

Domination 281

Chapter 281: Hundred Battles Godking

Li Qiye left behind the spatial pouch then turned around to leave. Chi Xiaodie stood inside the tattered temple in a daze without being able to say a word.

She felt very aggrieved. Even though the Lion's Roar Country was not comparable to grand sects or ancient kingdoms, it still had hidden forces and was far stronger than an ordinary minor country.

As the princess and golden daughter who was adored by the heavens, Chi Xiaodie was always spoiled by others; yet today, she came with Li Qiye to this desolate area as a servant. This was already one thing, and now she even had to do this dirty and tiring work as well.

She had never done such a menial task before, but today, she undertook this task like an ordinary servant in the secular world.

Chi Xiaodie was speechless for a long time before she eventually picked up Li Qiye's spatial pouch and began to clean. Even though she was a Royal Noble, it was still a big challenge for her since this was her first time doing these menial tasks: dusting the floor and walls, then taking care of the weeds. Chi Xiaodie did quite a messy job for she couldn't use her power which resulted in a silly scene.

Despite this being the case, Chi Xiaodie quietly did her job. Even though she felt wronged and dejected, she kept on doing this dirty work that was proven to be a challenge for her.

She was angry and she didn't know whether she was angry with herself or Li Qiye. To sum it up, Chi Xiaodie would never do such a thing in the past, and her previous self would be quite surprised to see her doing this in the present.

Chi Xiaodie patiently endured her hot temperament with grief in her heart. Eventually, she managed to clean the temple.

After leaving the Ancestral Divine Temple, Li Qiye took a stroll around the area to gaze at the rolling mountains ahead. These mountains were like waves that reached all the way to the high clouds. There were also valleys with indiscernible depths, filled with unpredictable dangers — quite a magnificent spectacle.

Li Qiye slowly walked forward; although they seemed to be nearby, after a closer look, one would find that these mountains were several dozen miles away.

Li Qiye eventually reached the area opposite of the temple. This was a small peak; compared to the high mountains and vast rivers before it, it was truly insignificant and garnered nearly zero attention.

However, there was a dao shrine with only five rooms above this small peak. It had green tiles and gray walls and one couldn't tell how long ago it was built. The green tiles had become gray from the accumulation of dust with weeds that spanned amongst its cracks.

However, compared to the decrepit Ancestral Divine Temple, this dao shrine was still doing much better since, at the very least, there were still traces of visitors.

Once one approached the building, one could see that there was a plaque hanging on its main door with two words: Everlasting Courtyard. One couldn't tell how long these words had endured the passage of time because the initially pitch-black words already became an indiscernible white.

The gate of the shrine was wide open and unlocked so Li Qiye slowly entered. Once inside, he heard a thunderous snore that shook the shrine. It emanated from one of the rooms; Li Qiye eventually walked in it to find an old daoist lying on a bed.

The old daoist was lying face up in quite an unflattering pose. His arms and legs were spread wide to occupy the entire bed; it was quite unbecoming of a daoist.

He wore a shabby and old, oily daoist robe that had not been washed for who knows how many years. It was fortunate that his disheveled hair was not smelly, contrary to its appearance. Otherwise, the stench would be unbearable.

Although this old daoist was unkempt, with a lion-like nose and broad mouth, his face was quite well-sculpted. He was quite imposing, just like a traveler that was full of vigor and spirit.

The old daoist's slumber was quite deep. Even when Li Qiye walked in, the old man still continued to snore. His thunderous snoring made others wonder whether he would actually wake up if someone were to carry him out of the dao shrine.

Li Qiye then looked at the old sleeping daoist without saying anything. He slowly glanced around the dao shrine and meticulously analyzed each tile as if he was conducting an archaeological study.

Li Qiye didn't touch anything and only let his eyes do the work. In the end, Li Qiye carefully looked at the name "Everlasting Courtyard" and then quietly left.

Li Qiye arrived back at the Ancestral Divine Temple when it was almost dark, and the temple had become bright again. The wild weeds and vines around the area were all picked; the interior of the old temple was thoroughly cleaned and the broken areas were also repaired.

Even though it was not completely free from the stains of mortality, it was definitely much better. It now carried the appearance of a place fitting for human inhabitants and was without the previous rotten look.

Once inside, Li Qiye saw Chi Xiaodie standing in the middle of the main chamber. There were two statues inside, and they were not deities worshiped by mortals.

Chi Xiaodie looked at one of the statues in a daze. She felt that it was very familiar but she couldn't recall its origin at this second.

After Li Qiye came back, she asked: "Here... What statue is this?" This statue's body was half slanted in a very strange pose as if it wanted to kneel, but it was still standing straight; it was seemingly waiting to be bestowed a title. Its eyes were also hidden no matter the angle it was viewed it; clearly, there was a pair of engraved eyes, but one couldn't see them due to its odd posture.

Chi Xiaodie had wiped them clean. When she looked at them, especially the statue in the strange pose, she felt a familiar yet unrecognizable sensation.

Li Qiye also looked at the statue. He didn't give an answer and instead replied with a question: "What do you think?" He secretly sighed. The years were heartless, but the high-spirited time was just like yesterday.

Chi Xiaodie wistfully responded: "If I knew, I wouldn't be asking you."

Li Qiye burst out in laughter then slowly said: "This your Chi Clan's ancestor."

Chi Xiaodie exclaimed after hearing Li Qiye's response in shock: "M-my Chi Clan Ancestor?"

At this time, she understood why she felt that this statue was so familiar. The ancestral hall of her Chi Clan also worshiped the ancestor; even though they rarely went back to honor him, Chi Xiaodie had seen it two or three times.

She then inquired once more: "But why is the pose so strange?" She felt that Li Qiye knew everything. She, as the descendant of the Chi Clan, did not know about its ancestor as much as an outsider like Li Qiye. Perhaps Li Qiye was right; one must read more. The more one reads, the more one knows.

Li Qiye was silent for a moment while looking at the statue, then he said: "This was the pose he took when he was bestowed the title of Hundred Battles Godking."

Chi Xiaodie was stunned after hearing this: "Hundred Battles Godking!"

She did not know that her ancestor had such a title so she asked in astonishment: "My ancestor was canonized as a god?"

"You can put it that way. A legendary existence recognized your ancestor's feats so he especially bestowed him the title of Hundred Battles Godking. It could be considered one of the most domineering titles amongst all the divine generals of that generation." Li Qiye softly sighed and went on to say: "During that era, your ancestor was the pride of the human race."

Chi Xiaodie quietly muttered: "Hundred Battles Godking!" At this second, her blood was boiling. It was as if she personally saw her ancestor sweeping through the world and fighting against the gods and devils. How heroic and majestic was this? How honorable and grand was this endeavor?

She could feel the glory of her ancestor from his legend as she became lost in a hard-to-recover-from state of shock.

After a while, she regained her composure and asked: "How do you know these things?" Chi Xiaodie didn't know these matters as the descendant of the Chi Clan, yet Li Qiye knew it like the palm of his hand.

Li Qiye looked at her and said: "This is why I said to read more. Those who rarely read become mere straw bags; a girl with big breasts but no brains is not a good thing."

Chi Xiaodie scowled from both anger and embarrassment. She turned around and glanced at the other statue.

This carved statue was an ancient man with many hands. Each hand had a different action and each hand was different. Some hands wielded weapons while others shouldered the sky; there were also

those with different hand seals. [1. Raw for many hands was 10,000,000 (1,000 + 10,000 adjectives) so I'll assume that it was not literal in this sense.]

Chi Xiaodie looked at this statue with many hands and asked Li Qiye: "Who is this?"

One statue was her ancestor, so the other one shouldn't be a fictional character.

Li Qiye looked at this statue and took a while before opening his mouth: "Myriad Images True God!"

Chi Xiaodie responded with some bewilderment: "Myriad Images True God?" She had never heard of this title nor such a character before. She asked one more time: "Was this True God a follower of my ancestor?"

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"You'd be wrong." Li Qiye said with a smile: "Godkings are not necessarily greater than True Gods. There are many ways to call these beings, like gods, deities, or Godly Monarchs. The people with these titles were not necessarily real gods. Godkings were one thing, but most deities and Godly Monarchs were false gods; of course, some of them were also bestowed godhood."

Li Qiye continued on: "As for the Godkings, this title was not bestowed to just anyone, and there are many things to keep in mind. Not just anybody had the qualifications to bestow this title. During the Desolate Era, Godking bestowment was quite a rare matter, and even living Immortal Emperors were quite envious of such a privilege. During the Emperors Era, only Immortal Emperors could bestow this title."

Chi Xiaodie inquired again: "Was it an Immortal Emperor who bestowed the title to my ancestor?"

Li Qiye shook his head and replied: "No, even Immortal Emperors were not necessarily able to bestow the Godking title. There were so many generals amongst the many races that spanned across the Nine Worlds. Regarding the legends of the gods, the person who bestowed the title of Godking was a supreme existence; he created a divine investiture platform — a platform of a True God! The person receiving the title must be accepted by the generals of all the races. Once one was bestowed the Godking title, they would also be recognized by the True Gods. An accepted Godking was a real god, not a false god."

"What about True Gods?" Chi Xiaodie asked: "Are they the real deities?"

Li Qiye answered: "You could put it that way. To bear the title of True God, one must have at least half the bloodline of a True God flowing in their veins. True Gods are not humans nor part of the other races."

Chi Xiaodie jolted at the revelation: "Then there is a True God race in this world? Just what kind of race is it?"

Chi Xiaodie had always thoughts that deities were only legends and had never heard of anyone actually seeing real gods. She wouldn't believe Li Qiye's words before, but now, she felt that they had a great degree of validity.

Li Qiye didn't answer her, but she still couldn't help but to ask more questions: "Who bestowed the title to my ancestor?" Chi Xiaodie was quite curious. Who could it be if it wasn't an Immortal Emperor? Who was even more qualified than an Immortal Emperor to perform the ceremony for their Chi Ancestor?

Li Qiye gave her a look and said: "I'm certain that it wasn't an Immortal Emperor." Chi Xiaodie's thoughts couldn't hide from Li Qiye's eyes, so he slowly spoke: "The Immortal Emperor of that generation would not bestow your ancestor the title of Godking. Do you know the name of the war your ancestor participated in?"

Chi Xiaodie said with a blank expression: "I think... it was called the Immortal War or something?" Chi Xiaodie pondered for a bit. She had heard of this legend, but as for the exact details, not to mention her, even the oldest member of the present Chi Clan would not be able to answer because there were no records of that year.

Li Qiye said: "The Immortal Massacre War, also known as the Immortal Massacre Campaign."

She then asked: "The Immortal Massacre War? Could it be that it was about killing immortals in the mortal world? Are there really immortals in this world?"

Li Qiye shook his head and responded: "No, not killing immortals, but an Immortal Emperor." In a flash, Li Qiye's gaze became profoundly deep. At this second, it was as if he had returned to the heroic yet tragic era of the past.

"Killing an Immortal Emperor!" Chi Xiaodie didn't dare to imagine such a frightening thing.

Before Immortal Emperors shouldered the Heaven's Will to become invincible, there was a chance for others to defeat or kill them. However, once they carried the Heaven's Will, they alone would stand at the highest peak and achieve solitary invincibility throughout the rest of their lives!

It was too unbelievable that there were people who had killed an Immortal Emperor in the distant ancient era.

Chi Xiaodie was shocked and lost her mind for a while after hearing this. She eventually murmured in a daze: "Immortal Massacre Campaign, slaying an Immortal Emperor!"

No one would believe such a tale about the Chi Ancestor participating in the Immortal Massacre Campaign and how he was present in a war to kill an Immortal Emperor. Even Chi Xiaodie couldn't believe it, but somehow she trusted that this matter actually happened.

One did not need to envision such a scene; only hearing about the legends regarding slaying an Immortal Emperor was enough to make one's blood boil with excitement.

After a while, she became calm again and took a deep breath to look at Li Qiye before asking: "What was the outcome?" She very much wanted to know the result of this mythical war.

However, Li Qiye didn't answer Chi Xiaodie's question. He simply gazed at the far distance with a profound glare.

Li Qiye withdrew his gaze after a long time and then looked at Chi Xiaodie to say: "You must be tired, go get some rest. There will be a lot more things to do in the next couple of days."

At this time, Chi Xiaodie was quite dirty as her pretty face was covered in dirt. After a full day of manual labor, she almost turned into a stray cat.

After hearing Li Qiye's words, she became spirited again. After smelling the unpleasant scent on her body, she was both angry and annoyed as she quickly went to take a bath.

After she left, Li Qiye looked at the Chi Ancestor's statue and slowly spoke: "You were truly loyal that year and used your death to protect me. I gave your descendants three generations of prosperity so our karma was considered to be over. Today, I brought your descendant here in commemoration for your past devotion. Whether she will obtain a great fortune or not will depend on her and her alone."

Li Qiye then changed his gaze to look at Myriad Images True God and whispered: "Today, I came to take it away since you promised me that year. As for the Void Gate, I will investigate it closely to find out the truth."

Li Qiye had his reasons for picking the Ancestral Divine Region as his fiefdom. In fact, this temple was built by him. Because he promised to protect the Chi Clan for three generations, there was a period when he spent a lot of time at this place.

The first reason was to give Chi Xiaodie a great fortune as well as a chance for the Chi Clan. Second, Li Qiye came to study the defining technique of Myriad Images True God. Third, Li Qiye wanted to learn about the Void Gate; this was an unsolvable mystery since the ancient times.

In the distant past, Li Qiye once rescued Myriad Images True God from the Buddhist Burial Plateau, and then this god left behind his defining technique to repay the debt of saving his life.

Li Qiye had never taken the True God's defining technique — Thousand Hands Against the Nine Worlds! This time, by going to the Eastern Hundred Cities and traveling to this area, Li Qiye was going to pick up this defining technique out of necessity.

Today, Chi Xiaodie woke up quite early but Li Qiye was up even before her. He stood inside the main hall in front of Myriad Images True God's statue. He was in a strange pose as both his arms were horizontal to his shoulders with his palms stretched outwards. He stood on one leg and was half squatting.

While Chi Xiaodie was feeling strange while staring at this sight, Li Qiye suddenly moved. He used the tip of his foot to spin around like a spinning top at an inconceivable speed, becoming faster and faster. Chi Xiaodie became dazed from watching such a sight.

And in the midst of her blurred vision, Li Qiye suddenly disappeared. Chi Xiaodie stared and rubbed her eyes. Li Qiye indeed disappeared, and it was not because of her eyesight.

She was quite alarmed. Why did Li Qiye disappear when he was just here? She was gazing at him the whole time yet he managed to disappear without her awareness.

Li Qiye disappeared for a long time and Chi Xiaodie turned from calm to fearful. Chi Xiaodie was terrified and cried out: "Hey, don't mess around, I don't want to play with you!"

"Ommmmm!" While Chi Xiaodie was horrified, the True God's statue suddenly lit up as a brilliance appeared on its chest. Then, Li Qiye jumped out from inside.

With a blank mind, she was quite startled. She looked at Li Qiye then back at the statue, then back at Li Qiye.

She jumped up after regaining her wits and exclaimed: “There... There is a secret inside!” At this time, she suddenly understood that this was not just an ordinary statue.

“Obviously.” Li Qiye put away the True God’s defining technique, the Thousand Hands Against the Nine Worlds. This was one of his goals when he decided to come here. [1. The raw was “Are these not superfluous/wasted/nonsense words ah?” I think the raw itself makes sense and it is a common saying but obviously seems to be better for the flow. Let me know which you prefer.]

He looked at her with one eye and said: “Do I have so much free time as to just come to this unwanted location to look at the scenery?” [2. Unwanted raw = where the birds don’t even want to poop on — a location where even the birds do not want to poop at.]

Chi Xiaodie was quite surprised. She didn’t expect this old temple to have a secret that no one knew about.

She took a deep breath and asked: “What kind of temple is this?”

Li Qiye — once again — didn’t answer the question. He stood in front of the Chi Ancestor’s statue and spoke in a grave voice towards Chi Xiaodie: “Sit down!”

Chi Xiaodie was caught off guard, but she suddenly realized something and sat at the location Li Qiye pointed to.

“The five minds to observe the heavens, the five bodies to communicate with the earth...” Li Qiye corrected her posture and taught her how to reach Samadhi. [3. Samadhi — a state of intense concentration achieved through meditation.]

After Chi Xiaodie reached a state of deep meditation, Li Qiye reminded her: “Look at your ancestor’s eyes; always look at this pair of eyes.”

Chi Xiaodie quickly focused on her ancestor’s eyes with a straight stare, but she couldn’t see them at all.

Li Qiye gravely instructed her: “Look with your mind, not with your eyes. This thing cannot be seen by ordinary eyes.” Li Qiye put on the demeanor of a strict teacher. Chi Xiaodie followed his instructions, but she couldn’t see the statue’s eyes no matter how hard she looked.

After several attempts, although she was not willing, she had no choice but to accept the reality: “I still can’t see anything.” Even after following Li Qiye’s guidance and despite her hardest effort, she couldn’t see her ancestor’s eyes.

Chapter 283: Thousand Martial Divine Gaze Dao

After numerous unsuccessful attempts, Li Qiye finally said: “Let me see your eyes.”

Chi Xiaodie then turned around and Li Qiye held her face with his hands in order to open her eyelids to carefully look at her pupils.

The two were so close that their breaths exhaled into the face of one another. Li Qiye was carefree but Chi Xiaodie became flustered. This was her first time being so close to the opposite sex, so she was at a loss of what to do.

Chi Xiaodie's eyes had a faint golden color; one wouldn't be able to see it without a careful look. Li Qiye carefully examined her eyes and eventually let go with his hands while shaking his head.

His gesture caused her to feel uneasy. With a negative sense of foreboding, she asked: "Is something wrong?"

Li Qiye didn't answer and simply replied: "You stay here, I will have to go out for a while." He decisively left after speaking.

Chi Xiaodie was surprised but Li Qiye had already left before she could ask him anything.

She was not someone who gave up easily so, after his departure, she continued to follow his instructions to look for the eyes of her ancestor. However, no matter how many times she tried, she was not able to see the statue's eyes.

Eventually, Chi Xiaodie gave up because she understood she was missing something. She, herself, didn't know the part that was missing, but maybe Li Qiye did.

Li Qiye left for many days and was without any news. Early on, Chi Xiaodie assumed that Li Qiye was busy with something so he was late, thus she didn't pay it any mind. However, day after day had passed and Li Qiye still hadn't returned. This caused Chi Xiaodie to be quite alarmed. Was Li Qiye not returning? Had he abandoned her?

Chi Xiaodie was lost with many inscrutable and negative thoughts. In the end, she calmed down while staying alone inside the Ancestral Divine Temple.

Li Qiye's trip took three months. It was a morning when Chi Xiaodie woke up very early; she planned to cultivate but she became frightened the moment she stepped into the main hall because a person was standing there.

After the initial scare, she noticed that Li Qiye was sitting in the hall so she happily exclaimed: "You're back!"

But at this time, Li Qiye ignored her. With one hand, he lifted his Myriad Heavenly Cauldron while the other hand channeled a fire to refine a medicinal paste. A refreshing aroma of herbs permeated from within the cauldron.

Li Qiye then seriously commanded: "Go!" He then took out a jade bowl and it sucked in the paste from the cauldron. The ointment was green in color; even though it had just left the cauldron, it was cold instead of hot. Chi Xiaodie felt the coolness while standing next to Li Qiye.

He commanded: "Come over here."

Once she got close, he told her to sit down: "I'm about to apply the ointment on your eyes. It will hurt a lot, but try to endure."

His words caused her to hesitate, but he then waved his sleeve: “Stop dawdling around. I had to sell a favor to the War God Temple in order to refine this ointment. If you keep on standing there, the medicine will become hot and my precious, rare herbs will be wasted!”

Her heart shivered after hearing Li Qiye words. She then bit her teeth and lifted her head. She let Li Qiye do whatever he wanted as he applied the paste onto her eyes.

At first, Chi Xiaodie felt the medicine was cold and comfortable — it was no big deal.

But a moment later, she began to scream miserably: “Ah!!”

A stinging sensation pierced her eyes. It was unbearable to the point where it was as if her eyes were being penetrated. A frozen winter overcame her eyes as her pupils loomed into the darkness.

During her moment of pain, Li Qiye grasped her hands and calmed her down: “Don’t move, hang in there! You must let the medicinal essence refine your eyes!”

Chi Xiaodie cried out from the intolerable pain: “Ahh!”

Li Qiye kept on shouting at her, telling her not to move, but this pain was indeed insufferable. At this moment, Chi Xiaodie felt as if her eyes were broken and the fear of losing her sight overwhelmed her.

Lost in the darkness, her heart only held fear. However, Li Qiye’s hands were grasping her own. The pair of firm hands gave her power and this gradually calmed her heart; amidst all of this, Li Qiye’s strong hands were Chi Xiaodie’s pillar.

She eventually settled down as the pain slowly disappeared.

Li Qiye reminded her: “The ointment needs to be applied to your eyes for a whole month until they are refined just right.”

Chi Xiaodie couldn’t see anything at this time so she only became relieved when Li Qiye was next to her: “What is going on?”

“Your eyes have changed.” Li Qiye continued: “Fortunately, the change was not too drastic. Otherwise, even if the old men from the War God Temple agreed to give even more treasure medicines, I still wouldn’t be able to change your pupils.”

Chi Xiaodie asked with surprise: “You went to the War God Temple?” Could it be that Li Qiye took three months just to prepare rare and precious medicines for her?

“No.” Li Qiye nonchalantly replied: “Only to its outer elders’ place.”

Chi Xiaodie was quite astonished; the War God Temple in the Grand Middle Territory was renowned alongside the Heavenly Dao Academy of the Eastern Hundred Cities. Even its outer elders were high above characters; her royal father wouldn’t necessarily be able to meet them. However, Li Qiye not only managed to meet them, but he was also able to obtain many precious herbs from the temple.

Li Qiye directed the treatment of her eyes with the ointment for one month. He was by her side the entire time because she found solace in his presence.

Eventually, he took the paste off and carefully looked at her eyes while nodding his head in satisfaction, saying: “Good, it is fortunate that your natural eyes only changed a bit. Otherwise, there would not be any chance of salvaging them.”

Chi Xiaodie breathed a sigh of relief after being able to see the light again, then she curiously asked: “How are my eyes now?”

“Look for yourself.” Li Qiye handed over a mirror. Chi Xiaodie noticed a change in her pupils. Before, there was a faint golden color to them and others wouldn’t notice it without a careful glance. But at this moment, her pupils had turned into a true golden color in its entirety. The pair of golden eyes exuded a divine glow as if the laws of the grand dao were hidden within.

Li Qiye then commanded: “Widen your eyes.”

Chi Xiaodie did it without any hesitation: “Ahhh!”

Chi Xiaodie was scared out of her mind and threw away the mirror. It was because once she glared at the reflection, she saw a strange pair of golden eyes. It was as if they were crafted from pure gold and they were filled with a cold glitter. Chi Xiaodie was startled by her own eyes.

“This... What is going on here?” It took her a while to regain her composure as she carefully looked again in the mirror. Her pupils had changed completely; they were without any white or black, there was only a golden glaze. Chi Xiaodie was still able to see clearly, so she was in a state of disbelief.

“These are called the eyes of god.”

Li Qiye slowly explained: “Your ancestor, Hundred Battles Godking, dominated his entire life with many amazing techniques and a vast amount of knowledge. There were two techniques that could be claimed his strongest, but these techniques were not passed down to the Chi Clan.

Chi Xiaodie couldn’t help but wonder: “Why not?” She had never heard of such a matter before.

Thus, Li Qiye answered in turn: “Because not anyone can learn these two great techniques. Your ancestor was born with a natural pair of heavenly turtle divine eyes — extremely peerless. His two great techniques were formed with his natural disposition as the foundation.”

Li Qiye looked at Chi Xiaodie and continued on: “You inherited the blood of your ancestor, but alas, it is a bit too thin. You had a pair of divine eyes when you were born, but because your inherited bloodline was too diluted, your divine eyes transformed. This is why you have the eyes, but they are crippled without any special techniques.”

“This time, I brought you here to see if you can inherit the Thousand Martial Divine Gaze Dao — one of your ancestor’s two great techniques.”

At this point, Li Qiye shook his head and went on to say: “Unfortunately, your divine eyes were crippled and could not see your ancestor’s eyes. However, within this misfortune, one can still find hope; your eyes did not deform too much. Luckily, I also knew of a formula to fix your divine eyes.”

Chi Xiaodie was dumbfounded while listening to Li Qiye’s long spiel. That day when Li Qiye said that he was lacking an attendant and wanted Chi Xiaodie, she agreed as if she was possessed by the devil. A princess like her actually becoming someone’s servant — this was too unbelievable.

She didn't quite understand her own state of mind at that time. It could have been to repay Li Qiye for changing her brother's Fate, or to avoid Sima Longyun, or perhaps it was both.

Chapter 284: Space Crossing Earthworm

Back when she made the agreement, she didn't think it through and didn't expect for Li Qiye to bring her here just to impart her ancestor's great technique to her.

Chi Xiaodie suddenly froze and muttered: "Why... why did you..." There were many unclear emotions mixed in her heart and she didn't know what to say.

"Because of your talents, knowledge, and personality. I initially didn't want to train you." Li Qiye said dismissively: "But because of the Chi Clan, I gave you another chance. If you can grasp it, it will be akin to grasping your own destiny."

Chi Xiaodie was in a daze; if she didn't agree to become Li Qiye's attendant at that moment, it meant that she would have lost a chance granted by the heavens and would have to live in regret for the rest of her life.

Li Qiye gravely spoke to her: "Don't think too much. Sit down, this is a good chance."

Chi Xiaodie regained her composure after a deep breath. She slowly sat down according to Li Qiye's instruction and closed her eyes.

"Use your mind; the divine eyes use the mind to point straight at the source. If you can't see using your mind, then you cannot exert its power. The divine eyes build ten thousand dao, but the source is not from the eyes and instead, the mind. The divine eyes are merely the windows. When the windows are opened, whether you can see the scenery outside or not depends on your own soul." Li Qiye instructed her. She couldn't see the first nor the second time. The third time, the Chi Ancestor's statue suddenly appeared clearly in Chi Xiaodie's mind. It suddenly turned around and opened its eyes. At this very second, Chi Xiaodie saw her ancestor's eyes clearly and became startled by its golden glow.

She happily opened her eyes and shouted: "I saw it!" After opening her eyes, the statue's eyes disappeared again.

"Not bad." Li Qiye expressionlessly nodded his head and said: "Staring alone isn't enough. You must keep on gazing at them with your mind. It is up to your own fortune whether you can obtain the Thousand Martial Divine Gaze Dao from your ancestor or not."

Chi Xiaodie took a deep breath and solemnly nodded her head, then she said: "I will try my best!"

Chi Xiaodie was obviously older than Li Qiye by several years, but at this moment, she acted like a proper student before him, creating quite an inconsistent scene.

She closed her eyes and gradually saw her ancestor's eyes again. It was a golden pair of eyes that began to change gradually. Once they opened, the depths of the eyes caused Chi Xiaodie to fall into a world of grand dao. The divine eyes slowly created many chains of universal laws as it built a new grand dao that kept on changing without any order...

Chi Xiaodie became immersed inside as her soul was drawn in by the mysteriousness of the grand dao.

For the next period of time, while Chi Xiaodie was lost in the supreme art of her ancestor, Li Qiye was staying at the Ancestral Divine Temple and trained the Thousand Hands Against the Nine Worlds technique taken from Myriad Images True God. [1. Okay, I should really use a short version of this technique name.]

The Thousand Hands technique was a supreme art and it was not inferior compared to other Immortal Emperors' arts. It could even compete against the most forbidden and heaven-defying arts.

It was the defining technique of Myriad Images True God so Li Qiye naturally knew its power. As he focused on his training, he lamented that he did not have enough suitable weapons.

He didn't have many combat treasures at the moment, and this fact became more obvious after he trained the Thousand Hands technique.

He could only use the Nine Words True Bow and the Fragmented Realm Spatial Disk. He had already given the Six Dao Sword and Tyrannical Immortal Saber to Li Shuangyan and Chen Baojiao.

Meanwhile, Chi Xiaodie cherished this opportunity inside the temple so she trained like mad. Li Qiye was quite approving of this trait.

After cultivating for some time, he took Chi Xiaodie out and said: "Come, I'll bring you to dig something up." Having said that, he handed all the tools, including a shovel, to Chi Xiaodie.

She followed him nicely without saying anything to the southern border of the Heavenly Dao Academy's territory and into a deep ravine. Once they arrived, she cut more than ten bamboo stalks. These stalks were greenish purple, as hard as iron, and as cold as steel when held in one's hand.

While Chi Xiaodie carried the bamboo stalks for Li Qiye, then she curiously asked: "What type of bamboo is this?"

"Verdant Iron Bamboo. It has the highest wood affinity." Li Qiye answered: "We will go to the Everlasting Courtyard. I have something there."

Chi Xiaodie didn't know where this courtyard was located, but she didn't ask and only followed Li Qiye like it was the only correct thing to do. Chi Xiaodie gradually developed a habit after spending such a long time with Li Qiye, the habit to not ask about certain matters.

Right when they arrived in front of the Everlasting Courtyard, Chi Xiaodie finally knew that there was a dao shrine situated directly opposite of the Ancestral Divine Temple; she didn't know about it prior to this.

She looked at this old and small temple and couldn't imagine there being any treasures inside. However, Chi Xiaodie now chose to believe Li Qiye no matter the circumstances, and there was no one more trustworthy than him in her eyes. She followed Li Qiye into this dao shrine that was named the Everlasting Courtyard and heard the thunderous snores.

Chi Xiaodie became startled at such a noise because she assumed there was no one inside. She whispered: "There is actually someone here?"

After standing by the door and seeing the old daoist sleeping on his bed, Chi Xiaodie couldn't help but widen her eyes in astonishment.

The old daoist was still sleeping face-up in the same position as the night when Li Qiye visited.

Li Qiye glanced at her and then headed towards the inner hall of the courtyard: "Ignore him."

Li Qiye walked around to measure the temple. He walked through the entire shrine in just a moment as if he was trying to figure out something. Chi Xiaodie followed right behind him while holding her breath. They were trying to dig up treasure, but if this disturbed the sleeping old daoist, then wouldn't it all be in vain?

Li Qiye measured back and forth and eventually stopped three meters from the dao shrine's gate. Li Qiye threw the shovel at Chi Xiaodie while he held the Verdant Iron Bamboo.

He reminded her: "When I pin down the three bamboo stalks, you need to dig three inches deep at these spots. You need to be fast, got it?"

Chi Xiaodie took a deep breath and confirmed: "Got it." She gripped the shovel tightly and inadvertently became nervous due to Li Qiye's words.

Li Qiye's eyes suddenly narrowed and flashed out a strand of glimmering light as he pinned down three Verdant Iron Bamboo into the ground in an instant. Chi Xiaodie quickly dug with her shovel in complete unison with Li Qiye.

Li Qiye's actions were extremely swift and, each time, he nailed down three bamboo at the same time. Meanwhile, Chi Xiaodie quickly dug and didn't dare to be careless nor slow.

Finally, all the bamboo in Li Qiye's hands were rooted in the ground and they formed a circle. Li Qiye took the shovel from Chi Xiaodie and immediately dug the central location.

Once he reached the right depth, he finally dug something out. It was a giant earthworm. Chi Xiaodie had never seen such a large earthworm before and became frightened.

It was a giant earthworm with a fair-sized trunk made out of yellow mud on its back.

Chi Xiaodie exclaimed after seeing such a strange scene: "What is this thing?"

It was one thing to dig out an earthworm from the ground, but an earthworm carrying a yellow mud trunk was an entirely different matter.

"This is not an earthworm." After seeing that the earthworm was still perfectly fine, Li Qiye let loose a sigh of relief.

"Why did we dig it up like this?" The earthworm was strange enough, but Li Qiye's digging style was quite bizarre as well.

"It is not a simple earthworm, it is a Space Crossing Earthworm. Even if you knew that it was underground, without pinpointing its exact location, you wouldn't be able to find it even after digging out an entire mountain. It is not in the same dimension as we are, so only when you know its specific dimensional location would you be able to lock it down." Li Qiye said: "But this is still not enough. If you disturb it, this Space Crossing Earthworm will run away to another dimension in an instant. One must trap it down before digging it out. This worm has an earth affinity so the thing to trap it must be of the

divine wood affinity, and wood overcomes earth. That's why we needed the Verdant Iron Bamboo with its high wood affinity."

Chi Xiaodie further inquired: "So as long as we have this bamboo, we will be able to trap it?"

Li Qiye then answered: "No, once a Space Crossing Earthworm leaves the ground, nothing can trap it. Only when it is underground would one be able to use the property of wood overcoming earth to trap it. The moment it leaves the ground, it is a free bird flying in the vast sky; a loose fish diving in the wide sea. Space itself is its heaven and earth, and it could escape to another dimension in the blink of an eye."

Chi Xiaodie was in a daze after listening to this for this was her first time hearing about such a strange thing, about this Space Crossing Earthworm.

At this point, Li Qiye lifted the earthworm and opened the yellow mud trunk on its back.

Chapter 285: Little Autumn

There was nothing inside when Li Qiye opened the yellow trunk, and this caused his expression to change.

Suddenly, a lazy voice rang out: "Are you looking for this?" The appearance of this person shocked Chi Xiaodie. The old daoist who was sleeping in the dao shrine was standing right next to them without any warning.

His eyes still contained a blurry drowsiness and were half opened. The old daoist carried a clay cannon in his hand. The cannon was not huge, but it seemed to be very heavy from his posture.

Li Qiye jumped out from the mud as his eyes gazed at the clay cannon in the old daoist's hands.

The old daoist lazily said: "Coming to my dao shrine to steal stuff is not good."

Li Qiye looked at him and nonchalantly replied: "Steal? You are the one who is stealing. My ancestor once buried the Space Crossing Earthworm at this place for generations just so that, one day, I could come and take it back in the future."

With his tired eyes, the old daoist glanced at Li Qiye and asked: "Your ancestor? Who is it?"

His question was also something Chi Xiaodie wanted to ask, but she didn't want to pry.

Li Qiye slowly placed the earthworm down and said: "You ask too many things. There are some matters that shouldn't be asked. Otherwise, one will die an unsightly death."

"Really now?" The old daoist beamingly smiled and said: "This old daoist has been wanting to die for a while now, but it is simply not possible. Since you dug out the earthworm, you should just give it to me, right? Hehe, last time, this thing escaped way too fast; otherwise, it would have been a side dish to accompany my wine."

"Old Daoist, you shouldn't touch such a thing." Li Qiye slowly spoke: "Did the Patriarch of the Everlasting Courtyard not tell you?"

The sleepy old daoist didn't care, so he grinned: "Hehe, Little Demon, don't boast too much, this old man doesn't believe your ruse."

Li Qiye narrowed his eyes while staring at the old daoist and asked: "Where is Magu? Where did Magu go!?"

The old daoist suddenly stood up and the initial drowsiness was dispelled completely. His old eyes gazed at Li Qiye intensely; they became extremely frightening as if they were capable of swallowing all things.

Chi Xiaodie was quite startled. Although she hadn't seen a real expert before, she knew that this old daoist was very scary. However, she didn't understand why the old daoist was so alarmed after hearing the name, "Magu".

The old daoist was aghast while he stared at Li Qiye. He then said with a grave voice: "You... Who are you?" The old daoist then unleashed a bloody light. Chi Xiaodie could feel the suppressive aura that was capable of destroying all things. The old daoist tried his best to hide his blood energy, but even the faint bloody light was enough to make Chi Xiaodie feel as if there was a dragon in front of her.

Li Qiye slowly said without a worry in the world: "Old Daoist, it is best not to make a move against me. Even if Wang Yuan of your Heavenly Dao Academy crawled out of his grave, he would not dare to take any actions against me! Otherwise, I will destroy your Heavenly Dao Academy!"

Chi Xiaodie cried out after hearing the name: "The Second Sage!"

Wang Yuan — this name was like thunder in one's ear, especially within the Eastern Hundred Cities. Wang Yuan was not an Immortal Emperor, but he was no less prestigious than one. In an ancient era, he once revived the Heavenly Dao Academy, causing the fallen academy to rise once again. Because of this, his status in the academy was the same as its progenitor.

Millions of years had passed and Wang Yuan had died a long time ago, but the academy still remembered his contributions so they called him the Second Sage. Only Wang Yuan alone carried this title in the Heavenly Dao Academy.

The old daoist was stunned with his eyes wide open as they locked onto Li Qiye. He didn't dare to take any reckless actions so he slowly converged his blood force.

Li Qiye ignored him and gently knocked on the yellow trunk of the earthworm with a rhythmic tapping pattern.

A noise suddenly appeared: "Phooo!" A moment later, the Space Crossing Earthworm woke up and scurried far away.

After creating some distance, it started cursing: "Ai ya! My mother ya! Which bastard sneak attacked your father?"

Chi Xiaodie was frozen; she had never seen a talking earthworm that knew how to curse at people. This was really going too far. Hundreds of different flowers bloomed in the Eastern Hundred Cities, and Chi Xiaodie had seen many great demons, but she had never seen an earthworm successfully cultivate the dao.

The Space Crossing Earthworm saw the old daoist and then jumped up to exclaim: “Ai ya, my mother, it is this smelly daoist ah!”

Seeing the old daoist carrying the clay cannon, it became angry and yelled out in an angry tantrum: “Bastard daoist! Stinky daoist! Quickly give me back my divine cannon! Otherwise, this divine immortal will blow up your little shrine!”

The old daoist narrowed his eyes and laughed: “Such a loud earthworm! Watch out or I will make you my wine’s side dish.”

“My ass, your bullshit stinks so bad! You only managed to sneak attack me a couple of times. With just your lame skills, you still dare to dream about stealing my divine cannon? Bah, bah, bah, stinky daoist, return my divine cannon!” The earthworm angrily threatened the old daoist: “Otherwise, this boss will banish this place, this place where the chickens don’t even want to lay their eggs at, to a different dimension! Damn your ancestor! If this boss didn’t promise to not leave this place, then I would have banished you and your shitty shrine a long time ago! Hurry up and give me back my divine cannon!”

Chi Xiaodie was shocked. It was not strange for a person to curse someone else like this, but a cursing earthworm was quite an unbelievable sight.

Li Qiye patted the position next to him and told the earthworm: “Okay, Little Autumn, hurry up and come over here, I will get you back your divine cannon.” [1. After thinking it through, I chose Little Autumn instead of Little Fishy. Little Fishy actually makes more sense, and it carries the meaning of the raw over better, but it is still strange to call an earthworm a fish in the English translation. Just know that this fish would have been an eel or a loach, so it does resemble an earthworm.]

The earthworm was extremely arrogant; it glared at Li Qiye and scolded: “Brat, just who do you think you are? You dare to call me Little Autumn? Do you want me to blow you into a strange dimension with a single cannon shot!? Call me Little Autumn again and see if I won’t banish you to a different realm, never to be able to return again!”

Li Qiye looked at the earthworm and slowly said: “Little Autumn, don’t make me throw you back to the Nihilism Temple.” [2. Raw would be Old Hollow/Void/Emptiness Temple, but I do use the word void and emptiness a lot, and Nihilism sounds pretty cool with a sense of oldness within, so Nihilism Temple instead of Old Void Temple.]

The earthworm jumped and stared at Li Qiye in astonishment while saying: “How do you know about the Nihilism Temple?” He was in disbelief and asked: “Who are you?” The earthworm with the foul and vicious mouth suddenly became cautious.

Li Qiye leisurely replied: “I even know the bird that clipped you out from the Nihilism Temple. If you keep running your mouth, I’ll have it eat you!”

“Mother!” The Space Crossing Earthworm suddenly jumped up as if it had seen a ghost, and it started to stutter: “This... are you being serious?”

“You tell me.” Li Qiye spewed out a true mantra, and this true mantra turned into an orderly universal law that entered the earthworm’s body.

The earthworm then shivered and deafeningly shouted: "Oh my god! Young Noble! Young Noble is invincible in this world, in the Nine Heavens and the Ten Earths, in the Five Desolaces and the Six Dao, in all the realms and myriad dimensions... This Little Autumn knew that nothing could stop Young Noble from returning! The king is back to reign over the world and all existences in the universe, to create three hundred billion imperial concubines in your harem and marry millions and millions of fairies..."

The earthworm started to spew out a plethora of praises towards Li Qiye in just a moment. Chi Xiaodie and the old daoist's eyes opened up wide. The arrogant earthworm that was cursing at everyone earlier could actually act like a sycophant in this manner.

Li Qiye then told the earthworm: "Okay, if you keep on talking rubbish, I will throw you back to the Nihilism Temple."

The Space Crossing Earthworm hurriedly ran over to Li Qiye's side and dawdled around with an incomparably affectionate appearance; it seemingly wanted to win Li Qiye's favor. Li Qiye had to tap the yellow trunk on its back before it laid down next to him.

With Li Qiye as his backing, the earthworm became even more arrogant: "Stinky daoist, give me back my divine cannon!" He shouted loudly at the old daoist: "If you don't give it back, my Young Noble will knock all your teeth to the floor and break your home, no, he will destroy this rotten temple of your Heavenly Dao Academy!"

Li Qiye tapped the earthworm again and said: "Okay, stop talking so much." The earthworm immediately became silent.

Li Qiye looked at the old daoist and said in a carefree manner: "Daoist should give the divine cannon back to my pet now." Li Qiye spoke in a polite and formal tone.

There was no longer any trace of drowsiness in the old daoist's sleepy eyes. He carefully looked at Li Qiye and pondered for a bit before forcing a laugh: "I was just kidding, it was just a joke with the earthworm and its rotten mouth. I only took its divine cannon when it was unprepared, but there is no malice behind it."

The old daoist then handed over the divine cannon in his hands over to Li Qiye.

Li Qiye then placed the divine cannon back in the yellow trunk on the earthworm's back.

However, the earthworm did not let it go so easily and cursed: "Your grandmother, you dared to sneak attack me before? This boss will let you off this time, I want to find Magu..." The earthworm was out of control with Li Qiye behind him.

The old daoist's face became frozen after hearing the name "Magu".

Li Qiye appeased the earthworm and said: "Okay, Fellow Daoist has given it back to you so just let it go. You also borrowed the heaven and earth vein of the Heavenly Dao Academy."

"Hmph, it seems like this smelly daoist is lucky this time!" The earthworm was still feeling indignant, but it had no choice other than to eventually drop the matter.

Chapter 286: Old Daoist

“Good, we should go, the matter here is now over.” The worm happily followed behind Li Qiye. Meanwhile, Chi Xiaodie was still quite confused. This thing was too strange; an abusive talking worm.

“Dao Brother, please wait!” The old daoist quickly called Li Qiye back as he was leaving: “This old daoist has a few hometown cuisines, would Dao Brother like to try some of them?”

Li Qiye turned around and nodded his head at the old daoist: “Fine, one meal.” Then he entered the dao shrine again.

The old daoist was ecstatic and rushed back to the dao shrine like a tornado. Banging sounds came from the kitchen and, in just a flash, the old daoist carried out a tray filled with food.

“Azure Phoenix Liver, Skyleaf Grass, Ice Sea Turtle, Flood Dragon Fish Eyes, Summit Bamboo Shoot...” The worm looked at all the dishes and shouted: “Smelly daoist, because of this meal, this boss will not linger on the matter of you stealing my divine cannon!” Finished speaking, a series of chewing noises appeared as it quickly devoured the delicious dishes.

The old daoist was also a food lover. After seeing the worm eating like a storm, he quickly screamed out and competed for the food: “Leave some for me!”

Chi Xiaodie was dumbfounded, not because of the two competing for the food, but she was surprised at the dishes on the table. She didn’t dare to believe that such a meal would appear in a broken dao shrine.

She only knew two or three dishes from this meal. She had only eaten Azure Phoenix Liver and Summit Bamboo Shoot once. Her royal father would have to personally hunt for them in order for them to eat these two things. They were delicacies in this world and were quite useful for cultivators; mortals would not be able to eat them.

“Try it, don’t ever miss a good opportunity.” Compared to the old daoist and the worm with their ugly table manners, Li Qiye was quite nonchalant. He only tasted one or two things.

Chi Xiaodie calmed down and joined in the battle without any reservation. It would be fortunate just to see such a great meal.

The delicious meal was annihilated in the blink of an eye. The old daoist and the worm were burping nonstop while Chi Xiaodie also had her fill. Even as the princess of a country, this was the best meal she ever had in her entire lifetime. She felt her body floating as her pores were opening with mist coming out.

Only Li Qiye was carefree as he only had a few bites. The old daoist quickly brought out a bottle of fine wine and poured it for Li Qiye.

He then said: “Dao Brother should try it. This is a special brew of the Heavenly Dao Academy.”

“Saint Seeping Spring Wine — good wine.” Li Qiye drank a cup and praised: “The world has this rumor which stated that Wang Yuan loved wine, but who knew that he was also adept at brewing good wines?”

“Dao Brother is truly someone who knows their stuff, wonderful!” The old daoist immediately exclaimed: “This wine was brewed by our ancestor, Second Sage, and there aren’t a lot left back at the academy.”

The old daoist really cherished this wine and couldn't bear to drink it, but he poured a full cup for Li Qiye.

Chi Xiaodie was quite moved. Wang Yuan was once an invincible paragon — extremely amazing. Who would have thought that this was his personal brew; its origin was too great.

“Hmph! What is so great about Saint Seeping Spring Wine? This smelly daoist has not seen the best wine in this world! Back at the Divine Dynasty...”

Li Qiye then interrupted him from speaking too much by tapping the yellow trunk on its back: “You ate enough, now shut up.”

The worm immediately shut its mouth and didn't dare to say anything else.

Li Qiye continuously sipped several cups and said: “Extremely good. I am done drinking, say what you want to say.”

The old daoist laughed, haha, and rubbed his hands together, then he asked: “Where is Dao Brother from, and what is your title?”

Li Qiye glanced at him and smilingly shook his head: “Fellow Daoist is mistaken, I am only a no name junior from the Cleansing Incense Ancient Sect. I'm only an ordinary disciple named Li Qiye.”

The worm arrogantly spoke: “Ha, you may refer to my Young Noble as Deity Li, no, as Immortal Monarch Li!”

Li Qiye tapped the worm again and said: “Don't speak nonsense!”

Little Autumn forced a wry smile and closed its mouth.

The old daoist stared at Li Qiye for a bit and sighed, then he stopped inquiring any further. It was not important whether Li Qiye's name was real or fake because he understood that Li Qiye was unfathomable!

Li Qiye looked at him and asked: “What is your name? Which generation are you from in the Everlasting Courtyard?”

The old daoist clasped his hand together respectfully and said: “I'll be candid with Dao Brother. This old daoist's name is Peng Keng; I am a disciple of the Everlasting Courtyard's seventh generation, and I'm also its only disciple. At the moment, I am in charge of this place.”

Li Qiye said: “I am still young, don't refer to me like I am so old. You can call me Young Noble.” Li Qiye said. At this moment, he paused and didn't say anything else. [1. This sentence would make a lot of sense in the raws. They have been using formal and respectful speech to each other. The old daoist has been calling Li Qiye Dao Older Brother this whole time, but I omitted the older part because it is wordy. Just keep in mind that the old guy is showing a lot of respect to Li Qiye.]

Old Daoist Peng looked at Li Qiye and waited for him to continue. Chi Xiaodie also felt that Li Qiye had something that he wanted to say.

After a long period of silence, Li Qiye couldn't help but ask: "Is Magu doing well? Is she no longer in charge of the Everlasting Courtyard anymore?"

After so many years had passed, Li Qiye initially didn't want to ask about the little girl in the past, but he couldn't restrain his emotions.

Old Daoist Peng replied: "Ancestor had lived in seclusion inside the Heavenly Dao Academy's secret ground and no longer wants to see the world. Even I cannot meet her."

Li Qiye didn't ask any more about this matter. He glanced at Old Daoist Peng and said: "You cultivate the Eternal Physique, did your master not tell you that haste makes waste?"

Chi Xiaodie was quite shocked after hearing this. Eternal Physique — this was one of the twelve Immortal Physiques, and what was even more unbelievable was that this slovenly old daoist ahead was actually cultivating the Eternal Physique. Absolutely incredible! The Heavenly Dao Academy was really a place full of hidden dragons and crouching tigers.

The old daoist was startled. He quickly stood up and bowed: "Please teach me a thing or two. When Master was alive, he did mention it. However, when I was young, I took the wrong step due to being impatient."

"I cannot help you." Li Qiye shook his head and said: "The Eternal Physique is named eternal; you can only obey the law of nature through the long months and years and let it form itself. Do not try to change it; only then will you have a chance for rebirth and veer back onto the correct track."

Old Daoist Peng was in a daze after this. He had cultivated the Eternal Physique for a long time, and he felt that Li Qiye's current suggestion made a lot of sense.

He then bowed and said: "Thank you for the advice."

Chapter 287: Ancient Secret

After Old Daoist Peng sat down, Li Qiye said: "I had several wishes when I came to this place, and now there is only one left. I want to hear about the Void Gate."

The old daoist became serious after hearing about the Void Gate. He shook his head and said: "I am not sure. My junior brothers sent news some time ago that recently, the earth vein fluctuated violently and the gate might open once more. However, as for the exact date, my junior brothers are still calculating."

Li Qiye gently sighed in response: "The Void Gate has always been a mystery." Who in this world was the most knowledgeable about the Void Gate? Outside of the deceased Myriad Images True God, there was only Li Qiye left. At that time, Little Autumn was still ignorant.

Old Daoist Peng opened his mouth: "Ancestor Second Sage had gone inside to research, but unfortunately, he couldn't find the real door, or maybe there was never a real door in the first place."

Little Autumn shook its head and said: "The Void Gate exists for sure, but it is hard to tell where it is running off to. However, your Heavenly Dao Academy has a left-over door, and it is the best clue to finding the Void Gate. As for my instincts, I can't tell whether the gate will appear in this generation or not."

Li Qiye was not anxious and said: “We’ll deal with it when the time comes. I’m not leaving this place for now, and I’m staying at the Ancestral Divine Temple. If your academy has any specific information, let me know.”

The old daoist personally sent Li Qiye off all the way down the mountain before going back.

After leaving the Everlasting Courtyard, Chi Xiaodie curiously asked: “What is the Void Gate?”

Li Qiye glanced at her and answered: “One of the Nine Grand Heavenly Treasures, the Void Gate.”

Chi Xiaodie exclaimed: “One of the Nine Grand Heavenly Treasures!” There were many strange things that happened today, but nothing was more shocking than this. She continued after being in a long daze: “The Nine Grand Heavenly Treasures and the Nine Grand Heavenly Scriptures, aren’t these the items from the legends? They don’t actually exist in this world, right?”

Little Autumn said right away: “Little Girl, you can just follow my Young Noble. Ha, you don’t even know, the Nine Grand Heavenly Treasures and Scriptures really do exist, and the Void Gate is even more real. Ha, here...”

Li Qiye glared at it so it shut up and was afraid to say anything else.

Chi Xiaodie was too surprised to pay attention to his words. These treasures were part of the bedtime stories she heard when she was young. The world had always assumed that there were no such items. However, when Li Qiye said that the Void Gate was real, it became quite credible.

She took a deep breath to calm down, but she didn’t dare to ask more when Li Qiye remained silent about the matter.

However, she still had one more question: “Does the Everlasting Courtyard belong to the Heavenly Dao Academy?”

The academy was renowned in the Eastern Hundred Cities and even the entire Mortal Emperor World, but she had never heard of this courtyard before.

“It was established later on.” Li Qiye said: “The courtyard was not initially part of the academy, but Wang Yuan integrated it later on.”

Wang Yuan — Second Sage of the academy; he was not an Immortal Emperor but was just as famous. Why did Li Qiye always know these heaven-shaking secrets?

After arriving at the Ancestral Divine Temple, Little Autumn couldn’t help but feel strange with a sigh: “Ancestral Divine Temple!”

Li Qiye commanded: “Find a spot for yourself. Don’t mess anything up and don’t speak nonsense.” Having said that, he went back to his room.

Meanwhile, Little Autumn stayed in the grand hall to look at the statue of the Chi Clan Ancestor.

He lamented: “Hundred Battles Godking!” Then, it crawled in front of Myriad Images True God and bowed down: “Master, rest in peace. Little Autumn has been sleeping in a special dimension and finally escaped the nightmare of being trapped by those old monks. Don’t worry, Master, in this life, I will

definitely cultivate into a human form. It is quite a shame that Master couldn't escape the nightmare from that place. Damn their grandmothers! One day, Young Noble and I will definitely take that broken urine pot!" Although Little Autumn's words were still quite crude, they respectfully worshiped the statue.

Chi Xiaodie stared at Little Autumn's demeanor in confusion; she waited until it was finished bowing before asking: "Myriad Images True God is your master? Then... Have you lived for a really long time now?"

"He is my previous master." Little Autumn stared at the statue in remembrance: "I haven't lived for too long. I have been hiding and sleeping in my own realm, and I woke up around one hundred or two hundred years ago."

"Could he be the descendant of Myriad Images True God?" The "he" Chi Xiaodie was referring to was Li Qiye; she felt that this hypothesis was very likely to be true. Li Qiye was the descendant so he came here to worship his ancestor and to take the things that were left behind.

Little Autumn only glanced at Chi Xiaodie and smiled without saying anything.

Chi Xiaodie didn't give up and continued prying: "Where are you from? Could it be the world of the gods from the legends? Is there really such a place in this world?"

Little Autumn looked at her and said: "Miss, don't inquire about my origin, lest it brings about a calamity." Little Autumn had a big mouth, especially after sleeping for countless years inside his realm; he wanted to talk a lot. However, after being warned by Li Qiye, Little Autumn knew what to say and what not to say. Otherwise, his Young Noble would really show him what's up.

Without Li Qiye's permission, Little Autumn would not tell anyone that it came from the Void Gate. At that time, it was only an unwitting worm and its master, Myriad Images True God, took it out. The idea that it came from the Void Gate was only its Master's speculation.

Later on, in order to explore the Void Gate, Myriad Images True God actually went into the Buddhist Burial Plateau to obtain an item, and they became trapped in a strange and inescapable place. Li Qiye, as the Dark Crow, came to save them, but unfortunately, the True God couldn't surpass the arduous time. As for Little Autumn, it was put into its realm to escape the calamity and it had been asleep until now.

Little Autumn asked while looking at Chi Xiaodie: "Why is Little Miss staying by my Young Noble?"

Chi Xiaodie was caught off guard and didn't know how to answer. Was she a servant? Not quite. Was she a maid? Also not quite. The truth was, Li Qiye never mentioned anything about accepting her as a maid, and she was only a temporarily attendant at best.

"Little Miss needs to have sincerity and good faith. Only then will you have a good opportunity." Little Autumn gave her some advice: "Geniuses are nothing, and heaven's proud daughters are also nothing. To my Young Noble, even fairies are nothing. I see that you are a type of princess or saintess, right? To my Young Noble, this status is not worth a single coin; think about it well."

In the past, Little Autumn didn't follow Li Qiye for too long before Li Qiye went into hibernation. But in that era, it had seen many great characters around Li Qiye — goddesses and fairies were only his maids.

Little Autumn slowly went into a room while Chi Xiaodie was still standing there.

The next day, Li Qiye told Chi Xiaodie: "Practice well, I have to go outside for a bit." Having said that, he took his leave.

"Young Noble, wait for me!" Needless to say, Little Autumn followed him like a shadow.

Chi Xiaodie didn't ask where Li Qiye was going and stayed behind silently. She was used to Li Qiye's mysteriousness and knew that she alone couldn't influence his actions. Maybe, in his mind, she was only someone he was teaching a thing or two to.

Thinking up to here, Chi Xiaodie sighed; since when did her emotions become affected by Li Qiye?

Li Qiye left for the western border of the Heavenly Dao Academy with Little Autumn right behind him.

The academy's territory was vast; one could only imagine its inner power since it stood strong all the way from the Desolate Era until now. The academy's barren western territory spanned for millions of miles with majestic mountains and rivers. Perilous peaks and valleys were found everywhere. Because of these dangers, humans were not around; only Heavenly Beasts and Longevity Spirits infested this zone.

"You, stay aware and check to see if the Void Gate can appear or not." Li Qiye told Little Autumn once they stepped into this area. He had calculated the time and was certain that the gate would appear in this generation, but the exact time remained a mystery.

"Roger!" Little Autumn knew what to do without Li Qiye's command. It was likely born in the Void Gate, so it had a natural talent with space and void; it was capable of leaving and entering different dimensions. It was more sensitive to the Void Gate than anyone else, which was why Li Qiye dug it out.

Little Autumn was sensing a fluctuation of the heaven and earth while following Li Qiye into the deep wilderness, checking the changes of the earth, step by step.

"Young Noble, maybe the Void Gate isn't in this area of the academy." Little Autumn continued on to say: "In the past, Old Master had checked the academy's door several times for an opening, but he couldn't find the real thing. Could it be that Old Master was misguided from the outset?"

The Void Gate — one of the Nine Grand Heavenly Treasures; the Space Scripture was born from within. The Space Scripture was extremely mysterious, and since time immemorial, no one had ever heard of someone being able to enter the real Void Gate.

Chapter 288: Nine Words True Bow

Li Qiye shook his head and said: "I'm eighty to ninety percent certain that the way to the Void Gate is located in the academy's territory. However, the exact location and generation that it will appear is hard to tell. Regardless, it will not be away from this territory. In the past, the Progenitor of the academy was knowledgeable about the heaven and earth; he calculated his whole life and eventually founded the academy at this location. It had to be here because he noticed that the world's vein and the void space had something to do with each other."

Little Autumn couldn't help but mutter: "Ah, easier said than done. Old Master said that all the wise sages of the academy had always studied the Void Gate with a countless amount of effort. Even though they opened several portals, they couldn't find the real Void Gate."

Li Qiye casually said: "How could it be so easy? Since time immemorial, which Immortal Emperor did not lust after the Nine Grand Heavenly Treasures? And which one of them actually obtained one of the nine? These treasures are even more unfathomable compared to the Heaven's Will by ten thousand times since they already existed before the heaven and earth. Grasping even one of them is an extremely difficult thing."

Little Autumn couldn't help but say: "Their grandmothers! If we have the Space Scripture, it would be so much easier. Those old monks back at the Nihilism Temple are quite difficult to deal with."

Li Qiye narrowed his eyes and replied: "Wait until the buddhist gate is opened at the Buddhist Burial Plateau. I will then personally go to the Nihilism Temple once; how could I ever let go of such an item?"

Little Autumn became frightened: "Young Noble, this is not a trivial matter. Last time, Young Noble almost faced great dangers. Even True Gods would have no path of return once they go to that ghastly place."

Little Autumn was shivering in fear when it talked about the Buddhist Burial Plateau and the Nihilism Temple. His old master, Myriad Images True God, was heaven-defyingly invincible; he was a True God yet he still met dangers in the end. Li Qiye had to exert all of his efforts just to save both of them at that place, but even Li Qiye himself almost got sucked in.

Li Qiye squinted his eyes and continued on: "Don't worry, this time I will have a formal dao discussion with those old monks. It will be a straight and direct path, I will not use any other means."

"Dao discussion?" Little Autumn's expression changed as he spoke: "Even Immortal Emperors could not argue successfully against those old monks. Legend has it that only Immortal Emperor Fei Yang managed to win a debate."

"That's right!" Li Qiye nodded his head: "Immortal Emperor Fei Yang was capable of spewing lotus flowers from his mouth, and he managed to trick a buddhist stone statue out of that place. This old man was really great with many tricks and schemes. Later on, Immortal Emperor Hao Hai wanted to bet for the pot, but he wasn't able to win and had to forcefully leave with his invincible aura. From then on, he never dared to set foot inside the Buddhist Burial Plateau again!"

"Hah, Immortal Emperor Hao Hai was too careless. Who would dare to gamble for that pot? Anyone who does so will surely meet a tragic end. Damn their grandmothers, I wish I could break that damned pot, but this is an impossible thing to do." Little Autumn felt fear in his heart when talking about this pot.

Li Qiye softly sighed and said: "That broken pot was already taken by Di Shi so future generations would have a hard time gambling for it. Even an Immortal Emperor would not be able to win this bet. However, there is still a chance to beat those old monks. The moment the buddhist gate is opened, I will go to the Nihilism Temple at once!"

Little Autumn was silent. It also wanted to take revenge for its old master and beat those old monks in order to expel its grievances. However, it didn't have the same heaven-defying capabilities as its Young Noble, so it could only depend on its Young Noble to defeat the Nihilism Temple!

That year, Little Autumn and Myriad Image True God went to the Nihilism Temple for one of the Nine Grand Heavenly Treasures. Even an invincible existence like the True God was defeated in the Nihilism Temple, and Li Qiye had to save them using countless means. Even though the True God was saved at that time, he couldn't escape the nightmare and still died an early death.

Little Autumn searched for the changes within the earth veins while Li Qiye was looking for Heavenly Beasts and Longevity Spirits amongst the wilderness. In the end, Li Qiye finally found a five hundred thousand year old Longevity Spirit.

Even Ancient Saints would lose their colors when hearing about a five hundred thousand year old Longevity Spirit. Slaughtering one was extremely difficult; there would need to be two or three Ancient Saints just to kill one of these Longevity Spirits.

The most frightening part was being tracked by one because this was more dangerous than anything else. However, Li Qiye was actually tracking a five hundred thousand year old spirit instead. Anyone who heard of this would think that Li Qiye was crazy and was searching for his own demise.

After silently tracking one, he took out the Nine Words True Bow. Little Autumn had once followed the True God so he knew his stuff. After taking a careful look at the bow in Li Qiye's hands, it lost its colors and said: "Oh wow, my mother. This... This is nine words becoming a true mantra! A Nine Words True Mantra Treasure Metal found in the legends! It is extremely rare throughout the ages and even Immortal Emperors crave for it!" Then it exclaimed in astonishment: "It... It is the first True Mantra in this world. This... This is Pristine Worldly Metal. My grandmother... If it grows for billions of years more, then it could become another Heavenly Treasure!"

Little Autumn spit everywhere and said with greed: "Hahaha! Young Noble, I heard that you had a treasury in the past? Haha, I heard that even Immortal Emperors borrowed items from this treasury? How about you grant me three or five treasures?"

Li Qiye glanced at Little Autumn and dismissively said: "Help me find the real Void Gate, then it will not be a problem."

Of course, Li Qiye had a treasury, but it was not within his reach. It was buried in the most fortified location in this world. If Li Qiye didn't personally open it, then even Immortal Emperors would not necessarily be able to enter.

Little Autumn patted his chest and confidently said: "Young Noble can rest assured, I will definitely find the Void Gate for you!" Unfortunately, as an earthworm, it didn't have a chest.

Li Qiye burst out in laughter. He also wanted to find the real Void Gate, but this was much easier said than done. Countless wise sages had searched for the Void Gate since the ancient times and they only came back empty-handed.

Chi Xiaodie kept on practicing diligently after Li Qiye's departure. Three days later, Li Qiye, along with Little Autumn, brought back a giant thing.

Li Qiye's body was stained with blood. Chi Xiaodie was quite frightened to see his state and cried out in surprise: "You... You are hurt?"

“Only a minor injury.” Li Qiye threw the giant thing on his back down to the ground. “Boom!” This giant beast hitting the ground created a large hole.

Chi Xiaodie looked at the giant beast and exclaimed: “A Tyrant Earth Dragon, a six hundred thousand year old Heavenly Beast!” Chi Xiaodie was quite amazed. Even her Royal Father would not dare to mess with such a fierce Heavenly Beast.

“I just killed it and I didn’t take out its marrow nor dao bones.” Li Qiye continued: “You are cultivating the divine gaze and it is not so simple to master. You need to grasp the making of the grand dao as well as the weapon techniques. From today on, you will use a saber to carve into beasts until you are more than familiar with it.”

Chi Xiaodie was startled after hearing this. She didn’t expect that he left in order to hunt and help her cultivate the divine gaze.

Li Qiye was a strict teacher and didn’t spare any leisure time for Chi Xiaodie. He commanded: “Start right now!”

Chi Xiaodie took a deep breath and focused her gaze; her eyes suddenly became completely golden as a sound of metal clashing appeared. Chi Xiaodie’s eyes created a divine saber that gleamed with golden light.

“Clank!”

The divine saber shot out from her eyes and slashed the Tyrant Earth Dragon’s chest, causing blood to spatter everywhere.

“Wrong.” Li Qiye’s voice sank down: “Weapon controlling is more than just pure force and more than just a divine aura. The most important part is the technique. You must grasp the technique before freely controlling thousands of weapons. Only when you are well versed in the technique will you be able to control any treasure — even Immortal Emperor Life Treasures. Then, you will also be able to understand its mysticism with a single glance and create Immortal Emperor Life Treasures!”

Li Qiye gave her more pointers: “The dragon’s skin is hard and tough. You using brute force will only hack the beast marrow and damage the natural treasure that is its body. Your saber needs to slice off the skin, soft yet swift, strong but flexible, acute and sharp...”

Chi Xiaodie took another deep breath. She gathered her energy again and unleashed another golden divine saber to start from the beginning. With Li Qiye’s instructions, she slowly dissected the dragon’s stomach step by step.

Finally, she was able to dismember the entire dragon and separate its parts. After finishing, she took a sigh of relief and sat straight down, not caring about her appearance as a lady.

This type of weapon controlling, to Chi Xiaodie, was more draining than a fierce battle against someone else.

“Very mediocre.” Li Qiye glanced at her and shook his head: “Your ancestor’s weapon controlling skill was arguably at the peak — it reached the highest level. It could create Immortal Emperor True Weapons, and they were exactly alike with the divine auras of said weapons. If you want to reach this

level, then you have to grasp the weapon controlling art; otherwise, you will only have brute strength in the end, and you will only be able to create disorganized weapons and fight wildly. This is not the weapon controlling way!”

Chi Xiaodie quietly listened to Li Qiye’s teachings. Although his words were harsh, she memorized each word and engraved them into her heart.

While Chi Xiaodie was devilishly practicing the divine gaze, Li Qiye would go to the mountain every couple of days to capture Longevity Spirits and Heavenly Beasts so that she could learn her weapon controlling art.

Chi Xiaodie practiced diligently and considered each word and phrase of Li Qiye as gold and jade.

Chapter 289: The Storm Began

While Li Qiye and Chi Xiaodie were training in the Ancestral Divine Temple, there was a piece of news that reached the Eastern Hundred Cities: the Heavenly Dao Academy had opened its gates to accept students everywhere!

This news caused the entire region to clamor as countless people were debating about this matter in astonishment.

One cultivator said: “The last time the academy accepted students was one thousand years ago. That time, the academy was only accepting vagabond cultivators or young cultivators without any sects.”

Many great sects and countries in the Eastern Hundred Cities quickly heard this news. This time, the academy was accepting students from all the sects and countries in this world, no matter the size nor heritage. As long as the student’s conditions were suitable, they were able to enter the academy.

Momentarily, countless people were in an uproar. Until now, the academy usually accepted disciples, but disciples and students were two different matters. Disciples — once accepted — were disciples of the academy for the rest of their lives.

Students were different. They simply trained in the academy and could leave at any time. They bore no responsibilities and only needed to have the right qualifications.

Of course, the treatment between disciples and students were different. Even then, there were still many young cultivators who were willing to become a student of the academy, even those from the great powers.

Many young ones ran to the academy to see if they fit the requirements. Disciples from the great powers and the secret grounds all came since these powers could afford this little fee.

Although these great powers had power and secret forces, they still brought their descendants and inheritors to the academy, including Immortal Emperor lineages and Ancient Kingdoms.

The academy students could not learn the academy’s secret and main techniques, but the academy had an extremely perfect teaching system. Although it didn’t impart merit laws to the students, it taught them about the difficulties on the dao path, how to deal with the devils of the heart, merit law control, and metaphorizing... There were no other great powers with such a perfect system. The Heavenly Dao Academy had researched about this matter for millions of years!

Indeed, the academy was very great in this regard; since the early ages, many Immortal Emperors once studied in the academy and benefited greatly. After becoming an Immortal Emperor, they would come back and leave behind an Emperor Law or Immortal Emperor Life Treasure for the academy.

Immortal Emperor Fei Yang, Immortal Emperor Hao Hai, Immortal Emperor Ta Kong... these renowned names were engraved on the Heavenly Dao Academy's monolith by them personally. After carrying the Heaven's Will, they would come back and leave their names behind. [1. Fei Yang = Soaring; Hao Hai = Grand Ocean; Ta Kong = Space Trample.]

As for great characters like Lion Monarch Baxian, Saber Ancestor, and Martial God, there were too many of them engraved on the monolith. These giant names under Immortal Emperors were all characters capable of sweeping through the Eight Desolaces and ruling over the world during their generation.

There were too many students taught by the academy that went on to become great characters that traversed the Nine Worlds — too many to count.

This was why whenever the academy opened its door to students, even the great powers would send their descendants. It was not only for training, but also to broaden their horizons and knowledge.

As geniuses from great powers everywhere were traveling, the first young genius had entered the academy.

"Hu Yue is also entering the Heavenly Dao Academy!" Hu Yue, the descendant of the Tiger's Howl School was already at the Enlightened Being realm. He could become a tyrant of one direction anywhere in this generation, and he had also entered the academy to learn.

Next, an even more famous genius came to the academy: "Ba Xia also came."

These pieces of news traveled fast and shocked many people. Hu Yue and Ba Xia were the rising and famous geniuses in the Eastern Hundred Cities. Their enrollment to the academy surprised many people.

In a short period of time, carriages ran like a flowing river right outside the academy as numerous people came to sign up. Some came with their predecessors while others arrived alone.

There were some uber level prodigies who went by themselves with an extraordinary presence. There was one who was undergoing his Inner Physique tribulation, but he still soared past the trial straight into the academy.

Another genius trampled on the sky to arrive; with one step, he traversed the far horizon and into the academy with a blood energy that pierced the sky.

"Boom!"

One genius descended from the sky while carrying a meteor, causing all the hills right outside the academy's gate to become flattened.

A few geniuses came secretly. Only when the teachers of the academy found out their situations did they become popular. One hidden genius had a galaxy above his head while sucking in the energy of the sun and moon.

An academy teacher was quite surprised: "This is a lost secret technique found in the legends!"

Another genius came in the door and was examined by a master; a storm and clouds began to form everywhere with the roars of Qilins.

An Ancient Saint who brought his junior here to study was astonished: “This is an exceedingly rare Qilin Physique — a Houtian Physique. He has a Qilin’s blood...”

Superb geniuses — one after another — came to the academy and became its students.

Not long after, a young man rode the wind to arrive with a sacred light that encompassed a huge area. This young man walked slowly, but he was like a saint opening the path. He was protected by many sages and a divine light surrounded his body. He was like the son of the heavens, descending down to earth.

Seeing this man, many young people who came to sign up, and even the cultivators from the previous generation, were amazed.

“Zu Huangwu!”

“Great Child Yao Guang, Zu Huangwu, the descendant of the Brilliance Ancient Kingdom! He also came to sign up!?” [2. Zu Huangwu = Martial Emperor, Yao Guang = Brilliance.]

Another peerless demonspawn came to sign up. In just a split second, many students who came felt a much greater pressure.

Great Child Yao Guang, the descendant of the Brilliance Ancient Kingdom.

Brilliance Ancient Kingdom — one sect, two emperors. As the descendant of an Ancient Kingdom, his influence was great.

Everyone took a deep breath; with such a great rival, there will not be boredom inside the academy.

Zu Huangwu already increased everyone’s pressure, but he was not necessarily the most devilish student.

On another registration day, dragon roars emanated across the academy as if heavenly dragons were rampaging, generating rain and winds and creating a majestic presence as if a member of the dragon race was arriving.

Someone found out what happened: “The descendant of the Crouching Dragon Cliff from the Northern Great Sea came to the academy!”

This news surprised many sect masters and royal lords. One sect master couldn’t help but murmur: “People from the Northern Great Sea actually came despite such a distance — truly unbelievable.”

Within half a year of registration, many sects from the Grand Middle Territory, Northern Grand Sea, Southern Crimson Earth, and Western Desolate Wasteland all brought people here to enroll.

On another day, a godly mountain suddenly appeared in the sky with divine circular lights hovering about, carrying an extremely domineering presence.

“The descendant of the Rampaging Divine Mountain also came to the academy!”

Another demonspawn became a student at the Heavenly Dao Academy.

This situation caused many people to become dumbfounded.

“This is too weird, this is not the first time the academy accepted students. The majority of the students are usually from the Eastern Hundred Cities. Why are people from other regions also arriving?”

The recruitment was no longer confined to the Eastern Hundred Cities, and this caused many people to look with widened eyes.

A few masters and royal lords were debating this matter: “This is the ushering of a new golden era. Only when Second Sage was in charge of the academy would there be so many geniuses throughout the world arriving; even geniuses from the Nine Worlds also came after hearing his prestige.”

However, there was another explosive piece of news. “Goddess Mei has enrolled in the academy!” Mei Suyao of the Eternal River School had also joined the academy.

“Impossible!” People were aghast after hearing this information.

Eternal River School — one sect, three emperors. There were not many heritages comparable to it. Mei Suyao was the chosen one from the school to enter this world, and there was no need for further discussions regarding her. The Eternal River School’s inner strength could even be stronger than the Heavenly Dao Academy, but Mei Suyao still enrolled. This was the cause for many people’s astonishment.

“What is actually happening?” Cultivators who were not aware of inside information became quite confused at the situation.

Not many days have passed after Mei Suyao’s enrollment when another heavyweight character emerged.

That day, a person came down from the sky. This person came alone but the myriad of laws were his followers. One step caused the grand dao to shake, one step to become the ruler of the heaven and earth. In just a moment, the sun and moon lost their colors; his step alone trampled the mountains and rivers. Existences in the places trod by him were shivering as if a god had descended to the mortal world.

He had not yet arrived at the academy but someone had already shouted: “Deity is here!”

Chapter 290: Deity Jikong Wudi

“Deity Jikong Wudi!” Hearing this name, even geniuses who considered themselves extraordinary were shocked.

Jikong Wudi — such a domineering name. He dared to call himself unbeatable — he was peerlessly supreme! [1. Wudi = Unbeatable/Matchless.]

Jikong Wudi, the descendant of the Space Trample Mountain, the sixth generation grandson of Immortal Emperor Ta Kong with three saint aptitudes. There were not many cultivators comparable to Jikong Wudi in the entire Mortal Emperor World.

Someone once said that only Jikong Wudi could compete with Mei Suyao's Immortal Bone by using his three saint aptitudes.

He hadn't trod his dao journey for a long time, but anywhere he passed by, his opponents would all be convinced by him, thus people called him "deity".

The arrival of Deity brought about strange visual phenomena amidst the heaven and earth. This caused all the aspiring students to sigh in lamentation. Many arrogant geniuses all lost their colors after seeing Deity's aura. Even the most conceited man would not dare to compete against Deity.

Goddess Mei Suyao had arrived, and same with Deity Jikong Wudi. Overnight, this news flipped over the academy and the Eastern Hundred Cities.

Many powerful predecessors were sent into a daze after learning about the situation.

"This... is too crazy. Does the representative of the Eternal River School need to join the Heavenly Dao Academy? At this point, she is capable of opening her own sect to preach her dao!"

Another royal lord murmured: "Deity Jikong Wudi also does not need to join the academy. Immortal Emperor Ta Kong had only left for thirty thousand years, and he left behind enough veterans to help Deity Jikong Wudi become an Immortal Emperor; where is the need to join the academy?"

Immortal Emperor Ta Kong was the last Immortal Emperor of the Emperors Era, and he was also the most contemporary. His influence in this world was far greater than other Immortal Emperors who had left this world for a long time. This was why, even though the Space Trample Mountain had only been created thirty thousand years ago, no contemporary heritages dared to look down upon it. Because it was the newest Immortal Emperor heritage, its inner strength was enough to cause others to tremble.

The fact that both Goddess Mei and Deity Jikong Wudi joined the academy stunned many people.

A previous generation Ancient Saint muttered: "Such a situation has only happened once or twice before. The first time was when Immortal Emperor Hao Hai studied at the academy, and the second was when Second Sage Wang Yuan was in charge of the academy. Two admittance time periods that recruited all the best geniuses in this world... Could this time be comparable to the first two?"

Someone else murmured: "The student acceptance period one thousand years ago was not as great as the situation right now." Geniuses from all five territories in the Mortal Emperor World were arriving despite the long distance.

"Something is wrong." After these two joined the academy, a few undyings from the great powers suddenly realized something. "Even though the academy opening its doors is indeed a large matter, it is not quite heaven-piercing. This news traveled way too fast. How could these other territories receive this news and send their descendants to the academy within just half a year? Is this really only for studying?"

After hearing the reports from their juniors, a few old men who were halting their blood force suddenly woke up from their Era Blood Stones and wondered: "Could it be that the Heavenly Dao Academy's portal is about to open again?"

Only monstrous existences like the Eternal River School or the Brilliance Ancient Kingdom knew the real story. However, soon after, the old undyings of the other powers very quickly recognized that this was not an ordinary matter.

All of them thought about one thing — the portal of the Heavenly Dao Academy from the legends.

Since a very distant era, there was a legend about the Heavenly Dao Academy. It stated that the academy was built on the Void Gate's earth vein. The Void Gate was one of the Nine Grand Heavenly Treasures; it could only be heard of but not seen by the inhabitants of this world. Everyone believed that the Nine Grand Heavenly Treasures and Scriptures never existed, that they were only a hoax.

Despite that being so, the rumors about the academy's portal never stopped. In a very ancient era, there was hearsay information that the portal inside the academy could open the Void Gate while others thought that the portal had nothing to do with the Void Gate at all, that it was only a portal to a divine realm or a great treasure left behind since the Legendary Era.

"Could it be that the Void Gate will open at the Eastern Hundred Cities in this generation?" This speculation caused many hidden characters and undyings buried in their coffins to become unable to sit still as their hearts began to beat faster.

"The Void Gate does not exist in this world!" An undying that had lived for countless generations woke up and murmured: "Ever since the past, countless wise sages had explored the portal of the Heavenly Dao Academy. Immortal Emperor Fei Yang, Immortal Emperor Hao Hai, Second Sage, and many others that were all invincible characters of their generations. They had all searched this portal, and there wasn't a Void Gate or anything at all!"

No matter whether the academy's portal had anything to do with the Void Gate or not, at this second, countless reclusive masters and undyings at the Eastern Hundred Cities lost their patience and followed this matter closely.

To them, the relationship between the portal and the Void Gate was not important because the portal itself was a great opportunity. Immortal Emperor Fei Yang, Immortal Emperor Hao Hai, and Wang Yuan were all great characters. When they studied at the academy during their youth, they obtained their great fortune inside the portal. Many people — later on — attributed their future success to the fortune taken from inside the portal.

A portal to reach a divine treasure; a path to reach a supreme fortune... How could these undyings who knew insider information not become excited?

Today, Chi Xiaodie was dissecting a Monarch Fish that was captured by Li Qiye.

Peng Keng ran out from the Everlasting Courtyard and said with a watery mouth: "Not bad, a River Monarch Fish — excellent! This thing becoming a demon is really rare, even in the Heavenly Dao Academy's territory."

During this time, Li Qiye had captured too many fierce beasts, including Heavenly Beasts and Longevity Spirits, ferocious birds and insect kings. After training for some time, Chi Xiaodie's weapon controlling art became more masterful. Day after day, she was immersed in cultivation. Right now, her control of

her golden saber was as simple as a cook using his knife. In just the blink of an eye, this River Monarch Fish was dismembered and each part was perfectly divided.

“Now, let me make a fish feast for everyone.” The salivating Old Daoist Peng took out the ingredients and started to make a fish feast at the temple.

After his cooking was finished, Little Autumn came out of nowhere and jumped on the table. “Smells so good!”

Then, Li Qiye also came out. The old daoist then cheerfully said to him: “Young Noble, come taste my cooking skill.”

Although he said this, his hands were already competing with Little Autumn. The two of them were as fast as the wind; they wished that they could devour the entire feast by themselves.

Old Daoist Peng was a food connoisseur, and his cooking was also great. Chi Xiaodie was not shy as she also participated in this grand war for the food. Only Li Qiye was nonchalant; since time immemorial, what immortal feasts had he not participated in? Li Qiye had eaten many banquets from Immortal Emperors.

After eating his fill, the old daoist spoke to Li Qiye: “The portal of the academy will open in this generation.”

Little Autumn tapped its stomach with a still-unsatisfied appearance and shook its head: “No, Smelly Daoist, this boss can guarantee that your portal will open within half a year, or maybe one to two years if it takes a longer time. Just wait and see.”

Little Autumn had recently followed Li Qiye everywhere within the academy’s territory to analyze the earth vein so it clearly understood the changes.

It then spoke with the tone of an expert: “Your heaven and earth vein is pulsing and changing too dramatically; I am sure that there is a problem.”

Li Qiye was not surprised in his idleness. One of the reasons why he came here was for the academy’s portal. He wanted to look for the Void Gate once more.

Li Qiye glanced at the old daoist and asked: “Is the Heavenly Dao Academy recruiting students again?” Li Qiye had heard some news after traveling around the academy’s territory.

Old Daoist Peng smiled and said: “Yes, it is quite an unfortunate matter. Paper cannot wrap fire so the truth will come out. The portal has opened several times before, and those undyings had always been watching closely. Thus, we might as well let their juniors come in.”

Li Qiye leisurely said: “The Heavenly Dao Academy has never been afraid of anyone.”

“That is true. My old little brothers crawling out from their coffins could indeed suppress anyone with bad intentions.” Old Daoist Peng smilingly continued: “We’ll just let them deal with this matter.”

Li Qiye looked straight at the old daoist and asked: “Then what is your academy afraid of?”

The old daoist's heart sank and said: "This..." He knew that he couldn't fool Li Qiye. He withdrew his carefree look and took a deep breath before saying in a grave tone: "This has something to do with our academy's Divine Beast Protector."

"Right." Li Qiye nodded his head and said: "Your Divine Beast Protector is very old, and it would have become dust if it wasn't for the heaven and earth vein. Could it be that it will finally rest in peace and return to the earth in this generation?"