

### Chapter 781: Crushing Defeat

This question made the alchemist contemplate for a moment. The group came together again for another exchange and finally, the alchemist mused: "In our, very conservative, opinion, Virtuous Paragons shouldn't use this longevity medicine. One should at least be of the eternal existence level to use it, or else it would be too much of a waste."

"How many years will a God-Monarch gain?" A voice came from the distant ancestral ground of the Alchemy Kingdom.

These words shocked the crowd. Without a doubt, even the kingdom who was known to have the best alchemy dao had a God-Monarch who was tempted by this medicine!

"As I have said, for a God-Monarch who has never taken longevity medicines before, it should be able to increase their lifespan by six to seven hundred years." The alchemist answered.

In reality, this was an impossible notion. Those who had reached the God-Monarch realm would have already taken countless longevity medicines. It could even be said that this type of medicine was completely useless for them.

"This is an alchemy Longevity Fruit that we have never seen before. Referencing past records, our conservative estimate for a God-Monarch who is taking this type of medicine for a second time is four to five hundred years because this is a Longevity Fruit, the ultimate form. If it is the third time, then it is hard to say. Perhaps one hundred years, or maybe only seventy to eighty years." The alchemist explained quietly.

"What if it is the fifth time?" Another ancient voice came from the ancestral ground. Needless to say, another God-Monarch coveted this medicinal batch.

After all, an alchemy Longevity Fruit was exceedingly rare. Even for the kingdom, they only had one person capable of refining such medicines. However, he had stopped refining pills for some time now!

"Hmm... we have no answer for this." The alchemist spoke: "In fact, until now, few people have had the chance to use an alchemy Longevity Fruit."

"For the fifth usage, three more years is absolutely no problem." When the alchemists here couldn't come up with an answer, Li Qiye leisurely said: "Unfortunately, my longevity medicine is not for sale to you!"

Everyone went silent after hearing Li Qiye. They all knew that he and the Alchemy Kingdom were like fire and water and understood why he wouldn't sell his medicine to the kingdom!

The God-Monarch did not respond. He knew that opening his mouth would only bring about further humiliation!

"A medicine specialized for God-Monarchs..." An ancestor from an old family asked: "Young Noble Li, what is the price for this medicine? Just set a price."

A few great ancestors were moved and salivated when thoughts of this type of medicine surfaced in their minds. Although they would not be the ones to use it, they had even more powerful ancestors back home.

Li Qiye leisurely said: "What's the hurry? The bet isn't over yet."

These ancestors didn't dare to say anything after these words came out. Li Qiye's longevity medicine refinement had astonished them. They wanted to ask him for more help, so they didn't dare to offend him!

"Now then, who is the victor?" Li Qiye stared at the white hair alchemist.

The alchemist went pale and could no longer maintain his standout demeanor. It seemed that his soul had left his body, resulting in a sluggish state. This was too big of a blow for him. He actually didn't even care for his life at the moment, such a defeat was too difficult to accept!

He had always been a heaven's proud son, an alchemy genius. Although he was not as proficient as Yuan Caihe when it came to plant cultivation or Cao Guoyao in pill refinement, he thought of himself as being untouchable in longevity medicines among the younger generation. He was confident enough to dare challenge Legendary Alchemists of the previous generation!

However, he had suffered complete defeat in the field he excelled at. His single imperial warning was enough for him to take pride in, and he was very satisfied with such a result. However, Li Qiye refined a medicine that had four warnings!

Such a blow was unbearable and simply shattered his pride. Losing to Li Qiye's might would have been fine since even Immortal Emperors lost when they were young, let alone him. However, losing to Li Qiye in longevity medicine refinement was beyond his tolerance because it was his best area, his source of pride! This defeat completely shattered his confidence!

"Why did god give birth to me after creating you!" The paled alchemist leered at Li Qiye with forlorn eyes; his confidence was completely shot.

This quick shift in mentality from confidence to nothingness left him in despair.

Li Qiye simply shrugged: "Isn't this the nature of life? There is always a higher mountain, a broader horizon, a greater man."

"I see... A broader horizon and a greater man..." The alchemist chuckled with a mournful look: "Li Qiye, you are capable. I accept my loss today. This White Hair Alchemy God can stay true to his words even in defeat!"

Having said that, his body quivered, blood dripping down from the corners of his lips.

Eventually, he fell straight down as his eyes slowly closed. There were no complaints; he had no fear of death as it had become a form of relief for him.

"What a pity." Li Qiye lightly shook his head while looking at the alchemist's body. In fact, if the alchemist accepted his loss earlier, Li Qiye would have spared him. In his eyes, this alchemist was much more likable than Cao Guoyao.

Unfortunately, the alchemist was even prouder than Cao Guoyao and couldn't handle defeat. He preferred the peace of death over bowing down before Li Qiye.

Many people emotionally sighed while the scene remained silent. The Stone Medicine World had lost a great alchemist.

"Excessive pride leads to one's demise." An older alchemist gently sighed: "There are times when even emperors taste defeat, so why bet with your life?"

Many here still viewed the alchemist as an extraordinary genius despite losing. They all knew of his arrogant attitude, and many didn't like him when he was alive. He was too difficult to get along with.

However, after losing his life, even those who didn't like him felt mournful. The world had lost a great alchemist.

After a period of silence, a great ancestor had to inquire: "Young Noble Li, is your longevity medicine for sale?"

In fact, Ming Yexue also wanted to buy this batch of medicine for the God-Monarch in her sect. However, she didn't say anything since she understood that it would only make things difficult for Li Qiye.

Li Qiye took the two batches of medicine because the alchemist's portion had become his spoils of victory. He then shook his head as a response to the ancestor's question: "Don't ask me about this, you should be asking Fairy Yuan."

Having said that, he handed the medicines over to Yuan Caihe: "The materials were from the Serene Garden, so these two batches belong to the garden as well. Take them, it is up to you whether to sell or not."

Yuan Caihe was a bit hesitant, but under Li Qiye's gentle, insistent nod, she eventually accepted the two batches.

"Fairy Yuan, are they for sale? Just name the price." Many ancestors were happy after seeing the change of owners. This was because many great powers had friendly relationships with the Serene Garden. Moreover, Yuan Caihe was a very amiable person. Buying from her would be much easier than buying from Li Qiye.

Yuan Caihe announced to the covetous old ancestors: "Gentlemen, for the sake of fairness, the medicines will be entrusted to the largest auction house in the Stone Medicine World. The highest bidder will walk home with them."

Some were happy while others were worried after hearing this decision. A few immediately left to return to their sects so that they could tell their seniors to prepare enough funds for the upcoming extraordinary auction.

"Let us go." Li Qiye boarded his carriage to return to his quarters.

Not long after their return, many people came to visit. There was no lack of ancestor-level characters among them.

It was understandable for so many sects and even ancestors to visit. With the death of the white hair alchemist, Li Qiye had become the new alchemy prodigy. Moreover, his longevity medicine refinement skill was even better than the white hair alchemist's!

Which lineage didn't want to have a good relationship with a genius like Li Qiye? This was especially true for the ancestors. They hoped to build friendly ties with Li Qiye since they would eventually seek his assistance to refine medicines when the day that they require them came.

Li Qiye let the madam see to the visiting sects. According to his plan, the Giant Bamboo Country's status became much more prestigious.

This made others realize that in order to ask Li Qiye for help in refining medicines, they must establish ties with the Giant Bamboo Country. If the madam could put in a good word for them, then the situation would change completely.

The endless stream of guests continued for the next couple of days. Eventually, Li Qiye stopped the madam from seeing more guests and announced his closed cultivation session along with a new boundary line at the base of the mountain. No one was allowed to climb the mountain to bother them.

No one dared to make a fuss about this approach. At the moment, everyone wanted him to refine pills, so who would want to make him angry?

What's more was that they understood that Li Qiye was not the same as before. With one word, how many people would be willing to help him? Because of this, who would want to offend him?

## **Chapter 782: Heaven Restoration Salve**

Li Qiye's announcement was also not just an excuse. Before his seclusive session, he told Tie Yi: "The materials are ready. I plan on refining a batch of ointment to cure your injury. However, you need to rest before I am finished so that it can be more effective. For the couple of next days, don't cause any trouble by stealing from others. Bring yourself to your peak state and prepare to take the medicine."

Tie Yi was ecstatic after hearing this and excitedly said: "Young Noble can rest assured, I will play nice here and won't cause any trouble. I'll keep an eye out for you during your seclusion so that no one can disturb you."

"There is no need for your protection." Li Qiye smilingly shook his head: "You should know best since you have suffered for so long. If you are not lacking money, then it is best to nourish your body right now."

Having said that, he handed a prescription to Tie Yi: "Before using my ointment, take these spirit medicines first so that the effects will be even better. After all, your injury is different from others. It is a miracle that you have lived until now."

The medicines on Li Qiye's list were all very precious and acted as great supplements.

After glancing at the medicines on the list, Tie Yi determined that he had the ability to buy them. Of course, he was not lacking money and wealth, so he could afford these precious supplements.

Tie Yi hesitated for a moment before asking: "Young Noble, can you actually cure it?"

Li Qiye responded with a smile: "I can understand what you're feeling. Being tortured for so long has left a mark in your heart. However, do not worry, this is definitely the right cure. I'm not being arrogant when I say this, but if my Heaven Restoration Salve cannot cure your injury, then nothing can cure it. You would have to sit there and await death if that were the case. I can even boast that there is no ointment better than the Heaven Restoration Salve! Even the Alchemy Kingdom's Soulrending Immortal Powder is inferior to my ointment."

"Ah, I absolutely believe in Young Noble's abilities." Tie Yi quickly replied with a smile.

Li Qiye glanced at him with one eye and said: "Don't worry, the reason I gave you this list of supplements is because I don't want you to have to use my ointment a second time. Even for me, this ointment has a price beyond your imagination, so I have to be a bit frugal."

Tie Yi was overjoyed and his spirit soared after hearing this. His injury had always been a thorn in his mind. He had used countless ointments and precious spirit medicines, but they couldn't resolve the problem at its root. But now, he finally saw a sliver of hope.

After sending Tie Yi away, Li Qiye sealed the room with the pentagate. He told the madam and Yuan Caihe to stay before taking out the prepared materials.

"Big Brother wants to refine some ointment?" After seeing the materials, even if Yuan Caihe didn't know the formula, she could still see his aim.

Li Qiye gently nodded: "That's right, I'm about to refine some ointment. I might need your help when the heavenly flame comes down. Perhaps you will have to help me control the cauldron and its fire."

"Me?" Yuan Caihe was taken aback. She slightly shook her head: "Big Brother, I'm afraid I can't do it. I am not versed with pill refinement and am much worse compared to Cao Guoyao and them."

"I believe in your abilities." Li Qiye smiled: "Not just anyone can be called an alchemy prodigy. Plus, wait until you see my technique. You will understand at that time."

"This doesn't feel right." Yuan Caihe hesitated: "Big Brother's pill refinement technique is supreme, but I am an outsider."

It was clear as day that Li Qiye's pill refinement method was absolutely peerless. For anyone else, especially alchemists, they would never be able to resist the temptation of watching it firsthand. However, it was different for Yuan Caihe. Despite being an alchemist, she was a reserved person and didn't compete with others. What would be irresistibly tempting to others was not for her.

Li Qiye gently stroked her hair: "In my mind, you are not an outsider. Moreover, the dao of alchemy is only a hobby to me. If you can actually inherit my alchemy legacy, then I would be more than happy to pass it to you."

"I have learned many things from Big Brother regarding plant cultivation." Yuan Caihe smiled calmly and spoke in a formal manner: "Since Big Brother favors me so much, I can only obey."

Li Qiye nodded and told the madam: "Zi Yan, prepare yourself as well. Maintain your peak state, I will require your help when the time comes."

“This, is it necessary?” The madam was inwardly shaken. This was an unbelievable matter to her; her Young Master was nonchalant even when refining an emperor longevity medicine, so she felt that no medicine could possibly trouble him. She couldn’t imagine him requiring help during the refinement process.

“Yes.” Li Qiye nodded and solemnly said: “The refinement of this ointment requires powerful energy to control the most tyrannical flame. I am not certain that I can handle this, so every once in awhile, I will need your blood energy to replenish my own depleted blood energy.”

The madam took a deep breath and nodded: “Don’t worry, Young Master. I will do my best.”

His trust in her caused her to feel an indescribable sense of warmth.

One must know that an alchemist was most vulnerable when they were focusing all of their attention on pill refinement. At such a key period, her Young Master was counting on her — this was indicative of his trust.

“Big Brother, what kind of medicine are you trying to refine?” Yuan Caihe had planted countless spirit medicines, and few people were more knowledgeable than her in this regard. She took a careful look at the materials and asked: “And what kind of technique would require more blood energy than you can supply?”

She knew that refining emperor level medicines was as easy as turning one’s hand to Li Qiye. Therefore, refining ointments shouldn’t be difficult for him at all.

“With regards to the materials, this batch is not supreme at all. Although the main leading ingredients are quite rare, they aren’t imperial medicines, let alone immortal medicines.” Li Qiye chuckled: “There are two crucial points when it comes to this batch. The first is the formula itself while the second is the refinement technique.”

“The second point is the most important.” Li Qiye didn’t mind teaching Yuan Caihe about the refinement process: “This medicinal cauldron of mine cannot be described with mere words. It goes far beyond myriad refinements and heavenly tempering. Each iteration of refinement and purification has to result in the most essential base of the materials. Even a single strand of medicinal effect is tempered again and again. Each transformation is mixed with a perfect ratio...”

“Big Brother, what kind of ointment is this?” After hearing a detailed explanation of the process, even the calm Yuan Caihe was moved. She immediately understood that this was a heaven-defying process.

Li Qiye smiled: “A long, long time ago, people used to call this ointment the Heaven Restoration Salve!”

“Heaven Restoration Salve!” Yuan Caihe jumped after hearing the name: “The number one medicine in all the realms, the Heaven Restoration Salve? Rumor has it that the Soulrending Immortal Powder was based on the Heaven Restoration Salve!”

Li Qiye smilingly revealed: “Actually, the old ancestors of the kingdom had never seen the formula of this salve, they only heard a little bit about the techniques. These ancestors were indeed amazing Alchemy Emperors. After hearing bits of the process, they were inspired and created their own techniques which eventually culminated in the famed powder of their kingdom.”

“These are the materials for the salve?” Yuan Caihe looked at the materials in disbelief and commented: “Legend has it that the salve came from the Alchemy God. It is unbelievably supreme. Even when one’s true fate is gravely injured and only a strand of their soul remains, the salve can still rescue them! Outside of complete death, the salve can cure anything.”

“You can put it that way.” Li Qiye gently nodded: “Of course, it isn’t that easy. Refining the salve requires a supreme dao of alchemy. Moreover, if only a single strand of soul remains, the restoration process would be very difficult even with the Heaven Restoration Salve in the hands of an Alchemy Emperor. It is indeed a challenge.”

Coming from the Serene Garden, Yuan Caihe knew more about the salve than Madam Zi Yan. She was completely astonished as she spoke: “Although the salve has been lost for a long time, many alchemists and even Alchemy Emperors have researched it down to this day. Many of them guessed that the materials for this supreme salve must be immortal medicines or even true immortal medicines!”

She wasn’t the only one who held this notion. Anyone who knew about this salve would be in disbelief. The Heaven Restoration Salve was not refined using immortal medicines. Outside of the rare leading materials, the others could be considered precious, but they were definitely not exceedingly rare!

Compared to the fame of the Heaven Restoration Salve, these materials were far too ordinary and cheap!

“Those are just rumors.” Li Qiye gently shook his head: “The salve earned its reputation not from its precious ingredients but rather from the peerless refinement technique. Endless refinement into perfection is the most appropriate way to describe this salve.”

“Heaven Restoration Salve...” Eventually, Yuan Caihe commented in amazement: “The thing that is restoring the heavens is not the medicine itself, but the dao of alchemy! Using alchemy to reach the heavens is only a minor path. Using the alchemy dao to restore the heavens is the grand path.”

“You have entered the dao of alchemy.” Li Qiye smiled: “Let us begin. Although refining this batch will not take too long, it is definitely a complicated process.”

Yuan Caihe and the madam couldn’t help but take deep breaths. They were excited to be able to aid in the process of creating this supreme medicine. This was an extraordinary opportunity!

### **Chapter 783: Medicine Inviting The Heavenly Flame**

While Li Qiye was refining behind closed doors, many people wondered what kind of medicine he was refining. After seeing his supreme dao of alchemy with their own eyes, they all believed that this seclusive refinement session aimed to create an incredible pill.

Although there had not been any news over the last few days about Li Qiye’s mountain, countless eyes were fixated on his abode.

Many were excited, and even God-Monarchs who didn’t want to show their faces were paying great attention. This was because he was able to create something that tempted even themselves... longevity medicines!

It could even be said that during this period, there were God-Monarchs who had gathered longevity materials just to ask Li Qiye to refine them!

Although they had taken longevity medicines many times already as God-Monarchs, they still yearned for Li Qiye to refine a batch for them.

In their eyes, Li Qiye's longevity medicines were very likely to be the most effective when it comes to ignoring resistance. A God-Monarch speculated that if they used medicines from any other alchemist, there would be no effect at all.

However, the Alchemy Kingdom's God-Monarch had inquired about this issue before. After five usages, he would still be able to live for three more years if he consumed the medicine. If they could prepare even better materials for Li Qiye, then with his abilities, perhaps he could even refine a heavenly medicine!

They weren't counting on living for another thousand years. As long as it could pierce through their resistance to allow them to live for three and a half more years, that would be more than enough!

This extra three years on top of burying themselves in Blood Era Stones would allow them to withstand the erosion of the endless river of time!

With this being the case, God-Monarchs were paying sky-high prices to gather materials. Once this was done, they would beseech Li Qiye to refine the medicines. As long as Li Qiye was willing, they wouldn't mind paying a monumental price as the refinement fee!

One day after another passed. Finally, Li Qiye's Heaven Restoration Salve was about to form. The Myriad Heavenly Cauldron's fire was about to erupt in a violent manner. It created a terrifying storm as if it wanted to break the cauldron. This fierce fire resembled countless volcanoes erupting at the same time!

Li Qiye was drenched in sweat while controlling the cauldron. Even though his blood energy was completely spent, he still frantically urged the Yin Yang Sea of Blood so that he could use its majestic energy to control the cauldron's fire to maintain its powerful state.

"The heavenly flame is about to come!" Li Qiye shouted. He withdrew the seal of the pentagate and looked at the sky while taking a deep breath to prepare for the final gamble.

Seeing the changes in the sky, Li Qiye commanded: "Caihe, your turn now! Zi Yan, give her a hand!"

Yuan Caihe had learned Li Qiye's technique throughout the process. She prepared herself to take command of the Myriad Heavenly Cauldron in Li Qiye's place.

At the same time, the madam's blood energy erupted as she placed her hand on Yuan Caihe's back, ready to support her with the purest of energy.

"Boom!" The firmament shattered and Li Qiye shouted: "It is here. Begin!"

Amidst the action, Li Qiye withdrew his hand. Yuan Caihe was prepared to take his place and controlled the cauldron fire. Meanwhile, the madam did not hold anything back as her blood energy surged forward. After obtaining this energy, the fire became even more violent.



“Heavenly flame...” One of the people who had been keeping an eye on Li Qiye’s mountain saw the shattered firmament and said: “Li Qiye is refining an ointment right now!”

Many people were disappointed because they were hoping for him to refine some longevity medicine. No matter the era, longevity medicines were always very rare and precious!

“It seems that it’s not an ordinary ointment as it brought about the heavenly flame.” Despite the disappointment, the shattered sky dome still shocked many people.

Alchemy would bring about tribulations. The absence of a tribulation only meant that the particular medicine did not reach such a level. For example, longevity medicines of the saint level and up all suffer longevity reduction while the emperor level medicines undergo imperial warnings.

The tribulation of ointments was the heavenly flame. If the alchemist couldn’t handle the wrath of this flame from the heavens, then in the best case scenario, the cauldron could be destroyed. The worst case scenario would be death from being burnt to a crisp.

“Boom! Boom! Boom!” The heavenly flame finally came down in an overwhelming manner. The moment it appeared, it seemed to scorch the entire sky.

“Oh shit, what kind of joke is this!” An alchemist saw the color of the flame and was instantly horrified.

The masses in Alchemy City were shocked to see the heavenly flame from the sky. A Legendary Alchemist uttered in horror: “Karmic Flame, this is too unreal. A heavenly flame of the karmic level!”

Karmic Flame was the most daunting flame for cultivators! Although this fire was not the real Karmic Flame from ordinary cultivation, it was more than enough to dishearten people.

Someone took a deep breath and commented: “What is going on, an ointment bringing about Karmic Flame? Just what kind of ointment is this?” The crowd around him was in complete disbelief.

The flame went straight for the Myriad Heavenly Cauldron. When facing a tribulation of this level, both the alchemist and the cauldron had to tackle it together.

“Go!” But how could Li Qiye give this flame a chance to attack his cauldron? At this key moment, he released the Phoenix as it went to meet the flame head on.

“Bang!” The heavenly flame was ferocious in its attack. However, the bird flapped its wings and accepted all of the fire. Under the control of the Death Chapter, the Phoenix was able to devour the heavenly flame entirely.

As it devoured the flames, its bones began to melt once more. This time, a different change occurred. The incomplete body of the Phoenix began to slowly grow.

Li Qiye didn’t only want to refine the Heaven Restoration Salve, he wanted to borrow the Karmic Flame to refine the Phoenix’s bones to strengthen its damaged corpse.

Only a karmic level heavenly flame would be able to restore this incomplete corpse since the Phoenix was an immortal bird.

Although it seemed straightforward with Li Qiye using the Death Chapter, this process was not so easy! Although this Karmic Flame was still weaker than the Brightflame Cauldron's fire, the quantity was vastly different. The heavenly flame struck down like a surging river. An emperor flame couldn't compare to this heavenly flame in quantity. This heavenly flame seemed to be endless, allowing the phoenix to be reborn with a new, albeit incomplete, skeleton.

This went on for a very long time, causing the people in the city to be tongue-tied. A Karmic Flame was already frightening enough, but it also persisted for such a long time.

"This kid is too scary. To be able to withstand a karmic level heavenly flame for such a long time, what a devil." Someone murmured after seeing this scene.

Eventually, the heavenly flame disappeared, signaling the end of the tribulation. Yuan Caihe and the madam also withdrew their hands; they were both completely exhausted.

"Finally, success. Heaven Restoration Salve, I did not think that I would be able to refine such a medicine one day." Even the normally calm Yuan Caihe became very excited after taking out the medicine.

Li Qiye also smiled as well. For him, this was not only a successful refinement, the Phoenix's skeleton was also restored.

At this point, the skeletal bird was perfect once more. The broken fragments had been supplemented by the heavenly flame. A golden glimmer flashed throughout the entire bird, making it seem to be made out of pure gold. Its heart was jumping up and down.

"Finally done." Li Qiye was also joyous as he looked at the bird. After this step, reviving the Phoenix would be much easier.

"If we can create its flesh and blood, then the Phoenix will have a chance for rebirth." The madam emotionally murmured.

Li Qiye was able to get two birds with one stone during this refinement. Not only did he refine the salve, he also restored the skeleton of the bird. It was a great harvest.

"Good, job well done." Li Qiye said with a smile. The madam and Yuan Caihe happily smiled back as well. This success made them very excited.

However, after finishing the job, they were not greeted by Tie Yi. Li Qiye looked throughout the building and found that Tie Yi was missing.

"This guy is really restless. He actually ran outside." Li Qiye shook his head disapprovingly.

At first, Li Qiye didn't care because Tie Yi had always been lurking around. However, after half a day had passed, Li Qiye felt something was wrong.

"This isn't right." He said: "If the old geezer saw the heavenly flame from the sky, then he should know that the salve was about to be completed."

The salve was extremely important for Tie Yi, so he should have rushed back after seeing the successful refinement!

Yuan Caihe said: "Big Brother, Tie Yi is a powerful paragon. He should be alright."

While Li Qiye was feeling that something was amiss, someone came to visit and insisted on meeting Li Qiye! Under such persistence, Li Qiye decided to meet him.

This was a stranger that Li Qiye had never met before. After this person saw that it was safe, he finally transformed and revealed his true appearance.

"Observant Monarch?" Li Qiye was surprised to see the person's real appearance: "What happened for you to come here in this manner?" A sense of foreboding rose in his mind.

"Young Noble Li, things are not looking good. Something big has happened." The monarch hastily spoke: "I came under the princess' order to see you."

"Yexue?" After hearing this, Li Qiye confirmed his suspicions.

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#### **Chapter 784: The Legendary Black Fox**

"Well, where do I start..." The monarch rubbed his palms nervously with a worried and embarrassed expression: "I don't really know the exact situation within the imperial family right now."

Li Qiye grew serious: "Monarch, tell me what you know. There are no outsiders here, so you can be frank."

The monarch pondered for a moment before speaking: "In the worst case scenario, the princess might have been temporarily restrained by the ancestors. After receiving the last message, I haven't received anything new from her, and I can't find Grandma Bai either."

"Under house arrest or removed from her position?" A pensive glimmer appeared in his eyes. He considered her as one of his people, so he absolutely didn't want anything to happen to her.

The monarch smiled wryly and said: “Hard to say. I am almost blind with no information regarding the imperial family’s situation right now. Currently, the ancestors are in charge, and even His Highness can only follow orders.”

“What actually happened?” Li Qiye deepened his tone.

As its descendant, Ming Yexue was extremely important to the kingdom. If the ancestors actually wanted to remove her status, something big must have occurred.

“Young Noble Li, this matter stems from your driver.” The monarch responded seriously: “Plus, this guy caused big trouble in the past.”

“Do tell.” Li Qiye knew that things really weren’t looking so good after hearing about Tie Yi’s involvement.

“Young Noble Li’s driver is the infamous Black Fox!” The monarch said: “Did you know his identity?”

“Black Fox?” Li Qiye rubbed his chin in contemplation. In fact, Tie Yi’s identity didn’t matter to him. The crucial point was that he trusted Tie Yi, and Tie Yi was loyally working for him.

“Young Noble Li, this is no laughing matter.” The monarch raised his voice: “The Black Fox caused huge problems back then. He offended all the sects in this world and even stole a few treasures from our kingdom!”

“Tie Yi is the Black Fox?” The madam standing to the side was startled. As a great Demon King and the ruler of Giant Bamboo, she couldn’t be more familiar with the tales of Black Fox. Back then, everyone in the Stone Medicine World heard of his stories.

Plus, Black Fox had always been very mysterious. There was a rumor that no one had seen his face or knew of his background.

The madam asked with surprise: “No one had seen his true appearance or knew his background, so how could the kingdom be so sure that Tie Yi is Black Fox?”

The monarch responded: “I am not very clear on the exact circumstances. I heard that the Stony Peak’s Ye Qingcheng had come to meet the ancestors from the imperial family. It seems that Ye Qingcheng is the one that found out Black Fox’s identity.”

“Ye Qingcheng?” Li Qiye’s eyes flashed. Ye Qingcheng actually came to the kingdom and discovered Black Fox’s true identity — this was too much of a coincidence. It seemed like Ye Qingcheng came for him specifically.

The monarch continued: “I heard that the ancestors reacted very strongly about Black Fox’s matter, but the princess tried her best to calm the opposition and the ancestors. She wanted to wait until Young Noble was finished with your refinement to settle this matter peacefully. Later on, I don’t know how Ye Qingcheng convinced the ancestors to eventually make a move to capture Black Fox.”

“Ye Qingcheng!” The glimmer turned cold in Li Qiye’s eyes. This was a clear shot at him. Ye Qingcheng wanted nothing more than for both him and the kingdom to be destroyed. Perhaps this was a method to use the kingdom against him.

Although the two had never met, their feud had been forged long ago. Plus, if he couldn't recruit an existence like Li Qiye, then Li Qiye would be a great threat to him in the future. Because of this, he must kill Li Qiye as soon as possible before Li Qiye's wings matured; he must erase this anxiety from his mind!

"Ye Qingcheng is still an outsider though." Yuan Caihe interjected: "Miss Ming is your descendant, so your ancestors could not have foolishly listened to an outsider and restrained her."

"Virtuous Niece, there is no point saying these words to me." The monarch wryly laughed and said: "This is the decision of the ancestors. I am only a noble and have no power to question or interfere, not to mention that I don't know the exact details either."

"No." Li Qiye waved his sleeve dismissively: "Ye Qingcheng is only fanning the fire, and Black Fox is only an excuse. The ancestors of the kingdom are simply playing dumb! They wanted to take action long ago but were missing an excuse! They want to capture Black Fox first, then point their swords at me later!"

Li Qiye sneered after saying this. He knew what the ancestors wanted to do. First of all, the God-Monarchs would not easily let this go after suffering such a humiliating defeat. Second, Li Qiye had the heart of the Phoenix and even the skeleton. The ancestors would want these treasures back. The third and most crucial point was that they wanted to break the vow of old!

The powerful kingdom had been keeping a low profile since that year and never showed itself to the world. However, as time passed, things would change.

Perhaps within the last one or two generations, a few ancestors of the kingdom had become restless. This was especially true during the Difficult Dao Era. Some of the ancestors might have lost their patience.

However, the kingdom was indeed a monstrous behemoth; no one had dared to try them on. But now, Li Qiye offended the kingdom and even brought the fire of war all the way to their ancestral ground.

How could these restless ancestors let go of such a good opportunity? They needed Li Qiye to fan this fire of war, preferably to also involve Allpine Mountain and the Allpine Ancestors.

As a result, they would have a reason to break the vow of old and escape from its restraint!

A few ancestors had been waiting for this kind of opportunity for too long, and now the time was ripe!

The monarch could only sigh. This matter was on a level that far exceeded his influence and capabilities.

"Where is Black Fox right now?" Li Qiye raised his voice.

The monarch responded with a wry smile: "I don't know this either. He is very clever; after catching wind of this, he immediately escaped before our ancestors could even take action. Later on, his whereabouts were discovered several times, but he still managed to flee. Right now, our kingdom is mustering all of our might to capture him."

The monarch looked at Li Qiye: "Young Noble Li, I'm afraid such a situation will not last. The patience of the ancestors is limited. If they can't catch Black Fox, they might move onto you instead!"

"I understand this." Li Qiye nodded gently. In fact, this was only a matter of time for the ancestors of the kingdom.

“Young Noble Li, this is all I can do. If it wasn’t for the princess entrusting me...” The monarch only sighed and didn’t finish the sentence.

Li Qiye replied: “I appreciate Monarch taking the risk to come here. Please return. The longer you stay, the more dangerous it will be for you.”

The monarch coming here in secret was a very risky undertaking. If discovered by the imperial family, then a light sentence would be a grave punishment, and a harsh sentence would be treating it as treason against the kingdom and the ancestors! This was a very heavy crime.

If it wasn’t for Ming Yexue’s request and that Li Qiye had saved his son’s life, the monarch wouldn’t have been willing to take such a risk to tell Li Qiye this information.

After sending the monarch away, the madam worriedly asked: “Young Master, what should we do now?”

“No rush, this is only a speculation from the ancestors, they have no evidence.” Li Qiye chuckled: “Otherwise, would they be waiting all this time? No, they would have taken action already. If they want evidence, then they have to capture Tie Yi first!”

“With their formidable strength, capturing Tie Yi might just be a matter of time.” Yuan Caihe was concerned as well. It was completely different this time since the kingdom was determined to fight.

“Not true.” Li Qiye shook his head: “If the kingdom could capture Tie Yi, then they would have done so by now.”

Li Qiye smiled: “This old man’s ability to run for his life can definitely overwhelm an entire generation. He can instantly disappear from this earth if he really wanted to run, and those old geezers would have no way of finding him. Why is it that these geezers were able to find his location several times?”

“Young Master is saying that Tie Yi purposely exposed his whereabouts in order to attract the ancestors so that they won’t disturb your refinement...” The madam speculated.

Li Qiye nodded: “You can put it that way. Those old geezers know that I am not easy to trifle with, and they have no evidence so they can’t directly aim for me. This being the case, things were not right for them to make a move. However, if Tie Yi disappears completely, then these geezers will immediately break all pretenses. They must first capture Tie Yi alive.”

At this point, he sneered: “If they manage to capture him, then it wouldn’t just be him stealing from their kingdom! Perhaps I am the dark hand behind the curtains, or perhaps Allpine Mountain and even the forefather will be the real culprit.”

“How can that be?” Yuan Caihe was astonished: “They would even antagonize Allpine Mountain or even the forefather over just a Black Fox?”

“They might not necessarily want to fight against the forefather. However, they need an excuse to maneuver their troops, a reason to show themselves in the world again!” Li Qiye chortled contemptuously. How could he not know what these ancestors were planning?

## **Chapter 785: Alchemy Kingdom’s Plan**

The madam worriedly said: "If the ancestors want to go big this time, I'm afraid they are definitely prepared. Maybe even a Godking will come out!"

"Don't worry." Li Qiye chuckled: "The kingdom is ready, but so am I. If those geezers want to die, then they can't blame me for not giving them any face. I will be more than happy to flip over the kingdom just in time to borrow their ancestral vein!"

The madam could only smile in response. She knew that her Young Master wanted to use their ancestral vein to revive the Phoenix.

"Big Brother, what should we do now? Leave the Alchemy Kingdom for now?" Yuan Caine was also concerned for his safety.

Li Qiye shook his head and said: "No, we have to find Old Man Tie Yi first. He is surely still in the city. After finding him, we'll decide what to do based on the Alchemy Kingdom's response."

The madam gently sighed. She knew that another great battle was on its way. It would be a scene of carnage that exceeded imagination.

In the recent couple of days, Li Qiye's refinement had created a huge commotion that garnered great attention. However, another matter was very eye-catching as well.

The kingdom's scouting legion suddenly appeared. Countless experts came out of nowhere along with several infamous ancestors.

"What could have happened to warrant this response?" Many experts that were staying in the city were startled from the kingdom's strong presence.

The imperial family had always been very low-key and people rarely came out. But now, the sudden appearance of this many experts and ancestors was akin to the release of a dam, scaring many people.

The young alchemists participating in the conference were frightened out of their minds. They wanted to join the conference to become famous, but before the event could begin, numerous twists and turns had happened.

"Black Fox has appeared." No one knew whether the kingdom purposely released this information or if someone else found out by chance. In short, their scouting legion's appearance and matters regarding Black Fox immediately spread.

Many were in disbelief after coming across this news. It rekindled their memories because Black Fox had faded from the world for a long time. Someone commented in bewilderment: "No way, didn't Black Fox die already? Rumor has it that the kingdom killed him back then!"

The story regarding his death back then was very plausible, so many trusted that he had been killed by one of the kingdom's ancestors.

"He didn't. The kingdom is moving to capture Black Fox. There's also one more thing to note, Black Fox is Li Qiye's driver!" In actuality, the kingdom was quickly spreading this news to all the nooks and crannies in the city.

“That driver?” The crowd was caught off guard after hearing this news. However, after thinking about it again, Li Qiye’s driver was able to fight against the Xian Alchemy Ancestor. It seemed that it was not so surprising after all.

Other speculations ran rampant as well. Not long ago, Li Qiye and the kingdom were going all out against each other. However, now Li Qiye’s driver suddenly turned into Black Fox, inevitably making others doubtful of this information. At the very least, the kingdom had no convincing proof that this was the case.

A few even wondered if the kingdom was willfully framing Li Qiye or not!

Skeptical or not, many people were ready to watch the events unfold. Of course, there were also those with different goals.

One day, the ancestors who were chasing after Black Fox in different directions suddenly retreated back to the ancestral ground.

“What is the kingdom doing?” The sudden withdrawal and the ancestors surrounding the entrance of the ancestral ground attracted a lot of attention.

The kingdom’s disciples who were guarding the entrance were dazed as well. In the blink of an eye, a great army surrounded the entire location. The ancestors with their terrifying auras took their breaths away. The disciples felt their legs grow feeble; they couldn’t stand straight after not knowing if they had done something wrong to warrant this situation.

At this time, an ancestor that had sealed this area coldly uttered: “Black Fox, show yourself!”

“Hahaha, your kingdom is too slow. It takes this long to find me here?” A guard disciple shook his body and laughed. Who could this be besides Tie Yi?

The other disciples were scared out of their wits after seeing their junior brother suddenly turn into someone else. They turned and fled from this inevitable disaster.

“Black Fox, it is not too late to surrender.” Another ancestor spoke with a harsh demeanor.

“Black Fox?” Tie Yi shook his head: “I have said many times that I am not this Black Fox you speak of. I am only a lowly driver.”

“If you are not Black Fox, then why did you run to this place?” The ancestor retorted: “This clearly shows that you have a guilty conscience! If you turn yourself in, my kingdom will show leniency.”

Tie Yi laughed in response: “After seeing your aggressive approach, a coward like me would naturally flee.”

“If you are not Black Fox, then surrender. If we come to find that you are innocent, then we will not cause trouble for you.” The ancestor replied.

The ancestors here wanted to take action, but alas, they had no evidence. Prior to this, Ye Qingcheng assured the kingdom that his sources were absolutely reliable! When the kingdom was chasing Tie Yi, his methods of escape were the same as Black Fox’s in the past.



Although the kingdom was certain that Li Qiye's driver was Black Fox, they didn't have conclusive evidence. There was no other way since no one knew Black Fox's background. He had always been shrouded in secrecy.

Tie Yi shook his head in response: "I don't trust your Alchemy Kingdom in this matter. Once captured, one can make a little rabbit admit that it is a wolf!"

"Fool." The ancestor's expression turned cold as a powerful bloodlust surged forth. He awe-inspiringly uttered: "In that case, don't blame us for being merciless!"

The majority of the cultivators watching this commotion held their breaths. They knew that this storm would definitely spread to Li Qiye as well!

"I heard that people are chasing my driver. I didn't believe it at first, but now that it is happening before my very eyes, it seems that I have no other choice." A relaxed voice came at this time.

"Li Qiye is here!" The experts present were shaken after seeing the slow arrival of a carriage. Li Qiye was currently famous, and his feud with the kingdom was common knowledge. They all felt that a great war was about to happen.

This time, the driver was Madam Zi Yan. Li Qiye lazed around in the back with Yuan Caihe next to him.

A few cultivators admired his calm demeanor, even those that were annoyed with him. What kind of courage and determination did this require?

The ancestors smirked after seeing his arrival. They were eager to spill dirty water on Li Qiye and take action against him. Alas, the only obstacle was the lack of evidence.

But now, Li Qiye brought himself right to their doors. To them, nothing could be better than this! It was simply ignoring the accepting heavens and barging into the unwelcoming hell!

"Young Noble..." Tie Yi smiled awkwardly when he saw Li Qiye approaching. He understood the kingdom's goal and didn't want to involve Li Qiye. However, Li Qiye was here, so even if he wanted to avoid this disaster, it was not to be.

"Li Qiye, you came just in time!" One of the ancestors sneered. The army of the kingdom and even a few ancestors shifted their positions. In the blink of an eye, they instantly surrounded Li Qiye. Even if he wanted to escape, all of his paths were completely blocked.

Even a slow-witted person would know that the kingdom was about to deal with Li Qiye.

"This battle is inevitable. Who knows who the victor will be in the end?" A cultivator standing outside murmured.

Li Qiye stepped down from his carriage and glanced around at the kingdom's experts that surrounded him. His gaze fell upon the old ancestors.

"It seems that your kingdom is ready to attack me." Li Qiye smiled at the crowd.

“You commanded Black Fox to steal our kingdom’s treasures. Your sins are unforgivable!” An ancestor coldly responded. He slyly claimed that Li Qiye was the real culprit behind the scenes and quickly dragged him into this affair.

They wanted to hit three birds with one arrow. First, they could capture Black Fox and Li Qiye. Second, that would regain the Phoenix. Third, they would have an excuse to bring the war to Allpine Mountain so that their kingdom could rise again!

“Lies!” Tie Yi’s expression quickly sank. He immediately understood the sinister intent of the kingdom after hearing this; they aimed to capture his Young Noble!

### **Chapter 786: Immortal Emperor’s Cage**

The ancestor sneered in response: “Lies? You are Black Fox and Li Qiye is your master. Who but Li Qiye would command you to steal our treasures?!”

“Bullshit!” Tie Yi lost his cool: “You think I don’t know your kingdom’s nasty ploy? If you have a problem, then come at me. Don’t involve my Young Noble!”

The ancestor coldly smiled: “Your loyalty is admirable. However, you are only his servant. Li Qiye’s ploy for our treasures is simply unforgivable!”

Many spectators took a deep breath after hearing this. The kingdom not only claimed that Tie Yi was Black Fox, they also insisted that Li Qiye was the mastermind.

It seemed that it was no longer important whether Tie Yi was Black Fox or not. The crucial thing was that the kingdom didn’t mind paying any price to capture Li Qiye’s group.

“So your kingdom is certain that he is Black Fox?” Li Qiye was neither surprised nor angry at the kingdom’s insistence. He remained calm as if this was the natural course of events.

“It’s far from just that. The past invasion and thievery of our kingdom were all part of your plans.” The ancestor coldly uttered.

Everyone understood after hearing this that the kingdom wanted to push Li Qiye off the cliff. They all knew that it was simply impossible for Li Qiye to command Black Fox to steal the kingdom’s treasures. Take a step back and assume that Tie Yi was indeed Black Fox; when Black Fox was active, Li Qiye might not have been born yet. How could he be the one in command?

People shuddered after hearing the ancestors, especially the big shots and ancestors from the other lineages. Until now, people didn’t sense this behemoth of a kingdom’s existence due to its reclusiveness. Although its power was widely spread from word of mouth, very few people were threatened by the kingdom.

But now, this new style left these experts with cold chills. They suddenly realized that the kingdom was not just a behemoth, it was an even more terrifying existence, an untethered prehistoric beast from the ancient ages! If one day, it chose to not remain hidden anymore; if one day, it chose to emerge for hegemony... the fierce beast would finally leave the mountain and the flood would finally break the dam!

With its power, they would be able to control the winds and clouds at their whim. It was not difficult for them now that they had revealed their intent.

“Amazing, simply amazing.” Li Qiye smiled and clapped his hands in response to the slander: “The Alchemy Kingdom is not only powerful, its distortion of black and white is quite eye-opening as well!”

The ancestor coldly replied: “Li Qiye, do not tarnish our kingdom. We have always been reasonable and defenders of justice! However, against treacherous villains who have malicious intentions towards the Stone Medicine World, there is no need to hold back. Our kingdom has the responsibility to maintain world peace!”

“Mmm, just the words I wanted to hear from you.” Li Qiye smiled softly: “You know, the more you speak, the less guilty I will feel about destroying your kingdom. Although I am a vicious person, do not blame me for what I am about to do. Blame yourself for maneuvering against me.”

At this point, Li Qiye waved his hand towards Tie Yi: “Tie Yi, come over here. If they are certain that I commanded you, then very well, we shall let the Alchemy Kingdom learn just how ruthless the dark hand behind the curtains is!”

After mentioning the dark hand behind the curtain, Li Qiye’s eyes immediately turned fierce with bloodthirst. For many generations, there were countless invincible existences who referred to him by this title! The dark hand manipulating the eras, the monster lurking in the background...

Tie Yi hesitated for a moment but eventually went over to Li Qiye’s side. He didn’t want to involve Li Qiye in this matter, but it seemed that Li Qiye paid no mind.

“Very good, since both of you have admitted to it, nothing could be better.” The ancestor snidely smiled: “Surrender now and perhaps our kingdom will show you mercy!”

“Mercy?” Li Qiye looked at the ancestor and couldn’t help but laugh: “I need your kingdom to show me mercy? Such funny words. Whether I forgive your kingdom or not will depend on my mood!”

“Ignorant fool. You think your dead Phoenix can defeat our kingdom all by itself?!” The ancestor became furious. Their previous defeat to Li Qiye was a great humiliation to the kingdom. No matter what, their kingdom must wash away the shame from last time!

“You’re right. Today, I will tear apart your ancestral land! Don’t blame me, you’ve brought this upon yourselves.” Li Qiye revealed a cold grimace.

“Bold words, I want to see how your skeletal bird will tear apart my ancestral land!” An ancient voice erupted like thunder.

Amidst the action, the auras of God-Monarchs swept through the land, causing countless people to prostrate!

“God-Monarch!” Someone screamed after seeing the monarchs coming out from the kingdom’s ancestral ground: “Three God-Monarchs!”

Three monarchs emerged; two of them were the ones who had attacked last time. Their auras rose to the heavens and suppressed the underworld. Their simultaneous arrival caused many people to shiver in fear.

Many experts retreated to the distance, not daring to come close. The appearance of three monarchs meant that a grand battle was about to ensue.

“If you have nothing else to say, then it’s time to begin.” Li Qiye’s eyes turned serious after seeing the three monarchs. In an instant, a death energy lingered around him along with the appearance of the Death Chapter.

“Screech!” The Phoenix cried and flew out. The Phoenix’s flame ignited as if it was about to burn away the entire sky. It flew in front of Li Qiye as its immortal aura crushed the sky dome. Even a God-Monarch would have no way to take another step forward.

“Subdue!” The monarchs came prepared this time. They summoned a formation that turned into a huge cage that instantly trapped the Phoenix.

Endless imperial might swept through the air with the appearance of this cage. The cage resembled an Immortal Emperor’s five fingers that seemingly wanted to imprison the bird.

“A formation personally created by an Immortal Emperor! Immortal Emperor Yao Zu’s formation!” A knowledgeable ancestor was shocked. Even a God-Monarch would instantly become a prisoner due to the formation’s power. [1. Yao Zu = Alchemy Ancestor.]

“Pluff!” The Phoenix spread its wings to hit the cage. This prison rocked back and forth and was seemingly about to break at any second. If this formation from an Immortal Emperor could suppress a phoenix, then it would no longer be a phoenix.

“Sacrifice the ancestral blood!” The monarchs shouted at the same time and used their quickest speed to offer the ancestral blood. In the blink of an eye, a sanguine light filled the sky. Souls left people’s bodies after seeing this frightening imperial power.

This sanguine light quickly came together as imperial chains reinforced the cage, allowing it to display its eternal might!

“A drop of longevity blood from Immortal Emperor Yao Zu!” An ancestor was aghast when he saw the chains that reinforced the cage like myriad stars condensing. This power was capable of stopping anything in this world.

The crowd was truly horrified this time around. The kingdom was really going all out. They didn’t only summon an imperial formation, they even offered it imperial blood from an emperor! This was a supreme item unavailable to virtually everyone. Some even said that it was even more valuable than an Immortal Emperor Life Treasure!

But right now, the kingdom didn’t mind spending it to suppress the Phoenix. What a grand and scary showing.

One could easily imagine the power of a formation strengthened by imperial blood. It was as if an Immortal Emperor himself had come to quell the oppression. This power was comparable to an Imperial Massacre! However, the main difference was that anyone could summon this formation and offer the blood, but not just anyone could unleash an Imperial Massacre!

The formation's power rose countless times after the addition of the imperial blood. The chains that locked the cage made it unbreakable.

The Phoenix's flame grew dim after receiving the suppression of an Immortal Emperor. The bird flapped its wings, intending to tear the cage apart, but this cage was too heavily fortified.

"Junior, give up now. This is your only chance." After offering the imperial blood, one of the monarchs was completely confident. They were certain that without the protection of the Phoenix, Li Qiye was only an ant.

Madam Zi Yan and Caihe were in distress as well after seeing the trapped Phoenix. In their eyes, the bird was their strongest card. Now, they were extremely vulnerable before the Alchemy Kingdom's God-Monarchs.

"It is over..." The jolted crowd felt that Li Qiye was done for without the Phoenix.

Even if Li Qiye was the most excellent among the younger generation, even if he could reach the Virtuous Paragon realm, he was only an ant before a God-Monarch.

Moreover, the kingdom didn't only have just one monarch. Its true power was not all here. Crushing Li Qiye in this circumstance was even easier than crushing an ant.

Tie Yi was jolted by this result as well. He immediately went in front of Li Qiye to act as a guard. At the very least, he was still a Virtuous Paragon!

[spoiler title='786 Teaser']The ancestor sneered in response: "Lies? You are Black Fox and Li Qiye is your master. Who but Li Qiye would command you to steal our treasures?!"

"Bullshit!" Tie Yi lost his cool: "You think I don't know your kingdom's nasty ploy? If you have a problem, then come at me. Don't involve my Young Noble!"

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It seemed that it was no longer important whether Tie Yi was Black Fox or not. The crucial thing was that the kingdom didn't mind paying any price to capture Li Qiye's group.

"So your kingdom is certain that he is Black Fox?" Li Qiye was neither surprised nor angry at the kingdom's insistence. He remained calm as if this was the natural course of events.

### **Chapter 787: Slaying God-Monarchs**

However, Li Qiye was not anxious at all in this situation; it was as if he was enjoying himself. He smilingly said: "In order to achieve your goal, your kingdom is really going all out this time."

This was indeed the case. Imperial blood was priceless and would be gone after a single use! The kingdom's expenditure this time was more than enough to show their determination.

Nevertheless, capturing Li Qiye and obtaining the Phoenix was still worth it for the kingdom even if they had to spend imperial blood!

“I am merciful and will give you one last chance.” Li Qiye looked at the monarchs and dismissively said: “Surrender now or suffer the consequences!”

“Stop blustering, I will take you down, brat!” The monarch who fought against Li Qiye last time grimaced. With great murderous intent, his giant hand came grasping at Li Qiye.

Without the Phoenix, Li Qiye was only a junior to him. Even if he was strong, he would only be an ant at best — he couldn’t reach the apex.

Li Qiye’s eyes turned cold after seeing the oncoming palm. In a split second, Li Qiye’s forehead opened. A seal emerged from his sea of memories and instantly lit up the surroundings.

Right when the monarch’s hand was about to catch Li Qiye, space suddenly trembled. A fair hand flew out from the deepest location of the Alchemy Kingdom’s ancestral ground. It lingered in the sky and flicked one finger.

“Pluff!” This monarch couldn’t even react. He was instantly obliterated into a bloody mist.

This white hand continued to press forward and unleashed a strike onto the cage. One could only see the five slender, jade-like fingers crushing down on it. “Pop!” The cage that was trapping the Phoenix was instantly shattered. Even the imperial chains could not stop the hand from breaking the cage.

“Impossible...” This sudden development frightened everyone. Those who saw it with their own eyes lost their minds!

A monarch was rendered into mist with the flick of a finger. The cage strengthened by imperial blood mouldered after just one touch. What a horrifying twist of events!

Before people could recover, this white hand disappeared. No one knew where it came from or who it belonged to.

“Little animal, you used an evil art!” As the crowd was still trembling, the two God-Monarchs regained their sanity. With a dignified battle cry, they used their fastest speed to try to kill Li Qiye.

“Screech!” The two monarchs simply had no chance to get close to him. The Phoenix immolated myriad realms and instantly engulfed the two!

“Ahh!” Miserable screams filled the air. The two monarchs couldn’t block the flames of the Phoenix. In a short period of time, this flame burned them into ashes!

They were too arrogant and certain of their victory, so they didn’t bring imperial true treasures from their ancestral ground. Because of this, they were no match for the Phoenix!

“Let us begin!” Li Qiye stood there calmly. The seal from his sea of memories grew even more radiant and dazzling!

“Rumble!” A horrifying event occurred as if something was tearing apart the ancestral ground. The grand vein sealed underground instantly appeared.

In just a moment, a series of immortal sounds echoed. An endless immortal energy soared to the sky like a geyser. Moreover, boundless worldly essence rushed out. There were images of True Dragons, auras of Godkings, and figures of immortal medicines...

Everyone was aghast after seeing this. One of them calmed down with drool dripping down and commented: "This is the best essence of the kingdom's ancestral ground!"

This was the best thing this world had to offer. Just one jar was enough for a lifetime!

The flying Phoenix opened its mouth and sucked in the immortal energy and worldly essence. All the different images were swallowed as well. After the best essence of this world was devoured by the bird, its flame grew even hotter and illuminated the entire sky dome!

No one knew what was going on. The kingdom's ancestral ground suddenly split open by itself and revealed the ancestral vein. This was simply impossible to fathom.

The ancestral ground of any nation was definitely protected by countless seals and fortifications, let alone a behemoth like the Alchemy Kingdom! But at this minute, it seemed as if all of its fortifications lost their functionality.

"Boom!" At this moment, three stalwart and unrivaled figures appeared inside the kingdom. The moment these three figures appeared, myriad realms lost their brilliance. The entire Stone Medicine World seemed to be a tiny boat among turbulent waves.

Everyone in the world, even the most ancient existences sealed underground, was jolted into awareness. This aura was truly terrifying.

Above the sky were invincible Immortal Emperors. They loomed over the world and swept across time. The three figures emerged and caused all living beings in the Alchemy Kingdom to drop to the ground. Even the Alchemy Realm and perhaps all of the Stone Medicine World had their inhabitants worshipping fearfully.

"Immortal Emperors! The Alchemy Kingdom's three emperors!" A pale ancestor exclaimed in horror.

Three emperors came out at the same time. This was beyond everyone's imagination! Immortal Emperor Yao Zu, Immortal Emperor Bi Shi, and Immortal Emperor Zhuo Huo shocked the realms. Any existence would be trembling with trepidation! [2. Alchemy Ancestor, Stone Prison, Brightflame.]

Of course, these were not the real emperors but only avatars they left behind. Unless there was no other choice, their avatars would not appear.

The three of them worked together to stop the essence escaping from the ancestral vein! To the Alchemy Kingdom, this was their truest foundation. As long as the vein continued to exist, so would the kingdom!

"Buzz!" It seemed that time-space had been reversed. In the deepest parts of the kingdom infinitely close to the Alchemy Vein's source, a location beyond the ancestral ground, one transcendent figure could be found standing there.

This was a lady with her face hidden! Step by step, she headed into the kingdom's ancestral ground. The moment she arrived, myriad realms prostrated.

Images of the nine worlds and myriad realms emerged with her appearance. The heavenly grand dao were all beneath her feet. It seemed that since the start of time, she was the sole sovereign!

“It is her...” Even the most ancient existences sleeping underground were horrified to see this lady; it was as if they were back in that old era.

Back during that time, the nine worlds trembled and all the races worshiped her. No matter how strong one might be or how invincible their lineage was, they couldn’t reach the apex in her presence. A flick of her finger was enough to destroy the eternal river of time!

The inhabitants of this world kneeled in great reverence. Her appearance made the situation even more terrifying. Three emperors and one lady forced everyone to kneel on the ground.

The lady was about to tear the ancestral ground to pieces, but the three unrivaled figures took action to suppress her. This level of pressure was unbelievably daunting and was capable of destroying stars or shattering the Stone Medicine World itself.

The lady remained unafraid against this pressure. She flipped her palm, causing myriad laws to bow down! There were only two words in this world that could describe her invincibility with the flip of her palm — Emperor Suppression!

Even if the emperors were in this world, this lady would still be able to suppress them. It was as if no one had ever been able to block her path!

The three figures didn’t dare to take the initiative against this imperial suppression. They lifted their hands as three true treasures from the kingdom flew out into their grasp.

With the true treasures under their control, the might of these emperors reached the highest level. The entire world shook before their power as if it could collapse at any time.

“This is insane! Are they trying to destroy the entire world?!” Even the oldest existences were scared out of their wits while the rest of the world quivered.

“Is this a fight between emperors?” The people prostrating on the ground started to pray for this battle to not start. Its inception would result in the destruction of not just the Alchemy Kingdom, but the entire Alchemy Realm or even the whole world.

The lady flipped her palm once more and instantly grasped the entire ancestral vein. The endless worldly energy and essences all flowed towards her, allowing her to reach her peak state!

Despite having their true treasures, the three figures didn’t dare to attack. The reason was very simple, the moment they attacked with their weapons, it wouldn’t only hit the lady, but also destroy the ancestral vein! That would signal the end of the kingdom. Once it escalated to this level, what was the point of winning or losing?

“Please spare the Alchemy Kingdom, my lord...” As the kingdom’s fate was hanging by a thread, an old figure appeared inside the endless light of the kingdom.

This old figure called towards Li Qiye, shaking Li Qiye to the core.



“My lord, please spare the Alchemy Kingdom.” This old figure continued to cry out and raised an item while kneeling on the ground.

Li Qiye’s expression relaxed after seeing the kneeling old figure and the item in his hands. Eventually, he softly sighed. Li Qiye felt a bit down; the seal inside his sea of memories slowly withdrew as his forehead closed.

“Nevermind, forgive them.” Li Qiye felt a bit emotional at this moment.

The lady in the far distance glanced at Li Qiye. He also looked back at her. When the two gazes met, it seemed that time itself traveled to the ancient past!

However, after tens of millions of years, everything had changed and all were gone!

[spoiler title=’787 Teaser’]However, Li Qiye was not anxious at all in this situation; it was as if he was enjoying himself. He smilingly said: “In order to achieve your goal, your kingdom is really going all out this time.”

This was indeed the case. Imperial blood was priceless and would be gone after a single use! The kingdom’s expenditure this time was more than enough to show their determination.

Nevertheless, capturing Li Qiye and obtaining the Phoenix was still worth it for the kingdom even if they had to spend imperial blood!

“I am merciful and will give you one last chance.” Li Qiye looked at the monarchs and dismissively said: “Surrender now or suffer the consequences!”

“Stop blustering, I will take you down, brat!” The monarch who fought against Li Qiye last time grimaced. With great murderous intent, his giant hand came grasping at Li Qiye.

Without the Phoenix, Li Qiye was only a junior to him. Even if he was strong, he would only be an ant at best — he couldn’t reach the apex.

Li Qiye’s eyes turned cold after seeing the oncoming palm. In a split second, Li Qiye’s forehead opened. A seal emerged from his sea of memories and instantly lit up the surroundings.

Right when the monarch’s hand was about to catch Li Qiye, space suddenly trembled. A fair hand from the deepest location of the Alchemy Kingdom’s ancestral ground flew out. It lingered in the sky and flicked one finger.

### **Chapter 788: The Kingdom’s Surrender**

One glance as long as an eternity; millions of years passed in just a moment. The blue sea had turned into mulberry fields, and all were gone like dispersing smoke.

Back in those days, crying and smiling, losing in dark times yet still persistently treading forward, never admitting defeat until the apex, eternal invincibility... All of this had become meaningless.

Back in those days, during her moments of tears, he silently stood by her side. When she swept through myriad realms, he was a quiet companion.

Then one day when they stood at the peak with no opposition, the two of them broke apart the firmament and went their separate ways to never see each other again.

While gazing at the woman in the distance that was capable of causing the nine worlds to give birth to strange phenomena by materializing realms, Li Qiye was at a loss for words. The past was so far away and this world was a source of so much pain...

Regardless of the reason of how they became strangers from then on, Li Qiye tried not to pay it any mind. To him, time could grind away all things! Eventually, he gently sighed. There was no need for words; all was gone with the wind!

Inside Alchemy City were countless cultivators kneeling on the ground. Under the invincible auras, all were fearful. However, many were still shocked to see the old figure kneeling inside the ancestral ground.

"He is..." A great existence from the distance saw the figure and murmured. Many disciples and masters from the kingdoms as well as ancestors were shaken while they continued to prostrate on the ground.

Eventually, Li Qiye gently nodded towards the woman as a greeting. No one could see her face, but it seemed that they were able to hear a soft sigh from the distant past.

The woman raised her palm to the sky. Before everyone could calm down, they were instantly transported out of Alchemy City. Both young cultivators and current ancestors lost control of their bodies in this process.

Such a development shocked everyone. Even Virtuous Paragons couldn't resist this forceful transfer. There were no portals, yet her slight gesture was enough to move all of them away.

The spectators in the city were not the only ones sent away, even Madam Zi Yan and Yuan Caihe were gone as well.

The woman disappeared at this time along with the three unrivaled figures from the ancestral ground.

Inside the ancestral ground, all echelons of disciples quietly stepped away. On the mountain was only an old, prostrating figure.

Li Qiye stepped inside the ancestral ground and went towards the mountain where this old figure was located. This was an old man on the verge of death. It could be said that his lifespan was nearly depleted, having almost no time left.

He knelt there while raising something with both hands. It was a cauldron with an ordinary appearance. It resembled stone and metal but was made from neither.

"Hundred-Life, oh Hundred-Life, you keep on using this trick over and over again." Sentiments rose in Li Qiye's heart as he gently sighed while looking at the kneeling old man.

"My lord, you can call me Shi Qian." The old man spoke sincerely. He acted as a junior before Li Qiye.

"It's fine, I would rather call you Hundred-Life." Li Qiye gently shook his head: "If my memory serves me correctly, you did this before back then when I wanted to destroy your kingdom."

"I know." The old man nodded earnestly: "My lord bestowed this cauldron to me and showed me great kindness. I have never forgotten this."

"Okay, rise. You are old now, so there is no need to kneel." Li Qiye sighed again: "I didn't forgive your kingdom in the past because I gave you this cauldron. Today, I shall forgive your kingdom once more, but it's also unrelated to this cauldron."

"Although I am one who cherishes old sentiments, this cauldron alone is not enough for me to value them this highly!" Li Qiye dismissively said: "I forgave the kingdom in the past and I shall do so again this time not because of this cauldron, but because of you! Because I trust and think highly of you."

The old man stood up and candidly spoke: "I will never forget my lord's kindness. If my lord didn't teach me back then, I would have no future."

"There is no need for this." Li Qiye waved his sleeve: "Gold will always shine no matter the location. I simply noticed that you were teachable, so I casually taught you a thing or two, that was all." Li Qiye looked at the old man and continued: "How much longer do you think you can live for? One or ten years? Or rather, how much longer can you be buried underground? Another generation, ten more, or one hundred more?"

The old man remained silent for a long time with no response.

Li Qiye lightly said: "You can protect the Alchemy Kingdom for one generation, but will you be able to protect it forever? For a million years, you struggled on in this manner! Yes, your kingdom is a behemoth so its group of geezers has become restless! Honestly, I don't mind, but do you really think that someone from this group of senile old men would be able to start a reform like Immortal Emperor Bi Shi?"

The old man eventually composed himself and gently sighed to say: "My lord, in the end, I am old with not much time left. Being buried underground is the only method for me to survive, so after many generations, I have not been able to contribute to my people."

"So you didn't mind wasting an incalculable amount of essences and treasures of the kingdom to allow Ming Yexue to come into being?" Li Qiye smiled.

The old man wryly smiled: "Whether or not Yexue can become an Immortal Emperor is not important to me. I only hope for her to be like Forefather Bi Shi and bring about change to the Alchemy Kingdom, another reformation!"

"Yexue belongs to me. I always had confidence in her. If I was not here in this generation, then she would surely become the Immortal Emperor. However, I am here, so I shall take her away to the place where Immortal Emperors should go!" Li Qiye uttered.

"I'm too old and won't have the chance to go take a look." The old man was dejected and sighed in disappointment.

Li Qiye shook his head and smiled: "I hold you in high regard even now. You had the ability to become the Immortal Emperor back then. Alas, you were born in the wrong era. To be in the same generation as Hong Tian is a predestined tragedy. Even someone with peerless talents back then didn't have a chance."

“No one could do anything during the overwhelming era of the Empress.” The old man said: “Although I competed for the Heaven’s Will with the Empress, I lost convincingly. Even if the Empress didn’t claim the throne to suppress myriad realms, no one would have been able to overcome her during that era anyway.” His expression turned into one of admiration after saying this.

“Unfortunately, the Alchemy Kingdom did not have the same thoughts as you!” Li Qiye commented: “Otherwise, I wouldn’t have let Hong Tian suppress your kingdom for an eternity!”

The old man smiled bitterly, and a long silence ensued. If Li Qiye didn’t show mercy back then, the kingdom would have ceased to exist. This was something he would always remember.

Li Qiye looked at the ancestral ground and slowly said: “I have not set foot on this land for a long time, let us take a look.”

The old man did not object and immediately went with Li Qiye to enjoy the beautiful sceneries.

This place had been split apart earlier, but it was perfect once more without any signs of damage. Even the shattered earth had recovered in just a short period of time.

This was the magical property of this land that hid the Alchemy Vein. Although the kingdom’s ancestral ground was not the source of the vein, Immortal Emperor Yao Zu used a great method to connect this place to the Alchemy Vein so that the kingdom could enjoy the focused essence of this world.

Although it was far from being comparable to the source, it was already incredible. It was difficult for the kingdom to not become powerful when it occupied such a location!

Sacred Springs were overflowing as they walked throughout this land. One could see treasure grasses in every corner and spirit birds soaring in the sky. One could be sure that there were divine turtles diving to the bottom of the rivers...

It was a peaceful and holy land. Anyone would be overwhelmed with greed after seeing this priceless earth. Treasures were everywhere along with bountiful spirit medicines. Herbs that eluded the world were abundant in this land!

The old man took Li Qiye everywhere to view the ancestral ground’s beauty while the kingdom’s disciples quickly hid without daring to come out. Even its ancestors didn’t dare to breathe loudly at this moment.

No one was stronger than this old man before them. The majority of the ancestors in the kingdom were only juniors to him! All of them held him with reverence. Even Ancestor Wushuang, who was older than this old man, was very respectful to him.

Only the ancestor level characters knew about this old man’s earth-shattering identity. Very few people in this world even knew that he was still alive.

If outsiders knew about his identity, they would be frightened breathless or even scared to death.

The other ancestors were trembling in fear. When even their forefather kneeled down, they wouldn’t dare to oppose Li Qiye any longer. Among them, only two of the oldest ones knew what was going on.

They thought about the past and grew even more fearful. They commanded that no one bother the forefather and Li Qiye. Any who watched or listened without permission was to be killed without exception. They understood that their kingdom had finally provoked a legendary taboo just like back then when the kingdom faced complete destruction!

### **Chapter 789: Hundred-Life Alchemy Emperor**

After knowing Li Qiye's real identity, the two old ancestors were distressed. They secretly prayed and hoped that Li Qiye would forgive the Alchemy Kingdom out of consideration for their forefather. Otherwise, the kingdom would have to face an existential crisis...

The old man and Li Qiye continued to appreciate the ancestral ground in tranquility. Only the two of them were slowly strolling across this land.

In the Alchemy Kingdom, this old man was the strongest existence, and only Ancestor Wushuang was older than him.

No one knew his real name, but the title Hundred-Life Alchemy Emperor absolutely reverberated across the entire Stone Medicine World and even all nine worlds.

In that era, the Hundred Life Alchemy Emperor was considered an existence that could become the second Immortal Emperor Yao Zu, a person who was both an Immortal Emperor and an Alchemy Emperor!

Alas, he was born in the same generation as Empress Hong Tian. The tragedy was predestined, so he ultimately couldn't become the Immortal Emperor.

Back in that era, many viewed him with high chances of becoming the emperor. However, in the battle for the Heaven's Will, he was utterly defeated by Empress Hong Tian and lost his chance from then on.

Of course, the world did not know that at an even earlier time when he was a very young teen, he had met Li Qiye in his Dark Crow form!

The Dark Crow at that time truly valued the alchemy emperor. He had the highest aptitude regarding the dao of alchemy, as if he was born for this path. Li Qiye gifted him a cauldron and taught him some alchemy as well. Later on, for a plethora of reasons, Li Qiye left the Stone Medicine World.

By chance, the Hundred-Life Alchemy Emperor joined the Alchemy Kingdom and became its disciple. His cultivation soared after this, and he eventually became its main descendant. During this period, he enjoyed illustrious fame as a genius.

Later on, he became an Emperor Candidate and fought against Hong Tian. The rest of the story was already told.

This defeat perhaps was not a bad thing for the alchemy emperor. After leaving the battle for the Heaven's Will, he focused on the dao of alchemy to eventually become an extraordinary alchemy emperor. Some even said that in the dao of alchemy, he was definitely comparable to the Alchemy Kingdom's progenitor, Immortal Emperor Yao Zu.

He created many miracles for the dao of alchemy as an emperor and was praised by the nine worlds as its supreme alchemist. A very long time later, he disappeared from the world.

Future generations all thought that he had died, but a very few knew that he was still alive and was buried in the deepest parts of the kingdom, never to show himself again. Even the kingdom's disciples didn't know that they still had a living alchemy emperor.

Only ancestor-level characters knew that they still had an Alchemy Emperor who was also an Emperor Candidate!

An Emperor Candidate was an existence recognized by the Heaven's Will. The path of the grand era had Godkings while the equivalent of this on the path of the heavens were Emperor Candidates!

Eventually, the Hundred-Life Alchemy Emperor and Li Qiye climbed to the highest peak of the ancestral ground to gaze at a distant location. However, that area was engulfed in worldly essence and endless laws, so no one could see through it.

After a looking at it for a while, Li Qiye emotionally uttered: "The three vein sources... Numerous invincible existences had wanted to understand their origins and mysteries throughout the years, but how many were successful?"

"My lord knows more about the three sources than anyone else in this world." The Hundred-Life Alchemy Emperor replied. This was not mere flattery but the simple truth.

Li Qiye only smiled and didn't deny this claim: "I will definitely take a trip there in this generation!" His eyes narrowed after saying this.

"My lord has regained your body in this generation, so you will be able to create an eternal legend." The alchemy emperor sighed disappointedly: "Alas, I am old and won't be able to go, or else I would follow you by your side."

Someone as capable as the emperor had used all kinds of means to increase his lifespan, including immortal medicines. To increase the longevity of someone of his level was harder than reaching for the heavens.

Li Qiye continued to gaze at the farthest area and was lost in silence as if immersed in old memories.

After a while, the alchemy emperor softly said: "My lord, you will definitely go to that place in the future."

"Yes, I will go there again!" Li Qiye spoke solemnly: "The Black Dragon King paid a huge price for me to regain this bag of skin. If I don't go to that place, then it would all be for naught. I will sweep through that place in this generation and suppress the heavens!"

The alchemy emperor dejectedly sighed once more: "The Black Dragon King suddenly headed for battle and invaded the Immortal Demon Grotto back then. The battle came too suddenly. Once I found out about it, it was already over so I couldn't lend him a hand."

"After going to that place, I will personally visit the grotto. All things should come to an end." Li Qiye awe-inspiringly spoke.

"On the day of my lord's assault on the grotto, just send the command and I shall answer your call!" The emperor spoke sonorously.

He always kept his debt to Li Qiye in his mind. He was never given the chance to repay it, so he was determined to do so in this generation.

"If necessary, I will let you know." Li Qiye gently nodded.

After a long silence, the emperor asked: "Back then when you two went your separate ways, the empress once came back to the Stone Medicine World. My lord should know as well; although the empress is very proud, she still never forgot about you."

Only the Hundred-Life Alchemy Emperor would dare to say something like this in front of Li Qiye. Ordinary people wouldn't have the courage, but of course, ordinary people wouldn't have the opportunity to know this inside story either.

"I know, I didn't come back to the Stone Medicine World later on because I didn't want to see her." Sadness filled his heart as Li Qiye gently sighed: "Hong Tian wanted to see me before departing, but she..."

He couldn't help but become melancholic. This memory had been covered in dust for many years now: "She is a stubborn child. She didn't give up even at the very end..."

"My lord has laboriously worked for the nine worlds." The emperor became wistful as well. Others didn't know about Li Qiye's tales, but he knew quite a few things.

"This is still a world under my protection." Li Qiye said with a hint of forlorn in his voice: "Hong Tian was not going to give in, and I would never nod my head either. A meeting would just result in another fight, so what's the point? For me, Min Ren, Hong Tian, and even Qian Li and Lil' Blacky, they were all disciples personally groomed by me. They were talented with unique personalities and emotions. I trained them for my sake, but I also hoped that they could grow up to become invincible..."

"If I was there by his side, I wouldn't want Lil' Blacky to do as he did." Li Qiye's expression dimmed.

"Those in this world who know about my lord all think that you are the dark hand across the eons, but who actually knows about your sacrifices and what you've abandoned after millions of years?" The emperor lamented.

"The world's view of me is not important." Li Qiye nonchalantly said: "I want those by my side to walk on an extraordinary path. The world thinks that becoming an Immortal Emperor is the final destination, but in my eyes, it is only the beginning of the journey."

"My lord must have considered this issue when you didn't meet the Empress back then as well." The emperor responded.

"Hong Tian had always been stubborn, so I hope that she has given up on that idea." Li Qiye smiled bitterly: "Although I didn't see her journey with my own eyes, I know that she will keep on being amazing. She's an incomparable girl!"

The emperor didn't say anything back and only stood there by Li Qiye's side.

Li Qiye glanced over the land that so many coveted and dismissively said: "Your Alchemy Kingdom occupies such a good place. It is understandable that pride and arrogance eventually surfaced."

The emperor wryly smiled in response: “The younger generation does not know the immensity of the heaven and earth. They think that the moment they show themselves, they would be able to sweep through the nine worlds. Regarding our kingdom violating the oath of past, I will give my lord an acceptable answer.”

“Hundred-Life.” Li Qiye smiled and shook his head: “To be blunt, do I really care about their mischief? At best, it is only a pebble in the river of time that continues to flow. For me, those who block my path shall be killed without mercy!

“If your kingdom continues to choose not to comply with the oath of past, then how long do you think it can last? Bing Yu, Ming Du, Qian Li and the others... The moment your kingdom tried to do anything back then, it would have met one of them! At that point, it would be completely annihilated! Even if you continue to live, Hundred-Life, how many more times can you plead to me, and how many more times will I choose to forgive your Alchemy Kingdom?”

Li Qiye looked at the Alchemy Emperor at his side before continuing: “This land has made many people drool in greed for countless years now! These words might be difficult to hear right now, but I did want to let my people build an eternal foundation on this land. However, I didn’t carry this thought out. The first reason is back then, your group of old geezers was a bit sensible. The other was out of consideration for you, so I didn’t attack your kingdom.”

“My lord, I understand.” The emperor smiled bitterly: “After a long period of reclusion, the juniors felt that they had accumulated sufficient strength to sweep through the nine worlds. They have never seen your hallowed aura engulfing the nine worlds or your god-slaying miracles.”

“Hundred-Life.” Li Qiye wistfully responded: “I won’t bother with dealing the punishment this time. You don’t have much time left, so use it wisely to reform your kingdom. Otherwise, I won’t be so considerate the next time the kingdom gets in my way.”

### **Chapter 790: The Curtain Falls**

The alchemy emperor consented: “I will pass the lineage down to Yexue and hope that she will be able to grasp the kingdom to bring about a new administration. Perhaps in the future, it will be a brand new Alchemy Kingdom.”

“I can give you time.” Li Qiye glanced at the alchemy emperor: “But in the future when I pave the way, I will take Yexue with me. Because of this, you must be decisive lest internal turmoil become a problem. When that time comes, don’t blame me for not giving you sufficient time.”

The alchemy emperor breathed in deeply and gently nodded: “My life is nearly over. I won’t be able to hold on for much longer, so I will pass on my legacy to Yexue in this generation. I have already planned to reform the kingdom. Recently, during my previous meditation session, I have solved some mysteries and was able to recover some vitality, thus I have decided to come into being for this generation!”

“Do a good job of preparing for the future.” Li Qiye gently sighed as well. If the alchemy emperor chose to not be buried in this generation, then this meant that he would die from old age. It was difficult to say how much longer he would live for. This came down to his own willpower.



His acquaintances and those who stood by his side left one by one under the merciless flow of time. Nevertheless, time was able to grind away all pain. Li Qiye had grown accustomed to the numbness. No one was truly immortal in the endless river of time.

The alchemy emperor went silent as well. As an Alchemy Emperor, he was able to increase his own lifespan many times. However, a person must eventually taste death; there is no chance for rebirth. He couldn't elude death, no one could. However, he was prepared to face his own mortality when the time comes. It was just a matter of time.

"There is one thing that you need to prepare for. I want to enter the Drystone Courtyard to reach the land of origin." Li Qiye spoke after a moment of silence. He glanced towards the far depths of the Alchemy Vein once more. That place was full of mysteries and unknowns.

"My lord has that item now?" The alchemy emperor followed his gaze as well.

Li Qiye gently shook his head: "I'm only going there to take a look. It is only to test a theory of mine and requires me to personally go there for verification. As for entering the origins of the three veins, I'll come up with a way when the time comes."

The Alchemy Vein's land of origin was also known the three veins' origin. This was because there were three ancestral veins in the Stone Medicine World: the Alchemy Vein, the Beast Vein, and the Stone Vein. They were the reason why this world turned into three realms.

Rumor has it that the mysticisms and amazing essences from the three veins all came from the same location. However, this location had remained a mystery all the way until now.

For millions of years, powerful existences had tried to find it by rigorously searching the three veins. However, few were successful. Even Immortal Emperors were not necessarily able to enter the origin of the three veins. No one knew where this land full of mysteries and surprises was located or what was waiting within.

"I will make preparations, my lord." The alchemy emperor nodded: "However, my lord should be aware that although we have a shortcut straight to the Drystone Courtyard, its success rate is very low even for our Immortal Emperors. I can't guarantee anything either, so my lord should be prepared for failure."

"I know, but it is still worth a shot. Failure doesn't matter, I still have other methods." Li Qiye agreed.

Outside of the ancestral ground were spectators shocked from the forceful teleportation. Many people realized that it was an incredible technique that belonged only to Immortal Emperors.

However, one didn't exist in present times. The majority of them speculated that this was something an emperor left behind during their own era. Of course, no one knew the exact details.

One day passed. Those who were more daring returned to Alchemy City. People were still anxious with trepidation because one misstep could result in death.

The first arrivals heaved sighs of relief. Nothing had happened and the city looked the same. When they gazed towards the ancestral ground in the far distance, it remained tranquil and still; there were no signs of a big event occurring.

The crowd grew curious as to what the ending of this storm was. How would Li Qiye and the kingdom's feud conclude?

Although everyone wanted an answer, it remained a mystery. No one dared to pry into it for fear of both the kingdom and Li Qiye. They didn't want to get in trouble with either party.

Another big question was Li Qiye's background. Why was it that he had such methods and incredible techniques?!

With the conclusion of this battle, he was the reason why people quivered; he was the one who left many questions in their minds. Who knew how he had such heaven-defying means? The world didn't even know of his true strength.

Ever since his first appearance, no one had seen him personally take action. Until now, he was able to smilingly destroy all his enemies without even lifting a finger.

And so, numerous discussions rose around this focal point. Many sects wondered about his cultivation. Some speculated that it had reached an unfathomable level.

There were also those who thought that Li Qiye's cultivation was ordinary and that he relied on a supreme dao of alchemy to control all things, including the heaven and earth. This allowed him to have many different methods, such as wood mastery and insect mastery... Many had witnessed these two wondrous techniques with their own eyes.

This speculation was very popular since the techniques from the dao of alchemy exceeded their imagination.

Both his admirers and even some haters, especially the alchemists, hoped that Li Qiye would reach the peak and become an Alchemy Emperor. Many alchemists considered Li Qiye to be their pride, their aspiration!

Although alchemists had always been well-respected in the Stone Medicine World, there was a notion that alchemists had inferior battle capabilities. This made many alchemists quite unhappy.

Despite having many techniques, an alchemist's true power could only be exerted once they were at the legendary level! However, once they reached this level, there was no need for the alchemist to personally take action since their words were able to rally great support! To the chagrin of this group, this only further exacerbated the misconception of weak alchemists. However, Li Qiye's showing of his supreme alchemy techniques before the world proved that alchemists could sweep through all things.

The alchemists became excited because of this, so they viewed Li Qiye as their pride and hoped that he could become an emperor. They hope to see their new Alchemy Emperor rampaging through the nine worlds in the future! This would be the most glorious event for all alchemists.

Many people in the present felt that Li Qiye was definitely going to become an Alchemy Emperor. Although the time it took him to rise to fame had been short, they held him in high regard.

In this world, the best candidates for this position were the four prodigies. However, Cao Guoyao and the White Hair Alchemy God had lost to Li Qiye and died in the end. As for the other two, Yuan Caihe did

not compete with the world and had no ambition for the throne while the Alchemy Kingdom's Mu Qiao was even more reclusive. Plus, rumor has it that he was only good at physique paste refinement.

Thus, the new consensus was that Li Qiye was the new Alchemy Emperor of this generation. After the conflict, Li Qiye had become the newest star in the Alchemy Kingdom in just one night. His quick ascent allowed him to directly catch up to the number one in the Stone Medicine World — Ye Qingcheng!

“If Ye Qingcheng is to become the Immortal Emperor of this generation, then Li Qiye will surely become the Alchemy Emperor!” Someone made this claim regarding Li Qiye's future. This made his fame even more prominent and widespread!

Others from different areas also came for questions after Alchemy City calmed. However, the ancestral ground remained quiet. Li Qiye did not show himself, so no one dared to inquire about the end of this conflict.

However, there was finally good news after just a few short days. The kingdom's people finally showed themselves. The anticipated alchemy conference had finally begun!

The conference's organizers consisted of the kingdom's nobles with the Observant Monarch as the chief executive. Besides the judges from the great powers, the Alchemy Kingdom also sent an elder to preside over the conference.

This news was a breath of relief. The issue between Li Qiye and the kingdom was no longer important; the start of the conference meant that at the very least, this conflict was finally over.

Although some people wanted to see even more excitement, they recalled the time when the auras of Immortal Emperors erupted. Their ferocious battle caused them to jitter in fear. After personally experiencing that destructive peril, no one wanted another battle to take place. If it did come down to another battle of this caliber, the entire kingdom might sink and cause the Alchemy Realm to collapse. Should this happen, the entire world would be affected as well. No one wished to see such a catastrophe.