

Domination 411

Chapter 411: Golden Temple

It seemed as if the Yin Yang Pond was bottomless. They had been diving down for an extremely long period of time, yet they were still unable to arrive at the bottom.

After reaching a certain depth, even the mirror began to have trouble protecting them against the all-freezing cold and the all-melting heat. Even the blood energy of the two in their most powerful state couldn't withstand it. Under the extreme temperatures, even universal laws shattered from the coldness, and dao techniques disintegrated.

At this depth, even Virtuous Paragons couldn't handle it, let alone Li Qiye and Lan Yunzhu. If they kept diving down, they would surely die.

"Now! Your Heaven's Will Secret Law... Cyclical River of Fate!" Li Qiye shouted at Lan Yunzhu.

After hearing his words, Lan Yunzhu immediately communicated with the heaven and earth. The heaven's will suddenly hovered around them, channeling countless supreme dao like the infinite reincarnation cycles.

While Lan Yunzhu was activating her secret law, Li Qiye opened his sea of memories. A mantra flew out from its depths and turned into a golden divine chain that eventually rushed out of Li Qiye's forehead.

"Clank!" The unbelievable suddenly happened. This golden divine chain struck Lan Yunzhu's secret law and locked the most important part of the Cyclical River of Fate. In the blink of an eye, Lan Yunzhu lost control of her secret law and the heaven's will suddenly wove into a door.

"Buzz—" The gate created by the heaven's will laws suddenly sucked Li Qiye and Lan Yunzhu inside.

The discombobulated Lan Yunzhu found that there was no longer a Yin Yang Pond as they were standing at a different location. She was quite in shock as well. She started to cultivate the secret law at a young age, and it could even be considered as her dao root, but she didn't know that it had such an effect.

As soon as her mind returned, she was once again amazed at the scene that was unraveling before her eyes.

Li Qiye and Lan Yunzhu were standing under a sky filled with stars. There was a giant willow tree at this place — the biggest willow tree that Lan Yunzhu had ever seen. It pierced all the way into the sky as it shouldered this entire realm. Each hanging branch was like a peg of a ladder; those who could climb to the top of the tree would eventually reach the nine firmaments.

What was even more moving was that the entire willow tree was golden; one could see its dazzling radiance from afar. One would be basked in a golden light if they stood below the tree, and they would be able to hear the crisp and pleasing sounds of golden powder falling down that followed a musical rhythm.

Extreme Yin and Extreme Yang Waters met right at the root of the tree. And right below it was a golden temple that was seemingly cast from pure gold. Its heavy doors were shut tight.

Lan Yunzhu took a long time to calm down after looking at this scene and asked: "Just... where is this place?"

"Below the Yin Yang Pond." Li Qiye calmly spoke: "This is the foundation of your Thousand Carp River."

Li Qiye sighed softly as he looked at the willow tree and the golden temple in front of him. He had finally returned after so many years.

Lan Yunzhu took a deep breath while gazing intensely at Li Qiye and exclaimed: "You used me! My Cyclical River of Fate is the key to getting in here."

There was a rumor that the biggest secret of the Thousand Carp River was hidden below the Yin Yang Pond, but no one had been able to come here until now. But now, Li Qiye had done so.

Li Qiye smiled and said: "The Cyclical River of Fate is the key?" He then shook his head and continued: "You are mistaken. The secret law is only a medium; even without you, I could still enter. It would only be a bit more cumbersome, that's all."

Lan Yunzhu's heart thumped as she cautiously gazed at Li Qiye: "You didn't come here to catch immortal sungrass, your goal was this place from the very start!"

Li Qiye asked with a smile: "Oh? Are you cautious of me? You definitely do not understand the secrets in this place. If I wanted to do anything to your sect, I would not have waited until today. I only came to take what belongs to me."

Lan Yunzhu just stood there while gazing at Li Qiye. Eventually, she took in a calming breath and asked: "How do you know this place? And how do you know the method to enter?"

Li Qiye responded with a smile: "I calculated with my fingers."

How could Li Qiye not know about everything under the pond? In the past, he personally created this domain. Because of him, there was Immortal Emperor Qian Li and the Thousand Carp River.

Li Qiye pointed at the monstrous golden tree and said: "Sit down beneath the tree. Maybe you will benefit from its heavenly dao."

Lan Yunzhu looked at the tree and asked: "What kind of divine tree is this?"

Li Qiye answered with a smirk: "An amazing divine tree. There would be no mysterious Thousand Carp River without it. If there was no Ghost Ancestral Tree in the Sacred Nether World, then it might have a chance to be the number one tree."

"I'm going to enter now to take a few things." Li Qiye then stepped towards the golden temple beneath the golden tree.

Lan Yunzhu suddenly realized something: "I don't agree to let you take those things away." Here, she deepened her tone: "They should belong to the Thousand Carp River."

"Should belong to the Thousand Carp River?" Li Qiye replied with a smile: "Girl, do you know why the Thousand Carp Lake is such a wonderful place? A long time ago, it was just an ordinary lake, but later on, it became a wondrous land yearned for by countless people. Do you know why?"

“The lake wasn’t always like this?” Lan Yunzhu asked in surprise. Her Thousand Carp Lake had produced many amazing treasures craved by countless people.

“If the lake was always such a wondrous land, then would it be your Thousand Carp River’s turn to establish a sect here? Such a wondrous land would have soon been taken by the Myriad Bones Throne or the Simple Mountain Immortal Kingdom to build their ancestral grounds.”

“Then why did it become such an amazing place? Was it because of our patriarch, Immortal Emperor Qian Li?” After speaking these words, even Lan Yunzhu didn’t feel very confident.

Li Qiye mysteriously smiled as he headed inside the golden temple. Lan Yunzhu quickly followed right behind him.

Li Qiye turned around and smiled: “If you want to stop me, then you can try to follow along, but it is impossible.”

He softly sighed while standing before the immense gate of the golden temple. Then, he reached out and knocked: “I have returned.”

Li Qiye’s words had a certain harmony with the grand dao.

“Crank—” At this time, the golden gate slowly opened, revealing the primordial chaos inside.

Lan Yunzhu followed Li Qiye right after he entered, but the moment she set one foot inside, she was repelled as if there was an invincible existence forbidding her entry.

“Crank—” Before she had time to get up, the golden door had already closed.

She quickly rushed forward and pounded on the door while shouting: “Open the door, Little Devil!”

However, there was no reply from inside. She pondered for a moment and remembered Li Qiye’s earlier appearance, then she copied him by knocking on the golden gate. She also mimicked the particular rhythm when she said: “I have returned.”

But the golden gate had zero response. However, she didn’t give up and tried several times again to no avail.

“Little Devil, you dared to trick me!” Lan Yunzhu bitterly cried out: “Don’t let me catch you or I’ll really let you have a taste!”

She couldn’t do anything else but sit down beneath the golden willow tree while being filled with resentment. She eventually calmed down and looked up at this golden willow tree.

Meanwhile, Li Qiye entered the temple that was filled with primordial chaos in its entirety.

It was as if a world had not existed in this place and this was still the primal origin — the beginning of all things.

When one stood in this spot and opened their heavenly gaze while carefully listening, they could faintly hear the sounds of divine beasts, including dragons, phoenixes, qilins, and taotie as if this place was their nest. [1. Taotie is the fifth son of the dragon king, another draconic mythical creature.]

Then, they could see divine pagodas along with heavenly cauldrons inside along with many other immortal treasures.

Li Qiye emotionally murmured while standing in this place: "Time is heartless, I didn't expect to actually return to this place."

The moment these words came out, a voice came from within the primordial chaos: "It is good to see your return."

Chapter 412: Immortal Emperor Qian Li

At this time, a faint shadow could be found inside the primordial chaos, but it was completely shrouded by the essence so one couldn't tell whether it was male or female; it was only a blur of a shadow.

If the elders of the river sect could see this shadow, they would absolutely become shocked. This shadow was exactly the same as their patriarch, Immortal Emperor Qian Li!

Seeing the shadow within the chaos, Li Qiye couldn't help but become silent. Meanwhile, the shadow initiated the conversation: "Congratulations, you have finally regained your body. Unfortunately, I couldn't wait until this day."

"So much time has passed... Qian Li, you are still here." Li Qiye eventually sighed softly and said: "You know that you are no longer in this world."

The shadow basked in primordial chaos answered: "I know." There was a very particular order to the shadow's voice; it seemed as if their tone was the sound of the grand dao. This also made their sex indecipherable.

"I was waiting for you to come back." The shadow continued: "Although I am no longer here, my will and sentiment remain with this land."

Li Qiye sat down and asked with a smile: "Or maybe you are here because you do not hope to see me take those items away?"

The shadow became silent for a long time before gently asking: "That year, when you and I created this miracle, what was our initial goal?"

Li Qiye responded: "It was to create the Thousand Carp River, and that was also why I never returned. If I wished to take them away, then I would have done so earlier. However, if your descendants are not worthy of these things, then I shall take them away."

This prompted a question from the shadow: "Then do you feel like the current Thousand Carp River is worthy for you to leave them here? If the existences in this domain do not have these items, then they cannot reach the dao."

Li Qiye turned quiet before eventually speaking in a low voice: "I knew you would leave a sentiment behind in this place, so I came back to see a friend." Li Qiye then sighed dejectedly.

"If you choose to leave them here, then it would be a great blessing for the Thousand Carp River, and a great blessing for all the existences in this domain." The shadow continued on: "This land has many things that I can't forget."

Li Qiye was silent for a long time before he helplessly smiled to say: “Then we can leave them here. It seems like I am unable to refuse your request.”

“But you have done so in the past.” The voice in the chaos spoke softly in a very gentle manner.

After the past was brought up, Li Qiye shook his head and replied: “Even though you are an Immortal Emperor, you should know that the Immortal Demon Grotto is eternal. Even you will find it difficult to succeed. And even if you were able to do it, you would surely die as well. Just like before when I groomed the group of Min Ren, I didn’t intend for them to die for me...

“... The same applies to you. It is very difficult for an Immortal Emperor to emerge in each generation. An Immortal Emperor exists not only to reign supreme over the Nine Worlds, but they must also protect this heaven and earth — you should be aware of this. Trading an Immortal Emperor for me is not something I desire. In this world, there are many wonderful things as well as tasks that we must perform. A crow is fine, an imperial teacher is also the same; to me, training someone is not for me to use them as a tool or let them die in my stead.” [1. “Someone to die in my stead” can be scapegoat or fall guy. But I chose to use a more literal translation, because it fits the particular narrative a lot more.]

Here, he let out a disappointed sigh.

A long time later, the shadow in the chaos gently asked: “Are you lonely?”

Li Qiye replied with a smile: “Once one is used to it, one will no longer feel lonesome. For tens of millions of years, I had Min Ren, Tun Ri, and people like you to spend time with me, so I should be happy instead.”

After a period of silence, the shadow let out a long sigh filled with sadness before finally speaking: “I have found something for you.”

An item flew out from the primordial chaos and landed in front of Li Qiye.

Li Qiye took a look at it before emotionally exclaiming: “Elusive Heavenly Vase!” He then gently touched the ancient vase.

The shadow said: “I know you have been searching for this thing for a very long time. After you went into hibernation, I opened a separate domain and the heavens did not let me down. I have finally found it.”

Li Qiye carefully put the vase away and smiled: “I had forgotten about it until now, but I was indeed very interested in it in the past. I wanted to research the legendary Elusive Heavenly Mountain, but I had put this matter on hold.”

“Because you are a very busy man.” The shadow in the chaos smiled; it was a very pleasant smile.

Li Qiye also smiled back. All the events in the past were still as clear as ever in his mind. Unfortunately, the endless time shrouded them until today when these memories were evoked once more.

“Can I see you?” A while later, the shadow in the chaos asked.

Li Qiye looked at the shadow and, after a long silence, he sighed and disappeared into the primordial chaos.

Near the golden temple, Lan Yunzhu looked up at the Golden Divine Willow and saw a sprite-like creature akin to sea grass flying around.

No, it was not sea grass but a Yin Yang Immortal Sungrass, and it was a king on top of that! Seeing so many Yin Yang King Sungrass shocked Lan Yunzhu.

The value of a Yin Yang King Sungrass was much higher than an Eight Transformation Soul Grass; it was comparable to a two or three million year old King Herb. In addition, this was a king sungrass that had turned into a bright golden color, so it was much more precious than old King Herbs.

There had always been people diving down the pond at the Thousand Carp River to catch immortal sungrass, but they very rarely ever caught a king sungrass, let alone one that had reached this golden color.

While being astonished at the sight of so many king sungrass, she also wanted to catch a few. However, no matter which techniques she performed, she was unable to catch any of these flying king sungrass beneath the Golden Divine Willow.

As she pondered on how to catch one, she heard the voice of Li Qiye right next to her: "You won't be able to catch a king sungrass right below the Golden Divine Willow."

Lan Yunzhu turned around to see Li Qiye standing there for who knew how long.

She exploded the moment she saw him: "Damned Little Devil, you dared to leave me outside!?" She was prepping her claws against Li Qiye and spoke resentfully: "Watch me take care of you!"

"Girl, it is not because I wanted to leave you outside, but because you couldn't enter." Li Qiye grinned and continued: "Not just anyone can enter the golden temple."

The angry Lan Yunzhu snorted. After a while, she calmed down and asked while gazing at Li Qiye: "What did you take from there?"

"Why are you looking at me like that?" Li Qiye replied while meeting her gaze: "Even if I took some items, they are only things that belonged to me. However, your Thousand Carp River is lucky. Out of remembrance for your patriarch, I have left those things behind."

"Really?" Lan Yunzhu stared at Li Qiye with doubts as if she wanted to see if he was hiding any treasures on his body.

Li Qiye angrily glared at her and said: "If I wanted to take those items, then what can your sect do to me? This was just my last deed to end the fateful ties with the Thousand Carp River." He sighed softly after having said this.

Lan Yunzhu was caught off guard. She felt that Li Qiye seemed to be sad, but it was not because of the treasures. Ever since she met him, she found him to be a happy and always-smiling person; never had she seen him in such a sad state.

However, it was just for a second. Lan Yunzhu was not so sure and suspected that she might have just misread it. What could make Li Qiye so sad? She was quite curious about this.

Amidst her curious confusion, Li Qiye let out a long whistle and a very strange thing happened. A king sungrass slowly flew into Li Qiye's palm, thus allowing him to easily catch it.

"Impossible!" Lan Yunzhu was astounded after seeing this. She also whistled just like Li Qiye, but all the other king sungrass ignored her.

"How did you do that?" Lan Yunzhu stared at Li Qiye in astonishment and asked.

Li Qiye revealed a mysterious smile and said: "It's a secret. You won't be able to find out. But of course, if we consummate our marriage tonight, then I can reconsider about clueing you in."

"Go die!" Lan Yunzhu immediately blushed as she tried to kick Li Qiye.

Li Qiye laughed and jumped up, then he suddenly disappeared within the willow tree. A bit later, Li Qiye landed with a hat in his hand; it was a hat made from golden willow branches that were weaved together. Each branch emitted strands that resembled golden silk universal laws, causing onlookers to feel a disturbance in their mind.

Lan Yunzhu looked at the hat made from interwoven willow branches in Li Qiye's hand and asked: "What is that thing?"

"Golden Willow Crest." Li Qiye answered with a smile: "Unfortunately, I won't be giving it to you since you haven't performed the duties of a fiancée."

Lan Yunzhu snappily glared at him and retorted: "I don't care for it at all."

"Let us go, one Yin Yang King Sungrass is enough to beat your protectors." Li Qiye looked at the golden temple one last time and secretly sighed in his heart.

Lan Yunzhu looked at him and paused for a moment before speaking: "I have to report this to the sect master." In the end, Lan Yunzhu was still a disciple of the Thousand Carp River. This Golden Divine Willow was too important to the sect, so she must report it to the sect master.

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"So much time has passed... Qian Li, you are still here." Li Qiye eventually sighed softly and said: "Readers, go read Spirit Vessel on RNF."

Chapter 413: Golden Willow Crest

"Do as you please." Li Qiye didn't care and said: "Even your ancestors might not know about it, and even if they did, your Thousand Carp River still wouldn't be able to enter."

The key was not the Heaven's Will Secret Law nor the Cyclical River of Fate, but rather Li Qiye's golden universal law. Without this law from Li Qiye's sea of memories, it would be useless even if someone knew of this secret since they wouldn't be able to enter.

Lan Yunzhu looked at Li Qiye's absent-minded expression and quietly asked: "How do you know about the matters in this place?"

Ever since he left the golden temple, he seemed to be preoccupied with his thoughts, so she was a bit worried for him.

"I calculated with my fingers." Li Qiye answered with a smile.

"Go calculate in hell!" Lan Yunzhu gritted her teeth from anger. She had good intentions, but this little devil was completely ungrateful!

Li Qiye looked at her and asked: "Do you want to stay here and flirt with me for a bit longer, or do you want to hurry back so that your master won't worry?"

"Bah, you narcissist, who wants to flirt with you? Don't be so arrogant." Lan Yunzhu angrily retorted with beet red cheeks.

Right by the Yin Yang Pond, Daoist Bao Gui was very worried since Li Qiye and Lan Yunzhu had dived down for a long time and still hadn't returned.

"Could they actually dive down that deep?" He wondered with uncertainty.

His old eyes gazed at the Yin Yang Pond. Although Lan Yunzhu's cultivation was very formidable, as the sect master, he knew just how terrifying the pond was.

And he wasn't the only one who was nervous, another elder was quite worried as well: "Hmph! Even if that Little Demon Li wished to die, he shouldn't involve others!"

One of them scolded: "If anything happens to Yunzhu, I will personally kill this brat!"

At this time, everyone's anger was directed at Li Qiye. The disciples also felt the same as they cursed Li Qiye since they were very worried about Lan Yunzhu.

Only Lu Baiqiu alone cared for Li Qiye's safety. She stood by the pond while nervously looking down at the water, silently praying for his safe return.

"Sect Master, I'm afraid it is not looking good. How about we go down and take a look?" The two still hadn't come out after a long time, so an elder expressed his concern.

The worried Daoist Bao Gui nodded his head in response: "We can temporarily stop this immortal sungrass catching competition and go down to take a look. It would not be good if anything happened to them."

"Crash!" Right when the sect master's group wished to dive down, two figures soared up and landed by the pond.

Both the elders and disciples were ecstatic after seeing the two figures leaving the pond.

“They are out!” A person exclaimed.

The constantly panicking Lu Baiqiu finally smiled after seeing Li Qiye was safe and sound and standing by the bank.

Daoist Bai Gui also let out a sigh of relief after seeing the two of them, then he scolded: “How rash! The Yin Yang Pond is extremely dangerous. How could you two carelessly dive down like that?”

Li Qiye smiled and said: “Do not worry, Sect Master. Just the Yin Yang Pond alone won’t be able to kill us.” He then took out a Yin Yang King Sungrass and smirked: “We captured a king sungrass, I wonder how many king sungrass the two protectors caught?”

“Yin Yang King Sungrass!” Daoist Bao Gui exclaimed after seeing the plant in Li Qiye’s hand.

All the elders and protectors gathered around. Even the two competing protectors also came by to take a closer look at the king sungrass in Li Qiye’s hand. One of them was aghast and cried out: “It really is a king sungrass!”

An elder movingly said: “We haven’t caught a single blade of king sungrass for three thousand years. How did you guys catch it just now? This is unbelievable.”

Elder Lin’s expression became very ugly and snorted after seeing the king sungrass. Li Qiye’s victory was assured with this king sungrass. Even if his side caught more immortal sungrass, they were still not as valuable as a single king sungrass.

“Who won this round?” Li Qiye looked at the elders and revealed a wide smile.

All of the elders glanced at each other. Although they were unwilling, they still belonged to an emperor’s lineage and had to admit that Li Qiye won this round.

“Li Qiye has passed the second trial.” In the end, Daoist Bao Gui announced.

Li Qiye then calmly spoke: “Since I succeeded in two out of the three trials, there is no need for the last trial, right? But if your sect wishes to test your future son-in-law again, I’ll be happy to comply. I trust that no one can separate the two of us, am I right, Yunzhu?”

Lan Yunzhu knew that this little demon purposely said this, so she angrily glared at him.

Despite their unhappiness, what could the elders and disciples of the river sect do? The terms were decided by them beforehand, so they couldn’t change it now.

Li Qiye went back along with Lu Baiqiu to their housing while Lan Yunzhu went to report to Daoist Bao Gui.

After going back to the courtyard, Li Qiye called for Lu Baiqiu and gave her the Golden Willow Crest before saying: “You have followed me for several days while fulfilling all of your duties, so I will give you this treasure crest as a reward.”

“What is this treasure?” Lu Baiqiu emotionally asked while looking at the golden crest. Although she didn’t know what it was, its appearance that was filled with encircling silk-like universal laws was impressive enough.

Li Qiye answered with a smile: “This is a Golden Willow Crest, it’s woven from the most valuable branches from the Golden Divine Willow. It is a natural creation, not something that was crafted. This particular crest can be a ghost divine merit law, but if you consider it as a weapon, then will be a weapon; if you want it to be a scripture, then it is a scripture; if you think it is a supreme manual to study, then let it be a supreme manual.”

“This thing... is that magical?” Lu Baiqiu asked in astonishment. If Li Qiye’s explanation was apt, then this crest was indeed an amazing divine treasure.

Li Qiye nodded and said: “Yes! This thing could be considered the one and only of its kind in this world, and it is a creation that I shall give to you. As for the benefits and wisdom you can gain from it, it will be up to your own fortune. Remember well, you only have one chance at studying the supreme scripture within.”

“This...” Lu Baiqiu hesitated while holding the golden crest in her hand. This treasure was too valuable for her since it was worthy of being called a divine treasure. Lu Baiqiu was only a Region Lord of the Static Stream Country, so she couldn’t come into contact with such a thing.

“Take it.” Li Qiye smiled and said: “You have earned it. I told you that I would give you a creation, and I will not break my word.”

Lu Baiqiu calmed down and bowed towards Li Qiye: “Thank you, Young Noble.” Outside of heartfelt sincerity, more wordy appreciations paled in comparison.

“Bottom of the Yin Yang Pond...? The secret of the Yin Yang Pond!” In another part of the Thousand Carp River, Daoist Bao Gui was quite moved after hearing Lan Yunzhu’s report: “The legendary Golden Divine Willow!”

Lan Yunzhu looked at her master and asked: “Master, what kind of divine tree is it?” She saw it with her own eyes but couldn’t gain any profound enlightenment.

One must know that Lan Yunzhu had dual Saint talents; she was a devilish existence in the entire Sacred Nether World, not just in the Distant Cloud. She was not weaker than any other genius, but she couldn’t fathom the mysteries below the golden willow.

Daoist Bao Gui pondered for a moment before answering: “The Divine Willow Tree... I don’t know the exact details about it since there are only a few written records regarding this existence. It is said that this divine tree obtained a mysterious and heavenly creation. People say that the most powerful and formidable tree in the Sacred Nether World is the Ghost Ancestral Tree, but there is also a rumor stating that the Divine Golden Willow is right behind it.”

“Ghost Ancestral Tree?” Lan Yunzhu remembered hearing Li Qiye mention such a thing.

Daoist Bao Gui shook his head and said: “The Ghost Ancestral Tree is only a legend, no one really believes in its existence. Many ghost tribes in the Sacred Nether World refuse to acknowledge its existence, including the Ancestral Domain. Eventually, people just assumed that it was only a fabricated myth.”

After hearing about how the Ancestral Domain itself refuted this legend, Lan Yunzhu eagerly asked: “Is the Ghost Ancestral Tree that important?”

Daoist Bao Gui replied with gravity: “This has always been a mystery. Rumor has it that the tree had something to do with the ghost race’s origin. If that is indeed true, then the tree is the root of the Sacred Nether World. Of course, this is all hearsay since no one has seen it before.

“However, the divine tree and the golden temple might have something to do with our sect’s foundation. Since the Thousand Carp Lake is such a miraculous place, it must be the doing of the divine tree and the golden temple.”

Lan Yunzhu was about to say something, but she chose to remain silent instead. She didn’t reveal the fact about Li Qiye wanting to take a few things from the golden temple. After some hesitation, she decided to bury this matter in her heart because it might be quite disastrous to Li Qiye once revealed.

[spoiler title=’413 Teaser’]“Do as you please.” Li Qiye didn’t care and said: “Even your ancestors might not know about it. However, even if they did, your Thousand Carp River still wouldn’t be able to enter.”

The key was not the Heaven’s Will Secret Law, the Cyclical River of Fate, but rather Li Qiye’s golden universal law. Without this law from Li Qiye’s sea of memories, it would be useless even if someone knew this secret since they wouldn’t be able to enter.

Lan Yunzhu looked at Li Qiye’s absent-minded expression and quietly asked: “How do you know about the matters in this place?”

Ever since he left the golden temple, he seemed to be preoccupied with thoughts, so she was a bit worried for him.

“I calculated with my fingers.” Li Qiye answered with a smile.

Chapter 414: Turmoil

Unwittingly, she had started to worry about Li Qiye’s safety.

Daoist Bao Gui then inquired further: “Did Li Qiye say anything else about the Golden Temple?” As the sect master, he understood the gravity of this matter.

“Nothing else.” Lan Yunzhu shook her head in response. There were some things that she didn’t want to reveal.

“This is the secret of the Yin Yang Pond...” Daoist Bao Gui couldn’t help but murmur. Over the years, there were many tales circulating the inner circle of the river sect regarding the bottom of the Yin Yang Pond. Some believed that it was the foundation of the sect.

Because of this rumor, across many generations, people tried to dive down to the very bottom. However, despite their numerous efforts, they still failed to do so. As a result, these rumors, instead, became legends for the future generations.

But today, an outsider confirmed such a legend, so how could Daoist Bao Gui not become emotional?

“How does Li Qiye know this secret?” The daoist wondered. As the sect master, he knew his own sect very well, but an outsider like Li Qiye was privy to the pond’s secret while it eluded him, the sect master.

Perhaps even the high elders and the slumbering ancestors didn’t know the secret of the pond. Thus, this matter where their great secret was within the grasp of an outsider was of the utmost priority to Daoist Bao Gui.

After Lan Yunzhu’s report, the daoist immediately convened a secret meeting that only consisted of elders; even the high elders who rarely showed themselves participated as well.

After hearing the sect master’s statement, all the elders were quite moved as they glanced at each other: “There is a golden temple and a golden divine tree below the Yin Yang Pond!?”

“The rumor is true, then.” A high elder took a deep breath and wondered: “Could this be an inheritance bequeathed by our Immortal Emperor patriarch?”

“Such a secret affects the survival of our sect, we cannot let an outsider grasp it.” Elder Lin, who had always been antagonistic towards Li Qiye, gravely said: “We should capture Li Qiye and interrogate him right away.”

Another elder shook his head in disagreement: “There is no evidence regarding this matter so if we interrogate Li Qiye, our reputation as an emperor’s lineage would be greatly damaged. We should talk to Li Qiye first, then decide later.”

“Hmph, this affects our sect’s survival, so what is there to talk about?” Elder Lin coldly continued: “As long as we catch him and carefully interrogate him, there is no fear that he won’t talk.”

Another high elder, Venerable Wang, who was Elder Lin’s master, agreed: “This matter is indeed of the utmost importance. We should first capture Li Qiye.”

“We don’t even know about the secret of the pond, so how does Li Qiye know?” High Elder Yang replied in a deep tone: “Maybe Li Qiye has a deep connection with our sect.”

“Senior Brother Yang, how could an outsider have any ties with us?” Venerable Wang sarcastically smiled and exclaimed: “Maybe this little demon has been secretly spying on us and discovered a way to enter the Yin Yang Pond!”

“Spying on our methods and found a way to enter the pond?” Venerable Yang glanced at him and said: “If we had a method of entry, why would we even be here today? Does Junior Brother Wang know of such a method? And not just us, even our sealed ancestors might not know the secret. Are you telling me that our ancestor knew of this secret and told an outsider?”

Venerable Wang said with a grave tone: “If we torture him, there would be no need to fear that he won’t talk. At that moment, we’ll find out how Li Qiye knows of this secret.”

Venerable Yang shook his head in response: "I personally do not agree with an interrogation. We can talk to Li Qiye, instead."

A different high elder nodded in agreement: "Beginning with an interrogation is too hasty, but we do need to talk with this little demon first."

Daoist Bao Gui coughed to interject: "Senior Uncles, we should set aside the matter of Li Qiye for now. I feel that we should dive down and personally check the Yin Yang Pond before we take any action."

"That's right!" After hearing this, all the elders and high elders became excited: "We should go take a look!"

The elders took action immediately. They sealed the island and didn't allow anyone to approach. A few elders and high elders carried treasures to dive down to the depths of the Yin Yang Pond. They followed Lan Yunzhu's instructions in order to reach the bottom.

However, no matter how they tried to use Immortal Emperor Qian Li's Cyclical River of Fate, they could not reach the bottom, let alone see the golden tree and golden temple.

After consecutive failures, the group realized that the key was not the Heaven's Will Secret Law, it was Li Qiye.

"We have to talk to that little devil!" All the elders had the same thought, and that was to get Li Qiye to reveal the secret no matter what.

"Young Noble, it's not looking so good!" In the afternoon, Lu Baiqiu rushed in and immediately exclaimed after seeing Li Qiye.

"What happened? Why are you so startled?" Li Qiye looked at her and asked.

Lu Baiqiu looked around as if she was afraid that people would eavesdrop before whispering: "Young Noble, there are a lot more disciples patrolling our private courtyard today. I'm afraid the river sect might have some unfavorable plans regarding us."

Lu Baiqiu was a Region Lord, so she was meticulous and cautious. She immediately knew that something bad had happened the moment she noticed the extra disciples going back and forth.

"Is that so?" Li Qiye smiled in response. This was within his expectations. If Lan Yunzhu reported the matter of what was beneath the Yin Yang Pond, then naturally, the Thousand Carp River would have a great reaction.

"Would the Thousand Carp River change their mind about the marriage arrangement? But Young Noble, I think Fairy Zhu quite likes you." Lu Baiqiu anxiously whispered.

Li Qiye lightly flicked her forehead and said: "Girl, where did your mind wander off to?" Li Qiye then smiled and shook his head: "It's nothing of that sort, this has nothing to do with that little girl."

Lu Baiqiu's sense of danger was tingling, so she whispered again: "But Fairy Zhu should be warning you right now, yet there is no sign of her. Don't tell me Fairy Zhu wants to cancel this marriage?"

Li Qiye calmly responded: "Don't think about it too much. The little girl has no control over this matter for she is helpless as well regarding this issue."

The secret of the pond affected the existence of the sect itself, so such a thing was outside the influence of a disciple like Lan Yunzhu. Even the sect master, Daoist Bao Gui, could not decide the course of action regarding this matter alone.

"Then what should we do?" Lu Baiqiu inquired: "Young Noble, how about we escape under the curtain of night?"

"Escape? Why do we have to escape?" Li Qiye nonchalantly stated: "Don't worry, even if the sky falls down, your Young Noble will be here to shoulder it for you. What is there to be afraid of?"

Lu Baiqiu took a deep breath and resolutely nodded her head: "I shall stand together with Young Noble!"

Li Qiye just smiled and didn't say anything else. He then slowly closed his eyes in anticipation of the things to come.

Later on, in the afternoon, the patrolling disciples around Li Qiye's place only increased in number till the point where not even a drop of water could trickle through.

Even the stupidest disciple in the river sect would understand that something important had happened. However, the sect remained secretive, and ordinary disciples didn't dare to ask any questions.

Lu Baiqiu became increasingly nervous after seeing even more disciples around, but she calmed down after noticing how relaxed Li Qiye was.

Once night fell, Daoist Bao Gui finally came to see Li Qiye. They couldn't go down to the bottom of the pond, so they had no other choice. They knew the key lied with Li Qiye, so the sect master personally went to talk with him.

The sect master sat down and Li Qiye didn't mince words: "Sect Master came because of the issue regarding what is beneath the Yin Yang Pond, correct?"

The sect master nodded his head while smiling and said: "Young Noble Li is a sensible person. If we all understand the circumstance, then we can openly talk."

"I'm all ears." Li Qiye said with a smile.

Daoist Bao Gui took a deep breath and sat in a very formal position before looking at Li Qiye to say: "Young Noble Li, our Thousand Carp River must know the key, the secret of reaching the bottom of the pond. Please teach us the method."

"The method to reach the bottom?" Li Qiye shook his head in response: "I'm sorry, but there is no way I can do that. Only I can enter that place."

Daoist Bao Gui's gaze became serious as he spoke with more austerity: "Young Noble Li, this matter is very crucial, so I hope that you will speak with caution."

Li Qiye glanced at the daoist in response: "There is nothing I can do if you don't believe me. However, I do have a word of advice: don't have any ideas about going down to the bottom of the Yin Yang Pond."

"Why?" The daoist was quite surprised at this response and asked.

Li Qiye lightly answered: "It is not a place that you guys should enter. However, if you wish for a more understandable reason, then it is because you guys are not qualified."

Li Qiye's words caused the daoist's expression to change as he gravely said: "Young Noble Li, do not forget that this is the Thousand Carp Lake of the Thousand Carp River. There is no place within this lake that we are not allowed entry!"

[spoiler title='414 Teaser']Unknowingly, she had started to worry about Li Qiye's safety.

Daoist Bao Gui then inquired further: "Did Li Qiye say anything else about the Golden Temple?" As the sect master, he understood the gravity of this matter.

"Nothing else." Lan Yunzhu shook her head and answered. There were some things that she didn't want to reveal.

"This is the secret of the Yin Yang Pond..." Daoist Bao Gui couldn't help but murmur. Over the years, there were many tales circulating the inner circle of the river sect regarding the bottom of the Yin Yang Pond. Some believed that it was the foundation of the sect.

Chapter 415: Negotiation

Li Qiye gently shook his head in disagreement regarding the daoist's assertion: "You are mistaken. To be more exact, your Thousand Carp River exists because of the Yin Yang Pond. Your paradise depends on the pond, and it does not belong to you. Is that clear?"

Daoist Bao Gui had always been biased in favor of Li Qiye, but Li Qiye's words had angered him. Nevertheless, he tried to remain calm in a manner befitting that of a sect master. However, he still inevitably showed some anger in his tone: "Then pray tell, if the Yin Yang Pond does not belong to the Thousand Carp River, then who does it belong to?"

"Me." Li Qiye pointed at his nose and said: "Frankly speaking, the pond belongs to me alone, and only with my permission can someone else enter."

Daoist Bao Gui angrily exclaimed: "Young Noble Li, you are going too far!"

The daoist had tried to protect Li Qiye many times regarding this matter, but now, Li Qiye's blustering and uncooperative attitude had made him furious.

Li Qiye lazily glanced at him and said: "Sect Master, I understand your position. I also know the attitudes of the old men of your Thousand Carp River. There are a few secrets that must be obtained by any and all means, correct? But do you know why I am still here?"

Daoist Bao Gui's heart quickly thumped as his eyes turned serious. As the sect master of an emperor's lineage, he had seen many storms. He was also a smart man and felt that there was something not right with Li Qiye since Li Qiye clearly knew how things would develop, yet he still chose to stay here.

Anyone else would have run away a long time ago if they knew that the river sect harbored unfriendly intentions towards them. However, it was the opposite for Li Qiye; he was without any fear.

Daoist Bao Gui then took a deep breath to maintain his calm before saying: "I'm ready to listen."

Li Qiye let out a wide smile and spoke in a very leisurely manner: "It's nothing much, I just wanted to see whether Immortal Emperor Qian Li's descendants would shame him or not. The truth is that I am already showing respect towards you. However, if you choose to be unreasonable, then I think it is time for the Thousand Carp River to go on the decline."

"What are you trying to say!" Daoist Bao Gui's expression greatly changed as he gravely asked.

Li Qiye nonchalantly responded: "Nothing that serious. If your Thousand Carp River has nothing worthy of my remembrance, then this land no longer deserves me looking after it. If this is the case, then the prosperity of the river sect is one less thing for me to worry about."

The reason why Li Qiye didn't take away the items he left behind in the golden temple was not only because of Immortal Emperor Qian Li, but also to give the river sect a chance. Although it had several elders that annoyed Li Qiye, at the very least, he had a good impression of Lan Yunzhu, Daoist Bao Gui, and Venerable Yang. They were deserving of Li Qiye's mercy.

Daoist Bao Gui's countenance became quite difficult to look at as he gazed at Li Qiye. If it was anyone else, they would have erupted with anger, but not him.

The daoist then said with a serious tone: "Young Noble Li, do not forget that this is the Thousand Carp River. We are an emperor's lineage; we have stood strong for generations and are not easily intimidated."

"I'm not intimidating Sect Master, I merely speak the truth. Yes, this is the Thousand Carp River, and that is precisely the reason why I am the ruler of all things here. Do I make myself clear?" Li Qiye declared with a smile.

Li Qiye personally created this piece of miraculous land together with Immortal Emperor Qian Li. If he wished to reign over the Thousand Carp River, there were many means for him to do so.

Daoist Bao Gui coldly retorted: "Our Thousand Carp River is not clay for just anyone to mold as they please." These words were not empty since an emperor's lineage indeed had a certain sense of confidence that would remain strong against any foe.

"I know, the Thousand Carp River is very powerful." Li Qiye nodded his head in agreement: "But do you know why the river sect has been prosperous till this day? Do you know why it is allowed to have such a paradise as the Thousand Carp Lake?"

Li Qiye emotionlessly continued: "It is because this land is worthy of my remembrance." Just like Immortal Emperor Qian Li, these rivers and mountains had a history that could not be forgotten. The items in the golden temple were peerless; with them, Li Qiye could create a new Immortal Emperor lineage. However, after Immortal Emperor Qian Li left, Li Qiye did not take these things away.

Just like Immortal Emperor Qian Li said, this land deserved preservation since it contained an abundance of happiness. Otherwise, Li Qiye would have taken these items away during the Black Dragon King's era. They were all things that Li Qiye took from the most dangerous places under the nine heavens.

Daoist Bao Gui was in a daze as he looked at Li Qiye without knowing what to say. He actually didn't think that Li Qiye was simply speaking nonsense, and this greatly confused him. Li Qiye was only a junior... What kind of abilities or backing did he actually have for him to oppose an emperor's lineage? No matter how powerful they were, a young man would not dare to oppose an emperor's lineage in such a grand manner.

Daoist Bao Gui finally quelled the many thoughts in his mind and gravely stated: "Young Noble Li, I will try my best to work this out. I hope that we can reach a peaceful conclusion. However, without your cooperation, even I — as the sect master — am powerless to protect you."

"I appreciate your kind sentiment." Li Qiye answered with a smile: "But if Sect Master forces me to cooperate, then I am also powerless."

The daoist was in a dilemma, but he did not give up despite Li Qiye's refusal. He took a deep breath and continued on: "Young Noble Li, in the end, this is an issue integral to our sect's survival, so we cannot afford to tread lightly. We have no other intentions. As the Thousand Carp River's disciples, we only wish to take a look to further our understanding of the sect's foundation. If you could tell us the method of entry that we currently lack, then our sect is willing to pay the price!"

Li Qiye laughed and said: "Oh? Now it is the carrot after the stick has failed?" [1. Raw is 'Since the hard method didn't work, now it is time for the soft?']

Daoist Bao Gui replied in a serious manner: "We simply wish to talk this through. As long as you are willing, just name the price. We shall have a fair negotiation and our sect will definitely satisfy your demands."

"Sect Master does not understand the crux of the situation." Li Qiye shook his head and said: "A price? Sect Master, if I truly wanted treasures, then I would not wait for Sect Master to bargain with me. Do you feel that your sect has something more valuable than the Golden Divine Willow? If I truly wanted treasures, then I would not be wasting my time with you, I would have already taken the divine tree away."

"Take away the Golden Divine Willow!?" Daoist Bao Gui became aghast after hearing this.

The divine tree was related to the Thousand Carp River's foundation so if someone took it away, the consequences would be unimaginable.

"If that is my wish, I'm sure the Golden Divine Willow would very happily follow me." Li Qiye lightly continued: "Do you know why I left it behind? It is to give the Thousand Carp River a chance. I have explained myself very clearly, so Sect Master needs to be sensible now."

Daoist Bao Gui silently stood there while deliberating these words. Taking away the Golden Divine Willow? Even the river sect itself knew very little about the tree... Could Li Qiye actually take the tree away? The daoist began to hesitate at this point since Li Qiye did not seem like he was joking.

“Sect Master, I do not wish to repeat myself anymore.” Li Qiye spoke apathetically: “Forget about the Yin Yang Pond and do as you did before. Otherwise, your Thousand Carp River would simply be seeking self-destruction.”

The daoist turned silent. The river sect was an emperor’s lineage so logically speaking, it would not easily falter due to the threats of a junior.

However, his intuition was telling him that involving themselves in this matter any longer would become detrimental to the sect. He was not sure of Li Qiye’s true abilities, but his heart was saying that by blatantly opposing Li Qiye, the river sect will decline.

There was no evidence since he knew nothing about Li Qiye’s means, he only knew that opposing Li Qiye was an unwise decision.

After a good while, the daoist stood up and eventually said with austerity: “Young Noble Li, I cannot decide this matter by myself. Even as the sect master, it is beyond my control.”

“I understand. As the sect master, your wisest decision is to persuade the others and act as if nothing had happened. Only then would all of you still have this paradise that is the Thousand Carp Lake as your emperor’s lineage continues to prosper. Don’t venture where you are not supposed to.”

Daoist Bao Gui gently sighed. Although he believed Li Qiye’s words and agreed to give up on discovering the secrets of the Yin Yang Pond, the other elders and high elders would not necessarily be convinced.

Chapter 416: Approaching Battle

Daoist Bao Gui returned and convened a meeting at night. All the elders and high elders were present at this meeting that had a particularly solemn atmosphere.

During this meeting, the daoist clearly explained the details and his personal concerns.

Elder Lin, who was the first to dislike Li Qiye, sneered: “Since he does not want to cooperate, then he cannot blame us for not giving him a chance. Catch him and begin the interrogation.”

Another elder nodded his head and said: “Sect Master, a junior like him has the nerve to act like this in our Thousand River Sect as if we are nothing. If we don’t give him a taste of our strength, then he’ll actually think that we were only bluffing.”

Prior to this, a few elders who had yet to come to a conclusion did not want to use force and hoped that this could be resolved peacefully. But now, Li Qiye’s attitude had angered these elders. They felt that Li Qiye refused a toast only to be forced to drink a forfeit!

The high elders were especially strict regarding this behavior. Venerable Wang said in a grave manner: “Sect Master, a little junior is stomping on our heads like this... What are we waiting for? Capture him right now!”

Venerable Yang, on the other hand, assuaged the rest of the elders: “Let Li Qiye think about it some more, give him one last chance. Let’s make the deadline tomorrow.”

Although Venerable Yang wished to lend Li Qiye a hand in this matter, he was also powerless since Li Qiye’s attitude had offended the entire Thousand Carp River. He did not know what Li Qiye wanted to

do. Did he want to oppose the entire river sect by himself? Even Virtuous Paragons would not be able to do so, let alone someone from the younger generation.

He understood that the Dream Wishing Tree chose Li Qiye for a reason, but his arrogant attitude left him speechless and made it impossible to protect him.

“We’ll do as Venerable Yang said. We’ll give Li Qiye one last chance, and I’ll go talk to him again tomorrow.” Daoist Bao Gui formally declared. He agreed to this plan; this was all that he could do.

Compared to the other angry elders, Daoist Bao Gui was quite apprehensive. The other elders didn’t speak to Li Qiye so they didn’t share such a feeling. Apprehension from the sect’s possible decline due to opposing Li Qiye loomed over the daoist’s mind.

But now, even he could not appease the angry elders in the sect, nor could he change the final outcome. Without the support of Venerable Yang’s group by his side, the other elders would have already taken action.

“Only one day.” In the end, under the sect master’s assertion, the other elders eventually agreed to a one-day extension. They gave the daoist one day to persuade Li Qiye; afterward, the sect would go and capture him.

The group of Elder Lin wanted to get rid of Li Qiye immediately since they were both anxious and annoyed due to Daoist Bao Gui’s attempt at protecting him.

The daoist let out a long sigh. He managed to gain one day for Li Qiye, but deep in his mind, he knew that Li Qiye would absolutely not acquiesce. However, there was nothing else that he could do since he failed to convince the elders.

The two sides were at an impasse where neither side was willing to back down. If it was someone else, then Daoist Bao Gui would have complete confidence in capturing them. After all, being called an emperor’s lineage was not just an empty title.

However, Daoist Bao Gui had no confidence against an unknown junior like Li Qiye. He found the whole thing to be quite mysterious. How could the Thousand Carp disciples, and even its descendants, not enter the foundation of the sect while an outsider like Li Qiye easily entered?

What was the connection between Li Qiye and the river sect? Li Qiye even said that the Golden Divine Willow belonged to him and that it would happily go with him... Why? These mysteries caused Daoist Bao Gui to be lost in thought.

If Li Qiye’s words were right, then once the conflict began, what would happen to the river sect if the divine tree chose to follow him?

Daoist Bao Gui shivered at the mere thought. Without the Golden Divine Willow, the Thousand Carp Lake would no longer be a paradise. It would become an ordinary lake from then on as countless medicines would perish while numerous demons won’t be able to become enlightened with the dao!

Daoist Bao Gui felt that the burden on his shoulders was too heavy to bear. He could not convince the elders, so at the moment, the only way was to invite an ancestor to come into being.

However, he knew that his idea alone was insufficient to convince an ancestor, let alone invite the ancestor to appear and protect Li Qiye.

Tonight was a sleepless night for the daoist; an endlessly long night.

On this night, Lan Yunzhu hurriedly rushed to Li Qiye's place. She was normally a proud woman who never panicked in front of adversity, but she seemed quite alarmed at this moment.

The moment she saw him, she urged: "Hurry and escape tonight!"

Compared to her panicked state, Li Qiye was much calmer and relaxed. He looked at her and lightly inquired: "Why escape?"

The worrying Lan Yunzhu hurriedly replied: "The elders have decided to capture you. Although the sect master bought you an extra day, if you choose not to talk, then you will be captured. Now, the elders want to capture you, especially the branch of High Elder Wang. They all want to do so as soon as possible. If it wasn't for the sect master, they would have already come."

Li Qiye leisurely smiled and said: "If they want to do it the hard way, then I will gladly welcome it and will happily meet them anytime. I'm a bit itchy from the lack of fighting recently. If you don't mind, I should really consider commencing a massacre."

Lan Yunzhu glowered at him and snappily exclaimed: "Are you crazy? I know that you are very strong, but this is not the time to rely on it. Not to mention, all of our elders are Heavenly Sovereigns, and there is even a peak Heavenly Sovereign. Once a fight breaks out, even the high elders will not hesitate to join. Some of our reclusive high elders are peak Heavenly Kings. If they take action, it would still not be enough even if you had ten lives."

"Girl, your words are mistaken. If it was a different location, then I would be a bit wary of peak Heavenly Kings. However, this is the Thousand Carp River, so even if Virtuous Paragons came, I will continue to sit safely on my throne above the nine heavens."

Lan Yunzhu became so angry that she gave him a stern look before saying: "Don't be too arrogant! This is the Thousand Carp River, an emperor's lineage! Even Virtuous Paragons cannot shake our sect. Do you think that you alone can do anything? Even if you have the fabled six palaces and nine stars, it is still nothing to them. Do you get it?"

She was quite worried for Li Qiye. Otherwise, she would not have rushed here to persuade him to escape.

Li Qiye calmly smiled and slowly spoke: "You are right, this is the Thousand Carp River — my territory. In this place, I am the sole ruler, do you get it now?"

"Do you think you can fight against the elders? Hmph, even if you do have the ability to oppose the elders, once you threaten our river sect, the sealed ancestors will come out and quell all resistance. You should understand the significance of a Thousand Carp Ancestor coming into being." Lan Yunzhu bitterly said. She really wanted to open Li Qiye's head to see what could possibly be inside to make him as arrogant as this.

Li Qiye shook his head and said: "You have it backwards. I am simply staying here to give the river sect another chance. If it wasn't for your Immortal Emperor patriarch, then I would have already flipped over the river sect..."

"... Heavenly Kings? Virtuous Paragons? So what. As long as it is my whim, I could slay them like nothing. But for now, I do not wish to stain my hands with the blood of Immortal Emperor Qian Li's descendants. Otherwise, do you really think that I would have accepted the Thousand Carp River's trial over such an insignificant matter?"

Lan Yunzhu stared at him as if she was staring at a freak and angrily exclaimed: "Uncle, your thick skin is unreal. You are speaking as if you knew our Immortal Emperor and are being considerate towards the emperor."

"Your words, this time, are correct." Li Qiye replied with a smile: "If your Immortal Emperor Qian Li was still in this world, then he would have to give me a little face."

Of course he would not say that he actually knew the Immortal Emperor.

"Stop!" Lan Yunzhu snappily said: "You really have no shame about bragging. Go look at yourself in a mirror. Our Patriarch, Immortal Emperor Qian Li, is invincible in this world, do you think a nobody junior like you would be given any face by the Patriarch? Your ego has no bounds."

"Although I am a nobody... this does not mean your Patriarch cannot recognize true quality, unlike you guys." Li Qiye said in a very matter-of-fact manner.

"I don't care anymore. If you want to die, then die." Lan Yunzhu was fed up and said: "Do as you please you egomaniac, just don't regret it when you no longer have a chance to run!" Lan Yunzhu ruthlessly stomped her foot on the ground because this egomaniac truly infuriated her.

Chapter 417: Declaration of War

"So you hope that I would flee from the Thousand Carp River overnight?" Li Qiye smiled and said while looking at the angry Lan Yunzhu.

"It is best if you start running now." Lan Yunzhu thought that Li Qiye had changed his mind and happily continued: "If you run right now, then you still have a chance to escape the Thousand Carp River. Once you are out of the sect, leave the Distant Cloud as well; go to the Nether Border or the Green River. It is best to avoid the areas with a lot of ghost tribes. Regardless of what you do, you will not be safe if you stay in the Distant Cloud region."

Li Qiye looked at her and smiled: "Girl, are you trying to work together with the enemy?"

"Are you running away or not!" Lan Yunzhu snapped and glared at him.

"You have seen it yourself." Li Qiye waved his hand and said: "At this moment, the island is completely surrounded. There are no gaps and countless eyes are on me. Telling me to escape from your Thousand Carp River is not such an easy task."

Lan Yunzhu took a deep breath and said in a serious manner: "I'll cover for you, no one will notice with me leading you. Once you get out of here, escaping would not be difficult."

“Is that so?” Li Qiye stroked his chin and revealed a pose of contemplation: “But I don’t want to leave you. If I run away now, we won’t see each other again.”

“What are you talking about at a time like this!” Lan Yunzhu angrily stomped her foot and exclaimed.

Li Qiye looked at her with a passionate gaze and said: “Girl, how about we escape together? We will leave the Thousand Carp River and become inseparable from then on. After that, we will be as free as the birds in the sky or the fishes in the ocean.”

“Yuck, who would want to run off with you!” The embarrassed Lan Yunzhu quipped and continued on: “You can keep on dreaming! So? Are you running or not? If you want to, then I will take you outside of the sect, but if not, then I’m just going to ignore you.”

This was quite admirable of her. This was a crime of treason. Once caught, she would be heavily punished despite being the prime descendant.

Li Qiye examined her serious expression and smiled while gently patting her on the cheek to say: “Girl, how could I involve you in this mess? Don’t worry, I won’t run. If such a small matter forces me to run, then I am not Li Qiye.

“Out of respect for your feelings, I won’t make it difficult for the Thousand Carp River this time. I also won’t take away the Golden Divine Willow so that the sect can continue to prosper. However, as for the blind fools... I shall not hesitate to massacre them.”

“Do you really think you can beat the entire sect by yourself?” Lan Yunzhu angrily spoke.

Li Qiye nodded his head in a serious fashion and declared: “Yes! I can defeat your entire sect because I am Li Qiye!”

Lan Yunzhu was completely stupefied. Because I am Li Qiye — this was the most domineering phrase she had ever heard. It was as if, amongst the nine heavens and ten earths across the ages, nothing would ever be able to match this remark of domination.

The moment her mind returned, she angrily exclaimed: “Forget it, you can do as you please! Don’t blame me when you die a miserable death here!” Having said that, she quickly stormed out.

Li Qiye chuckled at the sight of her exasperation. A while later, he looked up at the night curtain and gently sighed.

He then murmured to himself: “Qian Li, you can’t blame me for this, blame your descendants instead for not knowing when to stop. I have given a lot to the Thousand Carp River by leaving behind the divine tree and the treasures. If there are those who do not listen, then maybe it is time for someone else who is more tractable to rule over this land.”

The next morning, Lu Baiqiu hastily rushed in and said: “Young Noble, it’s not looking so good!”

Li Qiye opened his eyes and calmly asked: “What’s wrong? Is the sky falling down?”

The breathless Lu Baiqiu said: “The sky is not falling down, but Senior Brother Yan Long is leading a large group here to capture Young Noble.”

Li Qiye narrowed his eyes and said with a smile: "Capture me? Let us go, we can let those ignorant fools have a taste of blood. Today is the day when the Thousand Carp River will change." [1. Raw here is change blood. This just means for it to have a change in personnel; for different people to be in control, or to wash away some of the older groups.]

Li Qiye went outside with Lu Baiqiu and saw Yan Long leading a group of experts towards them; they all had a ferocious aura.

Yan Long's eyes became bloodshot the moment he saw Li Qiye. A few days ago, he was incapacitated by Li Qiye, and his master had to use a lot of precious elixirs to heal his wounds. How could he not be reddened with rage now that his enemy was before his very eyes?

He then surrounded Li Qiye with the numerous experts, not leaving behind a single gap for the possibility of escape.

Many disciples saw this scene from afar, but none of them dared to say anything nor did they come and join the fun.

In the last two days, the atmosphere at the sect had been quite tense since the elders gave the order to seal off the lake, preventing others from entering and leaving.

Even the most oblivious disciple knew that something had happened in the sect, and it was a very big deal. However, ordinary disciples wouldn't dare to ask about it.

Yan Long's appearance was quite fierce; it was as if he wanted to strip Li Qiye of his flesh and remove his bones. Eventually, he said: "Li, will you peacefully accept your arrest, or do we have to force you to submit?"

"So your Thousand Carp River likes to go back on your words? An actual emperor's lineage choosing to act so dishonorably... This is truly disappointing." Li Qiye replied without batting an eye as he stood with both hands gallantly posed behind his back.

"Our words? We only act honorable towards gentlemen. As for ignoble wretches like you, there is no point in doing so. You spied on our sect to steal our secrets and even our Heaven's Will Secret Law; any of these crimes is worthy of decapitation."

"Spying on the Thousand Carp River?" After hearing the charges, Lu Baiqiu, who was right behind Li Qiye, felt indignation.

Everyone knew that Li Qiye came for the marriage arrangement, even the sect itself acknowledged and agreed to this. Accusing him of coming to the sect to spy on them — this was clearly a false allegation.

Contrary to Lu Baiqiu's anger, Li Qiye remained unaffected and answered with a smile: "Not a bad list of crimes. Of course, since you aim to falsely accuse me, any reason would work just as well."

"Stop wasting time. Be smart and let us capture you, or else you will only bring more trouble upon yourself." Yan Long said with a deep voice: "If you choose to resist, then we will take your arms and legs, turning you into a cripple. At that point, don't blame our sect for not giving you a chance at the beginning." At this point, he revealed a cruel smile of pleasure.

Yan Long had been waiting long enough for his chance to get back at Li Qiye. A fate worse than death awaited Li Qiye if he should fall into Yan Long's hands, a fate deserving of someone who tried to steal his woman.

"Is that so?" Li Qiye smirked: "Is this the decision made by the sect, or is this your personal decision?"

Yan Long didn't answer directly and coldly declared instead: "All Thousand Carp disciples have the responsibility to kill someone who spies on our sect and stole our Heaven's Will Secret Law!"

Li Qiye smiled and nodded his head: "I understand, so it is a personal vendetta. But you alone are not enough to catch me."

Yan Long's face became ashen because Li Qiye struck his sore spot. He then cried out: "Go, show no mercy if he resists!"

Having said that, his blood energy rushed forth as he took out a Virtuous Paragon Life Treasure.

"Boom!" After a loud explosion, the experts who came with him created an inescapable net. The sky started to shake as all four directions were locked down.

The group came prepared and were determined to capture Li Qiye at all costs.

Once this net entrapped the entire area, Yan Long's Virtuous Paragon weapon slashed down with the suppressive might of a Virtuous Paragon.

While being on the verge of life and death, Li Qiye slightly shifted his body. At that moment, it seemed as if time itself shivered from him seemingly flapping his wings.

"Bang—bang—bang!" A series of impacts resounded along with shrill cries. The experts that wanted to trap Li Qiye were all instantly blown away as their blood painted the blue sky red.

"Boom!" Li Qiye's body was the most powerful weapon. Each of his attacks carried the force of a divine mountain, so even a Virtuous Paragon weapon was knocked away.

"Boom!" Before Yan Long knew what was going on, he had already been blown away, spewing out blood as his bones broke. Before he got the chance to realize what was going on, his neck felt a grip that pushed him up high. Li Qiye had Yan Long by the throat in midair.

"Someone like you wants to capture me?" Li Qiye smirked at Yan Long and demanded: "Tell the ones who are ordering you to come out, or else I'll crush you!"

"Little Beast, let him go!" Elder Lin roared and unleashed a sky-shattering fist towards Li Qiye, one without any mercy.

[spoiler title='417 Teaser']"So you hope that I would flee from the Thousand Carp River overnight?" Li Qiye smiled and said while looking at the angry Lan Yunzhu.

"It is best if you start running now." Lan Yunzhu thought that Li Qiye had changed his mind and happily continued: "If you run right now, then you still have a chance to escape the Thousand Carp River. Once you are out of the sect, leave the Distant Cloud as well; go to the Nether Border or the Green River. It is

best to avoid the areas with a lot of ghost tribes. Regardless of what you do, you will not be safe if you stay in the Distant Cloud region.”

Li Qiye looked at her and smiled: “Girl, are you trying to work together with the enemy?”

Chapter 418: Patriarch’s Spirit

Without a doubt, Yan Long was just a lackey meant to provoke Li Qiye. Then, the rest would capture him under the charge of resisting arrest. However, Elder Lin didn’t expect for their plan to result in instant failure.

“Scram!” Li Qiye was too lazy to look at Elder Lin twice, so he showed his Thousand Hands Against The Nine Worlds. A myriad of hands appeared right behind him as two of them wielded the Nine Words True Bow.

“Bzzzz.” The string was drawn and the word “soldier” flew out. The word gathered the strength of the heaven and earth and eventually collided with Elder Lin.

“Boom!” Even the iron fist of a Heavenly Sovereign would turn into a gory spectacle when up against this mighty, number one bow in this world. The arrow pierced through Elder Lin’s fist for his flesh was insufficient in the face of this power, causing him to cry out in pain.

Li Qiye smirked and said: “Your master is too late; he won’t be able to save you.” With that, his fingers tightened.

Yan Long felt his death approaching and screamed: “Nooo—” However, it was already too late. His neck shattered as all breathing ceased.

“Goddamn you, you Little Bastard!” An extremely angry voice appeared; the owner of this voice rushed towards Li Qiye. Venerable Wang, who was Yan Long’s grandmaster, came with a slashing blade. This was a high elder, so his blade carried an unstoppable momentum. The spectating disciples shivered and turned pale from the power of such a blade.

“Bzzz—” The Nine Words True Bow shot out another arrow. This time, it was the word “fighter” — a defensive arrow. The arrival of this arrow brought forth countless realms; it seemed as if layers of light were opening before Li Qiye like giant shields to protect him.

After a deafening “boom,” the divine blade that could be considered invincible shattered all of these realms. It furiously slammed Li Qiye into the courtyard and destroyed the mansion.

Lu Baiqiu became deathly pale, but she couldn’t help at all. She didn’t have the ability to interfere in a fight of this magnitude.

“Crash!” Li Qiye burst out from the debris. Many figures descended from the sky to quickly surround Li Qiye.

The Thousand Carp elders and even some high elders were here. They sealed off all the directions so Li Qiye had no chance to escape.

Elder Lin’s eyes were about to split from anger as he revealed a vicious smile: “Fellow Elders, look, this brute killed our disciple. Capture him so that the world won’t laugh at our Thousand Carp River!”

Venerable Wang was also here, hovering emotionlessly as he stared at Li Qiye. He then commanded: "Arrest him and cripple his cultivation, then we can take our time interrogating him."

All the spectating disciples held their breaths after seeing this scene. The elders and even some high elders had appeared. Li Qiye's death was assured.

Daoist Bao Gui came running and shockingly exclaimed after seeing the current situation: "Venerable Wang, what is going on?"

He struggled to convince Venerable Yang's group to go and invite their ancestor; he didn't think that something like this would happen during his short absence.

"This little beast killed Yan Long — this is completely unforgivable. Thus, we elders appeared to protect our Thousand Carp River's honor!"

Daoist Bao Gui's expression changed since he immediately understood what had happened. Some people couldn't wait to begin.

Daoist Bao Gui then gravely declared: "Venerable Wang, the one day grace period has yet to end!"

Venerable Wang glanced at the sect master and coldly replied: "Sect Master, do not be mistaken. This outsider has killed our disciple, so what else is there to talk about? Capture this animal and cripple him!"

All of the elders were on Venerable Wang's side: "Big Brother, we cannot delay this any longer."

Daoist Bao Gui realized that the group of Venerable Wang wanted to overpower his authority right when Elder Yang, who supported him, was not around.

He noticed the formation that trapped Li Qiye and could only sigh. This was already outside of his power, so he could only stand by and watch the end of this storm.

Venerable Wang looked down on Li Qiye and chillingly said: "Go."

Li Qiye, who was completely surrounded, was still very calm and asked: "Do you really think I am just meat on a chopping block?"

Having this many elders contribute to the barricade proved that they were not underestimating him at all.

"Junior, if you cooperate with us right now, then it will be a lot less painful. Otherwise, you will discover a fate worse than death!"

"Is that so?" Li Qiye said with a smile: "It seems that I still have to kill today. What a shame, I will have to disappoint Immortal Emperor Qian Li."

Li Qiye held the Elusive Heavenly Vase while looking at all the elders with narrowed eyes. At this moment, he would not show any mercy and would kill all these elders decisively.

"Junior, stand down!" Elder Lin was the first to take action. A divine saber slashed across the sky with a surging murderous intent. It was so cold that, in its presence, one would feel as if they were entrapped in an icy prison.

Li Qiye's gaze shot out a cold glint as his desire to kill also increased.

"Poof!" Time suddenly trembled. A rain of blood had already started to fall before the divine blade could reach Li Qiye. In fact, the blood did not belong to Li Qiye, it came from Elder Lin.

The sudden change frightened the other elders as those who were about to attack immediately stopped.

"Omm—" In this split second, the Thousand Carp Lake shot out waves of immortal lights that seemed as if they were made from golden silk. These immortal lights traveled all the way to the sky and even the universe, alarming the entire world.

A divine tree emerged from the Yin Yang Pond. This divine tree made from gold suddenly shot to the sky and covered the entire lake.

All of the disciples were dumbfounded as they looked up to see this incredible, towering tree.

"Back down." At this time, a voice came along. This voice seemed to be able to travel across eternity. It was as if it came from ancient times.

The sudden appearance of this voice took the elders by surprise as they all looked at each other.

Venerable Wang, with a sunken expression, turned around to look towards the voice's direction and yelled out: "Who!"

"Whoosh!" A finger shot out and struck Venerable Wang, sending him down to the ground like a deflated ball. Under just one finger, his entire cultivation was sealed.

Before the other elders managed to calm down, Venerable Wang was seized by a gigantic hand and thrown into the Reflection Cliff — the prison of the Thousand Carp Lake. This sudden change of events startled the group of Daoist Bao Gui as well.

Venerable Wang was already a Heavenly King, yet he was completely powerless as his cultivation was sealed and then immediately thrown into the prison.

A figure appeared right below the Golden Divine Willow, and it declared: "Reflect on your mistakes!"

The moment this figure appeared, the six dao and eight desolaces seemed so far away while the nine heavens and ten earths became insignificant. This figure loomed above all like the ruler of this entire world and myriad dao.

An invincible emperor aura covered the entire lake. All of the disciples prostrated on the ground for they were truly convinced by this unparalleled aura.

A supreme Immortal Emperor — all were trivial before such an existence. Even Virtuous Paragons were nothing in the face of such might. An Immortal Emperor could sweep through all the stars in the sky and all the existing worlds with just a motion of their palm! They could end the six dao and the reincarnation cycle itself! This was an Immortal Emperor, an existence that had shouldered the Heaven's Will!

"What happened?" At this moment, amazing existences throughout all four great domains trembled at the sudden appearance of the emperor aura.

“Immortal Emperor!” Daoist Bao Gui prostrated on the ground as tears flowed from his eyes. He could not contain his excitement: “Imperial Patriarch’s spirit is here! Forgive your unfilial children!”

Many sect members were all prostrating on the ground in astonishment. Some had tears in their eyes because never in their wildest dreams would they imagine Immortal Emperor Qian Li’s spirit showing up before them.

“Grandmaster!” Deep in the Thousand Carp Lake, an ancient coffin rushed out from the bottom. A frightening yet decrepit old man climbed out and piously prostrated on the ground.

“Sacred Ancestor has come into being!” At this time, an awakened ancestor of the river sect was extremely moved. As for the high elders, they were at a loss for words.

The person buried beneath the Thousand Carp River was the granddisciple of Immortal Emperor Qian Li. The sect’s high elders had once heard about an extremely frightening existence sealed beneath the lake, but they had never seen him. Even the slumbering ancestors were no exceptions.

Today, the Sacred Ancestor’s divine light emanated from beneath the lake since he himself climbed out of his Blood Era Stone to greet his grandmaster.

“Grandmaster, I have failed you by failing to guide them properly!” The Sacred Ancestor prostrated before Immortal Emperor Qian Li and professed his failure.

Below the Golden Divine Willow, Immortal Emperor Qian Li’s shadow had an indecipherable profoundness and remained forever mysterious. The aura emitted from the emperor’s body forced even Virtuous Paragons into submission.

Today, after seeing the spirit of their patriarch, the disciples of the river sect finally understood the true significance of an Immortal Emperor and what true invincibility really was.

[spoiler title=’418 Teaser’]Without any doubt, Yan Long was just a lackey meant to provoke Li Qiye. Then, the rest would capture him under the charge of resisting arrest. However, Elder Lin didn’t expect for their plan to result in instant failure.

“Scram!” Li Qiye was too lazy to look at Elder Lin twice, so he showed his Thousand Hands Against The Nine Worlds. A myriad of hands appeared right behind him as two of them wielded the Nine Words True Bow.

“Bzzzzz.” The string was drawn as the word “soldier” flew out. The word gathered the strength of the heaven and earth that eventually collided with Elder Lin.

Chapter 419: Day Turned Into Night

Meanwhile, the elders and ancestors of the river sect lost control of their emotions. They didn’t know that their patriarch left behind a lingering sentiment back at the ancestral ground. At this moment, they understood that their patriarch’s spirit had always been protecting the Thousand Carp River.

This forever-mysterious figure under the Golden Divine Willow looked straight at Li Qiye. As their gazes met, Li Qiye could only gently sigh.

“Starting from today, Li Qiye is the Guardian of our Thousand Carp River, his words are my decree!”

This voice suddenly turned into an eternal mantra, a universal law that would last for an eternity, something that could not be changed by anyone!

Li Qiye could only wryly smile while looking at the Immortal Emperor. In the end, he still had to play the role of a wet nurse just like back when the sect was first established.

He couldn't say no to Immortal Emperor Qian Li. Being the Guardian of the river sect was not something he wanted to do.

However, regardless of his feelings, he couldn't say no so he could only lament his own fate.

"In the end, you still couldn't help it and had to come out to save the Thousand Carp River." Li Qiye murmured to himself.

"We humbly accept Grandmaster's decree!" The Sacred Ancestor bowed all the way down to the ground.

Flowers started to bloom after the declaration of the emperor's eternal decree. The Sacred Ancestor respectfully held the newly formed universal law decree with both of his hands and accepted it.

All the elders and even the ancestors were piously prostrating to Immortal Emperor Qian Li's supreme decree: "We humbly accept Patriarch's decree!"

After the filial display, the Golden Divine Willow slowly disappeared along with the shadow beneath it. The Thousand Carp Lake became tranquil once more. Outside of the supreme decree in the Sacred Ancestor's hand, it was as if nothing had ever happened.

The Sacred Ancestor himself personally prepared a grand ceremony to welcome Li Qiye into the Thousand Carp River's main ground: "Welcome, our Guardian!"

Li Qiye was very helpless. Under the reception of the elders, Li Qiye was like a puppet being dragged into the sect's main ground. This was completely different from his expectations. He wanted to kill until the river sect knew better, but Immortal Emperor Qian Li's intent came out to save their descendants.

Eventually, after the Sacred Ancestor welcomed Li Qiye to the Guardian's seat, the ceremony finally ended. He then specifically talked to the group of elders and ancestors once more before he sealed himself underground.

At this time, the entire sect was extremely respectful towards Li Qiye; no one dared to slight him. The patriarch's decree was the highest authority in the Thousand Carp River, so everyone treated it with piety.

Lu Baiqiu was in disbelief due to this development. From the appearance of the emperor to them proclaiming Li Qiye as the sect's Guardian, everything was like a dream to her. What a great honor this was! No genius would even dare to imagine it.

Others would be jubilated with such an honor, but Li Qiye could only helplessly smile. The title of Guardian might sound grand, but in the end, it was just the role of a wet nurse. Li Qiye was tired of taking on such a role, especially since this was his second time being the Guardian for the Thousand Carp River.

In the distant past, right when the river sect had just been formed, everything was just beginning. Li Qiye hid behind the scenes and was the sect's wet nurse until Immortal Emperor Qian Li shouldered the Heaven's Will. Then, he finally left the river sect after completing his duties.

After so many years, he had become the Guardian once again despite his unwillingness, but he couldn't say no to Immortal Emperor Qian Li.

He secretly lamented to himself: "I'll just consider this the last time."

After becoming the Guardian, he didn't want to see anyone. This position was incomparably grand, but he became extremely annoyed just by thinking about it. Daoist Bao Gui was also very respectful and asked for his opinion on everything.

To this, Li Qiye simply said: "Sect Master, I am the Guardian, not a wet nurse. The river sect can just function as before, you don't need to come ask for my opinion."

After Li Qiye's request, the daoist stopped asking questions, finally relieving Li Qiye of one of his worries.

After several days of being the Guardian, Lan Yunzhu came and asked him: "How did you do it?"

She was quite astonished since this was an unbelievable miracle to her.

Oh, how shocking it was to see the spirit of an Immortal Emperor! In the past, countless geniuses from the river sect were not worthy of such a thing, but now, the emperor personally came to see an outsider and even bestowed a supreme decree to make him the Guardian.

Li Qiye glared at Lan Yunzhu and responded with annoyance: "Because I am the ruler of this domain."

Lan Yunzhu pondered for a moment and thought about the things Li Qiye had said. He had once said something along these lines before, but she assumed that he was only being boisterous. But now, the recent events had changed her mind.

"Did you really want to destroy my Thousand Carp River?" She felt afraid after recalling his words. Before, she didn't think that Li Qiye alone could go against the entire sect, but now she understood that the matter was much more grave than what she imagined.

"Don't worry, an adorable person like you would naturally be fine. However, there were a few that needed to be re-educated." Li Qiye laughed then shook his head to say.

"Bah, who is adorable?" Lan Yunzhu angrily glared at him.

"Bang—bang—bang—bang!" Around this time, the earth started to shake as the Sacred Nether World changed.

Li Qiye rushed out in shock while Lan Yunzhu and Lu Baiqiu followed right behind him. They looked up to the sky in astonishment. However, they were not alone, all of the inhabitants of the Sacred Nether World were also alarmed.

The sky was peaceful during the day, but now it suddenly turned dark. The entire Sacred Nether World was encroached by darkness. Even ancestors, legendary masters, and eternal existences were freaked out. Countless invincible characters emerged from their Blood Era Stones.

Even these experts could not see through the sky and understand what was covering the entire Sacred Nether World.

This darkness scared everyone since some believed that it was the end of the world.

It didn't last for a very long time, about the time it takes to drink a cup of tea. The darkness disappeared and the sky returned to its original shade of blue as if nothing had happened.

"What... what is going on here?" Lu Baiqiu stuttered in fear.

This was the most terrifying thing she had ever experienced in her life. The entire Sacred Nether World had been shrouded by a dark curtain. Although it was very brief, it was still enough to send shivers down anyone's spine.

Li Qiye kept on looking at the sky without saying a word. It was as if he wanted to see through it. The always-nonchalant Li Qiye had a dignified expression at this time.

After a while, Lan Yunzhu asked: "What actually happened just now?" Recalling the scene from earlier scared her. She opened her heavenly gaze but still couldn't see through the sky, let alone what enveloped the Sacred Nether World.

Li Qiye took in a deep breath and told Lan Yunzhu: "Go, order people to see if the lost mythical island is still there."

Lan Yunzhu immediately did so. The Thousand Carp River had been watching the island, but they didn't want to carelessly enter it before clearly knowing the situation.

Very quickly, some disciples came back with news. Lan Yunzhu reported: "The lost mythical island is no longer there. When the darkness covered the sky, many people were still out at sea, including ancestors of some great powers. However, they didn't see how the island disappeared. Once the darkness dissipated, the island was no longer there."

Li Qiye started to bite his lips in silence after hearing this; many thoughts were rampaging through his head. In the Sacred Nether World, there were only two or three possibilities that could explain why the lost island disappeared in an instant.

Li Qiye took in a deep breath and told Lan Yunzhu: "I must make a trip to the Prime Ominous Grave."

Lan Yunzhu exclaimed in shock: "The Prime Ominous Grave! This is a legendary location from the ancient past, somewhere that no one had been able to enter besides Immortal Emperors."

Li Qiye slowly replied with narrowed eyes: "I know, but I'll find a way."

Lan Yunzhu was taken aback and asked: "Does it have something to do with the lost mythical island?" The Prime Ominous Grave had always been an unsolved mystery in the Sacred Nether World.

"It is not clear." Li Qiye shook his head to say: "It might not be a bad thing if it had something to do with the grave. Whether the lost island is at the grave or not, I will have to go in and see for myself."

Chapter 420: On The Road Once More

This new development happened too suddenly and differed from Li Qiye's expectations. Originally, he wanted to go to the island after the mist consumed enough blood. Li Qiye had plenty of methods; as long as he could get on the island, he would have been able to take whatever he wanted.

But now, the lost mythical island had disappeared, or rather, was moved by someone. This completely derailed his plans, requiring him to contemplate on how to proceed.

Lan Yunzhu took in a deep breath and declared: "I'll go with you. At least that way, you will have a helper."

"No." Li Qiye responded with a shake of his head: "You and the sect master's group have to get ready. Maybe I will have a use for you guys. The most important thing is to prepare for the worst-case scenario."

"What is this worst case scenario?" Lan Yunzhu inquired with some surprise.

With a serious expression, Li Qiye stared far into the distance and slowly replied: "The heavens is in turmoil, an era of carnage may be impending."

"The heavens is in turmoil?" Lan Yunzhu repeated in shocked. In the present times, the Sacred Nether World was in peace and no power was capable of breaking the stability that was formed by several emperor's lineages.

"Whether chaos will come or not..." Li Qiye continued with a grin: "A chaotic heaven might not necessarily be a bad thing. When I slaughter the heavens, a few crafty things should come out." [1. Crafty here is the same word as ghost, but it is not necessarily a ghost, so I didn't want to take a risk and make an inaccurate translation.]

Lan Yunzhu couldn't help but become shocked. His light words did not carry a certain gravity, but in her ears, they were extremely tyrannical. How many geniuses would dare to bluster about slaughtering the heavens? But today, Li Qiye made it sound as if he could do it on a whim.

It was said in the most casual of tones, yet it was also extremely domineering.

"I will tell my master and the elders." Lan Yunzhu calmed down and replied.

Li Qiye also prepared to go to the Prime Ominous Grave. Before leaving, he called for Lu Baiqiu and asked: "What are your plans? Will you go with me, or will you do something else?"

Li Qiye really did favor Lu Baiqiu and wished to groom her. Otherwise, he would not have brought her along with him all this time.

Lu Baiqiu paused for a moment and told Li Qiye: "I want to return to the Thousand Islands to see how it is."

Lu Baiqiu was very worried about the lost mythical island's disappearance. She was worried for the islands, the disciples, and the islands' inhabitants.

As the Region Lord, she had always been in charge of the Thousand Islands and considered that place her home. There were citizens who loved her there as well as disciples who would follow her to the very

end. Now, after such a big event had occurred, there was a certain restlessness in her heart, so she wished to return to check up on them.

“Then go back, it is good to go back and take a look.” Li Qiye replied with a smile. He understood her emotions — her unwillingness to depart with her home, so he didn’t force her to go with him.

“Thank you, Young Noble.” Lu Baiqiu bowed and gratefully said: “I have gained many things after following you and I’ll always remember it.” To Lu Baiqiu, after they part ways today, she might not ever be able to see Li Qiye again. The two of them were not of the same world. Li Qiye was a heavenly dragon so one day, he might soar up to the nine firmaments.

Li Qiye smiled and stroked her hair: “Follow your heart. I trust that one day, you will be able to go very far. Although it is immense, as long as you have the will, you will be able to reach every corner of this world.”

“I will remember your words well!” Lu Baiqiu took a deep breath and said. Inadvertently, her eyes became wet as she felt her nose getting stuffy. Although she had not followed Li Qiye for a long time, she had learned many things in the recent days that would benefit her for the rest of her life.

Li Qiye nodded his head and walked around. He quickly went to see Daoist Bao Gui who had prepared a dao gate for him.

After he saw Li Qiye, Daoist Bao Gui quickly said: “There is a great sect that has a good relationship with us at the Nether Border. This dao gate will directly take you to their side so that you can directly go to the Prime Ominous Grave.”

“Very well, it will be easy once I get to the Nether Border.”

Daoist Bao Gui ordered for the dao gate to open while the elders and high elders all came to see Li Qiye off. Before his departure, Daoist Bao Gui warned him: “Please be careful, the Prime Ominous Grave is the most dangerous and mysterious place in the Sacred Nether World.”

“Don’t worry, it’s not enough to take my life.” Li Qiye answered with a smile.

Li Qiye stepped onto the platform and walked inside the dao gate, disappearing in a flash. It teleported him to the other side. After arriving at the friendly sect, he quickly hit the road and ran towards the Prime Ominous Grave without taking a break.

The Thousand Carp River was the longest river in the Sacred Nether World. Its stream not only crossed the entire southern Distant Cloud, but it also reached the northern Misty Field; its source went all the way to the eastern Nether Border’s hinterland, and this was the location of the Prime Ominous Grave.

The grave was a very mystical place, somewhere that had never been fully explored by anyone before. Since the start of time, very few people even had the chance to enter.

It was deep within the Nether Border’s endless hinterland. At that place, there were rolling mountains and peaks capable of reaching the sky, causing viewers to take a step back. No one would dare to try their luck at climbing them.

At the end of all the rolling hills was a gigantic mountain range that separated the heaven and earth. Anyone who made it this far could only stop since there was no way to traverse this blockade.

The world beyond the mountain range was covered by a mysterious veil, so no one really knew what it looked like.

In the middle of this mountain range was a huge burial. The burial tablet was more like a giant monolith that pierced the sky all the way to space. This burial tablet could be called the biggest in the world. There were neither engravings nor words on it.

This grave with the gigantic monolith for its memorial plaque was the legendary Prime Ominous Grave. It was said that only when one stepped inside this grave would they be able to enter the mountain range.

No one knew who was buried inside. Some said that there were Immortal Emperors, others said that there were existences from the Legendary Era, and there were even rumors about ancient, supreme fiends being buried here.

Although it had always remained sealed, after millions of years, it had been opened a couple of times because some people found the key to open the grave.

So why was this grave called the Prime Ominous Grave? No one really knew, but some believed that it was a land of the dead. It was one of the twelve forbidden burials; just like the other ones, it was filled with danger. No one could leave with their life once they entered.

Despite its notoriety, countless people throughout history still tried to get in. Everyone believed that those who could leave alive would gain an amazing creation. [2. Reminder that creation is used here as something/an item/an innate change that is much better than a fortune/treasure. A gift from the heavens, if you will, like creation itself.]

One particular rumor stated that there were True Immortals buried here. One could obtain an amazing creation if they obtained their bones.

There was a reason for these rumors: Immortal Emperor Di Yu had entered the burial when he was young and managed to come back alive. Because of this experience, he hid for five generations of Immortal Emperors. Ultimately, at a very old age, he shouldered the Heaven's Will and became an Immortal Emperor. [3. Di Yu = Earth + to be stupid / to cheat, or deceive / me. He seems to be the Immortal Emperor for the Simple Mountain Immortal Kingdom. His title is a bit harder to decipher, but I would choose Simplicity of the Earth or Earth's Deceiver. It is the same for the Simple Mountain, it could be Deceiving Mountain as well. 愚 is just a problematic word without any context. I chose simple because it is very neutral and safe. Picking deceiving/stupid could be a risky choice for this sect/emperor in the future. I actually tried to find passages about the Simple Mountain, but I couldn't find clues about its name.]

People claimed that he had obtained something great from the grave, something like an immortal scripture, so that was why he could cultivate through five generations of emperors and eventually become an emperor himself.

His tales were told throughout the ages. He did not live the longest after becoming an emperor, but since the moment of his birth till the date of his disappearance, he was definitely the oldest one. He managed to last through five generations of emperors and became a miracle across the ages.

Because of this miracle, there were many different tales of the events between the emperor and the Prime Ominous Grave. However, all of these versions had one thing in common, and that was that the young emperor left the Prime Ominous Grave alive. Because of this commonality, there was a rumor stating that Immortal Emperor Di Yu obtained the greatest creation in the grave — a method for everlasting life.

This resulted in countless generations of cultivators coming to excavate the grave in order to enter. In fact, some Immortal Emperors had managed to enter the Prime Ominous Grave, such as Immortal Emperor Yin Yang, Immortal Emperor Fan Chen, and Immortal Emperor Ming Du.