

Chapter 811: Ruthless Abandon

Sheng Fei's expression quickly shifted. He glared at the marquis and harshly shouted: "Bastard, what did you do?! Tell me now or I'll show no mercy!"

"Second brother, this..." The marquis was lost by this sudden development. He was confused as to why his second brother, who was supposed to be his backing, was suddenly reprimanding him.

He weakly responded: "Brother, didn't, didn't you tell me—"

"Bastard!" Sheng Fei interrupted him and, with a murderous glare, cried out: "You dared to use my name to commit all sorts of evil trickeries?! Such heresy must be punished!"

"Second brother, it wasn't my idea—" Sheng Fei's sudden change in attitude left the marquis confused. He couldn't react in time and was quivering in fear.

"Unrepenting animal! You still try to defend your actions?! What's the point of keeping an animal like you?!" Sheng Fei shouted and reached his hand out towards the marquis.

"No, second brother, you, you can't kill me..." The aghast marquis cried out, but it was too late. With a snapping sound, his neck was snapped by Sheng Fei's grip.

His corpse dropped to the ground like a pile of mud. His eyes were still wide open since he didn't even realize where he went wrong. Not even in his dreams would he have expected for his second brother to kill him.

None of the leaders here said anything. All of them were sly foxes and naturally understood why Sheng Fei suddenly killed the marquis. This turned their hearts cold; this Sheng Fei turned out to be a very cruel person!

Even Tie Lan was stunned. She wanted to say something but managed to hold it in. She was a general and was accustomed to seeing death, but she was quite displeased with such a method!

Li Qiye, on the other hand, only watched this scene with a cold glare. How could he not know what Sheng Fei was trying to do? After killing the marquis, Sheng Fei acted as if nothing had happened. He cupped his hands and bowed towards Li Qiye: "Brother Li, it is a shame that our ravine had such a traitor. He actually committed a crime by using my name, so I killed him in place of our sect. I do apologize, Brother Li."

Li Qiye was too used to this sort of thing and he didn't care about revealing this little play.

"It is best that you don't have any ideas about the Tie Clan." Li Qiye glanced at him first, then his gaze swept over the leaders present: "Seeing as how all the royal lords and sect masters in this region are here, I'll be making an announcement. From today on, the Tie Clan will be under my protection. Anyone who touches the Tie Clan will be provoking me, Li Qiye!"

Tie Lan had no response to this declaration. She simply stood there emotionlessly.

“Of course not, of course not.” Sheng Fei immediately echoed: “Cultivators like us are heroes of justice, helpers of the weak. The current Tie Clan only consists of mortals, so who would make it difficult for them? If anyone dares, our ravine will be the first to disagree!”

“Yes, of course.” All the other sect masters voiced their agreement. Even the two leaders of the top two sects nodded their heads.

“That would be for the best.” Li Qiye naturally did not believe this type of rhetoric. Of course, he didn’t care either. His eyes narrowed as he said: “If anyone feels that they have the ability to provoke my authority, then do so! I am ready to wash the world with blood, but I’m not so sure if my enemies are as prepared!”

Having said that, Li Qiye was too lazy to give them a second look. He turned around and left. The turtle and the cold-as-ice Tie Lan quickly followed him.

The leaders could only watch Li Qiye leave. Although they were annoyed at him, it couldn’t be helped. They simply didn’t want to offend a brute that could fight against even the Alchemy Kingdom.

Eventually, the party ended with a negative atmosphere. Su Mingchen was powerless and couldn’t do anything. He could only pray for nothing else to happen and for Li Qiye to leave his country as soon as possible. This unlucky omen staying even a single day longer at his country meant another day of peril.

Of course, he wouldn’t dare to say that to Li Qiye’s face, so he could only silently pray.

“Return to the sect immediately and bring this letter to my master. Be sure to personally see him!” After returning to his residence, Sheng Fei immediately sent his most trusted confidant back to the ravine.

He must bring the news of Li Qiye’s arrival at the Ox-Herder Country to the elders! The blood feud between them was irreconcilable! Due to this, he wanted to prolong Li Qiye’s stay in this country. He would wait until the army of the ravine arrives. Then, Li Qiye would simply be a fish on the chopping block!

After sending away his confidant, Sheng Fei gritted his teeth and declared with a cold expression: “Li Qiye! Today, I pretended to be pitiful in front of you. I will repay this humiliation doubly!”

He was a royal lord and the second brother of the ravine. Until now, others only dared to flatter him due to his untouchable status! But today, he had to act humble in front of Li Qiye. Of course, it was just an expedient measure despite being so shameful.

When Sheng Fei was seething in his hatred and wondering how to kill Li Qiye, another attendant came in and reported: “Your Majesty, the Stony Edge Kingdom’s Cloud Soaring Venerable is here to see you.”

“Cloud Soaring Venerable? Quick, invite him in.” Sheng Fei immediately gave the command.

The main descendant of the ravine, the Golden Crow Prince, had a good relationship with Ye Qingcheng. At the same time, the venerable was Ye Qingcheng’s number one strategist and was highly regarded by him, so Sheng Fei didn’t dare the slightest discourtesy in his reception.

“Brother Sheng Fei, I didn’t expect to see you here.” A while later, the Cloud Soaring Venerable walked in.

Sheng Fei personally greeted him and asked him to sit down before smiling: "What brings you here, Venerable?"

Despite his powerful position, he was far weaker than the Golden Crow Prince in both status and strength. A character like Cao Guoyao would dare to act arrogantly before the venerable, but not him.

After sitting down, the venerable cheerfully smiled and asked: "Is there something on your mind?"

Sheng Fei slightly shook his head in response: "Nothing, there is no need for you to worry. I only came to this place to relax a bit. No worries here."

"Brother Sheng Fei, you must not consider me as a friend to say something like that." The friendly venerable could call anyone brother: "Although I am weak, I can still do a decent job of strategizing. If some recent events are going awry, tell me and I shall try my best to assist you."

Sheng Fei had been suppressing his anger, so he was a bit tempted after hearing this. Moreover, the venerable was a famous strategist that even Ye Qingcheng relied on.

"Who else but that bastard Li Qiye? He's ruining all of my plans!" Sheng Fei gritted his teeth and explained the circumstances.

The venerable pondered for a moment before speaking with a serious tone: "Brother Sheng Fei, this is quite a grand matter."

"What do you think about this?" Sheng Fei immediately asked.

The venerable responded: "Who is Li Qiye? A famous brute. And what about this tiny location, the Ox-Herder Country? I'm afraid he wouldn't care for such a tiny place. Out of all the places he could go, he chose to come here and declared his intention to protect the Tie Clan. What is he trying to do?"

"What are you saying?" Sheng Fei was slightly startled after hearing this.

The venerable continued: "The Tie Clan must have treasures, great treasures at that. Otherwise, it wouldn't be able to attract a brute like Li Qiye! Brother Sheng Fei, you love to explore and excavate, so you must have heard the legends. The Tie Progenitor was a brilliant goddess that had swept through the nine heavens. This lineage might have declined, but I believe that there are still incredible treasures buried underneath their clan."

"Your thoughts are the same as mine." Sheng Fei slapped his thigh in agreement and said: "I have tried to find many ancient scrolls about the Tie Clan."

His mood became much better while talking about treasures: "Just as you have said, I do think that there are treasures there despite the decline of the clan."

The venerable added: "The previous master of the Tie Clan was a wasteful fool and wrung the clan dry of everything. Later on, he swore that there was still an amazing treasury there! Although many people didn't believe him, I still feel that this remark is not baseless."

Sheng Fei became very eloquent and talkative regarding this topic: "I have heard of this late clan master too. Although this fool was a useless mortal, he was also a bookworm. He read all the writings of their

clan, so he must have known many secrets! Despite his uselessness, his literacy is not without use. I do think that his adamant claim before death is plausible.”

Chapter 812: The Beguiling Venerable

Things were exactly as Sheng Fei had recounted; the late master of the Tie Clan, or Tie Lan’s father, was a complete scoundrel. He came from a cultivation clan yet didn’t try to do anything useful and chose to be an idle black sheep. He even sold the cultivation manuals of his clan. However, his hobby was to look through ancient books and strange scriptures. He had read through all the books in their home and found some clues from his ancestors’ personal accounts and records. He speculated that there was still a great treasure in the Tie Clan.

At that time, he was driven mad from poverty. He had sold everything possible, including the ancestral home. If Su Mingchen didn’t buy it back, there would be no Tie Clan right now.

Due to his madness, he went around and spread rumors about the treasures in order to sell the ancestral home once more at a high price. However, no one believed this scoundrel and thought that it was only a madman’s ravings.

However, Sheng Fei paid attention to this since he was always interested in excavation. As a result, he wanted to buy the Tie Clan, but unfortunately, Tie Lan had no intention of selling!

“Brother Sheng Fei is right.” The venerable echoed the sentiment: “Would Li Qiye protect the Tie Clan if there wasn’t a great treasure? It is already declined with nothing left, so what is he trying to do? In my opinion, he is simply trying to take it all for himself!”

These words touched Sheng Fei’s nerve. He was an adventurer who loved digging treasures out from ruins. His blood boiled and his heart raced from the thought of the Tie Clan having some treasures.

“Damn that Li Qiye!” Sheng Fei bit his teeth once he realized Li Qiye’s greed. He wanted to snatch the treasure from Li Qiye’s hands.

The venerable reminded him: “Brother Sheng Fei, before Li Qiye can succeed, you need to seize the opportunity as well as the treasures.”

Sheng Fei shook his head in response: “Venerable, I am not overestimating the enemy and lowering our morale, but Li Qiye is no good samaritan. His schemes are so amazing that he was able to shake even the Alchemy Kingdom. I am not his match, so I can only wait for reinforcements from my sect. Hmph, at that time, I want to see just how he can get out of it!”

Despite his greed for the treasures, he knew himself quite well in that he wouldn’t be Li Qiye’s match. Otherwise, he wouldn’t have killed the marquis and apologized to Li Qiye.

“I’m afraid that if we wait till then, Li Qiye will have obtained the treasures and escaped already.” The venerable shook his head and smiled: “Plus, Brother Sheng Fei does not need to confront him directly, can’t you try to outsmart him?”

“Outsmart him?” Sheng Fei was already tempted by the venerable and had to ask: “Do tell, Venerable.”

“Brother Sheng Fei, there is a great saying — urge the wolves to bite the tiger. Of course, this comparison is not completely accurate, but you can use someone else.” The venerable smiled.

Sheng Fei became spirited and immediately asked: "How do we carry it out? Please show me the way."

"Brother Sheng Fei, think about it. Li Qiye is arrogant and unbridled with enemies everywhere. I know that there are extremely powerful lineages looking for Li Qiye in search of vengeance!" The venerable said: "As long as you send news to them, they would be more than willing to attack Li Qiye!"

"This method is feasible." Sheng Fei's heart started to beat faster after hearing this suggestion.

The venerable continued: "There are many ways to deal with Li Qiye. For example, the Sacred Demon Tribe and the Tombskull Sect; Brother Sheng Fei can try to ask them for help."

"You think too highly of me." Sheng Fei shook his head: "They would definitely listen to my first brother, but not me. Even though they do give me some face, I won't be able to command them."

"That is because Brother Sheng Fei is too honest." The venerable smiled deviously: "This is not called commanding, but an alliance."

"Keep going, please." Sheng Fei humbly urged. He thought very highly of the Cloud Soaring Venerable's intelligence since he was Ye Qingcheng's advisor.

The venerable mused: "Brother Sheng Fei, just imagine this. Who is the Golden Crow Prince? He is the successor of the ravine, the crown prince of the Golden Crows. Once he takes control over everything, would the Sacred Demon Tribe and the Tombskull Sect have any chance to earn his favor?"

Sheng Fei felt that this statement made sense. The ravine controlled the entire southern region of the Beast realm and reigned over more than ten powerful sects and countless lesser ones.

His first brother, the Golden Crow Prince, had always been imperious. Everyone knew that he was the future ruler of the ravine! Numerous lineages in the south wanted to please him, but it wasn't so easy for these two sects to build friendly ties with him.

The venerable noticed that Sheng Fei was moved, so he quickly struck while the iron was still hot: "Brother Sheng Fei, you don't need to belittle yourself. Given your innate talents, you only need more experience and opportunities. In the future, you will definitely become an elder, so the two sects should be more than happy to work together with you if they want a promising future."

Sheng Fei's mind swayed after hearing the venerable's opinion. Perhaps this was not just an attempt for a treasury. It was just like the venerable had said, Sheng Fei indeed had a chance of becoming an elder, but this was in the distant future.

Moreover, he was missing an external force, unlike his first brother who could muster great support from many lineages with a single call. Items and people were readily available at his beckoning.

Although many smaller sects also tried to win his favor, Sheng Fei knew very well that these sects wouldn't be able to do anything. Only lineages like the Sacred Demon Tribe or the Tombskull Sect carried some clout.

If he could gain the support of these two and earn their external backing, then he could definitely fortify his future seat as an elder with great influence!

"I'm afraid persuading these sects might be a difficult matter." Sheng Fei mused.

The venerable smiled and said: "Brother Sheng Fei, you have an ace in your hand, or at least, you can create one."

"Venerable, I'm all ears on how to create this ace card." Sheng Fei asked humbly.

The venerable responded: "Brother Sheng Fei, just remember the fact that there are people looking for revenge on Li Qiye. Since you know his location, the alliance that would come from scattering this intelligence would be unimaginable. Since you are the master of this domain, even if a more powerful lineage wanted to find Li Qiye, they must rely on you."

"Plus, I can give you another option. Have you heard of the Basilisk Tribe?" The venerable asked.

"The Basilisk Tribe is a powerful and mysterious demon tribe. I heard that there is a heaven-defying grand character among them who is working for Imperial Edge Mei Aonan." Sheng Fei nodded.

"Brother Sheng Fei, you can secretly inform the Basilisk Tribe of this supreme treasure trove! They will definitely come to cause trouble for Li Qiye, and at that time, even Mei Aonan will have to help you." The venerable explained.

Sheng Fei was a bit hesitant after hearing this: "How could that be? I have no ties with the Basilisk Tribe. Plus, Mei Aonan wouldn't give me that much face."

"Brother Sheng Fei, you are misinformed about that." The venerable responded: "I have heard my young master's calculations before. Rumor has it that the Basilisk Tribe had a feud with the Tie Clan, so they will definitely not sit still if there is truly treasure for the taking. Think about it, if the tribe chooses to take action, then will the big shot from Mei Aonan's tribe just sit there and watch? At that time when they come here to kill, won't they need your assistance as well?"

Sheng Fei was startled about a particular legend. It stated that Ye Qincheng could divine both the past and present, so he felt that the venerable's words made sense.

"But if that happens, Mei Aonan or at least the Basilisk Tribe would own the treasures." Sheng Fei pondered.

The venerable shook his head: "Brother Sheng Fei, since we are close enough, please excuse me for being frank; your view is too nearsighted in this matter." He analyzed the situation: "If you could use this opportunity to take down Li Qiye, do you know what this means? It would be an incredible merit for your sect. You won't only enjoy an astonishing fame but will also receive rewards from your sects, perhaps even a Heaven's Will Secret Law!"

Sheng Fei was quite stimulated by hearing this. Although he was second among the younger generation of the ravine, he was still not qualified to learn secret laws. This remained one of his greatest aspirations.

"If you succeed, then all of the powerful lineages like the Sacred Demon Tribe and the Tombskull Sect will become your allies. Then, you will also be able to become the First Elder and do as you please. So what if Mei Aonan and the Basilisk Tribe take the treasures? The treasures are nothing compared to an achievement like this."

Chapter 813: Drumming Up Support

The venerable analyzed the costs and benefits, making Sheng Fei quite excited. Just thinking about taking the seat of First Elder at the ravine and ruling over everyone left him greatly tempted.

The two of them planned for a long time throughout the night. When the venerable was about to leave, Sheng Fei tried his best to get him to stay. He wanted a strategist like the venerable to work for him.

After leaving Sheng Fei's place, a confidant asked the venerable since he was confused: "Sir, Sheng Fei is only a junior, so why did you have to waste so much effort on him?"

Although Sheng Fei had some reputation among the younger generation, he was truly nothing to someone like the Cloud Soaring Venerable.

"Although he might not be anyone important, an insignificant pawn in the grand scheme of things, he will serve as a spark just fine." The venerable chuckled.

His confidant still appeared to be puzzled to the chagrin of the venerable: "Fool, the ravine and Li Qiye are enemies, so if a war breaks out here, will the ravine sit still and do nothing? How could they swallow this anger without killing Li Qiye? Plus, we can bring the Basilisk Tribe into the mix by using Sheng Fei, and the same goes for Mei Aonan! If Li Qiye and Mei Aonan fight, then who will reap the most benefits? Of course it will be our Young Noble! Without Mei Aonan and Li Qiye, who else can compete with our Young Noble?"

The confidant woke from his stupor and praised: "Sir, this is an incredibly crafty plan stemming from your peerless wisdom. This lowly one is lost in admiration!"

The venerable dismissively said: "This overarching move was planned by Young Noble. I am simply implementing it."

After sending the venerable away, the eager Sheng Fei immediately went to meet the Sacred Demon Leader and the Tombskull Master who had yet to leave the Ox-Herder Country.

The two were surprised to see Sheng Fei calling for them. After the three gathered, Sheng Fei looked at the two and went straight to the point in a serious tone: "Gentlemen, I need your support."

The two couldn't help but look at each other. Eventually, the Tombskull Master spoke: "Your Majesty is too polite. What do you need of us? As long as it is within our capabilities, we will definitely support you."

Although Sheng Fei was far from being comparable to the Golden Crow Prince and they had no need to please him considering their status, they would still give him some face.

Sheng Fei spoke with a deep voice: "I need you two gentlemen to lend me a hand in order to hold down Li Qiye."

This was met with some hesitation by these two. Prior to this when they didn't know who Li Qiye was, they would have agreed without any qualms.

However, it was now different. Li Qiye was a notorious brute who dared to do just about anything. Who would want to provoke such a murderer? It was the same as poking a beehive. "About this..." The Tombskull Master pondered for a moment before speaking: "Your Majesty Sheng Fei, I'm afraid this won't be easy."

They naturally didn't want to be cannon fodder for someone else. If it was the Golden Crow Prince, then they would show their absolute support, but it was not the same case with Sheng Fei!

"I know that in your minds, you are laughing at me for not knowing my own abilities." Sheng Fei was ready for this reaction. After being guided by the venerable, he already came up with a solution.

He lightly said: "Yes, I truly don't know my own limits. Moreover, I am not my first brother and have no way to make you two work for me."

"Your Majesty, that isn't the case..." The Sacred Demon Leader shook his head. Although they didn't want to help him, they also didn't want to offend him.

Sheng Fei slightly motioned with his hand: "There is no need to explain to me, I am well aware of who I am. However, I have one question for you two. Hypothetically speaking, even if you two wish to cling to my first brother, is it really possible? In the southern region, lineages with ties to my brother are innumerable! In terms of power and friendship, will he give you two any benefits after he comes into power?"

These words were quite sharp and caused the two leaders' hearts to become dejected. Although they were unhappy, they had to admit that Sheng Fei was right.

Among the fifteen strongest sects and countries in the southern region, it was difficult for their sects to even enter the top ten! Under the sovereignty of the ravine, these powers all wanted to form good relations with it, so its future heir, the Golden Crow Prince, was always a target for flattery. And it was too true that even if the Sacred Demon Tribe and the Tombskull Sect tried their best, they wouldn't necessarily be able to garner his attention.

"But what if you two become allies with a future elder of the ravine? A real alliance forged of iron." Sheng Fei declared. He must obtain the support of these two sects in accordance with the venerable's plan.

The leader and the sect mater contemplated for a moment. They had friends in the ravine as well as characters of the elder level as their backing.

Although Sheng Fei had a high chance of becoming an elder in the future, there were many elders in the ravine. Only an elder with true influence would actually be useful.

"I know what you two are thinking." Sheng Fei stressed: "Correct, if I become an elder, I might just be one without great influence." He chuckled at this point and raised his voice: "But if I take down Li Qiye?! How great of a merit would that be?"

This was worth thinking over for the two leaders. Everyone knew about Fierce Li Qiye and his feud with the ravine. If Sheng Fei managed to take down someone who dared to fight against the Alchemy Kingdom, then it would absolutely be an outstanding contribution!

"I think it is clear that as long as I capture Li Qiye, no one can compare to me in terms of prestige and contribution outside of my first brother." Sheng Fei coldly said: "With this being the case, who else would take the seat of First Elder besides me in the future? At that time, I'm sure you two will know of the backing behind me."

Sheng Fei's ambition surged after being tempted by the venerable. Although he was not comparable to his first brother, he could still try for the First Elder's position in the future!

The leaders naturally understood this logic. However, they had to first capture Li Qiye for this hypothetical situation to work.

"Li Qiye is not to be trifled with." The Tombskull Master was not too interested in this suggestion.

"I know that Li Qiye shouldn't be easily provoked. Otherwise, I wouldn't have pretended to be so pitiful earlier." Sheng Fei was full of confidence as he drily said: "Gentlemen, I didn't invite you two here on a whim!"

This attitude from Sheng Fei made the leaders feel strange; it was as if he had become a different person.

"What was Li Qiye's biggest card when he attacked the Alchemy Kingdom?" Sheng Fei said in an awe-inspiring manner: "The Phoenix! But I'm sure you two already know that his Phoenix has flown away. Without the Phoenix, Li Qiye has nothing left!"

Sheng Fei stared at the Tombskull Master and threw out a rhetorical question: "Even though people say that Li Qiye knows how to summon undead, can anyone actually compare to the Tombskull Sect in this regard?"

"Li Qiye's dao of alchemy is no joke. He also has many treasures that are quite hard to deal with." The Sacred Demon Leader replied.

Sheng Fei responded: "I know! But you two shouldn't look down on my ace! I have the support of the Radiant-Sea Sect! They have been searching everywhere for Li Qiye to take revenge. Right now, Li Qiye is within our territory, so the Radiant-Sea Sect is willing to work with us!"

This slightly dazed the two. They didn't expect Sheng Fei to have a backing as powerful as the Radiant-Sea Sect.

"I'm sure you two are still doubtful." Sheng Fei continued: "Don't worry, I will let you meet a big character from the sect."

The two glanced at each other once more. Eventually, the Sacred Demon Leader asked: "What is the stance of the ravine's elders?"

They hoped to hear the opinion from the ravine. In their opinion, if the ravine took action, then everything would be much easier.

"What do you think?" Sheng Fei spoke deeply: "For what reason am I here? For what reason am I working with the Radiant-Sea Sect? Is it not clear by now? My master and grandmaster are supporting me as the vanguard so that I can have the first meritorious opportunity! I believe I don't need to say more."

Sheng Fei was merely bluffing. He still hadn't received an answer from the ravine. However, he must use this chance to draw these two sects into his camp.

The two shuddered after hearing this. They knew that among the younger generation, Sheng Fei was indeed worthy of the ravine's investment.

If his master and grandmaster were purposely giving Sheng Fei a chance to contribute, then everything would be different. With this merit, his seat as the future number two would be fortified! Thus, it could be just as he had said earlier. He could truly become the First Elder and have tangible influence!

"Gentlemen, the Radiant-Sea Sect is not the only one I have reached out to. I also have the support of the Basilisk Tribe and Imperial Edge Mei Aonan!" Sheng Fei spoke solemnly.

"Even Mei Aonan is willing to help Your Majesty?" The leader shuddered after hearing this.

Sheng Fei continued: "If you two don't believe me, then just wait until the people from the Basilisk Tribe are here. You two surely must know that there is an invincible character from this tribe working under Mei Aonan. Mei Aonan will be ordering experts from this tribe to be the vanguard."

The two of them thought that if all of this were true, then it seemed that the ravine was indeed interested in nurturing Sheng Fei.

"What is Your Majesty's plan?" Eventually, the Sacred Demon Leader relented.

"We shall..." After obtaining their agreement, the happy Sheng Fei revealed his plan.

Chapter 814: Jian Wushuang's Arrival

After returning from the Ox-Herder's imperial palace, Li Qiye had been staying at the Tie Clan the whole time. Outside of chanting to the old monument outside of the mansion, he had been training as well.

He would also occasionally teach the old turtle a thing or two about cultivation. Although the old turtle was a Heavenly Sovereign, calling his merit law as an indescribable, chaotic mess was not an exaggeration.

There was no other way. He was a vagabond cultivator with a lowly origin. His merit laws were all either stolen or found. Moreover, they weren't great merit laws to begin with.

It could even be said that it was a miracle for him to reach his current level. Any other cultivator would have already suffered from qi deviation long ago.

Li Qiye could only make this comment: "You had a good river gestating you. If this wasn't so, then you would have died countless times over."

It was impossible for the old turtle to completely change his merit laws outside of completely restarting his cultivation, which required destroying his current dao foundation and cultivation. However, he was quite old. Destroying his cultivation was the same as taking his life. He would immediately die from old age, so Li Qiye could only mold his incorrect training methods.

As for Tie Lan, Li Qiye was too lazy to care about her. Whether she cultivated to enter the dao or not was not important to him. He had given her the merit law, the rest was up to her.

Tie Lan was also a cold person with an unyielding stubbornness. She remained unwelcoming towards Li Qiye's stay at the Tie Clan and never gave him a friendly gaze. She never went to him to ask questions about cultivation either.

Of course, she was puzzled by Li Qiye's actions. If, say, he was here for her clan's treasures, then he should be searching around the Tie Clan. However, he didn't try to search in any of the broken pavilions or buildings.

He only did one thing at the Tie Clan, preach at the ancient monument of their clan. This was quite ridiculous. Preaching an entire day to a monument — if any outsiders saw this, they would assume that he was mentally ill.

On one day, after finishing his daily preaching, Tie Lan came. She looked at him a bit with her usual ice-cold demeanor: "Someone is here for you!"

Having said that, she stood to the side without saying anything else.

Jian Wushuang came in right after Tie Lan, still as beautiful and charming with that air of arrogant nobility as always. No matter the time and location, she would resemble a phoenix showing off its most gorgeous feathers; no matter the time and location, she was always confident and arrogant like this.

This was Jian Wushuang. If there was one day when she didn't display this imperious aura, she would cease to be herself!

Tie Lan couldn't help but take a better look at Jian Wushuang. Although she was a mortal, she also had experience on the battlefield and had even become a general at a young age. Thus, she was naturally very confident as well.

However, Tie Lan's cold and confident demeanor was overshadowed by Jian Wushuang's temperament. She was inferior to Jian Wushuang in both looks and aura.

"You found me so quickly." Li Qiye smiled; he was surprised to see Jian Wushuang here at the Beast Realm.

Jian Wushuang looked at him and said: "I have always valued time! When are we going to the Bi'an Beastworld?" She went straight to the point without any unnecessary blabbering.

"This matter can't be rushed." Li Qiye brought her into the Tie Clan. When there was only the two of them left in the room, he sat down and looked at her: "The pathway to the beastworld will take some time to open. But first, I need to touch your body a bit."

"Touch my body?" Jian Wushuang immediately glared at him with her never-changing and aggressive demeanor. Of course, she didn't misunderstand what he meant.

"Hmm, I'm afraid you won't dare to face it." Li Qiye touched his chin before speaking: "I have to let you know beforehand, this process is very painful. Will you be able to withstand it?"

"Just reveal the alteration." She leered at him. In fact, back during her oath with Li Qiye, she was already mentally prepared.

Li Qiye slowly said: "In terms of physical conditions such as talents, aptitude, and merit laws, very few youths can compare to you! However, I want to turn you into an unprecedented divine general, thus I will have to change you. Are you interested?"

"I suppose you can train me into an Immortal Emperor." Jian Wushuang proudly smiled. [1. Left out one line here: "Her smile was still beautiful and charming as before". We see this line a lot with female characters. I'm not sure if it adds anything at all. Do comment whether you want to see these lines kept in or omitted within reasons.]

Li Qiye's initial annoyance at Jian Wushuang's arrogance had turned into appreciation. He shook his head and smiled: "You are not only arrogant but ambitious as well! Alas, you were born in the wrong era since this Heaven's Will belongs to me."

"Then how about an existence capable of challenging Immortal Emperors?" Jian Wushuang aimed to challenge Li Qiye. Although she had pledged loyalty to him, it didn't mean that she couldn't challenge him.

Li Qiye smiled at her provocation and responded: "An existence capable of challenging Immortal Emperors, huh? Definitely possible and I shall do so!"

"That's more like it." She was satisfied with this answer. Coming from the Jian Clan, she naturally had wise masters. However, after witnessing Li Qiye's heaven-defying means, she had a different view on Li Qiye from then on; from that point onward, everything Li Qiye said sounded quite compelling.

Li Qiye shook his head: "You misunderstood something. What I meant was, if you put in the effort, then you can challenge Immortal Emperors. However, these are emperors of the past — ordinary emperors. But me? Impossible. I shall be the Eternal Prime Emperor!"

"Stop bragging." Jian Wushuang coldly glared at him. Although she wasn't quite sure of the authenticity of his declaration, she hesitated to flatly reject it as well.

"You will see." Li Qiye didn't mind: "However, if you want the power to challenge emperors, then you must be prepared. This will not be easy. You will need a firm dao heart and outstanding persistence. It is impossible to succeed in a short period of time."

"Just say it, what do I have to do?" She was completely confident as always.

"The first thing I want to do is to change your true fate weapon." Li Qiye solemnly stated: "Will you be able to accept that?!"

Jian Wushuang's expression quickly changed upon hearing this. She was not a beginner at cultivation. She was quite powerful already and would reach the Virtuous Paragon realm in a short amount of time.

A powerful cultivator of this level would already have a sufficiently strong true fate weapon. In Jian Wushuang's case, her weapon had been through enough tempering and was mighty enough.

"You should know that my true fate weapon was crafted from a nine heavenly accumulations stone. There is nothing better than it in this world." Jian Wushuang responded with a serious tone.

Li Qiye replied with a smile: "You are erroneous about this matter. There is no good or bad destiny stones, only the most suitable one."

Having said that, Li Qiye looked at her again: "You must change if you want to follow the path of your forefather, Immortal Emperor Diyi Jian. You must understand that although your true fate weapon is related to the bow, even if it was more powerful, it would not allow you to reach the end of the road."

"Cultivation is different for everyone. Some reach the extreme from a singular sphere while others take in everything to reach the same peak. You? You must go on the path of one and from one to reach the zenith!" Li Qiye solemnly said: "If you want to surpass your forefather, you must use purity to reach the top with the bow alone in your heart and solely the arrow in your life. Only with this would you be able to transcend. Otherwise, you will never be able to surpass your forefather!"

Jian Wushuang turned silent after hearing this. She had many wise teachers from her imperial lineage, but even their God-Monarchs couldn't clearly explain this path. This was due to the fact that even Immortal Emperor Diyi Jian couldn't reach the end. The future of this path was full of unknowns.

Jian Wushuang couldn't help but say: "What kind of stone are you replacing mine with? It is very difficult to find a stone that relates to the bow, not to mention one that could surpass the Nine Words True Bow."

In fact, she loved the bow after receiving it. She was determined to use all of her effort to refine this bow for the rest of her life!

The Jian Clan was known as the best archery clan. They had countless bow artifacts, and the strongest was the emperor's bow. However, this bow belonged to the emperor, so if the clan's descendant wanted to surpass their forefather, they must refine a bow that belonged to them and them alone!

She understood the moment she held the Nine Words True Bow that it would surpass her forefather's bow. Even though it was not a true treasure, she already considered it to be the most important weapon in her arsenal! It was ranked even higher than her true fate weapon.

"I've already picked one for you." Li Qiye took out a destiny stone and handed it to her: "I plan for you to replace it with this stone. You can start refining it now if you're ready."

In the past, Li Qiye had taken many destiny stones from the Prime Ominous Grave. Many among them were nine accumulations stones.

"This destiny stone only has one heavenly accumulation!" Jian Wushuang took a look and was not happy at all.

[spoiler title='814 Teaser']After returning from the Ox-Herder's imperial palace, Li Qiye had been staying at the Tie Clan the whole time. Outside of chanting to the old monument outside of the mansion, he had been training as well.

He would also occasionally teach the old turtle a thing or two about cultivation. Although the old turtle was a Heavenly Sovereign, calling his merit law as an indescribable, chaotic mess was not an exaggeration.

There was no other way. He was a vagabond cultivator with a lowly origin. His merit laws were all either stolen or found. Moreover, they weren't great merit laws to begin with.

It could even be said that it was a miracle for him to reach his current level. Any other cultivator would have already suffered from qi deviation long ago.

Li Qiye could only make this comment: “You had a good river gestating you. If this wasn’t so, then you would have died countless times over.”

Chapter 815: Reforming Jian Wushuang

Any cultivator with some power or wealth would not pick a destiny stone with only one heavenly accumulation! Stones of this grade were considered cheap and useless. Even ordinary cultivators wouldn’t pick one of these, let alone Jian Wushuang who came from an imperial lineage.

“Like I said, there is no good or bad for destiny stones, only their suitability.” Li Qiye added: “In the past, Immortal Emperor Bu Zhan was an invincible existence that swept through myriad realms.”

“How many Immortal Emperor Bu Zhans can there be in this world?” Jian Wushuang couldn’t help but make this comment. In fact, she had heard her seniors in the Jian Clan talk about him before. However, they did not emphasize the tale because the legend of Immortal Emperor Bu Zhan definitely couldn’t be duplicated.

“You!” Li Qiye gazed at Jian Wushuang and declared: “You will be the second Immortal Emperor Bu Zhan! Remember well, the sole bow to reach the extreme, the lone arrow to reach the zenith — this will allow you to surpass your forefather and become someone who can challenge Immortal Emperors. Otherwise, you will never be able to escape his shadow!”

Jian Wushuang contemplated Li Qiye’s words. She truly wanted to tread on the path unfinished by Immortal Emperor Diyi Jian. Back then, when the emperor failed to prove his dao using the bow, it became his biggest regret! If Jian Wushuang wanted to continue the path from where her forefather left off, she indeed needed to change.

However, this was easier said than done. A destiny stone with one heavenly accumulation replacing a nine accumulations stone... Moreover, it required scraping her existing true fate weapon and starting from scratch. Only a madman would even consider such a thing.

However, Jian Wushuang took a deep breath and formally accepted the suggestion: “Okay, I will change! As long as it will be a better pairing with the Nine Words True Bow, I am willing to do so!”

The decision for such a sacrifice was not easy to make for Jian Wushuang.

“This determination is necessary to reach the peak!” Li Qiye praised. Despite her arrogance, she was brilliant in that she was able to back up her words.

“What else do you want me to do?” She threw caution to the wind after having made up her mind. She would tread this path to the very end!

Li Qiye replied in a serious manner: “Second, I want you to change your longevity treasure. I want your blood energy and longevity blood to maximize the power of your arrows!”

This shocked her a second time despite mentally preparing herself. This wasn’t something she could easily accept. First he wanted her to change her true fate weapon, and now he wanted her to change her longevity treasure. This was starting over from the beginning in the truest sense.

“I know your longevity treasure is amazing. The Jian Clan has expended a lot of effort and thoughts on you.” Li Qiye dismissively said: “However, I will repeat the same thing again. If you want to challenge emperors or even slay them, you must change!”

Jian Wushuang took a deep breath and slightly gritted her teeth before answering: “Very well, I will change. What kind of longevity treasure do you want me to use? I will tell my father to prepare what’s necessary!”

“No, I already have one prepared.” Li Qiye gently shook his head. Back in the Beast Vein, he had massacred countless monsters, so he had a large quantity of life rings, longevity blood, and beast marrow.

“Okay, I’ll change both of them then!” Jian Wushuang nodded. This required great determination and perseverance. Others would surely think that she was crazy right now.

Li Qiye solemnly said: “We’ll change your true treasure first. The changing of your longevity treasure can wait a bit. I’m afraid you won’t be able to handle both at the same time since this is a complete redo.”

Li Qiye pulled out all the stops for Jian Wushuang. He only had one goal — to train an invincible general under his banner! Even though Jian Wushuang didn’t have unparalleled talents nor was she the strongest, Li Qiye took note of her fearless heart, boundless confidence, matchless arrogance, and especially her heart that stood undaunted by failure and even death! This was exactly what he was looking for!

“Outside of the treasures, is there anything else I need to change?” Jian Wushuang didn’t care about anything anymore. Since she was already changing the treasures, what else was off the table?

“I want you to refine a physique law.” Li Qiye said: “In the future, I want you to rely on this physique to make your archery unfathomably stronger!”

“My physique is only an ordinary one.” Jian Wushuang shook her head: “I’m afraid there won’t be a suitable law for it.”

“Don’t you worry, I have prepared everything for you. You are not someone who is aiming for a saint or immortal physique, you’re just aiming for a supreme dao of archery. Thus, I will not pass down any immortal physiques to you.” Li Qiye said.

“Then let’s begin.” Jian Wushuang agreed. Cultivating a new physique was no big deal at this point.

Li Qiye nodded: “We’ll have to first refine this physique then change your true weapon. Once your true weapon takes form, we’ll switch to the longevity treasure. Trust me, only at the apex of the bow would you be able to challenge Immortal Emperors and maybe even kill them!”

“I’ll leave the arrangements to you. Just give me the conditions and I’ll fulfill them.” Jian Wushuang responded with confidence.

Li Qiye taught her a new physique law. Of course, it also stemmed from the Physique Scripture. However, it was not an immortal or saint physique, it was only a Houtian physique.

Houtian physiques were nothing special in the eyes of many people. It wasn’t even considered a real physique law. However, this houtian law from Li Qiye was not ordinary due to its origin!

Of course, this was not Li Qiye's attempt of getting her to create an invincible body to use it to crush all of her enemies. This physique was merely to complement her archery, to take it to an even higher level by exerting the most powerful force!

Her talents were great and she also had a solid foundation, so it was incredibly easy for her to learn a houtian physique. After Li Qiye passed on the incantation, she only took several short days before achieving some results. During this process, Li Qiye was preparing a physique paste for her to temper her body.

All was ready. Li Qiye summoned the pentagate to seal the room with only him and Jian Wushuang inside. Li Qiye took out all the materials and the Myriad Heavenly Cauldron to begin the boiling process!

"What kind of physique paste is this?" Jian Wushuang was surprised after seeing all the materials. Although she was not an alchemist, she still had an understanding about paste formulas.

Li Qiye shook his head: "I am going to make you extraordinary, so this is no common formula. Moreover, the common pastes were created by the Alchemy God to spread to the rest of the world. Your paste is different from these common pastes as it will have three different tempering acts. Each tempering will be different from the others."

She carefully identified these medicines. All were treasures of the world, and many of which were ones she had never seen before.

"A three million year old Calmstream Turtle's marrow — this is the calmest and most righteous type of marrow. It's even combined with an old root of a Soldier Tree several million years old. There's also some juice of a Violetblood Ginseng Ancestor and some young leaves from a Bewildering Bamboo..." After noticing her careful examination and confusion, Li Qiye introduced them with a smile.

After hearing these names, even an arrogant person like her took a deep breath and stammered: "These... these are legendary immortal medicines..."

"That's right, some of them are indeed immortal medicines." Li Qiye gently nodded as if there was nothing special about it.

"Why are you being so nice to me?" Jian Wushuang was dazed for a moment. Even her clan wouldn't be able to gather this batch of medicines together!

Even if an imperial lineage could do so, it wouldn't give it to a junior. This particular batch could be considered supreme. Using this for the first body tempering was too wasteful.

Although it was said that she was working for Li Qiye, the harsher way to put it was that they were master and servant. She could understand the Jian Clan treating her well because she was the jewel of the family. However, she couldn't believe Li Qiye's great treatment towards her.

"Miss, don't get me wrong." Li Qiye laughed in response: "It isn't that I like or love you or anything. I only hope that it will be worth spending all of this on you. In the future, I want to see you being able to embody 'see god, slay god, see devil, slay devil'. Where my war banner points is where you shall attack. Do you dare to achieve this?"

“Yes, what is there to be afraid of!” Jian Wushuang took a deep breath and replied with a sonorous tone. At this second, she found herself a new goal. It was as if she could see a grand scene with thunderous storms as she destroyed the sky, signaling an apocalypse!

“Very good!” Li Qiye gently nodded: “One day you shall come to understand that slaying immortals is not impossible!”

Jian Wushuang’s blood was boiling. Prior to this, she assumed that by pledging loyalty to Li Qiye, she would only be helping him kill a few enemies. It was now different, she could sense how greatly he valued her and that he wished to train her into an invincible general!

Chapter 816: Exquisite Body

After some mixing, the physique paste cauldron was ready. The paste seemed akin to liquid fat and emitted a musky aroma, yet it wasn’t musk. People would become lost in this fragrance.

“Take off your clothes and get in.” Li Qiye commanded.

Jian Wushuang immediately stared at him with a gaze as sharp as an arrow. She aggressively shouted: “Don’t try to trick me, who says tempering requires one to strip!”

Li Qiye only smiled in response: “I do! If you don’t take them off, that’s fine, it’ll be your problem then.”

Jian Wushuang continued to look at him for a bit before taking off her clothes. A dazzling scene appeared right before Li Qiye eyes, a scene so beautiful that it was impossible to describe with mere words.

Trembling white peaks, full and round with a touch of red like two budding flowers... Skin as white as jade and as soft as satin... The lack of clothes revealed a beautifully tempting figure.

Not only were her features pretty, her figure was also impeccable. Slender shoulders and a thin waist, and a pair of long and healthy legs that only accentuated her peerless beauty...

Li Qiye looked up and down at this beautiful scene before him. He took his time appreciating it as if it was a unique piece of art in this world.

“Had your fill?” Jian Wushuang coldly quipped. Of course, Li Qiye was simply enjoying it without any dirty thoughts. This made Jian Wushuang a lot more comfortable than it could have been.

“Not bad.” Li Qiye gently nodded and turned his gaze away from the pretty scene. He leisurely smiled: “Your body can be called a masterpiece. However, out of all the beautiful figures I’ve seen, it would be a bit difficult for your body to be among the top ten.”

She was about to vomit blood from anger. She knew that Li Qiye didn’t have vulgar thoughts towards her, but this evaluation was still enraging!

Everyone liked beautiful things to an extent. Jian Wushuang was very confident with herself; whether it was her talents, face, or even her figure, she was sure that very few people in this world could compare to her.

But now, Li Qiye had seen all that she had to offer only to comment with “not bad” as if it was a common sight.

“Who is number one?! Ming Yexue?” Jian Wushuang arrogantly glared at Li Qiye and grew a bit competitive.

Li Qiye smiled and shook his head: “I haven’t seen Yexue, but thinking about it, I’m afraid Yexue would not be number one either.”

This was met with a scowl from Jian Wushuang.

“Okay, no need to be competitive about something like this.” Li Qiye chuckled: “I picked you not because of your bag of skin, so who cares about first place. Listen and go in for me. Delaying any further would decrease the effect of the paste.”

After giving another cold glare to Li Qiye, she stepped into the physique paste and let her entire body soak in the medicine.

Li Qiye controlled the cauldron with great concentration. He was grasping the slight changes in the flame to utilize the paste’s effect to the degree of perfection.

Li Qiye wanted something even better than perfect for this physique paste. It was not just because he used precious materials for this batch, he also wanted Jian Wushuang to be free of errors.

This went beyond her physique temperament. Her physique was also an experiment to him as he strived for perfection.

Time passed by quickly. Eventually, Jian Wushuang finally finished the tempering process. She stepped out from the cauldron with a foggy violet aura. Lotus flowers seemed to be blooming from her steps as an extraordinary aura permeated the atmosphere.

She appeared before Li Qiye, nude like before. Li Qiye meticulously looked over her again with a serious expression as if he was inspecting his flawless masterpiece.

Prior to this, Jian Wushuang’s jade-like figure was already very beautiful. However, after the tempering process, it was different from before. A magical light pulsed above her skin; her body seemed to be encompassed in an immortal energy. From inside came a faint yet clear aura. This made her body seem even more flawless.

“Seen enough yet?” She only looked at him without a hint of embarrassment or awkwardness.

In fact, she couldn’t become bashful. Li Qiye simply didn’t see her as a woman. She understood very well that in his eyes was a reflection of a piece of art, there was no lewdity.

After a careful observation, he was very pleased and nodded his head: “Hard and soft in co-existence, fire and water in harmony, this tempering will lay down a strong foundation that will make your future much easier.”

“What do you take me for!” Jian Wushuang had the urge to puke blood! She was the jewel of the Jian Clan, the pearl of an imperial lineage!

Her body had never been seen by an outsider before. Today, Li Qiye got a good look. If, say, Li Qiye praised her by saying that she had a pretty figure, she would feel much better. This kind of observation only made her angry.

Li Qiye looked at her and laughed: "I, of course, am praising myself for creating this physique for you. Why would I praise your figure as if it was pretty? Your figure is priceless; I am the only one who can create something like this. As for your bag of skin, there are many such ones in the nine worlds."

"You!" She fiercely glared at him before angrily putting on her clothes.

"Okay, miss, no need to be mad." Li Qiye smiled: "Be ready, I will change your true treasure tomorrow!"

She took in a deep breath and met his gaze: "Don't worry, I will be ready at any time and won't let you down!"

After all, she was the arrogant and confident Jian Wushuang! Someone that would never back down!

The next day, Jian Wushuang changed her true treasure with Li Qiye helping her by the side. This process required a lot of courage and was a big price to pay for any cultivator. However, no matter how difficult it might be, Jian Wushuang boldly faced it, for this was the path chosen by her.

Not everyone could withstand this painful process, but Jian Wushuang took it in stride. With Li Qiye's help, the whole process was very smooth, and there were no mistakes. Li Qiye was very content with everything as a whole.

"Now, take the time to train and start the aggregation." Li Qiye commanded after the swap: "You just need to refine this destiny stone so that it takes shape, then everything will be well. There is no need to be stringent during this process, just let it flow naturally."

Jian Wushuang went into seclusive training after the swap in order to gestate her new destiny stone.

Li Qiye continued to stay at the Tie Clan. Outside of preaching was training; he had stepped into the Heavenly King realm. This was also a very important realm for cultivators.

They would have to face the most powerful and difficult calamity in one's life... Life Reduction! This was the most difficult tribulation for many cultivators. Even extremely powerful kings couldn't surpass it in the end and would miserably die to this test.

However, after defeating it, reaching the Virtuous Paragon realm would be quite simple. Li Qiye meditated inside his room as divine rings pulsed from his body. Each divine ring appeared to be opening an entirely new world with an eternal grand dao. Li Qiye resembled an ancient god at this point.

Four inner physiques emerged from his chest at this moment: Hell Suppressing, Soaring, Void Imperfection, and Sky Destroyer!

The Sky Destroyer Physique was from the same branch as the Hell Suppressing Physique. Both originated from the word "Taint" among the six words of the Physique Scripture.

Upon completion, this physique would allow for endless unyielding strength! This meant that the user became a very powerful weapon that was capable of breaking treasures and other weapons!

If the Hell Suppressing Physique was meant for suppression, then the Sky Destroyer Physique was meant for oppression.

Imagine this, the weight of the Hell Suppressing Physique, the speed of the Soaring Physique, the avoidance of the Void Imperfection Physique, and the destructive force of the Sky Destroyer Physique... The four physiques together were something beyond imagination.

Their combination meant that nothing was impregnable against its unstoppable might! This turned Li Qiye into a walking humanoid weapon with several times as much power as before!

What defense could withstand such destruction? Li Qiye chose the Sky Destroyer Physique in order to increase his body's power by several orders of magnitude!

One day during his meditation inside his room, his eyes suddenly opened with a streak of lightning flashing across his pupils. At this time, he heard shouts outside of the premises with a scream from Tie Lan.

Although he couldn't be bothered to teach her and he didn't care about her matters, she was ultimately still the Heavenly Flame Goddess' descendant. Li Qiye would absolutely not let anything happen to her.

Chapter 817: The Tombskull Sect

In the blink of an eye, Li Qiye's figure shifted; he instantly rushed out of the Tie Clan. He appeared in the ruins and saw more than a dozen cultivators there. Some of them were excavating the ruins.

Their looks were quite varied. Some had a stronger blood energy than others, and some resembled corpses that had just climbed out from a grave. However, they all had the same uniform, so it was clear that they came from the same sect.

Tie Lan was captured by a middle-aged cultivator that looked like a ghost that had been hanged. His eyes were completely white and he had a really long neck; a sizable blood energy emanated from his body, revealing that he was an Ancient Saint.

"Can I help you?" Li Qiye smiled after seeing these cultivators.

All the cultivators shifted their eyes to Li Qiye. The cultivator who caught Tie Lan cupped his hands and said: "You must be Young Noble Li."

Li Qiye dismissively said: "If you know who I am, then you should know what I have said before."

The cultivator quickly responded: "Young Noble Li, we're here for a different matter. I am an elder of the Tombskull Sect. A Corpse Monarch from our sect disappeared, and while we were giving chase, it hid in these ruins."

"And then?" Li Qiye chuckled upon hearing this. He cultivated the Death Scripture that was capable of controlling all undead. How could he not know if there was a Corpse Monarch hiding underground in these ruins?

The elder hastily said: "We have spent a lot of effort to groom this Corpse Monarch. Right now, we want to excavate these ruins in order to find it." He cleared his throat before continuing: "This young miss misunderstood us and didn't allow for us to dig here, so I had no choice but to calm her down a bit. I

hope that Young Noble Li can sympathize with our problem. In the end, this Corpse Monarch costed us a lot and we wouldn't be able to answer our seniors if we were to lose it! So please, be generous and let us dig through these ruins. We will compensate for any losses."

This was Sheng Fei's plan. Let the Tombskull Sect come with an excuse for excavating the ruins. Nothing would be better if Li Qiye gave permission. Then, they would be able to see if there were treasures here.

If there were actually treasures, then they would use all kinds of excuses to seize them. Moreover, if the hidden grove actually came out, their ravine would send a great army here. At that time, even if Li Qiye didn't agree, it would no longer be up to him.

On the other hand, a rejection from Li Qiye would be fine as well. Then they could accuse Li Qiye of the crime of stealing a Corpse Monarch from the Tombskull Sect. With that, they would have the moral high ground!

Li Qiye was quite amused. This kind of scheme, to him, was only child's play. Although he wasn't certain who the true mastermind was, he immediately knew what the Tombskull Sect wanted after hearing their words.

"Excavate these ruins?" Li Qiye raised his brows. If some people wanted to die, then he would be more than willing to please them. He leisurely said: "I trust that your sect has heard that the Tie Clan is under my protection."

The elder replied: "We have heard of this before, but we hope that you can understand. Losing a Corpse Monarch is a grave matter, so we have to excavate these ruins. Please forgive any inconvenience that this might cause. Rest assured, Young Noble, we will take responsibility for any damages to both you and the Tie Clan."

Li Qiye smirked before slowly responding: "Such pleasing words, but I only have one thing to say. Either scam now or leave your heads here. It is that simple."

"Young Noble is being too aggressive." The elder's expression sank: "Our Corpse Monarch is a priceless treasure. Don't tell me that you wish to seize it?"

The elder finally latched onto the chance to accuse Li Qiye of this crime. If successful, then they would have a reason to launch an offensive.

Li Qiye didn't even bat an eye as he declared: "One last warning, either you leave intact, or leave behind your heads."

"Li Qiye, don't be so presumptuous!" The elder had reached his goal and was ready to retreat. He coldly said: "Don't think that our Tombskull Sect is so easily bullied! If you steal our Corpse Monarch, then don't blame us for what's to come!"

With that, the elder winked towards the other disciples. They held a small dao platform while chanting a mysterious and devious incantation.

"Clack, clack, clack..." From their summoning, countless skeletons came out from their platform. Their eyes were flashing with red lights. Moreover, they all emitted a powerful evil energy! They were swift and some were flying as well; this was quite a formidable force.

“Boom!” The elder summoned an even more powerful skeleton. It was a skeletal knight with a terrifying aura that rode a draconic corpse.

Although the sect considered themselves demons, many other lineages didn’t think so. Rumor has it that the patriarch of the sect was a corpse that turned into a demon, allowing him to summon the dead.

It could be said that this sect was the only lineage in the Stone Medicine World that could summon corpses. From the first day of cultivation, its new disciples would train corpses that belonged to them alone. These corpses, more often than not, were even more powerful than their controllers!

“Li Qiye, we will not let this thievery go unpunished!” The elder shouted as they commanded their skeletons to attack Li Qiye.

At the same time, they began to retreat since they didn’t wish to fight directly with Li Qiye. Their goal was to frame Li Qiye, and it had been accomplished, so retreating was the next course of action.

Meanwhile, the elder had also captured Tie Lan. When necessary, he would use her as a hostage to threaten Li Qiye.

“Rumble!” The earth shook from the stampede. Under the control of the Tombskull disciples, this skeletal army maneuvered towards Li Qiye with an aggressive momentum. This was especially true for the skeletal knight. It appeared to be the general of the battlefield as it took the vanguard with an unstoppable might capable of stamping the earth.

“Damn!” The old turtle was shocked to see such a terrorizing scene. He paled from fear and immediately shrunk his head back into his hard shell.

Li Qiye only smiled against the oncoming skeletal onslaught. He stood still without moving. The moment these skeletons got close, death energy emerged from Li Qiye’s body along with the Death Chapter. With a buzz, the Death Chapter created by countless intertwining laws shot out rays of light.

These laws instantly pierced the powerful bodies of these skeletons, causing them to stand still on the spot as if petrified.

“Go!” The elder and the other disciples were startled after seeing this unfold. They immediately unleashed more chants to regain control of their skeletons. However, the skeletons didn’t have the slightest reaction.

Their minds almost shattered from this. Although they had heard that Li Qiye could summon undead, their sect was very confident that no one could compare to them in this regard. Their patriarch was the tyrant of myriad corpses!

What they didn’t know was that the Death Scripture was one of the nine greats. Compared to its art, their corpse controlling technique was simply insignificant and unable to reach the apex!

After locking and taking over these skeletons by using the Death Chapter, they were completely under Li Qiye’s control.

The Tombskull crowd wanted to run from fear, but Li Qiye smiled: “You still want to run away after coming here?”

In a split second, the Death Chapter created a loud blast as it activated the maximum potential of these skeletons; they were now even stronger than they used to be when they were controlled by their original masters!

“Boom!” These undead went forth with killing intent towards the other cultivators.

“Get back!” The group tried to use their laws to control the skeletons, but these undead simply didn’t listen to their commands!

“Ah!” In the shortest time, a disciple had been killed by his own skeleton.

The elder wanted to grab Tie Lan and escape. However, he couldn’t even take two steps forward before Li Qiye appeared in front of him and blocked his path.

The elder quickly turned pale. However, his reaction was still quite fast. He immediately grabbed Tie Lan by the neck and shouted: “You, don’t come over here or I’ll kill her first!”

Li Qiye looked at him and smiled: “You should know that no one has ever been able to threaten me.”

“Ah...” The moment Li Qiye’s words came out, blood spurted everywhere. The two hands that were holding Tie Lan were instantly torn apart; she was already in Li Qiye’s embrace.

“You’re only at this level yet you still dare to come and threaten me?” Li Qiye threw the elder’s hands to the ground and smirked.

Chapter 818: Four-eyed Basilisk

“Ah...” The partially dismembered elder bellowed. He was already wounded, so he was instantly killed by the skeletal knight that he had summoned.

“No...” All of a sudden, screams could be heard everywhere. Many disciples died to the skeletons. Only three to five managed to escape.

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“Oh man.” The old turtle peeked out from his shell and paled as well. He shuddered the moment he saw these undead skeletons, overwhelmed by a creeping sensation.

Li Qiye looked at Tie Lan who was puking and insipidly said: “In the next few days, stay inside for me and stop overestimating yourself. Otherwise, I’ll throw you into the most terrifying location in this world!”

With that, he stepped inside. After puking for a bit, Tie Lan turned even paler. She silently stood there and didn’t want to argue against Li Qiye.

“Go hang their heads on the door.” When he reached the door, Li Qiye commanded the turtle before disappearing into the room.

The turtle could only lament its fate. How could he dare to not listen? But wouldn't doing so result in him offending the Tombskull Sect?

However, In Li Qiye's eyes, killing a dozen people was no big deal.

On the second day, the Ox-Herder Country's Su Mingchen hastily came by for a visit. He didn't show off at all and even turned into a different person to secretly come to the Heavenly Flame County.

"Oh my god, did you really kill everyone from the Tombskull Sect?" Su Mingchen's legs quivered after seeing the skulls hanging outside of the Tie Clan's entrance. He looked at Li Qiye with a twisted expression, as if he had just eaten bitter gourd.

Li Qiye nonchalantly replied: "They're already dead, what's the big deal?"

Su Mingchen's bitter expression didn't leave his old visage. His head was about to explode; the thing he didn't want to see the most had happened.

"Boss, what am I going to do? Right now, the people from the Tombskull Sect and Sacred Demon Tribe are gathering their disciples, saying that you stole their Corpse Monarch." Su Mingchen grimaced.

He received this news early in the morning and was completely frightened, so he immediately came running here.

"What else can you do?" Li Qiye gave him a look: "You should do what you must. It is no big deal even if you go inform the Heavenhoof Ravine."

Su Mingchen jumped after hearing this and immediately swore: "Boss, let the heavens be my witness, this lowly one definitely did not inform the ravine. Otherwise, I would not have shown up here."

"There is no need to worry about it." Li Qiye waved his sleeve and said: "This matter isn't something you can control."

Su Mingchen could only sigh after hearing this. He was truly unlucky this time; this ominous star was causing him to lose sleep and his appetite. And now, he even caused so much trouble! Perhaps his country would be ravaged by war soon.

Su Mingchen couldn't help but plead: "Boss, can't you compromise at all?"

"Compromise? Why should I?" Li Qiye glanced at him and smiled: "I didn't compromise even against the Alchemy Kingdom, so why should I with the Tombskull Sect?"

Su Mingchen was speechless, but this young man was telling the truth. This ferocious man even killed God-Monarchs from the kingdom and came out completely fine. Why would he care about the Tombskull Sect?

"You just pretend like you don't know anything and say that you are cultivating in seclusion, stay in hiding." Li Qiye looked at him: "If there is something you must do, then tell the people in the Heavenly Flame County to temporarily leave. In the next few days, some more vile people will come."

“Very well, I will send the command.” Su Mingchen sighed one last time before leaving. It was just as Li Qiye had said, there was nothing he could do right now. He couldn’t afford to offend Li Qiye or the Tombskull Sect, so he could only play the part of a turtle with its head hidden in its shell.

It was night time after he left. The experts from the Tombskull Sect had yet to come, but something even more bizarre happened.

It was an especially quiet night. Due to the weed-infested ruins around the Tie Clan, the scene became especially melancholic.

“Is anyone here?” A faint, pervasive voice rang in everyone’s ears.

Tie Lan was the first to wake up. However, this voice that echoed in her ears made her fall into an even deeper slumber.

“Who is it?!” The old turtle was born in the wild, so he was very cautious. He jumped up after hearing this voice.

“It’s me, is anyone here?” The voice kept on assaulting the turtle’s ears. The cautious turtle relaxed after hearing this voice; he was hypnotized into a deep sleep as well.

The night became silent once more. Eventually, someone entered the Tie mansion. His steps were very light as if he was a ghost in the stillness of the night.

It was a young man with very colorful and eye-catching clothing. Anyone would be startled after seeing his face because he had the head of a rooster. This was a demon with a human body and rooster head.

Moreover, this demon had four eyes, each round and large. They were visible even in the curtain of the night as if they were precious stones.

The young man came to check on Tie Lan first, then the old turtle. He nodded in satisfaction after seeing that both of them were in a deep slumber.

Eventually, this rooster demon arrived at Li Qiye’s room. Li Qiye was also sleeping there peacefully. After seeing Li Qiye under his spell, the demon couldn’t help but laugh egotistically and say: “Everyone calls this Li Qiye a terrifying brute, but this is the best he can do? Hahaha, my hypnosis is invincible and can instantly mesmerize him in one go.”

He continued murmuring while being quite pleased with himself: “It doesn’t matter if he is Li Qiye or Li Baye, I have to take him first then interrogate him later.” With that, he reached out to grab Li Qiye. [1. Li Qiye = Seven Nights; Baye = Eight Nights. The demon is saying who cares if this is Li Qiye or not, might as well take him back first.]

At this time, Li Qiye suddenly opened his eyes. This made the demon jump back several steps.

“You, you aren’t hypnotized?” The demon stared at Li Qiye in disbelief: “Impossible, my hypnosis is unbeatable!”

Li Qiye slowly got up to look at the demon and leisurely said: “Basilisks are quite rare, especially one with four eyes.”

“You, you know me?” The demon was startled, but then he became quite proud and laughed: “It seems that my handsomeness has spread wide across the entire world. Even a lowly character like you knows who I am. Hehehe, I can easily imagine just how notorious my fame is as a Four-eyed Basilisk!” [2. This part is a bit weird to translate. The basilisk refers to himself as “this super handsome” or “chief”. Just know that it is a very egotistic self-pronoun. It is also similar to the nickname of Chu Liuxiang, a very famous thief; a Chinese version of Robin Hood from Gu Long’s novels.]

Li Qiye chuckled at the smug demon and said: “Of course I know the Basilisk Tribe. In the past, I’ve stewed some of their members before. The taste was not bad. Although it wasn’t as good as dragon meat, it could still be considered a delicacy in this world.”

“My ass!” The demon immediately jumped and shouted: “Li, quit your bullshit. Do you know how powerful my Basilisk Tribe is? We are the noble god race of the Stone Medicine World! You actually dared to stew our people? Watch me stew you instead!”

Its four eyes quickly shifted and shot out a very bizarre ray. The moment this light covered Li Qiye’s body, a strange buzz could be heard. Li Qiye was immediately petrified into a statue.

The demon pompously declared after seeing his petrification succeed: “Hahaha, foolish human brat. Daring to bluster about eating my race... Hmph, I’m gonna bring you back this time and throw you into a pot and take my time stewing you. This handsome one has lived for so long yet I haven’t tasted human flesh yet!”

“Crack!” However, he didn’t have much time to gloat. The sound of rocks breaking emerged as the stones on Li Qiye’s body shattered and fell to the ground.

The demon’s smirk quickly froze. He stared at Li Qiye as if he was a ghost and pointed at him: “Impossible! Even if I can’t mesmerize you, it is impossible to dispel our petrification unless we remove it ourselves!”

Li Qiye patted the dirt off his shoulders and grinned: “Your skill is still quite lacking. I actually thought your four eyes would be much more powerful than this, but you are not even using them to thirty percent of their potential, how disappointing.”

The demon’s face turned red. Not even in his dreams would he expect for Li Qiye to be able to withstand his petrification. One must know that his tribe had two great abilities. The first was mesmerization and the other petrification. No one dared to look in their eyes because only their tribe was able to remove the petrification.

The innate ability of a four-eyed basilisk was even stronger. They should be able to petrify Heavenly Kings, and he clearly froze Li Qiye. However, the petrification was suddenly nullified.

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Chapter 819: The Basilisk That Loves To Boast

The basilisk naturally didn’t know that Li Qiye cultivated the Void Imperfection Physique. Moreover, it came from the Physique Scripture itself, so even though his tribe’s petrification ability was heaven-defying, it was simply useless before Li Qiye’s physique.

The basilisk was very afraid. First, his mesmerization was useless and now his petrification lost its effect. These were already his strongest cards.

He knew that he had kicked a steel door. He immediately changed his mind and decide to run. However, right when he turned around, Li Qiye had already appeared in front of him. Before he could counterattack, Li Qiye grabbed him by the neck and held him up in the air.

“Boss, Boss, I was only playing with you, it was just a little joke.” After being subdued, the basilisk immediately put on his most brilliant and dazzling smile, at least in his own opinion.

Li Qiye casually threw him to the ground and smiled: “Four-eyed basilisk, right? I heard that a basilisk with four eyes can see through time itself and spy on Yin and Yang. Very well, look into my eyes and see what is truly considered eternity!”

With that, he held the basilisk’s chin so that their eyes could meet. Li Qiye opened his eyes wide as they became quite profound. Piercing through Li Qiye’s eyes seemed to be taking the two of them all the way to the past, reversing the river of time from one generation to another.

This was an endless sea of blood with countless bones. Miserable screams echoed in the sky. Countless gods were massacred in the firmament. On the ground, many existences that had swept through their generation were being harvested...”

“Mommy...” The basilisk was scared out of his wits after looking into Li Qiye’s eyes. This was an unending war filled with a cruelty that painted the nine worlds red. All of this would shock any existence.

“Boss, please spare me...” The paled basilisk was drenched in cold sweat. He dropped to the ground and almost soiled his pants.

Li Qiye let go of him and leisurely said: “Your Basilisk Tribe actually dared to maneuver against me? Have you all forgotten how the Divine Beast Realm was destroyed in the past?”

“Boss, I have eyes but might as well be blind. I didn’t know that you are the invincible existence across the eons.” The four-eyed basilisk quickly flattered Li Qiye.

Li Qiye looked at him with one eye: "Spare the flattery. I can spare your life, but what do you have to trade for it?"

The basilisk quickly replied: "Boss, I can tell you a secret. Hehehe, I'm sure Boss will definitely want to hear this news."

"Is that so? What kind of news?" Li Qiye leisurely looked at the basilisk. In fact, this reptile would have been dead if Li Qiye wanted to kill him.

"Boss, you should know very well that our Basilisk Tribe rarely comes out since we love to stay in our nests. With this being the case, why did I run to this desolate location?" The basilisk hastily tried to explain his circumstances.

Li Qiye glanced at him: "Okay, let it out, don't go in circles with me."

"That whatever Bird King sent me a message." The basilisk was truly scared out of his mind earlier, so he immediately revealed everything: "He came to me saying that there was a treasure at the Tie Clan, so I rushed here. I didn't expect to see Boss here."

"Oh? Since when was your tribe impoverished to the point of having to rush over for a treasure? If I remember correctly, your tribe's treasury is not that bad." Li Qiye slowly spoke.

The basilisk rubbed his palms together and laughed: "Boss is so wise. Of course I wouldn't come running here for an ordinary treasure. It's just that that Bird King told me the Tie Clan's treasure is quite extraordinary and has something to do with the old Divine Beast Realm."

Li Qiye narrowed his eyes. This Sheng Fei was indeed a little bit capable. However, the secret of this matter was not something he should have known. If someone like him could find out, then others would have been able to as well; they would have seized the item long ago.

Li Qiye stared at the basilisk: "Sheng Fei really said that to you? He isn't someone who can know the stories behind the Tie Clan."

The basilisk quickly replied: "I thought so as well. I was afraid that he was tricking me, so I questioned him extensively. He said that this one guy named the Cloud Soaring Venerable told him. Moreover, this venerable found out from Ye Qingcheng's calculations!"

"Ye Qingcheng..." Li Qiye became serious. He understood now that the true mastermind was not the Tombskull Sect or Sheng Fei, it was Ye Qingcheng.

The former two were nothing more than cannon fodder! Li Qiye couldn't help but smirk at this point. This Ye Qingcheng was really trying to push him to the brink of death.

"Haha, Boss, I know many things regarding this Ye Qingcheng." The basilisk noticed that Li Qiye didn't want to kill him, so he grew courageous and wanted to curry favor.

Li Qiye leered at him: "Oh? Have you seen Ye Qingcheng before?"

"It doesn't really matter because our tribe has known his real identity for a long time now." The basilisk laughed: "Everyone knows that this Ye Qingcheng is the Stony Edge Kingdom's ultimate stone, but very few know that he has great ties with the old Bi'an Beastworld."

“There is no need for you to tell me something I already know.” Li Qiye waved his sleeve dismissively.

The basilisk laughed and rubbed his palms together awkwardly before asking: “Boss, can I leave now?”

Li Qiye gave him one more look that made him quiver inside. Li Qiye then said: “Do you know why the Divine Beast Realm was destroyed that year?”

“Hehe, I know a thing or two about it.” The basilisk smugly replied: “That year, the beast realm was bullish and thought that it was invincible in this world. Unfortunately, they offended someone they couldn’t afford to offend. In the end, they were completely annihilated with a loud bang. Their entire sky dome was dragged down from the sky. I heard that that scene was truly spectacular!” He licked his dry lips at this moment. Although he didn’t see it with his own eyes, the seniors back in his tribe said that the battle of that year was extremely cruel.

“Did you know that a very long time ago, your basilisk tribe was also part of the Divine Beast Realm?” Li Qiye leisurely said.

The basilisk’s expression quickly changed after hearing this. He awkwardly smiled: “Boss, you are just messing with me. Our Basilisk Tribe is only a small tribe who know our place. We have nothing to do with the beast realm, nothing at all!” Even the seniors in their tribe didn’t want to speak of this, which was why the basilisk was shocked after this matter was brought up.

Li Qiye ignored the basilisk and continued on: “Why was the beast realm destroyed while your Basilisk Tribe escaped the disaster unscathed? Do you know why? It is because your ancestors were smart and had a sense of propriety. They left the fight early on which is why your tribe continues to exist until now.”

“Boss, please stop messing with me.” The basilisk felt that this subject was taboo and no longer wished to go on.

“You should understand what I am trying to say.” Li Qiye looked at him then threw him a rope and said: “Tie yourself up.”

The basilisk did not say another word and immediately tied himself up tight without fault. People would find it difficult to believe that someone could tie themselves up so well.

Li Qiye looked at the basilisk that had tied himself up into a fried dough twist. Meanwhile, the basilisk was afraid that Li Qiye was still angry and immediately swore: “Boss, please don’t worry, this handsome one, no, this lowly one will not take a step out of the Tie Clan.”

“It seems that being smart is something that is still passed down at the Basilisk Tribe.” Li Qiye gently nodded.

The basilisk was not unhappy at the sarcastic remark at all. In fact, he even took it as a compliment.

When Tie Lan and the old turtle woke up, they saw the basilisk that was tied up like a piece of bread and were quite surprised. Tie Lan didn’t know what happened. She was only a mortal, so she couldn’t remember anything after being hypnotized.

“A basilisk!” The old turtle was startled after seeing its figure. He had heard of this tribe before so he understood how he was hypnotized.

“What are you looking at!” The fried-dough reptile shouted at the old turtle with an imposing appearance: “Look at me one more time and see if I will turn you into a stew or not!”

The turtle had always been a coward, so after being yelled at by the basilisk, he immediately crawled back into his shell and didn’t dare to say anything else.

Li Qiye slapped the basilisk’s head and smilingly scolded: “Don’t try to act cool. What is so amazing in trying to scare a vagabond cultivator?”

The basilisk immediately smiled back in response: “Boss, I am not exaggerating, but I am a mighty and brave genius. I absolutely do not bully the weak, but I do casually pick on geniuses and deities alike. I remember back then when I traveled around the world, my feet would trample the three realms and my fists would punch myriad races...”

The basilisk continued to brag incessantly with no end in sight. Li Qiye leisurely added: “If you are as capable as you make yourself sound, then bring Ye Qingcheng’s head back for me.”

“Uhh...” The basilisk immediately turned quiet. His expression was flushed as he quickly responded: “Haha, Boss, a celebrity like Ye Qingcheng should be left for you. Only when you trample on him to reach the top would your fame become even more renowned! As for the little guys like that Bird King, just leave it to me. I’ll go bring his head here right away.”

Chapter 820: Miao Chan

Li Qiye ignored the boasting basilisk and went outside while the beast followed him like a tail.

Li Qiye sat before the monument and was getting ready to begin his daily chanting. The basilisk saw the monument as well and gave it a careful look. After a while, he praised: “Amazing, amazing, this stone tablet is definitely an amazing treasure. No wonder why that brat Sheng Fei said that there is something here in the Tie Clan.”

In terms of knowledge, the basilisk was much more informed than the old turtle and Tie Lan. Their tribe had brilliant talents, plus the four-eyed basilisk had an extra pair of eyes compared to his kin, so he had an even more remarkable aptitude for appraising treasures.

Li Qiye looked at the basilisk and asked: “Is your tribe’s treasury still there?”

The basilisk was startled after hearing this. He quickly calmed down and forced out a smile: “Boss, I am only a little guy, so I know nothing about that.”

“It is not good to lie in front of me.” Li Qiye dismissively said: “Plus, if I wanted your treasury, would I need to wait until now?”

“Well...” The basilisk tried to act the fool: “Boss, I have to go back inside now since you are busy.” Having said that, he turned around and left.

“If you have the opportunity to return alive, tell your elders to prepare those treasures.” Li Qiye leisurely said: “Perhaps there will be a use for them in the future!”

The basilisk turned stiff after hearing this. Just a second later, he hurriedly entered the room as he didn’t dare to linger outside any longer.

At the same time, a meeting was taking place at the Heavenhoof Ravine. It was chaired by the ravine master, and all the elders were present.

The topic of discussion was Li Qiye.

“Killing our disciples and elders yet still daring to stroll around in our territory, this Li Qiye is too arrogant! Does he think our ravine is empty?” An elder spoke with indignation.

Another elder addressed the ravine master: “Master, please let us bring out the imperial weapons. We will bring his head back for you!”

“Li Qiye is not someone to be trifled with.” A pleasant voice appeared. Seated in the lowest seat in the room was a girl around the age of twenty. She had a noble and elegant air; it was apparent that she was an incredible lady.

All the elders couldn’t help but look at her. Although all of them here had great authority, they held great trust in this girl.

Her name was Miao Chan, the daughter of the ravine master. In present times, everyone in this world knew that the foremost genius and strongest young expert of the ravine was the Golden Crow Prince.

However, very few knew that there was an even more incredible genius in the ravine — Miao Chan! She was the true number one genius of the ravine. Her talents were much better than the prince, not to mention her great intelligence.

She and the prince were childhood sweethearts who grew up together. Miao Chan was older and started her cultivation earlier.

She took a liking to the prince from a young age. Because of this, when the ravine was choosing their main descendant and all of the elders held her in high regard, she forfeited the position so that the prince would be chosen instead.

Her love only grew with time. In order to help him become famous, she was willing to retreat to obscurity. Due to this, the world only knew about the Golden Crow Prince and not about Miao Chan, who was even more brilliant than the prince. Despite this, the ravine still treated her as a secret candidate for grooming.

Miao Chan calmly spoke: “Who is Li Qiye? It’s needless for me to say more since I’m sure the elders here all understand. He killed God-Monarchs from the kingdom, and what was the end result? The kingdom did not retaliate in the least! To be frank, our ravine is not as strong as the Alchemy Kingdom.”

“Miao Chan, Li Qiye is indeed a monster, but he isn’t invincible to that extent!” An elder responded. He was Sheng Fei’s master and wished to give him a chance to prove his worth.

He continued on: “He only dared to shake the kingdom back then because he had the Phoenix. An immortal bird is indeed unbeatable. However, without the bird, how powerful can he be? We have several imperial weapons, and two true ones at that. I don’t believe that the elders will fail to suppress Li Qiye with them! Is he stronger than Ye Qingcheng? Even Ye Qingcheng couldn’t fight all of us alone!”

Miao Chan retorted: “I do not know whether Li Qiye is stronger than Ye Qingcheng or not, but Li Qiye is not a fool. Do not be tricked by the arrogant and aggressive demeanor that he displays when he goes

around causing trouble everywhere. I have read all the news about him! Every time he took action, he was always certain of victory! His arrogant self is only a ruse to bait others. Each of his steps were calculated.

“For example, why didn’t he attack the kingdom right away and instead laid low? He chose to split its ancestral ground and took the heavenly essence from the vein to strengthen his bird. This proved that he clearly had a plan from the start as opposed to acting on the spur of the moment! He was carefully making preparations for the next step!”

She then continued in a more serious tone: “Everyone only noticed his arrogance and murderous intent, no one paid attention to his quiet moments! In my eyes, those are when he is scheming his next moves!”

Her eyes swept through the audience: “Just how large is the Stone Medicine World? Why did Li Qiye appear at the Ox-Herder Country out of all the other places? This is a remote area. No matter the reason, he surely has a plan. Therefore, in my opinion, this is not the best time to attack Li Qiye.”

Sheng Fei’s master indignantly retorted: “Then do we just let it go? Li Qiye killed Elder Fu, are we just going to forgive him?”

Miao Chan stressed her stance: “Whether if it is for revenge or to remove an opponent, this is not the right time. We should wait and uncover Li Qiye’s true abilities and hidden cards before trying again. We cannot fight an uncertain war!”

The elders glanced at each other after hearing this. Although the ravine master was still in charge, Miao Chan had begun to manage the sect a while ago.

All the elders knew about her adoration for the Golden Crow Prince — this was no secret after all. At the same time, the prince was the main descendant of the ravine, so both the master and the elders wanted to see the two of them become a pair.

Thus, the upper echelons were supportive of Miao Chan’s management. They hoped that in the future, Miao Chan could become a virtuous wife and help the prince with the administration.

“There is another reason.” Miao Chan continued: “I was informed that the Cloud Soaring Venerable had visited the Ox-Herder Country. If my speculations are correct, then Sheng Fei must have met the venerable.”

Miao Chan looked over at Sheng Fei’s master and said: “Need I say more about what kind of person this venerable is? This person either helps Ye Qingcheng recruit more experts or tricks others into starting trouble! Ye Qingcheng has no good intentions at all. Li Qiye had started a war at the Alchemy Realm so surely Ye Qingcheng must be hoping that Li Qiye would start one at our Beast Realm as well!”

“Ye Qingcheng is simply trying to use us to kill Li Qiye so that he can reap the benefits while doing nothing.” Miao Chan explained: “Why should we be Ye Qingcheng’s cannon fodder?”

The elders contemplated her words. Although Miao Chan was young, her achievements in management were as clear as day. The elders were very impressed by her wisdom.

“We just need to be patient for now. There is a great saying: take a step back and the wind and waves shall grow calm. Instead of acting as cannon fodder, why not let Ye Qingcheng and Li Qiye fight each other to the death? Ye Qingcheng wants to become the Immortal Emperor, so he surely won’t let a monster like Li Qiye go unchecked! If Ye Qingcheng and Li Qiye fight, then no matter who wins in the end, we shall still be the beneficiaries!”

“Chan’er has a point. We will definitely get our vengeance, but we need to wait for now. When the time is right, we will give Li Qiye a fatal blow!” The ravine master nodded his head in support of his daughter.

Miao Chan earnestly said: “Currently, our biggest concern isn’t to eradicate Li Qiye. We have to concentrate on Junior Brother right now. He is trying to break through to the Virtuous Paragon realm. If he can surpass this bottleneck, then he shall become a paragon. I’m sure all you elders understand that Junior Brother cannot compete with Ye Qingcheng at all right now, but if he reaches Virtuous Paragon, then there is still hope!”

No matter the occasion, Miao Chao would always plan for the prince; she would prepare everything for him!

“Golden Crow’s cultivation will be the focus.” One of the elders nodded in agreement.

Sheng Fei’s master pondered for a moment before speaking: “But recently, the Tombskull Sect and the Sacred Demon Tribe have been maneuvering their troops.”

Miao Chan explained: “This must be Sheng Fei’s idea. He is in a rush to prove himself.”

Sheng Fei’s master wryly smiled and said: “We can’t really blame Fei’er for this. He is only doing this for the ravine, to get revenge for Elder Fu. The young can be impatient at times.”

“Elder, I am not trying to blame Sheng Fei.” Miao Chan elaborated: “Being able to convince these two sects proves that he has become more capable. This is also a good chance. Let them go and scout out Li Qiye’s abilities. At the end of the day, this was their own doing and has nothing to do with us.”

Having said that, she stared at this elder and deepened her tone: “However, I hope that Sheng Fei will stop being so close to people like this Cloud Soaring Venerable. Junior Brother Sheng Fei is still very naive compared to the sly venerable. It is better to be careful, lest he be sold by the venerable and still assist him with counting the money.”

“I will warn Sheng Fei about this.” The master quickly nodded.