

EMPEROR 1231

Chapter 1231: Hundred-Saints Hall

“Dongting Lake now...” After hearing this, Li Qiye glanced at Hong Yujiao and shook his head disapprovingly: “This once all-accommodating land of treasures has lost the model crafted by the old wise sages. It no longer has the same temperament in its attempt to vie for power.”

After hearing such words, Hong Yujiao’s heart skipped a beat. She wasn’t too clear on the meaning of his emotional statement.

Li Qiye dazedly stared at the barely visible islands scattered across the lake. He eventually calmed down and stared at her to speak with a dismissive tone: “I am only here for a bit and will leave soon. Don’t worry about me.”

She looked back at him and cupped her fists to say: “If Fellow Daoist will leave soon, then I won’t bother you any longer. However, if you want to stay here for more than one day, I hope that you will cooperate with us by filing and receiving a label. If you have any questions, feel free to find me anytime.”

Li Qiye only smiled and lied down on the sand to watch the blue sky and white clouds without a care for others.

Hong Yujiao took another look at this ordinary and strange fella. Eventually, she refrained from commenting and let her people steer the ship away.

Li Qiye softly sighed again. Dongting Lake was indeed a nice place. In the past, several wise sages established this location as a starting point for the humans to have a strong backing in the Heaven Spirit World.

These sages were very broad-minded; they were oceans that could shelter a hundred streams. Because of this, the lake was once more powerful than the Exquisite Valley.

Unfortunately, prosperity came and a desire for profits and gains arose. Not just anyone could be so magnanimous and altruistic like these sages; their descendants didn’t share the same attitude. When they eventually gained power, they couldn’t escape the temptation of having even more.

“This lake used to be so wonderful...” Li Qiye was slightly disappointed: “Alas, its descendants have fallen short.”

He dispelled these thoughts from his mind since he was enjoying a rare moment of peace.

Time continued to pass like the quiet white clouds gently drifting in the sky, something that nobody would pay attention to.

No one knows how long he had been lying on the sand for. Suddenly, his mind shifted after feeling a summons and immediately opened his eyes. In a split second, he leaped into the sky and rushed out of the lake.

The Giant Dragon Mountain Range was more than just a ring of mountains surrounding Dongting Lake. Many islets were right outside, and the majority of them already had owners. These islets scattered outside the lake were like thrown out pearls.

One of these islets in particular was quite large. Many old pavilions and buildings were built on it, though most had collapsed and were invaded by thickets of weeds.

It was a desolate location. Only a few buildings at the very top of the island remained intact. These buildings were built around an ancient temple.

The temple was very old. The whole structure seemed to have stemmed from one solid piece. The gray walls appeared to have been carved out of a single gigantic stone.

An old plaque was hung above the old temple. It appeared to be made out of bronze yet wasn't bronze, iron but not iron, wood but not wood. Who knows what it was made from?

The plaque had been through many years and looked like time had polished away all traces of what was written on this plaque. Nevertheless, one could still see three faintly visible words engraved on it — Hundred-Saints Hall.

These words were etched with an archaic style, so only the knowledgeable would be able to recognize them. The three words had suffered the battering of time for too long, so they became quite blurred. One could almost see stars lingering around them, as if they contained a portion of a vast universe.

If someone with good insight took an even more careful look, they would find something else. It looked like there was indeed a celestial system and a universe around them. Within this universe was a great army, an invincible cavalry that was stationed here.

However, they were too tiny, especially for those with weaker vision. Everything was placed around these three words. There was also a figure. Upon careful examination, one would find a crow carved above these three words. When it spread its wings, the crow shielded the words as if it was granting them its protection.

“Bang! Bang! Bang!” At this time, sounds of violence could be heard. A young man holding a giant hammer was fiercely smashing the doors to the ancient temple. Alas, it didn't matter how hard he slammed down, he couldn't break open the doors even though they were made out of wood.

An old man that looked nearly fifty shouted: “Stop!” He wore gray clothing and had distinct facial features, but his body was thin and feeble. One could see that he was a cultivator, but his blood energy was incredibly weak, indicating his shallow cultivation.

The old man shouted to stop the young man, but before he could do anything, five other burly men stopped and immobilized him.

“Bang!” The youth mercilessly smashed the door, but it still wouldn't open.

He had a pair of hawk-like eyes while his back was covered with armored fish scales. The five men holding down the old man had the same scales.

This was a big race in the Heaven Spirit World. The scales were the defining characteristic of the Ironscale School, a fish tribe among the sea demons. They barely meet the qualifications to be considered a big race with their nest being around one thousand miles away from the Giant Dragon Mountain Range. The ideal nests for them were deep in trenches.

The youth was the young lord of the Ironscale School, Lei Yu. He wanted to establish a stronghold outside of his school and had chosen this island.

Unfortunately, the only descendant of the Hundred-Saints Hall was this old man. He didn't want to sell the island, leading to this conflict.

"Old geezer, didn't you say your hall was protected by the sacred sages of the nine heavens and ten earths? Where are they now?" Lei Yu looked at the captured old man and laughed boisterously.

It was a pity that the old man's cultivation was too weak. He simply was not a match for the muscular men.

He struggled but was pushed down again. Alas, he was unyielding and lifted up his head to declare: "I will not sell off the Hundred-Saints Hall even if it means my death!"

"If you don't want to sell it, then I might as well smash it apart!" Lei Yu turned cruel and glared at the ancient temple.

"Bang! Bang! Bang!" More explosions could be heard, but he still couldn't break open the temple no matter how hard he tried.

He mustered all of his strength like a baby drinking its mother's milk, but it was all for naught. He became quite angry and decided to take it out on this old man by mercilessly stomping on him.

"Old geezer, I have plenty of time. Today, I'll torture you to death and my school will take its time breaking down this place. Don't worry, I won't kill you quickly, not until I flatten this land. I want to see the despair in your eyes!" With that, he unleashed a flurry of punches and kicks on the old man.

The youth was livid. He originally wanted to break this temple down first before forcing the sale. However, he simply couldn't destroy this building at all; this only provoked his greed to possess this place. He believed that there was definitely an incredible treasure on this island, perhaps inside the temple.

He became even more determined to occupy this island before others caught wind of it.

The old man was quite stubborn. Despite vomiting blood from Lei Yu's barrage, he still kept his head high without letting out a single groan.

"Old geezer, your bones are quite hard, yeah?" Lei Yu sneered and stomped on him again; a crisp crack made it apparent that a bone snapped.

The old man finally grunted. He was clearly in deep pain, but he didn't let out a full scream.

"Heh, geezer Zhang, no matter how hard your bones are, I can still kill you as easily as killing an ant. Beg for your saints to come and save you. Where are they now?"

The old man still didn't utter a word and spent all of his energy on keeping his head high. His unyielding attitude only further enraged Lei Yu.

Lei Yu stomped on the old man's face and sneered: "Hahaha, tell these saints protecting your temple to appear already so that I can see what these so-called saints of the nine heavens and ten earths look like!"

"Is that so?" A chilling voice sounded at this time: "Do you really wish to see the saints of the nine heavens and ten earths?"

Li Qiye landed in front of the temple with a frigid demeanor and glared at Lei Yu's group.

Chapter 1232: Zhang Baitu

Lei Yu and his robust followers couldn't contain their laughter after seeing an ordinary human like Li Qiye.

Lei Yu mocked: "Boy, what now? You want to stand up for your fellow race? But before doing that, you need to weigh yourself—"

"Boom!" But before he could finish his spiel, his five followers were rendered into pulp, their blood staining the stone slabs on the ground.

These men didn't even know how or why they died. They couldn't even react before being crushed completely.

Meanwhile, Lei Yu started seeing stars. Li Qiye had one foot on his body, so he couldn't move at all.

The previously captured old man was also frightened out of his mind. He stared at Li Qiye in disbelief since he couldn't even see part of the process.

His followers being annihilated as well as his lack of ability to retaliate while being trampled upon made Lei Yu's soul leave his body.

Li Qiye chillingly spoke: "No one is allowed to defile the Hundred-Saints Hall!"

Lei Yu shouted: "Little, little boy... do you, you know who I am? I am the young lord of the Ironscale School and my father is the schoolmaster. If, if you dare to hurt me, my father will not only kill you, he'll annihilate the entire hall as well...!" He was quite afraid, so he had to bring up his father.

"Crack!" Bones were broken, causing him to scream. Li Qiye had crushed his face with a stomp. Flesh and blood went flying as Lei Yu writhed in agony.

Li Qiye emotionlessly declared: "I am sparing your dog life so that you can tell your father to personally cut off your head and bring it here as an apology. His failure in teaching you will also result in his decapitation as well. If he heeds my words, then I shall spare your Ironscale School. Otherwise they will not see tomorrow's sun!"

With that, Li Qiye lifted his foot from Lei Yu and kicked him off the island before saying: "Scram."

Lei Yu was kicked into the ocean and pissed his pants from fear. He immediately dived down and escaped out of sight.

The old man was still in shock and couldn't stand up from the ground. Li Qiye gently sighed while looking at the old man before helping him up.

Li Qiye asked: "What is your name?"

The old man took a while before answering: "My, my surname is Zhang. Everyone calls me Baitu." Having said that, he felt quite dejected despite his stubborn nature. However, his head was still held up high the entire time.

Li Qiye lamented while looking at him: "Why did the descendants of the Zhang Clan fall to this level?"

The stubborn demeanor of the old man reminded him of someone.

Li Qiye threw a medicine bottle over to Zhang Baitu and said: "You are badly hurt, so take this."

Zhang Baitu accepted the bottle and poured a pill into his palm. His heart jumped after seeing the shining golden hue. He looked over at Li Qiye in astonishment. Despite his lack of knowledge, he still knew that this piece of medicine was a big deal.

"Take it." Li Qiye waved his sleeve as he didn't want to waste more words.

After a short silence, the old man quietly took the medicine.

Li Qiye stood before the temple and looked at the old plaque that was hung up high, gazing at the crow engraved above the three words "Hundred-Saints Hall". He stood there, silently looking at this plaque for a long time.

Eventually, he looked back at the old man and asked: "Aren't clans like the Zhang and Hong responsible for taking turns to protect the hall?"

Zhang Baitu was surprised to see a human junior aware of this matter. He eventually replied: "My ancestors accepted the responsibility of protecting this place."

After hearing this, Li Qiye nodded: "I understand. Your ancestors lost the conflict for power at Dongting Lake back then and had to move out, correct?"

"How, how do you know that?" Zhang Baitu was surprised. Even the elite disciples of the lake didn't know about the power struggle of their ancestors.

"For power, even blood brothers can become enemies, let alone mere friends." Li Qiye stated without answering the question. He sighed once more while looking at the plaque.

Zhang Baitu eventually calmed down and bowed towards Li Qiye: "Young Noble, how should I address you?"

Li Qiye answered: "Li Qiye, just a passerby."

He didn't have a big reaction after hearing this name and only nodded. He was only a little character and hadn't heard of Li Qiye's name before.

"Squeak—" Li Qiye pushed open the wooden doors to the hall. Lei Yu used all of his strength to desperately smash open these doors to no avail, yet Li Qiye opened them so easily.

"How, how can this be!" The old man couldn't believe his own wide-open eyes.

"Why not?" Li Qiye turned back at him.

“Because, because these doors have never been opened by anyone.” Zhang Baitu was stammering. In his memories, no one had been able to open these doors. His seniors and even many big shots from Dongting Lake all failed.

According to the legends, the hall was protected by the wise saints of the world; their power safeguarded this hall.

Li Qiye didn't reply as he stepped inside. The astounded old man calmed down and quickly followed.

He had to ask: “Young Noble Li, are, are you one of the saints?”

The unopened doors had been opened by Li Qiye, so perhaps this was one of the legendary saints.

“Saint? Are you referring to the saints that protect the hall?” Li Qiye laughed and said: “If you believe so, then I can be considered one.”

With that, he went inside. This hall was very simple without any further decorations other than a stone pillar. Contrary to people's expectations, the end of the hall contained no treasures. There was only a line of memorial tablets with names engraved on them.

Li Qiye was caught in a long silence while looking at these all-too familiar names. He began to bow in front of each one while feeling quite sentimental inside.

This was Zhang Baitu's first time seeing these tablets and names. However, the majority of them had the surname Zhang, Hong, or Xu.

After a while, he quietly asked Li Qiye: “Are these, are these the tablets of my ancestors?”

“Yes.” Li Qiye softly nodded: “They are the wise sages of the human race, the pride of humanity. Even during the era of darkness, they continued to defend the dignity of our race and protected its final dawn.”

Zhang Baitu had no comments. He didn't know anything about his ancestors. Only he remained of the Zhang Clan, and he rarely mingled with Dongting Lake.

“Unfortunately, the descendants did not inherit the ambition or beliefs of their ancestors. After so many generations of friendship, they still couldn't avoid the temptation of one thing — power.” Li Qiye bemoaned while looking at the tablets.

The ancestors of the Zhang, Hong, and Xu were friends for generations. Their clans all followed Li Qiye, and they eventually settled down in this place, creating Dongting Lake. It was meant to be a shelter for the human race in the Heaven Spirit World.

The lake was once a prominent power. In its heyday, even the Exquisite Valley was far from being comparable.

Regrettably, the descendants of these friends betrayed each other later on. They fought for power to the point of life and death.

Because of this, Li Qiye didn't want to bother with the lake's unfilial mindset or power struggles.

After a long time, he withdrew his gaze and glanced over at Zhang Baitu, flatly stating: "Even if your Zhang Clan lost the fight back then, it shouldn't have deteriorated to this state."

Zhang Baitu smiled wryly and responded: "I don't know much about the ancestors' business. I heard that after leaving the lake, they decided to stay here and act as guards. It is we descendants who were useless and failed to pass on our lineage. By the time my father's generation arrived, we were already finished. During my youth, my father and uncles departed one after another, unable to maintain the inheritance. In the end, I could only learn a few superficial things."

In the past, the three clans ruled the lake together. Later on, the Zhang Clan lost the internal conflict. Their ancestors were stubborn as well, so after losing, they moved out of the lake and settled here.

Because their clan had lost a lot of resources, it was sent into a nosedive; each generation became worse than the previous.

Chapter 1233: Zhang Clan

Li Qiye came out of the hall and sat on a stone step to gaze at the vast sea and its unrestrained waves while the soft breeze blew. This went on quietly for some time.

Zhang Baitu didn't know Li Qiye's origin. In his eyes, the youth was too mysterious and simply impossible to speculate.

Zhang Baitu couldn't help but ask: "Young Noble, where did you come from?"

"From where I should." Li Qiye looked over at Zhang Baitu and said: "I see that your cultivation is needlessly complex and unrefined. There's your own clan's merit law, then there are the incantations from the sea demons and internal strengthening from the treants. This is very chaotic, so your blood energy isn't flowing well."

Zhang Baitu was surprised after hearing this. Li Qiye being able to see through him despite being so young made him feel quite dejected.

"After the seniors left, I couldn't learn a lot beyond the elementary basics, so I had to go outside to find teachers. I joined many sects but failed to make much progress and had to return to the Hundred-Saints Hall in hopes of being able to live the rest of my life here like a falling leaf returning to its roots." A great sadness was expressed by his eyes; there were too many words he wanted to say, but he kept it brief.

So it turned out that after the seniors of his clan passed away, he couldn't learn the remaining merit laws as they were missing.

He wasn't willing to give up, so he left his home to find masters. Who knows if it was due to his own inability or some other reasons? Either way, this search didn't go smoothly.

In this process, he learned very slowly, and the same went for his cultivation. In fact, "very slow" wasn't enough to describe his cultivation, "as slow as a snail's pace" was a more appropriate analogy.

It was slow to the point where the sects he had joined agreed to let him leave. Sometimes he even left of his own volition.

For many sects, there was no leaving after joining. However, there was no cure for Zhang Baitu's cultivation speed. To put it bluntly, even if he didn't want to leave, they would want him to leave eventually. Having such a disciple was simply losing face.

Just like this, he joined one sect after another but amounted to nothing. He eventually joined too many sects in the Dragon Demon Sea and became quite well-known. Everyone called him Zhang Baitu. It referred to him being the disciple of too many sects. No one even remembered his real name. [1. Baitu = Hundred-Disciple.]

In the end, he helplessly spoke with a dejected expression: "It is because I am too stupid and have an inferior constitution. I have let down my masters and seniors; I'm even weaker than a new disciple even after a lifetime of cultivation."

He lamented with a sigh after saying this and felt despair. In the beginning, he thought that it was because he didn't have a suitable merit law or a teacher. As time went on and he suffered many successive failures, he lost all confidence and began to consider himself stupid and unsuitable for cultivation. So in this way, he returned to his home, the Hundred-Saints Hall, to live out the rest of his life.

He mumbled to himself: "Maybe I was not meant to be a part of this world. I was born a mortal, why the need to enter the cultivation world?"

After joining so many sects and cultivating so many laws, he couldn't blame anyone but himself.

Li Qiye looked at him and lightly said: "It is not that your constitution and talents are lacking nor is it due to your stupidity. All things in life have a cause and effect. It is just that you haven't found your own karma yet."

Zhang Baitu smiled bitterly and replied: "There's no need to comfort me, Young Noble. Some seniors have told me the same thing. If it really isn't due to my own constitution, then why haven't I made a half-step of progress?"

From his perspective, Li Qiye was only comforting him with the same words he had heard many times before from the nice seniors of the other sects.

Li Qiye nonchalantly shook his head: "A child of the Zhang Clan is different after all. It will be fine if you cultivate your clan's merit law."

"Our own merit law?" Zhang Baitu's surprise quickly turned into curiosity as he asked: "Young Noble, do you know our clan's merit law?"

In fact, he was very interested because Li Qiye was able to open the wooden doors of the hall, something that no one else had ever done before. Thus, he suspected that Li Qiye was a legendary saint.

Of course, he didn't know what a saint or sage was. They were only figures of the old tales after all. Despite all the rumors about the Hundred-Saints Hall being protected by the wise sages of the nine heavens and ten earths, the descendants of the three clans had never seen any of them before.

Li Qiye faintly smiled and replied: "If you want your clan's lost merit laws, then just go back to Dongting Lake. In the past, the Hong, Zhang, and Xu Clans should have had some treasures. Perhaps you can find your laws there."

Zhang Baitu slightly opened his mouth but ultimately refrained from saying anything and only sighed.

Li Qiye asked: "Could it be that Dongting Lake has been snubbing your Zhang Clan?"

Zhang Baitu paused for a moment before answering: "I don't know much about the business of the elders, but the lake does care about me. They don't try to push me away."

"It is you who doesn't want to go back." Li Qiye understood his pride right away.

Zhang Baitu didn't answer.

Li Qiye went on: "Let the past disappear. Your ancestors' power struggle is ancient history. The Xu, Hong, and Zhang Clans once fought together; friends to the death, friends on the battlefield. They never gave up on each other even in the most brutal of times. Even if it was blood for blood, they would still support each other to live on..."

"As the descendants, all of you are indeed unworthy. Excluding each other just for a little power using treachery and deceit — this is simply throwing away all your ancestors' face and tarnishing their great friendships."

Li Qiye stopped for a moment at this point: "After so many years, those who competed for power are probably no longer there. It is time for you all to come back and mutually support each other as a big, interdependent family again. Only in this way will your Dongting Lake be able to survive in the future."

Li Qiye would rarely give out advice in such a well-meaningful manner to outsiders. This was indicative of his respect for the ancestors of the three clans.

Zhang Baitu had no response. As a descendant, he wasn't in a position to comment on his ancestors' business. Perhaps he was feeling a bit resentful as well.

"The people from the Zhang Clan are always a bit too proud." Li Qiye just smiled since he understood Zhang Baitu's feelings.

He continued on: "You might be angry and unhappy with the Hong Clan pushing your ancestors away from Dongting Lake. The Zhang Clan was one of the founding families, so this feeling of indignation is unavoidable."

"I don't know." Zhang Baitu spoke: "Dongting Lake has no ill-will towards me, as far as my generation is concerned. I don't know much about the conflicts back then, only that after leaving, my ancestors didn't want to return to the lake. They settled here instead, and this has been our home ever since."

"A thousand years of anger... it is time to let it go." Li Qiye only grinned. He didn't know much about the power grab between these descendants since he couldn't bother finding out about this rotten business.

Nevertheless, he still hoped that these descendants could come together some day. These clans used to coexist and not one piece could be missing. Only through unity would the lake be able to survive in the future.

“When I was younger, this resentment was more or less already there.” Zhang Baitu smiled wryly and sighed: “But now, I am closer to the earth than the sky, so I don’t care too much about unnecessary things. All of this no longer matters. The enmity between the ancestors, just let it go; right and wrong is already in the past.” [2. Closer to the earth than the sky means close to death.]

After personally uttering these words, he felt quite relaxed. The enmity between their clans should disperse like smoke.

During those years, their Zhang Clan was pushed away from the central power of the lake. Their ancestors furiously moved out and decided to guard the Hundred-Saints Hall instead and cut all ties with the lake. Because of this, the Zhang descendants harbored resentment for many generations and didn’t want anything to do with the Hong and Xu Clans.

Li Qiye glanced at the old man and said: “It is good to think this way. Where there’s a will, there’s a way. One day, you will be able to laugh while thinking of these old grudges.”

“Crash!” At this time, the water started to splash violently as more than one hundred Ironscale cultivators rode the waves to come closer.

“Not good, the Ironscale Schoolmaster is here in person.” Zhang Baitu’s expression quickly changed after seeing these wave-riding experts. He didn’t think that the school would come so fast. Moreover, the schoolmaster and the elders came in person.

Chapter 1234: Old Plaque

More than one hundred experts from the Ironscale School as mighty as tigers and wolves were riding the waves forward. In the blink of an eye, they climbed up to the Hundred-Saints Hall. Their leader was an old man whose back had an armor suffused with a golden glow. This was a special characteristic of the Ironscale Tribe after they reached a certain power level.

This leader turned out to be the Ironscale Schoolmaster, Lei Yu’s father.

Zhang Baitu turned pale after seeing so many experts from this school. Even though he was a seasoned man who had seen a lot of the world, he still shuddered in fear before such powerful enemies.

Zhang Baitu calmed down and hurriedly told Li Qiye: “Young Noble, leave quickly. Two hands cannot win against four fists. As long as the verdant hills remain, there is no fear of lacking firewood.”

Despite his shallow cultivation, he could still tell that Li Qiye was powerful. However, the school had more than one hundred experts, Li Qiye alone would find it difficult to oppose them.

“Don’t worry.” Li Qiye sat on the stone steps and smiled: “The unrepentant must pay a huge price.”

The Ironscale Schoolmaster and his fellow experts came before the temple. They saw Li Qiye sitting on top of a stone step without a care. Lei Yu’s expression became twisted as he pointed at Li Qiye and yelled: “Are you the one who killed my disciples and harmed my son?”

Li Qiye glanced at him and smiled: “That’s right. Are you going to cut off your son’s head as well as your own to beg for forgiveness before the Hundred-Saints Hall now?”

“A fool knows no fear. Still daring to boast? My Ironscale School will tear you into pieces. And as for you, old man, this is on your head as well.” Lei Yu screamed with eyes spewing a fiery fury. As a descendant of a big sect, he had never been humiliated like this before.

“Beg for forgiveness towards the hall?” The schoolmaster couldn’t help but laugh: “What the hell is this place that justifies my school begging for forgiveness? You have already committed an unforgivable sin, I shall take your head and offer it to my disciples so that they can watch from the heavens...”

“... as for you, Old Zhang.” The schoolmaster’s eyes turned cold as he spoke imposingly: “You sold this island to my school and took our money, yet you dare to renege on it? A crime worthy of death. Today, I will take this island in accordance to the agreement and crush the Hundred-Saints Hall.”

“Liar!” Zhang Baitu jumped out after hearing this and pointed at the schoolmaster: “Since, since when did I sell this island to your school?! This is simply coercion!”

“Is that right?” The schoolmaster sneered and took out a contract: “It is clearly written as such on this contract. I trust that in just a moment, your fingerprint will be on it on top of an oath with your true fate.”

Zhang Baitu trembled from anger. He knew what the school wanted to do, so he snapped: “Lei, don’t even think about it! I would commit suicide before letting you succeed! This island will forever belong to my clan, you won’t be able to take it!”

“Really now?” The schoolmaster smiled deviously: “I’m afraid your Zhang Clan is about to meet its end, do you still think the island will belong to the clan then?”

“You...” Zhang Baitu was quivering with rage and could no longer speak.

“To tell the truth, I’m a bit disappointed with you sea demons.” Li Qiye lazily stood up at this time: “It has been too long and you demons have such bad memories. Perhaps you all have forgotten who you can and cannot afford to provoke. It looks like I need to stain this place with blood as a reminder that this is the Hundred-Saints Hall, its holiness is inviolable and protected by the sages of the nine heavens and ten earths! Violators shall be killed without mercy!” With that, his eyes shot out a chilling murderous intent.

“Hahaha, protected by the sages!” Lei Yu couldn’t help but laugh with a cruel grimace: “Where are they now? Are you one of them? Haha, a junior like you dares to call yourself a sage? Hahaha, inviolable holiness? Our Ironscale School will trample this place and build another branch here!”

After Lei Yu finished speaking, Li Qiye suddenly appeared in front of him and spread out his palm to grab Lei Yu’s head.

“What, what are you doing?!” Lei Yu was stunned from shock and wanted to run towards his father. However, it was too late.

“Rip!” His head and his spine were instantly pulled out by Li Qiye as blood spattered everywhere.

“No...” His head was still moving as he screamed before his imminent death.

“Little beast!” The schoolmaster couldn’t save his son in time and had to watch the process play out. He vomited blood from anger and cried in a furor: “Kill him! Tear him into pieces!”

He himself took out a saber and rushed forward.

“Junior, accept your death!” At this time, the elders and the other experts shouted aggressively. All of them wanted to kill Li Qiye with their numerical advantage.

“Bang! Bang! Bang!” Bursts of impacts resounded, followed by the sound of bones shattering. Next came the sounds of objects falling to the ground.

The schoolmaster and all of the experts fell to the ground at the same time like a flower in full bloom.

Blood quietly flowed from their bodies and soaked the ground and stone pavement. All of this happened in complete silence.

The schoolmaster’s eyes were wide open. Not even in death did he know how he died. Li Qiye was too fast, they didn’t even have the opportunity to react.

“What...” Zhang Baitu struggled to calm down. He was quivering with fear and stumbled several steps backward. Even though he had seen killing before, this was his first time seeing such a brutal massacre.

Li Qiye once again sat down on the stone steps as if nothing had happened.

“Hang them all on the trees.” He commanded nonchalantly: “Let the world know that the Hundred-Saints Hall is the resting place of brave spirits. No one can violate its sanctity. Some people should start remembering better!”

“This, this is not good, the Ironscale School will go mad.” Zhang Baitu hesitated and said: “This isn’t only provoking the school, it will be going against the entire Sea Demon Race.”

“You just need to listen.” Li Qiye flatly replied: “The Ironscale School and sea demons are meaningless. If the overlords of this race understand the significance of the Hundred-Saints Hall, they will tuck their tails between their legs!”

Zhang Baitu paused for a bit before following Li Qiye’s directions and started to hang the bodies on the trees. Doing so in the most conspicuous location was truly sending a message to their enemies.

After taking care of business, he returned to Li Qiye’s side and asked: “What now?”

“What else but to destroy the Ironscale School? I stay true to my words!” Li Qiye smiled and stood up to look at the plaque of the temple.

“Boom!” The crow on the plaque seemed to come alive. It suddenly opened its eyes while the plaque shot out an endless light. In an instant, the plaque flew away with the momentum of an invincible cavalry.

“Bang!” A violent world-destroying aura instantly rushed out. It broke through the void and emerged in the sky above the Ironscale School.

“What’s happening?” The ancestors there were confused after sensing this invincible aura engulf their school.

“Clank! Clank! Clank!” Metallic explosions occurred. The plaque underwent a great change, as if it was a gigantic armored deity descending from the sky.

“Boom!” The earth shook while an impossibly high tidal wave rose to the sky. The entirety of the Dragon Demon Sea was affected by the tremors.

The plaque carried the supreme will of an unstoppable cavalry and instantly penetrated the ancestral ground of the Ironscale School. Despite the multi-layered defensive barriers, the ancestral ground couldn’t withstand a single blow and was immediately annihilated.

“No!” The ancestors couldn’t help but scream after seeing the destruction of their ancestral ground. It was too late. With just one attack, the Ironscale School completely collapsed as the blood of its disciples stained the sea.

Many people felt this change and were astonished. Dongting Lake was the closest sect. It was alarmed as well, but no one knew what was going on.

The invincible will of a cavalry had crossed through the heaven and earth, causing countless creatures to tremble.

This commotion had startled a few truly supreme existence. In the highest location of Rainbow City, one person among the clouds suddenly stood up in shock. Their eyes illuminated the world.

“Which blind fool maneuvered against the Hundred-Saints Hall!” This person was moved by this development: “That is the place protected by the sages, so which idiot decided to blaspheme the brave spirits? That is simply courting death.”

Other sects and lineages didn’t know what was going on. It was only after a long time that these few ancient existences finally calmed down.

Chapter 1235: Minor Zen School

After a long time, an ancient existence who actually knew about what happened movingly spoke: “The Hundred-Saints Hall is the untouchable resting place of heroes. A few fools do not know and only think of it and Dongting Lake as a treasure land worth coveting. Why don’t they think about the reason it has been untouched for millions of years? Whatever, just a few fools wanting to die. My old bones do not want to join such muddy waters.”

After commenting, this existence went back to sleep and ignored this matter completely.

Back on the island, the plaque returned to the top of the temple. It was still incomparably old like before.

Zhang Baitu had fallen to his knees from the pressure emanating from the invincible aura. It took him a long time to calm down. Nevertheless, he was still stunned. Not even in his dreams would he have thought that this old plaque of the hall carried such power.

Eventually, he stood up and looked at it while stammering: “This, this thing is...”

He took half a day, yet he couldn’t enunciate a whole sentence clearly. [1. Half a day is an expression, he didn’t actually stammer for 12 hours.]

“You still don’t understand? The wise sages protecting the hall does not refer to me.” Li Qiye flatly said: “They are the spirits of the Zhang, Xu, and Hong Clans, answering the call once more.”

“Spirits?” Zhang Baitu was dazed for a moment.

“Your ancestors were benevolent, broad-minded, and brave. They were not the most powerful of their generation, but many Godkings still admired them. This was not because of their achievements or strength, but because of their magnanimous and pious minds on top of being very loyal. These characteristics are worthy of admiration, as precious as gold and jade.” With that, he looked at Zhang Baitu and continued: “But as for their unfilial descendants, look at what they have done. Turning on each other for petty power, cutting off all ties. When your ancestors stood at the peak to look down on the world, they still didn’t think about competing for power! How can you all not be ashamed with them watching you from above?!”

Zhang Baitu was unable to calm down. He imagined the scenes when the three clans struggled together. He saw them in one camp, not abandoning each other even in the face of death...

“You will follow me for now.” Li Qiye commanded: “Go tidy up your belongings, I will go on ahead. Wait for me in Rainbow City.”

After issuing the command, he pointed at the air and created a portal, leaving instantly.

Meanwhile, Zhang Baitu stood there absentmindedly. After a long time, he eventually calmed down yet still felt like this was a dream before going to pack his things.

There were many islands outside of Dongting Lake. Of course, they couldn’t compare to the lake whether in size or resources.

Among them, the Minor Zen School could be considered a powerful lineage with five islands. Their entire ancestral ground was built on these five landmasses.

The Minor Zen School was fairly far from Dongting Lake. It was established by humans as well and only consisted of humans cultivators. This gave it a bit of fame in the Dragon Demon Sea.

There was a guest today who specifically wanted to meet its schoolmaster. If it was any other sect, it wouldn’t be so simple to see a schoolmaster like this. After all, it was a prestigious position, not just anyone could see them.

However, the Minor Zen School was a relatively small lineage. Their schoolmaster didn’t put on airs; after hearing that a young human wanted to see him, a personal reception was in order.

In the room, he and the guest sat down before he finally looked at this young man. It was a very normal-looking person with no semblance of a master.

Nevertheless, being the leader of a small sect he trod very carefully, regardless of who he might be talking to.

“May I have your name?” Eventually, he cupped his fists in greeting.

“Li Qiye.” It turned out that after leaving the hall, he went straight for the Minor Zen School.

His purpose was to find out more information on Su Yonghuang.

After hearing the name “Li Qiye”, the schoolmaster immediately stood up and respectfully cupped his fists again: “So it is Young Noble Li from Peacock Land. Excuse me, this lowly one has eyes yet failed to see Mt. Tai. Please forgive us.”

As a leader, he had his own intelligence channels, especially regarding news that related to the human race. The story of Li Qiye sacrificing a billion Teeming Fish for the Peacock Tree had also spread to the Dragon Demon Sea.

Li Qiye was satisfied with the schoolmaster’s attitude and nodded.

The schoolmaster didn’t expect the successor of the Peacock Tree to come to the Dragon Demon Sea. He was quite surprised and emotionally spoke: “Young Noble Li, you are the great disciple of the Peacock Tree and will be the master of Peacock Land in this generation. It looks like the human race will continue to have a sanctuary in the Heaven Spirit World.”

Many people considered Li Qiye to be the tree controller or even a disciple of the Peacock Tree.

Li Qiye didn’t bother correcting this misunderstanding. He nodded and said: “I didn’t come today for anything relating to Peacock Land. I only want to ask about a woman that has been here.”

“You must be asking about Miss Su?” The schoolmaster thought about a certain person after hearing this.

Li Qiye looked at him and nodded again: “Yes, I want to know what you gave her.”

The schoolmaster trembled internally. He hesitated and spoke unwillingly: “Well, it is not that I don’t trust you, but this relates to someone else’s personal business.”

“Don’t worry, I know her better than you. We are from the same sect.” Li Qiye flatly said: “But I can still make a guess even if you don’t tell me since it looks like you’re not completely human.”

The schoolmaster was shocked to hear this: “What do you mean, Young Noble?”

“You know what I’m talking about.” Li Qiye smilingly said: “The bloodline of the Undying Gate flows through you. Even though it is very faint, its mark is indelible. It’s only just that the bloodline marking of Immortal Emperor Bu Si’s clan would be extraordinary.”

The master took several steps backward and stared at Li Qiye in horror. Outsiders shouldn’t know such things, yet Li Qiye was able to see through it with his all-piercing eyes.

The schoolmaster calmed down and sat back in his chair before wryly smiling: “Your insight is wonderful. This lowly one won’t hide it anymore.”

He sighed and continued: “You are right, one of my female ancestors was indeed from the Undying Gate. After its decline, she married her husband here at the Dragon Demon Sea.”

“She also brought some items from the Undying Gate to this place.” Li Qiye speculated. The thing he was curious about was how the ancestor from the Su Clan had a connection with the Undying Gate.

“A few treasures.” The schoolmaster admitted: “But none of them are particularly incredible.”

Li Qiye laughed and gently shook his head: “Don’t worry, I’m not here for treasures. Plus, if I wanted treasures from the Undying Gate, I wouldn’t have come here.”

“Ah, there is a misunderstanding.” The schoolmaster hurriedly smiled in response: “She brought along a few items in her dowry that have been used up long ago. If I had a world-shattering treasure, the Minor Zen School wouldn’t be a small lineage right now.”

“Then what did you give Miss Su?” Li Qiye chuckled.

“A map.” To which the schoolmaster responded: “But it is not a treasure map or anything. It is a very strange map with no use. If it wasn’t for Miss Su bringing the other half of the map with her, I wouldn’t have known that it was half of a map in the first place. She had to have it, so she paid an exorbitant amount of refined jades for it.”

Li Qiye casually asked: “What kind of map is it?”

The schoolmaster revealed a wry smile and said: “To tell the truth, I don’t know what kind of map it is either. It was thrown into a corner at home and no one has ever looked at it before. After Miss Su brought the other half here, I finally remembered it. After she received the other half, I also took a quick look. It is a very strange map, I couldn’t make heads or tails of it.”

“Of course, it is definitely not an art for eternal life.” In the end, he added this sentence lest Li Qiye have some misunderstanding.

Li Qiye burst into laughter: “I know what you mean. Rest assured, I am not here for the art of immortality. If such an item could fall into your hands so easily, countless people for the past millions of years wouldn’t have been searching for it. It’s not something you can possess.”

“Your keen insight is worthy of admiration.” The schoolmaster became relieved after hearing this. He didn’t want Li Qiye to think that he once had the art of immortality.

If this news were to spread, then a disaster would befall their school.

“Thank you for your time, goodbye.” After his inquiries, he understood that the schoolmaster had limited knowledge, so there was no need to pry further.

In fact, he was not in a rush to find Su Yonghuang. As long as she wasn’t in any danger, he was fine with it. He was only curious about what she actually did to make even the skeletal horse of Immortal Emperor Bu Si start running outside.

Of course, he also knew that the collapse of the Immortal Emperor back then wasn’t so simple. Otherwise, the emperor wouldn’t have left some cautionary measures.

The schoolmaster enthusiastically asked: “If you don’t mind, can you stay in our humble abode for a few days?” Li Qiye was the successor of the Peacock Tree. In the future, he could become a leader for the human race in the Heaven Spirit World, thus the schoolmaster wanted to befriend Li Qiye.

Li Qiye smiled and shook his head. He glanced at the master and casually took out a wooden box: “Thank you for your hospitality. This is a greeting gift, goodbye for now.”

The master was taken aback. He accepted the wooden box and whiffed a medicinal fragrance. He looked up to say: “Young Noble, you are too polite...”

However, Li Qiye had already disappeared without a trace.

The schoolmaster eventually calmed down and opened the wooden box. He was astounded and stumbled several steps backward while unable to believe his eyes: “One million year old Blood Ginseng!”

This truly frightened him because it was just a greeting gift. How extravagant was this? It wasn’t an item he would even dare to think about.

Li Qiye gave it to him due to his honesty. If he wasn’t someone who took pride in being a schoolmaster, Li Qiye wouldn’t have given him the gift.

After the schoolmaster calmed down, he quickly put it away. Such an item could bring about a sect-ending disaster for them if others were to find out.

Chapter 1236: Rainbow Island

If Dongting Lake was a jewel before the dragon mountain, then Rainbow City was situated by the very end of its tail.

The tail of the mountain range was dotted with many islands like the stars in the sky. All of them were quite small yet exquisite. The inhabitants here used the trees in the surroundings to build pretty little houses.

At the mountain range and Rainbow City, people usually brought up another lineage, one that was very mysterious in the Heaven Spirit World — the Giant Dragon Kingdom.

Some believed that it indeed existed while others denied this claim. Who knows the truth in this matter? According to the legends, the ancestor of the kingdom was the Giant Dragon God. The existence of this deity was widely accepted, unlike the kingdom.

It was considered the apex existence of the sea demons. After dying, its huge body turned into the current Giant Dragon Mountain Range. From then on, its descendants prospered and populated this area. The kingdom was also established by them within the depths of the range.

Nevertheless, the kingdom’s location and characteristics were still mysteries to outsiders. However, one could find some traces of this kingdom at Rainbow City. Some said that this city was a window of the Giant Dragon Kingdom. It was purposely established as an outreach towards the secular world.

Meanwhile, the Rainbow Islands were only the beginning of the city itself. One must go through the islands before being able to reach the city.

Li Qiye entered one island and faintly smiled while staring at the sky. A series of islands appeared before him with people coming and going. Humans, sea demons, and treants — all of these cultivators were only stopping by for a bit before attempting to enter the actual Rainbow City.

He saw a carriage going through this island. It was very extravagant and its body was made from the precious metals of the Profound Dynasty. Eight different compartments spewed out water that paved a path in the sky so that the carriage could move forward even faster.

Eight of the rarest phoenix-steeds in the Heaven Spirit World were pulling this luxurious ride. Scintillating lights accompanied them and made it seem like their owner was a deity on patrol.

Many pretty maids were behind the carriage while younger servants were throwing flowers next to the carriage. Wherever it was on its path, the surrounding ten miles would be filled with fluttering flowers. It was the most ostentatious showing of wealth and nobility.

Not too many people would put on such an overbearing posture in the Heaven Spirit World. Most importantly, the majority of cultivators did not pursue this type of luxury, so this type of lavish travel was quite rare.

It also easily attracted jealousy and even trouble from others. However, the master of this carriage probably never spared a thought for such a problem.

In fact, the moment people saw the little flag on the carriage, they quickly gave way, let alone cause trouble. They knew that this was the banner of the Profound God-Monarch. Only those closest to him were allowed to use this banner.

A cultivator murmured: "Gongsun Meiyu is here."

His friend reminded him: "Shh, quiet down. You better call her Queen Gongsun. I heard people from the Abyss Sea say that she likes being called queen the most. Otherwise, she might randomly kill people if she is in a bad mood."

People had different emotions while looking at this luxurious carriage. Some were awed while others were envious, but regardless of what they felt the most common reaction was to retreat.

Gongsun Meiyu was a concubine of the Profound God-Monarch and was known to have earned his favor. Rumor has it that she might even be promoted from concubine to wife, the new queen of the Profound Dynasty.

In fact, she didn't only rely on her beauty to win his love. Before marrying him, she had already been famous among the younger generation of charming spirits. Her cultivation was very powerful as she was once a prodigy.

Someone speculated: "If Queen Gongsun is here, maybe the monarch is on his way as well?"

His companion quietly replied: "Don't speak carelessly. I heard Queen Gongsun is very grumpy right now. Her favorite maid was killed by a kid named Li Qiye. She is probably on a trip to feel better, or maybe she is trying to find that kid."

Li Qiye ignored the carriage. He entered an inn and quietly drank, waiting for Zhang Baitu to come.

He quietly sighed while gazing outside the inn to look at the ocean as well as the faint dragon mountain range in the distance.

In fact, many resting cultivators were gazing at it as well.

A cultivator asked his friend sitting next to him: "Are there really dragons in those mountains? Or rather, does such a race truly exist in this world?"

An older elder pondered for a moment regarding this question before answering: "That would depend on how you define the dragon race. Whether they exist in those mountains or not is difficult to say. However, dragon demons indeed exist in the Heaven Spirit World. They are supreme among our Sea Demon Race. Some ancestors believe that the dragons in there are part of the sea dragon demons as well."

"Speaking of dragons, I have heard of a certain legend." A friend at the same table added: "A very long time ago, a little black dragon used to play around these mountains and this sea region. It swam through the Rainbow Islands, but who knows if it is real or not."

Another friend happily joined in: "I've heard about that too. This little black dragon caused a lot of trouble at Dongting Lake. Later on, it was subdued by an immortal."

The cultivator that initiated the conversation became quite curious and quickly asked: "Immortal? A real immortal?"

"It's probably just a fairy tale. Where can you find immortals in this world?" The elder smiled and shook his head.

One of the friends added: "I heard a version that is a little different. It says that the person who subdued the little black dragon was not an immortal at all, it was a heinous devil king. After this devil king took down the dragon, he skinned it and drank its blood before boiling the meat and eating it."

Li Qiye, who was sitting in a corner, almost spat out his wine. Some rumors kept on spreading and eventually, the tale became completely different.

Li Qiye didn't really mind this small talk. He gently smiled and stopped listening.

After a good while, Zhang Baitu finally arrived. He saw Li Qiye and quickly bowed. Li Qiye nodded and signaled for him to sit down.

"You are late." Li Qiye casually spoke while drinking and enjoying the scenery outside.

"Something happened that slowed me down a bit, just a small matter." Zhang Baitu smiled awkwardly while rubbing his palms.

Li Qiye slightly frowned and asked: "Someone came looking for trouble?"

"No, no—" Zhang Baitu saw Li Qiye's expression and his soul almost left his body. He quickly waved his hands to deny the claim.

But how could a little character like him withstand Li Qiye's glare? He eventually gave up with a bitter face: "Young Noble, really, it is no big deal. Because of the big commotion earlier, the disciples from Dongting Lake were afraid that something had happened to me, so they came asking questions, that's all. They really didn't trouble me at all, really."

In his eyes, Li Qiye was definitely not a good-natured person. A single discordant conversation could lead to a bloodbath. He probably belonged to the type of people who would kill as many provokers as possible. Because of this, he was afraid that Li Qiye would misunderstand and kill the disciples from the lake. He would never be able to forgive himself if that were to happen.

Li Qiye gave him a quick glance before shifting his gaze towards the mountains.

After seeing Li Qiye no longer pressing the issue, Zhang Baitu finally felt relieved. He thought about back then when the disciples saw the corpses that were hung on the trees. How could they not be frightened?

Of course, he didn't want these disciples to provoke Li Qiye, it would be the same as courting death.

He eventually gathered his courage and softly asked: "Young, Young Noble, where are we going now?"

Li Qiye withdrew his gaze and replied: "To Rainbow City to grab a few things for you. We have to prepare certain things in order to destroy your dao foundation and start over."

"Destroy my dao foundation?" The old man was startled after hearing this. Even though his foundation was very shallow, it was still the fruit of several dozen hard-fought years. He couldn't accept this so quickly.

Li Qiye looked at him with one eye and said: "There is nothing to feel lost about. I'm not trying to belittle you, but your dao foundation is as good as not having anything at all — it's completely dispensable. Destroy to rebuild from the beginning — this is the way to go."

Zhang Baitu had to admit that his foundation was indeed lacking and dispensable.

He asked with some concern: "But I'm not young anymore, can I handle it?" He was quite old already. Destroying the foundation at his age could easily lead to exhaustion, he'd croak for sure.

Li Qiye casually replied: "Don't worry. With me here, it would be difficult for you to die even if you wanted to."

"Then we'll do as you say, Young Noble." He made a decision after a moment of hesitation. In his eyes, Li Qiye had no need to harm him. If he did, just one finger was enough to take care of him, there was no need to go through so much trouble.

Chapter 1237: Hong Yujiao

Li Qiye gave a nod and continued to look at the hazy mountain range in silence.

This Giant Dragon Mountain Range stretched for ten million miles like a dragon lying on the ocean. It was completely engulfed in mist and fog; a dragon with a visible head yet indiscernible tail. This made the whole area even more mysterious. [1. This idiom was used before and is slightly modified here. It means magnificent/unfathomable.]

Unwittingly, his vision of the mountains turned a bit hazy during this long observation. Who knows if it was his eyes becoming blurry or the mountain range itself losing definition?

He became absent-minded for a long time. Some unwanted memories resurfaced and his heart jumped as if it was being clutched by something.

Zhang Baitu quietly sat there and didn't say anything after noticing Li Qiye's intense stare.

"Young Noble." Eventually, Li Qiye's expression became very strange, prompting him to ask: "Are you alright?"

Li Qiye was startled and regained his wits. He gently sighed and lightly replied: "It's nothing. It is only that the mountain range is too incredible. A few things from there are truly unforgettable."

Zhang Baitu misunderstood him and scratched his head while agreeing: "Right, this mountain range has always been incredibly enchanting. It is extremely mysterious, so it invokes curiosity from just about anyone. They all want to know if the Giant Dragon Kingdom truly exists or not..."

"... But no one has ever been able to verify this. According to legend, unless they were granted permission from the kingdom, no one would be able to get in there. There have been many attempts to enter it, but none were publicly successful. Do you want to go there for a look too?" He thought that Li Qiye wanted to enter the mountain range, but Li Qiye was actually thinking about something else.

"Maybe." Li Qiye only smiled and casually asked: "How is the Jian Clan right now?"

"Are you referring to the Jian Clan from Rainbow City?" Despite being a nobody, Zhang Baitu still knew a few things about Rainbow City due to how close it was.

"Yes." Li Qiye nodded. His mind was a little unfocused.

"The Jian Clan is still doing very well in Rainbow City. Everyone says that they are the number one clan there." Zhang Baitu told Li Qiye everything he knew: "I heard they are very close with the human race. Some also say that they are related to the Giant Dragon Kingdom. It is a relatively low-key clan, but we all know just how powerful they are. The Jian Clanmaster has lived for several thousand years, but he is still as vigorous as ever."

Li Qiye remained impassive after hearing this, but he was sighing on the inside. The brat from the Jian Clan was still alive. Unfortunately, he didn't want to face it...

The Heaven Spirit World was not a place that he wanted to visit either. There were many memories that he preferred to be forgotten.

During his silence, a woman wearing a tight green outfit arrived outside the inn. Her curvy figure contrasted her cold and determined demeanor. This was Hong Yujiao who met Li Qiye back at Dongting Lake.

Zhang Baitu was surprised to see her. Meanwhile, she immediately came over when she saw him and cupped her fists: "Senior Brother Zhang, long time no see."

Although Zhang Baitu was not a disciple of the lake, in accordance with their ancestors' hierarchy, Hong Yujiao still needed to call him senior brother.

"Ah, Sister Hong, long time no see. Your cultivation has increased yet again." Zhang Baitu smiled wryly and turned away with the intention of blocking Li Qiye from her view. He didn't want her to see Li Qiye.

He was not worried for Li Qiye but rather Hong Yujiao's safety because he could faintly guess why she came to this place.

It was of no use because she had spotted Li Qiye and spoke with a hint of surprise: "It's you?"

Li Qiye was still contemplating while looking at the mountain range, so he didn't hear her.

She didn't like his attitude, but this was not Dongting Lake. She didn't want to make it difficult for him since she came for Zhang Baitu.

As for Zhang Baitu, he lamented in his mind. He knew that this was unavoidable and only wished for Hong Yujiao to mind her words.

"Brother, I was entrusted by my father to ask you about a few things." She sat down and looked at him in a serious manner.

Her father was the current Dongting Lakemaster, Hong Tianzhu.

"About what?" He asked quickly, despite knowing full well what she wanted to talk about. This was the matter he didn't want her to mention the most.

She said: "I heard some news about people from the Ironscale School coming to cause trouble for you."

True to his expectations, he tried to divert the subject: "Oh, about that? It's over now. They wanted to buy my Hundred-Saints Hall, but how could I sell the ancestors' home? So I said no."

She softly said: "What happened on the island then? Brother, this is no small matter." This was not an attempt to blame or interrogate him, she needed to know the truth of this big event.

Out of nowhere, a divine aura suppressed the entire Demon Dragon Sea. Next, news of the destruction of the Ironscale School spread. A bit later, Dongting Lake found out that the corpses of the Ironscale Schoolmaster and more than one hundred of his followers were hanging at the Hundred-Saints Hall. How could the lake not be startled by this?

Of course, they didn't connect the aura that destroyed the Ironscale School with the hall. However, it was still a big deal when those corpses were located on that island. After all, their lake was a prime suspect to these deaths.

In fact, after finding out, they disposed of those bodies. Zhang Baitu didn't dare to let Li Qiye know since he was afraid that Li Qiye would become angry and make his way in to destroy the lake.

"Well..." Zhang Baitu didn't know how to respond. He was not someone who was good at lying, so he coughed and said: "Well, the responsibility does not fall on us. It was the Ironscale School forcing a sale."

Li Qiye withdrew his gaze and slowly said: "Why make such a big deal out of something so trivial like destroying an Ironscale School?"

Zhang Baitu was alarmed. He was not worried about himself, he was afraid that Hong Yujiao would provoke Li Qiye. His shallow cultivation did not blind his vision, he knew that Hong Yujiao had learned the arts of her father, but she was nothing before Li Qiye. She would be crushed by just one of his fingers.

Hong Yujiao's expression changed as she looked at Li Qiye with a stern look and asked: "May I have your name?"

Zhang Baitu wanted to say something, but he refrained from doing so. Li Qiye looked back at her and smiled: "My name doesn't matter. I just want to say that your Dongting Lake is becoming worse with each successive generation, losing sight of the grand picture just for petty gains in power."

He laughed and continued: "Look at your lake now. Unlike your ancestors who protected the vitality of the human race, you're now just a bunch of cowards hiding in the city. All of their glory has been thrown away by your generation."

"Today, you have even forgotten about the souls of your ancestors as well as your spiritual totem. I'm curious, how many years has it been since the last time your lake went to worship the Hundred-Saints Hall? Has it been fifty or a hundred generations? I'm afraid that your lake has even forgotten who the ones enshrined in the hall are." With that, he sighed and didn't want to look at her anymore.

She couldn't answer due to lacking knowledge about this matter. She only knew that some ancestors from the lake speculated that the Hundred-Saints Hall might be storing some treasures.

"We descendants are not qualified to comment on the matter of our ancestors." Eventually, she answered: "I just want to ask you, did you kill the Ironscale Schoolmaster's group?"

This was the thing she was most concerned about. After all, the schoolmaster and elders of a sea demon lineage had died very close to Dongting Lake, and even their sect was destroyed. Once this news spread, their lake would become the prime suspect.

Of course, she understood that Zhang Baitu couldn't kill that group, so the only possibility was this person sitting in front of her.

"I understand your lake's intention." Li Qiye smiled: "It needs to find a murderer in order to wash away this suspicion."

Chapter 1238: Scolding

She maintained her calm despite his accusation and lowered her tone: "This is a serious matter, so our Dongting Lake will get to the very bottom of it."

"Get to the bottom of it?" Li Qiye couldn't help but laugh: "When the Ironscale School bullied Zhang Baitu, when they tried to force him to sell the Hundred-Saints Hall, where was your lake then? And now, during the aftermath, your lake is trying to steer clear of anything to do with this event. Quite interesting..."

"Well..." Zhang Baitu softly spoke: "Young Noble, this really isn't the lake's fault. I didn't tell them at all."

Li Qiye smiled and waved his sleeve: "You don't have to speak up for them, I know full well what is going on. You don't have to tell me that the lake has disposed of the bodies either."

"I..." Zhang Baitu was scared. He didn't expect Li Qiye to predict it this fast, so he had no response.

Hong Yujiao answered instead: "Brother Zhang is not at fault, this was the lake's decision and it has nothing to do with him."

After hearing this, Li Qiye slowly turned towards Hong Yujiao and smiled: "This is more like it, spoken like a family."

She took a deep breath and stared at him: “With all due respect, this is not a joke, I hope you can clarify this matter or the sea demons in this region will put this on Dongting Lake. At that time, the lake will be isolated from the rest of the world.”

“Isolated from the world?” Li Qiye laughed: “This kind of thing will never happen. Kill thirty to fifty of someone’s men and they will swear to never share this sky with you again. But if you kill a billion of them, they will obediently tuck their tails between their legs. Those who are unconvinced will have their bones litter the ground!”

His eyes turned cold at this point: “I am not someone who agrees with using force to bully the weak, and I will not condone any immoral acts from my followers. However, those who dare to provoke me or harm my followers, regardless of whether they are strong or weak, will be killed before talking about who was right and wrong! Only when you use blood to talk will others understand where your bottom line is. Otherwise, people will think that you are an easy target, and they will bully you while thinking that the humans in the Heaven Spirit World are mere ants.”

“It is a pity that your group did not inherit the hot blood of your ancestors or their willingness to kill!” He continued on with indifference: “Your lake is willing to sacrifice Zhang Baitu to separate itself from this situation, maybe you would even give up the Hundred-Saints Hall altogether. As long as the interests of your lake are untouched, everything can be negotiated.”

Zhang Baitu trembled after hearing the line about killing all those who opposed you and answering with blood. It truly touched his heart.

“We do not have those intentions.” Despite being unable to refute all of Li Qiye’s accusations, Hong Yujiao still said: “We don’t want to turn Brother Zhang into a shield, our goal is to find out the truth so that others won’t misconstrue the situation.”

“Misconstrue?” Li Qiye laughed sarcastically and said: “So what if they misunderstand? The Ironscale School and outsiders are nothing. Who needs them to understand things clearly? So what if they don’t? You can’t even protect the spirits of your ancestors and have even forgotten their creed, yet you care about the misunderstandings of outsiders? The damned geezers at Dongting Lake have lost their minds!”

“Sir, I hope you can be more careful with your words. Dongting Lake has our own principles, and we shall do what we must.” She didn’t back down in response: “We are grateful for you saving Brother Zhang, but if you keep on insulting Dongting Lake, don’t blame me for no longer being polite!”

“Sister—” Zhang Baitu jumped up from his chair and dragged her away: “Sister, you now understand the situation so go back and report this to the sect master.” He winked at her.

He didn’t want to see a fight between the two of them since her fate would be the same as the ones from the Ironscale School — instantly crushed by Li Qiye!

“Baitu—” Li Qiye waved his sleeve and said: “There’s no need to be so sneaky around me. If I wanted to kill her, she wouldn’t have been able to talk in front of me. The same goes for Dongting Lake; if I wanted to trouble them, I wouldn’t be sitting here right now.”

Zhang Baitu awkwardly let go of her and wryly smiled: "Young Noble, she isn't trying to annoy you. She is only nervous about protecting Dongting Lake."

"If I was annoyed with her, I wouldn't have let her speak." Li Qiye glared at him. The old man coughed and didn't say anything else.

Li Qiye shifted his attention towards the girl and said: "I'm the killer, your lake can go ahead and reveal it if you want to be rid of suspicion. Tell those brainless geezers to stop being short-sighted all day long and fixated on trivial matters. They have forgotten who their ancestors are and their own surnames for a few benefits!"

"You..." She glared at him. After all, he was directly scolding her elders. No one could swallow such anger.

"Sister, go already, the master is waiting for your news." Zhang Baitu dragged her away and motioned for her to quickly leave.

She managed to restrain herself and coldly looked at Li Qiye: "I won't interfere with your disrespectful behavior, but if you insult Dongting Lake again, I will definitely deal with you."

Li Qiye ignored her and focused on his drinks.

She eventually left, brewing with indignation. If it wasn't for Zhang Baitu pulling her back, she would have definitely fought this arrogant person!

Zhang Baitu was in a difficult position after she left. He rubbed his palms and smiled: "Young Noble, Sister Hong is a very good person. The only thing is that she can be very straightforward at times."

Even though their ancestors had grievances, this generation got along with each other. This was especially true for Hong Yujiao and himself. They were quite close, so he couldn't watch her go to her death. Li Qiye only smiled and didn't say anything.

After a long time, Li Qiye looked at the faint mountain range one last time and decided to pay the bill. He looked over at Zhang Baitu and said: "Come, we'll go to Rainbow City."

The two of them left the inn to go to the ferry. Everyone had to use this particular type of fish as transportation before they could reach Rainbow City.

Once they got to the ferry, the sky suddenly turned dark. A gigantic ship descended from the sky, its size too immense to describe. Half of its hull was still hidden in the clouds, so no one could see it fully.

This gigantic warship appearing at Rainbow Island attracted a lot of attention.

Many people saw the conch insignia on the warship and became quite surprised. Someone asked: "Is that the Roaring Conch?"

An old man slowly answered: "No, this isn't it. It might be the ship of a big character from there though."

Another person speculated after seeing the ship: "Is it the Seashield Prince then?"

The insignia of the Roaring Conch left many spectators shocked. This was a famous lineage throughout the entire Heaven Spirit World, not just limited to the Dragon Demon Sea. They had two sea gods that

possessed the Trident for a very long time. According to the tales, the moment their conch blared, all of the sea demons in the world would answer its call.

A smaller ship flew out of the big warship. In fact, this smaller vessel was still quite sizable. It just seemed tiny in comparison to its huge friend.

The warship didn't stop after the second one came out. It slowly rose to the sky and disappeared towards the horizon, towards an unknown destination.

The smaller one landed. Many saw a woman standing at the bow. She basked in the wind with her hair fluttering about.

Her pretty eyes and nose were more than enough to describe her as beautiful. Her fair white skin had a hint of rouge. Such a beauty would command attention wherever she went. Her waist was especially slender; it was as if a gust of wind could make it dance.

Despite her delicate appearance, she exuded a terrifying aura befitting of a God-Monarch! Halos emerged from her body. Each of them seemed to be part of their own world while carrying infinite power.

Many were frightened to see this force. After all, she was an incredibly young God-Monarch.

"Wow, a God-Monarch..." Zhang Baitu was in awe and felt quite envious after seeing the God-Monarch's halos.

He had cultivated for a lifetime, yet his cultivation was completely negligible. However, this young lady ahead was already a horrifying God-Monarch. How could people not be stunned into admiration before this scene?

Chapter 1239: Rainbow Fish

In fact, Zhang Baitu was not the only one who was envious. Many people had the same stunned expression while looking at her.

"Shangguan Feiyan, the junior sister of the Seashield Prince. Rumor has it that she is already an Intermediate God-Monarch, what a magnificent goddess." A young cultivator stared at her in admiration but became gloomy when comparing himself to her.

God-Monarch was only a title. In fact, experts at the Virtuous Deity level were eligible to be called God-Monarchs.

There were different levels of this particular title. Cultivators generally divided them into five levels: Minor Monarch, Intermediate Monarch, Grand Monarch, True Monarch, and Bestowed Monarch. [1. Note, they are all God-Monarch in the raw, but that makes it even longer and these titles will be repeated a lot, so I'm removing the God part for now unless the text requires it to make sense.]

There wasn't a need to explain the levels of Minor, Intermediate, and Grand Monarchs. In fact, some God-Monarchs from the previous generations didn't think that these levels were necessary. Some even held them in contempt and thought that these three levels only consisted of false God-Monarchs. This was because although they had reached the level of Virtuous Deity, they couldn't understand the true profundities of this realm.

Of course, a few called themselves “God-Monarch” even before reaching the Virtuous Deity realm. These were the real pretenders.

True Monarch, for many people, was the true baseline of this realm. Individuals of this realm not only understood the mysteries of the Virtuous Deity realm, they could also create their own kingdom and climb up the divine investiture platform to accept the blood energy of their citizens.

For the older experts, only True Monarchs could exert the real power of this realm and were eligible to fight against the world itself.

As for Bestowed Monarchs, needless to say, these were the top existences among the Virtuous Deities. They were normally bestowed the title by an Immortal Emperor and have gone on expeditions around the nine worlds. This was the type to have experienced countless baptisms of blood and sharpening from battlefields.

Even though real experts looked down on the first three levels and considered them fake, Shangguan Feiyan was still an Intermediate Monarch at such a young age, so she was powerful and impressive enough.

“The Roaring Conch is worthy of being one of the strongest sea demon lineages. They have more than just the Seashield Prince among the younger generation, there’s Shangguan Feiyan as well.” A sect master was amazed to see her.

She was a young genius from the Roaring Conch with great aptitudes. She knew that there was still quite a gap between her and her senior brother, the Seashield Prince, so she chose the path of the grand era instead. She was determined to become a top Godking instead of competing for the heaven’s path with her senior brother.

At this time, many people were lined up for the ferry to go to Rainbow City. After arriving, Shangguan Feiyan didn’t try to cut the line and stood there just like everyone else.

“The two of you, eh? It will be ten Ancient Saint Jades for each.” An old man standing by the entrance saw two extravagantly dressed young men and named the price. It looked like these two were from great powers.

This old man was the only person watching over the entrance. He wore a gray robe and had an ordinary appearance; nothing particularly stood out.

One of the two youths wasn’t happy to hear this, so he complained: “Ten Ancient Saint Jades for each person is too outrageous. That person earlier heading for Dragonwell City only paid a single Heaven’s Mandate Jade. We are going to Dragonhark City, yet you are asking for ten Ancient Saint Jades? What kind of tolls are these? I know that Dragonwell is the first stop and Dragonhark is the second stop, but why is this second stop ridiculously more expensive than the first?” The youth was very indignant. They came from a great power and had great statuses, so they weren’t lambs to be slaughtered.

The old man was unmoved. He didn’t bother to even look at them as he arrogantly said: “I’ll collect the fees how I see fit. If you don’t like it, don’t come to Rainbow City.”

He had an unperturbed demeanor, as if he didn’t mind other people coming to cause trouble.

The youth's friend immediately pulled his sleeve and whispered: "This is the rule of Rainbow City, the fees are arbitrary without a clear criterion."

"Are the two of you coming or not? Scram to the side if you aren't, don't get in the way of the people behind you." The old man impolitely waved his hand as if he was swatting flies away.

The friend immediately placed refined jades into the old man's hand and hastily said: "We're going, we're going."

The old man whistled. With a splashing sound, two rainbow fish jumped out from the water. He waved his hand again at the two youths: "Go on."

This so-called ferry was, in fact, a large well. It had clear water with no bottom in sight. Who knew how deep this well actually was?

Meanwhile, the rainbow fish resembled gigantic goldfish. The main difference was that they also had a tail with seven colors.

The youths quickly jumped on the fish. With a pop, the two fish each spat out a large bubble. The youths began to fly with these bubbles and disappeared right away. This was the way to Dragonhark City.

The old man said: "Next."

Another boarded the ferry and busily stated: "I want to go to Dragonhark City as well."

The old man glanced at him and replied: "Three Inner Longevity Jades."

The person immediately paid the fee without complaint and the old man called for another rainbow fish to take him away.

Cultivators boarded the ferry of Rainbow City one after another. This old man's pricing had no standard at all. He asked for however much he wanted while the people wanting to reach the end of Rainbow City obediently paid the price.

No one dared to cause trouble. There had been tales of people trying to fight against members of Rainbow City being thrown away very far. Among them, one person needed to fly several hundred years before returning to their home.

After a good while, it was finally time for Shangguan Feiyan's ship. She stood at the bow and said: "The entire ship to Dragonhark."

"The whole ship?" He looked at the ship and began to count with his fingers: "A ship of this size requires one hundred rainbow fish. There will be a fee added for labor as well as an entry fee to the city, docking fee and protection fee..."

The old man counted a whole bunch of fees and went all out: "30,000 Prosperous Era Paragon Jades."

Many people were tongue-tied after hearing this price. This was practically extortion. The majority would never be able to earn this many jades in their entire lifetime. Even a great power wouldn't necessarily be willing to pay so much to enter the city.

However, she came from the wealthy Roaring Conch; she handed the payment over to the old man without batting an eye.

He whistled again and one hundred rainbow fish emerged. He commanded: "Go."

The fish immediately pulled the ship away. To see this many fish drag away such a huge ship with their bubbles was quite a spectacular scene.

More time passed, it was finally Li Qiye and Zhang Baitu's turn. Baitu was only following Li Qiye since he didn't know which station they were going to.

"Dragonhark." Li Qiye smiled while looking at the old man.

"You? Free." The old man looked at Zhang Baitu and then turned to look at Li Qiye: "And as for you, thirty Virtuous Paragon Jades."

"We, we're together." Zhang Baitu was anxious for Li Qiye after hearing the price. In his eyes, thirty Virtuous Paragon Jades was an astronomical figure! He wouldn't be able to gather this much in his entire life.

"30." The old man didn't care at all; it was as if he didn't hear Zhang Baitu.

Li Qiye only smiled and handed a black pouch over to the old man. The old man didn't bother looking at it before putting it away in his chest pocket, then he whistled for two fish.

The two jumped on the fish as they blew their bubbles and disappeared. By the time the bubbles disappeared, allowing the two to see again, they had already fallen into a huge ancient city. This was their destination, Dragonhark.

Dragonhark was the first stop of Rainbow City. In fact, Rainbow City was only a general term, it didn't mean that it only consisted of one city. On the contrary, it was the general designation for everything here, including these cities and stops.

Many believed that Rainbow City gained its name because all of these stops required the riding of the Rainbow Fish's bubbles to reach them.

Rumor has it that Dragonhark City was named after Dragonhark Valley. The validity of this claim remains unknown.

Dragonhark City was enormous. While standing on the city walls to look outside, people would see blossoming white clouds. This city seemed to be built in the sky. While looking down, one would only see a vast expanse with no end.

Even while inside the city, people didn't know where it was located. This has always been a hot topic with great discussions and studies. However, the answer remains a mystery.

There were stories of people jumping down from the wall in order to locate where Dragonhark actually was, but there would be no return after jumping down. From then on, no one from future generations dared to jump down the wall unless they were tired of living.

Li Qiye and Zhang Baitu jumped off their fish, and the fish swam away with their tails flapping about.

Chapter 1240: Destroying The Dao Foundation

Li Qiye brought Zhang Baitu straight to the Rainbow Pavilion in Dragonhark. They reserved a small courtyard and settled down.

The Rainbow Pavilion was the biggest inn at Dragonhark. In fact, it was the only one in Dragonhark and all of Rainbow City as well.

No one knew why there was only one inn in the entire region. Some believed that the inn belonged to Rainbow City and that they didn't wish to share this business with outsiders. Others stated that behind the inn stood the Jian Clan. This clan had a very deep relationship with Rainbow City.

Despite being the only inn here, the pricing was very reasonable and it could accommodate more than ten thousand guests. Because of this, there were no complaints from outsiders upon visiting the inn.

After taking care of Zhang Baitu, Li Qiye went out to buy some medicinal materials. When he passed by the lobby, he heard a shopkeeper advertising to the guests: "Fair to the young and old with the right price, we have eighty million years of reputation!"

The shopkeeper was an old man around the mortal age of seventy with a gray robe. His appearance was not too outstanding, but he was very hardworking, evident by the calluses on his hands.

Li Qiye smirked after seeing the shopkeeper and revealed a very interested smile.

The shopkeeper noticed Li Qiye and smiled back: "Sir, do you want to go out or need something?"

Li Qiye smiled back: "How can you prove that your reputation has been great for more than eighty million years?"

The shopkeeper laughed and replied: "Ah, Sir, just look at my age and you should know that I am not a swindler. My hair is completely gray from the torments of time. At this age, why would I need to lie, right?"

Li Qiye continued to smile and leisurely responded: "Was it an eventful experience?"

"You are asking about my life?" The shopkeeper happily responded: "It wasn't bad, so-so I guess. I don't want much at this age, only a full belly. And of course, my old bones have a bunch of children and grandchildren as well. What more do I want? Just food and clothing and children playing around me, this is more than enough for an old man like me."

Li Qiye nodded while looking at him and movingly said: "You're right, what more do you want in life? Warmth and food with children surrounding you — quite an enviable lifestyle."

The talkative shopkeeper asked with a grin: "Sir, do you have any other pursuits in life?"

Li Qiye pondered for a bit before smiling at the shopkeeper: "I just want an answer, that's all I need."

The shopkeeper rubbed his clothing with his callused hands and continued: "Who can have all the answers in life?"

Li Qiye responded: "No one knows the answer, which is why I require it." With that, he turned and left the inn.

“What is the goal of life?” Li Qiye sighed and recalled the past. In a distant era, someone had asked him the same question at Rainbow City.

It had been said that the heaven and earth were too unreachable. All were mere ants below them, but this was also fine. It was just like the old man said, there was nothing bad about being content with a life surrounded by loved ones.

Li Qiye walked on slowly in silence while contemplating this issue and the unforgettable words.

Being an ant within this unreachable heaven and earth was not necessarily a bad thing.

He became lost in a daze. There was once an extremely wise man here who eventually chose a peaceful ending.

After a while, he lifted his head towards the distance. With an incomparably firm gaze, as if nothing and nobody could shake him, he said: “No matter how distant the heaven and earth might be and regardless of how long this path is before the end, I just need an answer. This has always been the case in the past, the present, and will be so in the future as well!”

He smiled freely after this and entered the streets full of pedestrians.

Rainbow City was too large to be measured. Even though there were very few landmasses in the Heaven Spirit World, there were still several big cities. The ones here weren’t necessarily the biggest ones in this world, but they were definitely among the top ten.

Dragonhark, as the first stopping point, was very lively. This was the biggest market in Rainbow City. It could even be considered the largest in all of Heaven Spirit.

There were sea demons from this region, charming spirits from the Abyss Sea, and treats from the Jade Sea.

In addition to the many shops, cultivators set up little stalls along the streets to sell their treasures and some were searching for alchemy ingredients. It was a scene that encompassed all sorts of images.

Many cultivators came here due to the great reputation and size of this market at Dragonhark. There was a phrase used to describe this place: there is nothing one couldn’t buy here for the right price.

Li Qiye bought a lot of materials for Zhang Baitu. They weren’t that precious, which was why he just went outside to buy them.

He was getting ready to destroy Baitu’s cultivation in order to have him start over from the beginning. Because his cultivation was needlessly complex and convoluted, it was only harmful without any benefits.

Of course, it would have been much easier for a young cultivator to destroy their cultivation, but it was different for Zhang Baitu. He was no longer young and his blood energy was quite feeble. Without being supplemented by pills, destroying his cultivation would only send him to see his maker.

After preparing all the alchemy ingredients, he readied the cauldron to refine them. The flame ignited and melted all the ingredients. It burned away the dregs and left behind the essences.

Eventually, the fire flowed like a pot of soup within. In this moment, it was difficult to tell the fire from the medicinal essences.

Under Li Qiye's instruction, Zhang Baitu stepped into the cauldron. The fire seemed to have its own life and slowly infiltrated Zhang Baitu's body with the essences. They protected his meridians and veins.

Li Qiye ordered: "Remember, focus your energy while clearing your mind of needless thoughts."

Any carelessness would result in death for an old cultivator like Zhang Baitu, so Li Qiye had no choice but to use this method.

The old man followed his order and calmed his mind while converging his vitality. He could feel the essences flowing through his body.

Right at this moment, Li Qiye began and shattered Zhang Baitu's dao foundation with lightning speed.

"Crack!" Zhang Baitu's dao foundation collapsed in an instant. He trembled and almost audibly screamed, but he managed to endure the pain.

Li Qiye was fast and accurate as he quickly and completely destroyed the foundation. At this time, there was nothing left of the broken foundation in Zhang Baitu. All of the residue was destroyed without leaving behind any traces.

Zhang Baitu now resembled a mortal that had never cultivated before. The essences began to integrate into the key locations in his body, every muscle and joint, in order to strengthen him.

His condition stabilized due to the medicine. Otherwise, someone else at his age experiencing this process would immediately turn into a hunchback old man after losing their dao foundation.

Li Qiye withdrew the fire and Zhang Baitu fell to the ground. There weren't too many visible changes to him. His hair had become grayer and he had lost the aura of a cultivator. However, his complexion was quite ruddy like an immortal with gray hair, yet he still had the face of a young man. This was a very healthy and rare constitution for a mortal man.

Zhang Baitu's vision worsened and he was unable to walk as if he was flying like other cultivators. Most of his abilities were gone as well. Of course, this was the great difference between a mortal and a cultivator.

"Maybe it isn't that bad being a mortal sometimes." Zhang Baitu sighed emotionally after his regression.

The sense of loss was there, but it was not overwhelming. After all, his cultivation was extremely shallow in the first place. This would be a completely different scenario for a master. Some wouldn't be able to handle losing their cultivation.

"Thank you, Young Noble." Zhang Baitu quickly thanked Li Qiye.

Li Qiye waved his sleeve dismissively: "There's no need to be emotional, what you have lost will return not long from now."

"Young Noble, you wish to pass down a merit law to me?!" Zhang Baitu happily asked right away after hearing this.

Despite knowing his terrible talents and that he wouldn't get much further in his life in terms of cultivation, he had never given up before. Persistence was part of his character.

His hope had been rekindled after becoming a mortal and listening to Li Qiye.