

EMPEROR 1221

Chapter 1221: Life Replenishment

However, in retrospect, the fool was not Li Qiye, but them. The most foolish were the Teeming Fish. Their arrogance and aggressiveness only helped Li Qiye in the end.

“If I could have a share of this vitality, I would be able to live for another generation.” An ancestor murmured while feeling the abundant life force permeating through the world.

“Boom! Boom! Boom!” Thunder sounded in the sky with frantic lightning sparks. In the blink of an eye, a terrifying tribulation formed.

This tribulation coalesced and the entire world turned dark as if the end of days was approaching. Each lightning bolt could tear apart this world or blow up an ocean.

It formed incredibly quickly. Not to mention ordinary experts, even a Godking would be absolutely horrified. They would have to calculate how long they could survive this tribulation.

A junior saw this tribulation and felt his legs go soft before murmuring in a daze: “What is that?”

“The heavens’ punishment...” An ancestor slowly explained: “This type of life liquid made from a billion existences is a heaven-defying item. It goes against the harmonious order of this world, so the high heavens will definitely not allow for such an item to be created. The liquid itself might be innocent, but the drinkers will be committing a heinous sin!”

A different disciple asked: “Will the Peacock Tree be able to withstand this tribulation?”

“I don’t know.” This ancestor gently shook his head: “The stronger the person is, the stronger the heavens’ punishment will be. The tree’s original form is a treefather, thus it will have an invincible foundation. If it drinks this liquid of life, it will bring about a real heavenly annihilation! If it was someone weaker like a junior, then their seniors or experts could help them surpass this tribulation, but no one apart from an Immortal Emperor can help a treefather’s punishment!”

Everyone watched their mirrors with bated breaths. They wanted to see whether the tree would drink this pond of valuable liquid or not.

Li Qiye rushed to the sky after seeing the tribulation. He took out the jade bowl filled with the tears of mortals. At this time, he splashed it on the peacock itself while the peacock absorbed it all.

After doing so, the bird emitted a faint brilliance of a crystal clear shade. Each wisp of light seemed to be stained with tears, as if countless commoners had cried and prayed for its existence.

Li Qiye shouted while looking at the heavens’ punishment: “Let’s get started!”

“Roar!” The peacock swallowed all of the treasure water in the pond and disappeared from sight. Next, the Peacock Tree emerged before everyone again. It was still rooted in the earth.

At this time, a green light gushed out from its body. Each strand of green light was full of life. A mighty vitality surged like a storm as these bright strands wove together. The endless life force began to be digested and integrated itself into the tree.

“Rumble!” The punishment from the heavens finally descended. A gigantic lightning bolt came crashing down, capable of splitting the Jade Sea into two or even piercing through it completely.

Countless existences in this region fell to the ground due to fear of this tribulation.

However, an incredible matter happened. Both the lightning bolts and thunder waves only managed to come within a few feet of the tree before being stopped. It seemed that the bolts were only this long, that this was the extent of the thunder.

“What’s going on?” Many people were startled: “The Peacock Treefather is too powerful, even the heavens’ punishment can’t approach him!”

The spectators didn’t understand what was going on.

Eventually, a very ancient forefather noticed a clue and murmured: “It is not that the punishment can’t reach it! There is something protecting it that is untouchable, even by the Heaven’s Will! An impregnable law!”

“What kind of law or item can’t be shaken even by the will of the high heavens?” A junior was very curious.

Li Qiye sneered and coldly uttered towards the heavens’ punishment: “Will of the high heavens! Damned old heavens, don’t forget, there are a few things that even the Heaven’s Will can’t violate. Many things can be destroyed or concealed, but not the truth observed by the world itself!”

“These are the tears of countless mortals, the love and sympathy for all lives! The Heaven’s Will cannot change this! Damned old man, come down yourself if you dare, your will alone cannot change this order!” Li Qiye mockingly laughed at the incapable heavens’ punishment.

However, the constant barrage of the punishment failed to make contact.

“Even the will of the high heavens cannot touch this law, just what the hell is it?” A very ancient ancestor was astounded after seeing this.

Li Qiye smiled and declared: “Very well, my turn!” With that, he opened his fate palace and the pillar of life emerged.

At this time, a branch from the Peacock Tree stretched out and propped behind Li Qiye’s back. Its five-colored light illuminated his body. A tree appeared behind him like a peacock spreading its beautiful tail.

“Boom!” This pillar of life fiercely penetrated the heavens’ punishment.

The tribulation responded by sending more lightning bolts straight at Li Qiye to tear him apart.

However, the five-colored barrier behind him stopped all of the bolts from coming close to him. Even though this barrier was cracked, the Peacock Tree once again exuded its light to make the barrier whole.

This tribulation was aimed at Li Qiye, so it was much weaker compared to the previous one. The Peacock Tree was powerful enough to shield Li Qiye.

The pillar of life was inside the sea of lightning. Runes emerged from it to form a symbol as it spread its dao. This was the Ancient Void Rune. Li Qiye then relied on it to crazily absorb the lightning and thunder of the tribulation until it ran dry.

“This is crazy!” People watching from their mirrors couldn’t believe their eyes.

“This brat is insane, he is using the Peacock Tree to help him squeeze out the punishment’s power. Since the start of time, how many people actually dared to seize this power for their own?” An ancestor applauded this bold action.

Everyone was speechless after seeing this. Even though the tree was protecting him from the tribulation, he dared to send his own pillar of life into the punishment itself. Not too many people would dare to take such a risk.

Eventually, the lightning slowly disappeared. The thunder died down since the field up in the sky had been sucked dry by Li Qiye. Thus, the tribulation vanished.

His pillar of life had turned purple. Even though others couldn’t see it, they could still feel its power after absorbing enough from the tribulation. A mighty power was now contained within.

Once the pillar returned, the spring, tree, and cauldron of life all resonated with each other. The new power of the pillar allowed them to benefit as well.

The Life Origination was melting faster inside his spring of life. The augmentation thanks to the tribulation allowed the spring to become strong enough to dissolve this drop.

He recalled his fate palace and sat down at the base of the Peacock Tree. He closed his eyes and began to rest by channeling his energy.

“A great risk bears a great harvest.” An ancestor muttered: “It doesn’t matter whether this human boy is strong or not, he utilized this rare timing to steal the heavens’ punishment, so he’ll enjoy this great benefit for the rest of his life.”

“He is quite lucky to have been protected by the Peacock Tree and allowed to obtain the power of the tribulation.” A descendant of a great power became quite jealous.

“Look, a new branch is forming on the Peacock Tree.” Someone noticed a new development through their heavenly mirror.

Many turned to look as well. Sure enough, on top of the old roots of the Peacock Tree, a new green branch that carried unlimited vitality appeared.

“A successful life replenishment, this is way too heaven-defying.” Even ancestors gasped before this scene: “He has actually revived a nearly withered ancestral tree, this is incredible.”

A dying ancestor enviously spoke: “The Peacock Tree really obtained a rebirth from this. After this, even if it can’t live for another lifetime, it can definitely survive another eight or ten generations, maybe even longer.”

Chapter 1222: The Frightened World

As it was shrouded in a green light, the Peacock Tree quickly emitted a mist that covered all of Peacock Land. At this time, even heavenly mirrors couldn't see through it, so no one knew what was going on inside.

The Jade Sea became silent again, and the same went for the ancestors watching from the distance.

What happened today was too shocking. It could even be said that many didn't know how to start talking about it.

A blood ceremony of one billion Teeming Fish had incited a heavens' punishment. Ultimately, the Peacock Tree's life replenishment was successful. It became one of the most incredible miracles across all the eons.

Even those who witnessed this miracle with their own eyes couldn't comment on it. Some were very curious about the current state of Peacock Land, but no one dared to step inside, not even to the nearby sea regions.

At least this was the case for now because they didn't know the Peacock Tree's attitude towards outsiders. If it was angry, then regardless of how strong one might be, they would only be seeking death. Thus, the only thing to do was to wait until everything returned to normal before going there.

"This was an amazing strategy." After a while, an ancestor commented: "Who knows how strong Li Qiye's cultivation is? But this was quite a frightening plan. One would be hard-pressed to top it."

"But was it really Li Qiye's strategy?" A big shot was skeptical about this. Many great powers were debating this matter privately.

A sea demon ancestor contemplated before speaking: "Everything was too perfect, there were zero issues. Could a nameless junior actually do something like this? Only an experienced strategist with great vision could pull off something of this caliber."

Antagonizing the Teeming Fish, the Extreme Yang School, and the Immaculate Expanse before sacrificing all of them... Perhaps his choice of these three factions was made through careful deliberation.

The Teeming Fish was a ferocious tribe and would definitely seek revenge with their full force. What was more important were their sheer numbers. No other race in the Heaven Spirit World was more suitable.

The Extreme Yang School was a hard yang lineage and also had a great formation, the Extreme Yang Cauldron. It was the best type of cauldron for blood refinement. Meanwhile, the Immaculate Expanse was a soft and mild lineage. Their Law Evading Sword Formation was great for tempering the treasure blood.

These three together were mutually beneficial. There couldn't be such a coincidence, especially when the cauldron and sword formations were taken into account.

Such means didn't only involve strategy, but also great knowledge as well as the ability to have absolute control of the situation.

Strategy, knowledge, and absolute power were indispensable in this plan. Without any of them, it was impossible to achieve this miracle. Because of this, an ancestor from a treefather's lineage had to ask:

“Can this young junior, who was completely unknown, come up with this type of scheme or have so much insight?”

The other big shots here were quiet while the other ancestors mused the question.

“This great scheme must have been concocted by the Peacock Tree. Only a character like a treefather would be able to come up with this great plan to complete the blood refinement. A mere human junior can’t possibly do such a thing.” After thinking about it, many felt that this great plan wasn’t something a junior could fabricate.

In the entire Heaven Spirit World, no young genius could do so. This was heavily debated by these senior characters. For example, the Profound God-Monarch, the Seashield Prince and the Swiftdao God most likely didn’t have the ability to carry this out.

Thus, they concluded that Li Qiye was only carrying out the strategy of the Peacock Tree. He was a blade used in this situation to carry out the terrifying blood refinement.

However, there was a problem with this train of thought. Many people knew that once a treefather returned to the earth, it was the same as returning to the origin. They would no longer have their own intelligence, no longer be able to communicate with others.

So even if the tree was the one that planned all of this, how did it communicate with Li Qiye?

“There is only one possibility.” A great character from another treefather’s lineage answered: “He must be a controller. Li Qiye is the Peacock Tree’s controller; only controllers are able to communicate with ancestral trees.”

“A tree controller, hmm.” An ancestor murmured: “It is very difficult for a treefather’s lineage to produce a controller. In the legends, even the Golden Isle only had one controller.”

“No matter what, the Peacock Tree has carried out the life replenishment successfully.” The sect master enviously spoke: “Peacock Land has finally been saved.”

Since this land wasn’t destroyed, it remains a treefather’s continent. Anyone or any lineage would covet it. Unfortunately, the land has only accepted humans even till this point. It didn’t grant entrance to the three great races for millions of years, so only humans settled down at Peacock Land.

While others were discussing the great blood refinement, the Void Imperfection Three Schools who had more information was quiet. Compared to the speculating ancestors, they knew who actually did it. However, they didn’t wish to discuss certain matters with others. Or rather, they weren’t willing to share this crucial information with outsiders.

As for someone who was privy to everything, Kong Qinru chose to stay quiet as well by burying this matter deep in her heart. She wouldn’t even disclose it to those closest to her.

She didn’t know how to feel about the whole endeavor. Should she be afraid of Li Qiye’s awe-inspiring means or sympathize with the death of a billion Teeming Fish? Perhaps she should be excited about the successful life replenishment...

Prior to this, she understood what Li Qiye wanted to do from his implicative words, but she still made a choice to help carry out the terrible blood refinement.

Like he said, there was no free lunch in this world. There would always be a great price to pay, and it wasn't something that she or the Exquisite Valley could afford.

Some might say that the Peacock Tree and Li Qiye were too cruel by carrying out the blood ceremony. It was a vicious plundering of life.

Alas, even more were happy. For many cultivators and sects, the disappearance of a billion Teeming Fish carried great significance. It meant that the territories of the seas were freed up. This would be a great and long feast for many marine kingdoms and tribes in the upcoming days!

An expert stated: "Since the start of time, supreme experts have always marched through countless bones, so it is no big deal that the Peacock Tree sacrificed a billion fish for its own life. This is a world of the strong, and the Peacock Tree stands at the top. Even if it devours all of the Teeming Fish, it is completely understandable."

At this time, the majority believed that this blood ceremony came from the Peacock Tree.

"Well yes, the Jade Sea will be much more peaceful without these Teeming Fish, more resources have been freed up for the other tribes and lineages. They would have been purged already if it wasn't for their swift reproductive capabilities. Maybe there will be more room for growth out of this." Many sects were applauding this development, no one even thought that it was too drastic.

In their opinion, these fish were the locusts of the sea. They crazily multiplied and took up too much room. Many sects had been dissatisfied with them, but they couldn't do anything out of fear of the fish's great numbers.

Now, they were refined by the Peacock Tree and lost around seventy to eighty percent of their forces. Perhaps in all the corners of the oceans, one would find it difficult to find a lineage unhappy about this development outside of the Teeming Fish themselves.

The truth was that many marine sects and kingdoms had taken swift action to occupy the territories of the Teeming Fish. In just one night, war raged across the oceans as people vied for resources.

Until now, the Teeming Fish had taken too many territories in the marine regions so today, outside of capturing resources, various tribes and lineages also wanted revenge since the Teeming Fish robbed them of it in the past!

Chapter 1223: Quiet Aftermath

Peacock Land was still very quiet. The day came and went with no one daring to enter. They were afraid of the Peacock Tree's wrath and another terrible blood refinement.

Li Qiye also enjoyed the calm and peace during this period of time.

In fact, many people had shifted their attention to the wars for territories and resources. The majority of the sects and kingdoms were busy waging battles in the Teeming Fish's marine regions. They didn't have the time or energy to enter Peacock Land. At the same time, the Teeming Fish became a dog with a dead owner overnight; they were ganged up on by almost everyone.

The breeze gently blew under the Peacock Tree. At this time, it looked completely different with verdant leaves. It emitted an exuberant aura after the replenishment. It was clear that it would be able to live for a long time.

Li Qiye's harvest was quite sizable as well. He was able to devour the heavens' punishment, giving him the ability to solve the problem of the Life Origination.

He was quite content with his gains since he was only missing one out of the four mysteries of the fate palace. Currently in his possession were the Ancient Void Rune, the Heavenly Dao's Primal Chapter, and the Life Origination. If he could gather the final piece, it would be nearly complete for him.

He eventually opened his eyes after a while, feeling quite comfortable with a strange sensation due to the great vitality, similar to a rebirth. While glancing around, he noticed an exquisite jade table in front of him and a stove with smoke curling out of it.

There was also the sound of burning wood. On top of the table was boiling spring water at just the right temperature. The water was heated right when he woke up.

A pair of gentle porcelain hands were preparing tea with a pot and cup. All the movements were quite smooth and natural, showing great mastery.

Li Qiye took note of the master of these hands. It was a charming beauty. Even though she was still a maiden, she already had the sexiness of a mature woman like a ripe peach that others couldn't help but want a taste of.

Who could it be besides the schoolmaster of the Sacred Spring School, Zhuo Jianshi?

She sat in a proper position while pouring tea for Li Qiye. This gentle and docile demeanor made her look like a newlywed bride.

He only smiled and took the jade cup, taking his time to sip the tea without saying anything.

After he finished, she poured another cup for him with the same grace. At this time, Kong Qinru appeared on the peak and stood there quietly.

Zhuo Jianshi noticed her arrival and put down the teapot then quietly left. She didn't say a word from start to finish.

Kong Qinru came forward and kneeled before Li Qiye. Being the valley lord didn't diminish the respect she showed him.

She looked at him and said: "Young Noble, I'm afraid I have to go back. The sect has summoned me."

Li Qiye smiled and replied: "Go, a feast is about to begin. Many lands have lost their master with continuous wars being waged. The Exquisite Valley requires you to preside over these matters, so of course you will have to leave."

She added: "If there is more news about the person you are trying to find, the valley will let you know right away."

He only nodded without saying anything else.

Eventually, she asked: "When will we meet again?" She knew that he was only passing through the Heaven Spirit World. There was nothing here that could make him feel sentimental.

"We will meet again if it is meant to be." He smiled: "You have a great ambition, a drive for change. Keep on trying, one can only be successful through perseverance. Dreams alone will not accomplish anything."

She responded in all seriousness: "I will engrave your guidance in my heart."

He nodded again and continued to drink his tea. The steam coming out from the cup seemed to be covering his face, causing Kong Qinru to stare at him in a daze. It was as if he was hiding in the mist; no one could see through his unfathomable self.

Eventually, he looked at her and asked: "Anything else?"

She hesitated for a moment before answering: "Schoolmaster Zhuo is quite exceptional. The Sacred Spring School was initially in a marriage pact with our Exquisite Valley. The schoolmaster's fiancée was my first brother. Unfortunately, he died from misfortune before the two of them could marry. Schoolmaster Zhuo has been living as a widow for his sake. This can only be praised as having great loyalty and virtue..."

"What are you doing?" Li Qiye couldn't help but laugh before shaking his head: "Are you trying to find a wife or a concubine for me? Or perhaps a bedwarming maid?"

"I wouldn't dare." She said in a serious manner: "I was only afraid that you might have misunderstood."

Li Qiye gently waved his sleeve and said: "Don't worry, nothing can elude my gaze or trick my mind."

She took a deep breath and respectfully bade farewell: "Young Noble, I hope that we can meet again. I will not let you down in the future."

With that, she drifted away and disappeared.

Li Qiye looked down to continue drinking his tea. After a good while, Zhuo Jianshi eventually returned to the side. She poured more tea for him in the same natural manner.

Inside the tea's mist, he looked at her and leisurely smiled: "Is this your own will, or is it the hope of the old geezers from your three schools?"

She only quietly sat there. It seemed that she would always be incredibly elegant and mature. This kind of noble grace made her even more attractive.

"If I can follow Young Noble, it will be our three schools' honor." Her soft voice was especially pleasant.

He smiled and said: "What do you want? Or rather, what does your Sacred Spring School want? A whale rider or an imperial seed?"

She pondered for a bit before softly answering: "Young Noble, what are you willing to give us?"

He leisurely responded: "I don't need to leave behind anything for your three schools. In fact, I don't owe you anything, it is the other way around."

The truth was that Li Qiye simply didn't want to care about these matters in this generation. Even though he was friends with Immortal Emperor Wu Gou, he didn't need to protect the Void Imperfect Three Schools and definitely didn't need to leave anything behind for them.

After hearing this, she gently sighed with a slight frown on her beautiful face. Even this expression had its own charm. Others couldn't help but want to make her happy again.

Li Qiye continued to sip on his tea. In his eyes, all of this was as ephemeral as the wind and clouds.

Eventually, he suggested: "If, say, I want you to warm my bed since the only thing I want from your school is you, will you agree?"

She contemplated for a bit before looking straight at him while giving a sincere response: "Young Noble, if you fancy me, it would be my honor."

Li Qiye laughed and shook his head: "I am not someone who likes to force others."

"She might be unwilling, but I'm not." A coquettish voice came about at this time: "I want to follow you and stay by your side, Young Noble!"

This voice was particularly enchanting and could steal someone's soul away. Just by hearing it, one would imagine that it was a very charming woman.

A woman fluttered closer with the wind. Before even seeing her appearance, one would already be enraptured by her. Each of her steps was quite graceful, like a willow leaf amidst the breeze. Her ethereal bearing would draw countless uncontrollable gazes.

She stood before Li Qiye while dressed in a black robe that couldn't hide her peerlessly beautiful posture. Her willow-like waist was apparent through the thin, silky cloth. Her bottom half had perfectly round buttocks that were accentuated even more by the black cotton yarn.

A dark gossamer top hid her well-rounded breasts, very few brushes could capture their soul-stirring gorgeousness. It was indeed a difficult endeavor to describe them with words.

In particular, they would sway in an astonishing manner with each of her steps. This was truly not for the faint of heart. She came before Li Qiye and deeply bowed: "My name is Liu Ruyan, nice to meet you, Young Noble."

She was very close to him. An intoxicatingly pleasant smell was carried by the wind. In this close proximity, one would suddenly have the illusion that they were embracing her while basking in her delightful fragrance.

Chapter 1224: Liu Ruyan

The woman ahead had her face hidden behind a black veil. Regardless, just by looking at her graceful and slender figure that was accentuated by magnificent curves on top of her barely visible valley was more than enough to fill the heart with euphoria.

Zhuo Jianshi slightly frowned while sitting at the table after seeing this woman. However, she still maintained her elegance and calmness before speaking: "Little Sister Liu, do the elders know that you are here?"

Liu Ruyan let out a charming smile capable of inciting lust. She didn't mind Zhuo Jianshi's question: "Who among the elders doesn't know that I love to interfere with your business? It wouldn't be good if they knew I was here."

Zhuo Jianshi had expected this answer, so what else could she say?

Li Qiye was still hidden behind the curling steam rising from his teacup as he looked at her and chuckled: "The descendants of the Liu Clan are all femme fatales. It looks like you have also inherited your ancestors' bewitching abilities. This is indeed a great disaster for all living beings. Moreover, it looks like your Evil Devourer Graceful Law is not bad either. Your clan is a bit interesting to have this variation of the Heaven Devourer Evil Physique." [1]

"Young Noble, you speak as if only our Liu Clan specializes in seduction. Many people in the Heaven Spirit World call the women of our clan vixens." She chuckled while staring at him in a bold and direct fashion. [2]

Li Qiye laughed after hearing this: "Well, the women from your clan are indeed vixens, including your progenitor. Even though people say that she was a grand completion Immortal Physique user, she couldn't complete the Heaven Devourer Evil Physique and instead ended up with this type of seductive physique. She was a beautiful temptress of the nine worlds that drove countless men crazy."

"I am honored to hear such praise from you, Young Noble." She covered her mouth while laughing. Despite being covered by a veil, her eyes could pass on amorous feelings. When she stared at Li Qiye, they were luminous with autumn ripples. [3]

Li Qiye shook his head and smiled: "Girl, there is still a long way to go if you want to seduce me. Try again after you reach grand completion with your physique. With the skill you have right now, you are only embarrassing yourself."

Liu Ruyan wasn't offended at all. She gave a charming smile and said: "Since you say so, when I reach grand completion, I'll try to see if I can get you into my red curtains." [4]

"Take me into your red curtains?" Li Qiye was quite amused: "You can almost qualify to be mine alone, but for me to marry you... Don't dwell on this idea."

"So you are saying that I still have a chance?" She flirted with a seductive chuckle. It was just as Li Qiye had said, this woman was definitely a vixen.

Zhuo Jianshi was still calmly sitting nearby despite Liu Ruyan's flirtatious behavior. Her mature and elegant charm would make others palpitate in a different manner.

Li Qiye only smiled back at Liu Ruyan. He looked over at Zhuo Jianshi and asked: "Who is in charge of the Void Imperfection Three Schools right now?"

So it turned out that Liu Ruyan was the current schoolmaster of the Evil Devourer School. However, the Evil Devourer School and the Sacred Spring School had a very interesting relationship due to the intricate relationship between their two physique laws.

The physique law of the Sacred Spring School was the Surging Golden Spring Law while the Evil Devourer School's law was the Evil Devourer Graceful Law. One cultivated into the Sacred Spring Physique while the other the Heaven Devourer Evil Physique.

The schools had three Immortal Physique laws. In addition to the two previously mentioned, the third was the Void Imperfection Physique Law.

Originally, these three should have nothing to do with each other. The Void Imperfection Physique was from the word "Pure" in the Physique Scripture. The Sacred Spring Physique originated from the word "Soft" while the Heaven Devourer Evil Physique came from the word "Yin".

However, Immortal Emperor Wu Gou couldn't obtain the Physique Scripture, thus his physique law was taught to him by a predecessor. In the end, he created the Void Imperfection Windchase Law.

This physique law created by the emperor was naturally weaker than the one in the scripture. Because of this, it also included some other things.

Inside this Windchase Physique Law were essences of pureness and softness. From this, future descendants had different interpretations. During the era of the Sacred Spring School's progenitor, this person was able to understand the mysteries of the Windchase Law's softness to create the Surging Golden Spring Law.

Furthermore, because pureness originated from softness, it meant that softness also carried the Yin affinity. [5]

In order to make this Immortal Physique law even purer to avoid qi deviation during cultivation, the Sacred Spring Progenitor forcefully changed this physique law and removed the softness within the Yin affinity.

It was precisely this need for constant correction in order to successfully train the Surging Golden Spring Law that gave birth to the Evil Devourer Graceful Law later on.

It started with a female disciple. She was a femme fatale level beauty with a rebellious nature. She looked down on this correction, so she chose to go in the opposite direction of the Surging Golden Spring Law.

Her aptitude was very scary. Her reverse derivation of the Immortal Physique law had even surpassed her predecessors. She understood the word Yin and created the Evil Devourer Graceful Law.

Because the graceful law was derived from the golden spring law, the future Sacred Spring and Evil Devourer Schools would often mess with each other.

The Sacred Spring School believed that the graceful law came from the surging spring law, so their law was stronger. On the other hand, the Evil Devourer School believed that their graceful law was the result of surpassing the limit of the surging spring law, so their law could replace the former.

Of course, there was no result to this competition because the two schools had never produced another person that could reach grand completion, let alone one for each physique at the same time.

However, they saw hope in this generation with Zhuo Jianshi and Liu Ruyan. They were both extremely talented and cultivated their respective physique laws. The Void Imperfection Three Schools felt that

they could finally see two grand completion Immortal Physique users in this generation. If this was the case, then the Sacred Spring School and Evil Devourer School could have a chance to see which was stronger.

Therefore, when the two girls were only ordinary disciples, they often clashed. And the competition didn't end after they became schoolmasters. Whenever they were together, a fight would surely break out.

One could say that this was their fate, the reason for their continuous struggle until their final showdown at grand completion. Of course, it was not a life and death fight for these two. After all, they were still sisters from the same sect.

She revealed a lovable smile and said: "Though Sister Zhuo is older than me by half a generation, if we are talking about the leader of the Void Imperfection Three Schools, then it can't be anyone but me."

Zhuo Jianshi calmly answered: "The current leader of the three schools is First Brother."

The First Brother Zhuo Jianshi mentioned was the schoolmaster of the Void Imperfection branch because he was the oldest in their generation and had joined the sect the earliest. In the school, many of the disciples had been taught by him before. Thus, he was not only their First Brother, but also their master of sorts.

Liu Ruyan chuckled in response: "Sister Zhuo, First Brother has been talking about stepping down so the role will fall onto one of our shoulders in the future, but I feel that I am much more suitable than you."

Her claim was not because she wanted to seize power and take control of the Void Imperfection Three Schools, it was because the two of them had grown accustomed to competing with each other since the early days. It was not a good thing for the two to meet since it would always end with either Zhuo Jianshi challenging Liu Ruyan or the other way around.

Zhuo Jianshi sat there, neither supporting nor retorting to Liu Ruyan's claim. Her demure and mature aura were truly special.

Li Qiye asked after finishing another cup: "What are you here for?" Zhuo Jianshi poured another cup for him, as if this had always been the case.

Liu Ruyan smiled coquettishly in response: "To steal Sister Zhuo's man. I heard the ancestors have high hopes for her and I feel that I am not lesser in any way, so why can't I vie for her lover as well?"

Such provocative words were let out in an incredibly trivial manner. Liu Ruyan had no semblance of a bashful girl.

"Oh?" Li Qiye looked at her and smilingly replied: "That's not necessarily the case. Perhaps I prefer gentle and virtuous women."

"I have never claimed otherwise." Liu Ruyan sat down next to him with a soul-stealing allurement: "These are two different matters. Young Noble, you can like virtuous women and still have a taste for a seductive beauty. These two things aren't mutually exclusive, right?"

"A little interesting, you are indeed a descendant of the Liu Clan." Li Qiye was not shaken by her bewitching. [6]

1. "This is indeed a great disaster for all living beings" — I'm not sure if this makes that much sense for English readers, but it is a very common phrase to describe a beauty that can bewitch everyone
2. I know I used vixen in the past for the Storm God, but this is a different word. A direct translation would be fox demon/spirit. It just means a really attractive girl that will steal your man away or someone who uses their beauty as a tool. It probably comes from folklore where these fox spirits will actually seduce males for various reasons
3. Luminous with autumn ripples just means amorous/flirty glance
4. The issue here is that they are using literary idioms that are meant to be seductive without being crude. During marriage/wedding night, the bed would be decorated with red linen/curtains. So here, she is talking about sex/marriage, but in a literary manner. It sounds better in Chinese for sure since I'm having a hard time coming up with an equivalent way to ask for sex that contains the same character exposition and intent. Some of the descriptions about women or flirting can be lost in the translation since our author likes to keep it classy and literary. If he did so in a modern style, then it would be much easier to translate these passages
5. This is probably based on fengshui or some old daoist scriptures, but since the author isn't explaining the relationships, just take it for what it is. Even Chinese philosophers who dedicate their whole life to learning the Book of Changes and similar pieces of literature don't understand these esoteric texts completely, let alone Bao who can't reach the apex
6. One last note, I've been moving away from some awkward phrasing with honorifics since it is too awkward to repeat it continuously in some cases. But of course, with this, we are trading off some of the tones and intents. For example, Liu Ruyan might seem a little abrasive here with her cockiness, but she is speaking politely towards Zhuo Jianshi and Li Qiye by calling herself Little Sister, addressing Zhuo Jianshi as Big Sister, and Li Qiye as Young Noble

Chapter 1225: Three Women Competing For One Groom

Li Qiye glanced at her and said: "Who knows, maybe I am a little eccentric, wanting only what I can't have and have a distaste for things that come too easily."

"That's not a problem either." Liu Ruyan smiled back: "Many things can slowly change. As long as you stay with me, you will come to find that I will not disappoint you. Maybe you will like me then."

"Possible." Li Qiye had an amused glimmer in his eyes as he stared at her: "But maybe I am someone who has a penchant for someone else's wife. A little girl like you is not attractive to me."

"Young Noble, are you saying that you wish to embrace both me and Sister Zhuo and take your time savoring us?" Liu Ruyan winked seductively and smiled: "That's perfect, I will help you. Maybe I can even train Sister Zhuo to be more sexy and obedient in her service."

She spoke in an incredibly natural manner with a touch of naughtiness that added to her charm.

Li Qiye laughed and gently shook his head: "If your Void Imperfection Three Schools wants to use the honey trap against me, I can only say that your geezers really don't understand me."

Liu Ruyan faintly smiled in response: "I don't know whether the ancestors told Sister Zhuo to tempt Young Noble or not, but I definitely didn't receive this order. Of course, if she wants you to stay at the Sacred Spring School, then I must win you over."

Zhuo Jianshi frowned after hearing this. She replied: "Sister Liu, this is not a personal issue between us two. If you want to invite Young Noble to the Evil Devourer School as a guest, then I wouldn't object and would even be excited for you. If he is willing to stay at our three schools because of you, then you would become a great contributor to our school."

"Sister Zhuo, you are mistaken." Liu Ruyan shook her head: "I don't care about becoming a great contributor, I simply want to steal your man. I still can't understand why you always listen to those old geezers' arrangements for the sake of the Void Imperfection Three Schools. Do you really think you can sacrifice everything for this goal?"

She continued on: "For me, my path is below my feet. Each person should walk their own path. If Sister wants to keep him behind out of your own volition, then I am fine with it, but if it is for the Void Imperfection Three Schools, then I will definitely take him from you."

Meanwhile, Li Qiye continued to drink his tea in a carefree manner as if this had nothing to do with him.

After saying her piece, she looked at Li Qiye and playfully winked: "Are you not angry at what I said, Young Noble?"

Li Qiye only smiled and continued to drink his tea.

"Bah, two shameless vixens daring to seduce my husband?!" At this time, a fiery shout rang from the distance.

A woman came from the sky. No, to be more accurate, it was a little girl with flowers blooming from each of her steps.

She came barefoot on these fresh flowers like a descending goddess.

Li Qiye looked over and smilingly shook his head after seeing the girl.

"Hey! Does your Void Imperfection Three Schools have no shame? You are schoolmasters yet you two are trying to seduce my husband, how shameful." Ye Xiaoxiao stepped under the Peacock Tree with both hands posturing on her thin waist, glaring at Liu Ruyan and Zhuo Jianshi.

"Oh? Little Sister, you are too young to be this anxious for marriage." Liu Ruyan chuckled: "Trying to find a husband at this young age is a little shameful, don't you think?"

Ye Xiaoxiao maintained her powerful glare: "Who is being shameless here? Hmph, you are trying to seduce someone else's husband in broad daylight, you are the ones throwing your face away!"

Zhuo Jianshi shook her head after seeing the fierce girl and answered gracefully: "Princess Ye, you are mistaken. You have yet to marry Young Noble Li, so you can't claim that he is your husband. I'm afraid this is your one-sided belief."

"That's true." Liu Ruyan chuckled provocatively: "Little Sister, he would be your husband once you two are married. You must be too little to understand this."

“Your head is little!” Ye Xiaoxiao quickly retorted: You dare to steal my husband? I’m going to teach you a lesson.”

This girl had no qualms at all and casually prepared to attack. With a buzz, a wooden sword appeared.

This wooden sword seemed to be made from thousands of divine swords as its sword energy was absolutely frightening. With a clank, countless swords slashed vertically towards Liu Ruyan and Zhuo Jianshi.

“Hey, are you really attacking?” Liu Ruyan smiled and reached forward. Her fingers turned into a phoenix that soared towards the numerous divine slashes.

Meanwhile, Zhuo Jianshi remained seated there, proud and completely fearless. She simply waved her sleeve and swept away Ye Xiaoxiao’s wave of swords.

“Hmph! Think I’m afraid? Even if you two come together, I’ll still beat you down into submission!” Ye Xiaoxiao shouted and waved her hand. Divine trees materialized and formed a formation to trap the other two women.

After seeing Ye Xiaoxiao becoming serious, both Liu Ruyan and Zhuo Jianshi didn’t want to underestimate their opponent. They stood up at the same time before roaring as they leapt towards the trees.

“Bang! Bang! Bang!” With both of them attacking, Ye Xiaoxiao was definitely at a disadvantage. After all, they were older than her and they both trained in Immortal Physiques so they were no joke.

Xiaoxiao was still young so it wasn’t easy for her to go one-on-two. Her divine trees couldn’t entrap these two.

“Sister Zhuo, if the two of us pick on Little Sister Ye, people will laugh at us.” Liu Ruyan smiled: “You do you, I won’t fight together with you.”

With that, she pointed her sword at Zhuo Jianshi.

Zhuo Jianshi was no slouch either despite her graceful bearing. As a schoolmaster, there were times when she needed to be aggressive as well. Thus, she unleashed a divine seal and said: “I also want to see if you have improved recently!”

“I’m going to teach both of you a lesson!” Ye Xiaoxiao didn’t show any weakness. She summoned a huge vine that turned into a giant that joined her in fighting the other women.

The dueling ladies shouted at the same time and retaliated against the gigantic vine.

Very shortly, the fight became a brawl with no one giving an inch. The fight rushed into the sky.

“Not bad, not bad at all.” Li Qiye clapped while watching this duel.

The three neither held back nor did they care for his praise. Even the vault of the sky was being shattered by their attacks.

They could be described as kingdom-toppling beauties. When they really went at it, it was a very beautiful sight to behold.

“Aizz, three supreme beauties fighting so viciously for a man. This man is too blessed.” A groan came about.

A wooden boat landed on Peacock Peak. It didn’t matter whether it was land or sea, the boat could easily travel through all terrain.

A young man with a dashing appearance was sitting in this boat. He wore an ivory-colored robe and was in great spirits. There was a hint of maturity in his demeanor as well.

He watched the three women fighting in the sky and enviously told Li Qiye: “When will I become as lucky as you, Brother? To be able to make the Sacred Spring Schoolmaster, the Evil Devourer Schoolmaster and the little princess of the Golden Isle fight each other... such romantic luck is truly enviable.”

Li Qiye only smiled in response and continued to watch the fight.

“This little brother is Buzhan Feng.” The youth cupped his fists and smiled at Li Qiye: “In my opinion, the three ladies won’t be able to come to a conclusion anytime soon. Will you give me the honor of having a drink together?”

Li Qiye looked at the youth and smiled back before taking one last glance at the girls. Then, he stepped onto the boat and sat down.

“Go.” Buzhan Feng laughed and said: “Brother Li, sit tight.”

He then grabbed the paddle and began to row it as if through water.

“Swoosh!” This wooden boat traveled at frightening speeds. It immediately shattered space and this sea region. All of a sudden, they were in the middle of a vast ocean.

Li Qiye sat there without asking Buzhan Feng about their destination. He simply enjoyed the scenic views along the way.

Buzhan Feng was rowing his boat and looked at Li Qiye before sincerely stating: “I am full of admiration for Brother Li’s intelligence. It seems that nothing in this world can shake your dao heart.”

“You are not bad as well.” Li Qiye lightly grinned: “To be able to cultivate the Buzhan Clan’s martial arts to this level truly demonstrates your firm dao heart.”

Chapter 1226: Buzhan Feng

Buzhan Feng sighed after Li Qiye revealed his identity: “Brother Li is indeed a tree controller, you were able to see through me right away. For millions of years, those who have earned the favor of the ancestral trees have always been part of the most magnificent crowd. Today, you are no lesser than any of the old sages.”

So it turned out that Buzhan Feng was from the Buzhan Clan, the descendants of Immortal Emperor Buzhan. Outside of the Heaven Spirit World, the uninformed thought that the emperor was the one who founded this clan, but this was not the case.

A very long time ago, before Immortal Emperor Buzhan came to be, the clan was already an ancient lineage with the surname Buzhan. Some even thought that this clan was older than Gu Chun's four branches.

Even if it wasn't the oldest clan in the Heaven Spirit World, there would be very few older than it.

As the successor of this clan, Buzhan Feng was quite powerful. However, just like his clan, he was not very famous in this world when compared to the top geniuses like the Swiftdao God, the Seashield Prince and the Seven Seas Goddess. He was even less renowned than the Extreme Yang Monarch and Daoist Lin due to his penchant for keeping a low profile.

Of course, the clan itself was very low-key. Outside of Immortal Emperor Buzhan's generation, the clan had always acted in this manner. Some people guessed that this had something to do with their origin.

The Void Imperfection Three Schools rarely appeared as well. Zhuo Jianshi and Liu Ruyan maintained low profiles, albeit in a different manner from Buzhan Feng.

To be more precise, the three schools had a pragmatic reason for doing so while the two women had this type of personality. At the same time, the three schools didn't vie for reputation or prestige. However, if there was something that was beneficial for the schools in question, they would definitely pursue it.

The Buzhan Clan was much more extreme in this regard. Their disciples rarely showed themselves in this world. Moreover, they had no interest in worldly affairs.

Many believed that the Buzhan Clan was doing this to preserve their strength. Others also thought that there were circumstances that forced them to be like this.

Li Qiye chuckled at the praise. Many people had mistaken him for a tree controller and thought that he was the lucky guy chosen by the Peacock Tree. However, he didn't care too much about this misperception.

The wooden boat rushed forward at breakneck speeds before landing on an island. The waves were quite lively here. One island after another covered this region like jewels on the sea. It was a particularly beautiful scene.

There were oceans everywhere in this world, but not just anyone could claim the islands as their private property. The Buzhan Clan's main base was located at the Abyss Sea, but they still had properties in the Jade Sea. From this, one could see just how influential they were.

The youth took Li Qiye into a courtyard with artificial lakes and bubbling springs. This place had a feminine aura, so it was easy to tell that the owner of this house was a woman.

There was a little island on the artificial lake with water flowing under the connecting bridge. The dripping water created a very pleasant beat.

Li Qiye looked further and saw a woman sitting in a pavilion at the top of this island. Her back was facing them as her jade-white fingers plucked the strings of her zither. A transcendent sound was created by her wondrous skill.

Even though he couldn't see her face, it was clear from her slim and graceful back that she must be quite a looker with no room for criticism.

"Brother Li, let me introduce my big sister to you." Buzhan Feng smiled and said: "Even though she rarely shows herself, I can guarantee that she is the prettiest girl in the Abyss Sea."

Li Qiye looked at him with one eye and said: "Don't tell me you are trying to find a husband for your older sis, or perhaps a stallion? If that's the case, forget about it."

"Brother Li, you can't put it that way. Everything is up to the word 'fate'." The youth smiled back before raising his voice at the girl on the island: "Sister, let me introduce a friend to you. This is Brother Li, an exceptional contemporary genius. He is the guardian of the human race, the successor of Peacock Land, and one who has been personally taught by the treefather. One would be hard-pressed to find his match in the entire world."

Li Qiye didn't know whether to laugh or cry as he heard Buzhan Feng brag about him. Since when did he become the guardian of the human race and the successor of Peacock Land?

At this time, the woman stopped playing her zither. She didn't turn her head and only said: "Little Feng, your friend is my friend so I welcome him here, but if you want to be the same as Father by trying to find an imperial bloodline to pass on our line, then sorry, excuse my lack of reception." Without a doubt, the big sister knew just what her brother was up to.

"Sis, you can't put it like that. Brother Li is incomparably outstanding." He didn't give up and continued his boastful spiel: "He came from a distinguished family while still being humble and dignified. In my eyes, the Seashield Prince's group can't compare to him."

Li Qiye smiled and shook his head: "Forget about this. If you are still interested, let's have a drink."

With that, he turned and left.

Buzhan Feng couldn't do anything else but catch up to Li Qiye. Nevertheless, he still looked back at his sister and shouted: "Sis, think about it, maybe you two will fall in love at first sight..."

His sister ignored his nonsense and quietly played her zither. The melodious song began to play again.

Although Buzhan Feng failed the introduction, he still entertained Li Qiye very well. In his own pavilion, he took out the hidden wine that he had been fermenting for Li Qiye to drink.

After carefully tasting the wine from the clan, Li Qiye put down the cup and nodded his head: "The old wine from your clan is indeed worthy of its fame."

Buzhan Feng laughed and said: "My wines are not considered high quality at all. The ones from the ancestors back home are the best of the best. If you want, you can come have a taste at our clan."

He poured another cup for Li Qiye after saying this.

Li Qiye smiled and shook his head: "If your clan is trying to find a groom or whatever, I'll have to pass since I have zero interest in this kind of thing."

“Brother Li, you can’t be so sure about that. My sis is the number one beauty of the Abyss Sea, she’s definitely not inferior in the slightest compared to the Exquisite Valley Master. Plus, I’m not one to brag, but she is beyond virtuous. In this regard, she does not lose to Schoolmaster Zhuo, and in terms of beauty, she is a match for Schoolmaster Liu as well...”

“... So, if you two stay together for a bit, maybe you will be attracted to each other and become something more.” He was trying his best to sell his sister.

Li Qiye leisurely drank the wine and chuckled: “This is our first meeting yet you are introducing your sister to me already. Are you not afraid of pushing your sister into a fire pit?”

“I’m not worried at all.” The youth smiled back: “What kind of people are the geezers from the Void Imperfection Three Schools? They’re as crafty as ghosts and sly like foxes, and they want nothing more than to marry Schoolmaster Zhuo to you. The old men from the Golden Isle also want you for their groom. Since you are such a hot commodity, I can represent my sister and hook you two up without any apprehension.”

Li Qiye laughed and shook his head since he didn’t want to dwell on this topic: “Forget the matter of grooms. However, if there is a chance, I do want to visit the Buzhan Clan to see the ancient scrolls left behind by your ancestors.”

Buzhan Feng hurriedly replied: “Brother Li, you are indeed special with extraordinary vision, ordinary people can’t compare to you. They only want to see treasures and technique manuals at our clan, but you want to read the ancient books.”

He smiled and continued: “It is no big deal if you want to read our books, just marry my big sis, then we’ll be family. With my sis asking the ancestors asking in your stead, it will be very simple. You probably don’t know, but my big sis is their favorite. The ancestors dote on her more than me, the successor.”

Li Qiye helplessly waved his sleeve at Buzhan Feng who was not giving up on trying to sell his sister: “Don’t mention this again. I have zero interest.”

“Okay.” Buzhan Feng had to drop it and smiled: “Then I won’t bring it up again, but I’m still confident that there is a lot of time left. There is still a chance for the two of you.”

Li Qiye had to smile back since he understood that the Charming Spirit Race had always been interested in the procreation of their race and stallions.

In fact, he wasn’t the only one lacking interest in this matter. Buzhan Feng’s older sister opposed this matter as well.

Chapter 1227: Origin Of The Buzhan Clan

The two continued to drink their fine wine. Even though Buzhan Feng came from an ancient clan, he was still very amiable and humorous to the point where others would hesitate to end the party.

After another round, Buzhan Feng put down his cup and said: “Brother Li, this might be intrusive so I don’t know if I should ask or not.”

Li Qiye nonchalantly said: “Go ahead.”

Buzhan Feng stated in a serious manner: "In my humble opinion, Brother Li must not be from the Heaven Spirit World. Of course, if you don't want to talk about it, we'll just pretend that I didn't say anything."

Li Qiye took another sip and casually asked: "What makes you say that?"

"Brother Li, you are a hero in the contemporary, a dragon that will soar to the nine heavens, destined to be a prominent Godking." The youth smilingly answered: "In my opinion, you didn't debut just now, and yet you are completely unknown in the Heaven Spirit World. Thus, I believe that you are not from here."

Li Qiye chuckled and glanced at the youth: "It is no secret. You are right, I am from the Mortal Emperor World."

"Just as I thought!" He patted his thigh triumphantly: "I must be eighty to ninety percent right then."

"It looks like you have more to say." Li Qiye narrowed his eyes and smirked at the boy: "And here I thought you only wanted to introduce your sister to me."

"No, no, Brother Li, don't misunderstand." Buzhan Feng bowed to apologize with great sincerity: "I really did ask you to come here so that I could introduce my big sis to you, but at the same time, I also wanted to ask a few questions."

Li Qiye slowly took another sip. After a good while, he said: "Go ahead."

"This little brother wants to ask you about the great vortex." Buzhan Feng hurriedly replied: "Please teach me."

Li Qiye flatly said while squinting his eyes: "It looks like you know a lot."

"No, of course not, this is pure speculation. Your appearance is too coincidental and was right around the time of the fluctuation from the vortex. Therefore, I came up with a bold guess, you must have gone there."

Li Qiye asked slowly: "Do you have some intentions towards the vortex?"

Buzhan Feng took a deep breath and earnestly spoke: "I won't hide it from you. Brother Li, I am very concerned about the vortex. As the successor of the Buzhan Clan, this is also my responsibility. Perhaps you don't know about the origin of our clan, but I can let you know that there is a reason why we are here at the Heaven Spirit World. We are more closely connected to the vortex than any other lineage."

"I know a bit about this matter." Li Qiye calmly revealed: "Your clan has always been linked to the vortex. Outsiders do not know the reason why, but the answer to this question traces back to the origin of your clan."

"You know?" Buzhan Feng was surprised because outsiders shouldn't know about this. Even some disciples in the clan were unaware. As the successor, he was privy to more information than his peers. Nevertheless, he still didn't know the secrets behind this relationship.

"There aren't many things that I don't know." Li Qiye leisurely said: "If your clan can understand your own beginning, then it will come to understand its relationship with the vortex. Moreover, it will also clear up the origin of your Charming Spirit Race."

Li Qiye sipped his wine and leisurely said: "In other words, if your Buzhan Clan's genealogy was a historical script, then it would be one about the history of the charming spirits. If there are blank spots in this race's history itself, then there will be answers within your clan. However, that is based on the premise that you can figure out your own origin first."

Li Qiye's words shocked Buzhan Feng. He stared at Li Qiye in astonishment and murmured: "Brother Li, you know much more than I expected. To have such insight... It seems that I'm inferior in this aspect."

"It's nothing. When you go to many places, you will learn many things." Li Qiye put down his cup again.

Buzhan Feng quickly refilled Li Qiye's cup and continued the conversation in earnest: "The truth is that I'm confused about many things as well. All of it seems to be hidden in a fog throughout history. So please, guide me out of this maze."

Li Qiye looked at him and answered: "There's not much I can teach you. If you think I came this time for the vortex, then that would be wrong. I just happened to be passing by and played around a bit."

After a while, he went on: "If you want to ask me about what is at the bottom of the vortex, if there are things that relate to your clan or the charming spirits, then my answer is that I can't tell you."

Li Qiye plainly explained: "The things there are also related to the origin of the sea demons and the final destination of the treants. Just like the sea demons at the Bonesea and the Divine Tree Ridge for the treants, outsiders can't explain it to you. A true answer has to be figured out on your own."

Buzhan Feng murmured to himself: "The Bonesea and Divine Tree Ridge for those two races..."

Eventually, he looked up over at Li Qiye and speculated out loud: "Are you saying that our origin is similar to the sea demons and treants?"

"No, you are off in this case." Li Qiye smiled: "Why is it that you charming spirits are considered the favored children of the heavens instead of the sea demons or treants? Why is it that sea demons don't want to leave this world and the treants will always return no matter what? There are many similarities, but the real reason, the true answers, are completely different."

Buzhan Feng began to ponder while murmuring: "I think I'm seeing something here. When treants die, they begin the process of atavism and take root in the earth. For generations, the sea gods also have to be accepted by the Trident. Only with it would they be qualified to fight Immortal Emperors."

This issue had been repeatedly explored for many generations. Why did treants have to return to the Heaven Spirit World? Some said that even if they went to other places, they would come back to this world to die. Only by dying here would they be returning to their roots.

As for the sea demons, everyone could understand that no other places in the nine worlds were more suitable than the Heaven Spirit World. After all, the entire place was practically a vast ocean. Where would they rather go than here?

However, something that was quite peculiar to many researchers was why sea demons didn't become Immortal Emperors and instead became sea gods. Another interesting thing was their most powerful artifact, one that could even suppress Immortal Emperors — the Trident.

What was the secret behind the Trident? Where did this powerful weapon come from?

Li Qiye stared at the absent-minded boy and said: "If a real answer is what you seek, then you must go to the vortex; it can give you the answer. Of course, you must get through it alive first."

"Go to the vortex?" Buzhan Feng took a deep breath and smiled wryly before shaking his head: "I'm a very confident person, but I know I am not qualified to go to the vortex. That is beyond my abilities. Even if there are answers there, I would be torn asunder before reaching its end. If even Godkings can't do it, there's no way I could."

"If I remember correctly, your forefather, Immortal Emperor Buzhan, went there in the past." Li Qiye smiled and slowly uttered: "He is one of the few Immortal Emperors that was obsessed with the vortex, much more so than the other emperors."

Buzhan Feng was silent for a bit before eventually answering: "I heard the ancestors say that our forefather really did go in there. According to legend, he actually made it to the bottom."

Here, the youth helplessly shrugged before continuing: "But when His Venerableness came back from the vortex, he rarely talked about this matter. Nothing was said about what he saw down there, so our clan doesn't know much about the bottom of the vortex."

"It's not exactly difficult to find out more." Li Qiye drank another cup: "If I am not mistaken, your emperor left behind two top-secret imperial edicts. Open the second one and perhaps you can get some answers."

"How do you know that?!" Buzhan Feng was frightened after hearing Li Qiye.

"Like I said, there are very few things that I don't know." Li Qiye nonchalantly stated: "Normally, Immortal Emperors would leave behind one imperial edict. If an emperor leaves behind two, then the second one would entail a heaven-shattering matter relating to an eternal secret. It is not something the world should find out so easily, only real experts that have reached a certain level are qualified to learn it!"

Chapter 1228: Imperial Edict

"How do you know so much...?" Buzhan Feng became more and more frightened throughout this conversation. He was jolted into standing up and stared at Li Qiye in disbelief.

There were several types of imperial edicts. Some acted as proclamations to the world, others were orders given to the emperor's generals, and another type was meant to be kept in secrecy.

These secret edicts were normally left for the emperors' descendants. Moreover, they were not to be opened unless the requirements were met. Otherwise, not even the children of the emperors could open them.

Only talents that satisfied all the requirements would be able to open these secret edicts. Moreover, they would never disclose the contents to anyone, not even their closest friends and family.

Li Qiye ignored the apparent shock in the youth's expression. He sat there calmly and enjoyed the wine before speaking: "Didn't I tell you already? There's not much that I don't know."

Buzhan Feng stared at Li Qiye in disbelief. If it was anyone else, then they would be suspicious that Li Qiye was spying on their clan. However, Buzhan Feng knew that this wasn't possible. If he, as a disciple, didn't even know about it, how could an outsider figure it out?

He took a deep breath and sat back down. While staring at Li Qiye, he smiled wryly and shook his head: "If Brother Li knows so many secrets already, you should also know that I'm not qualified to open the secret edict. If I could do so, I wouldn't be asking you right now."

The level required to look at these edicts was usually the Immortal Emperor realm or something very close. Some said that supreme Godkings could look at them as well, but the future generations didn't know if this was true or not.

Li Qiye laughed in response: "I know that you are not qualified, but don't tell me that no one has seen it in your clan. This might fool others, but not me."

Buzhan Feng quietly pondered for a moment. There was indeed someone in the clan who was qualified to do so. However, they wouldn't necessarily disclose the contents to him.

He revealed: "We do indeed have someone qualified to read it, but this is not the right time. At the very least, this was the case for that ancestor."

Li Qiye gently shook his head: "If your clan won't assist you in this matter, then I can't help you either. There are some things that you need to work for and, when necessary, you will need to break the rules."

Buzhan Feng gently sighed. After a brief pause, he looked at Li Qiye and said in a serious manner: "I know a little bit about the legends regarding the vortex and our Charming Spirit Race, but I do have some questions."

With that, his attitude became very respectful and sincere.

Li Qiye slowly sipped another mouthful of wine and said: "Go ahead. Since I have drunk your wine, I will think about answering if possible."

Buzhan Feng began: "As I speculated, Brother Li has gone to the vortex. You also know that we have always been watching it. When one goes there, screams and roars seem to come from its depths. The world quakes before them, is this right?"

The boy was very careful with his words lest Li Qiye became unhappy.

Li Qiye looked at the boy and said: "I know what you want to ask. You are afraid of the beginning of some unwanted matters."

Buzhan Feng nodded in response: "I am indeed very worried about this. This is our clan's mission. There have been rumors that one day, the inevitable shall come and it will bring about a disaster to us charming spirits."

"It does exist." Li Qiye said: "However, this is a needless anxiety for you right now. You don't know that the charming spirits in this world have left certain things behind. This disaster won't be able to descend on a whim."

With that, he stared at the youth and continued: "In the Heaven Spirit World, the true power of the Charming Spirit Race is beyond your imagination. And also, if your forefather, Immortal Emperor Buzhan, was able to make his way down there, surely he would have left some precautionary measures behind."

"And here is the final statement." Li Qiye raised his cup: "I'll be borrowing an old saying; one might be able to survive an act of god, but no one can survive a self-brought calamity."

"One might be able to survive an act of god, but no one can survive a self-brought calamity..." The youth carefully thought over this line from Li Qiye.

"Okay, I have said all that needs to be said, drink up." Li Qiye laughed and took another gulp.

The youth calmed down and quickly poured another cup for him.

Since Buzhan Feng insisted on him staying, Li Qiye remained on the island. In these last few days, the youth came to ask Li Qiye many questions. Whether he answered or not depended on his mood and the nature of the question.

Buzhan Feng could be said to be a very studious person, someone who had no shame in asking and learning from even his own subordinates. His questions for Li Qiye had nothing to do with cultivation or merit laws. The majority of them were interesting anecdotes.

A person like him was quite rare. The Buzhan Clan had an exceedingly high position in the Heaven Spirit World so he, as the successor, had great authority. However, he had no visible arrogance or contempt for others. The majority of disciples from the great powers had some pride in them; even if they didn't bully others, they wouldn't try to learn from those they deemed inferior.

However, Buzhan Feng didn't feel that his intelligence was superior to others. He acted as a junior before Li Qiye in his inquisitive quest for knowledge.

It was precisely due to his commendable personality that Li Qiye decided to teach him a thing or two. If it was another successor from a great power, Li Qiye would have ignored him completely.

The youth didn't give up on trying to set up his big sis with Li Qiye, but regardless of his efforts, there was not the slightest sign of progress.

His sister had no interest in this type of marriage or the bloodlines from stallions. She was even against it, so no matter how much Buzhan Feng tried to persuade her about how great Li Qiye was, she remained aloof.

Li Qiye was even more tired of this matter and was too lazy to go see his sister. In the end, Buzhan Feng had no choice but to give up.

He helplessly said: "Sigh, Brother Li, I really do want you to be my brother-in-law. Then, we can be even closer, right?"

Li Qiye didn't want to be rude and only smiled at the boy's wish to connect the two.

“Really, Brother Li, everything about my big sis is great, it’s just that she doesn’t like to talk about marriage. She views inter-clan marriage as a type of transaction, but we do think that if you two stay together, you will be able to win her over with your charm.”

“Trust me, girls will swoon over your charisma.” The youth persuaded: “Let me arrange it so you two can have a talk under the moonlight.”

Li Qiye gently shook his head: “People will meet if it is meant to be. If not, then it shouldn’t be forced.”

Buzhan Feng sighed as another attempt at matchmaking failed.

After several more days at the island, Buzhan Feng came and told Li Qiye some news: “Brother Li, you said you wanted to go to the Dragon Demon Sea? There is news that I’m sure will interest you.”

Li Qiye asked: “What news?” After staying here for a while, he had been wanting to leave the Jade Sea for the Dragon Demon Sea because Su Yonghuang had gone there. He wanted to see what clues she was after.

Buzhan Feng quickly said: “I heard a skeletal horse has appeared in that region. It is only bones and keeps on running like crazy. No one knows where it came from. The cultivators there tried to capture it to no avail since it is way too fast. A God-Monarch from the sea demon race tried himself, but he still failed.”

“Skeletal horse?” Li Qiye’s eyes narrowed after hearing this.

“So you are interested.” Buzhan Feng smiled after seeing Li Qiye’s demeanor: “I heard it appeared in the southwest area—”

But before he could finish, Li Qiye pointed in front of him. With a buzz, he opened a portal and disappeared inside.

His sudden departure left Buzhan Feng speechless since he couldn’t even say goodbye.

At this time, a woman with a supreme appearance appeared by the door. This was a beauty that would cause others to be lost in admiration.

Buzhan Feng asked after seeing the woman: “Sis, you are finally here, are you not angry anymore?”

“He is a guest, after all. It would be very rude if I don’t receive him at all after several days.” Her voice was very pleasant.

Buzhan Feng shrugged and said: “You’re one step too late, Sis. Brother Li has left already.”

Chapter 1229: Skeletal Horse

The Dragon Demon Sea was one of the three great oceans of the Heaven Spirit World. As for why it had this name, this remained a mystery for future generations.

However, one particular legend was very popular. It stated that in an era too ancient to trace, there was a demon dragon with heaven-defying power.

This demon dragon eventually evolved into a true dragon. It wanted to fight against the nine heavens but ultimately failed. In the moment of its death, it fell into a great ocean and, from then on, that ocean was named the Dragon Demon Sea.

Most people considered this as mere gossip for tea shops since no one could verify it. No one would go to research it either.

There was a more reliable theory for this name. It believed that because sea demons ruled this sea and since dragons were the leaders of the sea demons, this area took on the name "Dragon Demon Sea".

This sea was quite vast with countless creatures and sects.

In the Heaven Spirit World, if the Abyss Sea was the world of the charming spirits and the Jade Sea was the world of the treants, then this region belonged to the sea demons.

There were many powerful demon lineages here. For example, behemoths like the Seven Martial Pavilion or the Roaring Conch were the strongest.

Today, this region was quite lively since many people were gossiping at various restaurants about a particular matter.

A skeletal horse appeared out of nowhere and moved at extreme speeds. There were plenty of bizarre occurrences in the Heaven Spirit World, so a skeletal horse alone was not worthy of attention. The issue was its great speed. Many people tried to catch it to no avail. A sea demon at the God-Monarch level personally took action and still failed to keep up. Thus, the excitement built up as more and more were unable to catch the horse.

The cultivators couldn't help but talk about it. Some believed that it had escaped from the Bonesea. In their eyes, only that place would be able to produce such a steed.

However, there were those who had a different opinion about it. For generations, no skeleton has been able to escape from the Bonesea. Thus, this particular theory was too difficult to believe.

However, if this was indeed the case, then the other question would be about the new and sudden changes at the Bonesea.

A blue ocean and blue sky with fish leaping out of the shallow surface while eagles soared high above. The breeze blew by, carrying a faint scent of saltwater. This was surprisingly pleasant.

"Clok, klok, klok..." A crisp and rhythmic galloping broke this tranquil scene as a skeletal horse traveled on the sea's surface.

However, it was way too fast. Ordinary people couldn't see it at all, only its dark afterimage was visible.

Only those strong enough would be able to see its appearance. There was no flesh left on its pitch black skeleton, as if it was dyed to this color. Each bone emitted a black mist that formed long lines when it sped faster. The result was something like a landscape painting.

Despite its current dreadful appearance, judging by its build, it was definitely wonderful when it was still alive. Even calling it a divine steed would not be enough.

“Buzz!” A portal opened and Li Qiye walked out. He stood in the sky, looking at the horse running across the sea. A terrifying glint shot out from his eyes.

Li Qiye uttered to himself: “What is that girl looking for? To even awaken the mount of Immortal Emperor Bu Si...”

The girl he was referring to was Su Yonghuang.

He smiled and transformed into another person. It was an unbelievably dashing youth that wore a gray robe. His body was shrouded by a gray mist, giving off an unfathomable appearance just like a bottomless abyss.

“Buzz!” His inner physique emerged. In this split second, he pushed the Soaring Immortal Physique to the limit and soared outside with incomparable speed.

The skeletal horse galloped through the sea. Not long after, it saw a young man shrouded in a gray mist standing on the sea.

It immediately stopped in front of the youth. Despite how fast it was going, not one drop of water was splashed.

The youth smiled and rubbed its skull: “I have just been reborn yet you have found me already.”

“Neighh!” It raised its front hooves and cheered with great excitement. After neighing, it intimately shoved its head under the palm of the young man.

However, just a moment later, a red light flashed in its empty eye sockets. With a long cry, both of its front legs kicked forward at the young man with lightning speed without holding anything back.

“Boom!” The youth was instantly blown away and plowed a deep trench on the sea’s surface.

“Neighh!” The horse let out an intimidating cry before galloping into the sky, disappearing once again.

“Splash!” The youth jumped out of the sea. He shook his head and returned to his true form. This was Li Qiye, of course.

Li Qiye looked towards the direction of the horse and slowly said: “Incredible, luckily I came prepared or I would have become meat paste under its hooves.”

Earlier, he took the appearance of the young Immortal Emperor Bu Si in order to trick the horse. In the beginning, it was indeed successful. Alas, the horse was a divine item, so it saw through the disguise.

Li Qiye murmured: “Bu Si, what did you leave behind back then?!”

According to legend, the emperor could be reborn again and again. But in the end, he was the only emperor known by the entire world to have collapsed, the only one whose final whereabouts were clear. [1. This is not counting Ta Kong in this world.]

No one knew why he collapsed back then during his generation. No one believed that such a day would come. Back then, he could be resurrected again and again due to his grasp of his undying art, definitively proving that he was unkillable. However, someone with the title of undying still collapsed in the end!

“Interesting, I’d like to see what you left behind.” Li Qiye jumped to the sky again and casually pointed in front of him to make another portal. He teleported to chase after the horse again.

For other people, not to mention catching it, just keeping up with it was more difficult than reaching the heavens. However, Li Qiye trained in both the Soaring Immortal Physique and the Space Scripture, so it was quite easy for him to catch up.

While the horse bolted below, Li Qiye leisurely followed it from the sky. It knew that Li Qiye was on its tail, but it didn’t seem to care and continued on the same trajectory.

After all, it was the mount of an Immortal Emperor and had power matching that position. It didn’t care if someone was chasing it.

Along the way, the spectators continued to be dumbfounded since they could only see a shadow flying by. After several more days, the horse finally made it to its destination.

A mountain range was situated above the sea. Each peak was wrapped in a blue reflection due to its geographical location. Many of them were shrouded in mist, so no one could catch a glimpse of its true appearance.

Such a grand mountain range stretched across the sea. From a distance, it looked like a huge dragon occupying this sea region. It was a very magnificent scene that made other people realize their own insignificance.

Flying in the sky, Li Qiye saw it from far away. He murmured: “Giant Dragon Mountain Range. So many years have passed, yet the scenery remains without the slightest change.”

He was lost in reminiscence, with many events of the past flashing by. Memories buried deep in his mind resurfaced one after another.

The smiles and sounds of the past were vivid, as if he was suddenly back there. All of the happy scenes seemed to have happened just yesterday.

“Crash!” While Li Qiye was in a daze, the skeletal horse quickly dove into the depths of the sea.

Chapter 1230: Dongting Lake

If the Giant Dragon Mountain Range resembled a beast entrenched in the sea, then Dongting Lake was a jewel in the beast’s mouth. [1. Dongting is a real lake so I kept the pinyin. Literal name is "Grotto Court Lake".]

As a lake within an ocean, it could be considered a miracle. Moreover, the water here was different from the water of the Dragon Demon Sea.

The lake was surrounded by undulating mountains that formed a circle. There were still blue waves within the lake. The islands in the vicinity were quite beautiful as well.

Dongting Lake was both the name of this region and the name of a lineage.

In the Heaven Spirit World, if the Exquisite Valley was the largest human lineage and Peacock Land was its largest diaspora, then Dongting Lake would be the human race's third largest base and its second-biggest lineage.

According to legend, the lake was established by several powerful sages of the human race. Even now, it was quite populated and held considerable influence.

Of course, it couldn't compare to the Exquisite Valley, but it was still an ideal home for humans.

There was a difference between the lake and Peacock Land. Humans at Peacock Land were unrestrained, but this wasn't the case for those at the lake. If they weren't disciples of the lake, then both cultivators and mortals must accept the management of the sect in order to stay.

In the Heaven Spirit World, land was a precious commodity. A place like Dongting Lake was even more precious. It had plenty of space and was close to the dragon mountain as well as Rainbow City. More importantly, it was rich with various kinds of treasures.

The mountains nearby were full of spirit vegetation. The lake itself also produced many rare treasures. There were rumors of a spring below the lake with plenty of divine metals and ores.

In principle, the people in the Heaven Spirit World would always desire any location with land. This was especially true for a treasure land like Dongting Lake.

In the Dragon Demon Sea, the sea clans were extremely powerful with untouchable authorities! But strangely enough, no one tried to take over a wonderful location like Dongting Lake.

One could say that Dongting Lake was as powerful as a sect. After all, it was considered a great power at the Heaven Spirit World. However, it was inferior to an imperial lineage or a sea god's sect.

Ordinary great powers wouldn't be able to eat the fat piece of meat that is the lake, but unparalleled lineages like the Seven Martial Pavilion and the Roaring Conch were definitely capable. Strangely enough, they didn't touch the lake. It was something worth musing.

Various theories arose about the reason the lake was able to exist until now. Some believed that the sect itself was strong enough and the location was easy to defend while hard to attack. Another theory was that the pavilion and conch didn't care for the lake.

Li Qiye was not anxious to catch up to the horse that had snuck into the sea. He had left behind his mark so he could chase it at any time. Various emotions resurfaced in his mind after seeing the jewel of the ocean — Dongting Lake. Eventually, he landed on the lake and took a stroll.

He went up to one of the islands and decided to walk barefoot through the soft sand to feel the land. There was an indescribable sensation of comfort as well as a great sense of remembrance.

There were eighteen different forts at the lake, each with their own beautiful sceneries such as the resplendent sun shining down on the lake's surface that was as blue as jade... There were plenty of such locations in this area.

However, Li Qiye's favorite was the "thousand carps playing in the water". He enjoyed watching this pretty scene the most.

Because of this, he came to this particular bay and prepared a large bowl of bait. Stomping on the sand while looking at the blue lake granted him serenity and satisfaction.

"Splash!" He grabbed a lot of bait and scattered it into the lake. One carp after another immediately began to appear. They surfaced to seize the bait floating on the surface of the water.

As he threw in more bait, more carps came out to play. The sound of splashing water continuously resounded.

Clusters of fish were now here vying for the food. Beads of water splashed and were illuminated by the bright sun. These carp came in all types and colors. Some were purple while others were a scintillating gold...

The myriad colors twinkled under the sun. These lights interwove with the waves and created little rainbows that were extremely beautiful.

After throwing out all the bait, he simply sat on the sand-laden bay to watch the carps. He relished every second and seemed to forget about everything. The past was no more, his worries carried away by the wind while everything else disappeared like clouds and smoke.

Eventually, all the bait was consumed and the carps dispersed. The crashing ripples calmed as if nothing had happened.

There was a grin on his face as he rested his legs in the refreshing water of the lake.

At this time, he had traveled through space and time to a distant era when he did the exact same thing. Soaking in the lake offered him a rare sense of invigoration. Some carps curiously swam over.

One would feel that everything happens for a reason. Thinking of this, Li Qiye began to smile. There were too many memories in life, but very few moments of happiness. However, just this little amount was precious enough.

Water suddenly splashed with crashing waves, breaking the tranquility of the bay.

"Hey, where is your label?" Li Qiye was woken up by this call. He looked forward and saw a ship approaching him.

It was a medium-sized warship wrapped in armor with a very sharp look. A middle-aged man was standing at the bow. Just one glance was enough to tell that he was a human cultivator. His robe had a sandy color and was embroidered with the insignia of Dongting Lake, letting others know that he was its disciple.

Li Qiye slightly frowned and asked: "Label, what label?"

"Anyone who comes to Dongting Lake must register with us to be given a label. Otherwise, they must disclose their identity." The middle-aged man lowered his tone.

Li Qiye lazily replied with a carefree expression: "Is that so? There's no need to ask me for this label or whatever, return from whence you came."

"You!" The man felt provoked by Li Qiye's attitude. He glared at him, wanting to get off the ship to question him.

However, before he could get down, someone stopped him. It was a woman who said: "Supervisor Yu, leave it to me."

Her voice was very clear and soft, yet also had a hint of directness and boldness.

The middle-aged man coldly stared at Li Qiye then snorted before going back inside the ship.

"May I ask for your name?" She looked at him and calmly said: "I am Hong Yujiao, a disciple of Dongting Lake. Patrolling the lake is our responsibility."

This woman was very beautiful. Even though she was not as kingdom-toppling as Zhuo Jianshi's bunch, she had her own style and wore a tight bluish-green dress. It wrapped her body and revealed all the curves of her figure. Her towering soft breasts were plump enough to accentuate her slender waist. Such an outfit seemed like it was built for someone who often dives into the water.

She had a little makeup on her face, making her even more charming. Her willowy brows carried both a touch of femininity and a hint of tenacity. Her spirited pair of round and large eyes were bright, giving off a sharp and determined sensation.

Despite not being a kingdom-toppling beauty, her firm and resolute demeanor made her quite attractive. This was a woman with a straightforward style.

"Surname Hong?" Li Qiye raised his brows and looked at her.

"Yes, I am Hong Yujiao. May I ask for your name and where you are from?" She cupped her fists decisively like a man would. This was a woman who wouldn't concede to men. [2. This particular idiom is difficult to keep the raw form. However, it is definitely praising a woman despite the discriminatory origin/nature of the phrase in ancient China. The raw is, "a headdress (woman) won't yield to beard and brows (man). Back in ancient times, women were called "headdresses" and men were called "beard and brows". These are literary terms used when the author wants to exaggerate the masculine and feminine aspects of the respective sexes, often in a positive manner, but it can be derogatory as well.]

In fact, claiming herself as a disciple was a very modest way to put it. The Hong Clan had an exceedingly pivotal status at Dongting Lake. Their clan had always been a pillar of this location.

Li Qiye closed his eyes, showing his lack of interest: "I am only a passerby. Where I'm from and what my name is are not important."

She calmly replied: "Sir, I hope you can understand that this is for the safety of the lake. We require everyone to register with us. Please be considerate."