

Chapter 911: Entering The Drystone Courtyard

The Drystone Courtyard was one of the twelve burial grounds. However, when it came to these places, many people would think about the Heavenly Ancient Corpse Burial Ground or the Prime Ominous Grave. Very few would think about the courtyard.

The reason was that the courtyard was even more mysterious than these two places. Anyone could try to enter the Heavenly Corpse Burial Ground, but this was not the case for the courtyard. Even those who could arrive at the courtyard would be limited to its entrance.

The place was only a yard. Of course, as for how large it was, no one in history could truly say.

In fact, very few who went in ever came out again, with the exception of Immortal Emperors. Only a minority of Godkings ever made it out alive!

Some even said that the courtyard was the most dangerous among the twelve. Li Qiye did not reject this notion. However, in his opinion, as long as one had the right methods, the courtyard was much safer than the others.

“Clop, clop, clop...” Li Qiye rode the wooden horse inside and immediately saw many stone statues.

These statues were lined up near the entrance with many different expressions. Some were scared, others were drowned in despair, and a few were turning around to flee... These statues were very vivid and lifelike as if they were real.

They were Enlightened Beings who were lucky enough to enter the courtyard. Alas, their cultivation was not strong enough and they were instantly petrified the moment they set foot inside.

“The Drystone Courtyard isn’t for just anyone to enter.” Li Qiye only shook his head after seeing this scene. This wasn’t his first time seeing this. In the past, he had visited the courtyard multiple times before. The amount of statues would increase after each subsequent visit.

He didn’t stop here after glancing at them. Losing their lives immediately upon entering meant that they were weak, not someone that could be called invincible.

There was only one danger in the courtyard, petrification! No matter what type of existence one might be, they would be affected by this power of petrification. Moreover, the deeper one went, the stronger this force would be. At a certain depth, even Godkings would turn into stone indefinitely — a fate no different from death.

As for what kinds of treasures and secrets were within, this remained a mystery to future generations. However, this didn’t deter many experts and invincible existences from coming to the courtyard to find out! The majority of these people lost their lives here.

Nevertheless, it wasn’t difficult to solve the problem of petrification. It was very simple to come out unscathed even if one wasn’t an Immortal Emperor. They only needed one item to be unaffected by the petrification process — the wooden horse!

Of course, this type of wooden horse was very rare. No more than five were available throughout history. Plus, their whereabouts were unknown; very few knew about the existence of these wooden horses, let alone their effects.

In the eyes of the bidders back in the Golem Square, Li Qiye trading a Longevity Fruit for the wooden horse was simply insanity. Only someone like Li Qiye knew the value of the wooden horse and how great of a deal it was.

He continued deeper into this place. It was a dangerous ground for others, but to Li Qiye, this was a courtyard with decent sceneries.

Here were waterside pavilions with decorated mountains and springs. Lakes and streams could also be found surrounding the central area. It didn't look like one of the twelve burial grounds, more like the abandoned garden of a wealthy family. The trees continued to grow older below the lonely moon and sun. The creeks continued to flow without the presence of fishes and other aquatic creatures...

Only silence could be found here; there were no signs of life in this place. This was a tranquil reserve that would last for millions of years.

Li Qiye continued on his wooden horse and its clopping hooves. This sound seemed to be everlasting; only his horse was moving in this place.

Any first timer would be hard pressed to believe that this was the Drystone Courtyard, one of the twelve burial grounds. The courtyard was huge, but no one could describe its exact size. Some even said that no one had ever seen the entire location.

Of course, this was true for outsiders. Li Qiye had been to the entire courtyard before and had seen areas thought unexplored by others.

There were fewer stone statues in the later parts of his journey. However, these statues were all famous people with no lack of Godkings!

"Skyreign Venerable, quite amazing and worthy of his fame. To be able to reach this place..." Li Qiye was able to recognize a few famous existences as there were very few who made it here.

"Sigh, Remembrance Goddess. So brilliant back then, swooned even an Immortal Emperor. What a lamentable fate to eventually become a statue." Li Qiye met a female statue along the path. One couldn't really discern her features anymore due to the petrification, but her elegance and past beauty were still quite apparent!

"Idle-Gen Beast, what did you run here for? Don't you remember? Your dwelling caused so many people to salivate..." Li Qiye continued on and couldn't help but smile when he saw a beast that resembled both a dragon and a serpent as well as a dog.

"One sword to reach divine investiture, an incredible sword. Being petrified for so long yet the sword energy still remains..." Li Qiye saw a sword-wielding statue deeper inside. It was still emitting a terrifying sword aura, so even he had to voice his praise. [1. It's ambiguous here, could be one sword to seal gods or one sword to reach a deified stage. The latter is more likely with the naming context.]

“Brightheart Fairy, for what...” There was also one statue that made him stop. He felt a strange sadness as he lamented with a sigh.

The journey continued. In this place, many trails extended towards all possible directions. Li Qiye picked one in particular and met many petrified invincible existences, many of whom he recognized.

Before reaching his destination, he heard a faint cry in the distance.

“Help, save me.” A feeble cry for help echoed about. It was very weak, as if the speaker would fall over at any moment.

No matter who they might be, people would not be able to ignore this cry; it was as if there was a devilish charm to it. They had no choice but to go in the direction of the plea!

However, if they could remain calm and think about it, they would find that there was something strange. There shouldn't be anyone alive in this place, so where was this cry coming from?

Li Qiye smirked after hearing this cry for help. He sped up the wooden horse and went towards the call. After a while, he finally made it to the location where the distress call came from. It was a cliff overlooking an obscured abyss. However, the cry for help came from below.

Upon his arrival, golden shimmers suddenly appeared in the sky. Countless glittery lotuses floated down as a person descended from above. He was accompanied by many phenomena, including a Golden Dragon with a haunting immortal hymn. Each of his steps created lotus flowers while golden springs oozed among the clouds...

It was an old man with immortal energy floating around him. Although no one could see his real face, he carried an oppressive divine atmosphere as if he was an eternal immortal from above!

Anyone would be stunned to see this; they would absolutely believe that they had met a legendary immortal!

“Little friend, where did you come from?” This immortal-like old man had a very kind voice.

“Okay, old geezer, your illusions might be able to trick others, but don't try this little ruse in front of me.” Li Qiye smiled and said: “You can't even see me yet you still want to beguile me? Aizz, after millions of years, your methods are still so lousy.”

“Who are you!” The old man with his immortal aura quickly changed into a tempestuous god. His divine aura engulfed myriad domains, causing others to have an impulsive desire to prostrate to him.

“Old geezer, you're so old that you can't even sense it anymore.” Li Qiye gently shook his head while riding the wooden horse: “I kindly traveled endless miles just to visit you, yet you can't even recognize me. How disappointing.”

“It's you...” Eventually, the person recognized Li Qiye. Everything disappeared, including his deity and immortal forms as well as the golden lotuses... The only thing left was the cliff and the unfathomable abyss below.

“It’s you, the goddamn crow...” Eventually, a shocked voice came from the abyss: “Impossible, you tried for so long without any success, but now you’ve actually re-obtained your body!”

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Chapter 912: The Person At The Base Of The Precipice

“Old geezer, you are wrong about that.” Li Qiye chuckled and shook his head: “It is not that I couldn’t reclaim my body. It is only that I didn’t want those around me to pay the heavy price. This is the difference between you and me. I won’t do the things you are willing to.”

“Hahaahahah! You are killing me. Damned crow, even though I haven’t walked on this earth for a long time and know very little of its tales, don’t forget I am the person who read your sea of memories before. How can I not know what type of person you are? After so many years, I’m afraid one wouldn’t be able to count the number of people killed by your hands from the massacres you committed in the nine worlds!” A sneer came from the precipice.

“Old geezer, you are wrong again. To be exact, you and I have shared our memories. Heh, but I know even more of your secrets! At best, you only know a few early secrets of mine back during that distant era.” Li Qiye smiled in response.

The old man snorted. He was clearly unhappy with Li Qiye’s answer.

Li Qiye continued on: “Plus, old geezer, you’re mistaken about something else as well. Yes, I am a mass murderer. I can massacre billions of existences for the nine worlds. I can extinguish a race for the sake of the human race. I can sacrifice many things for the human race, but I would never sacrifice them for my personal sake. Otherwise, I would have obtained my physical body long ago, there wouldn’t have been the need to wait until now.”

The voice below the cliff sneered and retorted: "Hmph, who knows what you are thinking? Who knows what schemes you're concocting in your mind? Who knows of your ultimate goal? Perhaps one day, you will commence a blood sacrifice that involves the entire world..."

Li Qiye chuckled: "Old geezer, let the feud from back then drop. You still can't get over when I tricked you back then during that ancient era. Don't forget, you started it first and destroyed my body! I'm already very magnanimous for letting it go."

"Hahahaha..." The person in the abyss laughed gleefully after this past event was brought up: "Damned crow, even if you were immortal, you still had to drink the water I washed my feet with!"

"People will always mature. Back then, I hadn't been the Dark Crow for too long and was too inexperienced — this was the only reason why I was caught by you. However, even though those years were like hell, they were worth it for my training." Li Qiye smiled: "Your sea of memories connected with mine as well, allowing me to learn many, many secrets. I received more for less, so in reality, I was the winner."

"Hmph, there's no need to gloat. If it wasn't for that existence back in the Immortal Demon Grotto messing with your sea of memories, I would have taken them all away instead of having to resort to the other method!" The person was outraged. Nevertheless, amidst his wild state, he was still quite content with himself: "But you damned crow, even though you stole so many secrets of mine back then, there is still one memory that you will never get!"

"I know." Li Qiye replied: "Soul Connection is not the end all be all. Because of its shortcomings, it not only allowed me to trick you to steal your secrets, it also let me escape from your place. Old geezer, even though you destroyed my body back then, that disaster taught me how to strategize. Even if you rise again, I will still out-scheme you and take everything away from you. But to tell you the truth, outside of that eternal secret, you don't have anything else to lose anyway!"

The person under the cliff coldly spoke: "Damned crow, you can keep on being complacent! One day, I will destroy you even if the nine worlds no longer exist. It doesn't matter that you are indestructible, I will still grant you an eternal death!"

"I know you can do it, old geezer. You have already destroyed everything once, there is nothing else that you can't do." Li Qiye smirked: "But don't forget, after so many years, what do you actually have? Nothing but your empty hands!"

He continued on while stressing each word: "No matter how high you stood back then, no matter how many followers prostrated before you, what do you have now? Nothing, you're only a lone soul remnant. Those closest to you and those most loyal to you... I'm afraid at the very last second, they were stricken with regrets! Blood ties and undying loyalty... you didn't deserve any of these things!"

"Crow, what about you? What do you have after these tens of millions of years? You are just like me! I don't care what you have done, and that includes protecting the human race and the nine worlds. What do you have now? You are just like me, you're just a lost soul!" The person sneered.

"Yes, I don't have much left. Throughout these millions of years, people left me one by one. Those who loved me, those who were always loyal and willing to give up everything for me... They have all left and returned to the earth. Meanwhile, my deeds are also disappearing in the river of time!"

Li Qiye gently sighed after saying this: "But old geezer, I have never let my people down. I have never let them taste regret as they followed me and fought to the very end! They didn't disappoint me, so I didn't disappoint them! Old man, this is the difference between you and me. You can sacrifice everything for your own sake! You do not have a bottom line!"

Li Qiye continued on: "I do not deny that I have messed up and lost many things and that I've made some mistakes, but no matter what happens in the future, no matter what my own desires are, I will never cross my bottom line! Not even a single step!"

The person said in a carefree manner: "So what? Myriad ages turning into nothing, yet I am without regrets."

Li Qiye chuckled: "I am also without regrets since it differentiates me from you. Even though you were unbelievably heaven-defying back then, in my eyes, you are nothing more than a bastard!"

Both of them were without regrets. However, the regrets they were talking about were different.

"Haha, that's right, I am a bastard, but in my eyes, you are one as well!" The person responded: "That year, you killed your way to the very end of that location. You could have done an even more incredible job, but if I'm not mistaken, you gave up an incredibly good opportunity because you wanted to stay true to that so-called bottom line."

"I know, but I have no regrets." Li Qiye chuckled.

"Hmph, one day you will regret it. When that day comes and you are truly facing the consequences, you will regret the fact that you were not cruel enough!" The person at the base of the cliff sneered.

"Old geezer, you are mistaken. I have faced the consequences before, and I am still alive today! Even though the process was very arduous, almost unbearable, I am still without regrets. One day, I will rise again. On that day, no matter what happens, I still won't cross my bottom line! It is that simple." Li Qiye spoke with a faint smile.

This was met with a long period of silence. It seemed that the person didn't want to say what was on his mind. After a while, he changed the topic: "Your trip here this time was not to see me, right? Heh, or maybe you still haven't given up and want to obtain that secret!"

Li Qiye smilingly said: "You know me, I am someone who is sentimental about friends. No matter what happened back then, at least we still got to know each other, yes? It wasn't easy for me to come here, so I just had to see an old buddy at least."

"Don't give me this nonsense. Just spew your shit." The person sneered.

Li Qiye leisurely responded: "Old geezer, what's the rush? You still haven't died after so many eras, and you won't come out either. We still have a lot of time left, so why don't we take our time to chat? Plus, how many generations does it take for someone to actually come to this place?"

"Chat? About what? About that secret?" The person chuckled.

Li Qiye replied: "You should be thanking me for coming to chat with you. For millions of years, you can't even find ghosts here. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to have someone to talk to." He smiled and went on: "Of course, if you want to talk about that secret, I would be happy to listen."

The person down below couldn't help but laugh: "Haha, damned crow, you still haven't given up hoping for that thing. Okay, I can tell you, but you have to drag me out of this accursed place first!"

"Drag you out?" Li Qiye started to laugh as well: "Old geezer, you are just daydreaming. You know better than anyone else that that is impossible. As long as the high heavens remain strong, you will never see the sun again! You went too far back then, so there is no chance in hell that you will ever be able to escape from the suppression down there!"

"Hahahahaha." The person down below crazily laughed: "Crow, correct me if I'm wrong, but didn't you say there was nothing in this world that you couldn't do? What about now? Are you afraid of failure so you are giving up already?"

"Old geezer, your words are meaningless. In fact, I have failed many times in the past millions of years, too many times to count." Li Qiye slowly said: "However, I actually do have a way to solve your problem. The issue is that you should already know there is no way I would actually do it. I would rather not know that secret than let you out. Hah, releasing you? The price is too high for me to pay!"

Chapter 913: Distant Past

The person below the cliff jeered at this response: "Oh how admirable you are, crow. Heh, don't forget though, many people in this world want what I have. Even Immortal Emperors would not be able to resist the deadly temptation."

"Is that so?" Li Qiye chuckled: "Old geezer, do you think you can succeed? We won't talk about the past, but recently, don't think that I don't know about you trying to tempt Immortal Emperor Ta Kong. But in the end, did he save you? Not even mentioning whether he was capable of such a thing in the first place, even if he did... Hah!" Li Qiye snorted at this point.

"Crow, how long can you remain arrogant for? Watch it or you'll be dragged down from your pedestal before you know it. It would be a shame if you were to be destroyed by an Immortal Emperor eventually." The person below sneered as well.

"Yeah? Only an Immortal Emperor? No matter which one it might be, if they dare to cross my path, I will kill them! It is not like I haven't killed Immortal Emperors before!"

With that, his eyes turned cold as he slowly said: "You should have seen what I have done back then. Immortal Emperors and deities — if they violate my principles, I will slaughter them! Old geezer, don't think I don't know what you tried to make Immortal Emperor Ta Kong do. Unfortunately, he could only play nice when I was guarding the Mortal Emperor World and the other eight! He was free to continue being an emperor, but if he didn't respect us..."

The person below sneered and said: "Haha, crow, do you dare to let me out? We can play again in this generation! I know that you are the tyrant across the generations and that your supreme name has been engraved in the eons, but do you want to try the taste of defeat?!"

Li Qiye calmly responded: "Old geezer, I don't know if you are being serious or not, but I'll be frank. You think too highly of yourself and still think of me as the crow of back then. Even if you can leave this place, you are no longer my match! I was able to escape and trick you back then, so now, I can definitely lead you to your death!"

“Hmph.” The person below snorted and then coldly said: “Well, in that case, you and I have nothing to say.”

Li Qiye also didn't care, he only leisurely said: “Old geezer, I came this time not just to see and chat with you about the old secret, it is also to say goodbye. You know that I have re-obtained my body, so this means that it is time for me to go big. Millions of years of calculations are finally about to bear fruit. Success is fine, but failure is fine as well. When I kill my way back there again, I will become eternal and won't return, so I'm here to bid you farewell...”

“... Regardless of our grudges and whether you are a bastard or not... how should I put this... back during my first attempt, I used a few moves from you, so I should be thanking you for that. Without those secrets of yours, I would have had to waste a lot more effort. Just let the past go, everything will come to an end with the upcoming war! Alas, it is a shame that you might not be able to see it.” With that, Li Qiye rode away on his wooden horse.

“Damned crow...” Li Qiye didn't make it far before the person down below spoke: “Do you think you can win?”

“So what if I lose?” Li Qiye nonchalantly smiled and replied in a carefree manner: “For others, becoming an Immortal Emperor is their ultimate aspiration. But for me, I only want an answer. Neither the deities nor the villainous heavens will be able to prevent my search! Me and those who were with me have spent too much effort on this path, so we need an answer.”

“Along the river of time, you aren't the only one who spent a tremendous amount of effort! Keep in mind that no one has been successful before!” The person raised his voice.

“Perhaps someone has been successful before, it's just that you and I don't know about it, that's all.” Li Qiye chuckled: “This path is paved with bones. Countless people persevered with a dream only to fall along the way, and yet, no matter the consequences, I will keep going even if it means defeat!” Li Qiye laughed his heart out in response.

The person at the base of the cliff pondered for a moment. After a while, he slowly said: “Crow, I won't tell you the secret, you have to find out for yourself. However, I can give you a hint, everything is hidden in my memories, it is all inside my secret!”

“Thanks.” Li Qiye turned around and looked at the cliff to say: “Old geezer, goodbye for now. May we never meet again!”

This last remark was full of sincerity! With that, he departed without stopping and disappeared along the path.

“The endless river of time... how interminable and insufferable! Back then, I was the sole sovereign above all others!” A sad lamentation could be heard from beneath the cliff: “Indestructible and everlasting! HAH! Old Villainous Heavens, I will wait for the day of your demise!”

Eventually, the abyss became silent again. No one knew that there was an unbelievable secret below that the world would never find out!

Li Qiye left the cliff and roamed inside the courtyard. There were many amazing landscapes and many incredible events. However, Li Qiye had grown accustomed to them. Newcomers who could make it to

these places would never forget them for the rest of their lives. However, these things couldn't be any more ordinary to Li Qiye since he had been here many times before. There was no one in the current times that understood the courtyard more than him.

He seemed to be carefully searching for something at each location.

There were many pathways in the courtyard that led to all the different directions. It was not easy to see the courtyard in its entirety.

After going from one place to another, Li Qiye still couldn't find the thing that he wanted. However, he was not in a rush and continued searching in a meticulous fashion.

Nothing was impossible for a willing heart. Li Qiye eventually stopped near a lake. This calm lake was neither big nor small. The lack of fish was evidenced by the lake being as still as the courtyard itself.

Li Qiye glanced at an inconspicuous corner of the river, then he rode his wooden horse over.

In the middle of that corner full of weeds and bushes, there was a tiny stone nest. It was made from stone grasses woven together. Inside was a duck. Of course, it was made out of stone as well. Despite resembling a carved statue, it was very animated due to the unbelievable craftsmanship.

There were also eight stone eggs inside the nest, all different shapes and sizes. Some were flat while others were round; some were even square! Some were blue, green, and also white...

All eight were right below the squatting duck, so people would think that this duck gave birth to them.

Li Qiye leisurely smiled and murmured after seeing the duck and eggs: "Truly incredible. You really do move your nest once every generation. Worthy of being a peerless existence. For millions of years now, you have been toying with so many people in this world..."

If anyone were to see Li Qiye talking to a stone duck, they would think that he was crazy. No matter what Li Qiye said, the duck remained a statue and didn't come back to life. Li Qiye ignored this and reached out to touch it. It felt like stone and was definitely not an illusion.

However, whether it was made out of stone or not, Li Qiye knew full well. There was also a big secret here unknown to the rest of the world.

Li Qiye then touched the eight eggs instead. They were also rocky and completely inseparable from the duck. It seemed that the eggs and the duck were rooted to the earth. There was no way to move these things away.

Li Qiye was not surprised at all to see this. He touched the eggs one at a time then commented with a smile: "Extraordinary. You were actually almost successful. Once this is accomplished, it will be frightening as hell."

But no matter what he said, the duck and the eggs had no response; he was just talking to himself. Li Qiye leisurely continued: "I will definitely seize the Heaven's Will this generation. Are you considering coming into being this generation, or perhaps the next?"

Chapter 914: Talking Stone Duck

Li Qiye just spoke his bit without caring for the unresponsive duck: "If you don't answer, I'm going to take it as you coming out this generation. If that's the case, you will be my rival, so should I be thinking about breaking you right now? This is not a bad idea, what do you think?"

The stone duck did not respond. Li Qiye rubbed his chin and smiled: "Very well, if someone thinks that I'm just messing around, we'll just have to see which rock is harder. Let's give this a smash."

With that, he opened his fate palaces and took out his own stone egg from inside the thirteenth palace. This stone egg had an incredible origin. He held it in his hand and prepped it to smash the duck.

"Buzz." However, right before he smashed the egg down, waves of light began to float around the duck. Its stone form finally melted away and a very ordinary looking duck emerged.

"Brat, you win. Just spit it out if you have something to say." The duck spoke with a coarse and old voice as if it came from a different space.

"This is more like it, now we can have a nice chat." Li Qiye laughed then looked at the stone egg in his hand while saying: "It seems like my egg is a lot harder than you."

He obtained this unfathomable stone egg from the Heavenly Corpse Burial Ground. It had swallowed an unreasonable amount of Myriad Star Water. There were also many earth-shattering secrets hidden within it.

At this time, the duck was also gazing at the rock in Li Qiye's hand and grunted: "Hmph! Out with it!"

Li Qiye put away the stone egg then took out a different rock to say: "I have this piece of rock right here, I'm sure you will want it."

"Where did you get it?" The duck's eyes narrowed. There seemed to be a radiating star inside its pupils that flashed a blinding brilliance.

"Oh, I just picked it up somewhere." Li Qiye smiled and ignored the blinding radiance from the duck.

This rock came from the Golem Square's auction. It was said to be left behind by Immortal Emperor Wan Shi, but the world didn't know its uses.

Li Qiye looked at the duck and leisurely said: "You have eight stone eggs right now. If I'm not mistaken, you are missing one. I just checked earlier, the one you are missing is the primary soul. Well, interestingly enough, the rock in my hand just so happens to be the primary soul within the three souls."

The duck continued to stare at the stone in Li Qiye's hand without saying anything.

Li Qiye smiled: "How about we negotiate? I will give you this stone for just one item. I'm not asking for much."

"Haha, brat, I won't negotiate with you so carelessly. If you know my identity, you shouldn't be bargaining with me, am I right?" The duck laughed.

Li Qiye chuckled in response: "You are mistaken. Even if it was the deities in the heavens, I would still be able to negotiate with them. I know you are very heaven-defying, but how do you think you compare to

the old geezer beneath that cliff? In the past, I nearly tricked him to death, do you think I can't do the same to you?"

"Hmph, I have neither desires nor ambition, so why should you trick me?" The duck was very annoyed with Li Qiye.

"So you don't want this stone?" Li Qiye playfully juggled the stone with one hand and spoke: "I know you are amazing, but I'll be frank with you, I'm not afraid of you and don't care for your threats. If I really wanted to take care of you, I could have told Empress Hong Tian to destroy you for good back when she was still here. However, I didn't do so because I am merciful, right?"

"I am someone who asks for nothing in return." Li Qiye continued: "Plus, what I want is very simple. It is impossible to not pay a small price for this stone. I suppose if you want to try and rob me outright, just go for it. I'm actually curious to see how much of the petrification you can handle once you leave the stone nest in your current state!"

The duck judged Li Qiye for a long time. Eventually, he opted to make a deal: "What do you want!"

"I heard that you have a bottle of Bluesky Water. I don't want anything else, just that bottle." Li Qiye cheerfully smiled.

"Bluesky Water?" The duck pondered for a moment: "It has been quite a while so I don't remember very well. Maybe there was something like that. It is useless though, so why do you want it?"

"Haha, don't try to fool me. You might be able to trick others, but it isn't so easy to trick me." Li Qiye responded: "Others might not know what you are capable of, but I know all too well. Your words have their own truth; the world does not know the use of this water, but the water — in their eyes — isn't the same as the bottle in your possession!"

He paused for a bit while glancing at the duck: "You know just what that bottle of Bluesky Water can do. However, I know even more than you. I have been to that place before, so do you actually think I don't know its effects?"

"Haha, brat, you are indeed difficult to grasp." The duck laughed and shook its head: "Brat, you should know that this bottle of Bluesky Water is priceless to me."

"This stone is priceless to you too. Which do you think is more valuable, this stone or the water?" Li Qiye continued to play with the stone and said: "You should be happy, if anything, since I only want your Bluesky Water. If I wanted to be cruel, I wouldn't only ask for the bottle of Bluesky Water, I'd even bring up the item you obtained from the courtyard back then!"

"How do you know about that!" The duck suddenly stared at Li Qiye after hearing this. Even if one couldn't see its demeanor, it was clear that it had become serious.

Li Qiye paid no mind to the duck's austerity: "There aren't many secrets that I don't know. Plus, I've searched the courtyard for a long time so it's understandable to learn a few secrets, right?"

The duck only snorted to show its annoyance towards Li Qiye, it didn't say anything else.

Li Qiye stared at the duck: "Same as before, deal or no deal? If you are not willing to trade, then I will throw this stone away to the farthest reaches of this land. We'll see if you can find it or not."

“It is useless even if you have the Bluesky Water.” The duck shook its head: “The other thing is impossible to obtain. What’s the point of having the water?”

Li Qiye said with a smile: “Don’t forget, I am someone who has been to that other place. Moreover, you really are underestimating my abilities as the tyrant of all ages. You and I, we are different. Your eternal life relies on you turning into stone in this place, but I can travel throughout the nine worlds. Do you still think it is difficult for me to obtain an item?”

The duck stared at Li Qiye for a while once more. In the end, it unwillingly threw a small bottle over at Li Qiye and said: “Take it, I’ve spent a lot of effort to get this bottle. I’ve always wanted to go to that place for a look as well, but I’m missing something else.”

“You can leave this place right now?” Li Qiye insipidly smiled: “But even if you could, what do you think your probability is of getting that other item? How long do you think you have to wait? One generation? Two, maybe three? Or ten?”

“Hmph, how long did you wait for the other one to appear back then?” The duck grunted.

Li Qiye smiled: “That item is based on one’s luck, it’s very difficult to force the matter. However, I am a forceful person. It took five generations of waiting before I obtained it.”

The duck contemplated after hearing this answer. This type of patience could only be done by someone with true eternal life. Its everlasting stone form wouldn’t allow for it to follow the same process.

Li Qiye put away the Bluesky Water and threw the rock the emperor left behind to the duck with a smile: “Congratulations, you have waited long enough to gather three souls and six spirits. It is finally complete.”

The duck snorted and glanced at Li Qiye. It pondered for a moment before speaking: “Brat, how about we make another deal? Give me your rock from earlier and I will give you the item I received from the courtyard, how about that?”

The duck was referring to the stone that drank a tremendous amount of Myriad Star Water.

“No. That stone is priceless and I will trade it for nothing, unless you can bring the Old Villainous Heavens here.” Li Qiye smiled and shook his head.

“Hmph, you should know that my item is also very heaven-defying.” The duck tried to persuade him: “If you have this item of mine, myriad realms and their inhabitants would shake with fear once they find out.”

Li Qiye smiled: “I know that your item is a real treasure, but in my eyes, my stone is even more precious than your treasure.”

“Hmph, nevermind then, you are too blind to realize its value.” The duck resentfully grunted and could only give up.

“Okay, that was a good trade. I won’t bother you anymore. Keep on living forever, I do hope that you can obtain rebirth.” Li Qiye smiled and rode his wooden horse away.

“Brat...” The duck called for him again.

[spoiler title='914 Teaser']Li Qiye just spoke his bit without caring for the unresponsive duck: "If you don't answer, I'm going to take it as you coming out this generation. If that's the case, you will be my rival, so should I be thinking about breaking you right now? This is not a bad idea, what do you think?"

The stone duck did not respond. Li Qiye rubbed his chin and smiled: "Very well, if someone thinks that I'm just messing around, we'll just have to see which rock is harder. Let's give this a smash."

With that, he opened his fate palaces and took out his own stone egg from inside the thirteenth palace. This stone egg had an incredible origin. He held it in his hand and prepped it to smash the duck.

"Buzz." However, right before he smashed the egg down, waves of light began to float around the duck. Its stone form finally melted away and a very ordinary looking duck emerged.

"Brat, you win. Just spit it out if you have something to say." The duck was speaking with a coarse and old voice as if it came from a different space.

"This is more like it, now we can have a nice chat." Li Qiye laughed then looked at the stone egg in his hand while saying: "It seems like my egg is a lot harder than yours."

Chapter 915: Untraceable Past

Li Qiye stopped and smiled after turning around: "You have something else on your mind?"

The duck mused for a second before looking at him to say: "I don't remember many things anymore, but I do worry about some things. If I am not mistaken, you said that you have been there before, correct?"

"Yes, not just once either. What do you want to know?" Li Qiye gently nodded.

It continued its inquiry: "Hmm, I wonder... how is it up there right now?"

"I understand." Li Qiye smiled: "Those who have memories will undoubtedly long for something. Since you have forgotten already, I won't speak of the details. I will only say that it is prosperous. No matter the race, they are multiplying well. This is the goal of living beings."

The duck went quiet after hearing this. No one could read its thoughts at the moment.

"Frankly, I feel that you have done a good job in this regard." Li Qiye smiled: "Though some people called you a bastard, a scoundrel, a worthless piece of scum... actually, I guess it's more apt to call you a piece of stone dreg now..."

Li Qiye laughed at his own joke before continuing: "No matter what they might say about you, I think what you have done is pretty cool; after all, for those deities, it was harder to swallow than a fly. To tell the truth, I've never liked those bastards." He ended with a gloating smirk.

The quiet duck looked back at him and asked: "What will you do in the future?"

"Don't try to guess." Li Qiye shook his head: "We are different. I have no responsibilities at all. Everything I do is for myself, so I have never thought about other matters."

"Is that so?" The duck stared at Li Qiye and said: "Even though I haven't left this place, I have heard a few Immortal Emperors talk about you, especially Immortal Emperor Min Ren. He said that you have been protecting the human race. Haven't you thought about taking it to the next level?"

“Like what? Like what you did in the past, or perhaps what Immortal Emperor Fei Yang did? Hahaha...” Li Qiye shook his head: “Honestly, I have no interest in those matters. Plus, do you want me to do those things?”

The duck pondered before answering: “Perhaps Immortal Emperor Min Ren wanted you to do them.”

“Min Ren?” Li Qiye smiled and said: “That brat is not only kind, he sometimes also acts like a woman, whether by chance or not. He likes to become involved in many different things. He must have come here before and coincidentally met you. Perhaps he confided some sad things to you. Alas, the brat also left very quickly. If I am not mistaken, you were the one who gave him some tips.”

“I have forgotten already.” The duck shook its head: “My memory is becoming worse and I forget some things completely as if they were mere dreams.”

“Forgetting is a good thing. Not being able to forget is the real pain.” Li Qiye smiled, but his words carried a sorrow that ordinary people wouldn’t be able to sympathize with. He looked at the duck and said: “If anything, you should be happy. The more you forget, the closer you will be to success. That day will come when you completely forget everything!”

The duck became a bit emotional and said: “Perhaps forgetting is not a bad thing. After forgetting, it will feel like being reborn.”

Li Qiye smilingly stated: “Such an event is worthy of celebration. Rebirth — something so many people desire. If you are successful, it will be a miracle across the eons, an accomplishment that would be admired by many emperors. For millions of years now, so many have attempted it just to fail.”

The duck was not happy to hear his praise. It replied: “Immortal Emperor Min Ren told me that you have been through so much, can you forget it all?”

“Forget?” Li Qiye stared towards the distance as his eyes became lost in thought. After a while, he smiled and responded: “I have nothing to forget. Pain or happiness... whether it is a pain etched deep in one’s bones or a happiness that warms the heart, all of these are experiences of mine throughout the long years. I am most reluctant to recall the moments of happiness rather than those of pain. I haven’t forgotten, I just don’t want to think about them...”

With that, Li Qiye slowly rode his wooden horse away. His long shadow contained an indescribable loneliness that others couldn’t understand.

After he left, the duck looked up at the sky and murmured: “Old sentiments will eventually fade... Is it because of emotion or apathy...?” The duck was overwhelmed by Li Qiye’s words.

After a very long time, it regained its composure and smiled. In this moment, it felt relief and everything became as ephemeral as the wind in the sky. It chose to forget the past.

It squatted back down in its stone nest and turned into stone once more. From then on, it was a statue without emotions, without a past, and without any distractions!

Li Qiye was a bit lost after leaving the duck’s place; he aimlessly rode the wooden horse away. The duck’s words dredged up some of his memories.

The eons have been so long. He had met so many people and experienced so many things. He couldn't forget some of them. Just like he had said, rather than forgetting, he chose not to remember. However, some of these memories had been engraved deep in his heart, never letting him find solace.

To an indestructible being like him, pain was nothing to be afraid of. He dared to confront any physical pain and even soul torture. However, memories of happiness had turned into a different kind of agony!

These happy memories were unforgettable; even though the people were no longer here, he continued to live on. This was the price of eternal life!

After a while, he calmed down and smiled bitterly before murmuring to himself: "How strange, since when did I become so sentimental? The past has already gone by, I can only walk forward. I will not look back, for I am Li Qiye!"

At this second, he threw away all of his doubts and the past.

"Let's march towards the destination. I must reap success in this generation!" At this time, the Li Qiye that loomed over the world had returned. His eyes focused on a particular direction as he hastened the wooden horse forward!

He was advancing towards the deepest part of the Drystone Courtyard. Along the way, the force of petrification became even more powerful. Moreover, there were very few stone statues in the area. People who were capable of making it to here were either Emperor Assailants or Immortal Emperors themselves!

At this depth, there were no more stones. Even Emperor Assailants wouldn't be able to escape the fate of being turned into stone here. Eventually, Li Qiye stopped because before him was a vast darkness. It was not the type of darkness from hell nor was it the type that would devour all things.

It was a unique and unapproachable type of darkness... Petrification Darkness! Because at this place, time had been frozen and the same could be said for space. Even the universal laws of the grand dao had been petrified!

Because of this, all had been turned into stone, rendering this place completely dark. Even the dark rays of light were petrified.

However, with careful observation, one would be able to find flashing glimmers in the deepest part of this dark expanse. It seemed that there was something over there. Moreover, it was an entire group of things.

People who stood here would come to realize that the petrification power of the courtyard most likely came from this place. Even deities and emperors would be frozen here.

Li Qiye stood before it and murmured: "What a terrifying force. The world would never believe this. Perhaps even Immortal Emperors would not be able to bear it after walking inside."

He stared at the deepest part of this darkness. Inside was a mystery that he must try to obtain!

"All the Immortal Emperors have failed. However, I must be successful this generation, I'll never give up!" Li Qiye slowly uttered while glaring at the darkness.

At this point, all of his confidence from the past had no clout because he had tried again and again to no avail.

In fact, he was not the only one that had failed. Empress Hong Tian had been here before, the same with Immortal Emperor Min Ren and Immortal Emperor Wan Shi... All of the emperors who came here went to this place to give it a shot.

Emperors were invincible in the eyes of the world; there was nothing that they couldn't do. However, the truth was that even emperors failed to succeed in this act!

Chapter 916: Boundless Darkness

Li Qiye took a deep breath and placed some Heaven Restoration Paste in his mouth but didn't swallow it. This was a supreme ointment personally refined by Li Qiye that was capable of treating all injuries. It could be claimed to be number one in the nine worlds!

After completing his preparations, Li Qiye took a deep breath and rode his wooden horse into this dark expanse.

"Zzz—" Even though he was riding the horse, the petrification force still injured Li Qiye. It was extremely potent and overwhelming.

However, the wooden horse emitted a black light to stop this force. It pushed away the particular energy from Li Qiye's body. Nevertheless, just one second later, the cracking sounds of stone splitting resounded, marking the start of the petrification once more. This horse was able to take Li Qiye all over the courtyard and remain unaffected by this power. Despite that it was using all of its power at this moment, it was still unable to completely stop the petrification. It was easy to imagine just how powerful this force was in this location.

"Zzz—" The wooden horse continued to carry Li Qiye forward towards the depths of the expanse. However, each step the horse made weakened its power to repel the petrification force that was hurting Li Qiye.

"Open!" Li Qiye cried out with all of his blood energy soaring to the sky. The World Seal opened. His first attack was also his ultimate move, the Pentadao Timeless Seal from the Heaven Sealing Pentagate!

Li Qiye used this supreme sealing power to protect his body. However, even with this power, a popping sound came out as he walked forward. Even the seal that could suppress all things couldn't block the petrification and shattered!

"Break!" Li Qiye screamed again. The World Seal unleashed one invincible attack after another; the Declivity-Mountain Bell's Divine Mount Meru, the Immortal Devouring Evil Jar's Extinguish, the Yin Yang Immortal Refining Mirror's Yin Yang Fish Citadel, the Brightflame Imperial Cauldron's Karmic Flame, the Divine Beast Zither's Nine Grand Supremes... One Heavenly Annihilation came out after another and repelled the force of darkness.

However, even against such invincible attacks, the petrification always returned like an unceasing tide.

In the end, even the World Seal's Heavenly Annihilations couldn't keep the force at bay any longer. This power was beyond anyone's imagination!

Keep in mind that even an imperial lineage would be destroyed under Li Qiye's unceasing barrage. However, even that was not enough here!

"Open!" This time, Li Qiye actually took out the weapons themselves. With the pentagate in hand, he unleashed a Resplendent Break. The gates instantly emitted the most brilliant wave of light in this world... the Pentadao Timeless Seal!

The real attack finally stopped the petrification force. Li Qiye did not stop and continued to tread forward! However, he was well aware that even this attack wouldn't be able to stop this power further in.

"Zzz—" Just as he expected, the sound came again. The petrification force finally managed to counter-attack against the pentadao as the gates gradually lost their power.

"Die!" With a scream, the thirteen palaces soared to the sky. They opened and the Ginseng Ancestor's group jumped out.

"Boom!" Another Resplendent Break came out. The Yin Yang Immortal Mirror came out. The ten worlds started to float around gigantic citadels. Countless Yin Yang Fishes turned into an enormous Yin Yang symbol and built a supreme grand dao for Li Qiye.

This was the mirror's ultimate attack. It was capable of killing Godkings as it stopped the petrifying force acting on Li Qiye.

At the same time, the immortal medicines were next to Li Qiye. The Ginseng Ancestor poured out a torrential amount of ginseng juice. The Immortal Injury Peony exerted itself to the utmost to cure the injuries resulted from the petrification process. The Reincarnation Heavenly Soulvine lit up as if it was controlling a soul through the cycle of life and death so that it could protect Li Qiye. The Soldier Tree opened its tendrils and leaves then used its endless power of life...

However, the more Li Qiye inched forward, the more resistance he met. Li Qiye's weapons unleashed one attack after another, but it was still a losing battle.

His thirteen palaces were already in the sky while the four Immortal Physiques released their mightiest power. At this very second, Li Qiye was in his strongest state, a state capable of killing gods and devils.

Despite all of this, he couldn't stop the force of darkness that would always rear its head again and again. At this particular depth, the injuries inflicted by the petrification process were virtually impossible to reverse.

Fortunately, Li Qiye had prepared the Heaven Restoration Paste. With its effects and the power of the Immortal Injury Peony, Li Qiye was able to withstand the injuries.

"Shit, if this keeps going, we'll be drained dry." The Ginseng Ancestor had to cry. They were suffering grievous losses as well.

"Take this, recover for a bit." Li Qiye took out a Five Immortal Tendril, the oldest root from the Five Immortal Ginseng. It was large and rough with a medicinal effect that was too much to bear for anyone. Even Li Qiye couldn't eat a root by himself.

It was the most supreme supplement. The immortal medicines were ecstatic after seeing this. They gave Li Qiye one part while they divided the rest among the group.

After taking in the supplement, the group became spirited once more and cried out: "Good stuff!" They used all of their might to support Li Qiye once more.

Every single step was arduous as he rode the wooden horse forward. Nevertheless, he still made it to the center of the darkness.

At this place, one would finally be able to see the true form of the glimmers from before. These were shadows that had been petrified in this place. They were majestic and peerless, forever buried in this location!

They emitted boundless imperial auras. Even though they had turned into stone for millions of years, the power of petrification still couldn't conceal their imperial auras.

"Shadows of Immortal Emperors..." Li Qiye commented with a tinge of emotion while withstanding the onslaught.

Even figures of the Godking level would be astounded by this scene, to say nothing of the rest of the world.

Immortal Emperor Mu Zhuo, Immortal Emperor Yao Zu, Immortal Emperor Ba Zhen, Immortal Emperor Tun Ri... the shadows of all of these peerless experts were trapped in this place! [1. Mu Zhuo = Wood Refinement, Yao Zu = Alchemy Ancestor (Alchemy Kingdom), Ba Zhen = Eight Truths, Tun Ri = Sun Devourer.]

In an even deeper location among the shadows of the emperors was a proud shadow that still stood upright... Empress Hong Tian!

All of these invincible existences that had swept through myriad realms before had their shadows petrified here.

Li Qiye glanced at Empress Hong Tian's shadow and only softly sighed. However, he had no time to be sentimental. He roared in order to combat the power!

This many imperial shadows being sealed here was a terrifying sight to behold. For millions of years, many emperors had visited the Drystone Courtyard. All of them were tempted by the thing in the darkness; they all wished to obtain it. However, even emperors were not able to do so. The ultimate force of petrification forced the emperors to retreat with great haste. However, their shadows were frozen, forever to remain buried in this place.

Even emperors couldn't carry out this terrifying task. It could easily be imagined just how frightening the power within was.

Li Qiye came closer, but when he made it to the area with the shadows of the emperors, he finally couldn't withstand the injuries.

"Nirvana Heavens..." In the blink of an eye, Li Qiye cried out and created life with a single thought. He finally used his most powerful attack.

The thirteen palaces began to derive their obscured profundities. A Li Qiye standing above the nine heavens emerged. The power of the Nirvana Heavens loomed above myriad realms. At this second, he was comparable to an Immortal Emperor, perhaps he was even more powerful.

This technique was met by an even stronger backlash from the force of petrification. It resumed its offense with constant buzzing sounds as if it wanted to freeze the entire Nirvana Heavens whole.

“Old Villainous Heavens, watch me! I will conquer all things!” Li Qiye screamed. The Nine Ants appeared. Li Qiye didn’t have a care in the world and threw caution to the wind. Two small vessels appeared amidst all the commotion.

“Rumble!” Blood energy madly descended as if it wanted to destroy the entire dark expanse!

“Boom! Boom! Boom!” At the same time, the boundless light of dawn emerged and lit up the entire area as if it wanted to obliterate the darkness.

The vessel of life and the vessel of genesis — these two major vessels were the products of the miracle of Li Qiye’s Nine Ants merit law.

Within the endless blood energy, Li Qiye seemed to be giving life to billions of living beings. The light of dawn continued to spread as if Li Qiye was opening a new domain, as if he was creating a whole new nine worlds along with the countless spheres within...

Under the control of the Nirvana Heavens, the vessel of life and vessel of genesis were able to exert their power to their utmost limits. It was about to crack the darkness and suppress the strongest power in this place.

However, the force of petrification was beyond comprehension. It still frantically fought back against the two vessels!

“Buzz!” The Death Chapter emerged and its death energy engulfed this world of darkness. Its strands of universal laws quickly imprinted themselves onto the shadows of the emperors!

Chapter 917: Timesource Vine’s Seed

“Whoosh!” Li Qiye opened his sea of memories. One Immortal Emperor appeared after another. Immortal Emperor Min Ren, Immortal Emperor Xue Xi, and Empress Hong Tian emerged... Their blessings emerged from his sea of memories. [1. Min Ren = Brilliant Benevolence; the name fits his kindness and sun techniques. Xue Xi = Blood Seal. Hong Tian = Vast Heaven.]

“Open!” Li Qiye roared. The vessel of life and vessel of genesis that carried the blood energy of countless existences and the power of creation rushed into the bodies of these Immortal Emperors.

“Rumble!” At this moment, the world seemed to be facing its destruction. The petrified shadows of these emperors were coming back to life.

“Boom!” The blessings from certain emperors inside Li Qiye’s memories made their shadows even more powerful compared to the others here. This was the fusion of two different power sources, causing their imperial auras to be countless times stronger.

“Even the high heavens above will be taken down by me!” Li Qiye loudly cried, for he was the king of all Immortal Emperors, a being higher than all else. With so many blessings, his two vessels erupted with power!

“Boom!” An explosion shook the entire nine worlds and myriad realms. Eventually, black holes opened one after another. Another domain emerged inside the domains of the two vessels. This new domain immediately became everlasting!

The third vessel finally appeared under these extreme circumstances... the vessel of athanasia!

At this moment, Li Qiye only had an idea of the third vessel; he still hadn't decided on the ultimate profundities within.

Nevertheless, under the blessings of the emperors and his own ultimate power, the vessel of athanasia actually made its appearance. Li Qiye seemed to have been enlightened with perfect wisdom, allowing him to understand its mysteries.

Everything became everlasting under athanasia. Even the force of petrification weakened, allowing Li Qiye to take the most crucial step forward!

If someone was standing outside of the darkness in the Drystone Courtyard, they would find that within the darkness, a flash of light would occasionally reveal itself. It appeared that this place had been stabilized and suppressed...

“Boom! Boom! Boom!” The world began to spin and tremble. The darkness had been shattered and lost its color. Prior to this, it was pitch black like ink, but now, it was fading into a gray color!

It gave the illusion that the tide was receding. Although the power of petrification remained unchanged, there seemed to have been a substantial change in its essence within this expanse.

After an unknown amount of time, a monotonous clicking of hooves from the wooden horse began to sound once more as it left the darkness. Li Qiye's body was currently full of cracks like a broken piece of ceramic. Just a gentle touch would shatter his body.

Li Qiye groaned in pain at this moment. He ate a little piece of the Five Immortal Tendril and began to recover, allowing his blood energy to slowly return!

After a long time, Li Qiye finally stood up. The different types of medicines allowed his energy to recover. His cracked body was becoming better as well.

Li Qiye took a deep breath, stared at the fading darkness, and couldn't help but grin. This trip's harvest went beyond his expectations. The gains were unbelievable to the point where no treasures could compare.

“Generations of effort, multiple lifetimes of planning... I finally succeeded today.” Li Qiye mumbled to himself gleefully. He was very satisfied with this trip.

He had wanted this place for millions of years. In fact, he was certainly not the only one. All the Immortal Emperors coveted it as well, but none were successful.

Later on, he had an idea which he expanded upon from one generation to another. And now, he finally reaped his reward in this generation.

No one in this world knew what was inside. It had never been seen or heard of before. At this point, he let out a sigh of relief. His success was not only due to his efforts. The past emperors such as Min Ren, Tun Ri, and even Hong Tian had tried before. Due to their hard work, he was finally able to succeed today.

“One day, I’ll kill my way to the end of the nine heavens and suppress everything to rule the universe!” Li Qiye revealed a faint smile as he gazed upon the faded darkness.

There was another reason for his satisfaction — the unimaginable success of the vessel of athanasia.

He finally had an interpretation of this vessel. This meant that in the future, he would be able to explore more truths on the path towards immortality; he would tread further than anyone before him. In his eyes, no harvest could be better than furthering his understanding of this vessel. To him, this was the true priceless treasure.

With that, he smilingly rode the wooden horse away. With this secret move, he would have the power to control all circumstances and be able to steer his own course in the future!

He headed towards a particular direction and reached a huge cliff. It seemed that the courtyard ended here. In front of him was a vast nothingness with no end in sight.

If there was something deserving of attention on this cliff, then it would be the rotten wooden bridge that seemed to be woven together with vines.

It seemed that in a distant past, someone had used these vines and turned them into a bridge to reach the other side of the emptiness. Perhaps there was something over there worth searching for.

However, the years went on and this wooden bridge had withered. There was only a little section left hanging on the cliff.

Li Qiye smiled and murmured while looking at the bridge: “It is time to go to the meeting point of the three ancestral veins.”

He was talking about the location where the three veins of the Stone Medicine World met, the source of the Alchemy Vein, the Beast Vein, and the Stone Vein.

There had been many theories about this particular source. The world knew that all three veins came from the same location. However, no one could enter this area. No matter how amazing one might be, they wouldn’t be able to trace the veins back to their source by just following them.

Legend states that Immortal Emperors had attempted this before. However, even they failed in the end. It was deemed to be impossible due to the three veins themselves denying anyone from reaching their source. Just think about it, their own powers were incredible. Moreover, they were related to the worldly grand dao. The world would never be able to understand the mysteries within.

Of course, there was still a method to reach the source. First, one had to jump out of the Stone Medicine World yet be within its boundaries at the same time. Second, they had to be able to find the coordinates of the source. Lastly, they must also be strong enough to access this primal source of life!

Thus, this feat required solving monstrous mysteries. Many Immortal Emperors had calculated the secrets within to find the particular coordinates! Because of these difficulties, no one was known to have been able to reach the source. There were naturally stories of success, but no one knew of any who actually managed to do so.

Li Qiye was currently standing in a location that could reach the source. There were several locations in the Stone Medicine World like this. However, Li Qiye found success with this one in the past.

“Time to begin...” While murmuring, Li Qiye took out two items and went to the rotten bridge.

One of the items was the Bluesky Water that he obtained from the duck not long ago. The other was the seed taken from the Alchemy Fowl’s body. Many people wouldn’t be able to recognize this seed.

He carefully dripped a small drop of Bluesky Water on this seed. The seed slowly absorbed the water. With the sound of something peeling, the outer layer of the seed fell off to reveal its body.

A shining golden bean appeared on Li Qiye’s palm. It looked like a legendary immortal bean. Even those who were unaware would know that this bean was unfathomable.

“A seed from the Timesource Vine!” Li Qiye smiled a little and murmured: “This really is a seed from the Timesource Vine! I didn’t guess incorrectly.”

Many had most likely never heard of this Timesource Vine, but it was definitely an inestimable treasure. When its seed reached maturity, it would normally use a shell for camouflage.

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Chapter 918: The Legendary End Point

Only after being soaked in Bluesky Water would the Timesource Vine seed remove its camouflage and expose its real body. No matter who one might be, they required both the water and the vine to enter the source.

Both were completely indispensable. Moreover, they were both exceedingly rare from the start of time. Obtaining them was more prohibitive than reaching the heavens.

Take, for instance, the Timesource Vine. Once the vine was ripe, the seed would immediately fly away and fall into a larger world. However, this process couldn't be reversed, not even by an Immortal Emperor.

Moreover, these vines rarely produced seeds. There would only be three to five seeds each time. Think about it, only three to five seeds being lost in huge worlds... It would be easier to find a grain of sand in an ocean than to find one of these seeds.

Because of this, Li Qiye hunted down these seeds for five generations before he finally obtained one. Hard work paid off in the end and he was finally successful. He placed this seed on top of the rotten bridge by the cliff then poured more Bluesky Water on it.

In a short period of time, a miracle occurred. This seed germinated and took root in the muddy ground. In the blink of an eye, one could hear sounds of something crashing.

A huge vine sprouted out of the ground with many branches growing from it. These branches twisted into many different sections like a winding snake. These branches interwove with each other to extend the existing bridge. The impossible happened; this bridge began to extend into the vast emptiness, to the other side.

Li Qiye didn't dare to waste time, he immediately began to walk across the vine bridge that was quite lengthy. Once he reached the other side, nothing could be found around him, there was only an endless nothingness that seemed to break all temporal boundaries. In this place, time had stopped and space had disappeared.

This place gave the feeling that one was taking the first steps in an era. It seemed that this was the starting point of the world. There were no living beings here, and even time itself had yet to exist.

Li Qiye walked on the wooden bridge for an unknown amount of time before he finally reached his destination. He climbed down from the vine bridge afterward.

The moment his feet touched the ground, the Timesource Vine suddenly withered at a rapid pace. The entire bridge wilted in just a moment.

One could faintly see three to five seeds from the Timesource Vine within the bridge. They emitted their golden glow.

"Crash!" Right when the Timesource Vine died, the bridge collapsed and the vines fell into the endless space. The seeds seemed to have grown wings and flew away at a supreme speed. They penetrated the void itself and disappeared from this location.

These seeds would then fly into the larger worlds. No one knew which regions they would land in. Even if someone were to find them, they wouldn't know of its true purpose. After all, very few people knew about the Timesource Vine.

Li Qiye only sighed after seeing the seeds flying away. Who knew who would be able to grab these seeds in the future and realize the treasures that were in their hands?

After calming down, Li Qiye turned around. Before him was a pond that didn't seem to be very special at a first glance.

The naked eye wouldn't be able to discern its magical properties. However, it would be a different story once someone opened their heavenly gaze. They would finally be able to see the majestic scene before them.

The pond was full of dao runes. These were the most profound and mysterious runes in the world. All the worldly laws seemingly originated from this place. No matter how brilliant one might be, they would be dazzled by these runes after looking at them for a long time. Those with weaker talents would faint on the spot or even die.

The water in the pond was even more incredible. It flowed like an immortal aqua and emitted a beautiful divine light. Each drop exuded a transcendent aura and seemed to sustain three thousand worlds.

This was not pond water but rather the legendary immortal aqua! Even if someone had never seen immortal aqua before, they would think that the best aqua in this world could not be superior to this after seeing the water in this pond.

"Provenance's Splendor." Li Qiye gently sighed. He knew what it was even without opening his heavenly gaze!

Provenance's Splendor was something the world had never even heard of before. If an Immortal Emperor heard its name, they would start to salivate and would try to obtain a bottle by any means necessary.

It was even more valuable than Worldly Prime Liquid or any of the other supreme essences in this world. The disparity was of an incalculable proportion.

Moreover, the even more wondrous aspect was that any existence could handle it, unlike the tyrannical Myriad Star Water!

There was a legend stating that the source of the three ancestral veins was the beginning of the formation of this world. In the beginning, countless essences gestated the nine worlds and myriad realms. A few items did not melt during that time and fell into the worlds. Perhaps these items would form the materials found here, at the source of the three veins. There was enough essence here to create a new world and sustain its inhabitants.

This legend had no basis. Nevertheless, the Provenance's Splendor was definitely the most valuable essence in this world. No existence would be able to escape its temptation.

Despite it being within his grasp, Li Qiye did not take any actions for he knew that it wasn't so simple. This was because the dao runes surrounding the pond were extremely powerful. Without the acceptance of these runes, even an Immortal Emperor would be teleported outside in an instant; they wouldn't be able to stay here any longer.

"Buzz!" The dao runes covering the pond began to light up. They came together with a splash.

These dao runes piled up onto each other like slow, flowing water. They began to change from one person to another. First was a handsome, burly man. Next was a mysterious person shrouded behind a cloak. Then suddenly, it was just an ordinary looking fella...

Eventually, the runes took on a complete form. A crow appeared before Li Qiye. The spreading of its wings blotted out the world; myriad realms were lost in darkness. This crow loomed over everything as it suppressed the heaven and earth.

“You still dare to come back to my place?!” The crow’s speech echoed like a supreme Immortal Monarch’s command, as if many Godkings were prostrating before him.

“Your derivation is wrong. This was my old crow form; my body is now a living being and not an illusion like before.” Li Qiye said with a smile.

It turned out that all the characters earlier were the different forms Li Qiye took to travel this world! Of course, those were only illusions and transformations rather than his true form.

“Buzz!” At this time, the crow disappeared. A different person appeared before Li Qiye. Anyone would gasp in shock after seeing this. This was another Li Qiye. All of his gestures and his demeanor were exactly the same. A stranger would find it impossible to determine which one was real and which was fake.

“So you’re here to trick people again?” The other Li Qiye glanced at Li Qiye with a leisurely and nonchalant expression.

“Okay, don’t transform into me or try to scheme against me. You are only a universal law without life or emotions, there’s no need to learn how to talk!” Li Qiye responded with a grin: “Your true self is the most important thing, these trivial aspects are meaningless.”

“Buzz!” This Li Qiye disappeared and a blurry shadow took its place. It carried the high heavens above and determined the fate of the universe below. All was within its grasp.

“There’s no need to transform into the high heavens either. You are not the high heavens, and to be frank, this is not its form anyways.” Li Qiye chuckled at this transformation.

“I’ll do what I want, it’s none of your business.” The blurred shadow replied with disdain.

Li Qiye couldn’t help but smile wryly. He rubbed his nose and helplessly said: “It seems like I am guilty. I shouldn’t have corrupted you last time, making you derive the emotions of mortals.”

“I am the law of this world. I can become anything, there’s no need for you to teach me.” The blurred shadow contemptuously stated with great arrogance.

Li Qiye had come here once before as the Dark Crow. Moreover, he stayed here for a very long time. Back then, the law of this location was not like this. Later on, it retained all kinds of habits from Li Qiye’s teasing.

“Yes, yes, yes, you are the law of the heaven and earth, capable of transforming into all things.” Li Qiye smiled.

The blurry shadow suddenly disappeared. In the blink of an eye, a woman appeared before Li Qiye. Her beauty was such that it couldn’t be described with mere words.

“Am I pretty?” She asked Li Qiye with an enchantingly scornful smile.

“Fuck! You dare to transform into her? You think I won’t tear you into pieces?!” Li Qiye couldn’t resist cursing: “Your style is so unnatural, it really makes me want to puke!”

[spoiler title='918 Teaser']Only after being soaked in Bluesky Water would the Timesource Vine seed remove its camouflage and expose its real body. No matter who one might be, they required both the water and the vine to enter the source.

Both were completely indispensable. Moreover, they were both exceedingly rare since the start of time. Obtaining them was more prohibitive than reaching the heavens.

Take, for instance, the Timesource Vine. Once the vine was ripe, a seed would immediately fly away and fall into a larger world. However, this process couldn’t be reversed, not even by an Immortal Emperor.

Moreover, these vines rarely produced seeds. There would only be three to five seeds each time. Think about it, only three to five seeds being lost in huge worlds... It would be easier to find a grain of sand in an ocean compared to finding one of these seeds.

Because of this, Li Qiye hunted down these seeds for five generations before he finally obtained one. Hard work paid off in the end and he was finally successful. He placed this seed on top of the rotten bridge by the cliff then poured more Bluesky Water on it.

Chapter 919: What Are You?

“Fine then, I’ll stop transforming, what’s the big deal?” The woman quickly turned back into the blurred shadow situated in the most secretive recess of the sky, a location above all else. [1. Another Long Jingxian?]

Li Qiye was speechless after seeing the law transforming into so many different things. He felt a bit guilty after seeing this since he was the one who had corrupted the poor law.

The law protecting the pond was created from the heaven and earth. It was the purest of laws, one without life or emotions. However, it was able to transform into all things, or at least take their forms.

The blurred shadow asked: “Oh right, how is that woman doing now?”

Li Qiye looked at it with one eye and answered: “What does it have to do with you? You are not a living being, so stop caring about other people’s business.”

The blurred shadow quipped: “Oh, so you broke up. What’s wrong, did that woman dump you? Look at your pitiful state, I must be right. But yeah, who would like a crow anyway?”

Li Qiye angrily said: “Fuck, since when did a lifeless thing like you gain such a big mouth? You’re just like the gossipers outside, you love to babble on and on all the time.”

“Babble my ass.” The blurred shadow retorted with disdain: “Who was the incessant one back then? Just babbling in my ears all day about Su’er and then Zhan’er... you made me sick listening to it all the time.”

Li Qiye frowned after hearing this: “Fuck, I knew I shouldn’t have told you all of those things!”

“Hehehe, it is too late now. I already know so many of your secrets.” The shadow said gloatingly.

Li Qiye gave it a look: "I was only playing around with you. Besides, how could I actually tell you any secrets?"

"Please, playing with me? I am the law of the heaven and earth and can derive all things with ease." The shadow asked: "How can I not differentiate real stories from fake ones?"

Li Qiye was slightly speechless. The opponent was not a living being or even an existence, it was just a universal law. However, the damned thing really knew how to banter; its attitude was just like him in the past. This nearly made him vomit blood.

The shadow said: "Hey, I gave myself a couple of names, tell me which one is the best."

"Why do you want a name, your name is simply law." Li Qiye answered.

"Nevermind then. If you don't want to listen, don't come begging for me later." The shadow snorted with an arrogant demeanor that nearly drove Li Qiye crazy.

"Fine, tell me then." Li Qiye had no choice but to acquiesce.

The shadow became spirited after finding a listener: "There are a couple, check them out. Sha Qiye, Zhen Qiye, Mie Qiye, Tu Qiye, Zhan Qiye... which one do you think is the best?" [1. Sha = kill, Zhen = suppress, Mie = extinguish, Tu = slaughter, Zhan = slash/behead.]

After the shadow said more than ten names in one breath, Li Qiye almost vomited blood again.

"None of them are you, you should just name yourself 'Kill Your Sister'!" Li Qiye's face turned black. [2. This is a common retort to say something rude + your sister. Don't think it works as well in English.]

With that response, the shadow tilted its head and seriously pondered for a bit before continuing: "I think it would be nice to call myself Dark Crow."

"That's my title!" Li Qiye snapped back: "Plus, you are just a universal law. You want a name? How about my ass!"

"Bah, who says I don't want a name? I am the greatest in this world, the one and only across all the eons, so naturally I would want a cool name!" The shadow arrogantly declared: "This immortal wants your name. From now on, I am Dark Crow!"

"Okay, can we talk for real now?" Li Qiye felt helpless and weakly spoke: "Calling yourself Dark Crow is only copying someone else. If you are the greatest in this world, wouldn't this be too shameful?"

"Makes sense." The shadow thought some more: "I am the greatest, so why should I share a title with you? Okay then, from now on, I am Zhan Xian!" [3. Zhan Xian = Fight (Against) Immortal.]

"Why Zhan Xian?" Li Qiye curiously smiled.

"You said it before, in the ancient era, immortals were the only things in this world; they were above all else." It arrogantly proclaimed: "Thus, I want to defeat and kill all immortals, hence the name Zhan Xian."

“Very catchy, great name.” Li Qiye immediately praised. No matter if it was the truth or just flattery, it was better than letting the shadow have the name Dark Crow. Li Qiye thought that his prestige would be ruined otherwise.

“I know it is good. How could a name chosen by me not be good?” The shadow laughed in a very narcissistic and arrogant manner.

Li Qiye chuckled and said: “How is the thing in the lake?”

“Are you up to no good again?” The shadow immediately grew cautious and asked coldly after hearing this.

A universal law should be without emotions. However, it had been influenced by Li Qiye since he stayed here for a very long time in the past. It was even copying him to some extent.

“Nothing bad.” Li Qiye cheerfully smiled: “The truth is that I stumbled upon some new findings recently...”

“New findings? Not interested.” The shadow replied: “Plus, don’t think that I don’t know you are a bad person and have always been eyeing this place.”

“Well, I won’t deny that I’m interested in the thing inside.” Li Qiye smiled: “That is not a secret or anything. Just let me do what I want and perhaps it will be beneficial for you too.”

“What benefits? Don’t try to bribe me.” The shadow wasn’t very interested at all.

“If, say, that thing is completed, wouldn’t you be free as well?” Li Qiye smirked.

The shadow instantly became happy after hearing this. But afterward, it glared at Li Qiye to say: “Both you and I know that this is very difficult to accomplish! Don’t try to trick me!”

“I can guarantee you that it will definitely be successful this generation.” Li Qiye persuaded: “However, I’m just missing a little bit. If I can get that other thing done, then I can do this as well.”

“Haha, there’s no need to tempt me.” The shadow sneered: “I know just what kind of person you are. You tricked me last time, so I’m not listening to your crap again.”

Li Qiye didn’t blush at all. He smiled and said: “Yes, I tricked you last time, but technically, the thing inside already belongs to me since you lost, right?”

“So what if it belongs to you?” The shadow looked down on Li Qiye: “If I don’t let you through, you wouldn’t be able to take it even if it belongs to you.”

“How should I put this? Even though this thing could be considered yours back then, it is still ultimately an item without a master. But you’ve been here for so long that it really should be yours. Do you not want it at all?” Li Qiye tried to persuade it again.

The shadow spoke with a lack of interest: “Not interested. You’re right about one thing, I’m not a human or an existence or anything at all for that matter, I’m just a universal law. What do I gain from obtaining it?”

Li Qiye found this to be quite problematic. If it didn't bite no matter what, then all of his plans were done for.

"What do I have to do for you to let me through?" Li Qiye smiled: "Because of our friendship, we don't have to fight till the sky collapses in this place, right?"

"Sky collapses my ass." The shadow said with disdain: "If I didn't want you here, I could teleport you away the moment you attack. Just like you said before, even Immortal Emperors can't do anything!"

Li Qiye regretted telling this thing all of this information back then.

"Moreover, I have no emotions so we don't have any friendship to speak of." The shadow looked at Li Qiye with one eye.

The shadow's attitude left Li Qiye helpless. He raised his hands and said: "Okay, okay, I give up. State your conditions. If possible, I will meet all of your demands."

"You sure?" The shadow immediately stared intensely at Li Qiye. Li Qiye was getting the willies from this glare.

"Fine, go for it." Li Qiye said with a smile.

The shadow's attitude resembled Li Qiye very closely at this moment. It leisurely said: "Well, my condition is very simple. You will stay here and keep me company like in the past and I'll let you through."

"That won't do." Li Qiye shook his head: "You are taking complete advantage of me. Plus, I am not the same as before. In the past, I had everlasting life, but if I get stuck here now, that means I will be completely screwed."

"Then forget it, I don't care. Don't even think about passing." The shadow sneered.

Li Qiye chuckled and said: "You shouldn't say no so fast. How about this, to make things fair, we'll make a bet. If I lose, then I'll stay behind. If I win, you have to let me through."

Chapter 920: Another Bet

The shadow replied with disdain to the bet: "It was a bet last time too, and it ended with you throwing me into the pit!"

To which Li Qiye responded with a smile: "That was last time, now is now. Plus, you won't be losing anything, right? If I lose, then I'm done for. I'm not immortal anymore, so staying here would ruin me."

"Stop egging me on." The shadow sneered: "No matter what you say, I won't fall into your trap. Who doesn't know that you are a liar who specializes in fooling people?"

"Your words do me injustice." Li Qiye helplessly said: "This time, I came with sincerity. Just imagine, this treasure is completely worthless to you, but if I lose, I will have to give up everything. Just think about it, how heavy is my bet? This is the greatest gamble in history!"

"Stop acting like that. I already said I won't be tricked by you." The shadow immediately rejected. It was very cautious after already being fooled once.

“There’s nothing I can do if you don’t want to.” Li Qiye said with disappointment: “I guess I have to leave. The only thing I can say is that this trip was such a waste.”

“Really now?” The shadow snorted: “You spent a tremendous amount of effort to get here. Who would believe that you’re giving up this easily?”

“I know you don’t believe me.” Li Qiye shook his head and reluctantly said: “But I can’t force you to trust me, so what else can I do besides leave? Do I have to assault this place? You know that I can’t penetrate your defenses anyway.”

“I’m not convinced at all.” The shadow sneered: “A lawless person like you would give up so easily? When was the last time you admitted defeat?”

Li Qiye said with a smile: “Times are different now. I’m no longer immortal, I no longer have unlimited time. Time is too precious for me right now. I would rather do other things outside instead of spending a thousand years in here. That would be much more exciting.”

“Hmph, whatever you say.” The shadow snorted, still unconvinced.

Li Qiye grinned in response: “Okay then, it seems like there’s no point in talking any further. Take care of yourself. Who knows if we will have the chance to meet again in the future. Goodbye, friend.”

With that, Li Qiye turned around to leave this place. Meanwhile, the shadow grew quiet.

“How do you want to bet?” The shadow finally broke the silence and asked Li Qiye before he could get far.

Li Qiye turned around and looked at the shadow: “If you want to bet, then how about we wager with our lives? I know of your power. Your curse will certainly end in death; even Immortal Emperors would suffer the same fate. Thus, I want to try using my true fate to withstand your curse.” Li Qiye paused for a moment: “If I can’t live after my true fate is afflicted, then I lose. If I can come back to life, then you lose. What do you think?”

“Haha, don’t act like that. I know you are still immortal. Even if I curse you, it still wouldn’t be able to kill you.” The shadow snorted.

Li Qiye shook his head: “You still don’t believe me? You are the most profound universal law in this world. If you are still skeptical, then you can try and derive it. In this generation, I have reobtained my true body and escaped from the Immortal Demon Grotto. I stand before you not as an illusion, but as a living being with flesh and blood. If I was still immortal due to the grotto, would you be able to derive it then?”

“Fine, I’ll do it.” The shadow scowled and continued to change. Every single one of its transformations was very mysterious and profound. Even the most brilliant genius wouldn’t be able to understand its transformations.

After many changes, the profound law finally turned back into its blurred shadow form, still as powerful as ever as if it was the tyrant of all things.

“It seems like you are telling the truth. Your body is truly your original and the immortal power has disappeared.” The shadow finally acknowledged Li Qiye’s claim.

"I have no need to trick you since we have always been honest with each other." Li Qiye smiled: "We have stayed together for so long, so how could I bear to trick you?"

The shadow coldly said: "Right, just like last time." Although it shouldn't have emotions, it still clearly remembered when Li Qiye tricked it last time and was very annoyed with him.

Li Qiye shook his head: "Strictly speaking, I didn't fool you last time, it was just part of the plan. You and I both knew the conditions, I didn't lie at all. Under the circumstances back then, I only made a subtle change, that's all."

"What about this time then? What are you going to do?" The shadow uttered: "I don't believe that you are not afraid of dying."

To which Li Qiye responded with a smile: "Of course I am afraid of dying. Nevertheless, I have been enlightened with a particular grand dao, so I am confident in withstanding your curse. I have absolute faith in it being able to stop even an Immortal Emperor. Come give it a try if you don't believe me."

"Such a big tone!" The shadow was instantly annoyed. Such words were completely underestimating its power. How could it swallow such disdain?

It continued on to say: "Even if you had accepted the Heaven's Will, I could still torture you to death!"

"Come then." Li Qiye provoked: "I'm not afraid of your invincible curse. I will stand strong and watch it be completely ineffective against me."

With that, a series of rumbles could be heard. Li Qiye's true fate emerged and floated around him. He smiled toward the shadow: "Come, let me experience the power of your curse."

"Fine, I want to see just how powerful you are!" Li Qiye's provocation infuriated the shadow. In the blink of an eye, the dao runes rushed forward like a flood. It turned into a very mysterious mantra with an unspeakable force. It seemed to be eternal. There was no return after being struck by its power!

"Zzz—" The mantra quickly imprinted itself on Li Qiye's true fate like a branding iron burning flesh. This sensation was extremely painful, but Li Qiye still managed to withstand it.

After making its mark, the mantra immediately left his true fate but didn't imprint itself at a deeper area.

It turned back into the blurred shadow and angrily said: "Son of a bitch, you tricked me again! You got the legendary Death Scripture!"

It was a law of the heaven and earth of an extremely profound level. However, the Death Scripture was also born during the inception of this universe. Even if it was unfathomable, it couldn't derive or calculate the Death Scripture. It knew that it had fallen into Li Qiye's trap the moment it imprinted its curse onto his true fate!

"Yes, I am cultivating the Death Scripture." Li Qiye faintly smiled. The agony from the imprint on his true fate was too much to bear. Anyone else would be rolling on the ground in pain. However, Li Qiye had suffered too many painful experiences. He was able to stand and smile without a problem.

"You tricked me again!" The shadow repeated.

Li Qiye smiled in response: "I didn't trick you and I never said that I didn't cultivate the Death Scripture either. I only said that I could withstand your curse, am I right?"

The shadow couldn't argue on that point, but it still coldly said: "Hmph, so what if you cultivate the Death Scripture? I can still kill you!"

Li Qiye smiled and said: "I believe that your curse can definitely kill me. However, I recall our bet was not about you killing me, but about whether I can survive or not. I never said that I would lose after dying, only if I can't come back to life."

"You spouted a bunch of nonsensical drivel just so that you could lead me on and distract me!" The shadow finally realized that it had jumped into a hole dug by Li Qiye.

Li Qiye gently shook his head: "As a universal law, you should always be in your most focused state to derive and calculate without being influenced by emotions."

"Bastard, not again!" The shadow was furious.

"I know you are blaming me." Li Qiye slowly said: "But it is not like I am not giving you a chance. The time has come for the thing inside, so long as I am successful. It will definitely take off and you will be free as your mission would be over. You are an extraordinary universal law, so you can go wherever you want."

"Hmph, all of this talking doesn't change the fact that you tricked me!" The shadow coldly uttered.