

Domination 1181

Chapter 1181: Teng Jiwen's Ability

Li Qiye's criticism deeply stabbed into Teng Jiwen's deepest fear. It was mercilessly striking at the scar of their Heavenvine Citadel.

"We are not trash, parasites, or vermin to the ancestral vine!" In the end, he could only utter this sentence.

Li Qiye dismissively glanced at him: "In my eyes, there is not much of a difference. What are you all if not that? Your old geezers are all talk. Prove it, then, by acting as real descendants for the ancestral vine to see."

Teng Jiwen took a deep breath and bowed to say: "Sir, keep waiting. The citadel will give you an answer within two days!"

He turned and left, determination evident in his firm steps.

Li Qiye smiled and closed his eyes for a moment of repose without a care. In his mind, it didn't matter if the boy was going to ask for reinforcements or to persuade the ancestors. When the time was up, he would take away the calabash and do what must be done.

After Teng Jiwen left, the island became quiet; no disciples came to capture Li Qiye. It seemed like the youth didn't go tell the ancestors to capture him.

On the evening of the second day, Teng Jiwen came back in a hurry with a gaunt demeanor, but his eyes were bright and full of vitality.

He took a deep breath and told Li Qiye: "Sir, our ancestors have agreed to the deal. As long as you can cure our ancestral vine, the calabash will be yours."

Li Qiye looked at the boy and smirked before speaking: "It seems like I must reevaluate you. I'm sure it wasn't easy to convince those geezers from your citadel. This requires great determination."

"This is all to the credit of Master's group." Teng Jiwen sighed without any signs of complacency: "I have only done what any disciple of the citadel should do."

"Very good, if the citadel comes under your leadership in the future, it will certainly be prosperous." Li Qiye nodded.

The youth remained humble even after being praised. He bowed and asked: "Sir, may I ask when you will begin the treatment?"

"Right now." Li Qiye flatly replied: "Time waits for no one. It is time to end the business here as I must go elsewhere."

This startled the youth. He didn't expect Li Qiye to start so soon. Keep in mind that many powerful alchemists had tried to cure this calamity to no avail.

Li Qiye told him: "Tell your ancestors to prepare. I will go to the forbidden area to cure your ancestral vine."

The youth took a deep breath and went to carry out the command. Eventually, the citadel agreed for Li Qiye to begin anytime. It also opened the forbidden ground for him.

Many wise sages implemented an incomparable seal on the land near the ancestral vine. Without their permission, outsiders would have difficulty moving in this area, let alone launching an attack.

The citadel's response and actions were quite swift this time. Who knew what Teng Jiwen did to lobby them? To be able to do so in just two short days was quite impressive for a junior like him.

Of course, Li Qiye wouldn't care about such things. This was the citadel's business, he only cared about curing the ancestral vine and taking the Heavenvine Calabash.

When everything was ready, Teng Jiwen and the citadel lord led Li Qiye to the forbidden ground.

In fact, the boy was only able to successfully persuade the ancestors because of his master's support. Otherwise, a junior like him trying to convince those ancestors would have been much harder.

A couple moments later, they stood right outside of the forbidden ground. This was the most important location in the whole citadel. It had the densest amount of worldly energy. Legend states that one could enter the inner world of the ancestral vine through this forbidden ground, but no one had entered since the death of the treefather's son.

Many disciples and ancestors were standing right outside of the forbidden ground at this moment. They were all important characters of the protector level and up. Some were supreme elders as well.

The treatment of the ancestral vine was of the highest importance to the citadel. Whether it was to be vigilant against Li Qiye or fear of accidents occurring during the process, in short, the citadel's powerful forces were here to cope with any unexpected circumstances!

Li Qiye only gave this crowd a quick glimpse. Regardless of their preparations, he didn't mind killing those who stood in his path.

"Hold it!" As Li Qiye was about to enter the forbidden ground, a shout rang out. Hao Yuzhen stood up.

This made Teng Jiwen and the citadel lord furrow their brows. They had reached a unanimous agreement regarding this deal. They didn't want any complications that might cause the deal to turn awry, thus they had a bad feeling as she stood up.

Li Qiye glanced at her and lazily asked: "What's the matter?"

She put on a business-like appearance as she coldly said: "You must hand over all of your belongings outside of the materials required for the healing process. Other items aren't allowed inside the forbidden ground."

Teng Jiwen raised his voice: "Junior sister, what are you doing?"

Hao Yuzhen was causing trouble on purpose. She didn't know how he managed to convince the ancient ancestors in the sect, but at this moment, his position had soared and it was a great threat to her.

Therefore, she wanted to use this opportunity to stop Li Qiye. Stopping Li Qiye was the same as stopping Teng Jiwen!

“Ancestor, we reached an agreement about this matter, so what are these sudden complications?” The citadel lord was unhappy as well and looked over at Ancestor Hao.

Ancestor Hao slowly said: “The deal and agreement are still unchanged, but we must be cautious for the safety of the ancestral tree. Your alchemist is here for our treasure, who dares say that he won’t do anything shady in secret?”

The citadel lord glanced over at the other older ancestors here and asked: “Ancestors, what are your thoughts?”

“Alchemist Li can still bring items inside, but as a preventative measure, we must ask to check your items first.” An old ancestor spoke with a deep tone.

They were still very wary of Li Qiye. After Hao Yuzhen’s comment, they were indeed afraid of Li Qiye doing anything to the ancestral vine.

Despite being annoyed, the citadel lord and Teng Jiwen had no retorts. The reasoning was sound. Even though they weren’t necessarily cautious of Li Qiye, they still didn’t want to complicate the deal. Otherwise, all of their efforts would have been in vain.

“Did you hear that? Let us perform a full body search; every item of yours must be checked as well.” With the approval of the older ancestors, Hao Yuzhen was emboldened.

Li Qiye didn’t bother looking at her. He glanced over at the old ancestors from the citadel and smiled faintly while shaking his head: “There are a few excellent members in this place, so I thought that there would have been changes. It seems that in the end, it is still just a bunch of inflexible old men. What a disappointment.”

The older ancestors were not happy to hear this disdainful comment. Meanwhile, the master and disciple pair turned bitter. This matter had taken a sudden turn for the worse.

“Naive fool, you dare to shame our citadel? Take this!” This was a rare opportunity, so Hao Yuzhen naturally wouldn’t let it go. Her palm aimed for his face. [1. “Take this” in the raws was actually “Slap (his) mouth”. It’s fine in Chinese because people know that she is referring to slapping the face as a punishment for disrespect. It just sounds weird in English that she is announcing her own punishment while carrying it out herself. “Take this” makes more sense as a localization versus “Slap him” or “Take this slap”. Maybe “you deserved to be slapped” would make sense as well.]

However, before this slap could reach Li Qiye, her hand was suddenly gripped by him. He stared directly at her face and smiled: “An idiot like you dares to scream in front of me? You don’t know life from death!”

“Crank! Crack!” He crushed her slender, jade-white arm before even finishing his sentence. [2. Raw here is jade-white arm like a spring onion. The root of a spring onion is white, so it is describing that color.]

“Help!” She screamed for assistance. Her reaction was too slow, Li Qiye’s right hand was already clutching her milky pale neck.

He was way too fast. Even the ancestors here had a difficult time seeing him move. Before they knew it, he already had her raised into the air by the neck.

Chapter 1182: Kill Without Mercy

It only took a single blink for him to crush her wrist and then grab her neck; it was too late for anyone to even try and save her.

“No—” Both Teng Jiwen and the citadel lord were jolted with shocked expressions.

“Save, save me...” Her face turned red due to a lack of oxygen from being choked.

“Junior, what are you doing!” The Hao Ancestor was shocked. Very quickly, the disciples from the citadel completely surrounded Li Qiye.

Outside of a few ancestors from the Hao branch, many elders from the citadel itself were present as well.

Li Qiye maintained his grip and coldly glared at the group before nonchalantly declaring: “Still want to play? Try and stop me and I’ll crush your heads!”

“Wait, let us talk it out first.” The citadel lord was sweating. He quickly mediated: “Sir, we can slowly discuss this again. Just let go of my niece first.”

“Sir, we can still talk it out.” Teng Jiwen was quite scared as well and hurriedly told Li Qiye: “There’s no need to ruin the friendly atmosphere. It was only a misunderstanding.”

Li Qiye lazily declared: “There’s nothing to talk about. Either scam to the side and don’t bother me or I’ll cut all of your heads off!”

In just a moment, everyone’s expressions turned quite ugly. This was no longer about the internal competition. Li Qiye’s blatant contempt had humiliated and antagonized the entire citadel.

“There is nothing to discuss now.” The Hao Ancestor coldly said: “Let go of Yuzhen right now and surrender before you risk your own life!”

“With just you all?” Li Qiye dismissively responded: “Only a bunch of nobodies, not enough to even be an appetizer.”

The citadel lord was speechless. He couldn’t mediate anymore, so he said with a bitter expression: “My little ancestor, just let go of her and I can guarantee your safety.”

Teng Jiwen had no words to say. The deal was supposed to be smooth, but look at things now. Just one word of discord could cause blood to splatter every three steps!

At this time, all the experts and ancestors of the citadel were glaring at Li Qiye. He was completely provoking their city’s prestige and authority. If they didn’t teach this ignorant person a lesson, people would think that their city was easy to bully.

“Junior, you are being too arrogant. Let go of Yuzhen or we’ll end your dog life!” Even those who weren’t part of the Hao branch were shouting, unable to contain their anger.

If it wasn’t for her being a hostage, they would have pounced forward and cut him into countless pieces already.

“Li, listen! Even a Godking would die if they come to our citadel!” With so many ancestors backing her up, Hao Yuzhen became more courageous despite being in his clutches. She struggled to breathe before shouting: “Just let me go. Break your own arms and legs and end your cultivation, then we’ll spare your—”

“Crack!” It was a familiar scene. Before she could finish, he had crushed her neck. She didn’t even have the chance to scream since death came too quickly.

Everyone became dumbfounded. In the middle of the encirclement, he still dared to kill his only hostage. This was the same as cutting off his only path of retreat!

No sane person in this predicament would kill their only hostage. This truly stunned all the experts and even the Hao Ancestor.

“No...” Teng Jiwen was completely frightened. He spent painstaking efforts to convince the ancestors to agree to this deal. But now, everything had turned into smoke.

“Incomparably foolish, threatening to break my arms and legs as well as my cultivation under this situation.” Li Qiye didn’t even bat an eye. He threw her body to the side like trash.

“Little animal, I’m going to grind your bones to dust!” The Hao Ancestor’s roar echoed to the clouds. He unleashed a palm capable of chopping tides and splitting the ocean.

“Bang!” Li Qiye remained undaunted. With a tyrannical pose, he unleashed a direct punch, a fist that could shatter the past. It was a quiet fist that didn’t create gales or display an overbearing momentum.

One could hear something fracturing. The Hao Ancestor’s arm shattered after receiving this fist. He had to take several steps back while spewing out blood.

This shocked everyone present, forcing them to take deep breaths to calm down. The Hao Ancestor was still a grand character at the citadel, but he wasn’t a match for Li Qiye.

The ancestors became cautious right away. They took out their weapons and began to circle him. The other experts instantly left the battlefield to give room to their ancestors.

This level of battle was not something the juniors could participate in. They would only get in the way.

The Heavenvine Citadel Lord was completely stupefied. He thought that the ordinary-looking Li Qiye was just an alchemist, he didn’t expect him to be heaven-defyingly powerful.

Teng Jiwen couldn’t speak at all. This had escalated out of his control. It was up to the ancestors to decide now. He had wondered how powerful Li Qiye was, but this remained a mystery until now. He finally got a general concept of how strong the guy was.

“Zzz—” A buzz resounded as the shattered arm of the Hao Ancestor quickly recovered. However, he was in a frenzy. Being seriously injured by a junior was truly a disgrace in his eyes.

With a twisted expression, he took out his true weapon and coldly said: “Little animal, if our Heavenvine Citadel doesn’t peel your skin, sever your tendons, and drink your blood, we won’t need to stay in the Heaven Spirit World any longer!”

Another ancestor yelled at him: “Junior, it is not too late to surrender!”

Li Qiye sneered at the experts and said: “Surrender? In my eyes, all of you are mere insects. I can trample all of you to death with one stomp.”

“Naive fool, still blustering before death.” The Hao Ancestor shouted: “Brothers, what are we waiting for, let’s chop this little animal to—”

“Xshhh!” Blood spattered everywhere. Before the ancestor could finish his words, a tree branch came out of nowhere and pierced his skull. His eyes dilated from confusion about his sudden death.

The spectators were dumbfounded by this scene. To their surprise, a long vine was wrapped around Li Qiye’s arm. This vine actually grew out from their ancestral vine’s body.

The elders audibly gasped after seeing this sudden development. They turned pale and retreated while staring at Li Qiye in disbelief.

A vine growing from their ancestral tree actually killed the Hao Ancestor! How could such a thing happen?!

In their citadel, the ancestral vine was not only their progenitor, it was also their divine guardian that had been sheltering them for generations. But today, instead of killing the enemy, it killed an ancestor from their city.

If such a thing were to be spread, no one would believe it. This was already inconceivable, even when they witnessed it in person.

An ancestor murmured in astonishment: “Evil art, this is definitely an evil art...”

This was the only explanation they could come up with. Li Qiye used some strange and evil witchcraft to control the ancestral vine to kill the Hao Ancestor!

A frightened ancestor screamed: “He cultivates an evil art! We can’t let him live any longer, kill him at all costs!”

“Kill!” The rest of the ancestors present all roared together and unleashed their weapons to slay Li Qiye.

They wouldn’t mind paying any price to stop Li Qiye from leaving the citadel alive. Otherwise, he would certainly become a great menace in the future.

“A bunch of fools.” Li Qiye coldly glared at them and simply flipped his palm over, not bothering to give them another glance. A large leaf that was growing from the vine tree suddenly shot out.

“Boom! Boom! Boom!” The weapons attacking Li Qiye all shattered before this leaf.

With another loud blast, the flower swept through the ancestors like the end of autumn, sending them flying while spurting blood.

Chapter 1183: Sunflower Forefather

“Splashh—” A series of splashes came about. All of the blown away ancestors fell into the ocean.

This scene was too shocking. The experts here couldn’t regain their composure.

Both Teng Jiwen and the citadel lord were slack-jawed from fear. This was simply a legendary tale!

In this split second, they suddenly thought about the possibility that their ancestral tree might be controlled by Li Qiye! However, that would be preposterous. Even their own ancestors couldn't control the vine, let alone an outsider.

If this was indeed the case, then the only plausible explanation was that Li Qiye did have a demonic art.

"Anyone else want to stand in my way?" Vine branches from the ancestral tree began to merge behind Li Qiye.

The experts here were aghast, to say the least. They had never seen such a demonic art before. It was beyond their imagination.

Eventually, the experts glanced at each other. They continued to slowly converge on Li Qiye to the point of not even letting a single drop of water through.

Naturally, they were quite afraid. Even their ancestors were blown to the horizon like flies, and they were not as strong as them.

However, letting Li Qiye go or retreating weren't options they could take. They deemed him too great of a threat to let him leave alive today.

Li Qiye smiled at these experts: "A bit idiotic, but still quite unyielding. Daring to come despite knowing the disparity..."

"Vine Controller!" A loud explosion came from a cave along with a voice. Although this voice was very quiet, everyone could hear it clearly.

An old man emerged from the forbidden ground. To be exact, it was a sunflower tree.

It was much taller than an adult. Moreover, the sunflowers on the tree were blossoming to great sizes.

There was an old man's face on the sunflower in the center. He came out of the forbidden ground without exuding any blood energy. However, he gave the feeling that a simple flip of his palm could cause the world to collapse.

"An ancestral form!" Teng Jiwen murmured after seeing the shape of this sunflower.

The ancestral form was a method of obtaining atavism for treants. Many within this race would cultivate a human form and become powerful existences.

However, this was not to say that a humanoid form was more powerful. In fact, it was precisely the opposite. A humanoid treant was not as powerful as an ancestral form treant because this atavistic form allowed them to control the strongest origin power.

However, despite the great benefits, there was a fatal weakness to the ancestral form. There was no way to pass down their bloodline if they were to keep this form, regardless of how powerful and heaven-defying they might be. Eventually, their legacy would end.

Only those with a flesh and blood body could reproduce and spread their bloodline to future descendants.

Because of this, the majority of the treants would cultivate into a human form. Very few were willing to maintain the ancestral form. After all, everyone wanted to pass down their legacy.

Being strong was meaningless if it meant that one would lose the ability to reproduce and pass down their legacy!

The citadel lord came back from his shock and murmured after seeing this sunflower: "Sunflower Forefather!"

An expert was ecstatic and muttered: "It is the forefather, our forefather has come into being!"

So it turned out that this large sunflower was the Sunflower Forefather. He was the most powerful and oldest ancestor of the citadel. His appearance was a rare sight. Even the citadel lord had only seen him once in his life, and this was at a very young age.

At this moment, this forefather couldn't believe it either. He stared intensely at Li Qiye and the vine branches behind him while feeling that this was a dream.

As the forefather came closer, the experts surrounding Li Qiye all made way.

In fact, they could finally breathe easy. No one would be able to oppose the forefather, not even Li Qiye's demonic art, even if it was stronger.

The forefather was not very confident as he asked Li Qiye: "You, can you really manipulate it? Are you a Vine Controller?"

He glanced at the sunflower and smirked: "Old man, try me and see. I'll be happy to display this majestic and invincible power."

Teng Jiwen panicked after hearing Li Qiye's response. For millions of years, no one had dared to be disrespectful towards the forefather.

The Sunflower Forefather's eyes began to flash like blossoming starlight.

In a split second, he whisked his arm and isolated space as if he wanted to banish Li Qiye.

"Bang!" But before the banishment could take effect, the nearby space shattered. With another bang, the forefather was pushed back into the huge vine tree.

Vine branches then came together to form a hand of god that coiled around the forefather's neck. His entire body was propped up against the vine tree, instantly suppressing him.

"No way!" The citadel lord and everyone else were aghast. It was not an exaggeration to say that they nearly pissed their pants in terror!

Even their invincible Sunflower Forefather was suppressed, so how could they not pale from fear? All the experts felt despair, there was no one left to oppose Li Qiye outside of their ancestral vine.

In spite of this, they still mustered together to try and stop Li Qiye once more. They must face him despite knowing that they were not his match.

In just a moment, both Teng Jiwen and the citadel lord felt suffocated. In their minds, no one should be able to stop the forefather in present times, yet he was rendered motionless — this was too terrorizing.

The forefather being pushed against the vine tree raised both of his hands and quickly said: “Wait, I bear no malice, it was just a test.”

Li Qiye glanced at him, then the branches in the form of the godhand loosened to let him go. It turned back into vine branches that hovered behind Li Qiye.

“You really are a Vine Controller...” The shocked Sunflower Forefather couldn’t believe it despite having confirmed it.

He finally took a deep breath and asked while staring at Li Qiye: “Is your bloodline from our citadel?”

Li Qiye laughed in response: “Old man, you are overthinking things. My bloodline is the purest of the human lineage. I am not a descendant of your ancestral vine and definitely have nothing to do with your citadel.”

“How inconceivable.” The forefather carefully looked at Li Qiye and confirmed that he indeed didn’t have even a hint of the citadel’s bloodline. He continued: “Outside of the only biological son of the treefather, no one else has appeared in all these generations that can communicate with the treefather. No one aside from its son has been able to become a Vine Controller, yet an outsider like you can control the vines!”

Here, his eyes flashed with a revelation: “Could it be that the ancestral vine has chosen you to become the Vine Controller of our citadel...”

“Your imagination is too much.” With a grin, Li Qiye waved his sleeve to interrupt the forefather: “I am not your divine guardian or a Vine Controller, I’m only someone who is teaching a lesson to this group of foolish descendants in the vine’s stead.”

Li Qiye naturally wasn’t a so-called Vine Controller. He used the Myriad Age Tree to communicate with the ancestral vine. Although the vine itself had no sentience, its instinct was still there and allowed Li Qiye to use its power.

The forefather said with excitement: “Regardless, you can still control everything here, so you are a Vine Controller. Only those with the permission of the ancestral vine would be able to use its power.”

“You are speaking too much nonsense, but one thing is indeed true.” Li Qiye smiled: “I can indeed control the power of the ancestral vine!”

Chapter 1184: Vine Controller

Despite Li Qiye’s denial of being a Vine Controller, the Sunflower Forefather was still very excited: “After so many years, we have finally waited long enough for a Vine Controller to appear. We shall be able to rise in this generation...”

“Old man, you are overthinking things.” Li Qiye interrupted the forefather again and spoke in a lackadaisical manner: “This Vine Controller thing or the citadel rising... I don’t have any interest in this. I am only here to make a deal.”

Despite Li Qiye's lack of interest, the forefather pressed on with some wishful thinking. He shouted at the experts and said: "What are you waiting for?! Come and greet his venerable Vine Controller. His will is the will of the ancestral vine!"

In the mind of the forefather, this was a one and only chance of this generation. This was a Vine Controller! If he could keep the guy here, his ability would be absolutely priceless for their citadel.

The experts here felt quite confused, but after carefully thinking things through, it made a little sense. Even though Li Qiye was an outsider, he has clearly been accepted by the ancestral vine. Now, even the forefather has recognized Li Qiye's identity. This meant that Li Qiye had won the will of the ancestral vine.

The experts came forward to bow towards Li Qiye. This sudden reversal was like a dream. A few moments ago, they were trapped in a fight to the death against Li Qiye, but now he had become the representative of the ancestral vine.

"Go back and do some personal reflection. There are things that can be done and things that shouldn't be done." In the end, the forefather yelled at the experts from the citadel before chasing them away.

Eventually, the only juniors left were the citadel lord and Teng Jiwen.

"Vine Controller, since you are already here, please stay at our citadel. There are many juniors that require your guidance..." The Sunflower Forefather smiled brightly.

Li Qiye was not interested in being this so-called vine controller. He halted the forefather again: "I won't bother with this kind of laborious undertaking. My time is limited, I am only responsible for curing the ancestral vine. After taking the calabash away, I will have nothing to do with this place."

"Er—" The forefather couldn't find an excuse to reject his refusal. He could only smile wryly: "That's fine, that's fine, we'll focus on the ancestral vine then."

He was someone who understood the logic that an impatient person shouldn't be eating hot tofu. It would be troublesome to push Li Qiye too much. [1. Okay, the explanation for this is that when you cook tofu, an outer layer is formed, trapping the heat inside so it won't look hot. Someone impatient would start eating right away and burn their tongue.]

He led Li Qiye into the forbidden ground. Meanwhile, the master-disciple duo finally regained their composure and quickly followed. Even in their wildest dreams, neither of them could have expected the change of tides.

After Li Qiye killed Hao Yuzhen, they knew that the deal was over and that ultimately, they might not escape unscathed. Even if their citadel was strong enough to catch Li Qiye, the two of them would still be responsible for this disaster.

But in the end, Li Qiye was in complete control of the situation. At this time, Teng Jiwen finally understood why Li Qiye was so confident about forcing this transaction. He now realized Li Qiye's ace and where his confidence stemmed from.

The group saw a majestic landscape with peaks towering all the way to the sky dome. Vine leaves were whirling high above. This place truly gave the sensation of being a kingdom of elves.

These protrusions with lush trees and flowing rivers as well as the gigantic vine towering to the sky would make the unaware believe that they were lost in an untouched eden.

The worldly energy was plentiful. Of course, there was also the force of life coming from the ancestral vine. This was the most important location in the Heavenvine Citadel, hence its exuberance.

This was definitely a holy land for cultivation, but not just anyone was eligible to train in this place.

Eventually, the forefather brought Li Qiye to the highest peak of this area. A vine was drooping down from the sky. It was quite thick and resembled jade pillars. It emitted a faint luster as if it was the green vein of the heavens.

This sight would make people recall a certain legend. When a cultivator dies and becomes an immortal, their body would also turn into jade. This vine branch was awfully similar to this legend, so it made people envision the scene of the Heavenvine Treefather meeting his end and turning into this tree.

“A treefather’s atavistic end to return to the earth, it is quite an incredible sight.” Li Qiye looked at this vine and said: “During that great moment, heaven and earth would shift with wondrous images as the treefather ascends into a jade form.”

Teng Jiwen and the citadel lord were surprised because they hadn’t heard of this description before.

The forefather praised: “My lord, you have such great knowledge, worthy of admiration and awe. When the treefather returned to the earth, those images were indeed present.”

Li Qiye gave the forefather a dismissive glance: “Don’t rush to praise me, I’m about to be frank. After the treefather returned to the earth, there should have been two of these jade pillars, but now there is only one left and even it is about to disappear. Everything has been ruined by the hands of his unfilial descendants.”

The forefather coughed awkwardly after hearing this while the duo kept quiet without daring to say a word. In the citadel, who would dare to talk this way to their forefather? But right now, he was being scolded by Li Qiye like a junior. There was no way they could add their own comments in this circumstance.

“From the two jade pillars back then, one bore fruit to the Heavenvine Calabash. Later on, when Immortal Emperor Bu Si collapsed, my senior brother wanted to go all out and tried to steal from the heavens so that another fruit could come to be...” The Sunflower Forefather lamented at this point with a soft sigh.

Back then, not only did they fail in their attempt, they also suffered grievous losses.

“Not everything will go according to plans in this world. One can only say that you old geezers were too greedy for wanting another calabash. Were you all trying to squeeze your ancestral vine dry?” Li Qiye sneered.

The forefather rubbed his palms while showing an awkward smile: “Because of that, my senior brothers also wanted to pour the essences of the Heaven’s Will into the ancestral ground to revitalize the ancestor...”

“You all were too bold, greedy, and insane.” Li Qiye snorted: “A treefather from the Treant Race returning to the earth and taking root to live on is already an act against the heavens, but you all even tried to steal its essences? What was this if not courting death?”

The forefather helplessly replied: “No one knew that such a thing would happen back then. It was already too late once we realized it. The other jade pillar was destroyed while the heavens unleashed its scourge upon us.”

Li Qiye coldly said: “Greed is one thing, but to not understand your own limits to this point... Of course the heavens would send down its punishment. If you all had an Immortal Emperor overseeing things, then it might have been a successful struggle. However, relying on you old bones alone? Heh, it was already very fortunate that the villainous heavens didn’t render your citadel to ashes.”

The forefather sighed again. Several of his senior brothers died miserably during this disaster, not to mention the calamity left behind on their ancestral vine.

Meanwhile, the duo quietly listened. Even though the citadel lord knew a lot, this was the first time he had heard about the details of the past.

While looking at the jade pillar that resembled a tendon of the heavens, Li Qiye ordered the lord: “Go up there and break it!”

“Break it?” The lord felt his legs suddenly become weak and thought that he had misheard. This jade pillar was extremely significant to their citadel. Smashing it was tantamount to smashing their own treasure.

“Break it?” Even the forefather turned silly. He stared at Li Qiye in disbelief and said: “This is the only one left, if you break it now—”

Li Qiye dismissively countered: “Break it and you will understand.”

The citadel lord glanced over at the forefather. He didn’t dare to do such a thing.

The forefather took a deep breath and commanded: “Break it. If his lordship orders it, it must be correct.”

The citadel lord took a deep breath then flew into the sky with a huge hammer in his hands. Both of his hands were trembling at this moment. With one smash, he would personally be destroying the most precious treasure in the Heavenvine Citadel. Perhaps he would even become a sinner of his sect.

Chapter 1185: The Missing Calamity

Eventually, he took a deep breath while tightening his grip on the huge hammer. He clenched his teeth and made up his mind before ruthlessly slamming it down.

“Clink!” With a pleasing sound, the jade pillar shattered in one hit as if it was made out of glass. Countless fragments fell down from the sky like dust.

The citadel lord and the Sunflower Forefather both shouted: “Impossible!” They were both aghast and lost in disbelief.

The citadel lord looked in bewilderment at his hammer since he didn't expect to destroy the jade pillar in just one smash. He wondered if his hammer had always been this strong.

"What... this can't be. The seal is still here with the surviving jade pillar, but why is it completely undamaged?" The Sunflower Forefather was overwhelmed with shock.

As for Teng Jiwen, he stood there looking silly because he didn't know what was happening. He had never been here before, so he had no clue about this seal or the calamity.

"Where is the calamity? It isn't here!" The forefather swept through the entire citadel with his divine intent, but there was no trace of it.

"Oh no, damn it!" In the end, even someone in a high position like the forefather cursed vulgarly. He thought of one possibility!

"Fuck, don't tell me, the calamity has secretly invaded the ancestral vine!" His soul left his body when he came up with this conjecture and he felt his knees giving in.

"The ancestral vine has been invaded—" The citadel lord had the same reaction after hearing his forefather. The hammer in his hands fell straight to the ground.

"That's... impossible..." The lord was dumbfounded. Until now, all the ancestors and even the Sunflower Forefather were confident in sealing the calamity within the seal. It was just that they had no way of destroying it.

Because of this, they had always been confident. The sealed calamity couldn't cause any damage. It was only a bit problematic that they couldn't destroy it. The seal gave them confidence and the illusion of having ample time to find the right alchemist to get rid of it once and for all.

"It is gone..." The distressed forefather dropped to the ground. At this moment, he knew where it had gone and what they would have to face.

He was scared out of his wits just imagining it. No one would be able to reverse this disaster. The citadel lord thought of the vine's imminent demise as well. He was dazed while his legs trembled.

"Is it that serious?" Teng Jiwen didn't know the implications of the calamity escaping the seal, so he had to ask after seeing his seniors act this way.

"Very serious." The forefather calmed down and stood up to take a deep breath: "A disaster is looming over our heads. Within just two generations, our citadel might turn into ashes!"

"In just two generations?!" Teng Jiwen was shocked. This timeline felt far too short when a real disaster was approaching.

The forefather glanced over the broken jade fragments that contained nothing. He was still as amazed as before: "How could this have happened? The seal is untouched so our citadel was not notified. How could it have escaped?"

"You have to understand what this is." Li Qiye flatly said: "All of you wanted to steal from the villainous heavens, do you think the punishment it sent down would be this easy to seal? If the bastard was so

easily dealt with, it would no longer be the villainous heavens. If it was so easy to oppose him, there would be more than just one Immortal Emperor in each generation.”

Teng Jiwen looked over towards Li Qiye: “Sir, can you cure it?” At this moment, Li Qiye was the only hope for their citadel.

The Sunflower Forefather smiled wryly and said: “It is not a matter of just treating it anymore. The calamity has fled into the ancestral vine’s body and could even have taken root deep inside. We have to go there and remove it at the source, but that might mean uprooting the entire vine.”

Teng Jiwen’s heart fluttered after hearing this. He didn’t expect the problem to be so serious. Prior to this, Li Qiye had said that their ancestral vine didn’t have much longer to live. He was skeptical back then and felt that it was only a threat. Who would have thought that it was the truth?

“The real issue is that we can’t enter, no one has been able to do so for many generations.” The citadel lord was almost paralyzed on the ground. This news was completely devastating to the citadel; it caught them off guard like thunder in a clear sky.

“No, one person was able to enter.” The forefather explained: “The Supreme Forefather was able to do so. He was the only child of the progenitor; not only was he a Vine Controller, he also inherited the bloodline.”

Teng Jiwen had to ask Li Qiye: “Sir, you are also a Vine Controller, can you go inside?”

Li Qiye looked at them and smiled: “Right now, I feel like the Heavenvine Calabash alone is too low of a price.”

The forefather immediately looked at Li Qiye: “My lord, what do you want? Just say the word and our citadel will make it happen!”

He felt that Li Qiye could actually succeed in curing the vine at this time.

The citadel lord added: “Yes, please. Anything will be fine.”

If this was before, they wouldn’t be so anxious since they thought that time was on their side. But now, with the new findings on the calamity, they finally understood how insignificant they were. Each and every disciple of the citadel was willing to protect the ancestral vine regardless of the price.

Li Qiye glanced at the forefather and slightly narrowed his eyes: “If I wanted other things from your citadel, would I need to wait until now? I already reached an agreement with your ancestral vine, just the calabash will be enough.”

The rest of the group became quite emotional after hearing this. Keep in mind that regardless of what Li Qiye wanted, the citadel would have to give it to him. However, he only wanted the calabash in the end.

“My lord, the citadel will forever remember your kindness. If you ever need us in the future, just send the command. Our citadel will answer your call and run through fire without question!” The forefather kneeled to the ground and made a solemn promise.

The citadel lord and Teng Jiwen prostrated as well. In their minds, they would owe a debt to Li Qiye, one that was higher than the sky and deeper than the sea.

“Let’s go.” Li Qiye looked at them before turning and walking away. The forefather calmed down and immediately followed behind him.

The group eventually came before a mountain. Li Qiye slowly pressed his hand against its rocky wall. With a buzz, vine branches drilled out from the muddy ground.

The snake-like vine branches instantly wandered all around the cliff. In a short period of time, they wove into a door on its surface.

The Sunflower Forefather murmured after seeing this: “The portal into the inner world of the ancestral vine is right here...”

For millions of years, only the son of the ancestral vine was able to enter this inner world. Li Qiye stepped inside with the rest of the group hurrying after him.

The scene inside was an eye-opener even for the forefather since this was his very first visit.

The master and disciple duo were amazed as well after seeing the branches that resembled dragons. This truly made them understand how invincible their treefather was.

Teng Jiwen eventually asked after calming down: “Can cultivators reside in this world?”

Li Qiye smiled: “Why should its descendants be allowed to stay in this place? So that they can extract the immense vitality within as well? To suck out all of the essences from the depths of the earth? The reason why an ancestral tree can live for so long is due to the life force and essences of this world circulating around their roots without rest. The loss in this process is very minimal. Otherwise, the trees wouldn’t last more than two generations.”

He felt that Li Qiye’s answer was very reasonable. If future generations were allowed into this world, they would refine these energies into their own. After a while, they would squeeze their ancestral tree dry. He understood why they weren’t allowed inside either. This was another defensive measure.

Chapter 1186: Calamity

Within the vine was a vast world of gigantic and circling roots. Some soared to the sky to reach close to the clouds...

Waterfalls descended from above with mud piles as high as mountains. Some green roots intricately twisted together to resemble gigantic monsters.

Dazzling glimmers shone from all over the sky, as if many stars were hanging up there.

If there was a difference between the inner worlds of the Peacock Tree and the Heavenvine Tree, it would be that the roots here were much more powerful and full of life. The stars above were brighter as well.

Teng Jiwen noticed the starlight above and asked: “Are those stars?”

The Sunflower Forefather and the citadel lord lifted their heads as well since they didn’t know the answer.

“Those are Age Stars.” Li Qiye glanced at them and explained: “The dimming of these Age Stars signifies the time of withering. It is just like the life rings of a tree — they signify how long the tree has left to live.”

Teng Jiwen continued to observe the sky. There were too many stars to the point of them being innumerable. However, it was not difficult to find that some of them were significantly darker than their peers.

Teng Jiwen heaved a sigh of relief after seeing the countless stars. The forefather and citadel lord felt the same way. The plentiful stars meant that their ancestral vine still had a long lifespan left, so long as Li Qiye takes care of the calamity.

After a long search, he finally found the main root. It was huge and thick. Standing before it was the same as standing in front of a cliff.

He stood at a particular position to peer over everything before speaking: “Right here.”

The rest of the group looked over to find a little hole. Inside was a blade of grass only around three inches tall. There was nothing about it that warranted any attention. It was light green in color with a shade of white due to the lack of sunlight.

However, upon a closer inspection, this was not a small blade of grass but tiny particles invisible to the naked eye. These little green particles connected together to form a green electrical arc that looked just like a small grass.

“Why is it like this?” The forefather’s expression changed after seeing this, forcing him to take a deep breath.

“This is our ancestral vine’s calamity?” Both Teng Jiwen and the citadel lord were surprised as well.

In their minds, their ancestors had been helpless for generations because of it, so it should at least be a frightening and dangerous existence. They imagined that this calamity would have the body of a devil with a demonic smile. Each strand of its aura could burn everything in this world.

Who would have thought that this little blade of grass was actually the calamity agonizing their ancestral vine?

“We can pull out something like this with one hand.” Teng Jiwen blurted, but he immediately realized that he was wrong. If that was possible, why didn’t the ancestors do it before instead of waiting for generations? Were these invincible ancestors weaker than a junior?

“Then you can try to pull it out.” Li Qiye smiled.

The citadel lord realized that his disciple had chosen the wrong words. Not only did they offend Li Qiye, they also insulted all the generational ancestors, including the forefather before them.

He busily tried to smooth things out: “Sir, well, my little disciple is ignorant without any sense of propriety. He doesn’t see how dangerous—”

Li Qiye gently waved his hand to interrupt him: “It’s nothing, I’m not mad at him. He can go ahead and try it once to understand the situation.”

With that, Teng Jiwen glanced over at his master. The lord, at this moment, was helpless and couldn't do anything but nod. In fact, he also wanted to see what kind of ability this little blade of grass had.

Teng Jiwen took a deep breath and reached for the grass to pull it out. However, before even touching it, his hands started to tremble; he no longer dared to do so.

The reason was very simple: this was their ancestral vine's calamity. Just how frightening and dangerous was this thing? If he touched it, wouldn't it be the same as throwing his life away?

"Relax, pull it." Li Qiye naturally could tell what he was thinking and smiled: "I'm right here, I won't let you die."

With this guarantee, Teng Jiwen calmed down and finally made up his mind. After gritting his teeth, he reached for the grass once more.

"Bzzz—" However, the moment his hand touched the grass, a series of lightning crackles came about. The grass dispersed into countless particles that disappeared into the main root.

The whole process gave a sense of something proliferating into the main root with extreme speed. No one could react in time, let alone catch those tiny particles.

"What is going on?" The masters and disciples were lost.

At this time, all the roots, regardless of their size in this world, had little lights flashing and crackling inside them.

Because of the many roots here that were tightly clinging together or completely woven as one, a lightning arc emerged when all of them flashed together. It came as quick as a bolt of lightning before instantly disappearing.

Even though the individual lights were not bright, all of them appearing together was another story. This world completely lit up with each crackle.

It was a shocking process like a sun exploding; it was quite difficult to keep their eyes open in the midst of this light. Who could imagine that this was a scene created by these tiny flashes?

Darkness ensued soon afterward. This sudden change was quite difficult to get accustomed to.

Teng Jiwen eventually calmed down and asked in horror: "What is this?"

"The calamity." The forefather took a deep breath and replied: "It has invaded every root of the ancestral vine. Once it gathers enough power, it will squeeze the ancestral vine dry until there is nothing left."

Teng Jiwen shuddered. Every single root that made up the foundation of their citadel was infected.

Li Qiye dismissively commented: "It is because you all dragged it out for too long. The countless years gave it this chance."

The others could only sigh. They never thought that it would escalate to this level.

The citadel lord couldn't help but ask: "The ancestral vine is invincible, why can't it crush this calamity?"

Li Qiye chuckled and pointed at the sky to say: “Do you know what kind of existence is suppressing your ancestor? It is that thief, the high heavens! Returning and taking root in this earth is already going against him. If your ancestor rebels again, it would bring about a supreme repression that would instantly render the tree into ashes unless there was someone as strong as an Immortal Emperor helping to stop this heavenly punishment. Otherwise, the relentless onslaught from both inside and out isn’t something it can withstand!”

“Rather than immediately turning into ashes, it is better to live a borrowed life and wait for you juniors to expel the calamity.” He looked at the Sunflower Forefather after saying this.

The forefather’s old face turned red as he coughed. This situation was the fault of ancestors like him. He had to admit: “It is all due to our incompetence. We couldn’t help our ancestral vine and thought that the calamity had been successfully sealed.”

“Bzzz—” A tiny crackle resounded from Teng Jiwen’s body. Faint lights emerged from his body in the form of bright particles. He was suddenly wrapped in this layer of lightning.

“What’s happening?” He was scared out of his wits after seeing this. He tried to pat the particles away from his body, but before he could touch them, the particles immediately dispersed and entered his body.

Chapter 1187: Treatment

“Crackle!” The particles resurfaced just a moment later. Moreover, their numbers had greatly increased, as if more had just been produced.

The aghast youth screamed: “Master, save me!”

“Sir, please save my little disciple.” The citadel lord didn’t expect this to happen at all. His soul left his body from fear as he quickly asked Li Qiye for help.

“Don’t move about!” The Sunflower Forefather shouted: “This is an infection. The more you try to resist, the stronger it will become. You are not the ancestral vine, so it can refine you right away!”

After hearing this, Teng Jiwen couldn’t stand straight anymore from fear. He asked Li Qiye to help as well: “Sir, please save me!”

After seeing the boy’s appearance, Li Qiye laughed and shook his head: “You are exaggerating things. With me here, there’s no need to be so alarmed. It is not like I will stand by and watch you die.”

Teng Jiwen heaved a sigh of relief after hearing this. With Li Qiye’s assurance, it seemed that his life would be saved.

“Not bad.” Li Qiye glanced at the particles on his body: “Not only is it untouchable as it will disperse right away, it can also spread with extreme speed. Unfortunately, it has met me.”

With a smirk, he took out the Myriad Heavenly Cauldron and easily extracted a bunch of fiery strands.

Li Qiye looked at Teng Jiwen and said: “Don’t move or resist, just let it be.”

He nodded after taking a deep breath: “I’ll keep that in mind—”

Before he could finish, Li Qiye had already begun inserting strands of fire into his body one after another. All of a sudden, he was like a ragdoll with numerous strands of fire going in and out of his body.

As these tiny fire strings drilled into his body, he didn't feel hot at all. On the contrary, he felt cold lines running through his blood vessels. This chill seemed to be able to freeze his blood.

One would find this difficult to believe, especially if they weren't personally experiencing it. The scorching fire from Li Qiye's cauldron was actually cool.

After a while, he had the illusion that blood was no longer running through his body, that a cold fire had replaced it.

At this time, Li Qiye began to recall the strands of fire. In the beginning, Teng Jiwen didn't feel anything, but shortly afterward, he felt as if very tiny particles were being pulled out along with these strands. These particles latched onto the strands and left his body.

More and more light particles attached themselves to Li Qiye's fire, as if it was a magnet that was absorbing all of them from the youth's body.

Teng Jiwen eventually felt his body becoming lighter. There was an indescribable sense of ease. He knew then that all of the particles had been dragged out by Li Qiye.

"Boom!" In a split second, the flame in the cauldron surged and turned vicious. It refined all of the particles taken out of Teng Jiwen's body.

Although these particles wanted to attack, the cauldron was simply too ferocious. Under Li Qiye's control, there was no chance for a reversal; they were incinerated right away.

"Thank you for saving my life, Sir." Teng Jiwen was relieved and prostrated on the ground.

The citadel lord did the same and gratefully said: "Sir, your skill is unrivaled in this world."

The forefather witnessed Li Qiye's supreme alchemy and became relieved as well. Their citadel has finally met their savior. The ancestral vine can finally be saved...

In the next couple of days, the disciples of the citadel could feel a change in the atmosphere. The whole place became quite tense. Several days later, their ancestral vine suddenly trembled, as did the citadel. Some palaces and mountains even collapsed...

In this short period of time, all of the disciples became restless and felt that a disaster that could descend at any time was looming over their heads.

In particular, the ancestors knew the gravity of the situation. The entire citadel entered the highest state of alert and was ready to help at any time in case something happens.

These anxiety-filled days eventually came to an end. Although the disciples didn't know what was going on, they could sense that the clouds had melted along with the dispersing mists. Some even felt that their ancestral vine's branches were stretching as if the disaster had passed.

The ancestors finally found solace. The citadel was saved.

In these few days, Li Qiye was brought outside by the forefather's group. He was very tired from extinguishing the calamity at this moment.

He was treated as the most esteemed guest. Even the forefather himself personally stood guard for him, not letting anyone come close to disturb his rest.

Li Qiye took out all types of immortal medicines. He had spent a lot of blood energy to destroy the calamity, but his recovery was quite swift.

After he recovered, the forefather came to see him. He bowed the moment he saw Li Qiye and said: "Your kindness cannot be described by words. Just give us a command in the future if you ever require our service."

Li Qiye gently nodded and waved his sleeve: "Rise, a deal is a deal. Since I have promised you, I will naturally carry out my end of the bargain."

Nevertheless, the forefather still felt very grateful. He respectfully held the Heavenvine Calabash and spoke: "This is the calabash that you wanted, please take a look."

Li Qiye glanced at it and put it away. This brought him one step closer to replenishing the Peacock Tree's lifespan.

The forefather hurriedly asked: "May I ask if you would be willing to spend more time at our citadel so that we can do our best as your host?"

Li Qiye looked at him and quipped: "Don't tell me you want me to become your citadel's disciple?"

"No, I wouldn't dare!" The forefather quickly waved his palms back and forth: "Ah, Sir, you are the true dragon above the nine heavens. The Heavenvine Citadel is too tiny and cannot accommodate you. If you are willing to take the title of being our Vine Controller, it would be our honor."

The forefather was certainly eager for Li Qiye to stay. If this was possible, then their citadel could rise once again.

Li Qiye only smiled and shook his head: "I am only a passerby for your citadel and the Heaven Spirit World. This horizon is not my home, I am only here for some sightseeing."

The forefather sighed and replied: "Sir, you are a peerless master. I suppose the citadel doesn't have this fortune."

He understood that an opportunity like this couldn't be forced. It was not meant to be for their citadel.

Li Qiye flatly stated: "Teng Jiwen from your citadel is not bad, so I will have him follow me for a bit..."

"... I won't teach him other things, but with regards to your ancestral vine, I will teach him a few secrets. I have gained some insights after communicating with your ancestral vine, so I'll be passing that back to your citadel."

After reaching an agreement with the ancestral vine, Li Qiye had a deeper understanding of its origin.

"This is his fortune." The forefather was ecstatic and quickly cupped his fists before immediately calling someone to bring Teng Jiwen over.

In just a moment, both Teng Jiwen and his master came. After hearing this, Teng Jiwen was elated. His master was quite happy for him as well.

Today, Teng Jiwen becoming the next successor was set in stone. If he could learn more from the ancestral vine, he would definitely be able to shine in the future.

“Thank you for your guidance.” The citadel lord calmed down and quickly dragged Teng Jiwen, who was still standing there silly, to the ground to express his gratitude.

“Rise.” Li Qiye said: “After communicating with your ancestral vine, I only focused on a few matters that I found interesting. As for your vine’s knowledge, it is of no use to me, so I will return it to your citadel. This is a type of fate, a natural part of life.”

In spite of this, the citadel lord was still very happy for his disciple. This would definitely be a way to help him communicate with the ancestral vine.

“Okay, go back and prepare.” Li Qiye gently waved his hand: “You are to meet me at Shallow Beach. I will go on ahead.”

Teng Jiwen respectfully bowed and immediately went to prepare.

Li Qiye had other business. He had obtained the calabash, so he didn’t want to stay at the Heavenvine Citadel for too long. He departed on this very day.

At this time, outside of the Sunflower Forefather himself, all of the high ranking ancestors also went to see him off.

The forefather really wanted Li Qiye to stay for several more days so that they could treat him even better, but he didn’t dare to hold Li Qiye back as he insisted on leaving.

“Take care of yourselves.” Li Qiye looked at the forefather before casually pointing with his finger. A portal emerged. He stepped inside and instantly crossed through space.

Chapter 1188: Shallow Beach

Shallow Beach was surrounded with blue skies and white clouds as well as a green sea laden with underwater shoals. Occasionally, some peaks would be exposed on the surface of the water. One side was a cliff while the other was a beach with white sand wetted by the undulating waves.

There were also seabirds flying in the air while fishes leaped out of the water. It was a peaceful and beautiful scene.

The truth was that the beach was not actually quiet. This was only on the surface of the sea. The undersea was where it was lively.

Mountains ran next to chasms while seaweed swayed to the current among the forests of coral. Some sea trees towered from down below as well...

The name “Shallow Beach” didn’t mean that it was a shallow sea. It was because this place was close to the surface, hence the name.

Pavilions and palaces were built below the beach, coming together to form an underwater city. Streets and bridges led to all the corners of the city. It was very prosperous and busy, a beautiful world under the sea.

The structures were immersed in water. Some expelled water and formed their own space just like the mainland.

People came and went to Shallow Beach. Some rode seahorses straight through the water without being stained at all while others rode their silent shuttles with great speed. Those who were part of the sea rode gigantic whales and glided through the water without losing their elegance.

Among the crowd were elegant charming spirits, treants with oppressive wood affinities, and many bizarre sea demons.

Some walked through the city completely unstained by the water so they looked quite graceful. Some avoided the sea and chose passages with invisible walls that pushed the water out. Others were completely soaked by the water and some sea demons maintained their demonic form to move even quicker.

This beach was a property of the Void Imperfection Three Schools. To be more exact, it was part of the Void Imperfection School. Because of this, the city was very peaceful; sea demons and treants wouldn't dare to cause trouble here.

The Void Imperfection Three Schools weren't only famous in the Jade Sea, they were even renowned across the entire Heaven Spirit World. They were monsters that could cause a huge flood with one stomp.

The Void Imperfection School was created by Immortal Emperor Wu Gou. In future generations, it was divided into three different schools: the Void Imperfection School, the Evil Devourer School, and the Sacred Spring School.

Even though it was divided into three separate schools, it was still a singular heritage. More often than not, they still communicated with outsiders as one sect.

This was the lineage with the greatest amount of Immortal Physiques. Someone once said that in terms of having the most Immortal Physiques, there was no sect but the Void Imperfection Three Schools, even when taking into account all of the nine worlds. The progenitor of the school was Immortal Emperor Wu Gou. Not only was he an emperor, he had also cultivated the Void Imperfection Physique to grand completion! Later on, they had another two grand completion Immortal Physiques. These two didn't cultivate the Void Imperfection Physique but the Heaven Devourer Evil Physique and the Sacred Spring Physique respectively.

In other words, the school once had three different people with different grand completion Immortal Physiques. This was a great achievement in all of the nine worlds, hence their reputation.

Shallow Beach belonged to the Void Imperfection School. Because of this, people built this great undersea city without seeing trouble or opposition.

In an inn down below, Li Qiye sat near a window to watch the street while drinking his wine.

This inn was quite interesting. It was built next to a mountain, and above it was a whirlpool that was used to brew the very famous wine they served.

He continued to drink while watching fishes swim right beside him. Occasionally, one or two naughty crabs would climb on his table and, to his amusement, raise their claws to intimidate him.

He was untouched by a single drop of water. It was no different than sitting in an inn on land.

After finishing another cup, he shouted: "Boss, another cup!"

"Coming!" The boss of this place answered right away. He was a sea demon with a muscular build. Perhaps his ancestor used to be a whale demon because there were still two clumps of flesh that resembled a beard on his chin — this was the most recognizable characteristic.

A tiny whirlpool split from the larger one at the top of the inn and streamed down into Li Qiye's cup after the boss' affirmation, instantly filling it to the brim.

Li Qiye smiled and continued to drink. Such an amazing scene could only happen at the Heaven Spirit World.

As a human, he was the most conspicuous in this inn. After all, humans were quite rare outside of Peacock Land and the Exquisite Valley. It wasn't easy to spot them in other locations.

Of course, no one came to cause trouble either. The customers were only curious about a human, so they looked at him a few more times out of curiosity.

While Li Qiye was drinking, a luxurious boat docked outside of the inn. The entire hull was outlined with gold and decorated with an emblem reserved for royalty. It was both extravagant and imposing.

Such a big ship swimming in the sea seemed to become one with the ocean. However, it was also completely unstained by the water, which made it very obvious to others that it was an incredible treasure.

Someone noticed the royal emblem hanging on the ship and asked in astonishment: "A ship from the Profound Sea Dynasty, why is it here?"

Shortly afterward, a maiden walked down from the lavish boat. She was charmingly beautiful like an oriole. Her long dress dragging on the ground revealed a very noble aura.

There were several followers behind her, making her great status apparent.

Someone recognized her identity after she came inside the inn and whispered: "Gongsun Qianer, why is someone from the Profound Sea God-Monarch's camp here at the Jade Sea?"

The girl went up to the inn and ordered some wine and dishes without saying anything else.

Li Qiye only looked at her once without paying too much attention. He finished his wine and called for the boss. After handing the money over, he asked: "Boss, have the doors to the Void Imperfection School opened yet?"

"Great immortal, this lowly one doesn't know too well." The boss rubbed his palms together and smiled awkwardly: "I am only a little merchant, so I don't know anything about the world of immortals."

Li Qiye couldn't help but laugh then leisurely say: "Is that so? I was actually hoping to ask you more about the ancestral whale."

"How could this lowly one know anything about such grand events? Immortal, you should ask the disciples from the Void Imperfection School about it." The boss smiled wryly.

Not too many people cared when Li Qiye mentioned the ancestral whale because they didn't know what it was. However, the girl who sat not too far from him furrowed her brows after hearing the words "ancestral whale".

She came from a great background and had heard her master talk about it, so after Li Qiye brought it up, she looked at him and shouted: "Hey! You were asking about the ancestral whale of the Void Imperfection Three Schools?"

Li Qiye lazily glanced at her without responding. He looked back at the boss and said: "In that case, nevermind then."

Gongsun Qianer was not happy about being ignored. Her expression sank as she coldly said: "Just a human yet you still dare to be pretentious?!"

She was used to being arrogant. Her boss was a concubine of the Profound Sea God-Monarch. As her master's confidante, she could be said to be able to call for winds and rains back in the Profound Sea Dynasty. But now, a little human was ignoring her.

"Boy, are you listening? My master is talking to you." Her follower immediately shouted at him.

Li Qiye didn't bother with them and turned to leave. Her entourage couldn't stand it any longer, so they slammed the table before standing up, wanting to stop him.

"Great immortals, great immortals, please don't be angry." The boss immediately tried to smooth things over: "Arguing here will disturb the peace of Shallow Beach, please take it easy on us."

"Forget it, it's only an ignorant junior." Gongsun Qianer waved her sleeve in a cold fashion and snorted while looking at Li Qiye's back.

She didn't really care for a human brat like him, but this was the territory of the Void Imperfection School, so she didn't want to cause trouble here.

After leaving the inn, Li Qiye headed south until he arrived in front of a huge trench.

With the sun shining down, this was a place full of green rocks and seagrass, giving people a very comfortable and peaceful feeling.

In the Heaven Spirit World, every single sea, even at their deepest depths, could enjoy sunlight.

Legend states that there were two suns in the Heaven Spirit World. One illuminated the sky and the continents while the other shone down on the bottom of the seas. Because of this, underwater creatures could bask in its gentle warmth as well.

Chapter 1189: Ye Tu

A little courtyard was located in this trench. The seawater steered clear from it, revealing old green tiles. One glance was enough to tell that this little home had been built a long time ago.

Li Qiye went inside to find a young man lazily basking in the sun. He looked a little over twenty, but despite his young age, he had an aura of sophistication and maturity.

The young man immediately stood up when Li Qiye approached. He cupped his fists and smiled: "May I ask what you are here for, Sir?"

Li Qiye looked him up and down before speaking: "You are a disciple of the Void Imperfection School, correct?"

The youth answered right away: "Yes, my name is Ye Tu from the Charming Spirit Race, the Void Imperfection supervisor of the Shallow Beach Branch."

Li Qiye insipidly revealed: "I know, charming spirits make up the majority at the three schools and have been in control for generations. The demon boss at the inn is an exception, a disciple like that is quite rare in your sect."

"Ah." Ye Tu smiled and said: "Sir, you must be talking about my senior uncle. He likes to play around."

He looked at the youth and declared: "I want to visit the Void Imperfection School. It is good that you are the supervisor here, let me in so I won't have to barge in myself."

Ye Tu scratched his head in response: "May I ask for your name, Sir?"

"Li Qiye." Li Qiye calmly answered: "There's no need to tell you my race, right?"

"Li Qiye..." When Ye Tu heard this name, he was shocked to the point where he almost jumped. He took a careful look at Li Qiye.

"Are you wondering why I don't have the aura of an imperial bloodline?" Li Qiye nonchalantly spoke after noticing the youth's reaction.

"Well..." Ye Tu rubbed his palms and coughed before smiling: "I wouldn't dare. It is just that my vision is lacking and can't see through Brother Li at all."

"Your choice of words isn't bad." Li Qiye smiled: "Did Golden Isle inform your schools?"

"We received their message not long ago." The youth replied: "I heard Brother Li had left Golden Isle, so the elders there asked our Charming Spirit Race to keep an eye out and help you if necessary."

The Void Imperfection Three Schools were lineages of charming spirits while Golden Isle was a treant lineage. Logically speaking, Golden Isle should have informed the treants first.

There was a reason why Golden Isle did it this way. It was because the charming spirits were even more eager than them to marry humans with noble bloodlines. In fact, they married more humans than the sea demons and treants added together.

"As their groom?" Li Qiye laughed. He understood their hidden intentions.

“Ah, I heard you haven’t married the golden daughter from the isle yet, correct?” Ye Tu smiled and immediately brought a chair for Li Qiye to sit in.

Golden Isle informed them in order to let the three schools know that Li Qiye was already their groom and to not compete for this bloodline with them!

In fact, at the Jade Sea, the behemoths like the three schools had received a lot of information. For example, Li Qiye, with his imperial bloodline, had been kidnapped by someone.

Li Qiye sat down coolly without any reservation. Meanwhile, Ye Tu was very enthusiastic and showed good hospitality as well.

“It is our honor to have Brother Li here at Shallow Beach. I represent the beach to thank you for granting us this chance...” Ye Tu quickly poured some tea for Li Qiye, playing his part as a good host.

Li Qiye smiled after hearing the flattering words. He touched his chin and leisurely mused: “I never thought I had such charm before.”

“Brother Li is a master the likes of which rarely appears. A meeting with you has to be the blessing of fate. Despite your noble status, you have no hint of arrogance...” The youth smiled.

Li Qiye took a sip and asked: “So? You want to betroth your senior sister or your junior sister to me?”

“Er—” Ye Tu had no response to Li Qiye’s directness. After a while, he grinned: “If you are willing to be our guest at the Void Imperfection School, you can have your pick.”

Li Qiye just smiled and shook his head: “Forget it, don’t make me participate in this ‘noble’ cause. In your minds, I am only a stallion to produce more royal bloodlines for the charming spirits to groom another Immortal Emperor, just like Immortal Emperor Yan Shi.” [1. Yan Shi means peaceful/repose/prosperous/feast era, or a golden age.]

“Immortal Emperor Yan Shi...” Ye Tu was moved by this name. He murmured: “It would be a great honor if the Void Imperfection Three Schools could have a human Immortal Emperor.”

Immortal Emperor Yan Shi was the second emperor from Gu Chun’s four branches. Legend states that her father came from the Exquisite Valley. Moreover, she was also a descendant of Immortal Emperor Mu Zhuo, thus she had an imperial bloodline running through her veins. [2. Gu Chun = First Immortal Emperor of all races, a charming spirit. Mu Zhuo = Wood Refinement. I’m not sure what the four branches are though, not clear here.]

Later on, her father married a beauty with a pure bloodline from Gu Chun’s four branches. In the end, they gave birth to a daughter, the unfathomable Immortal Emperor Yan Shi. [3. Remember that only Hong Tian has Empress in her title. Keeping true to the raw, even female Immortal Emperors have emperor in their title. It works in the narrative this way because the author likes to hide the sex sometimes, if we change it to empress to keep it grammatically correct, it might create some problems with the narrative. This particular issue has popped up several times before.]

In the minds of the charming spirits, Immortal Emperor Yan Shi’s achievements were incredible. She was someone comparable to their first emperor, Immortal Emperor Gu Chun! Because of this, her title was Yan Shi. It meant that under her reign, the nine worlds would have peace, a golden era!

Because of this, the charming spirits wanted to marry humans even more than treants and sea demons. They wanted to produce a better bloodline, a second Immortal Emperor Yan Shi in order to bring about prosperity to their race.

Li Qiye glanced at Ye Tu and said: "Forget about this stallion matter. The beauties here at the Heaven Spirit World and I are not meant to be." He laughed after making this statement.

Some people considered being a stallion to be their pride while others deemed it a shameful matter. However, Li Qiye thought nothing about it. Of course, he wouldn't become any race's stallion either.

"Ah, ah, we can take our time talking things through." Ye Tu smiled in response: "I welcome your presence here at our school very much. If you are willing to stay, I can take you there."

Of course Ye Tu wanted Li Qiye to stay. Although the Void Imperfection School was relatively low-key and not famous among the three since they didn't want to compete with the rest of the world, they also didn't want to give up someone with a bloodline like Li Qiye's. Nothing could be better than having this bloodline join their school.

The enthusiastic youth gave some orders to other disciples before bringing Li Qiye to his school.

Very few people could enter the Void Imperfection School, only certain talents with some influence were able to. Moreover, not too many knew where the school was located.

The only thing others knew was that the school's ancestral ground was not stationary. They were aware that it was built around the sea-territory of the school itself, but the exact location was unknown.

On the other hand, Li Qiye knew exactly where the school was located. However, he wanted to go there in a friendly manner this time, so he didn't forcefully enter.

Blue skies along with the blue sea and the occasional wafting clouds painted a scenic view worthy of a poem.

Ye Tu and Li Qiye stepped onto a white cloud. The scene suddenly changed. A flying continent was before them with rolling mountains and faint valleys. This was a nature-filled place with gurgling streams accompanied by buildings and temples.

This continent floating in the sky seemed incredibly surreal, just like a painting. People would think that this was a paradise, taking their breath away with its beauty.

It turned out that the ancestral ground of the Void Imperfection School was hidden among the clouds. This group of clouds traveled around this region of the sea. Because of this, no one knew where the school was actually built.

Visitors were met with serenity. Many of the ancient buildings with closed doors had been unoccupied for a long time. Even the ones with opened doors seemed to have no signs of people.

Occasionally on one or two hills, a few disciples could be found sweeping the leaves away from relatively newer temples. Nevertheless, this didn't break the tranquility of this area.

Outsiders would be shocked at this scene. With so few disciples, no one would believe that this was the greatest lineage in the Heaven Spirit World!

In the minds of many, a great lineage should have plenty of talents and geniuses that appeared in waves. As for regular disciples, they should number in the millions.

“After so many years, your branch is still the same — peaceful and taking things easy. It is remarkable that such an inheritance has continued this way until now.” Li Qiye emotionally murmured while looking at the tranquil mountains and rivers.

The Void Imperfection School was different from the other two schools. It rarely appeared or let anyone inside. Outside of the three schools themselves, outsiders didn’t know how many disciples it had.

Ye Tu explained: “Many senior and junior uncles are traveling and training. A few senior brothers and sisters also went outside, leaving only us, the young ones, behind to take care of the trivial matters in the sect.”

Chapter 1190: Void Imperfection Schoolmaster

The great Void Imperfection School was unique and very different from other lineages.

Each generation slowly spread outside. Regardless of their status, both high elders and ordinary disciples would travel everywhere. More often than not, they wouldn’t participate in worldly affairs or get involved with cultivation feuds.

To a large extent, they pursued freedom and serenity. Because of this, it was difficult to find the disciples from this sect in the Heaven Spirit World.

For many lineages, especially the larger ones, their disciples would band together to live in the cultivation world for both resource competition and wars. Thus, it was often quite eventful for these sects.

In this respect, the Void Imperfection School was different from others. Its gate and ancestral courtyard were completely empty. If one didn’t know about this place beforehand, they would wonder if they had come to the wrong location.

Thus, the traveling disciples were rather undisciplined, but no one in the Heaven Spirit World has been able to shake the school’s status or have any ideas about them.

From this, one could see that the three schools have enough power to deal with any kind of trouble. Their true power was difficult to fathom.

Ye Tu took Li Qiye to an old temple with a very imposing presence. Just one look was enough to tell how extraordinary it was.

However, one would find that this place had not been cleaned in a long time. Dust had accumulated into layers in some places.

An imperial lineage being so lazy was truly difficult to believe. When inside the temple, one would see a rocking chair with a man lying on it. In fact, it was very easy to miss him due to the leaves that covered him. He was deep in sleep. After seeing this situation, others would most likely think that he was already dead.

“Schoolmaster, Brother Li is here to see you.” Ye Tu bowed in front of this sleeping man.

Leaves began to fall as the man opened his eyes and stood up. Just how long had he been sleeping here to accumulate this many layers of leaves?

He eventually revealed his appearance without the leaves. This was a very thin elder dressed like a commoner. He looked like an ordinary old man without any noteworthy aspects. However, the occasional glimmer in his eyes showed that he was a hidden master.

“Is this the Young Noble Li with the imperial bloodline?” He immediately judged Li Qiye after waking up.

Ye Tu quickly replied: “Schoolmaster, Brother Li is indeed the groom from Golden Isle—”

Before he could finish, the Void Imperfection Schoolmaster interrupted him and corrected: “Little Ye, how can you say that? Young Noble Li has yet to marry and he won’t necessarily marry that little girl from Golden Isle, so how can he be their groom?”

“That’s true, that’s true.” Ye Tu understood and smiled while nodding.

Li Qiye only chuckled after seeing this. Meanwhile, the schoolmaster circled around Li Qiye to take a good look. He seemed to be carefully appreciating Li Qiye, similar to how in-laws might like their son-in-law more and more.

Li Qiye happily let him do as he pleased while taking a seat on the rocking chair...

The schoolmaster ignored his lack of formality and cheerfully smiled: “Virtuous Nephew, your fame is like thunder ringing in my ears. You are the prodigy of the human race, the hero of the world—”

“These words are too fake.” Li Qiye couldn’t help but smile while shaking his head: “Schoolmaster, there’s no need to flatter me, I know myself very well. I am only a nobody at the Heaven Spirit World, this ringing thunder bit, it is just artificial rhetoric.”

The schoolmaster didn’t mind being called out. He gave a thumbs-up and said: “Virtuous Nephew, you are quite straightforward and genuine like a real man. Since you are here as a guest, it truly brightens up this place. Don’t be reserved, just consider my school as your home.”

Li Qiye smiled and shook his head, then he went straight to the point: “My time is limited so I won’t stay for long. I want to meet your ancestral whale to take something away.”

“The ancestral whale?” The schoolmaster was startled. He dryly coughed and shook his head: “Virtuous Nephew, I’m not trying to make things difficult for you, but since you know of the ancestral whale, you should know how hard it is to meet it. In fact, even I would find it difficult...”

“I know, which is why I’m asking you to learn where it has run off to.” Li Qiye nodded.

The schoolmaster gently shook his head: “I won’t lie to you. I don’t know where it is going either, this is a secret.”

Li Qiye looked at him: “I do not doubt your words. The ancestral whale of the three schools travels around the vast seas in the Heaven Spirit World without leaving behind a trace. Outside of your whale riders, no outsiders truly know of its whereabouts.”

“Yes, yes.” The schoolmaster smilingly replied: “It is good that you understand, but—”

“But...” Li Qiye slowly continued: “I know that the school has a method of communicating with the ancestral whale. I believe you should know about it.”

“Well...” The schoolmaster contemplated for a bit before looking back at Li Qiye with a grin: “That is true as well. If you really want to see the ancestral whale, I can discuss it with the ancestors. If they agree, then you can definitely see it, but before then, why not stay at our place? We definitely welcome you here.”

Li Qiye gently shook his head again: “I think you misunderstand something. I am not only here to see the ancestral whale, I also want to go to the Void Imperfection Spring to fetch some water.”

This alarmed both the schoolmaster and Ye Tu. The schoolmaster, in particular, took one step back right away and put on a vigilant expression.

“Schoolmaster, there’s no need to be so alarmed. If I wanted to take some by force, I wouldn’t be here speaking to you like this.” Li Qiye noticed their response and smiled.

“I don’t know too much about the Void Imperfection Spring.” The schoolmaster shook his head. At this time, he had become a lot colder and didn’t have the same enthusiasm as before. It was a tremendous change in attitude.

Li Qiye only laughed: “Schoolmaster, I’m not here to exchange friendly words with you or to hear your excuses. I only want to tell you that I will meet the ancestral whale as well as fetch water from the spring.”

“Virtuous Nephew, do you wish to use force?” The schoolmaster’s face turned darker: “This old man is not deliberately making things difficult for you. If you know about the spring, then you should definitely know that not just anyone can go there. Outside of a few ancestors, others aren’t allowed!”

“I am aware.” Li Qiye said: “The Void Imperfection Spring is a place that has obtained the fortune of the heavens. In the past, Immortal Emperor Wu Gou spent countless efforts to bring the spring here. One can say that it didn’t originally belong to you.”

Here, he glanced at the schoolmaster and continued: “The emperor moved the spring to the ancestral whale first. From then on, it became yours and outsiders couldn’t see it any longer.”

“I don’t know much about the past.” The schoolmaster dismissively said: “I can only apologize since I am not in charge of anything relating to the spring.”

Li Qiye smirked and declared: “Regardless of whether you are in charge or not, I will see the ancestral whale and take water from the spring.”

“Are you always so forceful like this?” The schoolmaster’s eyes turned fierce and flashed a glint that crossed through time and space. This truly showed how powerful he was.

“Who said that I’m being forceful?” Li Qiye smiled and stood up while reaching out with his hand.

Ye Tu was scared by this and thought that Li Qiye wanted to fight. At the same time, the schoolmaster put up his guard to fight against Li Qiye at any moment.

However, Li Qiye didn't attack the two. He simply took down a group of clouds from the sky. He casually kneaded them to make the clouds float in front of him. Next, he sat down on them, letting them slowly lift him up for a spin before coming back down.

"The Void Imperfection Clouds!" The schoolmaster was surprised after seeing this, not believing his own eyes.

Ye Tu was shocked as well. He had heard about these clouds since a young age. They had always been floating there, but he had never heard of anyone capable of bringing them down or riding them.

This was Li Qiye's first time here, yet he could easily ride them — to Ye Tu, this was simply incredible.

"My ancestors had a relationship with Immortal Emperor Wu Gou. They left behind a certain something that has allowed me to take down a group of clouds today." Li Qiye said in a matter-of-fact manner.

Of course, this was only a casual excuse. The person who knew Immortal Emperor Wu Gou was none other than him.