

## **Domination 751**

### **Chapter 751: Dark Serpent**

Nevertheless, the Expanse King was still a paragon even though he was only at the early era level. After his scream, although his body was destroyed by the mountain bell, his head was still intact.

There were terrifying cracks on his head, making it seem as if it would split apart at any moment, but he was still holding on. For a paragon, as long as his true fate was still there, he wouldn't be able to die.

The head tried to turn around and escape. If he remained with such a grievous injury, he would definitely die in this place.

"Where can you run to?!" Li Qiye's speed instantly reached its zenith and quickly caught up to the king's head. An Early Era Paragon was not as fast as the Soaring Immortal Physique of Li Qiye, not to mention that the paragon was seriously injured.

"Pop!" His head received a heavy blow from Li Qiye. Even if he was stronger, the already-cracked head released all of its contents due to the blow from the Hell Suppressing Godly Physique. Chunks of his brain splattered everywhere. Moreover, his head was crushed by Li Qiye's foot, but he was still alive.

"Junior, don't go too far!" The Expanse King was already basically half dead. He couldn't help but quiver inside. Never would he expect a paragon like him to end up in this tragic state so quickly.

He was full of regrets. If he knew that Li Qiye had such an invincible treasure, he wouldn't have been so bold.

The spectators from afar were shaken as well. Although no one could recognize the mountain bell, it was still a terrifying artifact even if it wasn't an imperial true treasure!

Someone murmured: "No wonder why he can act so arrogantly. So he had this powerful treasure as his ace."

Even descendants of imperial lineages wouldn't necessarily have true treasures of the emperor level, let alone a sect-less junior.

No matter who they might be, including ordinary paragons, they would be very wary of an imperial true treasure or something of the same level. Unless they had a similar weapon, even a paragon might not have a great advantage in a direct confrontation!

Although the Expanse King was a paragon, he was only a new Early Era Paragon. In the beginning, he was too careless and thought that he could easily capture Li Qiye. He didn't think that Li Qiye would start with an emperor level weapon and directly blow him into pieces.

"Too far?" Li Qiye cheerfully said: "I like to hear these words the most. Since you said that I have gone too far, very well, I will give you a chance right now. Hand over all of your treasures then hang your head from the highest peak of Alchemy City. Only then will I spare your life. If not, I will stamp your dog head, no, fish head into paste!"

“Little bastard, go to hell!” The Expanse King was still a king and a paragon after all. How could he suffer such humiliation? In this instant, his head cracked open and his dao foundation erupted. His true fate began to blaze!

He wanted to self-destruct and take Li Qiye along with him.

“Boom!” A thunderous detonation occurred. When a paragon blew up his own dao foundation and true fate, the generated force had absolute power.

Due to the blast, everything within the radius of a thousand miles was shattered like glass. A dreadful black hole appeared and the fabric of space-time became chaotic, especially where Li Qiye stood. Everything here could be crushed into nothingness.

“Pop!” Unfortunately for the king, five bronze doors appeared around Li Qiye amidst this terrifying blast. The pentagate protected him and blocked this terrifying explosion.

The self-destruction of a paragon caused a fallout that swept through ten thousand miles. Many spectators in the distance were blown away by the aftermath since they couldn’t resist such a force.

“Boom!” In the blink of an eye, the ground suddenly split. A huge shadow crawled up from the ground. This was a huge monster.

“Xuuuu.” The thing that rushed out from the ground opened its mouth to spew out an endless amount of poisonous mist that completely shrouded the area.

Moreover, Li Qiye was the target, so he was immediately drowned within.

“Dark Serpent!” A Demon King cried out from the distance. He used his fastest speed to run away after getting a good look at this huge creature that appeared from the ground.

“Dark Serpent, not good!” Yuan Caihe was startled after seeing the poisonous mist everywhere. She brought the madam back into their courtyard. At this time, a particular fragrance that was being emitted from the trees inside the yard formed a barrier of air to protect them from the mist.

There were many spirit trees and treasure medicines in this yard. Some were recently planted by Li Qiye and Yuan Caihe. At this time, the spirit tree that was preventing this poisonous mist from approaching was planted by Yuan Caihe.

The vast quantities of poisonous mist quickly spread throughout the area. Many people in the distance reacted quickly enough to run away. However, there were also those who couldn’t do so in time and were flooded by the mist. They immediately fell to the ground and twitched for a while before their bodies turned black and stiff.

“Such strong poison.” Madam Zi Yan was astonished after seeing this. Normally, ordinary poisons were not effective against cultivators.

Yuan Caihe explained: “The poison of a Dark Serpent is not immediately fatal, but once it invades the body, the whole body will become stiff in an instant. Their blood energy would be sealed so the victim wouldn’t be able to move. Even a Heavenly King would not be able to escape. Without taking the antidote within six hours, death would be assured as the body slowly melts into a black liquid.”

She was very knowledgeable about spirit medicines, and as a prodigy, she also knew about poisonous creatures.

“Where did this Dark Serpent come from?” The experts who were able to run far away were frightened as they looked back at the spreading mist. This extremely powerful poison could corrode one’s true fate and destroy their fate palaces. Not even Heavenly Kings could resist it.

An Alchemy Saint at the scene quivered and said: “This doesn’t make any sense. Dark Serpents dwell in the wet depths of darkness. This place is too dry, so it shouldn’t have any Dark Serpents.”

Although he did not say it explicitly, the implication was crystal clear.

“Xuuuu...” At the center of the poisonous mist with howling winds, the Dark Serpent jumped up and opened its mouth to spew out even more mist towards its target — Li Qiye.

However, as this mist covered the sky, Li Qiye was not afraid at all. He shifted his body around in the mist to avoid the serpent’s attack.

Many spectators at a safe distance noticed that the serpent was only attacking Li Qiye and looked at each other. The wily experts immediately knew that this was not so simple. Someone was using the Dark Serpent to attack Li Qiye!

“This brat is so scary. He just killed an Early Era Paragon and isn’t afraid of the Dark Serpent’s poison.” An alchemist said: “I heard that Li Qiye’s dao of alchemy is incredible as well. If this is true, then it is not strange for him to be able to resist the poison.”

In fact, Li Qiye was not relying on the dao of alchemy to repel this poison. He had medicines of the immortal level, so how could this serpent’s poison do anything to him?

Eventually, after escaping the serpent’s attacks, Li Qiye circled around its head and suddenly unleashed dozens of needles that penetrated its skull.

After being struck by the needles, it suddenly stopped as if petrified.

“Back to where you came!” Li Qiye shouted a mantra. With a boom, the Dark Serpent seemed to have received the command and immediately crawled back into the ground, disappearing without a trace.

“What is that?” A cultivator in the horizon was puzzled by how Li Qiye was able to control the serpent.

An alchemist was shocked after seeing this scene and shouted: “Insect mastery skill!”

After hearing this, someone who was pale from fear stated: “Don’t tell me that Li Qiye is a disciple of the Insect Swarm Valley? Only they know how to control poisonous creatures.”

The Alchemy Saint shook his head and said: “Not necessarily. This world is vast, so the Insect Swarm Valley is not the only place that knows how to control poisonous creatures. In fact, this is part of the dao of alchemy, but very few people are adept at this art.”

The Insect Swarm Valley were masters of controlling poisonous creatures. Till this day, it’s name instilled fear in whoever heard of them.

At this time, a loud bang could be heard from the horizon. After hearing this, people instantly looked towards that direction. Some activated their heavenly gazes and mirrors to have a better look.

Inside Alchemy City, the Dark Serpent suddenly came out from the ground and commenced its attack. Its large whip-like tail fiercely swung everywhere like a huge mountain range tumbling around.

The Dark Serpent was attacking a mansion. A cry came out from inside as a treasure fly out to stop the onslaught: "You dare?!"

"Bang! Bang!" The Dark Serpent seemed to be mad. Not only did it use its huge body as a weapon, it also spewed out poisonous mist.

"Go!" The person in the mansion clearly didn't want to fight against the serpent. With a shout, the entire mansion hovered up from the ground and flew out of Alchemy City.

"That is Cao Guoyao's abode... a mansion from a monarch of the Alchemy Kingdom. After Cao Guoyao came, it was handed over to him." A person movingly uttered after seeing the serpent attacking the owner.

After knowing who the serpent attacked, many people began to wonder. At this moment, it was clear as to who had controlled the Dark Serpent.

This sudden development that occurred in Alchemy City attracted the attention of many parties, especially when Cao Guoyao's mansion flew out from Alchemy City while the huge Dark Serpent gave chase right after it. Many experts and alchemists were quite alarmed and followed right behind them to find out what was going on.

"Li Qiye, what are you trying to do?!" The mansion's speed was very fast. In the blink of an eye, it stopped one thousand miles away from Li Qiye.

Cao Guoyao was currently seated in a high pavilion of the mansion. His eyes were fierce when he shouted at Li Qiye.

"What am I trying to do?" Li Qiye looked at Cao Guoyao and narrowed his eyes to smilingly say: "Nothing, I only allowed this beast to return and find its master. It seems that it has found him."

"What venomous slander!" Cao Guoyao shouted: "Everyone here saw that you controlled this serpent to attack me. Do not change black to white and right to wrong!"

### **Chapter 752: Alchemy Dao of Wood Mastery**

Although Cao Guoyao flatly denied this matter, many experts who came to watch knew that in the present times, outside of the Insect Swarm Valley, only Cao Guoyao knew how to control poisonous creatures. It was no secret that he had traded with the valley for this art.

Li Qiye smiled and said: "Whether you did it or not is no longer important. You should deal with the Dark Serpent first." Li Qiye knew, very well, who used the serpent to attack him. There was no need to waste words after all the facades had been let go of. One of them must die.

"Boom! Boom!" The Dark Serpent had caught up at this time and spewed out more poisonous mist. It covered the sky once more, enveloping Cao Guoyao's mansion like a tsunami!

Many people had seen the effect of this poison earlier, so they quickly retreated to avoid being injured by the poison.

“Open!” There was more than just Cao Guoyao in the mansion. The residents included disciples and experts from the State of Cao. When the poisonous mist shrouded the mansion, many disciples opened their cauldrons to unleash a rolling mist of medicine into the sky. This mist condensed to form a shield.

“Xshhh...” Waves of sizzles rang when the poisonous mist touched the medicinal mist. The poison was immediately dispelled and turned into drifting ashes.

In the end, the State of Cao was still an alchemy lineage that had had an Alchemy Emperor, so their disciples were quite capable when it came to dissolving something like the poison of the Dark Serpent.

The beast seemed to be enraged. The moment its poisonous mist was dispelled, it let out a loud hiss and slammed its huge tail down. A wild storm immediately assaulted the mansion.

“Boom! Boom! Boom!” Even though the mansion had a powerful defensive barrier, many buildings were still shattered from the onslaught of the serpent. Some disciples were even blown away while spurting blood.

Cao Guoyao had an unsightly countenance as he shouted: “Stop, damned beast!” The moment he gave the order, the four Divine Steeldemons quickly soared out at lightning speed.

“Whoosh!” The four swift demons used their arms that were as sharp as blades to slash multiple times in the blink of an eye. The moment they came back to Cao Guoyao’s side, blood erupted out like a spring.

The huge serpent came crashing down like a mountain. Its huge body was severed into several sections that fell to the ground like huge boulders, staining the ground with its blood.

“The Divine Steeldemons are so strong!” Many people shivered after seeing the demons dispatching the serpent so quickly.

“I heard that they rampaged across the Stone Realm for some time before eventually being tamed by Cao Guoyao. It seems that they are indeed powerful, it’s no wonder that so many experts died to them.” An alchemist frightenedly stated after seeing the might of the demons.

Cao Guoyao was not happy at this moment. He was not willing to send out the kill order for the serpent as it wasn’t easy to find a Dark Serpent like this. It used to be one of his most useful assistants, but he couldn’t do anything else in this situation!

“Li Qiye, not only did you falsely accuse me, but you also used the serpent to attack my country’s disciple. I will exact vengeance for this!” Declared Cao Guoyao, who was sitting up high in his pavilion.

“Is that so?” Li Qiye was unaffected as he smilingly said: “What kind of vengeance? Capturing me alive or hacking me into pieces? Of course, capturing me alive is more useful for you, wouldn’t you say?”

The confrontation between the two was quite well-received by the spectators who were watching for their own enjoyment. However, a few great characters knew that this was not as simple as it looked. In fact, any discerning person could tell that Cao Guoyao used the serpent to ambush Li Qiye. However,

many cultivators and lineages would have to rely on Cao Guoyao eventually, so no one wanted to reveal such a thing.

Cao Guoyao glared at Li Qiye and coldly said: "If you obediently submit, then I will spare your life!"

Li Qiye returned an enigmatic smile and replied: "Submit? I don't have such a habit to give up before the fight even starts. What if I don't submit? Are you going to come over and force me?"

Cao Guoyao's expression became cold as he answered: "If you stay unrepentant till death and remain insensible, then don't blame me. I will let you see what is called the dao of alchemy so that a frog at the bottom of a well like you will know that it is not limited to just pill refinement and growing grasses!"

Having said that, he stood up and spewed out an incantation. A green light hovered around his body with the emergence of universal laws. Grasses crawled out from below his feet along with blossoming spirit flowers.

The ground where he stood seemed to have turned into a garden or a field of alchemy. His body was full of vitality and life.

It seemed that all the plants and trees in this area accepted Cao Guoyao's summon. Their majestic life forces poured into his body like a flood. By controlling the aura and pulsating energy of the vegetation in the surrounding area, Cao Guoyao was able to borrow their power.

"This is..." Many people were surprised to see Cao Guoyao's current state. Although no one knew what he wanted to do, they could feel the fluctuation of power in the air. Borrowing the power of the plant life in the entire garden was unbelievable.

"This is a technique for Legendary Alchemists. Legend states that this type of alchemist has several different techniques, and one of them is wood mastery." A powerful alchemist murmured: "At a certain level, an alchemist will become infinitely close to all existences in nature and can borrow their power."

Inside the courtyard, Yuan Caihe was also convinced and nodded her head to say: "Cao Guoyao is indeed an incredible Legendary Alchemist. Although he doesn't know how to cultivate medicines and only knows pill refinement and fire control, he is already very amazing for being able to do this with wood mastery."

Yuan Caihe was the voice of authority in this regard. In contemporary times, she was the number one figure in plant cultivation and was closer to plant life than anyone else. Very few people could compare to her regarding wood mastery. [1. Plant mastery would make more sense here, but wood is one of the five elements. Since we have fire mastery, it makes sense to keep it as wood mastery.]

"Rumble!" The earth shook. In this area, many tall and sturdy trees rose from the soil.

Cao Guoyao's universal alchemy law imprinted itself on these trees with lightning speed. After more rumbling noises, these gigantic trees grew even larger at an astonishing pace. Each of them eventually became as grand as a mountain.

These trees now appeared to be giants. With one step, they could easily cross over smaller mountains as if they were the children of the earth. All of these trees emitted the power of nature since their roots were deep underground and were empowered by the blessing of the boundless earth.

It was one thing if it was only one or two trees, but there were several hundred or maybe even a thousand gigantic trees, forming an army of giants. Just imagine, each of these trees could cross over a mountain. Just how mighty and terrifying was this force? Even a Heavenly King would fear encountering such a legion.

“Alchemists can also be like this!? I’ve, I’ve never heard of such a thing!” One of the spectators couldn’t believe their own eyes. In the minds of many people, alchemists were not good at fighting and were not willing to fight, at least with force.

However, Cao Guoyao’s display today overturned their views regarding alchemists. No one would have thought that alchemists had such a heaven-defying method.

An Alchemy Saint with white hair enviously stated: “Only Legendary Alchemists are capable of grasping this kind of technique to control an army of wooden giants. Perhaps Cao Guoyao is already a peak Legendary Alchemist.”

Alchemy Emperors were at the apex while Legendary Alchemists reigned second. Of course, in the current generation of the Stone Medicine World, the number of Legendary Alchemists could be counted on one’s hand.

Many alchemists couldn’t reach this level, but Cao Guoyao was already there at such a young age. Moreover, he was able to summon this powerful legion, causing many older alchemists to be lost in admiration. It was not an exaggeration when people proclaimed him as one of the four prodigies!

“So Legendary Alchemists can have such a technique... Then what will they be able to do if they become Alchemy Emperors?” An experienced Demon Monarch was dumbfounded after seeing this scene.

Another Alchemy Saint explained: “Needless to say about Alchemy Emperors. Legendary Alchemists already never have to personally take action. When faced with any adversity, there would always be a large group of experts willing to work for them! Because of this, the world rarely has the chance to witness their techniques.”

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### **Chapter 753: Tiny Vine Turning Into A Giant**

After hearing the Alchemy Saint’s explanation, many people had a deeper understanding of alchemists.

Although this was a land where the most alchemists resided, there was very little understanding of Legendary Alchemists. This was understandable since they were quite prestigious. Outside of Alchemy Emperors, there was no existence higher than them when it came to the field of alchemy. How many sects would be willing to regard a Legendary Alchemist as a treasure and pay them tributes? Who would be willing to let a Legendary Alchemist join a battle?

It was just like this Alchemy Saint had said, the moment they reached the Legendary Alchemist level, a single word was enough to cause countless people to gather!

“Bang—” In the blink of an eye, this legion of wooden giants surrounded Li Qiye. While trapped inside, he seemed to be an ant that could be stomped to death by any of them.

“Li Qiye, out of consideration for a fellow alchemist, it is not too late to surrender.” While controlling the legion, Cao Guoyao coldly leered at Li Qiye. He had an imperious expression as if he was the ruler of this land. Life and death would be decided by him.

He wanted to capture Li Qiye alive for his supreme dao of alchemy. For common items, there were plenty of young geniuses and sects willing to satisfy him. However, he didn’t want to ask someone else for help in this matter because he did not trust others! Due to this, he didn’t mind personally taking action despite being a Legendary Alchemist.

Li Qiye looked around at the giant trees that surrounded him and smilingly said: “You think this army of trees can force me to submit?”

Cao Guoyao laughed and said: “Li Qiye, I know you have an extraordinary treasure, but don’t forget, with one word, many powerful sects will besiege you! Countless powerful experts will be willing to push you to the edge! However, because we are both alchemists, I personally took action today and acted according to the ways of an alchemist to deal with you. Be smart and give up or else there will be no place left for you in the Stone Medicine World!”

“What a meaningless threat.” Li Qiye smiled and said: “Since you want to use the methods of an alchemist, I’ll let you see what real wood mastery is!”

Having said that, his body began to emit an endless light that made him seem like a green ocean. Behind this green ocean were divine trees that sealed the heavens. There were ancient trees forming their own worlds as dazzling immortal grasses began to grow...

His body was empowered with endless life, especially when the tree of life inside his fate palace appeared. He seemed to have become the entire world, as if all plant creatures in the nine heavens and ten earths were awakened by Li Qiye’s unbelievably vast life source.



“Since you want to compete in the dao of alchemy, I’ll show you!” With a laugh, Li Qiye’s life force turned into endless universal laws that intertwined to form a heavenly chapter. It was incredibly grand and unfathomable.

“This is...” Yuan Caihe was shaken after seeing a heavenly chapter of this level. It was too profound and mystical; despite being one of the four prodigies, she couldn’t find any clues at all to this heavenly chapter. However, the moment she saw the cover, she immediately understood that this was the key to opening the world of the dao of alchemy!

This chapter was created by the profundities within the Alchemy God’s Grand Canon. These were the laws of the nine worlds’ dao of alchemy, its beginning!

“Zzz...” Inside the chapter, a mysterious light fell down and turned into a tiny vine.

“Boom!” In the blink of an eye, peaks were blown apart. This tiny vine grew larger at an astonishing rate. It quickly reached the high firmament as if it was the true favored child of this earth. All the life force in this area was focused in its body.

“Rumble!” The vine branch turned into a gigantic monster that covered the entire sky. In just a split second, waterfalls began to pour down from above. It seemed to have become the ruler of this region as its most powerful existence.

The crowd was astounded, their mouths wide open as they stood there in a daze. To them, this was simply a miracle. Compared to such a monstrosity, the wooden army of Cao Guoyao seemed to be insignificant.

“How is this possible?!” The Alchemy Saint exclaimed in horror: “One thought to become a god — this is something only an Alchemy Emperor can do, but he isn’t one!”

“It’s just simple wood mastery of the alchemy dao.” Li Qiye looked at Cao Guoyao and dismissively said: “This is no big deal, it’s only a minor art that uses the life force of the heaven and earth to create life under one’s control! In the end, it is still only an external dao; using it often will harm the heavenly order and the dao laws!”

Such words made many alchemists here want to vomit blood. They were all shamed and were on the verge of committing suicide. Nearly all of them strived for this level. Wood mastery was something every alchemist had thoughts of, but in the mouth of Li Qiye, it had become a minor art. If this was a minor art, then what could be considered a grand art?

After he finished his statement, the vine giant slammed downward. With an explosion that illuminated the sky, all the huge trees that were surrounding Li Qiye were instantly blown away. It also dispelled the dao laws that Cao Guoyao imprinted on these trees. They began to shrink as their life force dispersed. Eventually, they assumed their original form as if nothing had happened.

Cao Guoyao paled and understood that Li Qiye’s dao of alchemy was even more profound than his. This left him with both fear and hate. Moreover, it made the greed in his heart grow even more rampant.

If Li Qiye had a better dao of alchemy, then this meant that his law was a priceless treasure. If he could obtain such a law, then he could absolutely become the present day Alchemy Emperor!

“Good, good, Li Qiye, you are quite amazing.” Cao Guoyao thought of something and looked at Li Qiye to say in a serious manner: “I am not your equal regarding wood mastery!”

These words came as a surprise to many people. Who was Cao Guoyao? He was one of the four alchemy prodigies, the inheritor of the State of Cao! He would be a shining star no matter where he went. Many geniuses would have to be wary of him, but such an arrogant person today had bowed his head and accepted defeat. No one expected such a thing.

Cao Guoyao gravely continued: “Wood mastery is not my forte. Li Qiye, since you are an unparalleled alchemy genius, do you dare to compete with me once more?!”

Despite his arrogance, he was also quite witty. While accepting his loss, he also praised Li Qiye. Any other alchemist would enjoy such vanity because Cao Guoyao was a well-known alchemist, no one could resist such flattery.

“Logically, I shouldn’t fall for such a low-level bait.” Li Qiye smiled and said: “However, it is not easy for you to bow your head. Very well, I’ll play along with you since killing all day is becoming dull!”

The instant Li Qiye withdrew his alchemy law, the vast life force disappeared from the sky and returned to the earth. Meanwhile, the vine also became smaller and reverted to its original shape.

If people didn’t see it with their own eyes, no one would believe that this little vine had turned into a gigantic branch that covered the entire sky. Many cultivators present, especially the alchemists, were incredibly envious and wondered when they could reach such a level.

Li Qiye lazily glanced at Cao Guoyao and said: “Okay, what other tricks do you have? It is time to use them all.”

Cao Guoyao took a deep breath and deepened his voice to say: “The mysteries of the dao of alchemy has myriad ways such as plant cultivation, pill refinement, and insect and monster mastery! How about we compete in insect mastery?!”

“Insect mastery?” Li Qiye had a smirk on his face as he rubbed his chin to leisurely reply: “This isn’t child’s play. If one isn’t careful, the outcome will be deadly.”

Cao Guoyao leered at him and stated: “Leave it to fate. If one of us dies here, then we can only blame it on our own lack of skill! No regrets, do you dare to take me on?!”

At this point, all eyes fell upon Li Qiye.

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It was just like this Alchemy Saint had said, the moment they reached the Legendary Alchemist level, countless people would be willing to work for them with just one word!

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#### **Chapter 754: Moonplucking Arach**

It was no secret that Cao Guoyao was adept at insect mastery. Someone once said that outside of those at the Insect Swarm Valley, no one in this world was more skilled in insect mastery than him.

“Competing in an unfamiliar area instead of one’s specialty is unwise.” An older alchemist couldn’t help but murmur after hearing Cao Guoyao’s challenge.

The power of Li Qiye’s wood mastery was as clear as day. It was extremely powerful! Anyone would be lost in awe, and Cao Guoyao had no way of comparing with him.

But now, if Li Qiye wanted to forego his advantage in wood mastery and compete with insect mastery instead, he would be put at a great disadvantage!

Li Qiye seemed to be enjoying things as he said: “It seems that you are very confident in your insect mastery. Since that is so, what will you bet to challenge me?”

“My life!” Cao Guoyao stood above his pavilion and laughed proudly to say: “My life is more precious than any treasure in this world! My... life can handle any bet!”

These words were spoken with complete confidence and pride. It was not strange for him to have such an attitude. As one of the four prodigies and the one most well-versed in pill refinement, his life was indeed valuable, a unique treasure in the eyes of many.

Quite a lot of spectators were aghast at such a huge gamble; he was putting his life on the line! It was just as he said, his life was more valuable than anything else! This was no longer a simple bet.

“Betting your life for mine?” Li Qiye smiled and glanced at Cao Guoyao to lazily say: “I am not looking down on you, but my life is more precious than yours!”

Cao Guoyao snorted as a response, but he did not become angry. He coldly said: “I am a merciful person and do not wish to take your life. My demand is very simple. Should you lose, just hand over the secret manual of your dao of alchemy!”

His words were even more pleasant than a melody. From the beginning, he came for Li Qiye’s alchemy manual. Of course, if there was a chance to kill Li Qiye, he wouldn’t let it go for anything! To him, Li Qiye was his strongest opponent on the dao of alchemy; Li Qiye was no weaker than the white hair alchemist!

Many big shots that were watching from afar felt their hearts beating faster. They had heard rumors of Li Qiye’s dao of alchemy before, but the majority of them hadn’t seen it with their own eyes.

But it was different now. Right after seeing Li Qiye’s wood mastery, it would be a lie to say if these big shots were not tempted by his dao. Any lineage that could obtain his dao of alchemy would perhaps be able to train disciples just like the four prodigies.

They also recognized that since the very beginning, Cao Guoyao came for Li Qiye’s dao of alchemy. It was no wonder why he started with an ambush from the Dark Serpent. This was because he didn’t want to kill Li Qiye outright, he wanted to capture him instead.

“Okay, it doesn’t matter if you are here for my life or for my alchemy manual.” Li Qiye smiled and said while rubbing his palms together: “I have not played this game in a very long time, so I’ll entertain you. You can start first so that when you die, you can’t blame me for not giving you a chance.”

“Good, since you are so kind, I will gladly oblige.” Cao Guoyao let out a carefree laugh, but he was sneering in his mind.

He excelled at Insect and poison mastery. Moreover, he had cultivated for a very long time in these aspects and groomed many insects. He came prepared! Even if Li Qiye’s dao of alchemy was peerless, how could Li Qiye compete with him without sufficient preparations?

Cao Guoyao took out an old urn. The moment it was opened, a very large spider came out from inside and squatted on the ground like a mound.

It was covered in green, steel hair. Its eyes emitted an awe-inspiring glow, and its terrorizing pair of fangs seemed to be able to bite through anything and erode everything.

“Moonplucking Arach!” A few powerful cultivators quivered upon seeing this huge spider. A knowledgeable alchemist from the previous generation was aghast as he called out its origin.

A Moonplucking Arach was not as frightening as what it appeared to be. In fact, it was not poisonous. However, its silk was extremely strong. Don’t dream about escaping once trapped in its web.

Thus, many powerful heavenly beasts and longevity spirits were doomed once they were trapped. No matter how much they struggled, they could only become its meal.

Its name meant that if even the moon in the sky were to be caught by its silk, the spider would bring it down. This meant that not only was the silk tough and flexible, it also spoke of its mighty power.

“Go, catch him!” Cao Guoyao issued his first command after releasing the spider. He had trained it for a very long time so it obeyed his commands without delay!

“Shhhshh...” In an instant, the spider immediately jumped outside and spewed out a great amount of silk that instantly covered the sky. This web was formed at an astonishing speed.

To everyone’s surprise, the spider didn’t attack Li Qiye right away, it only continued spewing out more silk to form a large web. In a short period of time, its web sealed the entire area as well as the four directions. Countless strands of silk intertwined as if this was its nest.

Anyone would feel creeped out by this scene. The mountain where Li Qiye stood and the surrounding one hundred miles was locked down by the webs! This land now seemed like the lair of the creature, causing all the spectators to feel a chill run down their backs.

“Pluffff—!” After sealing the area with its webs, it spewed out even more to form a net that flew towards Li Qiye.

The spider was swift, but Li Qiye was even faster. In the blink of an eye, Li Qiye evaded the incoming net with his great agility.

“Pluffff!” As the spider’s nets kept on raining down, Li Qiye continued to shift his position at an incredible speed, causing the spider to fail time after time.

However, as he continued to dodge, more nets came down and his area to maneuver became limited. The spider was not just blindly spewing out its webs. Its ability to strategize was amazing. Each of its moves aimed to eventually seal Li Qiye's retreat so that he would have nowhere left to run. At that point, he would become a prey trapped in its net.

In addition to the huge webs that locked down the area, the spider continuously forced Li Qiye to retreat so that he would run out of room. It seemed that his escape was an impossibility.

"If your insect mastery is lacking, then it is not too late to surrender." Cao Guoyao was ecstatic watching Li Qiye dodging the webs; however, his external expression was one of righteousness. He smiled and said: "I will be very sad if the Moonplucking Arach were to hurt Brother Li. The dao of alchemy would lose a supreme genius, and I would lose a worthy opponent."

In accordance with his plan, he acted generously and called Li Qiye a brother. In his eyes, Li Qiye had become trapped in his net, so how could he not put on this act?

Others were also anxious, seeing Li Qiye's continual evasion. No matter how hard he tried, he wasn't able to escape from the spider. Moreover, Li Qiye had yet to counter attack, so many thought that he wasn't adept at insect mastery!

"Is that so? I'm just playing with you. Do you really think that this little art can actually trap me?" Li Qiye smiled and stared at the Moonplucking Arach before issuing a sharp cry.

"Pluff—" The spider grabbed onto this rare opportunity and spewed out a huge web towards Li Qiye.

This particular web was extremely fast and flew towards Li Qiye. However, Li Qiye didn't try to dodge. Very shortly, he would be covered by this web.

Madam Zi Yan's heart was hanging by a thread as she watched this scene. She fearfully exclaimed: "Watch out!"

"Xshhh..." However, the spider net that aimed for him was cut in half in the blink of an eye.

People finally saw a scorpion that crawled out of nowhere. It came from Li Qiye's courtyard. This scorpion was even faster than the Moonplucking Arach! Right when it came out, its claw instantly cut the approaching net to save Li Qiye.

The scorpion could only be called tiny compared to the huge spider. It was only the size of a desk while its outward appearance was completely red with a hint of gold. More importantly, its claws were extremely sharp.

"Divine Scorpion King." Even Cao Guoyao was shocked after seeing this creature.

An alchemist who studied poisonous creatures startingly stated: "The bane of the Moonplucking Arach, the Divine Scorpion King! Its poison is unbelievable, and it also has a pair of extremely sharp claws that specialize in cutting spider webs."

## **Chapter 755: Engulfing Serpent, Lightning Fly**

Cao Guoyao was astounded after seeing the Divine Scorpion King. He was skilled in insect mastery so how could he not recognize it? He just didn't expect for Li Qiye to have one.

Earlier, he assumed that Li Qiye was unprepared. But now, after seeing the scorpion coming from Li Qiye's courtyard, he immediately realized that he had underestimated Li Qiye.

"Return..." He shouted out a command to the Moonplucking Arach. It was very precious and he didn't want it to die.

In fact, after seeing the scorpion, the spider wanted to escape right away. The scorpion was its nemesis, so it instinctively wanted to flee. However, after being trained by Cao Guoyao, it didn't dare to do so without his command!

It turned and fled out of its webs. However, the scorpion was much faster than it. With the sound of wind being split, the scorpion pierced through the webs that blocked its path and instantly caught up to the spider.

The spider was horrified and ran towards Cao Guoyao. It spewed out even more spider webs, but the scorpion was known as its bane for a reason; no matter how many webs it spewed out, it couldn't delay the scorpion. In an instant, the scorpion caught up and raised its tail. With a glint, its tail shot out needles and impaled the spider's body.

"Boom!" After being struck, the gigantic body of the spider immediately fell down and rolled fairly far before coming to a halt. When it stopped, its body had already gone stiff, struck dead.

Although the spider and its webs were mighty, it was not poisonous and met its bane. The poisonous needles of the scorpion were especially fatal to it. Death was assured the moment it got hit!

"He also knows how to control insects..." Even the spectating cultivators became speechless. Many of them realized that the rumors of his pill refinement skill had already been proven. Now, it seems that he could also control wood and insects — just how unfathomable was this? Perhaps his fortune on the dao of alchemy was no weaker than the four prodigies!

The crowd became anxious at Li Qiye's accomplishments. If they could obtain that secret law, then the future potential of their sects would be unlimited.

Li Qiye shook his head and said: "What a shame for a Moonplucking Arach. It was a good poisonous creature, but it was too confident. Getting close to me was simply courting death."

Cao Guoyao's expression was quite unsightly at this moment. He snorted after realizing that he had fallen into Li Qiye's trap. The wretch only retreated in order to kill his spider. If Li Qiye called out his scorpion from the beginning, then perhaps there was a chance for his spider to escape.

After knowing that Li Qiye was more skilled at insect mastery, Cao Guoyao became very alarmed. But now, he had to keep going since he was already riding the tiger. It didn't matter whether Li Qiye was strong or not, he had to brace himself and fight.

"Okay, I have seen your insect." Li Qiye smiled and went back to his courtyard before stating: "Now, it is your turn to meet mine."

Having said that, Li Qiye stomped on the ground as an alchemy law appeared. With a splash, the water inside the pond suddenly overflowed as if this little pond had become a giant lake.

“Aooo!” A ferocious beast rushed out of the pond at this moment. It was very large, taking up miles of space in an instant. It soared in the sky towards Cao Guoyao.

This was a creature that looked like a snake but was not a snake. It had four legs, a crocodile’s head, and a serpent’s body — quite fierce looking.

“Engulfing Sea Serpent!” The previous Alchemy Saint was aghast after seeing this monster. He was the first to retreat, immediately followed by many others.

“Splashh—” However, to the surprise of many, the huge monster did not use its body to attack Cao Guoyao. Instead, it spewed out a huge amount of water. This beam of water immediately crashed down to drown his mansion.

“Be careful...” Cao Guoyao’s expression changed after seeing this oncoming torrent. He also took out a treasure box to release another poisonous creature.

“Ahh—” However, Cao Guoyao was a bit too slow. The moment the torrential waves came crashing down, some of the disciples were hit and immediately began to scream. They fell to the ground as if they had been poisoned. After a twitching for a brief moment, they instantly died.

The Engulfing Sea Serpent was not poisonous, but the water it spewed out was quite bizarre. It could swiftly rush into the body of any living being and engulf their true fate to the point of drowning them!

With a small buzzing sound, Cao Guoyao released a very ugly looking toad. It opened its mouth to swallow the huge waves of water from the serpent.

It became a battle between the serpent crazily spewing out more water while the ugly toad devoured it. They quickly reached a stalemate as neither had the upper hand.

An alchemist that knew the toad’s origin emotionally stated: “Cao Guoyao deserves his fame regarding insect mastery. To be able to keep a ferocious and difficult-to-tame creature like the Sea Belly Toad around — truly amazing.”

“Ooo—” Li Qiye made a strange hum, and a similar hum resonated. An insect then flew out from a jar inside the courtyard.

This insect was extremely fast and quickly flew to Cao Guoyao’s mansion. Many people couldn’t even see it clearly.

Cao Guoyao was startled by this insect and shouted loudly: “Not good, retreat! It’s a Lightning Fly!”

But it was too late. This insect instantly shot down a beam of lightning, striking the Sea Belly Toad. The toad fell to the ground with its belly facing upward and emitted a green smoke. It immediately died after being hit by this beam of lightning.

When people finally saw the creature, they found that it was a fly around the size of a fist. Dazzling light flashed inside its belly as if it contained a huge amount of lightning.

Lightning Fly — its name alone indicated its ability. It could send down bolts of lightning. Moreover, its flying speed was fast to the point of horrifying others.

“Splash!” Without the toad, the ferocious torrents from the serpent were on the verge of drowning Cao Guoyao’s mansion once more.

“Ahh—” Suddenly, screams filled the air. The disciples closest to the water were the first to suffer; they all fell to the ground. The other experts hastily retreated.

However, misfortune does not come all at once. Although experts could withstand the serpent’s water for a moment, crackling thunder came about as lightning descended, causing a burning smell to permeate the air.

One could easily imagine the mansion drowned by water as the Lightning Fly unleashed its barrage. There was nowhere for the State of Cao’s disciples to hide. In an instant, many of them died miserably to either of these elements.

After seeing the deaths of so many disciples, Cao Guoyao crazily shouted: “Li Qiye, you leave me with no choice!” At this moment, his fury was untethered and he didn’t care for anything else. He wouldn’t even mind killing Li Qiye!

“Die!” Cao Guoyao madly commanded the four steeldemons by his side! At this point, he was ready to massacre everything!

The four steeldemons took action. They were terrifying monstrosities! One could only see four flashing rays that intertwined like lightning. Even the Lightning Fly couldn’t escape with its great speed!

The moment the rays disappeared, both the Engulfing Sea Serpent and the Lightning Fly were killed by the four demons. They were too powerful, so the two beasts didn’t even have the chance to strike back. [1. No Pokemon center in this game.]

“Divine Steeldemons, these four monsters are finally taking action.” Many people fearfully quivered before such a scene.

“Rumor has it that these things will not give up until they see blood.” Even a Heavenly King trembled at this sight.

“Li Qiye, don’t blame me when you courted death!” The livid Cao Guoyao was in pain from losing so many disciples. Some were the elites of his country!

He ground his teeth and coldly uttered: “Hand over the alchemy manual right now, or else you wouldn’t be able to escape even if you had three heads and six hands!”

Li Qiye didn’t seem to mind at all. He smiled and slowly said: “Is that so? Go ahead and show off all of your abilities!”

“Forward! Slay him!” Cao Guoyao let out a deafening cry and commanded the demons.

These divine demons were extremely powerful and frightening. Ever since Cao Guoyao tamed them, they had yet to leave his side.

However, he was furious this time and would rather kill Li Qiye even if it meant not obtaining the alchemy manual! He would never let go of this vengeance!



“Divine Steeldemons, not bad.” Li Qiye narrowed his eyes while looking at the four steeldemons.

[spoiler title='755 Teaser']Cao Guoyao was astounded after seeing the Divine Scorpion King. He was skilled at insect mastery so how could he not recognize it? He just didn't expect for Li Qiye to have one.

Earlier, he assumed that Li Qiye was unprepared. But now, after seeing the scorpion coming from Li Qiye's courtyard, he immediately realized that he had underestimated Li Qiye.

“Return...” He shouted out a command to the Moonplucking Arach. It was very precious and he didn't want it to die.

In fact, after seeing the scorpion, the spider wanted to escape right away. The scorpion was its nemesis, so it instinctively wanted to flee. However, after being trained by Cao Guoyao, it didn't dare to do so without his command!

It turned and fled out of its webs. However, the scorpion was much faster than it. With the sound of wind being split, the scorpion pierced through the webs that blocked its path and instantly caught up to the spider.

### **Chapter 756: Divine Steeldemons**

Even the ancestors of great powers who came to watch from a distance became serious after seeing the four monsters. As for Heavenly Kings, they were all very cautious.

At this point, even more people became aware of this battle. Inside Alchemy City, a few undyings and ancestors who were here because of their juniors participating in the conference couldn't help but become interested, especially after Li Qiye defeated the Heaven's Will Crystal Physique. After this news spread, even the hidden ancestors had to show up.

The Divine Steeldemons, despite being called demons, were not actually demons. They were extremely poisonous creatures as well as a type of ferocious beast. Although a few creatures had a certain level of intelligence, these demons were very close to being as smart as cultivators.

Their bodies were as tough as steel. Ordinary treasures and weapons wouldn't be able to harm them in the slightest. Moreover, they were coated with a layer of extremely powerful toxin. Even Heavenly Kings wouldn't be able to repel this level of toxicity. In addition, their speed was also wondrous and their arms were like sabers. It was as if they were natural saber users. The moment they attacked with their arms, they would utilize some peerless saber arts.

Under their special saber arts and poison, ordinary kings wouldn't be able to escape death. One was already terrifying enough, but the four of them together was something else entirely. They linked their consciousness so that they could bring forth the perfect offense and defense!

They oppressively headed towards Li Qiye as a black mist began to shroud their bodies. At this moment, their poison broke out; wherever they trod immediately turned black. The vegetation they passed by immediately withered and turned into a black liquid.

They turned the area into a poisonous wasteland. The living creatures couldn't escape and died tragically! Nothing could live in these locations as they turned this land into a dwelling of the dead.

“I’ll accept these little toys.” Li Qiye watched the furious demons poisoning the land and smiled. With a clanking sound, his Nine Sun Locking Heaven Law appeared. A gigantic lock fell out from his chest and locked his body.

In this moment, fire runes emerged all around his figure and covered him like a divine armor, protecting him.

“Here I come!” Li Qiye roared and used an unbelievable speed to rush forward. The moment he attacked, the four demons launched their counterattacks. They formed a formation as their saber-like arms unleashed a wondrous art!

In the blink of an eye, it seemed like stars were being cut down from the sky. When their saber formation slashed forward, a poisonous energy filled the air, engulfing the world within its mist. Any living creature that touched this mist would instantly die and turn into a black liquid.

“Could he stop the four demons without using his invincible treasure?” A few Stone Kings and Demon Monarchs watching the fight couldn’t help but murmur after seeing Li Qiye rush forward with his bare hands.

Back when the four demons rampaged over the lands of the Stone Realm, the number of Heavenly Kings that died at their hands was not few. They even destroyed an archaic sect. Even when its ancestor came into being, he still couldn’t save his sect. Eventually, his lifespan withered along with his blood energy. After being poisoned, he was killed by the demons.

“Pluff— pluff—” However, the slash of the demons couldn’t hit Li Qiye. They might be fast, but they were far from being comparable to Li Qiye’s soaring physique. Li Qiye then used his mighty weight along with his supreme speed to slam into the four demons.

Just imagine the terrifying impact from the combination of the two physiques! Even the steeldemons couldn’t handle it and were blown away instantly. One could even hear the sound of something breaking.

Due to the collision with Li Qiye, cracks actually appeared on their tough bodies! It was a shame that they met Li Qiye. Li Qiye’s body could even destroy treasures of the Heavenly King level, let alone their bodies; it didn’t matter how tough they might be.

“Impossible...” Even Cao Guoyao was in disbelief after seeing this sudden development. He knew just how powerful his four demons were. Deadly poison, unsurpassed speed, incredible saber technique, perfect and inscrutable offense and defense...

All of these things allowed his demons to triumph over all in the Heavenly King realm. They could even have a chance of harming an ordinary Virtuous Paragon. Because of this, he wasn’t afraid of powerful enemies with them guarding him.

However, Li Qiye not only blew them away, he showed no signs of being poisoned even after directly confronting the monsters. How could Cao Guoyao accept this?

As a great alchemist, the moment he came into contact with the four demons’ poison, he would still need to use precious medicines to protect his own body. Otherwise, death was assured. However, Li Qiye was unharmed even after direct contact, as if the poison couldn’t hurt him.

How could Cao Guoyao know that Li Qiye also cultivated the Void Imperfection Physique? Imperfection was not to be found on this physique, and myriad laws were unable to invade it. Great toxins were not able to harm it. Moreover, Li Qiye's heaven sealing law was also locking his body. The endless refined fire would not allow the poison to invade his body!

"Just what physique does this brat cultivate? What kind of emperor law is this?" Even an old undying was shaken after seeing this.

His unparalleled speed and absolute force left others in dismay. Just what kind of physique or merit law might this be?

After the four demons were blown away, four refined fiery laws like divine chains flew out from Li Qiye's hand while issuing clanking noises. They instantly coiled around the four monsters and sealed them. At this point, only strange sizzling sounds could be heard.

Under the terrifying flames of refinement, its law imprinted itself on the monsters' bodies. Green smoke came out but was sealed right away so they couldn't run.

"Bang! Bang! Bang!" All of a sudden, detonations due to collisions could be heard nonstop. Li Qiye swung the four fiery laws around as if he was playing with kites. The four demons were swung around in the sky powerlessly and slammed into each other. After continuous impacts, even more cracks appeared on their bodies. If this were to continue, even their tough bodies would eventually shatter.

Although they wanted to use their poison to bypass the fiery laws to kill Li Qiye, this was essentially impossible. The fire from Li Qiye's heaven sealing law was incredible. It consisted of refined flames from the sun, karmic fire from cultivators, and also fire from his cauldron of life... After arduous refinement, this type of fire could easily burn the poison of the demons!

"Is this actually happening?" Many people rolled their eyes after seeing Li Qiye swinging the demons into each other like kites. The force of the collisions caused even the sky to shake.

Even Heavenly Kings paled after hearing about the four rampaging demons in the past, but now, Li Qiye easily dispatched them in such a manner, so how could the crowd not be dumbfounded?

Cao Guoyao was both shocked and angry after seeing this. In the past, in order to tame these four demons, he had expended countless efforts. During the taming process, their State of Cao lost numerous experts.

But now, his four strongest demons seemed extremely fragile before Li Qiye.

"Boom!" Eventually, the four demons fell onto the ground and couldn't tell north from south. Under the numerous collisions, their bodies almost broke apart.

Before they had the chance to fight back, a chapter appeared in Li Qiye's hand. Alchemy laws came out from it to form runic symbols. With a buzz, these runic symbols instantly imprinted themselves into the heads of the four demons before disappearing.

After this process was over, the four demons suddenly became frozen as if a martial arts expert had knocked on their meridians.

Li Qiye clapped his hands and cheerfully said after sealing the four demons: "I'll accept these little things from you, with some reluctance of course..."

With an ugly expression, Cao Guoyao shouted: "Return!"

He commanded the four demons, but they had no response. After issuing the command several more times without any response, he became even more livid.

After overpowering the demons, he needed several more years to tame them so that they would show absolute obedience to his commands. But now, Li Qiye managed to gain control of them so quickly. He simply couldn't believe it!

How could he know that Li Qiye cultivated the Alchemy God's Grand Canon? Inside were many writings about techniques for controlling poisonous creatures!

The angry Cao Guoyao yelled at Li Qiye in a deep tone: "Li Qiye, our bet was about insect mastery, not brute force!"

At this point, he had no time to call Li Qiye brother any longer. The only thing he wanted to do was to kill Li Qiye!

"Yes, we are competing in insect mastery." Li Qiye cheerfully responded: "Earlier, you were controlling the four demons, and I have now tamed them. Therefore, it is my turn to control the demons and your turn to tame them. Don't disappoint everyone here, they initially belonged to you after all. If you can't even tame them again, then I cannot guarantee what will happen." Having said that, a universal law flashed on his forehead and reached the four demons.

### **Chapter 757: A Sky Full Of Stars**

After Li Qiye assumed control, the four demons rushed towards Cao Guoyao like puppets.

"Get out!" Cao Guoyao was aghast at the oncoming offense and shouted towards the experts of the State of Cao lucky enough to have kept their lives.

However, it was too late. Cao Guoyao's words had just come out, but the demons already arrived with their unbelievable speed and were accompanied by a poisonous storm that enveloped the mansion in an instant.

Many disciples quickly took out antidotes, to varying success. Some were able to withstand this poison, but most were not. After being infected, the unfortunate disciples screamed pitifully and fell prey, one after another, to the poison.

The shocked Cao Guoyao immediately summoned a cauldron to release a huge amount of the antidote. Although his antidote could dissolve the poison, flashing glints appeared. Blood spurted everywhere as those who did not die to the poison were all killed by the demons' blades!

Personally witnessing a tragedy like this made his heart bleed. All of the remaining experts and disciples from the State of Cao were massacred by his own former guardians. They didn't even have the chance to run!

Li Qiye shook his head and said: "What a pity, you couldn't even control your own pets."

At this point, after killing all the people from the State of Cao, the demons changed their target to Cao Guoyao. His countenance was completely blanched at this moment. Even if he could handle the poison, he wouldn't be able to escape their saber techniques.

"Senior, save me!" In the face of death, Cao Guoyao let out a cry.

"Boom!" With a loud explosion, a terrifying presence erupted forth. Before the people knew what was going on, the four demons that were flying towards Cao Guoyao were blown away by a sweeping aura!

"This is..." Many people trembled before this sudden surge of might. An existence capable of emitting such a powerful aura was definitely a Virtuous Paragon. Moreover, it was not an ordinary paragon!

The person blew away the four demons but still didn't show himself. This made those who were paying attention to this fight very anxious; they understood that Cao Guoyao's true ace was not his poisonous beasts.

The four demons wanted to have a second bout, but Li Qiye's law flashed on their bodies and recalled them.

He looked towards Cao Guoyao's mansion with narrowed eyes then smiled and said: "Was this not an insect mastery competition? Why go back on your words?"

Cao Guoyao was trembling with rage. His face was pale and his eyes were red; Li Qiye had killed so many of his disciples that he wanted nothing more than to eat his flesh and drink his blood!

"Li Qiye, you leave me with no choice. I will grind your bones to ashes!" Cao Guoyao madly uttered. He swore to never let this go!

Amidst his descent into madness, he opened up a box. With a buzz, countless silver specks came flying out the moment it was opened.

Screams could be heard coming from wherever these silver specks passed. They first attacked the closest cultivators. Many nearby spectators screamed then suddenly grew quiet!

The cultivators in the way of the silver specks were immediately turned into ashes and dispersed. In the next second, these specks swept everywhere and covered the sky. Plants and animals were annihilated wherever the specks flew!

In a short period of time, the entire area became barren. If one were to compare it to a head, then it would be a bare skull that was scraped by a sharp knife until there was nothing left. After one clean sweep, a number of specks doubled as if they had their fill and continued to multiply.

This scene scared many people. The spectators who were lucky enough to be alive were shivering in fear and immediately ran back to Alchemy City. They no longer dared to come back out.

"Myriad Stardust!" A few big characters, old undyings, and real ancestors were surprised to see these specks.

"This is... Myriad Stardust!" An old alchemist that gazed at the scene through an observatory was scared off his seat and fell to the ground.

Myriad Stardust! This was a pleasant-sounding name, but those who actually knew about it would be creeped out.

Some said that this stardust consisted of poisonous insects while others believed that they were just fierce beasts. Each speck was tiny to the point where ordinary people couldn't see its shape.

This stardust always came in large swarms. If they left their group, they wouldn't be able to survive. They weren't poisonous, but they were more frightening than any poisonous insect.

They numbered in the thousands and could eat through anything by instantly drilling countless holes into their prey before draining the creature dry. After doing so, these victims — no matter who or what they might be — would instantly turn into powder. Moreover, after they devoured a sufficient amount, they could instantly reproduce and double their numbers.

Without a method of restraining them, they would sweep through everything in a brief moment — truly worth palpitating over!

However, they were very rare. Obtaining these creatures were prohibitively difficult. Cao Guoyao paid a huge price for his Myriad Stardust by trading a supreme treasure to the Insect Swarm Valley.

At the time of the transaction, the valley had warned him not to release the stardust unless there was no other option because very few people in this world could subdue these creatures besides them!

After seeing and knowing what they were, even the ancestors of the great powers were aghast. This stardust was ferocious and even more terrifying than a locust swarm. Unless someone was powerful enough to destroy them in one blow, they would put an end to all the places they went!

"Myriad Stardust!" Even Li Qiye's expression slightly sank after seeing the silver color in the sky.

Cao Guoyao whistled and the stardust soared towards Li Qiye in an unstoppable manner like a flood.

"The stardust is coming!" Even Yuan Caihe was shaken to see the approaching wave.

"Today is your funeral!" Cao Guoyao shouted with a cruel visage. He could only use a special whistle to direct the stardust to their target, but he couldn't control them. Moreover, once the swarm reached a certain size, he would lose control completely.

This meant that upon release, he had no way of recovering them.

"Imperial bull..." Li Qiye called out in response. The Imperial Draco-Bull immediately jumped out of the courtyard and guarded the front of Li Qiye.

"Mooo—" The bull bellowed a cry that resembled a dragon's roar. A powerful draconic aura swept through the sky like a flood and headed straight towards the countless stardust.

In just a moment, it seemed as if countless snowflakes fell down from the sky as a large portion of the stardust was assaulted by the mighty roar of the bull.

"Now!" During their plunge, Li Qiye summoned the Myriad Heavenly Cauldron. With an explosion, a divine flame from the mouth of the cauldron engulfed the sky, devouring all the falling stardust.

Next, the boundless cauldron flame turned into countless fiery needles that pierced the extremely tiny bodies of the stardust, marking minuscule runes on them!

As the cauldron spewed out more flames and thus created more runes, Li Qiye aimed to use them to refine these countless specks of stardust.

After some time, Li Qiye finally recalled the cauldron and let out a cry. A new set of stardust flew out of the cauldron and covered the sky. One could only see them floating above his head as if it was another galaxy entirely.

The only difference was that these stardust carried a fiery glow as they gathered together. Inside this galaxy were fiery sparks made from intertwined runes, forming a huge net.

Under Li Qiye's control, the stardust above his head danced around in the sky. Sometimes they turned into a giant, at other times a mountain, or even just its original form of a cosmos. His control over them was absolute and effortless. They had become his supporters.

As the Dark Crow, Li Qiye had tamed countless evil and poisonous creatures with the Alchemy God, and Myriad Stardust was no exception. This chance meeting today became very simple due to him having the Imperial Draco-Bull and the Myriad Heavenly Cauldron.

"This, this is impossible!" Cao Guoyao dropped to the ground and looked at the situation in disbelief!

Once released, he wouldn't be able to control these stardust. Even in the Insect Swarm Valley, only three people could truly control them.

But now, Li Qiye easily tamed them with complete mastery. This was even more amazing than an ancestor of the valley!

[spoiler title='757 Teaser']After Li Qiye assumed control, the four demons rushed towards Cao Guoyao like puppets.

"Get out!" Cao Guoyao was aghast at the oncoming offense and shouted towards the lucky State of Cao's experts who were still alive in the mansion.

However, it was too late. Cao Guoyao's words had just come out, but the demons already arrived with their unbelievable speed and were accompanied by a poisonous storm that enveloped the mansion in an instant.

Many disciples quickly took out antidotes, to varying success. Some were able to withstand this poison, but most were not. After being infected, the unfortunate disciples screamed pitifully and fell prey, one after another, to the poison.

The shocked Cao Guoyao immediately summoned a cauldron to release a huge amount of the antidote. Although his antidote could dissolve the poison, flashing glints appeared. Blood spurted everywhere as those who did not die to the poison were all killed by the demons' blades!

### **Chapter 758: Xian Clan Of The Alchemy Kingdom**

Many people gasped at the stardust changing masters. Of course, the one who was most frightened was Cao Guoyao since he had far greater knowledge of how terrifying they were.

Even those in Alchemy City who watched using a heavenly mirror felt a cold chill running down their spines. Everyone held their breaths at this moment.

“You can’t even control Myriad Stardust yet you still dare claim to have mastery over insects... You truly think too highly of yourself.” Li Qiye smiled dismissively and said: “Today, I will open your eyes and show you what is truly considered insect mastery!”

Having said that, Li Qiye ordered the transforming stardust above his head with a shout: “Go!”

Suddenly, all of the stardust rushed towards Cao Guoyao like a tsunami.

Cao Guoyao was scared out of his wits due to this horrifying spectacle and cried out: “No—”

“Boom!” In this hour before death, a dark shadow emerged and carried Cao Guoyao towards Alchemy City at an incredible speed. They disappeared in the horizon in just the blink of an eye.

This shadow appeared too quickly. However, there were still a few who managed to see that it was an old man. Unfortunately, due to his swift speed, no one could see his face clearly.

“Whoosh!” When the stardust came down and swept through Cao Guoyao’s mansion, the whole place turned into ashes which were dispersed by the wind in a matter of seconds.

Anyone would be shocked at such a brutal scene. In the present times, only Virtuous Paragons would be able to confront these fierce little things. However, even ordinary paragons would have a hard time against them.

Li Qiye recalled the stardust after Cao Guoyao was saved by the shadow and stored them away. He didn’t let them continue to chase the enemy.

Looking at the location where Cao Guoyao ran off to, Li Qiye smiled and said: “This is one of the four alchemy prodigies? In my eyes, he is just a beaten dog.” [1. Raw is a homeless dog, or a dog whose house is hosting a funeral. It sounds better in chinese, but beaten dog makes more sense in English for this situation.]

People would definitely ridicule such words if spoken prior to these events, but now, anyone who saw this understood that Li Qiye definitely had the ability to challenge the four prodigies. Even Cao Guoyao ran away like a dog with its tail tucked between its legs. The others might not be able to defeat Li Qiye either.

Silence abruptly ensued. Many people began to wonder after seeing these scenes. A few were in awe of Li Qiye’s powerful dao of alchemy. There were also those who coveted his technique while others tried to contain their grievances toward him.

After Li Qiye returned to his abode, Tie Yi immediately came and said: “The palace of the World-Pillar Monarch from the Xian Clan! The shadow brought Cao Guoyao to this place.”

“The Alchemy Kingdom’s Xian Clan...” Li Qiye narrowed his eyes and cheerfully smirked.

Madam Zi Yan softly said: “Cao Guoyao’s actions might not have been due to his will alone. It seems that the Xian Clan had a hand in it as well. The World-Pillar Monarch married a Huangfu daughter, and now Cao Guoyao was rescued by the Xian Clan. I’m afraid this means that the Huangfu Clan, the Xian Clan,



and perhaps even the State of Cao are on the same side. Maybe the Alchemy Kingdom is involved as well.”

“The forefather of the Xian Clan is also an ancestor of the Alchemy Kingdom.” Yuan Caihe reminded Li Qiye: “It will be problematic if the Alchemy Kingdom is involved.”

“No problem at all.” Li Qiye said with a smile: “Hand over Cao Guoyao and everything will be negotiable. If not, I will trample the Xian Clan. Protecting my enemy is akin to opposing me!”

“If you try to destroy the Xian Clan, it would be the same as declaring war on the Alchemy Kingdom.” Even Tie Yi kindly reminded Li Qiye at this time.

In today’s Stone Medicine World, everyone knew that the Alchemy Kingdom was unshakable. From the ancient ages till now, it had gone through numerous trials and tribulations. Who would dare to oppose them?

Li Qiye only smiled regarding this matter and didn’t say anything else. Tie Yi quietly sighed and understood that a storm was swiftly approaching.

There were no windproof walls or paper capable of wrapping up fire in this world. When Cao Guoyao was rescued, someone saw the shadow of the figure who brought him into the Xian Clan.

This news spread very quickly, causing the spectators to look at each other after hearing this. However, no one recklessly stated their opinion.

Many big shots knew that the Xian Clan had close ties to the imperial family. It could even be said that in a sense, the Xian Clan was a branch of the imperial family!

The World-Pillar Monarch, Xian Miao, had a much weaker status among the royals in comparison to the Observant Monarch. With his great prestige, the Observant Monarch could be considered the leader of this rank.

Of course, as part of the younger generation, Xian Miao was also famous since he made many meritorious contributions to the Alchemy Kingdom. Due to his young age, his future looked very promising. However, there was an aspect that the Observant Monarch couldn’t compare to Xian Miao — their clan. The Observant Monarch’s clan was far weaker than the Xian Clan.

The Xian Ancestor was still alive. Moreover, he was buried within the ancestral ground of the Alchemy Kingdom. Just this alone was enough to show the extraordinary position of the Xian Clan in the kingdom.

Right now, this rescue meant that the Xian Clan were involving themselves in this matter, and to a certain extent, this also suggested a connection to the Alchemy Kingdom.

Once the kingdom became involved, no lineage or sect, Demon Monarch or Stone King would dare to utter a word. Those with keen eyes were able to see that no one would oppose the kingdom, so a big feud would turn into a minor one, and a minor one would turn into nothing at all.

When everyone thought that peace would come, Li Qiye issued his declaration on top of his mountain: “Xian Clan, hand Cao Guoyao over. If not, then don’t blame me for my lack of consideration.”

These words left many experts from the great powers and imperial lineages that were staying as guests at Alchemy City amazed. They all felt that this was way too arrogant. Everyone assumed that Li Qiye would let things drop after Cao Guoyao was rescued by the Xian Clan. No one wanted to provoke the beehive that was the Xian Clan and the Alchemy Kingdom.

In their opinion, Li Qiye had achieved his purpose by defeating Cao Guoyao. This would win him great fame, and maybe he could even replace Cao Guoyao as one of the four prodigies.

Such an accomplishment to any alchemist, especially a young one, was amazing. A smart person should know when enough was enough so that everyone could be happy!

However, Li Qiye came out of nowhere and was forcing the Xian Clan to hand over Cao Guoyao. How could people not be taken aback?

“Challenging the Xian Clan at Alchemy City... Not to mention the younger generation, very few from the older generation would dare to do this.” A ruler was startled after hearing Li Qiye’s demand.

A Demon Monarch murmured: “This kid is truly ruthless. First, he killed the Huangfu Ancestor and now, he is challenging the Xian Clan. The Xian Ancestor is still alive, yet he still dares to provoke him.”

In addition to surprise, many thought that this was an extremely unwise decision. Li Qiye was on a victorious streak, but challenging the Xian Clan could only be described as suicidal.

“Brother Li, dying is but one’s head falling to the ground.” After Li Qiye revealed his intention, the current master of the Xian Clan, the World-Pillar Monarch, had to show himself and communicated with Li Qiye out in the open: “Brother Cao had acknowledged his defeat, so why the need to be so aggressive?”

“Calling me brother now?” Li Qiye spared the monarch no cordiality and said: “You can call me brother after you hand over Cao Guoyao. And what is this about heads falling to the ground? What nonsense. He had lost, so according to our agreement, he has to hand over his life. If not, then don’t blame me for being merciless!”

The monarch’s expression sank after Li Qiye refused to give him any face. Not mentioning the entire Stone Medicine World, at the very least, very few people in Alchemy City would not show his Xian Clan some respect.

But now, a human junior like Li Qiye was being so audacious. He could no longer bear this affront.

“Brother Li, I am sincerely trying to mediate things between you two.” Xian Miao lowered his tone and said: “If Brother Li is willing, then our door is always open for negotiation regarding Brother Cao’s matters...”

Although this was a conversation out in the open, Li Qiye still interrupted him and said: “There is nothing to discuss. One has to face the consequences of defeat. Let Cao Guoyao hand his life over, and I will pretend as if nothing had happened!”

“Li Qiye, don’t push it!” Eventually, Xian Miao lost his cool and uttered: “Alchemy City is not a lawless place for you to do as you wish!”

Li Qiye raised his brow and said: “So what if this is Alchemy City? Even if this was the Immortal World, I would still do as I pleased.”

“If your Xian Clan wants some respect, then I’ll give you some. Hand Cao Guoyao over, and I will not go to your Xian Clan to cause trouble!” Li Qiye stated indifferently.

Xian Miao coldly responded: “And if we don’t?”

Li Qiye smiled cheerfully and said: “If not, then I will annihilate your Xian Clan. Of course, I am a merciful person. I will give your Xian Clan three days to reconsider. Within three days, feel free to send away your young and old or dismiss your disciples. All in all, three days later, I will personally come to your Xian Clan!”

Although this conversation echoed across the sky so no one could interrupt them, many shuddered after hearing Li Qiye’s declaration of annihilating the Xian Clan!

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“You can’t even control Myriad Stardust yet you still dare claim to have mastery over insects... You truly think too highly of yourself.” Li Qiye smiled dismissively and said: “Today, I will open your eyes and show you what is truly considered insect mastery!”

Having said that, Li Qiye ordered the transforming stardust above his head with a shout: “Go!”

## **Chapter 759: Confrontation**

Annihilating the Xian Clan — such words would be incredibly arrogant no matter which sect or imperial lineage uttered them! The Alchemy Kingdom would not idly sit by and do nothing as the Xian Clan was destroyed.

Such a declaration was like thunder ringing beside one’s ear. Someone couldn’t help but murmur: “So arrogant! Does he think there is no one here at the Alchemy Kingdom?”

Xian Miao’s expression was unsightly to the extreme. Ever since his Xian Clan separated from the imperial family to form its own clan, no one had ever declared such a thing towards their clan!

“Good, Li, our Xian Clan also wants to see just what you can do.” He also left behind a tough and cold response: “We will definitely protect Brother Cao! If you are unconvinced, then come! We’ll take on your schemes!”

Xian Miao ended this conversation and turned back to enter his palace.

“Three days later, I will visit your Xian Clan. Destruction will ensue if you don’t hand Cao Guoyao over to me.” Li Qiye didn’t care for the monarch’s response. After saying his last words, he also went back inside his courtyard.

Everyone's eyes widened after hearing such strong words. They all thought that both sides would reach an agreement regarding this matter.

"Are we really doing this?" After Li Qiye came back, Tie Yi couldn't help but ask with a wry smile.

Li Qiye glanced at him and said: "You should know very well whether the Xian Clan truly wants to resolve this peacefully or not. They are just posturing and want nothing more than for me to come to their door. That little skit earlier was only for show so that the world knows that their Xian Clan has the moral high ground. Even if I didn't mention attacking their clan, they would still find a reason for me to go there. At that time, they would have the justification to do as they wish." Having spoken to this point, he couldn't help but smile.

"Big Brother, you might as well try to reason with them." Yuan Caihe said softly.

Li Qiye laughed and said: "Why should I? They should be the ones coming to me. If they were sincere and wanted peace, then they wouldn't have replied via spatial message. They would have come to my place and let Cao Guoyao accept his punishment — this would be true sincerity!"

"Of course, they are not acting in good faith. This is even better, I like unreasonable people." Li Qiye leisurely explained: "As the saying goes, one does not slap a smiling face. If people kneel down and beg for forgiveness, then I really can't just kill them. However, for those who arrogantly deal with me, let them come! Only when dealing with unreasonable people would I be able to kill as I please!"

Yuan Caihe gave up. She had a kind heart and understood that Li Qiye was ready to rumble the moment he set foot into this city. It was unfortunate that the Xian Clan didn't know this yet.

The entire city was in an uproar after Li Qiye's declaration spread.

"No way, is this real? Li Qiye actually said these words? This is Alchemy City, not some random place. It is only one step away from the ancestral ground. To make such a declaration... was he insane?"

The first reaction was, of course, disbelief.

A cultivator who knew a few tales of Li Qiye said: "This Li Qiye person has stayed true to his words ever since his debut. I'm afraid this is not just tough talk."

"Just what is this kid's hidden ace?" Even Demon Kings and ancestors who had experienced many things had to wonder: "Don't tell me a big character from Allpine Mountain is here to back him up?"

Some people also arrived at this conclusion, but no one had heard of an Allpine Ancestor coming into being. It could even be said that when Li Qiye made his declaration, Allpine Mountain didn't have any reaction at all. This made them very confused as to just what was hidden in Li Qiye's hands. Just how powerful was it to let him say that he would destroy the Xian Clan, challenging the Alchemy Kingdom's prestige?

While many people discussed this issue with doubts, a certain person was very satisfied with their work and murmured: "Yes, kill everything until even the sky shatters. Alchemy Kingdom, Allpine Mountain, State of Cao, Radiant-Sea Sect... Nothing would be better if all of these sects become involved in this conflict!"

A complacent, cold laughter resounded in the darkness. This person was ready to reap the benefits from this turmoil!

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After the first day, both the Xian Clan and the Alchemy Kingdom didn't make any move. Likewise, Li Qiye remained unperturbed.

However, on the second day, someone came to visit Li Qiye. He was the Observant Monarch, the leader of the monarchs in the kingdom.

Li Qiye continued to show consideration and granted him an audience.

"Is Observant Monarch here because of the Xian Clan's matter?" Li Qiye got straight to the point after seeing him.

The monarch had a bitter expression as he responded: "Young Noble Li, I am also very helpless here. The other monarchs chose me as the envoy, so I had no choice."

Li Qiye looked at him and spoke calmly: "The other monarchs?"

The monarch exasperatedly replied: "The monarchs don't want this matter to reach the point of no return. Our Alchemy Kingdom has always maintained a low profile and does not wish for a grand battle to occur inside the Alchemy Realm. Moreover, the alchemy conference is about to take place. Even if the ancestors from the imperial family do not blame us, we monarchs will still feel responsible. We are unable to ignore this matter, but we also don't have the ability to settle it."

"Settle this matter?" Li Qiye smiled and shook his head in response: "Observant Monarch, it is not that I am refusing to give you or the other monarchs from your kingdom any face. You should know very well that the issue is not on my side, it is the Xian Clan's."

The monarch couldn't help but smile wryly at Li Qiye's reply.

Li Qiye chuckled and said: "If the other monarchs want to settle this matter, then it could be very simple. Tell the Xian Clan to hand over Cao Guoyao."

The helpless monarch replied: "Before coming to see Young Noble Li, I took a trip to the Xian Clan. The World-Pillar Monarch's attitude was unyielding. Unless Young Noble Li starts by apologizing to the Xian Clan, there will be no negotiations regarding Cao Guoyao."

"Not bad." Li Qiye was not surprised at all and said: "Then we'll deal with it two days later. I am more than happy to personally visit the Xian Clan."

The monarch softly sighed. He knew that there wouldn't be a peaceful resolution. In fact, he knew a lot more than the other nobles. Before coming, he already predicted this result. However, the monarchs pushed him here, so he had to take the trip regardless.

"Young Noble Li, sometimes, taking one step back is the right way to go." The monarch tried to persuade Li Qiye once more: "If this was before, then I and the other monarchs could pressure the World-Pillar Monarch into giving us some face. However, he is very confident at this moment, so I'm afraid your arrival is just what he wants."

Li Qiye cheerfully asked: "So what?"

The monarch hesitated for a moment before eventually continuing: "Right now, I can say for certain that the Huangfu Sacred Ancestor and the Xian Alchemy Ancestor are residing in the Xian Clan. Although people said that the Alchemy Ancestor had left, I'm quite certain that he is still there. I am putting myself at great risks by revealing this news to Young Noble Li."

"I appreciate Monarch's thoughtfulness." Li Qiye smiled and said: "Since someone dug such a big hole for me, I would truly feel sorry for their hard work if I didn't jump in."

Although the frustrated monarch wanted to settle this matter, it was beyond his power. Even though this whole incident had dire consequences with deeply involved parties, nothing would be resolved unless the imperial family was willing to step in.

"Young Noble Li, I am not underestimating you." The monarch ultimately held onto his objective of persuasion and said: "Even though the Xian Alchemy Ancestor is not considered an apex existence with regards to cultivation, His Venerable is still a great paragon. As for the Huangfu Sacred Ancestor, there is no need to speak further of his might."

The monarch paused for a moment before continuing: "Although Allpine Mountain supports Young Noble, Young Noble should also know that the Alchemy Ancestor has great ties with some of our imperial family's extremely powerful ancestors. If Virtuous Paragons from Allpine Mountain become involved, then the ancestors from the imperial family will not sit idly by."

His words made it clear that if Allpine Mountain helped Li Qiye, then the behemoth that is the imperial family would absolutely step in.

Li Qiye chuckled and said: "As for this, you need not worry, Monarch. There is no need for Allpine Mountain to assist me if it is only destroying a Xian Clan. I alone am more than enough."

The monarch gave up when things came to this point. The only thing he could do was to gently sigh.

Li Qiye continued: "However, since Monarch is so sincere, I will ask you to send out some words. Tell the Xian Clan to send away their young and old. I do not hope that on the day I go, I will have to kill the feeble and weak. Tell them to not be optimistic. I will stay true to my words in destroying the Xian Clan. Even if your imperial family takes action, nothing will change!"

Li Qiye's eyes became fierce as a terrifying murderous intent rose. He resembled an awakened prehistoric beast at this moment.

The monarch shuddered after feeling Li Qiye's murderous intent and understood that he was not just bluffing.

"Young Noble Li, I will deliver your words." In the end, the monarch cupped his hands and bowed deeply before leaving.

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Such a declaration was like thunder ringing beside one's ear. Someone couldn't help but murmur: "So arrogant! Does he think there is no one here at the Alchemy Kingdom?"

Xian Miao's expression was unsightly to the extreme. Ever since his Xian Clan separated from the imperial family to form its own clan, no one had ever declared such a thing towards their clan!

"Good, Li, our Xian Clan also wants to see just what you can do." He also left behind a tough and cold response: "We will definitely protect Brother Cao! If you are unconvinced, then come! We'll take on your schemes!"

### **Chapter 760: Surging Undercurrent**

These three days seemed particularly slow, as if each day was as long as a year. Countless eyes were on Li Qiye and the Xian Clan as many people held their breaths in anticipation.

On the third day when the sun set in the west, many people waited for the sun to rise again. Inside Alchemy City, the crowd was ready for the upcoming battle.

At sunset, Li Qiye once again sent a message stating: "One night remains. If the Xian Clan still harbors their young and weak, then send them away now. Tomorrow, the Xian Clan shall turn into smoke. I am a merciful person and will allow time for you to send them away!"

These words spread across the entire city and the Xian Clan.

"Hmph..." But this time, no one showed up from their side, only a snort came as a response.

The moment this snort appeared, countless souls from those who heard it left their bodies. They quivered due to this threatening snort.

A Demon King felt a chill and murmured: "Was that a Virtuous Paragon?"

An old undying realized something and said in astonishment: "It is not an ordinary paragon. Even if it is not someone who is stepping onto the path of the heavens or the path of the grand era, they are still a peak paragon."

Virtuous Paragon was a general title. This realm was vast, and once a paragon reached a certain level, they would be presented with two possible paths. One was to head for the Heaven's Will. This road took one to compete for the Heaven's Will to become the emperor.

The other path was to reach sublimation of the paragon realm so that they could obtain the divine investiture. This path would not compete for the Heaven's Will. Once they reached the apex, these beings would be bestowed the title of Godking or maybe the even higher title of being an Emperor Assailant!

Before they stepped on these two paths, all paragons would be considered ordinary paragons. Ordinary paragons had five levels. In ascending order, they are Early Era Paragon, Rising Era Paragon, Peaceful Era Paragon, Prosperous Era Paragon, and Golden Era Paragon.

The five levels of ordinary paragons were easy to understand. Early Era Paragon meant the start of a new paragon. Being a Rising Paragon meant reaching some success during their generation. Peaceful

Paragon meant that the being had the power to calm an era. Prosperous Paragons were able to strengthen their era while Golden Paragons were able to illuminate their era!

On this night, the Xian Clan's snort disturbed the entire city. Many were aghast after hearing this sound. Some guessed that there was an extraordinary paragon residing within their residence.

There were no eternal secrets in this world. After the night's curtain fell, news came out of nowhere regarding the Xian Alchemy Ancestor staying at their residence.

"Rumor has it that the Xian Alchemy Ancestor has long been a Legendary Alchemist but couldn't reach Alchemy Emperor. It looks like he is actually a legendary master as well!" The hearts of many sank after hearing this voice. More often than not, juniors couldn't really gauge the paragon realm, so they only used general titles.

For example, old undyings or great powers' ancestors were mostly ordinary paragons. The majority of them were Early Era Paragons or Rising Era Paragons. Only a few of them were Golden Era Paragons.

Those known as legendary masters were no longer ordinary. They were definitely Golden Era Paragons, top level ones at that. They could even be paragons who had embarked on one of the two paths!

The first thought of those that learned that a legendary master was in the Xian Clan was that Li Qiye should stop messing around!

The Xian Alchemy Ancestor being there didn't only mean they had earned his personal support, it also meant that the imperial family had revealed their stance because the ancestor was previously buried inside their ancestral ground. It could be interpreted as the imperial family supporting the Xian Clan.

"It seems like this is going to be a huge deal." A Stone King with a good intelligence network spoke with someone next to him: "The Xian Clan does not only have the Xian Alchemy Ancestor, all five of their elders have also joined while the young and old were moved away to a different branch. It seems that the World-Pillar Monarch has earned the support from the clan and is ready to play."

The Xian Clan was one of the branches of the imperial family, but the Xian Clan of today was not the one that originally separated. After the Xian Clan left the imperial branch, they formed several different clans. The Xian Clan of the World-Pillar Monarch was only one among many.

Now that their forefather, the Xian Alchemy Ancestor was back, how could the other clans of Xian not support the World-Pillar Monarch? With their full support, it seems that the monarch had sufficient force.

A worried cultivator murmured: "If the World-Pillar Monarch's clan has earned the support of the imperial family, then even if Li Qiye is backed by the Alpine Treefather, I'm afraid he won't be able to do anything."

On this night, the entire city was silent as everyone waited for the sunrise and the battle.

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Ming Yexue slowly wandered around her garden inside an alchemy garden in the kingdom's ancestral ground. She was enjoying the spirit medicines as Grandma Bai came to inform her of the newest information.



“What is the Xian Forefather trying to do?” The grandma couldn’t help but say after informing Ming Yexue: “He is not a foolish person. How could he become involved in the affairs of juniors? I wonder what benefits the Huangfu Clan promised him...”

The charming Ming Yexue was quietly savoring the spirit medicines. It seemed that her appearance was always alluring and fascinating.

“The Xian Forefather has certainly been bewitched by the Huangfu Sacred Ancestor.” Ming Yexue withdrew her gaze and mused: “What could the Huangfu Clan possibly have to move an ancestor from our kingdom?”

Ming Yexue’s words were correct. As an ancestor from the kingdom, the Alchemy Ancestor could have whatever he wanted. A clan like the Huangfu had nothing that could tempt him.

“The Xian Forefather didn’t mind coming into being and letting go of all pretenses. He even prepared a trap for Li Qiye... This is simply him coveting the manual of Li Qiye’s dao of alchemy.” Ming Yexue spoke graceful words that would enchant all those who listened.

Grandma Bai couldn’t help but wryly smile and say: “The Xian Forefather is being too greedy. He is already at the peak and is only one step away from becoming an Alchemy Emperor. Plus, our kingdom has the alchemy manuals from four different Alchemy Emperors — this should be more than enough.”

“Grandma, this is different than before.” Ming Yexue shook her head and said: “If, say, the Xian Forefather was only a simple Legendary Alchemist, then it would be a different story. However, he has been just one step away from Alchemy Emperor for so long now!”

“Does that mean he still has aspirations of becoming one even now?” The grandma wryly smiled and said: “With his current age and his dried longevity blood, even if he could become enlightened, would his blood energy be able to bear the final dao test?”

Ming Yexue nodded and said: “Yes, he does want to become an Alchemy Emperor. He cultivated the supreme manuals of our ancestors, but he still couldn’t fathom all of it or surpass the final test! He needs a different alchemy manual to help him become an Alchemy Emperor!”

“Li Qiye’s dao of alchemy can’t help him become an Alchemy Emperor.” The grandma didn’t believe such a thing.

Regarding the dao of alchemy, their kingdom was untouchable in the entire Stone Medicine World. They had produced four Alchemy Emperors, so they had the most complete dao of alchemy manual in this world. No lineage could compare when it came to their alchemy dao.

Ming Yexue gently shook her head and said: “It’s hard to say. However, after the forefather heard about Li Qiye refining pills like frying beans, he was certainly tempted. At the very least, he would not be able to replicate it, so he must witness it with his own eyes.”

“I’m afraid the moment he saw Li Qiye’s wood mastery and insect mastery was when he became determined to capture Li Qiye. After all, he requires Li Qiye’s supreme dao of alchemy.” Ming Yexue gently sighed after revealing her speculation.

“Li Qiye’s mastery over insects and wood is indeed very scary.” The Grandma had to admit this. She then had some doubts and asked: “However, the four manuals from our Alchemy Emperors were not enough for him to become an Alchemy Emperor, so can Li Qiye’s manual do it?”

“Who knows...” Ming Yexue also pondered for a moment before responding: “Our four Alchemy Emperors could be said to be from the same origin. Their possible paths had been expended. The Xian Forefather needs another angle, a different sublimation to understand the final dao test!

“Moreover, Young Noble Li’s dao of alchemy is indeed scary. I have never seen or heard of such a thing before. I even suspect that his manual is not from any Alchemy Emperor, he might have obtained the legacy of the Alchemy God.”

“The Alchemy God’s legacy!” Grandma Bai was shocked. Since the start of time, there had been many Alchemy Emperors, but no one had dared to call themselves God. This was mainly out of respect for the Alchemy God, but it was also because none of the Alchemy Emperors were able to reach the heights of the Alchemy God!

The grandma couldn’t help but say: “That isn’t possible. The Alchemy God’s legacy has been lost for countless years. Our forefathers have been searching for it for generations, but no one was successful. How could Li Qiye obtain this legacy?”

Ming Yexue replied: “This world is unpredictable, so who can accurately predict its motions?”