qiye glanced into the far distance and said: “In a sense, the Mortal Monarch was born in this era. However, he also has nothing to do with this era.”

“He has lived from this lost civilization all the way until now?” This was the most shocking thing the girls had heard yet.

Li Qiye gently shook his head and smiled: “It is impossible to live for that long with regular means. At a young age, the Mortal Monarch was imprisoned in the darkness and banished for an eternity. Even so, when he saw the sunlight again, he was on the brink of death.”

Li Qiye left out the tales afterward. When he found the Mortal Monarch back then, the monarch was already halfway to hell. Li Qiye used extremely heaven-defying means to save him. Because of this, the monarch had a humanoid head.

“Just what is this lost civilization?” Mei Suyao was very curious about this mythical era.

Li Qiye said: “Who knows? The Mortal Monarch doesn’t either because he doesn’t have any memories of it.”

Mei Suyao was about to say something else, but she refrained from doing so. She knew that even if the Mortal Monarch didn’t know, Li Qiye certainly did.

“Okay, ladies, we have to keep going. We probably still have a long way to go.” He smiled at the group.

They continued on the road. It seemed like Li Qiye knew where he was going since he was only going straight. From the beginning, the girls thought that this place was only a desert, but they soon found out that this wasn’t the case.

Not long after, they saw a huge citadel in this vast desert world, a citadel made out of metal.



Judging by its appearance, it was very similar to the fortress that the Insect Pipe transformed into. Who knows what kind of metals made up this great citadel. In terms of construction, it resembled an iron man, as it was made from countless tiny pieces.

From an architectural perspective, this incredible citadel should be towering all the way into the sky. However, it was collapsed on top of the golden sand. Looking around, one would find broken parts scattered everywhere.

Chen Baojiao carefully looked at it and murmured: "It was burned down."

From the crumbling ruins, this citadel must have been incinerated by an extremely ferocious fire of an unimaginable scale.

"Not just ordinary flames, it must at least be of the heavenly flame level." Mei Suyao noticed some clues.

Li Qiye only gave it a glance and didn't say anything. He led the girls onward.

The even more astonishing matter came after as they went further into this land. They saw an iron man, an extremely gigantic one of an unbelievable height. He was as big as a mountain with billions of exquisite parts placed together.

Also, there wasn't just one gigantic iron man, there were several hundred! This scene gave the feeling that one was entering a forest of metal, resulting in an indescribable sensation.

The majority of these iron men were destroyed. Some were split into two, others had their chests penetrated. Some were torn into little pieces, but of course, there were still some completely intact...

Regardless of their form, none of them were alive. They did not fall down on the ground due to supporting their bodies with mighty divine swords.

Without a doubt, they had experienced a terrible war while they were still alive. There was even a chance that this once-prosperous land was broken into little pieces and became submerged in sand later on.

"Just what exactly are these iron men?" Chen Baojiao spoke in awe.

"They fought to the very last moment! I'm afraid when they fell, their world was destroyed as well." Bai Jianzhen was visually moved as well.

From the situation ahead, one could imagine the horrifying calamity that fell upon their era. Every single existence in this world stood up and fought to the very end. Alas, their valiant efforts still couldn't save their world.

Li Qiye looked at one of the giants and slowly stated: "They're extremely powerful. In the present day, they would still be at the level of God-Monarchs or Godkings."

The group kept on going. Along the way, the girls saw even more ruins of citadels buried in the sand as well as fallen metal giants. Many of them were completely broken.

The biggest iron man they saw was half buried underground. The parts that could be seen spanned for thousands of miles. From this, it was easy to imagine just how large it was when it was still alive.

“If placed in the present, it would be extremely close to an Immortal Emperor, if not already at that level. An Emperor Assailant at the very least.” Li Qiye gave a quick glance and made his assessment.

After hearing this, the girls were shocked once again. Li Shuangyan was astounded: “Just what kind of era was this!”

“An era that reached the peak of prosperity from the accumulation of millions and millions of years. There were too many experts to count.” Li Qiye said dismissively: “An era completely different from ours. The path they walked is completely different from us cultivators.”

“In the end, they were still destroyed.” Mei Suyao muttered: “What are they really? Just what kind of enemies did they face for an entire world to be destroyed like this?”

“Did they meet a formidable enemy like an Immortal Emperor?” Bai Jianzhen had to ask.

“Immortal Emperor?” Li Qiye chuckled and shook his head: “If my guess is correct, their world had existences as powerful as Immortal Emperors, and not just one. However, even beings of this level couldn’t save this world.”

The girls felt breathless after hearing Li Qiye. Even a confident person like Mei Suyao felt quite suffocated.

In their minds, Immortal Emperors were invincible. This was the belief that everyone held. But now, even a world protected by Immortal Emperors was still annihilated in the end!

“Aren’t emperors supposed to be the strongest?” It was Chen Baojiao’s turn to ask: “There are existences even stronger than them?”

“There is no doubt that Immortal Emperors are the strongest.” Li Qiye flatly said: “However, this is limited to the world of the living, the world of sentient beings.”

“Then you mean there is a world of the dead?” Li Shuangyan followed the logic of his response.

“World of the dead?” Li Qiye shook his head: “I don’t know if there is a world of the dead or not. Sometimes, the things Immortal Emperors have to face aren’t necessarily people. To be more specific, they might not be living beings and could be something else entirely.”

“Like what?” Bai Jianzhen couldn’t help but ask: “Like the existence that destroyed this world?”

Li Qiye didn’t answer directly. He looked up at the distant sky and eventually spoke: “One day, you all will understand. Of course, this is predicated on you all being strong enough to see that day.” Li Qiye turned back and stared at the girls: “Thus, you all still have a long way to go. When you actually become an existence like an Immortal Emperor in the future... that is only the beginning.”

The girls felt a pressure right away from realizing how weak they were. Even though very few could stop them among the younger generation, they felt that they were quite trivial in the grand scheme of things.

## **Chapter 1089: Tiny Old Man**

The excursion continued. Outside of ruins and metallic corpses, the rest was all yellow sand.

There were no rocky elevations in this world, let alone a scene of verdant hills and green water. Not to mention finding life in such a world, there were no traces of little blades of grass!

It was only silence and nothingness. The only thing that acted as a reminder of their existence was the occasional breeze slowly blowing by accompanied with hot sand. If it wasn't for this, they would be wondering if they were dead already.

This world was oppressive to a suffocating level. The girls had experienced harsh training before; they had been to even more dangerous locations than this.

For cultivators, crossing a desert was truly too ordinary. But today, they felt quite oppressed. Despite their firm dao hearts, walking through this world of golden sand left them in a weakened state.

In the past, no matter how dangerous their training locations were, there was hope that after leaving, they would come to see the wonderful nine worlds.

However, walking in this golden world gave them the feeling that there was no end, only more ruins and sand! The initial shock from seeing fallen iron men and ruins was gone after they continued onward since they had grown numb to it.

They traveled quite far and eventually reached a place where there were only shattered ruins in sight.

This particular citadel was the largest that they had seen so far. It spanned boundlessly, as far as the eye could see. The sunlight always hit either the scattered parts on the ground or the collapsed walls due to their proliferation.

This metal citadel's sheer size exceeded everyone's imaginations. Perhaps even the largest city they had been to was not as big as this citadel.

Li Qiye glanced over this site with no end and murmured: "It should be this place."

Li Shuangyan asked: "Did we come here to look for something?"

He slowly answered with a focused look: "We are searching for an item in the legends, something that has never been seen before."

With that, he entered the ruins to search with the girls right behind him.

In fact, Li Qiye didn't really know what he was looking for because the records about this era had sunken into the river of time. He spent countless moons and flipped over all the ancient sites in the nine heavens to finally understand a little bit about this world.

Traveling in this ruins gave the feeling of walking in a world of metal. Outside of the sand, there were little metallic parts everywhere.

After walking for a long time, they finally came to a place that slightly resembled a palace. Despite its broken state, one could still see how sacred and extravagant it used to be.

“It’s just ahead.” Li Qiye’s heart skipped a beat after seeing a high platform in front of him. This was exactly the same as what the ancient carving he had seen long ago depicted. He rushed forward with haste while the girls kept up.

After rushing up the platform, the first thing he saw was three green leaves.

Having been in this world for so long, this was their first time seeing the greenness of vegetation. This made them feel jubilated, as if they had come across an oasis in the dry desert. It was something that couldn’t be described with words.

The three leaves were growing on top of a withered tree. This tree was supposed to be quite large, but it was destroyed by something and only a three-foot-tall body remained. It was not overly thick and its cracked bark looked just like dragon scales. It was an extraordinary sight to behold.

However, such an incredible ancient tree was on the verge of death. The broken tree had withered. Even the three leaves hanging on its body were quite languished, as if they could fade away from existence at any moment.

What was even more shocking to the girls was that there was a person lying under the old tree. It was a tiny old man with a body only around the size of an adolescent boy.

His arms were quite long and seemed out of place compared to the rest of his body. His head was large as well, making people question whether his body could support it. His eyes were big even though they were closed.

His body had dried up with only his skin covering his bones. One couldn’t see any signs of life coming from this old man. Who knows how long he had been dead for?

Li Shuangyan and the others were surprised to see this kind of corpse and exchanged glances with each other.

They wouldn’t pay any mind if they saw this corpse in the outside world because it would be a very common occurrence — nothing shocking at all.

However, in a destroyed world of metal beings, it was astonishing to see a corpse so similar to a human.

Li Qiye pointed his finger at the old man’s forehead. A very small universal law traveled inside.

At this second, the old man suddenly opened his big eyes in a feeble manner. Even though it was only a small squint, one still felt that powerful glare within. Such a scene startled the girls.

“Someone has finally come.” The tiny old man spoke, but he was not speaking with his mouth. He was using his divine intent; this was a method of communication everyone could understand.

The dying old man didn’t even have the strength to breathe. His eyes glanced over Li Qiye real fast as his divine intent spoke feebly: “I was wrong, I was wrong... I was the one who destroyed the entire Machine World...”

With that, the old man almost couldn’t speak any further. He was definitely dead and only had one final breath. It was Li Qiye who prolonged this moment.

“Careful... careful... counterattack...” Eventually, the tiny man spent his last breath to say this. His eyes closed afterward as he parted from this world.

At this time, his right hand slowly loosened to reveal an item that he had been gripping the entire time. He finally revealed it for Li Qiye to see.

“Can we save him?” Mei Suyao asked. This old man definitely knew many things.

Li Qiye gently shook his head: “Even if there were immortals in this world, they still wouldn’t be able to save him. He only persisted until now to say that one phrase.”

“Right, and by completely relying on this tree as well.” His eyes fell on the tree that the old man was leaning on.

He shifted his eyes to the item in the old man’s hand and reached out to take it.

It was not big and seemed to be made from ancient bronze. It looked a bit like a pocket watch that was assembled with many exquisite pieces in an indescribable manner. No one in this world could create such an item.

“What is that?” Bai Jianzhen asked. The old man was gripping this item the entire time. This made its unfathomable value apparent.

Li Qiye carefully looked at it, but there was suddenly an impact in his fate palace.

“Buzz!” Li Qiye opened his palace and something flew out from inside. It was the Myriad Star Egg that had always been in his thirteenth palace. It immediately went for the item in his hand, seemingly wanting to take it from Li Qiye. [1. The egg/stone from the Heavenly Corpse Burial Ground.]

He immediately grabbed the egg and slowly said: “Want this treasure? Not so fast...”

The girls found this scene quite strange as well. They didn’t know the origin of the egg or why it wanted this item.

The egg was not happy with being held by Li Qiye. It shook quite violently as if it wanted to fly out from his suppression.

Li Qiye slowly said: “Don’t play with me, my temper is much worse than yours. I’m allowing you to be arrogant in my fate palace because you have some value to me. However, if you anger me, I’ll cook you!”

Eventually, the stone egg began to calm down. An existence like it knew that Li Qiye’s words were more than just a threat!

He glanced at the egg. Until now, the egg didn’t want anything, but it seemed to have a great desire for this item.

Li Qiye looked back at the treasure in his hand and asked: “You want this thing?” He had a general knowledge of this item. Otherwise, he wouldn’t have spent so much time in the Machine World.

The stone egg quaked once to convey its intent clearly.

## Chapter 1090: Pinnacle Lifewater

Li Qiye looked at the treasure in his palm then back at the Myriad Star Egg: "It's not like I can't give this to you."

Li Qiye had obtained many treasures without getting a single reaction from this egg. However, it had a particularly strong response to this item. This meant that this item had an extraordinary importance to the egg.

"However, there is no free lunch in this world." Li Qiye smiled: "I know the value of this item so I can't just give it out for no reason."

After hearing this, the girls were quite astonished. Li Qiye would give imperial weapons to them as if they were mere cabbages. However, he held this item in such great esteem, signifying its great worth.

He continued on while looking at the egg: "If I give this treasure to you, you would first have to give me a good item of the same value in return. Second, I will be the boss from now on, everything will be up to me."

The egg didn't respond for a while. Eventually, it quaked to show that it agreed to Li Qiye's proposal.

"Fine, for you then." Li Qiye let go of the treasure.

The item floated up and instantly rushed for the egg. After hearing a poof, contrary to everyone's expectations, there was no impact. The item looked as if it had fallen into water as it entered the egg.

At this time, the egg's shell seemed to ripple with something oozing out. Li Qiye turned serious and used his unrivaled speed to take out a treasure bottle.

A crystal clear liquid of an indescribable color dripped down from the egg. It held the blue of the sky as well as the yellow tint of gold along with the gorgeous shades of the mortal realm... This was a dreamy color that no one could accurately describe.

The girls also smelled a faint watery fragrance and had an incomparable reaction to it. The smell was so faint that it was almost undetectable. However, once it made its presence known, a pure lotus flower blossomed around Li Shuangyan's body. The petals of the flower slowly fanned out as she was drowned in a holy light. This light resembled flowing water washing every fiber of her being.

Chen Baojiao was greatly affected as well. An immortal spring full of life gushed out. This was the magical property of the Tyrannical Immortal Spring Physique. She was immersed in an ocean of life as her body was brimming with life force, making her unspeakably relaxed.

As for Bai Jianzhen, a sword hymn echoed across the nine heavens. One sword ray soared into the sky after another. Next, these heavenly swords emerged around her body. The entirety of the sword dao in this world was beneath her feet.

Mei Suyao had a tranquil feeling as immortal flowers descended from the sky. A transcendent portal opened above and illuminated her body. This made her even more otherworldly and refined. At this second, she gave off a feeling of ascension.

These strange phenomena left the girls shocked. They didn't channel any merit laws, yet these visions were emerging all the same.

Just smelling the fragrance of the immortal water bestowed them such great benefits. If they were to drink it, wouldn't this mean they could ascend and immediately become immortals?!

The Myriad Star Egg gave Li Qiye a fair amount of immortal water before flying back into his fate palace.

"What kind of water is this?" Chen Baojiao emotionally asked after Li Qiye put away the water.

Li Qiye answered slowly: "Pinnacle Lifewater..."

After hearing this, Mei Suyao loudly exclaimed in disbelief: "Pinnacle Lifewater! Don't people say that it doesn't exist?!"

The others didn't know about this water, but Mei Suyao did. However, she had only heard about it in legends and had never seen it before.

"It didn't exist before, but it does now." He slightly chuckled.

"What is this Pinnacle Lifewater?" Chen Baojiao asked with interest.

Mei Suyao explained: "An item of legends. The world has never heard of someone who has seen it, at least not in writings. Even though there have been rumors about its appearance or people who claimed to have obtained some, the rumors were fake or the water wasn't the real deal."

She paused for a bit before continuing: "It is said that Pinnacle Lifewater is a transformation of Myriad Star Water. One particular record states that one thousand drops of Myriad Star Water can turn into one drop of Pinnacle Lifewater. However, no one really knows the transformation process. Rumor has it that some Immortal Emperors tried to research it to no avail. Thus, Pinnacle Lifewater is the finest type of Myriad Star Water, it is truly supreme with no equals."

Li Qiye nodded approvingly: "You are correct about that, it is indeed the finest type of Myriad Star Water. One would be hardpressed to find a more precious immortal water. Even real immortal water would have a hard time comparing to it. Outside of stealing the creation of this universe, this transformation also requires the power of time!"

Back then, the Myriad Star Egg sucked out all the Myriad Star Water, resulting in a huge reservoir within its body. Because of this, it was able to perform this conversion.

"This is actually a good thing. It is fortunate that the egg gave me Pinnacle Lifewater. Otherwise, things would be quite troublesome." Li Qiye added.

"Troublesome? What kind of trouble?" Bai Jianzhen was surprised. It seemed that there was nothing in this world that could make things difficult for him.

"This old root." Li Qiye slightly lifted his chin and looked at the tree that the tiny old man was leaning on.

This diverted all the girls' attention to the broken tree. The truth was that prior to this, they didn't really see what was magical about this old tree.

It was a broken tree with nothing special about it. Moreover, it was on the verge of dying with only three leaves left. No matter how one looked at it, it was not worthy of attention.

“What kind of tree is this?” After a careful observation, Mei Suyao failed to see through it despite hailing from a lineage with three emperors.

Li Qiye spoke while looking at the tree: “Myriad Age Tree, an existence of legends.”

“Myriad Age Tree... that, that isn’t possible!” After hearing this name, Mei Suyao, who had been through countless storms, shouted out loud. She was even more shaken than when she heard about the Pinnacle Lifewater.

Li Qiye continued on: “He was seriously injured with only one breath remaining, so why was it possible for him to live on? It’s because the Myriad Age Tree was supporting him so that his last breath wouldn’t come until today. Unfortunately, this tree was grievously hurt back then as well and is now on the verge of death.”

The dazed Mei Suyao calmed down and murmured: “If there is something in this world that is capable of allowing him to live on for millions of years in that state, then the Myriad Age Tree would indeed be the only existence.”

“What is it?” Chen Baojiao asked.

Mei Suyao let out a wry smile and replied: “It is also a thing of legend, just like the Pinnacle Lifewater. You can also call it the Longevity Tree, the only item in this world comparable to the Longevity Grass. Nothing in this world can live longer than these two existences.”

“Longevity Grass... one of the legendary Nine Grand Heavenly Treasures!” Li Shuangyan almost jumped from astonishment.

She had heard Li Qiye talk about the Longevity Grass before.

“Yes, that’s it.” Mei Suyao went on: “In the legends, the Longevity Grass can grant eternal life. The same goes for the Myriad Age Tree.”

“There is a big gap.” Li Qiye slightly shook his head: “If you can obtain the Longevity Grass and understand its true mysticisms, then there won’t be certain restraints like other types of immortality. By understanding its true secret of eternal life, its user will have real immortality! No matter what happens, they will not die unless they lose the grass.”

The girls took deep breaths after hearing this. Eternal life was the pursuit of everyone, including Immortal Emperors. However, no one had ever truly become immortal.

Mei Suyao asked: “Then what about the Myriad Age Tree?”

Li Qiye glanced at the broken tree and replied: “This tree can also grant immortality, but there is still a big gap between it and the Longevity Grass. With this tree, its user will still die from old age one day. Of course, that day is very far away. However, the Longevity Grass is different. Even if the heaven and earth are annihilated, its owner would still be able to live on.”



“Eternal life really exists in this world?” Bai Jianzhen asked since she wasn’t exposed to this question as often as the other girls.

“Who knows?” Li Qiye glanced towards the horizon and slowly uttered: “Everyone has a different definition of eternal life. For mortals, people like us who can live for several thousand years or even tens of thousands of years have eternal life. For cultivators like us, existences who can live from one generation to another are also everlasting...”

“... As for beings who have lived for a very long time, immortality is being able to live until the heaven and earth collapse. And finally, for people who can live until the heaven and earth collapse, the ones who are able to survive even while myriad ages are annihilated, that is eternal life. No one truly knows what eternal life is.” With that, Li Qiye let out a quiet sigh.