

Domination 1141

Chapter 1141: I Alone Am Invincible

Someone looked at South Emperor in the sky, then glanced over at Magu and finally stopped on Bu Lianxiang next to Li Qiye. He was shocked and murmured: "Could this be considered the strongest dao protection team?"

"No..." After a long time, the disciples from the Space Trample Mountain finally regained their sanity. At this time, Old Devil didn't need to do anything since the mountain was already on the verge of collapse.

The disciples fell butt-first onto the ground. The things that collapsed were their confidence and dignity. All was destroyed as the Immortal Emperor's corpse turned to ash.

For so many years, these disciples were proud of their background of hailing from Space Trample Mountain. Their patriarch, Immortal Emperor Ta Kong, was their glory and their spiritual totem. Because of the emperor, the mountain came into being.

But now, his corpse had turned into smoke. Everything had collapsed for them. Even if Old Devil didn't destroy the mountain, they were powerless, fish on the chopping block.

"Time to end it all." Li Qiye coldly glanced at the world. He stood calmly in the sky, but everyone was in fear and awe while looking at him.

From today on, anyone and any lineage would have to take the long way around him. Provocation was out of the question.

"First Brother is invincible!" Cleansing Incense's disciples also calmed down and cheered. They were quite happy; some even started crying.

Not long before, the sect was under siege and was hanging on by a thread. However, once Li Qiye was back, he blocked the torrential waves and saved the sect while killing his enemies. Both the mountain and ancient kingdom, these behemoths, were annihilated by their First Brother.

Even the older generation like Gu Tieshou was sighing nonstop. He recalled the days of decline and the painful times under the shadow of the Heavenly God Sect. For them, the Space Trample Mountain and Azure Mysterious Ancient Kingdom were monsters. If these lineages decided to invade them, there was nothing they could do to prevent being annihilated.

However, everything was changed today. All the patterns were flipped over since Li Qiye came back. These two lineages were now meaningless and insignificant. They were destroyed in just one day. Even the arrogant Soaring Immortal Sect was banished forever!

Strength? Invincibility? Both were on full display in their purest form!

The suspense and worries were gone after the battle concluded. Bai Jianzhen and Li Shuangyan's group led some disciples to attack the Heavenly God Sect. They defeated them completely, so Cleansing Incense was able to regain its lost territory overnight.

There had been other great powers who occupied the sect's land back then as well. Today, they obediently handed the land back and even gave up parts of their own territories to make amends.

Thus, Cleansing Incense was not only able to recapture their old territory, they also expanded quite a bit. No lineage dared to have any ideas about Cleansing Incense anymore. Many sects who had offended them quickly sent messengers to beg for forgiveness. Of course, they couldn't meet Li Qiye, only Gu Tieshou saw them.

It was a very hard day for these great powers. One by one, they came to humbly apologize. The ones with greater offenses kowtowed on the ground while offering tributes.

For those who were under the rule of the Azure Mysterious Ancient Kingdom and Heavenly God Sect, they were willing to do anything as long as Cleansing Incense forgave them.

Who would dare to oppose Cleansing Incense right now? The Space Trample Mountain and the ancient kingdom were the best examples. Imperial lineages were destroyed just like that. Even the soaring sect was banished.

The end of this war signaled a long silence. Many people found it difficult to recompose themselves due to the fear. Li Qiye's domineering attitude and Magu's invincibility deterred the entire Mortal Emperor World.

"In present times, even a more brilliant genius would only be a stepping stone for Li Qiye." Eventually, ancestors from imperial lineages called for their favorite genius disciples and told them to not come out anymore.

These ancestors understood that competing against Li Qiye for Heaven's Will would be in vain. Even the most excellent and wonderful talent would only become dry bones on Li Qiye's path towards Immortal Emperor.

The Cleansing Incense Ancient Sect was very quiet and peaceful right now as the excited disciples had calmed down. This serenity was granted by Magu's appearance.

She and Li Qiye were in a room alone. He sat in his chair while staring at this woman that was ordinary yet beautiful to the extreme and sighed emotionally.

"Teacher, I have really done it." She found it difficult to hide her happiness.

Li Qiye also smiled and said: "Grand completion Eternal Physique, ah. A miracle of the eons. Compared to you, what are Immortal Emperors and gods? An unyielding dao heart and supreme talents, both of these are nothing as well."

Magu sat next to him and happily stated: "This is to Teacher's credit. Without your guidance, I wouldn't have any of these accomplishments right now." At this time, she became like a little girl again with an unchanging heart.

"No." Li Qiye gently shook his head: "This is not my credit but yours alone. I simply embroidered more flowers on the brocade." [1. Icing on the cake; adding to something that is already perfect.]

With that, he stroked her silky hair.

"Teacher, you are the only one in this world who could pass down the supreme art to me. Only you didn't discriminate or look down on me." Magu spoke calmly.

The past was as insipid as flowing water to her. Even a more painful experience would be nothing to her now. She was no longer affected by them; her childlike innocence still remained and made her even happier.

Li Qiye felt a bit sad after hearing this. Magu's current achievements were quite dazzling. She could even view Immortal Emperors in disdain because she had done something that no one else had ever accomplished. The most amazing person was her.

But how many people knew that behind these accomplishments was boundless bitterness? This little girl back then was a rotten piece of wood that couldn't be carved, a slow-witted idiot in the eyes of others! Even her biological parents gave up on her. Ultimately, the only person who gave her a chance was the dark crow.

"This is all because you have worked hard and fought for it." He said: "Back then when I passed the Eternal Physique down to you, it was because your inquisitive eyes moved me. At that time, nothing was more precious than those eyes; they're like pearls buried in the sand."

"There is a lot of unfairness and suffering in this world." He lamented again: "But there is one thing that is the same for everyone, a keenness for knowledge."

"This is true for both the rich and poor." He explained: "A heart anxious to learn is natural. Chasing the unknown, craving comprehension — these are a person's indelible instincts."

"Nothing in this world can destroy the will to search for the unknown, an instinctive thirst for knowledge. As a person perseveres in this search, they will be able to change like a cocoon turning into a butterfly." He looked at Magu with a tinge of happiness and doting.

She gently rested on his lap while quietly listening. She was still the little girl back then who carefully took in each of his words.

"No matter how the years pass and how the world will change, one thing will always remain the same." Li Qiye stroked her hair: "You will always be my pride, the person I'm proudest of."

She smiled and replied: "Magu is very happy to hear Teacher say that." Her ordinary smile became the most beautiful and captivating.

Li Qiye smiled back; it was a smile of satisfaction and showed an unprecedented sense of accomplishment, one that was much greater than grooming an Immortal Emperor.

She lifted her head to look at him while speaking in all seriousness: "Teacher, I want to go to that place with you."

Li Qiye immediately fell into silence after hearing her request.

"I have heard Brother Wang Yuan talk about that place." She earnestly continued.

While looking at her strangely attractive face, he eventually answered her: "Magu, you should know that wherever I go shall be doomed to rivers of blood and mountains of bones."

Chapter 1142: Magu's Oath

“I know.” Magu was resting on his lap while looking up at Li Qiye to say: “I have heard a lot about Teacher’s stories, but I know that you have never been a bad guy.”

Li Qiye burst out in laughter after hearing this: “There is no single measurement to tell good and bad apart in this world. Good people will do bad things and bad people will also do good things at times.”

“Teacher is a good person, so even when you commit a bad deed, you will still be a good person.” She smiled faintly in relaxation. Her answer carried quite an implicit charm.

The mood between the two was quite good. Li Qiye gently smiled and stroked her hair: “Your heart is bright so the world is also bright, but my world cannot be judged on this basis. More often than not, I don’t know what is right and what is wrong or what is good and what is bad.”

Magu tightly held his hand with her jade-like fingers and gazed at him with her eyes that resembled limpid autumn waters: “Good or bad, I still hope to accompany Teacher to the end of this world. I have plenty of time and so do you, right?”

Li Qiye pondered over her words. This woman before him was no longer the little girl back then. She had grown up to become invincible, someone capable of weathering the storms and winds in the nine worlds.

After a long time, he sighed and replied: “My journey is not an adventure or a search for the unknown out of curiosity. The place that awaits me will be full of war and murder. One day, deities and emperors will besiege me from all directions.”

“This path from one edge of the world to another will be long and filled with opposing emperors and gods, and at the very end of the world, we will face a war with no turning back.” With that, he lifted her hand and solemnly continued: “It was not easy for you to reach the dao. You have survived for millions of years to reach this level, so you are my pride and joy. I hope that in the future, you will be able to go wherever you want and live a life full of pleasure and happiness.”

His expression turned sullen: “I don’t want to take you into an endless war; we are not of the same world. Your world should be one of peace and tranquility like the passing of time when cultivating the Eternal Physique by sleeping. The repose of the bright moonlight above with the gentle breeze keeping you warm throughout the night — this is your beautiful and quiet world, one that you deserve after giving everything you have.”

“But as for me, I am destined to travel far on a murderous path full of blood and darkness, a path upon which death constantly looms.” He sighed and showed a rare gentleness: “You are a miracle of the eons, the only treasure of your kind in this world. I don’t want you to experience perpetual war because of my selfishness.”

Magu’s determination was made apparent by her tight grip on his hand. She slowly spoke in a rhythmic and soft voice, yet each word was full of power: “I know that very well, but I won’t have any regrets.”

Li Qiye fell silent once more.

She was persistent: “When I was very young, everyone hated me and not a single person was willing to teach me how to read, but Teacher did not look down on me. You taught me how to read and showed me a new world that I would have never been able to reach otherwise...”

“... In the beginning, I only wanted to show people that I was not stupid, that I could learn how to read and study. It wasn't mere literacy that you showed me, it was a whole new world! You believed in me and had expectations! You were the only one. Even though I was slow, you never thought that I was a piece of rotten wood with no use...

“... You gave me the most precious immortal law and explained the most profound mysteries in this world. Because of this bright world that you opened me up to, I was able to grasp everything by having a pursuit and dream. All of this is because of you; you are the reason why I continue forward on this endless path...

“... Without you, I would be nothing, only known to others as a dumb girl. Without your persistence, I wouldn't have been able to persevere cultivating the endless path of the Eternal Physique. Since you didn't give up on me, I had no reason to give up on myself!” Tears suddenly wetted the corners of her eyes. An existence capable of assailing Immortal Emperor like her was quite rare, but she was leaning on Li Qiye like a little girl.

“Silly girl, don't cry.” Li Qiye gently wiped away her tears: “The grand dao is full of difficulties that we need to be ready to face.”

She smiled back with an ordinary yet beautiful smile. The teardrops in the corners of her eyes resembled the early morning dew on a flower — refined and pure.

She met his gaze and spoke with an incomparable firmness: “Life and death and bloodshed are nothing to me. Teacher gave me the world, so as long as I am by your side, I have the whole world within my reach. The peace and serenity you speak of can only exist because you are near!”

Li Qiye finally exhaled and said: “You are no longer the little girl back then. As an existence capable of assailing the nine heavens and ten earths and everything else in this world, you have the right to pick your own path, especially with the completion of your Eternal Physique. Think for yourself and pick the life that you desire. I can't be like before and continue to hope for you to cultivate by slumbering.”

“The decision is in your hands now. You have grown up to be invincible, you are an eagle capable of soaring to the nine heavens to strike the sky if you wish. It is up to you, follow your heart.” He pointed at his chest at this point.

She revealed a resplendent smile incapable of being described with the pen and ink before giving her answer: “Where you are is where I shall be.”

Li Qiye emotionally commented: “The path of the grand dao is endless. I hope we can go on forever to the end of the world until the day where we receive our answer.”

Magu interlocked her fingers with his and didn't say anything else. She had already received her answer; everything was right here, the entire world!

In the next several days, Cleansing Incense was full of guests. Many great powers came to visit while others came to seek forgiveness. Some even came from the other side of the Mortal Emperor World. Even imperial lineages came bearing gifts in order to befriend the sect.

In the present, Cleansing Incense had an incomparable prestige, so it was only natural for many sects to want to build a good relationship with it.

Of course, they also wanted to see Li Qiye, but this was impossible. He was not seeing guests.

The only one truly suffering was Gu Tieshou since he was in charge due to Su Yonghuang's absence. Of course, there were other candidates such as Li Shuangyan and Chen Baojiao. Alas, they didn't care for these kinds of mundane matters as they would rather spend their time cultivating.

Gu Tieshou could be said to be quite capable. However, because the sect was previously in decline, he lacked the self-confidence to deal with these imperial lineages and had to go consult Li Qiye.

He brought a bunch of tribute letters and asked Li Qiye for his opinion: "Many imperial lineages want to establish diplomatic relations with us, what does Virtuous Nephew think about this?"

Li Qiye didn't bother taking a look and only smiled: "You can deal with them as if they are ordinary sects, there's no need to be more attentive just because they are imperial lineages."

"Uh—" Gu Tieshou didn't know what to say. For any lineage, establishing ties with imperial lineages was a very important matter, but Li Qiye simply didn't care at all.

"If you aren't clear on something, you can go ask Arcane Guru for advice." He looked at Gu Tieshou and smiled.

After hearing this, Gu Tieshou was finally relieved. At least Li Qiye pointed him a way out.

Li Qiye asked: "Where is the sect master?" During the time of disaster, Su Yonghuang was not present.

"She went back to the Su Clan. Before leaving, she left me in charge and told me that this was a personal matter. If fast, it would be half a year to one year, otherwise, it would be three to ten years before she can return. Therefore, before leaving, she made arrangements for everything."

Li Qiye frowned and pondered after hearing this. He knew that Su Yonghuang was not the type to neglect the sect's business and leave. Moreover, it was also during a period of turmoil.

Li Qiye inquired: "Did she say what it was about?"

Gu Tieshou gently shook his head: "I don't know since she didn't tell me. However, she had a solemn expression before leaving, so it shouldn't be something trivial."

"The Su Clan's business..." Li Qiye contemplated for a moment. The Heaven's Edge Su Clan no longer appeared in this world, so they shouldn't have any enemies. If there were no conflicts, then what could it be that made Su Yonghuang abandon her post, to leave the sect for such a long period of time?

Chapter 1143: Old Devil's Past

While Li Qiye was deep in thought, Gu Tieshou hesitated for a moment and didn't know whether he should speak up. He had a question but didn't dare to ask.

Li Qiye noticed his demeanor, so he smiled: "Elder, we are not strangers, so you can just speak your mind."

Gu Tieshou chuckled awkwardly with an embarrassed expression. He rubbed his palms together and asked: "Virtuous Nephew, hmm, about this... Ah, oh, the other elders in the sect, they are very curious, so, so they asked me to ask..."

Gu Tieshou didn't know how to phrase this delicate matter.

"Elder Gu, go ahead." Li Qiye smiled.

Gu Tieshou took a deep breath and calmed down before looking at Li Qiye with a serious expression: "Virtuous Nephew, are you the descendant of our patriarch?"

"You and the other elders are thinking too much." Li Qiye knew what he was thinking and laughed.

Gu Tieshou was still as awkward as before: "Well, the elders think that you are either the patriarch's direct descendant or perhaps even an imperial prince who was sealed."

The older generation of the sect felt that Li Qiye was Immortal Emperor Min Ren's descendant. He could even be a sealed child from the emperor.

No one would doubt Li Qiye if he came out right now and claimed to be the emperor's son.

Li Qiye burst out into laughter and shook his head: "Elder, you are overthinking it. I am not Immortal Emperor Min Ren's descendant and definitely not his son."

Gu Tieshou could only smile awkwardly in response. He actually hoped that Li Qiye would be related to the emperor somehow.

He had to ask: "Then what about the Benevolent Armament?"

For millions of years now, no one had heard of this Benevolent Armament. Moreover, the triangular building had always been there. No one was able to connect with it, let alone control it. But now, Li Qiye had used it freely at his whim.

Thus, it was understandable to think that outside of the emperor himself, only his son would be able to use the Benevolent Armament.

Li Qiye smilingly said: "The armor was waiting for the fateful ones. It has been buried deep underground. When the right person comes again, it shall show itself once more."

He didn't need to explain this armor clearly because Gu Tieshou didn't know that despite its name, it didn't have a lot to do with Immortal Emperor Min Ren; he was not the one who refined it.

Back when Li Qiye couldn't come up with a good name, the emperor had already worn it to battle. From then on, people called it the "Benevolent Armament." Li Qiye had no problems with this name, so he didn't change it afterward.

Eventually, Gu Tieshou stopped bothering Li Qiye and bowed before leaving.

"Is Old Devil still here?" Li Qiye asked: "Tell him to come here, and Mu Shaohuang too."

Gu Tieshou's heart jumped out of confusion after hearing this. It was clear that he lacked the knowledge about their relationships.

Old Devil Mu Shaodi was their ancestor. With regards to status, Li Qiye should be calling him ancestor, but strangely enough, Old Devil listened to Li Qiye's commands. This was a chaotic mess that Gu Tieshou couldn't figure out at all.

“I, I will go consult the ancestor.” What else could he say? He was several generations below Old Devil.

In fact, the entire sect was still dumbfounded at the moment. Both elders and ordinary disciples couldn’t believe that the perverted Old Devil was their most powerful ancestor, Mu Shaodi.

In the past, an elder had proposed to expel Old Devil from the sect, lest he stain the sect’s reputation even more. But now, after finding out that he was an ancestor, many people broke out in cold sweat.

After a while, Old Devil and the burly man, Mu Shaohuang, came. While looking at Li Qiye, even characters like Old Devil didn’t dare to show any slight. He respectfully bowed and said: “Greetings, Your Excellency.”

Li Qiye glanced at him and said: “It looks like the Black Dragon King told you about me.”

“Senior Black Dragon King only mentioned a few things.” Old Devil smiled wryly before giving introductions: “Your Excellency, this is my little brother.”

“I know who he is.” Li Qiye glanced at the young king and then both of them before stating: “If I’m not mistaken, the two of you are the reason for Cleansing Incense’s decline.”

Old Devil quickly said: “Your Excellency, it was my fault. I was the one who destroyed the sect. I’m ashamed to meet our forefathers.”

Mu Shaohuang hastily interjected: “Your Excellency, my big brother is not to be blamed for this. It was all my fault. I was the one who found the secret underground and invited trouble, so Master sentenced me to an eternal imprisonment.”

Old Devil busily asserted: “No, Your Excellency, if it wasn’t for my obsession with power and desire to open the seal, the Cleansing Incense Ancient Sect wouldn’t have faced that disaster.”

Li Qiye gently waved his sleeve after looking at the two: “Okay, there’s no need to claim the blame from each other. If your master declared your sentence, then I’m too lazy to care about who was right and wrong. I only want to know the process and details. Be specific.”

“It was my fault.” Mu Shaohuang deepened his tone: “Big Brother and I grew up at Cleansing Incense and joined under our master at the same time. I was not as gifted at cultivation as Big Brother since I was addicted to occult and bizarre matters. Thus, I read many scrolls of the sect when I was younger.”

“So you traced back to the roots and thought about obtaining the power.” Li Qiye said while looking at Mu Shaohuang.

“Your Excellency, it was not so. My little brother likes strange things and didn’t care for prestige and power, so he was still nameless when I became famous.” Old Devil quickly interrupted.

Mu Shaohuang scratched his head and went on: “Through the scrolls from our sect, I knew that there was a secret buried beneath Cleansing Incense. At the start, I thought it was the Benevolent Armament, but later on, I found that this was not the case.”

Li Qiye flatly said: “A very powerful force is hidden underground.” Back then, there was a reason why he let Immortal Emperor Min Ren establish the sect on this land.

“Yes!” Mu Shaohuang wryly smiled: “In the beginning, I only wanted to obtain the Benevolent Armament in hopes that Big Brother would be able to successfully seize the Heaven’s Will just like the patriarch back then. However, I didn’t understand the true principles behind the armament. It was not a treasure, so I couldn’t take it.”

“... Moving on, with my research, I found that there was something even more powerful beneath the imperial foundation of the sect. It was an eternal power, perhaps even more terrifying than the Benevolent Armament, so I became fascinated by it.” He explained.

“It was because of me.” Old Devil joined again: “It was because I wanted that power which led to the calamity later on.”

He recalled: “I competed against Immortal Emperor Ta Kong. Out of our six duels, the score was three to three. However, after each battle, the emperor’s dao became much more polished than mine. I understood him very well. During our last confrontation which led to my defeat, a huge gap was between us. I couldn’t stand it... so I had the urge to obtain an even greater power.”

Li Qiye coldly said: “You were obsessed, charmed by the devil.”

Old Devil sighed in response: “I was truly charmed by the devil back then with my desire to become the Immortal Emperor. My thirst for power was what led me astray.”

The old guy became dejected at this point: “At that time, I heard Little Brother say that he had finished researching the seal underground. I thought about a few legends back then relating to the power underground, a power that would make me invincible in the nine worlds.”

Li Qiye glared at him and asked: “Did you know what their end result was?”

Old Devil gently sighed: “At that time, I was completely obsessed and didn’t think much of it. I just wanted to obtain this power in order to surpass Immortal Emperor Ta Kong, to seize the Heaven’s Will and ascend to the throne.”

Li Qiye emotionlessly scolded: “It doesn’t matter what kind of person an Immortal Emperor is. Regardless of whether they are a murderer or a righteous gentleman, no emperor cultivating an unorthodox and evil method has ever been accepted by the heavenly dao. Only a supreme grand dao can carry the Heaven’s Will. Even if you obtained that power, you still wouldn’t have become an Immortal Emperor.”

Old Devil smiled sadly: “I was blinded by my miserable defeat. I was unwilling to lose against Immortal Emperor Ta Kong, so I became hell-bent on obtaining that power underground. Master and the elders did not agree in the beginning, but under my constant pleading, master eventually agreed to open the seal underground. No one expected that everything would go wrong and a calamity would befall us.”

Despite knowing the dangers, the elders still ultimately agreed. This was their desire to have another Immortal Emperor. Without a doubt, Mu Shaodi was a great candidate.

“Hmph! You all only knew that this power was strong but never thought about what was sealed underground!” Li Qiye coldly stated: “Otherwise, why would Immortal Emperor Min Ren and I waste so much time to lay such a strong imperial foundation in order to seal this land?”

Chapter 1144: One Mistake; An Eternal Sin

Being harshly scold by Li Qiye left Old Devil smiling wryly: "I was overwhelmed with the need for more power, so I carelessly tried to borrow this power to forcefully seize the Heaven's Will."

"Hah, forcefully seize the Heaven's Will?" Li Qiye laughed in response: "That is only something found in legends. You couldn't become an Immortal Emperor back then, so you definitely couldn't succeed later on."

Old Devil exhaled and said: "If I could have thought of that back then, the situation wouldn't have deteriorated so badly. While focusing on obtaining the power underground, we opened the seal and unexpectedly found something else."

Li Qiye didn't say anything and continued to stare coldly at Old Devil.

The old man went on: "At that moment, I finally understood that outside of this power, there were other things down there, but it was too late. In order to protect this land from falling into the hands of the monsters, the other elders and I worked together. We spent countless efforts and refined jades in order to reseal the foundation!"

"Hmph! Immortal Emperor Min Ren and I were afraid that the power down there would break out again even from the foundation. But who would have thought that before it could break out, everything would be destroyed in your hands." He glared at Old Devil.

The old man lowered his head in shame. His little brother spoke instead: "It is not all Big Brother's fault. If it wasn't for my curiosity, none of this would have happened."

"Cleansing Incense's situation today is because of me. My ambition blinded me, resulting in our decline and the elders suffering underground." He spoke with shame: "If it wasn't for senior Black Dragon King slapping me out of my stupor, I'm afraid I would have gone to meet the ancestors already."

Li Qiye asked: "You all couldn't suppress the old man underground?"

Old Devil smiled wryly and said: "The elders and I counter-attacked many times to no avail. We could only force him back at best. There was no way of re-creating the Immortal Emperor's seal, so we had to stand guard there."

Li Qiye coldly scowled: "If it wasn't for your meritorious service, I would be too lazy to deal with this mess. I will intervene this time but never a second! One might be able to survive an act of god, but no one can survive a self-brought calamity."

"Your Excellency, please reseal this land." After hearing this, Old Devil immediately rejoiced and prostrated on the ground.

Li Qiye gently shook his head: "It is easier said than done to seal this land. It can't be done in one or two days. When Immortal Emperor Min Ren erected the supreme imperial foundation in the past, it required a lot of time and effort."

"What I can do now is make that old man run back and stop causing trouble!" Li Qiye paused and glared at Old Devil: "Whether this land can be sealed again or ends up being destroyed, I'll deal with that later."

“Your Excellency taking action is a blessing for the Cleansing Incense Ancient Sect.” Old Devil could finally let go of what was tormenting his heart.

Li Qiye asked: “Do you know anything about that last battle?”

“Your Excellency, I did not participate in that battle.” Old Devil quickly explained: “I was haunted back then, so senior Black Dragon King awakened me with a slap. He told me to stay behind and guard the entrance without further explanations. Because I was suppressing the seal underground, I didn’t know what exactly happened in that battle. The moment I got out, the battle between the senior and Immortal Emperor Ta Kong had already ended. I didn’t meet the senior later on, so I don’t know the specific circumstances.”

Li Qiye pondered for a moment. He knew very well that the Black Dragon King must have survived the fight with Immortal Emperor Ta Kong. Otherwise, he wouldn’t have been able to kill his way into the Immortal Demon Grotto.

After a while, Li Qiye lifted his head and told Old Devil: “I will go underground to deal with this matter to avoid further complications.”

“Your Excellency will certainly be successful.” Old Devil quickly stated in full exultation.

The two of them left Cleansing Incense and went to the town right below. After entering the small town, Old Devil led Li Qiye to the Happy Crimson Pavilion.

Old Devil was a regular here, so after he arrived, the ladies came to greet him in a very familiar manner. A gorgeously dressed woman coquettishly smiled: “Third Master, you are bringing along a young man today?” [1. Remember how Old Devil’s title is hard to translate and consists of three characters: “Third” + “Devil” + “Grandpa/Master”? She is calling him “Third” + “Grandpa/Master” here, omitting the devil/sly/crafty/perverted part.]

Old Devil laughed boisterously and brought Li Qiye inside. He looked for the old madame and told her: “Open the door.”

The madame noticed an outsider, Li Qiye, and was quite surprised: “Who is he?”

Old Devil knew about Li Qiye’s temper and quietly told the madame: “Don’t ask.”

The madame did not blabber and immediately took the two deeper into the pavilion. She opened a closed iron door and let them inside.

The door led to a different heavenly grotto that resembled a large courtyard with different types of strange grasses and spiritual medicines. Who would have thought that such a mundane location would contain a wondrous place like this?

Li Qiye took a look and spoke with a tinge of emotion: “This place is still here after so many years...”

Old Devil replied: “Your Excellency, this place has been running all this time. The ancestors of the sect believed that a cunning rabbit has three caves, so the entrance was shifted to this place.”

Li Qiye flatly said: “A cunning rabbit has three caves? Immortal Emperor Min Ren didn’t have this thought back then. This was meant to be a home for those pitiful mortal women. Only someone like Min

Ren would trouble himself with the chaotic mortal realm, or maybe he was just soft-hearted like a woman.” [2. Okay, this phrase might look bad for Li Qiye, but in his defense, it is a popular idiom that is widely used in literature. It is definitely a cultural thing. This phrase is not politically correct in modern speech anymore, however. You can probably still see it in historical/xianxia novels due to the setting.]

Old Devil remained silent. He was not qualified to comment on the past and Immortal Emperor Min Ren. He had only heard many legends about Immortal Emperor Min Ren’s humane beliefs.

Li Qiye sighed and didn’t want to talk more about the emperor’s kind nature.

There were pitiful people all around the world, but as he had said before, he was not a savior. He couldn’t save and enlighten all living beings. The only thing he wanted was to preserve the nine worlds so that the human race could exist forever.

As for the weak and pitiable, they would need to rely on themselves. Only by growing stronger would they be able to escape their own destinies. Otherwise, it would just be empty talk. He could save one person, but not millions.

This was the biggest difference between him and Immortal Emperor Min Ren. The emperor had a tendency for clemency and wished to save all living beings in this world.

Old Devil opened another entrance to the underground and led Li Qiye inside. They were ported into the deepest location of Cleansing Incense.

A gigantic imperial foundation was located here. It was built upon the sweat and blood of Li Qiye and Immortal Emperor Min Ren back then.

One could see many great pillars shouldering the ground. The path was paved by refined divine stones and engraved with powerful imperial formations that were suppressing the entire area.

Walking into this place was the same as walking into the underground labyrinth of a palace. This underground base was huge. In the face of a disaster, it would be easy for all the disciples from the sect to come and hide here.

Li Qiye gently sighed after feeling the familiar power while walking inside the foundation.

This was an inheritance that could allow for Cleansing Incense to continue on. Even if it were to collapse one day, as long as this place was still here, it would eventually rise once more.

It could be said that in order to build this place, they had spent a countless amount of effort. Alas, after so many years, the future generations of Cleansing Incense did not utilize this inheritance to bring about prosperity for the sect.

They eventually went as far as they could go. Before them was an abyss that resembled a cave that led further down into the ground. It was pitch-black; one had no way to see what was down there.

Around this pit was an extremely powerful imperial formation. Many old men were sitting around it. Their vitality had weakened with age, but this didn’t mean that they weren’t extremely powerful. All were Virtuous Paragons.

At the same time, three weapons were floating in the middle of the formation. Two of them were life treasures that emitted imperial auras!

“Benevolent Saber!” Li Qiye glanced at the third weapon and immediately recognized it.

The Benevolent Saber was Immortal Emperor Min Ren’s true fate weapon. The other two weapons were also refined by him.

Back then, he left behind all of his weapons. Outside of one life treasure falling into the hands of the Heavenly God Sect, the others vanished without a trace, including the saber.

The older generation like Gu Tieshou didn’t know where these weapons went. They speculated that the weapons had been lost in the war.

When Li Qiye and Old Devil stepped closer, the old men presiding over the formation opened their eyes as if they were waking up from their slumber.

“Elders.” Old Devil looked at each one to say: “Young Noble Li is here today to deal with the calamity. After he is done with this crisis, Elders can return to the Cleansing Incense Ancient Sect. I have burdened everyone, forcing Elders to watch over this place.”

Chapter 1145: Geezer Su

Among the elders here, there were brothers in the same generation as Old Devil as well as uncles who were older than him. Back then, they opened the seal only to find that the power within was not as simple as they expected. In the end, they had to stay here to guard this place.

If they didn’t do so, this entire area would turn into an evil land. At that time, not only would the Cleansing Incense Ancient Sect turn into ashes, the rest of this land would fall into ruin as well.

“It was everyone’s fault.” An ancestor gently sighed: “If we didn’t agree and work together to open the seal, we wouldn’t be in this situation today. It is not just your fault.”

Old Devil sighed as well. It was all due to greed back then. It ruined everything and almost ended the sect completely.

Li Qiye looked at them and commanded: “Mu Shaodi can stay, the rest of you, leave.”

The elders glanced at each other. In fact, they didn’t know Li Qiye’s true identity, so they looked at Old Devil instead.

Old Devil nodded and said: “Elders can go, just leave this place to Young Noble Li. When it is over, everyone can return to the sect.”

Old Devil was the greatest hope to become an Immortal Emperor. He had a very high position in the minds of these elders. The elders were a bit hesitant, but they still decided to eventually leave after hearing him.

With their departure, Li Qiye signaled to the Benevolent Saber within the imperial formation by waving his sleeve. With a clank, the saber slightly resonated with a hymn before flying into his hand. The other two weapons also followed and floated above his head.

He gently stroked the blade afterward. It was flashing with a cold and dreadful glint capable of deterring others from approaching. Its tip could easily pierce a paragon's body. The saber kept on hymning as if it had seen its master. It looked like it recognized Li Qiye.

"Benevolent Saber..." Li Qiye gently sighed while holding the blade. Back then, it was quite an undertaking for him to find a destiny true stone for Immortal Emperor Min Ren, eventually refining into this one-of-a-kind weapon.

"Clank." The saber returned to its scabbard. He then shifted his gaze towards the huge abyss and told Old Devil: "Open it, I want to see him."

"Umm..." Old Devil hesitated and looked at Li Qiye: "Your Excellency, don't we need to prepare a bit?"

"Don't worry, I know what we're about to face." Li Qiye slowly replied while staring at the pit.

Old Devil took a deep breath and channeled all of his blood energy as universal laws emerged. The seal was opened at this time. The old man did not dare to be careless and readied himself for the worst.

"Clank—" One could see a black energy floating around the pit as if there was boiling water inside.

"Boom!" With a loud blast, this black energy surged into the sky in an endless and terrifying manner. It was a ferocious reverse waterfall.

"Buzz—" A faint hum came about. Immortal Emperor laws appeared around the imperial foundation. Its power tried to stop this flood of boiling black energy.

However, the black energy kept on spewing out. It would eventually fill the entire underground foundation. Even a more powerful foundation wouldn't be able to seal this torrential black energy.

"Hahaha..." A shadow rushed out from the pit and laughed: "Junior, you have finally given up. Be smart and scam from this place to avoid making a mistake."

This shadow was engulfed in the black energy, making it seem as if it didn't have a body. It was made up entirely of this dark air and seemed to be able to control this form of energy.

It looked quite burly and strong, resulting in a very vigorous and mighty presence. Despite being formed from the black energy that gave off a dark and ominous feeling, it had an innate majestic aura.

"No, I did not give up. I simply let you out today in order to end it all and obtain peace for this land!" Old Devil shook his head.

"Ha, Junior, you are indeed very powerful, but the best you can do is borrow the power of imperial foundation to suppress me. If you think you can seal or kill me completely, think again. You are not an Immortal Emperor! Plus, I am immortal. Even your patriarch couldn't kill me." The shadow declared with a guffaw.

"After so many years, Geezer Su, you are still the same. You're still as stubborn as a rock underneath an outhouse, hard and smelly." Li Qiye slowly spoke at this time.

His words surprised the shadow. Its eyes immediately fell upon Li Qiye while flashing a dark glint. Anyone would feel creeped out by these pitch-black eyes and wouldn't dare to do anything.

However, Li Qiye was unperturbed. He coldly stared back at the shadow.

“Boy, who are you?” The eyes stained with black energy glared at Li Qiye because Li Qiye called him “Geezer Su.” This was quite astonishing because there should be no one in this world who knew who he was, let alone his name.

“The person who will not let you rise again.” Li Qiye flatly said: “You are still causing trouble after millions of years. You might not be bored of it, but I have grown a little weary of this game.”

“You are that damned Dark Crow!” The shadow finally realized something. He took several steps back with a shocked expression before exclaiming: “You are still alive after this long?”

“You were slashed by the old villainous heavens and pinned to the ground, but aren’t you still alive right now?” Li Qiye chuckled: “If you can live till now, why can’t I?”

The figure eventually burst out into laughter after taking a long stare at Li Qiye: “No wonder why the junior is so confident, so he found some reinforcements. Hahahaha, damned crow, so what if you are here, what can you do to me? Nail me down again, or maybe you want to kill me?”

“Hahahaha, you should know that I am unkillable, I am eternal!” It ended with more obnoxious laughter.

Li Qiye coldly glanced at him and spoke: “Geezer Su, after so many years, you are still indulging in this game. Do you really think that I can’t kill you? What if I uproot this land completely, how much longer do you think you can last? Ten years, maybe a hundred?”

“Hmph!” The shadow snorted after hearing this. There was a secret in this place that very few knew about it. However, since Li Qiye was the Dark Crow, he was one of those privy to this information.

“Haha, damned crow, all of this talking boils down to you wanting the thing underground. Otherwise, you and that brat Min Ren wouldn’t have built the Cleansing Incense Ancient Sect here.” The shadow coldly retorted.

“Yes, I did want the item before.” Li Qiye did not deny the shadow: “However, with the passage of time, it no longer matters whether I can take it or not. I have no need to force it. There are many things in this world that I can obtain instead.”

“Hmph, if that’s the case, then why have you returned? Don’t stand in my way!” It replied.

“Stand in your way?” Li Qiye laughed in response: “You actually have a future? Even if I don’t stop you, what are you going to do?”

“Hehe, I will definitely see the sun again and return to the nine worlds!” The shadow laughed imposingly.

Li Qiye looked down at him and said: “Old geezer, you really think you can change back to the old you? The truth is that you will never be able to since you are already dead!”

“I am undying!” The shadow interrupted Li Qiye with a roar.

“Fine, you are undying, then tell me, what do you consider yourself to be?” Li Qiye went on: “You were dead after the tribulation back then. Everything about you turned into ashes! What was left? Only an abomination that is neither human nor ghost, a meaningless existence!”

“Utter rubbish!” The shadow shouted: “Quit your bullshit! I once reigned over the nine worlds! I protected and saved the human race! When the tyrant came, only I rebelled and attacked him! I am the savior of the nine worlds, the guardian of the human race...!” The shadow became more riled up as he spoke with increasing volume. By the end he was screaming.

Li Qiye silently stood there and watched the screaming shadow until he could finish venting!

After screaming for a while, the shadow eventually calmed down and coldly spoke: “In short, I will return to the nine worlds again. That day will surely come!”

“So what?” Li Qiye insipidly said: “What can you bring to this world even if I let you out? Your power underground will turn this land evil. And have you ever thought of what will become of yourself?”

Chapter 1146: Indignation

The shadow became silent instead of screaming some more. Eventually, it coldly said: “I can escape this worldly prison and turn this land into a paradise. I can soar to the nine heavens again and reestablish my glory! As long as I can persevere, nothing can’t be done, nothing is impossible!”

Li Qiye emotionlessly countered: “Escape from this prison? Purify the land? How are you going to do that? You have everything right now, but it is only due to the underground power, yet you want to escape then purify it? Don’t you know how hilarious that sounds? Without a doubt, you are thinking about building a pavilion in the sky, it is all talk!” [1. An idiom meaning unrealistic utopian construction, imaginary future plans.]

“You are not what you used to be.” Li Qiye coldly stared at him: “You are no longer the Mortal Emperor, no longer the wise sage of the past. To put it bluntly, you are only a monster that’s able to live on by clinging to this resentment and feeling of indignation!”

“Hmph, who says I am a resentment?” The shadow retorted: “I am me, the Mortal Emperor that protects the human race!”

“Is that so? Look yourself in the eye and ask yourself, are you truly the Mortal Emperor of the past?” Li Qiye emotionlessly spoke: “Wake up, you are nothing right now! And in all seriousness, I’m not clear on what exactly you resent.

“Do you resent yourself? Resent the old tyrant? Or do you resent the heavens, or maybe your daughter?”

“Stop talking!” The shadow became especially aggravated after hearing about his daughter and shouted: “What do you know! During the tyrant’s reign, how many humans and sentient beings did he kill?! Did you see how people wailed in lamentation, how their blood flowed like rivers? There was no sunlight to be found...”

"I know!" Li Qiye interrupted him and flatly said: "Even though I was not in the nine worlds during that era, I know about it very well. In fact, I have experienced an even crueller period with more bloodshed. The tyrant is nothing compared to the Ancient Ming."

He went on while looking at the shadow: "You know, when Immortal Emperor Min Ren and I sieged this underground location, why did we only seal you instead of killing you? The truth is that with the emperor's might and my legions, I could have buried you even deeper underground and make you forever cry in the darkest prison with no escape..."

"I could have even cut you into little pieces so that you would never form your body again. Even if I couldn't kill you, I had plenty of ways to make you experience a fate worse than death. I could have used the most vicious means in the world to make you give up on everything!" With that, he stared at the shadow with sympathy and said: "But I didn't do so."

"It was not because Immortal Emperor Min Ren was a merciful person, it was because I remembered your contribution in protecting the human race back then." He continued: "Thus, we only sealed you and the power underground. I hoped that one day, you would come to understand and let go of this hatred! Unfortunately, judging by today it seems like you still haven't thought it through!"

This shadow ahead was Su Yuhe's father, an invincible Virtuous Paragon from the human race. He was only one step away from being an Immortal Emperor.

During the era of the tyrant, he rose up and rebelled. In the end, he used his daughter as bait by making her marry the tyrant. One misstep ruined his daughter's entire life and also doomed himself.

The shadow loudly snapped: "Let go? Why should I?! I can still return one day!"

Li Qiye sighed and gently shook his head: "Every choice, regardless of whether it is right or wrong, will come at a price! Your current situation and your daughter's fate were ultimately decided by your decision."

"Stop talking!" The shadow screamed.

Li Qiye ignored his plea and continued: "Really, I admire your will to oppose the tyrant as well as your contribution to the human race. Because of this, you are qualified to be called the Mortal Emperor even though you couldn't become an Immortal Emperor. However, we'll make a few things clear today. We won't talk about your guardianship of the human race, only your dao heart and personal obsession."

"In your case, protecting the humans and the nine worlds eventually became your obsession." Li Qiye spoke slowly: "A young genius of the human race opposing a tyrant, persevering to the very end to become a gray-haired Mortal Emperor. I really do admire your persistence."

"However, have you ever thought that ultimately, it became a feud between you and the tyrant?" Li Qiye took a serious look at the shadow: "By saying this, I feel as if I have become a conspiracy theorist due to your great accomplishments."

"But ask yourself, what is your true intent? Was it really to protect the humans and the nine worlds?" He went on to say: "At the very end, you only had one obsession left, and that was to defeat the tyrant because that had been your lifelong dream! You simply wanted to make it come true!"

The shadow retorted: "Nonsense!"

"Is that what you think?" Li Qiye smilingly said: "From a teenager to the old Mortal Emperor, at that stage, you already had enough power and authority. The human race, under your leadership, was strong enough to fight against the tyrant's kingdom."

"But we can talk about something else instead." Li Qiye stated: "We won't talk about how you became ashes back then, but rather, your immortal situation today. Regardless of whether you are a strand of obsession or a wisp of resentment, they share one thing in common: to a certain degree, the power here can allow you to live on. Maybe not to the level of everlastingness, but definitely something close."

The shadow said: "Hmph. Only I have understood the mysteries within!"

"I won't deny that." Li Qiye responded: "But let me ask you a question. You took the underground secret from the tyrant back then after he died — surely you must know what I'm talking about? He couldn't comprehend the power here, and the truth was that he was even older than you. His death was only a matter of time, and it certainly would have been before you."

"Hmph." The shadow scowled.

Li Qiye continued: "I know this is difficult to hear, but even though we are discussing this issue, it has no effect on your contribution to the human race. In my mind, you are still qualified for your title and deserve to be worshipped as an admirable great sage."

"But now, we have to discuss the negatives in this." Li Qiye coldly glared at the shadow at this point: "Compared to you wanting the underground secret, it is more apt to say that you wanted to defeat the tyrant. You hoped that you could defeat or personally kill him before his natural death! This was your lifelong wish, so ultimately, you made a choice."

"Defeating him and protecting the human race, is there a distinction here?" The shadow spoke without emotion.

Li Qiye replied: "To tell the truth, I am not trying to criticize you on this matter. In fact, I am not qualified to make any criticism at all. A man is not a saint, so how can he always be righteous? Everyone has their own desires and ambitions.

"But since you made the choice, it doesn't matter how you turned into ashes or became this abomination, what are you resentful about? The tyrant? The damned villainous heavens? Or perhaps yourself?"

"Honestly, I do not know what you are resenting. Since you made your choice, face it and the consequences that come with it, regardless of whether they are good or bad."

The shadow replied: "I have no resentment, I only want to see daylight once more!"

"Do you think these words bear any weight?" Li Qiye smiled and said: "Truly ask yourself that question."

Li Qiye stared at him and continued: "Others do not know about the power here, but I do. It is a power that belongs to darkness and negativity. Why was it that the tyrant was so strong back then and capable of changing the tides of battle by himself? Why was it that you turned into ashes yet you are still alive? It is all because of this underground power."

Li Qiye exclaimed: “The tyrant is violent and ambitious, which allowed him to rely on this power. But as for you, because of your resentment, it turned you into your current form, making you think that you are actually eternal!”

The shadow shouted: “So what?! So what if I resent! Am I not allowed to resent just because I’m opposing you?”

“I won’t deny that I had my own agenda when establishing the Cleansing Incense Ancient Sect here. I also wanted the thing underground, but I eventually gave up.” Li Qiye flatly said: “I don’t mind your feelings of resentment and indignation, but they will turn this land evil and kill all the living beings here, so it has become my problem!”

Chapter 1147: Apricot Vase

After hearing this, the shadow snorted in response: “On what basis do you think I will turn this land evil and that I will destroy all living beings here?”

“You know it to be true in your heart, but you are unwilling to admit it.” Li Qiye retorted: “Do you think you can control the power underground better than the tyrant back then?”

“Before your death, you had a strong body and a firm will that allowed you to suppress this power underground.” Li Qiye explained: “But now, you have nothing. You have given everything to this power. If you truly try to come out, how will you escape it or even try to purify it? How are you going to turn this land into a paradise?”

The shadow became quiet and did not answer.

“Because of this, I simply wanted to talk it out with you.” Li Qiye said: “I don’t want to fight and kill in this place. I’m too tired and bored to wonder whether I should seal or end you. I came today in hopes that you can realize this for yourself. Return to where you belong. The deepest recesses underground is your home, there’s no need to come out again.”

“Says who?” The shadow disagreed: “I will definitely rule the nine worlds again...”

“It seems that I have been wasting my breath this entire time.” Li Qiye interrupted him: “I’m sick and tired of you now. After so many years, you still don’t dare to face the consequences stemming from your own decision. You are not even comparable to your daughter. Her miserable fate and unimaginable suffering, it was all because of you...”

“Even though she hated you, she didn’t hold onto this resentment till this day and allowed bygones to be bygones with the passage of time...”

“Stop, stop, shut up!” The shadow shouted after Su Yuhe was brought up. It held its head and didn’t want to listen any further, this was its inner demon!

“Outside of convincing you today, I also came with good news.” Li Qiye lightly said: “I buried your daughter’s remains in the most peaceful location. All of her obsessions are now gone. She has let go of her hatred, even what she felt toward the tyrant. In the future, she will be able to be reborn.” [1. The word for “reborn” here has a couple of different meanings: “to be reborn / to live in paradise (Buddhism) / to die / (after) one’s death.”]

Li Qiye continued while staring at the shadow: "You should think about letting everything go as well. Forget about the tyrant and your daughter. Let go of your inner demon, only then will you be able to be free..."

"No!" The shadow screamed while holding its head: "No! I will certainly come back to the nine worlds!"

Li Qiye gently sighed: "I can only say that I am very disappointed. I didn't want to use such means to force you, but this is your choice. I hope you will be able to face it one day."

Having said that, he took out a vase decorated with an apricot flower. This was given to him before Su Yuhe left.

"No!" After seeing the vase, the shadow screamed as if it had seen a ghost and took a step back in fear.

This was Su Yuhe's favorite vase. The Mortal Emperor personally gifted it to her when she married the tyrant. During her most painful times, she could only hold onto this vase and pour out her heart while waiting for the light.

Seeing this vase reminded it of everything. This was its inner demon; something it did not want to face.

"No..." The shadow begged: "Take it away, take it away, no—"

"It's too late." Li Qiye gently shook his head: "Face your decision!"

"No..." The shadow mustered some courage out of nowhere and pounced forward, wanting to break this apricot vase. However, when he approached, he became scared and immediately staggered backward while crazily shaking its head: "I can't, I can't, this was He'er's favorite vase! I can't..."

"Ah!" While it was wailing, something within it seemed to be trying to rip its body apart. He desperately struggled in order to stop it from coming out while retreating.

"No!" In the end, the shadow couldn't restrain it. With a loud scream, its body was torn apart. An exact shadow-copy came out and immediately devoured it before escaping into the pit, disappearing without a trace.

"Boom!" All of the black energy receded like a tide into the ground.

"That was the inner demon." Li Qiye stated while watching the whole thing play out.

Old Devil heaved a sigh of relief after seeing the shadow run away. After struggling for tens of thousands of years, it was finally over. He asked a bit later: "Will it return?"

Even though the shadow was devoured by its inner demon, this didn't mean that it had perished. The inner demon was simply in charge at the moment. If the Mortal Emperor could suppress this inner demon one day, then he would be able to return.

Li Qiye explained: "Leave the vase here. With its suppression, he will not come out since he can't fight his inner demon unless he lets go of everything. However, once he lets go of everything, he will know what he should do next."

Old Devil became relieved and followed Li Qiye's order.

After leaving the underground, Li Qiye coldly stared at Old Devil: "This is the power that you wanted. What do you think the end result of you obtaining this power would be? Becoming another tyrant or an abomination?"

Old Devil prostrated in shame: "My momentary foolishness has harmed the entire sect and forced everyone to experience tens of thousands of years of suffering."

Li Qiye gently sighed and left without saying anything else.

After the war, the entire Mortal Emperor World regained its calm. The older generation returned to slumber while the younger generation was either training or kept a low profile without coming out.

This was the beginning of a new age with the Heaven's Will coming together. It should be an exciting time, but this world was very quiet, peaceful even.

There was no other possible outcome. If it was a different generation with the Heaven's Will emerging, the world would definitely be rowdy with geniuses coming out in waves. Many ancestors from imperial lineages would leave their mountains as everyone prepared to compete for the throne.

Such a bustling period would definitely be magnificent and stimulate one's blood to the point of boiling. Geniuses would fight and sects would kill each other.

However, everything calmed down because everyone in the Mortal Emperor World already knew the result even before the competition began. The Heaven's Will of this generation belonged to no one but Li Qiye. No one else could compete with him for it.

Thus, the Mortal Emperor World became unusually tranquil and peaceful.

Li Qiye didn't leave the Cleansing Incense Ancient Sect or ask about any matters during this period of time. He simply focused on cultivating.

Magu also returned to the Heavenly Dao Academy because she knew that the day of their departure would eventually come. She would have to leave the Mortal Emperor World and the nine worlds altogether. Thus, she returned to leave behind an inheritance for the academy.

After all, the academy was her home. She naturally wanted it to have a distant source and a long flow as it continued to flow down. So before leaving, she had to do something for the academy. [2. Another imagery idiom. Imagine a long river. Because it is long, the source is distant. It symbolizes a great lineage/inheritance.]

During his stay at the sect, outside of teaching Li Shuangyan and the other girls, even Bu Lianxiang would come to him for advice sometimes.

The truth was that in the present, he didn't really have anything to teach Bu Lianxiang. They rarely talked about cultivation. In her eyes, just snuggling with him was enough.

But when they were together, they had a talk about her galaxy. She told him: "You should take it and study it. It is a waste for me to keep it."

"No, you keep it." Li Qiye gently tucked her hair back behind her ear and said in a serious manner: "This is an item from your Bu Clan. Your ancestors left it to you, so it belongs to you."

“But you will need it one day.” She insisted: “When you face it again in the future, you will need something even more powerful.”

“I am different now compared to back during the Ancient Ming Era. I have even more powerful items, I am extremely prepared if the war comes in the future. This galaxy will be left with you.”

Bu Lianxiang turned quiet for a bit before tightly holding his hand: “I don’t know what I still have to leave you.”

“There’s no need to leave me with anything.” Li Qiye said: “I am already very satisfied having reached this point in life. I have experienced and grasped everything I wanted. If the day comes when I die on the battlefield, I still won’t have any regrets.”

“Don’t say such unlucky things.” She quickly covered his mouth and became a bit flustered.

Chapter 1148: Deepest Love

Li Qiye held her hand and stared at her incomparably beautiful features then smiled: “Sometimes, I feel that the world is too far away. Why the need to travel so far? If possible, I want to stop and start a family. Perhaps this isn’t a bad idea.”

“Don’t say that.” Her fingers gently pressed on his hand as she spoke with a tone as soft as water: “A man should be ambitious. Don’t worry about me or other women, we are only your shackles. You should go further, to the end of the world.”

She stared at him deeply and gravely spoke: “If I become something that impedes your path, then I shouldn’t have appeared in your life. In fact, this should be the case for any woman that you have met.”

Li Qiye chuckled and said: “It jolts me when you put it that way. Am I heartless, or is it because of the circumstances?”

“It is neither you or the circumstances.” She said: “In fact, I have never blamed you before. In this vast world, you have traveled for so many years. Even after suffering through countless hardships and troubles, you kept walking forward. Your life is at the end of the world; if you suddenly stop and give up... I don’t care what you think, but at the very least, I feel that I would become a sinner if you did it for me. A sinner to the history of cultivation.”

Li Qiye gripped her jade-like hand and stared at her wondrous eyes to say: “Although the years are endless, when you put it that way, how can I not persevere?”

She firmly said: “Many have gone and fallen on this path. Emperors, gods, and heroes... all have become dried bones on their journey, but I believe that in this generation, only you will reach the end and discover a new world, an entirely new world. After the primordial chaos, it will be a world created by you.”

“I got it!” Li Qiye became quiet. The path of cultivation was long and arduous. Like he had said before, Immortal Emperor was only the beginning. The journey of the emperors and gods towards the end was not easy, it was paved with countless bones.

She gently spoke while still holding his hand: “My only regret is not being able to accompany you to the end of the world. What a shame that I won’t be able to see the most brilliant moment of your life.”

He looked at her and said: "If you are willing, I can try again. I have a method to at the very least prolong your life for a very long time!"

"No." She gently pressed her finger to his lips and quietly said: "I won't hold you back. So what if you are able to let me live longer? There is a price for everything in this world. This is not my choice. I just want you to be able to go forward without any worries."

She stared at him deeply before becoming more serious: "I trust that in the last millions of years, I was not the only one who made this choice. Those who followed you and those who loved you must have made it as well. None of us wish to be the ones slowing you down on the path towards the grand dao."

Her reply left Li Qiye speechless with a difficult emotion in his heart.

"Eternal life is too far away, so giving up is not necessarily a bad thing." She gently caressed his face before continuing: "On this path, no one can stay with you for one generation after another, no one can always share your pain and happiness. You need to rely on yourself and persist until the end! As for the others, they will slowly fade away with time.

"If someone else shackles you and causes you to stop, do you think that it would be worth it? No one else is worth anything on this path, understand? If you give up, you will no longer be you, no longer the teacher of Immortal Emperors that suppress the nine worlds, no longer the wily Dark Crow that could fool deities, no longer the man without fear!"

"This path towards the grand dao is forever and a day!" He gently sighed, not knowing what else to say.

In this long trek, countless people had left him. There were those who could prolong their life but chose to let go.

For some, eternal life was not a happy matter due to the great price that comes with it. He would send them off, and there were times when he even buried them personally. What else could he feel in his heart other than a sense of numbness from all of the partings?

"Don't worry about eternity, just appreciate that we had it once!" She gently said while embracing his neck and gazing at him intimately: "Even though I can't leave behind any treasure for you, I can leave you an heir."

After hearing this, Li Qiye laughed and held her beautiful and exquisite chin to gently say: "Passing on my everything is not easy."

"I know." She gave a firm yet beautiful smile with the trace of a woman's shyness.

Li Qiye lowered his head to kiss her full, red lips. She closed her eyes and invited her lover while tightly hugging his neck...

The Mortal Emperor World was peaceful while the Cleansing Incense Ancient Sect was thriving. It had reestablished its kingdom after tens of thousands of years of decline, ushering in a new era of prosperity.

Li Qiye did not ask about the rebuilding of the kingdom. He cultivated in isolation with a focus on the Space Scripture, even more so than the Physique and Death Scriptures.

This was a long process. He eventually came out after a while to find Gu Tieshou coming to find him.

“Virtuous Nephew, people from the sect master’s home, the Su Clan, are here.” Gu Tieshou immediately spoke after seeing him.

“People from the Su Clan?” Li Qiye’s eyes slightly shifted after hearing this. The Su Clan was far away and had never asked about mundane matters, but now, they were suddenly here?

He inquired: “Did the sect master not come back?”

Gu Tieshou shook his head: “No, the Su members came because she didn’t return to the Su Clan!”

He was a bit worried about this issue as well.

It wasn’t easy for the sect to have a capable and talented sect master. Gu Tieshou understood that Su Yonghuang could definitely lead the sect to a new golden age. If anything happened to her now, it would be a great blow to Cleansing Incense.

Li Qiye ordered: “I understand, tell those people to come and meet me.”

Gu Tieshou acknowledged the command and immediately went to carry it out. The person from the Su Clan who came to meet Li Qiye was an old man. He was very scholarly and his demeanor slightly resembled Su Yonghuang’s.

“I have heard of your thunderous fame.” The old man came and cupped his fists together before slightly bowing.

“You must be the Su Clan Master.” Li Qiye glanced at him and immediately knew that he was Su Yonghuang’s father.

At this time, Gu Tieshou quietly left the room, leaving behind Li Qiye and the old man.

The old man sat down and got straight to the point: “My daughter told me that if anything happens, I should come and see Virtuous Nephew.”

“If there is anything I can do to help, let me know.” Li Qiye spoke while looking at the old man. He was very protective of the Su Clan because he owed General Su back then.

The old man pondered for a moment before speaking: “My daughter has gone to the Heaven Spirit World. There has not been any news yet, so I am quite worried.”

Li Qiye was slightly surprised as he replied: “Your Su Clan opened the secret pathway? This is quite a rare occurrence.”

“You know about it?” The old man was shaken to hear this.

Li Qiye flatly said: “Not too many things can hide from me. Plus, the relationship between Cleansing Incense and the Su Clan is quite good, so it shouldn’t be strange for me to know a few things.”

The old man eventually nodded his head and said: “Yes, my Su Clan has indeed opened the pathway, and she took it to get to the Heaven Spirit World!”

This secret pathway was a channel to pass the boundaries of the nine worlds. The nine worlds were currently separated, so it was quite difficult to go to the other worlds. Not even a Godking would dare to attempt this.

However, it was a different story if there was a secret pathway. The only problem was that in the contemporary, fewer than few lineages had such a pathway. Moreover, it required a large number of refined jades — a very expensive price to pay. Thus, even if the particular sect had enough Immortal Emperor Refined Jades, they were not necessarily willing to open one.

Li Qiye left such a pathway to the Su Clan in the past so that they would have a venue of escape in case a real calamity befell them.

So Su Yonghuang using this pathway to go to the Heaven Spirit World really surprised Li Qiye. After all, this secret passage couldn't be used trivially. The expenditure of the refined jades was one thing, but more importantly, it could expose the coordinates of the Su Clan's portal.

Chapter 1149: Hidden Immortal Hall

At this point, Li Qiye slightly frowned. He thought about something and looked over at the old man: “Your Su Clan wouldn't open this secret pathway unless a disaster fell upon you. Not too many things could necessitate this action, could it be that some items in the ancient temple have gone missing?”

“How, how does Virtuous Nephew know about this?!” The old man was shocked. Only members of their clan knew about these treasures. No outsiders should have been privy to this information.

“Nothing surprising.” Li Qiye continued: “So your clan has truly lost them?”

The old man wryly coughed: “Well, yes. A few things happened back during our forefathers' generation. An ancestor in that period fell in love with a woman from the charming race at the Heaven Spirit World. Later on, due to various reasons, she was detained by her race, so my ancestor personally went to their world.”

“Thus, he brought that item along. If the other party did not let her go, he would send that place back to the origin.” After hearing this, Li Qiye could faintly guess what happened.

The old man smiled and continued: “I heard that the ancestor talked to that race and said that he only wanted to marry her. No one knows what happened afterward. The ancestor who brought along the item was never seen or heard of again.” The old man sighed at this point: “In the successive generations, our clan sent various people to the Heaven Spirit World to try and find them, but we never found anything. The treasure disappeared from that point onward.”

“But you lot recently obtained some news.” Li Qiye stared at the old man.

The old man gently nodded: “A few days ago, we finally received a response, so we summoned the family for a meeting. A bit later, my daughter insisted on going to the Heaven Spirit World, so we opened the secret pathway.”

With that, he looked over at Li Qiye: “Ever since she went to the Heaven Spirit World, there have been no new messages. It has been a while, so I’m worried that something might have happened to her. Right now, we still need to wait for a bit before we can open the pathway once more, so I came here to seek your assistance. I heard that you have another method to reach the other worlds.”

Li Qiye replied: “I understand, I will personally go to the Heaven Spirit World. Don’t worry, I will bring the sect master home.”

“Nothing would be better.” The old man was very happy. He had heard of Li Qiye’s tales, so Li Qiye was the perfect person for the job.

He told the old man: “Just wait back at the Su Clan for the good news.”

The ecstatic old man quickly bid his farewell.

Li Qiye looked into the distance in silence after the old man left. Heaven Spirit World... There were a few things there that he didn’t know how to face.

“After all is said and done, one has to pay everything back one day.” Eventually, he withdrew his gaze and gently sighed: “Everything should end in this generation, both feuds and hatred.” [1. Hatred here is most likely a romantic hate because it would be strange to include feud otherwise.]

He called for Gu Tieshou and told him: “Contact the War God Temple. Tell them that I want to go to the Hidden Immortal Hall. Make sure they understand that I must go, there’s no room for discussion.”

After seeing his demeanor, Gu Tieshou didn’t dare to say much and acknowledged the command before leaving right away.

The War God Temple was the oldest lineage in the Mortal Emperor World. After millions of years, very few knew where it was located. Some said that it was built in the middle region while others believed that it was situated at the eastern Hundred Cities. Some even thought that it was in the depths of space.

Despite the fact that there were very few cultivators who could find its exact coordinates, it still had many disciples that stayed at the Mortal Emperor World. Thus, it was not difficult to contact them.

There were even fewer people who knew about the Hidden Immortal Hall. The number could be counted on one’s hand. It was a secret of the temple, a secret which only the highest level ancestors knew where it was hidden.

The hall was shrouded in primordial chaos alongside many ancient temples. After being polished by countless years, every brick and stone that made up these temples had an air of ancientness. One could feel the flow of time by looking at them.

While walking in this chaos, travelers could sense a moving immortal intent. This intent gave them wings, making them feel as if they had turned into an immortal. It seemed like one could climb to an immortal land from this place. It was a wondrous feeling.

Li Qiye slowly walked through these halls. He basked in the chaos and immortal intent while channeling their profundities. Others might be unaware of what this temple was hiding, but Li Qiye knew full well. The items hidden here could definitely make even Immortal Emperors salivate with greed.

After hearing Li Qiye's demand, the War God Temple asked the ancestors in the Hidden Immortal Hall for their command. Eventually, the temple allowed his entrance.

Li Qiye sat in a treasure seat in the main hall and slowly closed his eyes to better sense the auras in this place. It could be said that it wasn't easy for someone from the War God Temple to come here. If an outsider could come, then it would be the fortune of a lifetime.

"Hidden Immortal Hall... Your War God Temple must have expended an endless amount of effort here." He finally opened his eyes after a long period of time.

"Despite Your Excellency's visit, this lowly one cannot stand up to greet you, please excuse me." An old voice came from the primordial chaos within the hall.

"There's no need, you should continue your rest." Li Qiye sat in his chair and stared at the chaos to say in an insipid manner: "You finally figured it out after this long, I guess you're not too stupid."

"This lowly one didn't think that Your Excellency would personally come out in this generation. If the juniors from my temple have offended you, please forgive them." The old voice came again.

Buried in this hall was the oldest and also the strongest ancestor of the War God Temple. Back then, the temple asked Li Qiye to prolong his life.

The disciples didn't know of his existence, only ancestor-level characters did. However, even these ancestors had to call him Old Xian. [1. Xian means immortal, old here can be considered as grandpa or elder as well.]

"Let the past go." Li Qiye nonchalantly said: "If I wanted to bother with those juniors, you wouldn't be sleeping here peacefully."

"Thank you, Your Excellency." Old Xian replied. Despite being the oldest in the temple, he was still only a junior to the Dark Crow who had been around for countless years.

"There's no need for such formalities." Li Qiye said: "My purpose for coming here is simple. I want the item in your Hidden Immortal Hall."

Old Xian went quiet and didn't respond for a while. Li Qiye laughed: "I know that this demand is a bit unreasonable and that it's not easy for you either."

Old Xian spoke: "Your Excellency knows that this item holds great significance to us. Another way to put it is that it is the only thing that protects our temple." He felt like begging at this moment. After all, this item was too important for the temple, far too important.

"Yes, I can feel it." Li Qiye smiled: "It is indeed not an easy matter. I didn't think that it was possible even back then, but you all succeeded."

He went on: "After so many years of refinement, you have finally polished this thing to perfection, allowing it to be used with ease — this is quite astonishing. However, don't you think this price was too heavy? In these years, you could have produced Immortal Emperors, but instead, all of your efforts went into this."

Old Xian solemnly replied: "Which is why this lowly one hopes that this item can continue to protect War God Temple."

"I won't take your item for nothing." Li Qiye chuckled: "If you are willing to trade, I will let your temple benefit from the exchange."

Old Xian didn't say anything. This long period of silence made his attitude apparent.

"So in the end, you still can't give up your beloved item." Li Qiye was still cheerful: "You should know that I have been quite protective of your temple since you all have done many things for me throughout the years. If it was some other lineage, I wouldn't need to trouble myself like this and would just take it by force."

"Earning Your Excellency's grace is our honor." Old Xian was still respectful.

"I know you, old geezer, are strong and, with the addition of this thing, are quite confident." Li Qiye smilingly said: "But if I wanted to seize it, no one would be able to stop me, don't you think?"

Old Xian sighed and respectfully replied: "No one can stop Your Excellency. As long as you are willing, you can change the world."

The old man was not completely clueless while he stayed in the chaos. He had heard of recent events. Not to mention how frightening Li Qiye was, just South Emperor, the Middle Continent Princess, and Magu alone were enough to shake their temple.

If it really reached that point, even he couldn't protect War God Temple.

Chapter 1150: Old Xian's Decision

Li Qiye spoke while sitting in his chair and staring at the chaos: "As long as you take out that item, I will not mistreat your temple. I shall satisfy your requests."

Old Xian pondered for a bit before sighing: "If Your Excellency needs it, how could we not give it to you?"

"Very good." Li Qiye gently nodded: "This is the War God Temple for you, wise and always making the correct choice."

Old Xian didn't say anything. He could only lament the fact that, since the start of time, there were only things that the Dark Crow wanted and nothing that he couldn't have. Plus, Li Qiye was not taking their item without giving anything in return. An exchange was the best result for the temple.

"Your Excellency, this lowly one is still confused." Old Xian asked: "With your invincible capabilities, who in the nine worlds could oppose you? Why do you need our item?"

"You are aware of the item's origin." Li Qiye smiled: "Yes, I don't need to borrow it just to sweep through the nine worlds. However, if I need to open a path up there, then I must have it."

"Your Excellency wants to go there again!" Old Xian's heart started beating faster. He had heard of this legend from War God Mu before.

Li Qiye slowly replied: "Yes, it's time to end it in this generation."

Old Xian was aghast inside the chaos. He murmured: "Your Excellency wants to raise the banner again? This little one knows very little, but I have heard Immortal Emperor Bing Yu talk about it before. She said that you staged an expedition once, is that true?"

"It is a path of no return. This applies to everyone, and I wasn't the only one who started one before." Li Qiye flatly stated: "Many have tried to do so across the eons, this path is paved with many bones."

Old Xian was quite shaken. Thousands of thoughts ran rampant in his mind in a split second.

Old Xian asked: "Your Excellency, I have heard a few legends about this matter. Is it true that some people can take advantage of this and go up as well? Can it really be done?"

"Haha, are you talking about the illegal crossing?" Li Qiye laughed and replied: "Yes, it is true, but you need an Immortal Emperor to preside over the whole process. The success rate is not very good even with an emperor. Deaths will surely happen." [1. Illegal crossing as in illegal immigration or human smuggling.]

He continued: "You should understand that once you go to the heavens, you will become prey. Those existences won't ignore you, and you should know the result of being prey."

Old Xian was startled once more because this had exceeded his imagination.

"Why, are you tempted?" Li Qiye laughed: "If you really are curious, then I will tell you some good news. There's no need for an illegal crossing in this generation, the door will open and if you are strong enough, you can definitely go up there. Of course, you will become prey at that point, got it?"

"But how is that possible?" Old Xian finally regained his sanity and spoke with astonishment: "Outside of a few mythical opportunities, only Immortal Emperors can ascend."

"This generation is different." Li Qiye smiled: "I am the ruler of this generation; the door will open for sure. Of course, it depends on your own power if you can go up there and who you go with."

Old Xian's heart that had been quiet for a long time suddenly beat faster and faster. It became full of life, as if the old man in the chaos suddenly became younger.

"So I take it that you are tempted." Li Qiye smiled: "No more protecting the Hidden Immortal Hall, do you want to come out and do some stretching?"

Old Xian mused the thought a bit before speaking: "I don't know what kind of world it is, but I heard that above the heavens, emperors and deities coexist in harmony..."

Li Qiye smiled: "It is not necessarily a good thing. Where there are people, jianghu exists. With jianghu comes disputes. From disputes stem violence and bloodshed. You can imagine a brilliant era, but you can also imagine a scene of carnage. No matter the location, the most radiant era will also have the most horrifying destruction." [2. Most readers have probably seen the word jianghu before, meaning lakes and rivers. Another translation I see for this is "Pugilist World", but I don't agree with it fully because it consists of more than just martial artists. It is a culture, a way of life described in ancient China that was brought to life in wuxia novels and extended to modern web novels as well.]

"Gods and deities together!" Despite Li Qiye's response, the old man in the chaos was still in a daze. One could imagine this era even though it was quite far in the past.

Eventually, he calmed down and recalled some of the things Immortal Emperor Bing Yu told him.

He confirmed once more: "Does your Excellency want to reach the very end in this generation?"

Li Qiye laughed in response: "It seems like Little Bing Yu told you a lot of things. I told her back then so that she could prepare and avoid being caught off guard."

"Ah, Your Excellency, this is not the Immortal Emperor's fault. Before leaving, the emperor discussed many things with War God Temple; I only became curious, that's all." The old man smiled wryly. [3. I know that Bing Yu should be empress, but her title is Immortal Emperor. Only Hong Tian is an empress in title (raw is Female Emperor). I don't know if the distinction matters at all, but I'll keep it this way.]

Li Qiye chuckled and said: "Immortal Emperor Bing Yu made a transaction with the temple, correct? Outside of leaving some things for the Ice Feather Palace so that it could rise again after suffering a decline, she should also have taken a personal letter that descended from up there, right?"

"Your Excellency's deduction is flawless." Old Xian smiled: "Immortal Emperor Bing Yu did indeed make a deal with us back then."

He softly spoke: "Forget it, I do not care about it. Little Bing Yu can partially be considered a pupil of mine. Without my indulgence, she wouldn't have told this secret to your temple anyway."

Old Xian could finally breathe easy because some secrets weren't meant to be leaked. No one would want to talk about this stuff to anyone apart from their closest family, even Immortal Emperors weren't an exception. It related to too many secrets that the weak had no place knowing.

Li Qiye glanced over into the chaos and spoke: "Does your temple have any objections? Tell me your requests. As long as they are reasonable, I shall fulfill them."

Old Xian contemplated for a bit before speaking: "Is Your Excellency still recruiting?"

Li Qiye couldn't help but laugh after hearing this: "Do you want to climb out and go up there for real? If I'm not mistaken, your War God Temple has always been the same, acting like an old geezer. The temple probably wants to worship you nonstop until you can't extend your lifespan any longer."

"Maybe Your Excellency was right. There is no rebuilding without breaking." Old Xian sighed in the chaos: "The War God temple is still immersed in the glory of the previous generations; it is thriving due to the shelter of old prestige. If our old selves are still here, the temple won't be able to truly prosper."

"As long as we are still alive, the younger disciples will live comfortably with no sense of crisis. At the same time, we are wasting a lot of the temple's resources. This is robbing the youths." He lamented with regret.

Though the temple rarely involved itself with the world, it was indeed very powerful, not weaker than any other imperial lineage. Otherwise, it wouldn't have stood strong for so many millions of years.

However, its power was not built on the foundation of a rising younger generation. Unlike other imperial lineages, it didn't have new Immortal Emperors that would bring fresh blood for the sect.

The main reason for its strength was due to its establishment in a brilliant era. This left behind an astonishing legacy and resources for the temple, including many mighty ancestors.

Having powerful ancestors was not a bad thing for a sect. After all, this was part of their strength. However, it was not necessarily a plus either.

Aside from their existence hampering the motivation of the younger generation, they also consumed a lot of resources from either life prolongment or blood energy enrichment.

It was just like Old Xian said, this was robbing from the younger generation.

Li Qiye responded insipidly: “Your temple has adhered to old ideas for too long and should have had a reformation long ago. For instance, there were many good opportunities back then, yet you failed to grasp them. You actually sent out a great seed for an Immortal Emperor. If I knew that this was going to happen, I would have trained Little Bing Yu myself.”

Old Xian didn’t dare to comment after being scolded by Li Qiye. To the ancestors of the temple, they regretted gifting an Immortal Emperor to someone else the most.

If they kept the young Immortal Emperor Bing Yu, perhaps they would have broken this stagnation and brought some fresh blood to the temple.

Unfortunately, they failed to do a good job. In the end, the proud emperor left the temple.

In fact, Li Qiye had scolded them in the past about this matter before since he also lost the chance to train Immortal Emperor Bing Yu.

There was no chance for them to reconcile because the emperor was a proud person. She would never come back after leaving.

“Your Excellency’s criticism is just, our temple has indeed festered.” Old Xian sighed again and openly admitted their mistake that year.