

Chapter 801: Gifting Of The Bow

Li Qiye could have easily killed Jian Wushuang instead of sealing her with this one fist. However, he chose not to do so since he wanted a talent as proud and fierce as her.

He removed the seal and insipidly stated: “You have lost.”

She couldn’t calm down even after the seal was removed. Her mind had left her body as she was frozen for a long time. The earlier events were just too shocking for her.

“What do you have to say now?” Li Qiye smilingly asked after seeing her stunned appearance.

Her lost eyes finally regained their focus after a while. She stared at Li Qiye as if he was a monster; she had never seen someone like him before.

“I have nothing to say, I am utterly convinced of my defeat!” She responded with her head held high. Despite being proud, losing was losing and she would not renege on the bet.

Li Qiye stared at her: “It is the time for you to carry out the promise. You can decide the term. Of course, the benefits will correspond to how long you stay.”

She took a deep breath, not expecting for the impossible to happen. She spoke with a deep voice: “I have nothing to say except that I shall fulfill my promise!” She then swore with her true fate.

Her oath was without a duration — this truly showed that she was remarkably decisive. Although someone as proud as her was not easy to get along with, she stayed true to her words. She was able to handle defeat gracefully and would never renege on a deal or run away from it! Despair and self-pity were out of the question as well.

These were admirable traits and reasons why Li Qiye valued her. Li Qiye was a bit unwilling, but he still made up his mind in the end. He took out an item and handed it over to Jian Wushuang: “Since you have pledged loyalty to me, I shall give you a treasure.”

“This, isn’t this your bow?” Jian Wushuang was moved after seeing the item in his hand.

This bow was the Nine Words True Bow. As an archery genius, she had died once to this bow, so she naturally knew just how precious it was. In the future, this bow might even surpass their Jian Clan’s bow.

“Yes, this will be the best bow in the world in the near future.” Li Qiye insipidly said: “I, of course, am the best master for it. However, if such a good bow isn’t used daily or in every battle, then it would be a bit of a waste. Today, I am gifting it to you in hopes that it will flourish in your hands and create an eternal legend!”

He ultimately chose to give this peerless bow to her. Although it was amazing, he rarely used it in battle. He had many different methods and treasures, and more often than not, there was no need to use it.

At the same time, Jian Wushuang had great archery talents. No one could compare to her among the younger generation! Thus, Li Qiye gave her the bow so that she would be able to use it to its full potential!

She was a bit startled at this moment. Such a peerless bow was handed over so easily. Even though she came from an imperial lineage, she couldn't calm down in a short period of time. Such a generous master was hard to find.

She maintained her proud attitude and responded: "But I have yet to make any contributions!"

Li Qiye forcefully placed the bow in her hand. After making up his mind, there was no going back. He lightly said: "You have to work harder to become my best general. Only the strongest warrior is worthy of this bow! The best way to repay me is by massacring all four directions in the future battlefields!"

Li Qiye intended to groom her. Although he could have subordinate even strong existences like the treefather, these existences were old and might not be able to fight with him to the very end in the distant future.

Jian Wushuang, on the other hand, was still young and could follow him till the eventual end of the war. Moreover, she had untapped potential that was worth exploring as well as ample room for growth.

She accepted Li Qiye's Nine Words True Bow and coldly said: "I will definitely reach the pinnacle of archery."

Immortal Emperor Diyi Jian was praised as the best archer in the world. However, the truth was that he did not take that path to the very end. He ultimately abandoned the dao of archery and used another weapon to become an Immortal Emperor. In short, his dao was not proven using the bow.

Jian Wushuang, at this very moment, was determined to walk on the path untrod by her forefather all the way to the apex, to the very limit!

"Do a good job getting used to it." Li Qiye commanded: "This bow is worth your effort to learn. In the future, it will accompany you to many great victories."

"I understand." The proud Jian Wushuang nodded.

Li Qiye glanced at her and said: "When the time comes, go to the Beast Realm, I shall be waiting there to take you to the Bi'an Beastworld!"

"The Bi'an Beastworld!" She turned serious after hearing this name.

Li Qiye gently nodded: "Yes, the Bi'an Beastworld. Since you have pledged loyalty to me, it is time for you to broaden your horizons."

Jian Wushuang didn't inquire any further and only nodded before leaving with her new bow.

Li Qiye went back to the kingdom's ancestral ground. Ming Yexue didn't ask anything after his return. Even without asking, she naturally knew that Li Qiye won.

"We'll set off tomorrow." He commanded.

She didn't say another word and informed the Hundred-Life Alchemy Emperor of Li Qiye's decision.

On the next day, Li Qiye came before the dao platform. Outside of the alchemy emperor and Ming Yexue, there were also a few ancestors from the kingdom.

“It is time to depart.” Li Qiye spoke in a clear voice while staring at the portal.

The alchemy emperor spoke: “My lord, if you can’t enter the Drystone Courtyard, you will fall into any one of the three grand veins, so you need to be prepared.”

“I know that. If I am unsuccessful, then there is no need to reopen it. I will find a different method of entry.” Li Qiye nodded gently.

The alchemy emperor looked at Li Qiye then commanded the other ancestors: “All of you, leave.”

Once the ancestors and Ming Yexue had left, the alchemy emperor told Li Qiye: “My lord, while you were absent yesterday, the old man from the Jianlong Clan came.”

“Oh? What does the Jianlong Clan want?” Li Qiye smiled.

The Jianlong Clan was also a famous lineage alongside the Alchemy Kingdom in the contemporary times. It had three emperors as well!

The alchemy emperor smiled and said: “How could the Jianlong Clan have any ideas before my lord? They only wish that in this generation, if my lord needs them at all, then just send the command and they shall prove their allegiance!”

“They also want to dispel the suppression of the past?” Li Qiye chuckled: “This isn’t out of the question. I will let them know if I need them in the future.”

Having said that, Li Qiye glanced at the alchemy emperor: “The old geezers from that clan are much smarter than your kingdom’s crowd. They have kept their tails down while dealing with the world. That year, your Alchemy Kingdom believed the Divine Beast Realm’s invitation and chose to go first into battle. Meanwhile, the Jianlong Clan had lost as well, but they didn’t suffer nearly as much as your kingdom.”

“Why is it that I didn’t force an oath on them, yet they still obediently chose to give up their territory?” Li Qiye nodded: “Those old men knew that as long as I continue to exist, I will train more Immortal Emperors. They are smart enough to not block my path. Although they have been reclusive for a long time, the moment that they actually come out into this world again, they will be much stronger than your kingdom!”

“The ancestors back then all thought that an alliance with the Divine Beast Realm would allow them to defeat all foes.” The alchemy emperor bitterly smiled. Before the grand war, he strongly opposed competing with Empress Hong Tian for the Heaven’s Will. He knew no good could come from it.

Alas, the kingdom was very powerful back then. Moreover, there were many ancestors more distinguished than him in charge. His opposition was useless, so he couldn’t control the situation.

The last battle was very bloody. Blood stained the entire Stone Medicine World. The incomparable Divine Beast Realm was massacred overnight and ceased to exist!

“An alliance with the beast realm so they could defeat all foes?” Li Qiye snorted: “Compared to the Ancient Ming, your kingdom and beast realm were nothing. During the Ancient Ming Era, they ruled the entire nine worlds all by themselves. Outside of Bu Zhan and Xue Xi, who else managed to break the

monopoly of Immortal Emperors during their reign? After I made my move, what happened to the Ancient Ming in the end?"

"The world did not know about my lord's invincibility. It was all over for them when they tasted your methods of carnage." The alchemy emperor gently sighed.

Though he did not see the bloodbath in that distant era, he had heard of the legends. It was a grisly period. The Ancient Ming once ruled over the nine worlds and eventually, the Dark Crow heralded a new dawn. From then on, the Ancient Ming Era was over and their race disappeared.

"Alright, there is no need to mention the past." Li Qiye grew a bit sentimental and gently waved his sleeve: "Not too many of those who used to be on my side are still alive. Take good care of yourself. I hope that when I sweep through the myriad domains, you will still be alive to see it."

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Chapter 802: The Journey Begins

Li Qiye became a bit melancholic at this point. Time continued to flow as people left him one by one. Glory and magnificence were dust in the wind. Very few people managed to live till the present.

Eternal life was something countless people continued to pursue. However, true eternal life carried a heavy burden and pain.

As loved ones left one by one, one would secretly start lamenting in pain. This pain turned into reluctance and regret before they became completely numb. Li Qiye didn't want to linger in the past since there were more things that required his attention in the present.

The alchemy emperor became dejected as well after hearing this. Some sought eternal life and some chose to bury themselves underground instead of living life to its fullest.

"When will I see my lord again?" The alchemy emperor sighed emotionally. It could be said that on the path of alchemy or even the road of cultivation, Li Qiye was his guide. Although he ultimately joined the Alchemy Kingdom due to a variety of circumstances, he still respected Li Qiye as his mentor.

“Well, I don’t know either.” Li Qiye softly sighed: “If I find some success at the origin of the three veins, then I’m afraid I will need to go back to the Mortal Emperor World. There is still unfinished business there.”

“Is something troubling my lord there?” The emperor asked with concern: “Perhaps we can lend you a hand if necessary?”

“You are referring to the Immortal Demon Grotto, right?” Li Qiye couldn’t help but look towards the far horizon. His sight traveled for miles and miles before he slowly responded: “I will visit the Immortal Demon Grotto, but I can’t be certain of when right now. Perhaps it will be after shouldering the Heaven’s Will, or perhaps another time entirely. But ultimately, before leaving for that place, I will go to the grotto! I cannot let the blood of Lil’ Blackie’s group be spilled for nothing!”

“I remember my lord speaking about that place when I was younger.” The alchemy emperor lamented: “Unfortunately, I have given up. In this generation, I am too old; time waits for no one after all. I can’t go with my lord to that place to have a look.”

“The future is full of unknowns, who can accurately predict it?” Li Qiye chuckled. His mood suddenly took a turn for the better as he said: “Live on, there will be a chance in the future.”

The alchemy emperor smiled and shook his head: “My lord, there is no need to comfort me. I am an alchemy emperor so I know my condition quite well. If I could continue living, then I wouldn’t have come into being. Time has always been ruthless, even the best Blood Era Stone would not be able to prevent its erosion! Because I don’t have much time left, I will use what I have left wisely to rectify some problems. Otherwise, the kingdom will have no chance in the future.”

“I will surely die of old age in this generation.” The alchemy emperor emotionally smiled: “I have no regrets in this life. I have witnessed a grand era, saw the most brilliant Immortal Emperor, and also met an eternal existence like my lord!”

Li Qiye couldn’t say anything else in response. He eventually sighed: “All in all, just keep on living well. At the very least, before going to that place, I will personally come for Yexue. Perhaps we will meet again then.”

“Rest assured, my lord. I will not die so easily without giving the kingdom a brand new opportunity.” The alchemy emperor cheerfully smiled.

Li Qiye also grinned and said: “It’s time I leave. There is still a long way to go in the future.”

The alchemy emperor nodded solemnly. He stood on top of the platform and personally took control of the portal’s opening for Li Qiye.

“Buzz.” The platform lit up with all the refined jades emitting bright radiances. A powerful worldly energy empowered the platform and opened the portal that took the shape of a giant ring.

This portal was initially a mirror. However, at this moment, it was in a liquid state like sinking mercury. Clanking sounds could be heard from the intertwining laws.

“I’m going!” Li Qiye nodded towards the alchemy emperor before setting foot into the sunken portal. He instantly disappeared.

The very next moment, he emerged in a different space. There was an endless void with neither a beginning nor an end.

A series of laws paved the way beneath his feet. They moved together to form a bridge all the way to a distant location.

Li Qiye smiled and walked on this divine bridge. Each of his steps was like entering an entire world. One misstep would take him into the wrong world!

The concept of time did not exist in this void, and neither did anything tangible. Li Qiye walked for some time before finally seeing the Drystone Courtyard.

No one would be able to see the whole picture while staring at it from a distance. They would only be able to see an ancient gate. This gate was crafted from an unknown material. It looked archaic, as if it had weathered countless winds and storms. Time had left a unique mark on its surface.

As one of the twelve burial grounds, the courtyard was full of mysteries and surprises. Moreover, it was one of the most dangerous places in present times.

It was different from the other burial grounds. Unlike the Prime Ominous Grave or the Ancient Heavenly Corpse Burial Ground where people knew of their locations and even undertook adventures inside, the courtyard was different. For many eras, no one knew of its location outside of being in the Stone Medicine World.

Even Immortal Emperors were unable to pinpoint its coordinates. In short, its location had always been a mystery.

There were only two methods of entry. The first was through a shortcut like the portal in the Alchemy Kingdom. There were only a few like this in the entire Stone Medicine World. At the same time, the chances of success through these shortcuts was quite meager. The second method was to use the real entryway of the courtyard.

Of course, what the real entryway was and its location were just as big of an enigma as the courtyard itself.

Due to these reasons, the courtyard was much more elusive compared to the other burial grounds.

Regardless, over the years, many people still tried to find it. There were also some who managed to enter. However, these were all real masters. Many of them were God-Monarchs or even Godkings!

Despite making it inside, very few of them could come out alive. Legend states that even Immortal Emperors had been trapped inside the courtyard before.

The laws below continued to intertwine all the way to the gate of the courtyard. However, before they could reach the destination, a strange sizzling noise appeared. All of these laws were suddenly petrified and stopped.

“Not good!” This sudden change took Li Qiye by surprise. Nevertheless, he instantly knew what had just transpired.

“Bang!” All the laws suddenly collapsed. No matter how strong they might have been, they all shattered after being petrified.

Even if Li Qiye had heaven-defying methods, he couldn’t alter this event and turn back the tide.

Without any support, Li Qiye fell down! No matter how powerful or amazing one might be, in this particular space, no one was able to fly.

Li Qiye kept on falling for some time before eventually landing in an unknown place. The scene before him was quite different. It was a vast, green expanse. Li Qiye knew that he had fallen from that space all the way back to the Stone Medicine World!

“Bang!” The moment his feet reached the ground, a severe blow landed on his chest, sending him flying. This blow was so powerful that it broke all the bones in his body and almost turned him into a pool of blood.

“Buzz!” The Death Seal appeared. It was as if time had been reversed. His scattered flesh returned to his body, allowing him to recover in a brief moment.

Li Qiye focused his gaze and saw a gigantic monster in the distance. This was a terrifying heavenly beast. Its head towered all the way to the sky while its body was similar to a mountain. A single stomp could crush the earth.

“3.5 million year old heavenly beast!” He became serious. He knew exactly where he had fallen; this was one of the three ancestral veins of the Stone Medicine World — the beast vein.

The three great veins all had their unique characteristics. The alchemy vein had spirit medicines everywhere while the beast vein was where heavenly beasts and longevity spirits gathered; this was their paradise. The deeper one went, the stronger the monsters would be. Because of this, there were some places that even God-Monarchs avoided.

“Roar!” This powerful heavenly beast that even God-Monarchs were wary of crazily howled. It crushed the earth as its gigantic foot fell down from the sky towards Li Qiye.

He was like a feeble ant before its foot that seemed capable of crushing him into a pulp.

“You want to die?” Li Qiye laughed and, in an instant, the Declivity-Mountain Bell was already in his hand. He ruthlessly threw it out.

“Bang—bang—bang!” The earth shattered. A terrifying aura swept through this vast land, dissuading any other existence from approaching.

Screams and roars resounded every day in this vast field of the beast vein. Blood flew everywhere along with non-stop carnage!

Chapter 803: Training

The beasts and spirits entrenched themselves in the beast vein. This was their kingdom!

“Boom! Boom! Boom!” A terrible disaster loomed over the area. A mighty heavenly aura deterred any beasts from coming closer.

A frightening tribulation swirled above Li Qiye. A door opened with endless attacking Godfiends, aiming to kill Li Qiye.

This was Li Qiye's minor tribulation of the Void Imperfection Physique. Prior to this, it was on the verge of reaching minor completion. However, he kept on suppressing it and waited for when the tribulation would be the strongest before unleashing it. He wanted to destroy the tribulation in the most flawless fashion.

"Snap!" Something seemed to have broken inside Li Qiye's body! It was as if he had torn asunder all the restraints in this world, as if no laws could bind him.

The myriad laws and rules of this world had been shattered by Li Qiye. He was as free as a Kun Peng in an open sea!

Myriad realms floated behind him as his momentum could tear apart all dao. Neither the mortal world nor the immortal one could chain him!

"So this is the feeling of an Era Sovereign slashing the dao!" Li Qiye grinned with great satisfaction. In this instant, his body seemed to have undergone a substantial change as if he was the fastest in this world. There was an indescribable spirituality and transcendence.

"I'm finally successful! If I can slash the dao as an Era Sovereign, then this minor tribulation is nothing!" Li Qiye lifted his head to smilingly look at the minor tribulation of the Void Imperfection Physique. He heaved a shout then soared into the sky. He swung his fists and parted the clouds to meet the descending Godfiends.

Anyone who saw this scene would be dumbfounded. Using bare hands to fight against the minor tribulation of an immortal physique? What kind of tyrannical approach was this?

In fact, this minor tribulation was nothing to Li Qiye; it was as easy as taking in a meal. Prior to this, he could have easily fought against these minor tribulations. Moreover, he was now an Era Sovereign that was capable of slashing the dao.

Many people had never heard of such a title! Era Sovereign was the final level of the Heavenly Sovereign realm. After this level was the Heavenly King realm. However, it wasn't easy to break through from a sovereign to a king.

The world assumed that as long as one could reach the Era Sovereign level, then they would be at the peak of the sovereign realm. At this level, it would be easy to reach the king realm.

However, they did not know that there was another step beyond this level. This step was the apex beyond the peak! Once one was able to break through to this apex, they would be called a Dao Slashing Sovereign! [1. The raw is just Era Sovereign Slashing Dao, but I think I like Dao Slashing Sovereign more. Omitting the Era part just to make it less wordy.]

This type of sovereign was quite rare. There were many conditions and requirements such as a fortified foundation, eight celestials or more in the Enlightened Being realm, and nine or more palaces at the Ancient Saint realm.

Only after meeting these requirements could one become a Dao Slashing Sovereign! This particular dao test was quite arduous. However, once passed, the cultivator would no longer be the same as before for they would have obtained an unbelievable foundation for the future!

More importantly, legend states that there was a great effect for Dao Slashing Sovereigns who picked the path of the heavens in the future. As for the exact effect, very few contemporary cultivators were privy to this.

“Break!” Eventually, Li Qiye uttered a cry and broke through the sky dome. He used his unbelievably powerful body to grind the tribulation. The Hell Suppressing, Soaring, and Void Imperfection Physiques all at minor completion easily crushed the tribulation into little pieces after exerting their most powerful state.

After doing so, Li Qiye’s body became bright and exuded a holy aura. People would never believe that such a holy aura was radiating off of him!

He landed from the sky and sat in a meditative pose on the ground with a grin on his face after completing the minor physique. He didn’t immediately leave and began to chant the One Thought, Myriad Physiques incantation to begin the fourth immortal physique.

He chose the Sky Destroyer Physique. This choice was obviously backed by reason.

As he was creating his fourth inner physique, time became silent as if it didn’t want to disturb him.

Daring to cultivate in the beast vein was an astonishing matter, but Li Qiye didn’t seem to care that many powerful heavenly beasts and longevity spirits were watching him on the sidelines.

The sun sets in the west. This was a vast desolate land full of beasts and their roars. Their powerful auras filled the entire area. The beast vein, one of the three ancestral veins in the Stone Medicine World, the garden of power beasts and spirits! Their strengths were beyond imagination. Even God-Monarchs and Godkings would be wary here. Despite its notorious reputation and monsters, many cultivators still wanted to come here. Beast marrows and longevity blood were both great treasures. And they were in abundance here, so how could these cultivators not be tempted?

A large river quietly flowed right outside of the vein with a calm current under the setting sun. The scenery was especially beautiful.

The auras of the beasts lingered before night time, and roars still emanated from the depths of the vein. When the sun shone down, a shadow stretched quite far as a man slowly walked out from the vein.

He appeared to be a bit messy with bloodstains on his clothing. It was apparent at first glance that he had been through many tough battles.

He sat down by the river and eventually just lied down with his hands supporting his head to watch the clouds floating in the sky.

After a moment passed, this person closed his eyes to enjoy this rare moment of peace and quiet.

“It really does feel good to be alive sometimes.” Li Qiye chuckled and murmured as he was resting.

After staying in the beast vein for nearly half a year, he had paved a path of blood all the way from the deepest part of the vein to the outside. This period was unimaginable to others since the vein was full of monsters. They lived in packs, so killing one would ignite a hunt from the rest.

Even God-Monarchs wouldn't want to stay in this dangerous place for long, but Li Qiye stayed around for half a year. He killed so many monsters that they came to fear him.

Leaving the beast vein was not difficult for him, but he took his time by using this as a form of training.

No one could imagine what Li Qiye encountered during his days here at the beast vein; legendary five million year old heavenly beasts and sacred longevity spirits or even ancient monsters with the bloodline of divine beasts...

Li Qiye remained undaunted during his journey in this dangerous place. Before leaving the vein, his actions could be described by the phrase see god, slay god; see devil, slay devil.

Despite the daily arduous battles in the past half a year, Li Qiye's harvests were incredible. Not to mention the huge amount of longevity blood and beast marrows, there were three different gains that were especially noteworthy for him.

First, he was able to train himself and gain further mastery in his techniques. Second, after receiving countless injuries, his death energy increased substantially. His current level of paramount death energy could allow him to control many undead.

Prior to this, although the quantity was great, it wasn't potent enough. For example, he needed to use longevity blood in order to support summoning the Phoenix and the deathfire.

But now, his ocean-like energy could easily summon and control an extremely powerful undead!

The final harvest was that Li Qiye had also died once. Since the start of his Death Scripture training, outside of purposely dying to Jian Wushuang the first time, this was his second time dying.

An appropriate death was a very good thing for Li Qiye because the Death Seal had certain requirements described by its phrase — one fate accumulated from three deaths, one item formed from six deaths, one life changed from nine deaths, and eighteen deaths to reach the high heavens! With his current level, death was not easy to come by!

As the sky darkened, Li Qiye got up and went towards the riverbank. He crouched and drank a handful of water.

"Crash!" A whirlpool abruptly emerged alongside violent waves. A huge jaw opened from the river, wanting to swallow the thirsty Li Qiye whole.

"Pop!" Before this basin-like mouth could bite Li Qiye, the hidden monster was already gripped by the neck. The next moment, Li Qiye heavily slammed it onto the ground, creating a large pit.

It all happened so quickly. The monster didn't have the chance to resist before being smashed to the point of spattering blood. It was not because the monster was too weak, it was that Li Qiye was simply too strong. This monster had always been hiding at the bottom of the river in order to ambush cultivators. Countless masters had died in its jaws.

After slamming this monster back to its initial shape, it turned out to be a turtle bigger than a tabletop with blood dripping everywhere from its body.

“Great immortal, please forgive this little demon.” The turtle begged with its last breath.

Li Qiye took his foot off its back and gave it one more kick, causing it to roll as he dismissively said: “Stand up.”

Chapter 804: Old Turtle

The turtle didn’t dare to argue. It quickly transformed then stood up. At this time, it had become an old man with gray hair and a hunchback. It looked quite friendly, so no one would think that it was a monster hiding below the river to ambush people.

The old turtle immediately prostrated before Li Qiye and crazily slammed its head on the ground repeatedly: “Great immortal, I was too blind to see your arrival and even tried to ambush you. This lowly one deserves death, deserves to be minced into countless pieces...”

A loud bang resounded each time his head met the ground.

“You are still a Heavenly Sovereign, so why are you so afraid of death like this?” Li Qiye glanced at him.

It wasn’t easy for cultivators to reach the sovereign realm. Most people capable of this feat were rulers of countries or lords of their own domains — prestigious existences.

Experts of this level would rather die before acting so shamefully. Even in defeat, they would rarely prostrate and beg for their life.

The old turtle turned red after hearing this. Nevertheless, his skin was sufficiently thick as he awkwardly smiled: “Great immortal, you think too highly of this lowly one. This lowly one is but a turtle in the wild. Not to mention having self-respect, just staying alive is already a blessing.”

“Turtle in the wild?” Li Qiye looked at him: “What does being in the wild have to do with anything? There are countless vagabond cultivators in this world. There are those who are weaker than you with more of a backbone.”

“Great immortal, this lowly one’s life is as valuable as grass. I’m ugly and lowly so I can’t compare to the amazing people with peerless talents.” He was not ashamed of debasing himself at all: “I only want to live a bit longer and do not dare to chase after the heavenly path or fame.”

Li Qiye chuckled at the shamelessness of the turtle and no longer wanted to kill him. He demanded: “Reveal your background.”

The old turtle didn’t dare to hide anything: “This lowly one is only a water turtle. When I was young, I ate a pearl...”

It turned out that this turtle managed to eat a mystical pearl and became enlightened. As the saying goes, nothing lives longer than a turtle. He had been living at the bottom of the pond and would sometimes sneak up to the surface to look at the world outside.

After seeing cultivators devouring clouds and the earth as well as soaring freely in the sky, he grew envious and chose to stay near the river bank. He would pick the dead bodies of these cultivators and eat them to slowly cultivate.

Due to his long lifespan, he was able to eventually reach the Heavenly Sovereign realm against all odds.

“Having a long lifespan is a good thing.” Li Qiye checked his cultivation and smiled. This old turtle might be a Heavenly Sovereign, but his dao foundation was a clutter of impurities. Both his merit laws and treasures were all over the place. To become a sovereign under such circumstances was simply a miracle!

“Great immortal, please don’t laugh at me. You are from a great immortal sect while this lowly one is only a turtle at the bottom of a river. My cultivation laws are a mess, so they can’t get into your sight.” The old turtle immediately responded and used the chance to suck up to Li Qiye.

Li Qiye gently nodded: “It really isn’t easy. A turtle without any guidance reaching the sovereign realm — this can truly be considered an amazing feat!”

Outside of having lived for a very long time, many coincidences blended together to allow the turtle to have such fortune. Not dying under the tribulations was another incredible stroke of luck!

“Great immortal is the best in history. Your cultivation is comparable to that of Immortal Emperors. Without any equals, you are unstoppable in this entire world...” The old turtle went with the flow. After hearing Li Qiye praising him, he immediately flattered Li Qiye back and shamelessly said: “I am foolish, but I wonder if great immortal would be willing to teach me a thing or two? So that I can be under your protection...”

Such wretched shamelessness was rare to find in demons, especially a sovereign level demon.

“There’s no need to grovel like this.” Li Qiye shook his head and ignored the praises: “Where is this place?”

“This is Quicksand River. It is one thousand and three hundred miles long. The source is back at the Driftsand Plain. There are fifty tributaries...” The old turtle introduced his territory without pause.

“Okay, stop. It’s just a tiny location, I’ve never heard of it before.” Li Qiye gently waved his sleeve.

After noticing Li Qiye’s lack of interest, he immediately said: “Great immortal is a celestial up in the nine heavens, a monarch in myriad realms. This small river area, of course, wouldn’t get into your sight. Only the divine mountains and immortal firmaments in the immortal world would—”

“Stop your sweet-talk. Do you know where the heavenly flame is?” Li Qiye interrupted the incessant turtle.

“Heavenly flame?” The turtle tilted its head in contemplation: “Is great Immortal talking about the Heavenly Flame County of the Ox-Herder Country?”

Li Qiye insipidly replied: “Perhaps.” That place wasn’t called the Heavenly Flame County a long time ago. However, as time passed, many names changed.

“This lowly one has been there several times before.” The old turtle spoke: “If great immortal wants to go there, then I’ll tell you the way. Great immortal only needs to cross this river then head north towards the eastern county...”

Although this turtle asked Li Qiye to teach him earlier, he actually hoped that Li Qiye would leave as soon as possible. If such a strong person became unhappy and decided to turn him into soup, then it would be quite a sad fate.

“There is no need to tell me.” Li Qiye didn’t bother listening to the directions. He gently tapped the turtle’s back and insipidly declared: “Carry me there.”

“Great immortal...” The old turtle’s expression quickly changed after hearing this. It calmed down and responded: “Great immortal, this lowly one is old and powerless. I am slower than a snail, so I’m afraid I will only slow great immortal down from your business...”

“Oh? Didn’t you ask for my guidance earlier?” Li Qiye glanced at him.

The old turtle immediately replied: “This lowly one would, of course, be eternally grateful for great immortal’s guidance. However, great immortal is the ruler of this world, the monarch of the nine heavens. Your business relates to the well-being of the nine worlds and its billions of inhabitants. How could this lowly one waste your time with my own insignificant matters—”

“Alright, no more blabbering. If I told you to carry me, then do it.” Li Qiye smiled. The more the turtle didn’t want to, the more he wanted to force him.

“Great immortal...” The turtle frowned in pain. Of course he didn’t want to leave this place. Quicksand River was his home, and he knew it the best. He knew the safest locations to hide from his enemies. The moment he spotted danger, he would run away and could disappear instantly.

Li Qiye dismissively said: “Say no again and I will make a soup out of you. Just try me.”

The old turtle quivered and didn’t dare to speak again. He immediately laid down and revealed his true form as a big turtle.

Li Qiye sat on him without another word. The old turtle felt an indescribable torment at this moment. He didn’t know whether this was a fortune or a disaster. What if he made Li Qiye unhappy and the guy made a soup out of him? He had no choice but to obediently take Li Qiye to the Heavenly Flame County. He could only hope that Li Qiye would show some kindness and quickly allow him to return to Quicksand River.

Although the turtle said that he was as slow as a snail, this was far from the truth. Once he went full speed, he could ride the clouds at an astonishing speed. Just from this particular style, it was apparent that he was someone who ran at the first sign of trouble, a professional escape artist!

The Heavenly Flame County was not considered a big location in the Beast Realm. There were plenty of places like this here.

If one had to mention something remarkable about it, then it would be its history. An extraordinary character emerged from this county with the title of Heavenly Flame Goddess. Legend states that this

goddess swept through the Stone Medicine World and eventually established her foundation here, hence its name.

Although riding a turtle seemed strange, it was still acceptable in the Beast Realm even for its mortal inhabitants. There were two reasons for why the Beast Realm had this name. The first was that it was inside the beast vein, and the second was that this was the world of demons. If the Alchemy Realm was a place where demons and golems coexisted, then the Beast Realm was exclusively meant for demons while the Stone Realm was for golems.

There were many strange demons in this realm, so seeing a weird turtle was not surprising at all. To the south of the Heavenly Flame County were huge ruins. There were broken pavilions and buildings with shattered tiles everywhere. Weeds ran amok along with entangling vines. Anyone who stood here would have an uncontrollable feeling of sadness.

It was easy to see that this was once a prosperous land, a sacred ground. Alas, after millions of years, this place had fallen. Only these broken buildings before them told the story of its past glory. While sitting on the turtle and staring at these buildings, Li Qiye felt a tinge of emotion despite his numb heart. He gently sighed: "Heavenly Flame, oh Heavenly Flame. Glory and prosperity turned into ruins. Nothing in this world can stop the ruthless erosion of time..."

Li Qiye composed himself after a while and told the turtle: "Let us go in."

Chapter 805: Tie Clan

The old turtle wanted to leave after taking Li Qiye to his destination. He naturally wished for Li Qiye to spare him. However, Li Qiye didn't say anything and he was too afraid to ask, so the turtle had to keep on carrying Li Qiye forward.

The ruins ahead were quite large. One could easily imagine that this was once a grand city. Li Qiye shook his head and thought that the Tie Clan had fallen. Even a stronger clan wouldn't escape the fate of eventual decline.

In the Heavenly Flame County, many people knew the Tie Clan. The older generation would always say positive things when talking about the Tie Clan: "The Tie Masters have always been good people across the generations. It is our county's blessing to have such great rulers."

The county's people only knew that the Tie Masters were kind and merciful because the county was the land of the Tie Clan. At the same time, the tax here was the lowest in the entire Ox-Herder Country! Because of this, the county was a good place to live.

They didn't know about an even more illustrious and ancient past of the Tie Clan. Very few people in the present did since that time was long gone.

Back in the distant past, there was a Heavenly Flame Goddess who was renowned across the nine worlds and stood at the peak. She was adored by countless geniuses in her generation. Back then, she pledged loyalty under the Dark Crow's banner and was one of his generals with many meritorious contributions. Not only was she beautiful, more importantly, her cultivation was earth shattering.

After countless expeditions, the goddess grew weary. Eventually, Li Qiye as the Dark Crow allowed her to leave, no longer working under him.

He bestowed generous rewards to her. Eventually, she settled down in the Stone Medicine World. She had a family that she passed her torch to, the mighty Tie Clan!

Lamentably, the name “Heavenly Flame Goddess” had been forgotten along with the glory of the Tie Clan.

The old turtle carried Li Qiye further into the ruins. After entering the central area, they found that there were still several mansions standing intact without any damage. These mansions were quite grand and majestic.

However, they were old and no longer as brilliant as before. Only traces of their glory were left from their lofty appearances.

There was an eye-catching stone tablet in front of these mansions. It must have been carved from an unknown type of rock to be so large and heavy. There was only one word on top of the tablet — “Tie”. [1. Tie means Iron.]

Just this word “Tie” alone showed the clan’s previous prestige. Just this word alone was enough to deter countless people in those years.

No one knew who wrote this word, but it soared like a dragon and phoenix with an overbearing momentum, seemingly looking down on the nine worlds and myriad realms.

Unspeakable emotions rose in Li Qiye’s mind as well after seeing this “Tie”.

Back then, he was the one who gave her this tablet. Although there were also other reasons, it was to give the Tie Clan another form of defense. This word “Tie” came from his own hand and made countless people come to bow down in worship!

After millions of years, this tablet was still here, the word “Tie” was still here, but the Tie Clan had fallen.

“Pluff!” While Li Qiye was looking at the stone tablet and reminiscing, a flying spear suddenly pierced the ground in front of them.

“Scram! The Tie Clan does not welcome you!” A cold and fierce voice came.

A woman adorned in a martial arts robe could be found standing in front of the mansion. It was very tight which highlighted her especially alluring figure. Her expression was cold, a murderous glimmer in her eyes. She had a decisive and war-like atmosphere just like a powerful general.

Behind her was a series of spears that all emitted cold glints. Although this woman had a strong aura with explosive amounts of blood energy, she was only a regular human and at best a martial artist; she wasn’t a cultivator.

Li Qiye looked at her and spoke with a blank expression: “Miss, I came bearing no malicious intentions.”

“Malicious or not, get the hell out of here!” The woman coldly declared: “None of the Qilin Marquis’ lackeys are good people! Scram now or I won’t be so polite anymore.”

Li Qiye shook his head in response: “I’m afraid you are misunderstanding something. I don’t know this Qilin Marquis at all. I only came for sightseeing.”

“Even if you are not one of his lackeys, my Tie Clan still does not welcome you. Leave now!” The woman uttered with a voice as cold as ice.

Li Qiye looked back at the mansions behind her. It was empty without another soul. It seemed that she was the only person left from the Tie Clan. Although her vitality was still plentiful, she was only a martial artist without any cultivation.

“Miss, acting polite towards me would be beneficial for you.” Li Qiye had a rare moment of good temper and flatly said.

At this point, the woman took out another spear and coldly said: “No need for pleasantries, I don’t need anything from you. Just leave already!” She was ready to throw it at any time! She was the current master of the Tie Clan, Tie Lan.

The people in the county would all praise her: “The master is brilliant and shows that women are no less than men.”

Tie Lan was the best master that the people of the county could ask for. She was obsessed with martial arts and waived the taxes of the county! Many citizens here supported her. In fact, she was very famous across the entire country as well, at least in the mortal world. At a young age, she had already defended the borders and made numerous great contributions. She was even bestowed the rank of general by the country’s ruler.

“So aggressive.” Before Li Qiye could reply, a loud laughter accompanied by derisive clapping resounded.

A young man came at this time with more than ten followers behind him. His blood energy was very powerful. It was clear at a glance that he was a cultivator.

“Qilin Marquis!” Tie Lan’s expression sank after seeing the young man and she coldly uttered: “You and your lackeys, scram right now or else I won’t be so polite anymore!”

“A mere mortal dares to act like this in front of me?!” With a cold expression, the young man declared: “If I wasn’t considerate of the Ox-Herder Royal Lord Su Mingchen, I would have killed you already! Be smart and sell this land to me; otherwise, I will no longer give the royal lord any face and take it by force!”

“Don’t even dream about it!” Tie Lan shouted: “I would rather die before I sell the Tie Ancestral Land!”

“Killing you is beyond child’s play.” The Qilin Marquis snorted: “Killing you is simply like stepping on an ant. I am only offering to buy this land to give a little bit of respect to the Royal Lord.”

“She told you to scram, so scram. The Tie Clan’s land is not for sale.” Li Qiye gently waved his sleeve as if he was swatting away a fly before Tie Lan could defend herself.

The young man’s gaze fell upon Li Qiye and noticed that he seemed quite ordinary. There was no point caring about this young man or the turtle below him.

“Hey, we have a white knight here.” The young man looked at Li Qiye and smirked: “Looking at you, you must be a cultivator. Defending girls is good and all, but you also have to look at who you are going against!” [2. Flower Envoy is the raw meaning of “protector of women”, but more often than not, it’s said in a derisive tone, and white knight fits so well.]

Li Qiye looked at the young man and replied in a dismissive manner: "I've never given a damn."

"Such a big tone." The Qilin Marquis laughed then sneered: "Do you know who I am? You don't even know yet you're still trying to act cool, how courageous!"

"What's the difference?" Li Qiye leisurely said: "I don't care who you are since you are only a stray dog on the street, that's all."

The marquis was basking in his greatness, but after hearing this, his face paled: "Stray dog? Little brat, do you know who I am? I am a disciple of the Heavenhoof Ravine! My senior brother is the Bird King of the Feather Country and my first brother is the Golden Crow Prince!"

The marquis felt proud after mentioning his background. He was a lizard demon and called himself the Qilin Marquis. He was indeed a disciple from the ravine, but only an outer sect disciple. [3. Lizards are close to qilins/dragons.]

A behemoth with two emperors like the ravine had many outer disciples. Of course, there was one thing the marquis was very proud about, and that was his backing was the second brother of the ravine, the Bird King!

He often boasted to others about being a disciple in addition to his second brother being the Bird King and his first brother being the Golden Crow Prince! This kind of talk made it seem like he was a big shot at the ravine.

Li Qiye was too lazy to look at the boasting marquis, so he contemptuously waved his hand: "Don't know, never heard of you before."

This attitude left the marquis enraged as his face became quite unsightly!

"Young Master, let us teach this fool a good lesson. You can go take care of the girl." The ten followers behind him immediately jumped forward.

They had a fierce look and headed for Li Qiye with an aggressive momentum.

Li Qiye didn't bat an eye in the face of this oncoming attack. He pointed with his finger and unleashed a strike. All ten followers immediately turned into a bloody mist.

This scared the soul out of the marquis. He knew that he had kicked an iron wall this time. He wanted to run, but he couldn't even take a single step before Li Qiye had him gripped by the neck.

"You... do you know who I am? I am a Heavenhoof disciple! My second brother, the Bird King, wants this land. I came under his orders. If, if you dare to touch me, then you would be opposing my second brother and the ravine!"

[spoiler title='805 Teaser']The old turtle wanted to leave after taking Li Qiye to his destination. He naturally wished for Li Qiye to spare him. However, Li Qiye didn't say anything and he was too afraid to ask, so the turtle had to keep on carrying Li Qiye forward.

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In the Heavenly Flame County, many people knew the Tie Clan. The older generation would always say positive things when talking about the Tie Clan: "The Tie Masters have always been good people across the generations. It is our county's blessing to have such great rulers."

The county's people only knew that the Tie Masters were kind and merciful because the county was the land of the Tie Clan. At the same time, the tax here was the lowest in the entire Shepherd Country! Because of this, the county was a good place to live.

They didn't know about an even more illustrious and ancient past of the Tie Clan. Very few people in the present did since it was now gone.

Chapter 806: Tie Lan

The aghast marquis quickly called out his backings and hoped that this would deter Li Qiye.

Li Qiye glanced at him before throwing him on the ground: "Go tell your second brother, first brother, and even the ravine to scram. Don't let me see any of you at the Tie Clan again, or else I'll trample your ravine!"

"Fine, just you wait, I will definitely let them know." Although the marquis wanted to add some stronger words, he saw Li Qiye's cold eyes and couldn't help but quiver. He quickly fled and only left behind the one sentence before disappearing.

"Great immortal, this is, this is opposing the Heavenhoof Ravine." The old turtle shivered. His head shrank back into the shell during the fight. He wanted to dig himself a hole in the muddy ground.

This cowardly turtle was completely different from Tie Yi. Although Tie Yi acted as a coward, it was just that, an act. In contrast, this turtle was truly scared. This was part of his instinct; as a vagabond cultivator, he had always been hiding at the bottom of the river. No matter whether it was a big or small event, he would instantly hide there.

He was truly scared after hearing that Li Qiye wanted to fight against the ravine. He wanted nothing more than to run from this place back to Quicksand River.

Li Qiye nonchalantly replied: "So what?" He didn't care for this sort of thing.

The frightened turtle quickly added: "Great immortal, do you know the origin of the ravine? It is an imperial lineage with two emperors! They control over ten countries in the southern region of the Beast Realm, and many other minor nations are its vassals. After existences like the Alchemy Kingdom, the Jianlong Clan, and the Beastmaster Citadel decided to live reclusively, the ravine became the strongest in this world."

Li Qiye looked at him.: "It seems that you know a lot despite hiding at the bottom of the river."

The old turtle laughed then said while being quite pleased with himself: "Although I hide at the bottom of the river, I still try to listen to worldly news."

He quickly recomposed himself and added: "Great immortal, we should still run away before the ravine comes with killing intent. If that were to happen, we would die without a grave. You should run back to your sect and I will go back to my Quicksand River."

One didn't have to guess to know that upon the first sign of danger, this old turtle wouldn't give a damn about Li Qiye's life and would certainly be the first to flee.

"Who says we have to run? We will stay here for a while longer." Li Qiye said.

The old turtle's neck shrunk back a bit as he whimpered: "Great immortal, this lowly one has carried you here so my task is finished. Can I leave now?"

"Not a chance." Li Qiye purposely teased the turtle and smirked: "It is not easy for me to find an appropriate carrier, so how could I let you go so easily?"

The turtle's expression twisted after hearing this. If he knew this would be the case, he wouldn't have shown such a good performance. He bitterly said: "Great immortal, I am only an insignificant ant while you are the ruler of the nine worlds. An ant like me staying by your side would only ruin your image and reputation..."

"Okay, stop your load of rubbish. If I say you can leave, then leave. If I don't, then obediently stay here or else I'll make a soup out of you." Li Qiye gently waved his hand.

The frightened turtle immediately shut its mouth and didn't dare to utter another word. It obediently stayed behind Li Qiye.

Li Qiye gazed at the tall tablet while gently sighing in his mind. He went closer, but suddenly, a popping sound came about. Tie Lan attacked before he could reach the tablet. A spear aimed straight for Li Qiye's throat like a venomous serpent, swift and merciless.

Tie Lan naturally couldn't hurt Li Qiye. The spear was caught by Li Qiye before it could pierce his throat.

"You should be thanking me." Li Qiye looked at the cold Tie Lan and calmly said: "If I didn't help you chase them away, one can easily imagine your fate."

"Mind your own business!" Tie Lan didn't feel any gratitude and uttered: "You are not a good guy either. You came to my clan for our treasures!"

"Your Tie Clan's treasures?" Li Qiye couldn't help but chuckle. Was there anyone else who knew more than him about the clan's treasures besides the Heavenly Flame Goddess?

"All cultivators are evil; they only wish to steal my clan's treasures! If you wish to do so, then you have to do it over my dead body!" She harshly declared.

Li Qiye glanced at her and asked: "If your clan actually had a treasury, would you still be alive right now? Would you, alone, be able to protect it?"

Although Tie Lan, who was obsessed with martial arts, was a young and powerful master, she was nothing compared to a cultivator.

She stubbornly replied with a cold glimmer in her eyes: "Even if you cultivators are strong, I will use my Tie Clan's Stormpetal Spear to protect every inch of this land!"

"The prominent Tie Clan only has the Stormpetal Spear left and a weak branch of martial arts. Do you really think your clan has something that others covet?" Li Qiye smiled and gently shook his head.

“Don’t be so presumptuous!” Tie Lan was furious to see Li Qiye looking down on her most powerful martial arts. She cried out and let go of the spear that Li Qiye caught. Another spear from her back aimed straight for him at lightning speed.

“Clank!” Li Qiye effortlessly flicked his finger and shot away her spear.

“Die!” Tie Lan was a headstrong person who didn’t know when to back down. She cried out as the spears behind her flew forward at once. It was as if she had many hands controlling several dozen spears all at once. In the blink of an eye, the cold glint of steel rushed upward then descended like a torrential storm of flower petals.

One had to admit that she was a top martial artist. This move of hers could kill cultivators of the Palace Foundation and even Palace Expansion realms. However, she was but an ant before Li Qiye.

“Pop!” Li Qiye simply waved his sleeve to shatter all of her spears. However, he did not hurt her.

He leisurely looked at her and said: “I came to the Tie Clan this time to take away one item, not to make it hard for you! Plus, this item does not belong to your Tie Clan!”

“In your dreams! Don’t even think about taking a single blade of grass from my clan before I am dead!” Tie Lan shouted and rushed forward with her bare hands. She was ready to bare her fangs with great ferocity.

However, Li Qiye simply swung his sleeve again and swept her flying away. She fell to the ground and struggled to stand back up.

“Unless I’m dead... I won’t let any of you get what you want!” She coldly uttered while trying to get up from the ground.

Li Qiye simply pointed with his finger and froze her in place. He glanced at her and dryly said: “If I wanted to, killing you would be easier than killing an ant!”

“Even if you kill me and take away my clan’s items, I will haunt you forever!” She wasn’t afraid of dying. Her personality was stubborn to the extreme!

While staring at Tie Lan, Li Qiye found that she had a semblance of the Heavenly Flame Goddess in her. Wasn’t the goddess a stubborn girl as well?

Although his patience was wearing thin, his expression suddenly softened again. After remembering the goddess who was completely loyal to him, who contributed great merits and was the first to rush forward on any battlefield, he gently sighed.

Out of consideration for the loyal goddess back then, Li Qiye didn’t want to be too harsh on Tie Lan. He commanded the turtle: “Carry her away and persuade her. My patience is limited!”

The old turtle had seen Li Qiye’s brutality, so how could he not listen? He carried the immobilized Tie Lan away while persuading her at the same time: “Young Miss, the great immortal is only trying to be kind. Think about it, if he was malicious, then he could have killed you by waving his hand. He is a great man and perhaps will even teach you in the future...”

The old turtle was only a minor character, a vagabond cultivator. Despite being a Heavenly Sovereign, he was patient even in carrying out the most menial of tasks. He didn't mind wasting time carrying out Li Qiye's command to persuade Tie Lan. Even she got tired of listening to this old turtle who went on and on and was about to go crazy. What an incessant old turtle!

Li Qiye ignored the two as he gently placed his palm on the tablet to feel its beat. Eventually, he was able to determine that it was the right time to take the item from here.

After he confirmed it, he sat down before the tablet and began to chant verses in a very meticulous manner.

This scripture was very complex and profound. No one could understand the contents of the verses. It seemed to be an archaic language not found in present times.

In the past, when the goddess wanted to go into reclusion, Li Qiye had sealed an item and personally handed it to her. Later on, the goddess settled down in this place to begin her new life.

The nine worlds were vast, so the goddess had her own reasons for picking this location. One of them was that she liked the scenery here. Another was because the item the Dark Crow handed to her required gestation from the Beast Realm.

She was completely devoted to him, so even in her retirement, she chose to help him one last time and hid the sealed item inside the Tie Clan.

This secret was unknown to even the disciples of the Tie Clan for millions of years! In fact, no one was privy to this outside of the late goddess and the Dark Crow.

Chapter 807: Ox King

Li Qiye chanted to the stone tablet for a long time each day during his stay at the Tie Clan.

The old turtle's nagging eventually bore fruit. Although her attitude was still very cold towards him, Tie Lan no longer tried to chase Li Qiye away. Her expression clearly stated that she did not welcome this guest at all.

Of course, Li Qiye didn't mind the lack of hospitality as all of his thoughts were fixated on the stone tablet. On the other hand, Tie Lan found it quite strange with Li Qiye either standing in a daze or chanting to the tablet all day long.

Although there was a rumor that their clan had a hidden treasury, no one knew the truth. In fact, Tie Lan herself didn't believe this either.

This was due to the fact that the rumor was spread by her prodigal father, but he had died a very long time ago! Even those who heard him first-hand were skeptical.

She bore some grievances with her father. The last fortune of the clan was wasted by him. Moreover, this rumor of his was harmful to the Tie Clan even after he passed away.

In the past, she didn't mind this treasure business. Even the robbers who tried to steal treasures from their ruins were chased away by her. However, things hadn't been calm for her clan recently. The second brother of the ravine, Sheng Fei, took note of the Tie Clan's territory and asked to buy it.

Tie Lan knew that the only reason Sheng Fei didn't forcefully seize it was out of consideration for the Ox King. She also understood that she wasn't a match for the ravine. However, her unyielding character did not allow her to take a step back despite knowing that she didn't stand a chance.

Li Qiye stayed here for more than ten days. On this day, auspicious clouds suddenly appeared in the sky. With the accompaniment of the roar from a bull, someone suddenly emerged from the horizon.

"His Majesty is here in person at our Heavenly Flame County..." Many people saw the person in the sky and quickly prostrated on the ground.

"His Majesty must be here to see General Tie." Some immediately guessed the reason for his arrival.

Li Qiye also noticed this event. He lifted his head and saw an old man walking into the ruins.

The old man was tall with a big pair of ox-like eyes. He wore an imperial robe while emitting a mighty aura.

Even the cold Tie Lan who didn't care for anyone came out to greet him. She bowed once and said: "Please excuse this general for the late welcome, Your Majesty."

This old man was indeed the Royal Lord of the Ox-Herder Country, or Ox King Su Mingchen. He was a buffalo demon that ruled over the entire country. Moreover, he was a Heavenly Sovereign as well.

"Rise." Su Mingchen gently waved his sleeve.

After Tie Lan stood up, Su Mingchen gently sighed: "Tie Lan, why the need to be so stubborn? Your Tie Clan has fallen and the Bird King is paying a high price for this place, so why won't you sell it to him?"

Tie Lan stood there in silence. Su Mingchen was the person she respected the most. He used to be best friends with her grandfather. After her prodigal father spent all of their family's wealth, the king was the one who took care of their Tie Clan.

Su Mingchen tried to persuade the stubborn Tie Lan: "Tie Lan, you certainly don't think that your clan still has a hidden treasure, right? Your prodigal father was a drunkard and his nonsense is not trustworthy. Back then, after wasting all that money, he told other people that there was a hidden treasury in order to increase the clan's value!"

The king gently sighed in lamentation after bringing this up. He was best friends with Tie Lan's grandfather since their youth. They grew up and went on many arduous adventures together.

Although the Tie Clan was in decline during his best friend's generation, it still had some wealth left.

Unfortunately, her father was useless, a complete young master that only knew how to spend. He often stole items from the clan to sell. Ultimately, he even angered his own father to death.

After his father's death, this black sheep grew even more untethered. Eventually, he sold every last bit of the clan, causing the clan to fall apart.

It was a blessing that Tie Lan never gave up. Although she did not cultivate, she trained hard to become a martial arts master and contributed greatly to the country to become a general.

Although her strength was enough for her to enjoy the splendor of life, it was impossible to revive a lineage. Since the Tie Clan had nothing left, she couldn't do anything by herself.

"Your Majesty, I know this, but this is the home of my clan." Tie Lan firmly replied after a long period of silence.

The truth was that she felt very grateful towards the Ox King. Back when her prodigal father pawned off their clan, it was the king who reclaimed it.

"I know that you want to protect the Tie Clan." Su Mingchen said: "But there is nothing for you to protect here! Why the need to provoke the Bird King over these ruins?"

The king turned serious at this point: "You must know that the Bird King is the Royal Lord of the Feather Country. He is also the second brother of the Heavenhoof Ravine, so his backing is quite frightening. If you provoke him, then even I would be powerless if I wanted to protect you."

"Your Majesty, I do not dare to involve you." Tie Lan said: "I know I am weak and can't fight against cultivators, but I will never abandon my roots!"

"Oh, Tie Lan. You are courting death." The Ox King shook his head: "If you are willing, I will bestow the Eastrest County to you! You have been guarding the borders in the recent years so you have earned it. The Eastrest County has great sceneries with gentle people, a good location for you to retire. Why not leave this place full of bad memories and start anew?"

The Ox King took care of the Tie Clan very well due to his friendship with Tie Lan's grandfather. Otherwise, he wouldn't be so protective of her.

"No, Your Majesty, I will not stay anywhere but the Tie Clan." Tie Lan remained headstrong and shook her head: "I was born into the Tie Clan so I shall die and become a ghost in the Tie Clan. I will never abandon it even if I am the only one left!"

The Ox King had no solution to Tie Lan's stubbornness. He shook his head and knew that he couldn't protect her when she had offended the ravine!

During this helpless moment, the king looked towards the mansions and his eyes fell upon Li Qiye and the old turtle. He didn't really pay attention to Li Qiye since this young man seemed very ordinary.

However, the moment he saw the old turtle lying flat on the ground, his mind trembled. Since when did the Tie Clan have such a powerful expert?

Both the king and the turtle were Heavenly Sovereigns, so this couldn't escape his eyes. The sudden appearance of a sovereign at the Tie Clan startled him.

"May I ask where you are from, sir?" The king came forward and cupped his hands together to greet the turtle.

The turtle quickly shook his head: "Ox King, you are mistaken. This turtle is only a minor character, this great immortal here is the real boss." The timid turtle wanted less trouble. He was a vagabond cultivator after all, so he didn't want to show himself and pushed everything to Li Qiye instead.

The king was shocked to hear this. A Heavenly Sovereign being so respectful to this inconspicuous junior was surprising to say the least. The king was an experienced person, so despite Li Qiye's humble appearance, the king wondered if he came from an imperial lineage. This possibility meant that the king couldn't afford to offend or despise him. He cupped his hands as well towards Li Qiye: "May I ask for Young Noble's name? I am Su Mingchen from the Ox-Herder Country."

His attitude was very polite. Of course, if the old turtle was respectful of this young man ahead, then he didn't want to offend such a big character either.

"Li Qiye." Li Qiye slightly nodded. Since Su Mingchen was so polite, he also treated him with propriety.

"Li, Li, Li Qiye..." The Ox King stuttered with fear and almost choked on his own saliva.

He felt his quivering legs losing strength as he almost fell down to the ground. The name Li Qiye truly frightened him.

"Young Noble, you, you are the Alchemy Realm's Deity Li Qiye." Aghast, he swallowed and felt his mouth drying up! [1. Same words as Jikong Wudi's title, remember? It has been so long now. Not a title in this case.]

The Ox King was a smart man. People had been referring to Li Qiye as Fierce, but this title could be construed as too aggressive. He naturally wouldn't call Li Qiye this to his face, so the king instantly began calling Li Qiye a Deity instead. [1. Both Deity and Fierce have the word "man" and an adjective before it. In this case, Brute would be a better title for Li Qiye to fit the context, but we've been going with Fierce.]

"Deity?" Li Qiye couldn't help but chuckle. He slightly shook his head: "No need to embellish my title; just Fierce is fine. Of course, as far as I know, I am the only one named Li Qiye."

The king quivered after finding out that this ordinary-looking young man was Li Qiye. He felt his scalp tingle as if his head was about to explode.

He secretly lamented about his lack of fortune at this moment. Why did this ominous star choose to visit his country?!

Chapter 808: The Sly Ox King

After eventually managing to calm down, the king took a deep breath and bowed towards Li Qiye: "Young Noble Li's visit is an honor to our country; your presence brings light to our humble dwelling. We did not know you were coming, so our reception has been lacking, please excuse us."

The king knew that this Li Qiye was quite notorious, earning him an illustrious reputation recently. This being the case, the king couldn't help but feel afraid.

As the ruler, he had heard about the recent events in the Stone Medicine World! Not long ago, Li Qiye's fame had surpassed the number one celestial being, Ye Qingcheng.

Killing Cao Guoyao, destroying the Xian Clan, defeating the white hair alchemist, fighting against the Alchemy Kingdom... any of these events would have shocked the entire world, so Li Qiye was titled Fierce by others in a short period of time.

Thus, when this man suddenly came to his country, how could he not be nervous? This ferocious monster even dared to fight against the Alchemy Kingdom. A little country like his simply couldn't withstand this torture. He wanted to know why Li Qiye suddenly appeared in this location, but he didn't dare to ask.

Li Qiye gently nodded as a response to the politeness: "Since you are so polite, I can say that I am only here for a bit and have no hidden intentions toward your country."

How could Li Qiye not guess the king's thoughts after seeing his expression?

Su Mingchen wryly smiled and quickly cupped his hands together once more: "It is our honor to be graced by Young Noble's presence. Please stay as a guest and let me know if you need anything. As long as it is within our capabilities, we will certainly do our best to satisfy you."

He was certainly very smooth and tried to please Li Qiye from the outset. In fact, he was very experienced in this regard. His country was only a tiny one and could barely be considered a second-rate power. The strongest expert in the Ox-Herder Country was himself.

How could such a lineage be arrogant at all? If they wanted to survive between the great powers, they had to tuck their tails between their legs and please them!

Thus, despite being a Heavenly Sovereign, he was not arrogant at all. He did everything calmly with exquisite planning.

Disciples from the great powers couldn't compare to him in this regard. Those great powers that had been strong always had disciples who were very arrogant and held their heads high as if they were the best in the world.

On the other hand, Su Mingchen was polite to any character that he encountered. Because of this, his country managed to survive.

Li Qiye's eyes narrowed and he revealed a smirk after hearing Su Mingcheng. He leisurely said: "Since Royal Lord Su mentioned it, I won't be reserved. I do have something that requires your assistance."

Su Mingchen was scared out of his mind. Although Li Qiye had yet to reveal his request, he already had an ominous feeling. Of course, he had no other choice, so he had to bite his tongue and say: "What does Young Noble Li need? As long as it is within my power, I shall do my best."

Li Qiye smilingly said: "Only a small matter, no need to be so alarmed. You just need to send out a message for me."

"Do tell, Young Noble Li." Su Mingchen's scalp was tingling. How could he not be alarmed? This monster even dared to fight the Alchemy Kingdom. His little country was nothing in Li Qiye's eyes.

Li Qiye spoke slowly: "Here's the deal. I heard that this whatever Bird King wants to buy the Tie Clan's territory. Royal Lord Su can tell this king in my stead that the Tie Clan shall be under my protection from now on. If they dare to have any ideas about the Tie Clan, I will hang their heads on top of the Heavenly Flame County's gate."

Tie Lan, standing to the side, only scowled after hearing this. Without a doubt, she did not accept Li Qiye's decision.

The Ox King, on the other hand, felt his mind collapsing after hearing this. This was simply wanting to take his life!

“Young Noble Li... this, can you rethink it...” Su Mingchen didn’t know what to say at this moment.

“Oh, Royal Lord Su, is this little matter too difficult?” Li Qiye glanced at him.

Su Mingchen took a deep breath and responded: “Young Noble Li, I really want to carry this out for you, but this is indeed a bit problematic for me. Young Noble Li must know that my Ox-Herder Country is only a weak nation.”

He paused for a bit before continuing: “We are only an insignificant lineage attached to the Heavenhoof Ravine and require its protection. However, Bird King Sheng Fei is not only a royal lord, he’s also a disciple of the ravine with the elders as his backing on top of being the junior brother of the Golden Crow Prince.”

“Thus you are afraid of him.” Li Qiye stated.

Su Mingchen responded with a bitter expression: “Young Noble Li, I am a nobody, and the same applies to my country. We only wish to survive and have food to put on the table. A grand character like Young Noble Li and a behemoth like the ravine are both peak existences while I am but an ant. If I’m not careful, I could be crushed at any time.”

He was very frustrated after bringing this up. Although he didn’t know why Sheng Fei wanted these ruins, Sheng Fei had started pressuring him. Both Sheng Fei and the people behind him were not something the Ox-Herder Country could afford to provoke.

Tie Lan not selling the Tie Clan was truly troublesome. However, he had ways to make Tie Lan back down. But now, a brute like Li Qiye stepped in and simply wanted to play hardball with Sheng Fei while he was stuck in the middle. This was not a good feeling at all.

Li Qiye chuckled: “Do you think it is easier for me to crush you or that Bird King to death?”

Su Mingchen wryly smiled and helplessly responded: “Young Noble Li can crush me like an ant, but I still hope that you will show mercy and spare my life.”

These words were very sincere. A royal lord of a small nation between big countries needed to bow down at times.

“Your words are so pitiful that I’m a bit reluctant to take you down.” Li Qiye glanced at the king and smiled.

Su Mingchen quickly smiled in response: “Although I’m not in a position to warn the Bird King for Young Noble Li, we are organizing a little banquet at my palace soon. The Bird King will also be there as a guest. If Young Noble Li is willing, then I can introduce you two. This will be a rare chance to reach a compromise.”

He naturally wished for the two to talk since a peaceful resolution was the best outcome for him. Otherwise, the flames of war could burn his country into rubble.

Li Qiye touched his chin and smirked before responding: "Since Royal Lord Su has such good intentions, I'll just take a trip there then."

"Nothing could be better." Su Mingchen became happy after hearing this: "The doors to my country are always open to Young Noble Li."

He was relieved after seeing Li Qiye's attitude. At the very least, he was not like the rumored legendary brute that would kill people at first sight. There seemed to be some reason left in him. It made the king have hope that the two might sit down and have a good chat.

He didn't know that Li Qiye's killing intent was very selective. He was the type that preferred soft treatment over hard retaliation. The more arrogant the enemy was, the more he would want to kill them!

In the end, Su Mingchen made some more small talk before saying goodbye to Li Qiye and left.

After he left, Tie Lan coldly stared at Li Qiye and uttered: "What do you want with my Tie Clan? What item are you trying to get?"

Li Qiye looked at the cold Tie Lan and chuckled: "Even if I wanted something, what can you do? I can kill you with a single finger. Plus, your Tie Clan doesn't have anything that I want. I'm simply taking back what belongs to me."

She coldly countered: "My clan doesn't have anything that belongs to you!"

"How do you know that there isn't such a thing? How much do you know about your ancestors or the past?" Li Qiye shook his head: "Stop repelling people from far away. I am here to help you since you alone can't protect your clan. Do you think Su Mingchen can help you? These are harsh words, but when necessary, he will be more than willing to sell you before opposing the ravine. Do you think you are more important than the country to him?!"

"You..." Tie Lan's expression sank. She could have guessed such a thing, but she was in denial. After taking a deep breath, she coldly said: "My Tie Clan does not need someone with an unknown origin and hidden intentions to help."

Li Qiye glanced at her and smiled: "Kids shouldn't think too highly of themselves. Your strength alone can be considered unfathomable among mortals, but in my eyes, you are simply an insect. I am only helping the Tie Clan, not you!"

Chapter 809: Gathering At The Palace

"..." The cold Tie Lan turned red after hearing this. Li Qiye's words were too hurtful towards her self-esteem.

Li Qiye didn't bother looking at her and went inside the mansion. The furious Tie Lan coldly uttered: "If you are helping the Tie Clan, then clearly tell me the reason why!"

Li Qiye continued to ignore her. If it wasn't because of the Heavenly Flame Goddess, he wouldn't have wasted time on this matter.

“Miss, please calm down, calm down.” The old turtle quickly consoled her after seeing her angry appearance. He could only play the mediator at this moment.

He was actually quite talented in this regard. After his continuous persuasion, Tie Lan finally calmed down and only glared at Li Qiye. She still scowled and thought that Li Qiye had bad intentions toward her clan.

Although Li Qiye didn’t pay any special attention to her, he still occasionally felt that she was praiseworthy in some ways.

On one day, Li Qiye woke up quite early, but shouts could already be heard within the ruins. Tie Lan had woken up even earlier than him and was practicing her spear techniques.

She was shrouded in a cold aura and appeared to have countless hands as she controlled dozens of spears. All of them flew around in the sky. Some appeared to be flood dragons while others were phoenixes. These spears were like an overbearing rain that flew down like flower petals.

Eventually, with another cry, these dozens of spears came together to form a single attack. The explosive force was quite powerful and created a loud detonation. It was apparent that this was the most powerful attack of the Tie Clan’s spear techniques.

After Tie Lan put away her spears, Li Qiye who had been watching at the side nodded approvingly: “This Storm Petal Spear technique might not be an unbeatable technique or anything, but it is quite remarkable and stately. To be able to bring martial arts to this level really shows that you have trained quite hard.”

Li Qiye’s evaluation was quite high. However, Tie Lan didn’t acknowledge his comment and only snorted!

Her talents weren’t bad and she was very hardworking as well. Some even called her passion for martial arts an obsession since she trained single-mindedly! Otherwise, she wouldn’t have been able to reach this level of mastery with the spear without a good teacher at such a young age!

Li Qiye looked at her and eventually said: “If you want to cultivate, then I can teach you.”

Li Qiye had no feelings for Tie Lan. He simply wanted to lead her to the path due to her own talents and the Heavenly Flame Goddess. He hoped that the goddess’ legacy could continue on.

Tie Lan coldly peered at him and said: “There is no free meal in this world. What is your goal?” She was very cautious of him!

Li Qiye met her gaze and retorted: “What do you have for me to bother scheming for? Talent-wise, you are only mediocre. When it comes to beauty, I guess you can say that you aren’t ugly; I can just wave my hand and plenty of beauties will show up!”

“You...” A girl was very sensitive to others calling them ugly. Li Qiye was simply putting her down!

Li Qiye raised his brow and dismissively said: “Okay, don’t be so cautious towards me. If I really wanted something from you, then it would be too easy.” He paused for a bit before continuing: “For someone of your age, it could be said that you have missed the best time for cultivation. If you don’t start now, I’m afraid your hair will already be white by the time you change your mind.”

Tie Lan took a deep breath then gazed at Li Qiye before answering in her usual cold tone: "I will not join any sects, I will always be a member of the Tie Clan!"

She was very stubborn in this regard. Because of her prodigal father, she grew to view everything about the Tie Clan as a treasure. She was determined to protect the clan unlike her father who wasted everything!

In fact, her talents were not bad. Some sects had wanted to recruit her, but she continued to cling onto the clan and didn't want to join any sect.

"You are not qualified to become my disciple." Li Qiye lazily looked at her and said: "I will teach you an incantation. Whether you learn it or not is up to you."

Li Qiye chanted this incantation three times then left, not caring whether she memorized it or not.

Once Li Qiye went back to the stone tablet, the old turtle immediately stood up and shamelessly asked: "Great immortal yahh... Will you also teach this lowly one a little bit? My cultivation is shallow since I am stupid and know nothing about the art of the grand dao. Great immortal is a true celestial from the heavens; a single incantation from you could shock the entire world..."

The old turtle saw Li Qiye purposely teaching Tie Lan cultivation, so he also shamelessly asked for help. A sectless cultivator like him would never let go of any good opportunities.

Li Qiye slowly looked at him and leisurely replied: "Oh? Haven't you been wanting to go back to your Quicksand River this entire time? Why are you asking me for help now?"

The turtle coughed and immediately swore: "Great immortal is misunderstanding me. My respect for you is like an endlessly surging river. With your command, I would dive into a sea of flames or a mountain of blades—"

"Okay, stop sucking up." Li Qiye interrupted the turtle: "If you are willing to stay, then I can think about it."

The old turtle smiled awkwardly but didn't dare to bring it up again.

"In two days, we will go to the Ox-Herder capital. We'll bring the little girl as well." Li Qiye commanded.

The turtle shuddered after hearing this. He had always been alone and spent the majority of his time hiding at the bottom of the river. But now, the thought of facing so many experts and cultivators made him quite anxious.

"What if, what if Miss Tie doesn't want to go?" The old turtle tried to come up with an excuse.

Li Qiye leered at him: "Then you go convince her for me!" Li Qiye appreciated the turtle's skills of persuasion a little bit. This cowardly turtle was not so useless after all.

"If she really doesn't want to go, then tie her up and bring her there." Li Qiye grew tired of talking and said: "She won't have her way when I'm around."

The old turtle didn't dare to say anything back as his head shrunk back into the shell. He knew that Li Qiye was already annoyed.

The Ox-Herder Country barely scraped by as a second-rate sect in the southern Beast Realm. At the same time, it was a tributary state under the Heavenhoof Ravine.

The ravine controlled the fifteen strongest sects in the region, so a small country like Ox-Herder was not anything to them since there were so many similar ones under their banner.

This small banquet held by Su Mingchen had many participating royal lords and sect masters from the lineages nearby. Among them, the Sacred Demon Tribe and the Tombskull Sect were the strongest as first-rate powers.

Although this meeting on paper was for the leaders to talk about recent events, the most important reason was the fact that the real organizer was the Bird King! Otherwise, Su Mingchen alone wouldn't have been able to invite the leaders from the two strongest sects.

The Bird King recently came to the Ox-Herder Country, so many sect masters wanted to get close to him and build social ties. Because of this, Su Mingchen decided to host this banquet for the various leaders.

All the sect masters and royal lords were present at the start of the banquet, but the Bird King had yet to arrive.

In fact, someone as young as the Bird King was not entitled to such grand treatment from the Sacred Demon Tribe and the Tombskull Sect. The Bird King came from the Feather Country and recently became its royal lord. He had yet to reach the Heavenly King realm, so in terms of cultivation, he could only be considered to stand out in talent among the younger generation.

However, this was not the focus for outsiders. The most important thing was that he was the second brother of the ravine as well as the Golden Crow Prince's junior. He was also held in high regard by the elders, so his status in the southern Beast Realm was especially prestigious.

Time went by, but Sheng Fei hadn't arrived and neither did Li Qiye. As the host, Su Mingchen grew a bit worried. He hoped that these two could talk without causing trouble. If a fight broke out in his small country, then his tiny land wouldn't be able to withstand the repercussions from these behemoths.

Li Qiye eventually appeared as Su Mingchen was standing there, waiting. He was sitting on a turtle with Tie Lan walking next to him.

Su Mingchen heaved a sigh of relief after seeing Li Qiye arriving just as promised and quickly went to greet him.

The other guests grimaced after seeing Li Qiye's group. All the leaders here were acquaintances, so they found it strange that Li Qiye's group was here. Plus, Tie Lan was a mortal no matter how you looked at her.

Mortals were not qualified to appear at this banquet. The three of them formed quite a strange group, so the guests were puzzled at their arrival.

What made them even more discontent was that after Li Qiye came in, he didn't greet any of the royal lords or sect masters. Instead, he sat in the master seat as if he was in charge. This annoyed them greatly!

These leaders were in charge of this region. It could even be said that they were the masters of others' life and death. However, this young man didn't bother bowing to greet them at all and even took the master seat.

One of the royal lords was obviously unhappy and drily asked: "Ox King, you invited other people as well?"

The Ox King felt troubled. He couldn't offend Li Qiye or the others, but Li Qiye had no such constraints. A brute like Li Qiye would cause rivers to run with blood at the first sign of discord. This guy dared to massacre the Xian Clan and even attacked the kingdom! His little country was simply nothing in comparison.

"Young Noble Li is here to discuss some business with the Bird King." Su Mingchen quickly responded with a smile.

The guests took another look at Li Qiye. In their minds, someone like Li Qiye wasn't worthy of talking with the Bird King. However, if this turned out to be true, then it was better for them to suppress their annoyance.

As time passed, the Bird King still didn't show up, so the leaders continued to wait! This period wasn't easy for Su Mingchen. He was hoping that time would fly by faster as this was a type of torture for him.

On the other hand, Li Qiye was as calm as ever while quietly sitting there.

[spoiler title='809 Teaser']"... The cold Tie Lan turned red after hearing this. Li Qiye's words were too hurtful towards her self-esteem.

Li Qiye didn't bother looking at her and went inside the mansion. The furious Tie Lan coldly uttered: "If you are helping the Tie Clan, then clearly tell me the reason why!"

Li Qiye continued to ignore her. If it wasn't because of the Heavenly Flame Goddess, he wouldn't have wasted time on this matter.

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Although Li Qiye didn't pay any special attention to her, he still occasionally felt that she was praiseworthy in some ways.

On one day, Li Qiye woke up quite early, but shouts could already be heard within the ruins. Tie Lan woke up even earlier than him and was practicing her spear techniques.

Chapter 810: Bird King Sheng Fei

The Bird King eventually appeared before the waiting crowd. Sheng Fei was not a particularly eye-catching man. He wore plain clothing with coins hanging from his sleeves and robes. This made him appear to be more of a shrewd businessman than a cultivator.

However, no one would dare to look down on him after seeing his eyes. They were especially sharp, like the eyes of an eagle. Once people met his gaze, they would feel as if they were his prey.

He had a cold aura, a clear sign of ruthlessness. A halo that was being emitted from his body showed that he was not a character to mess with. Su Mingchen immediately went to greet him along with the other guests.

Only Li Qiye calmly sat there and threw him a quick glance without saying anything.

Sheng Fei was a bit proud of being received by so many leaders. He nodded his head to return the greeting. Among the leaders here, only Heavenly Kings like the Sacred Demon Leader and the Tombskull Master were worthy of his respect!

These leaders were quite unhappy after seeing how Li Qiye remained seated without any reaction. However, they ignored him since they would rather talk to Sheng Fei instead.

“Young Noble Sheng has traveled so far to get here, did anything fun happen along the way?” A royal lord quickly scurried for his favor: “My country has a few ancient temples, would you be interested in taking a look?”

“Ancient temples? What kinds of temples?” Sheng Fei became interested after hearing this.

Sheng Fei was inferior compared to his first brother, the Golden Crow Prince, with regards to cultivation. However, he had his own specialty, he liked old relics. To be more exact, he had a passion for archaeology. One of his favorite things to do was to excavate old graves or ancient earths from declined sects to find treasures. Of course, such business often resulted in failure, but sometimes, one could obtain amazing stuff.

It was for this reason that Sheng Fei wanted to buy the Tie Clan to see if he could find any treasures within the ruins.

The royal lord noticed his interest and immediately added: “These temples have a great history, they were once occupied by ancient demons!”

“Ancient demons?” Sheng Fei’s interest grew as he immediately nodded: “I’ll definitely take a look if I have time.”

“My sect’s territory also has a particular grave. Strange phenomena occur quite often there.” The other leaders also tried to gain his attention after seeing the success of the first royal lord.

In their minds, Sheng Fei was still young, so this was the best time to please him. Later on, when Sheng Fei becomes an elder of the ravine, their tributary states would be able to obtain his help.

Among them, only the Sacred Demon Leader and the Tombskull Master remained quiet. They were part of first-rate sects. Moreover, they were Heavenly Kings, so organizing a banquet for Sheng Fei was already quite sensible. There was no need to lower themselves to win his favor.

“You...” During the pleasantries and small talk, Sheng Fei’s followers became quite proud as well. However, one young man’s expression quickly soured after he saw Li Qiye.

This young man was none other than the Qilin Marquis that had suffered back at the Tie Clan. He came with Sheng Fei this time just to deal with Li Qiye, but he didn't expect to see Li Qiye here!

His first reaction was to stagger backward after seeing Li Qiye. After all, Li Qiye's strength made him quiver. However, after remembering that Sheng Fei was here as his backing, he became much more courageous.

He fortified his stance and pointed at Li Qiye then shouted: "Second brother, this is the little bastard that killed our brothers! He even declared that he could crush you to death with one hand and trample our ravine with one stomp!"

Brimming with energy from his backing, the marquis fanned the flames even further! He wanted to use his second brother to destroy Li Qiye so that he could wash away his past humiliation.

The marquis' sudden outburst made many guests look over towards Li Qiye. A few of them began to have ideas; this could be a good opportunity to please Sheng Fei.

Su Mingchen, on the other hand, felt cold sweat dripping down his back. He was hoping that Li Qiye and Sheng Fei could sit down and have a nice chat. But now, with the Qilin Marquis escalating the situation, his hope was only a pipedream!

Li Qiye chuckled at the cocky marquis. He didn't refute the exaggeration and smiled: "It seems that a dog like you actually has a good memory, you were able to remember me so well."

The marquis turned livid with an unsightly expression. However, after remembering his second brother, he grew bolder and snorted: "Dumbass, to speak such disdainful words to my ravine, no one in this world can protect you!"

Some royal lords here also wanted to please Sheng Fei; one of them began to yell at Li Qiye: "Ignorant brat, to have the nerve! The ravine isn't a place that a brat like you..."

Li Qiye waved his sleeve dismissively to interrupt him: "This is none of your business. Scram to the side, the person I want to find today is him!"

Having said that, his gaze fell upon Sheng Fei.

This royal lord was furious after being interrupted by Li Qiye. He was a distinguished figure, so how could this nobody dare to speak to him with such hubris?!

Even the Sacred Demon Leader and the Tombskull Master frowned. They wondered who Li Qiye was to be able to act so arrogantly in front of Sheng Fei.

After being called out, Sheng Fei gazed at Li Qiye. He was suddenly startled after he saw Li Qiye's face and slowly approached.

The marquis thought that his second brother was about to attack Li Qiye, so he grew even more audacious and cried out: "Second brother, kill this bastard for the glory of our Heavenhoof Ravine and let him know—"

"Pop!" But before he could finish speaking, Sheng Fei quickly slapped his face, leaving behind a burning palm print.

This sudden change shocked the marquis. Not even in his wildest dreams did he expect that his second brother was not going to take care of Li Qiye and would rather slap him instead.

Sheng Fei ignored the marquis and continued to walk forward. He cupped his hands together and asked with a serious demeanor: "May I know your name?"

Li Qiye glanced over him and answered: "Li Qiye."

This name was like a hammer smashing into Sheng Fei's chest, causing him to be breathless. For a disciple of an imperial lineage, the name Li Qiye was thunderous! How could he not know Li Qiye? This was the person who killed their genius alchemist, the Vinepill Monarch, and he even killed their Heavenhoof elder!

This was a great enmity. Their sect had a picture of him, and the elders had discussed this before. They swore to never let this go until they killed Li Qiye!

Who would have thought that Li Qiye would actually come to their door? He was now in the Beast Realm, and the territory of their sect at that!

Sheng Fei was a smart person. He took a deep breath and cupped his hands once more towards Li Qiye: "So it is the Alchemy Realm's Deity of this generation, Brother Li. It is an honor to finally meet you."

All of the people here, especially the Sacred Demon Leader and the Tombskull Master, quivered after hearing this name despite being famous Heavenly Kings and experts.

The deity of a generation! After hearing Li Qiye's name, the leaders present all knew that this was just a compliment. In current times, who didn't know that Li Qiye was a ruthless man?!

Killing Young Noble Pei Yu, destroying the Xian Clan, and even shaking the Alchemy Kingdom — any of these battle feats could shock the entire world! His title of Fierce was erected from blood and bones!

"An honor?" Li Qiye smirked after hearing such cordiality. He naturally understood the feud between him and the ravine.

However, he didn't care for such things. He simply waved his sleeve and leisurely spoke: "Whether I am a deity or if it is your honor to meet me, I shall accept your compliments. Since you have been quite polite, very well, I will give you some face as well. I heard that you want the Tie Clan's site."

"The Tie Clan's site?" Sheng Fei noticed Tie Lan standing to the side and immediately understood what was going on! He truly did want this particular location. As the lord of a country and the disciple of the ravine, he was very conscious of his own reputation. He didn't want others to say that he forcefully seized land from a mortal. Plus, he also wanted to give the Ox King some consideration, so he said that he wanted to buy the land.

Unfortunately, despite his generous offer, Tie Lan was very stubborn. Even if he raised the offer, she would still refuse all the same!

"No, this is definitely not true!" Sheng Fei vehemently denied this claim by shaking his head.

“Really now?” Li Qiye grinned and touched his chin as if he was pondering something. He then looked at the marquis: “Then what was the deal with him? Your servant decided to act on his own? I saw it with my own eyes.”

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