

EMPEROR 1251

Chapter 1251: Bloodshark Scion

Hong Yujiao felt gloomy after hearing her father.

Hong Tianzhu continued his explanation while feeling frustrated: "As for the ancestors from the Xu Clan, it is pretty easy to guess why they are in favor of this marriage. Among the younger generations, your bloodline is the most exceptional with the highest chance for atavism! If you stay at the lake, you will have a better chance than anyone else to inherit my mantle and become the next master of the lake..."

"... As you can imagine, if our Hong Clan were to stay in power, the other clans will not be happy. This is why they were able to reach an agreement about the marriage proposal so quickly!" He sighed after finishing his explanation.

She voiced her displeasure: "Our ancestors are too outrageous. I am not an object!"

Tianzhu continued with a hint of helplessness: "Despite being together, our clans have always sought power. It has been many years since we were last united. Young Noble Li was right about why others look down on us. Our clans are not doing a good job of operating the lake; everyone is only after their own interests and small gains."

"Perhaps this is the time for us to change. Otherwise, we will die from infighting before an enemy has the chance to destroy us." His eyes became determined after stating this.

She worriedly responded: "Father, I'm afraid the ancestors will not agree to reuniting our clans and obeying our past teachings. Even our own ancestors won't allow you to do so."

"I know." Tianzhu gently sighed: "But what else can we do? Do we keep on watching the internal struggle until our demise?"

He lowered his tone here: "As for the marriage, I will personally discuss it with them. Their actions were too unreasonable this time..."

Having said that, he contemplated quietly for a while.

A few days passed in the blink of an eye. Zhang Baitu had finally comprehended his own dao and was overjoyed by his success. Not even in his wildest dreams did he imagine that such a day would come.

He left his closed cultivation since the birthday celebration was swiftly approaching. Together with Li Qiye, he went to the Jian Clan along with Hong Tianzhu, Hong Yujiao, and some disciples from the lake.

At this time, Dragonwell City was quite lively. People crowded together along the streets. This was especially true for the Jian Mansion. Carriages were everywhere with people coming and going.

Guests from all over the seas came to wish happy birthday to the Jian Grandfather. Even imperial lineages created by sea gods and Immortal Emperors were no exceptions.

Before arriving at the mansion, Li Qiye's group met Feilong along the way. It seemed that he intended to walk together with them.

“Uncle, Sister.” Feilong cupped his fists and greeted them while only giving a cold humph towards Li Qiye.

He didn’t wish to provoke Li Qiye this time. It wasn’t that he was afraid of Li Qiye even though Li Qiye was the disciple of the Peacock Tree. After all, his big sis was the genius of the Roaring Conch, so his backing was quite amazing as well.

This time, he was accompanied by another young man. This young man had a stout stature with a sharp pair of eyes. There seemed to be an ethereal bloody mist hovering around him.

Feilong introduced him: “Uncle, this is the Bloodshark Scion, you probably recognize him.”

Hong Yujiao and the rest of the lake’s disciples trembled a bit. The Bloodshark Village was very famous in the Heaven Spirit World. Moreover, it was right next to the Wyvern Country.

Most importantly, it was more powerful than Wyvern. Wyvern was relatively milder in their conduct while this village was notorious for its cruelty. They often attacked smaller factions.

Furthermore, one of its ancestors was the Bloodshark Sovereign, a very terrifying existence. Rumor has it that in his youth, he was once recognized by the Trident. However, for some unknown reason, the Trident abandoned him so he ultimately couldn’t become a sea god.

Nevertheless, his status at the Dragon Demon Sea was still untouchable. Other great powers had no desire to provoke him.

“Sect Master Hong, nice to meet you. In the future, we will be in-laws. Your lake’s problems will be my Bloodshark Village’s problems.” This scion was even more arrogant than Feilong as he cupped his fists and smiled.

“In-laws? Why do you say that?” Hong Tianzhu furrowed his brows. It seemed like many interesting events were happening all at once.

Feilong was the one who answered: “Uncle, you haven’t heard yet, but the Lin Clan has betrothed their golden daughter to him.”

Hong Tianzhu’s expression sank after hearing this. He was left in the dark despite being the sect master. It looked like the Lin Clan didn’t want to let the other clans know about it.

He also understood that they did this in order to oppose the Hong Clan. If, say, his daughter was to actually marry Shangguan Feilong, then it wouldn’t only be a marriage with Wyvern, they would also gain the favor of the Roaring Conch.

This marriage was a source of worry for the other clans at Dongting Lake. Because of this, the Lin Clan, a sect relatively close to the lake, was the first to have a marriage alliance with the Bloodshark Village.

He secretly lamented after realizing this. Many clans didn’t even hesitate to cooperate with outsiders for power.

At this time, the scion’s eyes fell upon a female disciple. Even though she couldn’t be described as kingdom-toppling, she still grew up to be quite beautiful with a graceful bearing like an orchid in a valley.

His eyes lit up right away as he stared in an overbearing and rude manner.

“You must be Sister Lin. We shall be a great couple after getting married.” The scion laughed and said: “You have a holy bloodline while I have a sea god’s bloodline. Our marriage will be a perfect matrimony.”

This scion was proving to be even more arrogant and overbearing than Shangguan Feilong.

For this trip, Hong Tianzhu brought along the most excellent disciples among the younger generation. He wanted them to get to know the youths from the Jian Clan.

This miss with the surname Lin was a brilliant disciple. At this time, the scion’s stare caused her discomfort. She couldn’t help but hide behind Hong Yujiao.

The scion’s words were quite imposing. He spoke as if she was already his incubator, angering the other disciples. Alas, they didn’t dare to speak up.

The scion ignored the glares from these disciples and remained haughty as he dismissively said: “This marriage is very beneficial to your Dongting Lake. This is the lake’s honor.”

Hong Tianzhu snorted at this comment, but he remained calm.

Meanwhile, Li Qiye who was watching indifferently on the sideline couldn’t help but shake his head. These foolish ancestors from the clans back at Dongting Lake were incurable. They didn’t mind working together with outsiders to grab power. This was the same as inviting wolves to their own home!

Such a hungry wolf was standing before them, evidenced by his invasive gaze at the young lady from the Lin Clan. The Bloodshark Scion smiled and said: “After the celebration, you should come with me to the Bloodshark Village. I’ll take you to see our customs.”

The young girl was still hiding behind Hong Yujiao while feeling disgusted by the scion’s eyes that resembled those of a hungry wolf. She felt both angry and helpless because her own ancestors had betrothed her to the village!

At this time, Li Qiye began again with an insipid tone: “Bloodshark Village? Only a lowly race that enjoys feasting on rotten corpses. It took you forever to be able to come out of the water, yet you are here acting all pompous? Your lowly race is not qualified to marry one of my people! Scram to the side!”

Despite his initial stance of not caring for Dongting Lake, he couldn’t bear to watch any longer. He had decided to personally rectify the problems those foolish ancestors had caused Dongting Lake!

His comment came to Miss Lin’s rescue. Many disciples felt quite pleased to hear it because they couldn’t speak out against the order of their ancestors.

The Bloodshark Scion became heated right away. He turned around and coldly exclaimed: “You are that brat, the disciple of the Peacock Tree? It isn’t here right now, so don’t think you cannot be offended! Anyone can kill you right now!”

A chilling glint flashed across his eyes after issuing the threat.

Li Qiye suddenly smiled back. This was a smile that made Hong Tianzhu's heart skip a beat. He suddenly felt an ominous foreboding because he had heard of the blood ceremony that Li Qiye and the treefather carried out.

"Let us go to the Jian Mansion." He quickly interjected in order to remind both the scion and Li Qiye.

Chapter 1252: Birthday Celebration

Shangguan Feilong also stopped the Bloodshark Scion from fighting and quickly added: "Scion, there's no need to bother with a scoundrel like this. It will only ruin the mood of the Grandfather's birthday, that wouldn't be good."

The scion glanced at the Jian Mansion not too far away and grunted to call it a day. Everyone had to be reserved at the Jian Mansion.

"Don't worry, his head is already claimed." Feilong grinned and told Li Qiye: "We won't bother with you for now, but don't be happy for long. Queen Gongsun has already claimed your head. She has released a message about taking your head to sacrifice to her maid!"

Hong Yujiao and the rest of the disciples from the lake were aghast. Even Hong Tianzhu was a little stirred. He naturally knew who Queen Gongsun was; as the concubine of the Profound God-Monarch, her backing was the monstrous Profound Dynasty.

"Who the hell is she?" Li Qiye didn't even bat an eye and simply didn't take it to heart.

The rest of his group had no comments. The guy was too domineering. Among the younger generation, who would dare to make such a remark about Gongsun Meiyu?

"Haha, ignorant fool. No one will be able to save you once the queen is here." Feilong smiled deviously.

In fact, it was him who told Meiyu about Li Qiye's presence at Dragonwell. If Meiyu wasn't preoccupied with meeting the big characters from the Jian Clan, she would have already tried to take his head as revenge for her maid, Gongsun Qianer.

"Gentlemen, we are here." Hong Tianzhu noticed the sparks in the air and quickly interrupted them when they made it to the entrance.

The Jian disciples were welcoming guests. These disciples were very knowledgeable and quickly greeted the group: "Master Hong, Bloodshark Scion, welcome to our humble abode..."

Hong Tianzhu returned the gesture. Even the Bloodshark Scion didn't dare to act presumptuously before the Jian Clan. He politely conversed with these disciples. As for Feilong, he had been here already to deliver his gift, so he was very familiar with these disciples.

While the others were talking with the Jian disciples, Miss Lin came next to Li Qiye and whispered: "Thank you for earlier."

Li Qiye took a look at this gentle girl and noticed her slightly embarrassed demeanor. He sighed in his mind.

In the past, these clans were completely united under one legion. Their battalions formed by their disciples once threatened the world with many great expeditions. Part of their prestige came from their integrity and open-mindedness which attracted many human experts to join them.

However, many years have passed and their descendants suffer from internal conflicts. They were now fish on the chopping block in the eyes of many!

While Li Qiye was recalling the past, the young lady reminded him: "Let's go inside."

The rest of the group that were talking to the Jian disciples earlier had already entered. The remaining disciples from the lake followed them inside as well.

Li Qiye and Miss Lin walked up the steps. While standing beneath the entrance, Li Qiye looked up to look at the plaque. It was a very simple wooden board with the word "Jian" written on it. It contained an extraordinary divinity.

That happy and outgoing smile with a hint of craftiness always accompanied her laughter. This laughter was too difficult to forget, always ringing in his ears when he looked at the plaque.

"Your Excellency, the ruler of the universe and adjudicator of the Heaven's Will, how about leaving behind a word to protect my Jian Clan's descendants?" The wily girl blinked with a pair of wise eyes that seemed like they could speak. She smiled and continued: "I won't ask for you to protect them, only that if one day, our descendants blindly maneuver against you, you will think about this character "Jian" and spare their lives."

The past seemed like it was just yesterday. Her unforgettable voice and posture still lingered in his heart. He gently sighed while looking at the word on the plaque and thought to himself: "Little girl, why did you have to try so hard back then? All of that just to scheme for little Hong Tian. If I wanted to obtain my body from the Immortal Demon Grotto, I would have done so long ago."

During his melancholic reminiscence, Hong Tianzhu had presented his gift. It was not a stunning present, but it also didn't throw away the lake's reputation. It was right around the middle of the pack.

The Bloodshark Scion also presented a treasure box with a blood pearl inside. He was very proud of his present and stated: "My ancestors can't personally come to wish Senior Jian a happy birthday, so they allowed me to bring this Bloodshark Divine Pearl as a gift instead. Please excuse us for the little gift that doesn't show our full sincerity."

Despite saying this, he had a complacent demeanor. After all, this was an exceedingly rare divine pearl. It was not easy to come up with such a treasure.

The guests were marveling at this priceless gift.

"One Bloodshark Divine Pearl." However, the old man receiving the presents had a relatively flat reaction and only recorded it on the list.

The Jian Clan was a wondrous existence with a deep foundation. The old man receiving presents had seen pretty much every kind of treasure. This was only one divine pearl, so of course his reaction was dull.

The gloating scion felt a bit lost after seeing the lack of reaction. He felt a bit of remorse as well because this pearl was still considered very precious for their village. But now, this old man from the Jian Clan was treating it like an ordinary piece of candy. This made him feel quite uncomfortable.

A disciple noticed that Li Qiye was standing by the door in a daze and quickly asked: "This is... Who might you be, Sir?"

"Heh, his name is Li Qiye from Peacock Land. Who knows if he was actually invited to the Jian Grandfather's birthday or not?" The Bloodshark Scion was annoyed, so he used this opportunity to intentionally lower Li Qiye's standing.

"So you are Young Noble Li from Peacock Land, I have heard of your great fame." The Jian disciple was not a frog at the bottom of a well, so he immediately cupped his fists to greet Li Qiye.

Li Qiye didn't bother to look at the scion who was trying to debase him and casually handed over the invitation given to him by Jian Xiaotie.

"Young Noble Li, please come inside." The disciple quickly led him to the main hall.

The scion who wanted to mock Li Qiye had to stop after seeing the invitation and could only snort instead.

After being taken to the reception area, Li Qiye didn't say much and only handed a wooden box to the old man.

This box was very ordinary looking, as if it was a random and inconspicuous container for a regular birthday present.

"Oh? This is your present?" The Bloodshark Scion sneered and commented with disdain: "I heard your Peacock Land has no disciples other than a hoodlum like you, so I guess it is understandable for such a weak lineage. Don't tell me you plucked a few leaves from the Peacock Tree and brought them here as a present for the Grandfather?"

"Brother Bloodshark, you shouldn't be so demanding. After the calamity, Peacock Land has been stricken with poverty. One must remember that sincerity is more important than gifts. Just a few leaves are more than enough." Shangguan Feilong smiled and added fuel to the fire.

These two had grievances towards Li Qiye, so they held nothing back in their remarks.

Li Qiye ignored the two and told the old man in a flat tone: "A ginseng root, decent for longevity replenishment."

The old man's face changed as he immediately opened the wooden box. A rich and incomparable ginseng fragrance dispersed. As people smelled this scent, their blood energies suddenly erupted. The older cultivators felt like they were dozens of years younger.

A ginseng root was placed in this ordinary box. The entire section was as red as blood with a flowing purple glow, making it resemble a piece of jade. It seemed that this particular root had its own life.

The old man couldn't help but exclaim in shock: "A Violet Blood Ginseng King! The root of an ancestor ginseng!" Despite his great experience, he was still shaken all the same. This was not something comparable to several million years old medicines. This was an immortal medicine!

Even just a small section had an unbelievable worth. For many cultivators, this little piece alone could prolong their life for a long time. Numerous older masters dreamed of such an item!

"An ancestor ginseng!" Some of the guests were astounded and quickly circled around to take a look.

"This is my first time seeing an immortal item like this." A great power's ancestor was shocked and had saliva dripping from the corners of his mouth.

"Immortal medicine, amazing. This is something that can only be obtained with great fortune, how many people have actually seen an immortal medicine in their lifetime?" Astonishment was the common reaction for these guests.

"This is an item exclusive to Godkings." No one dared to have any ill thoughts about it since only Godkings could use an item of this level.

Hong Tianzhu and the other disciples from the lake were aghast at this inconceivable gift.

Chapter 1253: Jian Clan

This ginseng root amazed the spectators. The violet glow on its red body made it look like a priceless treasure to just about anyone.

Feilong and the Bloodshark Scion were embarrassed by this root. Their expressions became quite ugly. They were laughing at Li Qiye earlier, but now, this ginseng root was a ruthless slap to their faces, leaving them with no room for retort.

Of course, this was not Li Qiye trying to show off. In terms of status, the Jian Grandfather was still his junior. Giving this root to prolong his life was only a greeting gift for a junior.

Jian Xiaotie hurried out at this time. He was talking to his guest inside the mansion, but as soon as he heard from a disciple, he ran outside right away. A ginseng root was still considered a grand gesture to their clan, so he had to personally greet Li Qiye.

"Brother Li, thank you for the generous gift." He cupped his fists right away and said: "I thank you on behalf of our Grandfather."

This root was quite crucial to the Grandfather since he was already eight thousand years old. It could prolong his life by at least one hundred years.

Li Qiye just nodded and lightly said: "Don't mention it, just a small gift."

This nonchalant attitude made some of the guests stare at the Bloodshark Scion and Shangguan Feilong. Earlier, the scion was gloating after presenting a Bloodshark Divine Pearl and mocked Li Qiye in the process. But now, Li Qiye's ginseng root was countless times more precious than the pearl, yet Li Qiye still acted normally. The difference in the two's worth became clear with a glance.

“Brother Li, Master Hong, and fellow daoists, please come inside.” Jian Xiaotie noticed that Li Qiye was together with Hong Tianzhu’s group, so he busily invited them in.

Hong Tianzhu and the disciples brightened up after being personally invited by Xiaotie, the successor of the Jian Clan. Even though he rarely showed himself, his status was great. Normally, he would only greet guests from imperial lineages or sea gods’ sects.

Thus, they felt respected after receiving this gesture from him.

As they were leaving, they walked by the Bloodshark Scion. Li Qiye only gave him a quick glance and stated: “This divine pearl is just a piece of crap. I would only use them to decorate the pen of livestock, it’s not worth a single coin.”

Li Qiye never took it easy on those who opposed him and left no room for conciliation. No one else dared to interfere with this personal grievance between the two.

The scion’s face reddened with anger after hearing this. He scowled and left right away. Feilong followed right after him. Staying any longer would only result in further humiliation.

Jian Xiaotie noticed the atmosphere and tried to change the topic: “Brother Li, this is your first time at our home. If you and everyone else don’t mind, how about a tour?”

Despite already being familiar with the mansion, Li Qiye still gently nodded: “A walk doesn’t sound bad.”

The mansion occupied a wide area. Inside it had its own heavenly grotto, so it was more accurate to call it an ancestral ground than a mansion.

There were temples and pavilions situated on majestic terrain everywhere. Rivers ran by with hills and other wondrous natural environments.

Dongting Lake’s disciples had an eye-opening experience while following Jian Xiaotie through the mansion. They thought that it was just a series of buildings in the beginning instead of it being its own separate space. Outside of shock, they truly realized that the Jian Clan wasn’t just powerful in name.

Li Qiye gently sighed while walking through this familiar land with an indescribable feeling.

All along, the Jian Clan wanted him to come back. To a certain extent, the clan was started by him. However, after burying Jian Wenxin, he didn’t want to come back here again because the same sentence kept echoing in his head whenever he returned.

“The heavens is too unreachable, there is nothing bad about being a trapped ant in this world.” These were among her last words: “Your Excellency, I know your ambition is as high as the heavens and as far-reaching as the limits of the world. After I rest, I hope that you can go even further and faster. This is my end, the best I can hope for!”

He gently shook his head after recalling her words. In her last moments, he didn’t blame her or Empress Hong Tian.

The only pity was that Hong Tian had always been a stubborn girl. After so long, she still didn’t want to look back. However, it was precisely this unyielding stubbornness that carried her to such heights.

Jian Xiaotie, acting as a tour guide for everyone, noticed Li Qiye's absent-mindedness and asked: "Brother Li, what's wrong?"

Li Qiye's mind returned as he smiled: "Nothing, I'm just a bit tired. I will go back to rest."

"Okay then." Jian Xiaotie replied: "I have made the arrangements for your group's living quarters. If you are tired, we can have this tour again tomorrow. That will be when Grandfather will come out as well. I'll take you to see him then."

Li Qiye only chuckled in response. Meanwhile, the disciples from the lake enviously stared at Li Qiye. The Jian Grandfather was a Celestial Godking. Not just anyone could meet a character of this level in person. It was a kind of honor.

Jian Xiaotie led the group back to the guest rooms. However, they met other people on the way.

"My Queen, that's Li Qiye." At this time, Shangguan Feilong and the Bloodshark Scion led two women here. Both of them could be considered kingdom-toppling and put girls like Hong Yujiao and Miss Lin to shame.

One of them was brilliantly charming while the other noble and enchanting. Their indescribable beauty could sway the soul. This was especially true for the noble woman in her phoenix dress. She exuded the mature vibe of a woman that was too temptatious.

Not only did they eclipse Hong Yujiao in beauty, their auras were powerful and imposing as well.

The charming girl had divine halos emanating from her body. Belying her slender figure that gave her a fragile appearance, the halos still engulfed this world with a frightening God-Monarch presence. She was the genius of the Roaring Conch, Shangguan Feiyan!

The other woman's phoenix robe told the tale of her identity. She also had divine circles around her body with a spiritual mirror behind her head. This mirror could illuminate the entire world. It was irresistible and could steal away souls. This was the Profound God-Monarch's favorite concubine, Gongsun Meiyu. She wasn't a beautiful yet useless decorative vase since she was already famous as a genius before marrying the monarch in the Abyss Sea.

Her talents were superb since she cultivated the unique characteristics of the charming spirit to the highest level. Her bewitching eyes showed that she had mastered her seductive techniques. Rumor has it that her divine eyes could take control of others.

Hong Tianzhu was alarmed after seeing the two women because he had heard of the feud between them and Li Qiye. He knew that Li Qiye had killed Gongsun Meiyu's favorite maid, Gongsun Qianer.

Jian Xiaotie frowned at this development as well. He was not one who was afraid of trouble, however Shangguan Feilong and the scion were stirring the pot, and this displeased him.

"You are the one who killed my maid?" Gongsun Meiyu's eyes fell upon Li Qiye. Her phoenix eyes turned cold and stately.

Li Qiye was as calm as ever and only took a quick glimpse at Meiyu before replying in a flat tone: "Who?"

"Gongsun Qianer!" Meiyu coldly said: "The woman you killed at the Bottomless Trench!"

“Oh, yes, something like that indeed happened.” Li Qiye smiled: “Unfortunately, she shouldn’t have made a move against me. I have never shown mercy to my enemies.”

“A life for a life!” Meiyu’s cold glare emitted a murderous intent: “I shall take your head and sacrifice it to her soul in the heavens.”

Feilong and the scion became quite excited to see Meiyu wishing to deal with Li Qiye. The two of them felt a sense of schadenfreude while waiting for her to kill him.

Li Qiye revealed a wide smile and raised his brows a little while looking at her. He then glanced at Feiyan and the other two before leisurely answering: “By yourself or everyone together? I think it is better if all of you come together so that I won’t have to waste too much time cleaning you up one by one.”

Chapter 1254: Quarrels

Feiyan’s expression turned sour while the others hated Li Qiye even more. Meanwhile, Jian Xiaotie smiled wryly. Provoking Meiyu alone was problematic enough, but now he had offended Feiyan as well.

As for Hong Tianzhu’s group, they could only be described as speechless. Meiyu was backed by the Profound Dynasty while Feiyan came from the Roaring Conch. Both of these entities were untouchable.

But now, Li Qiye was antagonizing both of them. This was simply too crazy; it was as if he didn’t care about his enemies.

“Quite bold.” Feiyan’s pretty eyes turned cold. The halos around her body became even brighter as she stared at him: “I heard you are a tree controller. I want to see just how much you have learned from the Peacock Tree to allow you to act so bold and provoke me!”

“Only a God-Monarch, no big deal.” Li Qiye lazily answered: “I don’t want to stain the Jian Clan with blood today. Be smart and scram or I’ll chop you to pieces!”

These words were too direct and domineering. Jian Xiaotie felt his scalp tingling. This was adding oil to the fire!

“How confident, let me see it then!” Before Meiyu could erupt in anger, her eyes glared at him. In an instant, a murderous energy surged forth. Her halos suppressed the entire area, leaving others breathless.

“Ladies, ladies.” Jian Xiaotie quickly got between the two sides and blocked them from each other.

He cupped his fists to both Li Qiye and the two girls while smiling: “Brother Li, Miss Gongsun and Miss Shangguan, how about everyone just calm down today? Take one step back and everything will be better. Today is a joyous occasion, so please, spare us some face. Just smile and drop it.”

As an outsider, he didn’t want to bother with their feud. However, this was before the Grandfather’s celebration and bloodshed was a very unlucky omen.

“Sister Shangguan, spare his dog life for now. Let him hold onto his head for a while longer. Wait until after the birthday celebration, it won’t be too late then.” Meiyu could endure this anger despite wanting revenge for her maid.

After all, fighting and killing at the birthday celebrations of the Jian Grandfather would be too disrespectful to the Jian Clan. Even though she was the monarch's favorite, she still had a sense of propriety.

"You got lucky." In the end, Feiyan still showed some consideration towards Jian Xiaotie. She peered back at Li Qiye and said: "If it wasn't for Young Noble Jian pleading for you, this date next year would have been your funeral."

"More like all of you are quite lucky. I do not wish to kill today, otherwise..." Li Qiye smiled gently, but his eyes flashed with a cold glint.

"Brother Li, this way please!" Jian Xiaotie was afraid that these three would quarrel and fight again, so he quickly led the way for Li Qiye.

Li Qiye didn't make it difficult for Jian Xiaotie. He just came back to the Jian Clan and didn't want to kill. Otherwise, these girls wouldn't have the chance to act like this in front of him. His usual disposition would have made him kill anyone who revealed a murderous intent against him!

The people from the lake heaved a sigh of relief. The confrontation between Li Qiye and the two women left them out of breath. A real fight would have been a very serious event.

"Master Hong, I heard you have some reservations about the marriage between our clans?" As Hong Tianzhu chased after Li Qiye, Feiyan called for him with a distant tone before he could make it very far.

Hong Tianzhu didn't want any of this, but he still had to stop and cup his fists: "Miss Shangguan, it is not that I have a negative opinion of this marriage, it is just that this pertains to the most important event in the lives of the two children. We need careful deliberation before making a choice."

"The elders from your lake have already agreed, my little brother is very happy as well, and my country is willing. Master Hong, what else is there to talk about?" Feiyan became quite imposing.

With that, she stared at Hong Yujiao and stated: "Is it because your daughter is unwilling? Does she think that my Wyvern Country is not a match for your Hong Clan?!"

"Well, I'm sure she doesn't think that..." Hong Tianzhu coughed awkwardly. He didn't want this marriage either since it was inviting wolves into their home! However, the ancestors had all agreed, so it was difficult for him to refuse.

"Little Sister Hong, do you not want such a wonderful thing?" Gongsun Meiyu chimed in at this time: "Young Noble Shangguan is a dragon among men. Wyvern is also a great power in the Dragon Demon Sea, and the two of you are quite a match. Your Hong bloodline can be considered a match for him, it will pass down excellent offspring for Wyvern..."

Hong Yujiao was already quite annoyed with Feiyan's aggressive tone, but she became even angrier because of Gongsun Meiyu's interjection. The woman made it sound like this marriage was her trying to climb up the social ladder...

In fact, after seeing Feiyan's presumptuous attitude, Hong Yujiao hated the idea of this marriage even more.

Her temper was not that mild, so she coldly responded to Feiyan: “Miss Shangguan, I will be in charge of my marriage.”

Feiyan continued to glare as she replied: “One’s marriage should be arranged by their elders. If the ancestors from the Hong Clan have decided, you just need to follow their arrangements...”

Li Qiye turned back and interrupted Feiyan: “If she doesn’t want this engagement, then scram already. Don’t use that shitty attitude to try and bully them! My Hong Clan is not something your Wyvern Country can reach up to!”

Her previously subsided anger immediately rose again. Feilong, on the other hand, couldn’t help but step forward and shouted as well: “Li, you are not part of the Hong Clan, so this has nothing to do with you. The business of the Hong is not for you to interfere with!”

Feiyan coldly glared at him and said: “Ignorant junior, I didn’t want to spill blood in this place, but you deserve a slapping with that comment.”

Li Qiye leisurely smiled in response: “You are right. I didn’t want to kill or spill blood here, but a slapping isn’t a bad idea!”

“Brother Li, Brother Li...” Jian Xiaotie quickly stopped him and nearly grabbed him in order to stop him from rushing forward to teach Feiyan a lesson.

“Brother Li, please give this little brother some face? Out of consideration for me, just calm down today and don’t worry about any enmity. Everyone can deal with these grudges in several days, right?”

Jian Xiaotie’s bitter expression showed that he was on the verge of begging.

Li Qiye glanced at him before flatly speaking: “Tell them to stay the hell out of my sight. After today, there will be no more mercy!”

With that, he turned and left.

Jian Xiaotie was relieved. In fact, he didn’t know that Li Qiye was being quite considerate of him already. If it was any other time, he would have immediately began killing without a care after being provoked this much.

This was his first day of returning after a very long time. He didn’t wish to spill blood in the Jian Clan right away.

Hong Tianzhu sighed as well and quickly followed Li Qiye with his disciples.

“Master Hong.” Feiyan stated coldly after seeing that Tianzhu wanted to leave: “You should reconsider. Don’t let an outsider interfere with such an important matter. It won’t be good for Dongting Lake.”

This remark was not only aggressive but also threatening. Hong Tianzhu naturally understood the implications and stiffened after hearing the words. Nevertheless, he didn’t respond and followed Li Qiye.

He felt very helpless in this matter. He had personally returned to the lake a couple of days ago in order to convince the ancestors, but was unsuccessful.

Even though he didn't want to depend on others for this marriage, he felt an urge to trust Li Qiye this time. If no one could stop Feiyan, then this marriage would be a foregone conclusion.

Hong Yujiao didn't want to marry Feilong, but Tianzhu himself didn't have the ability to change his daughter's fate. Thus, he decided to gamble and latch onto this saving grace — Li Qiye.

Yujiao was quiet the entire way. She was in a daze and didn't know what to do. She was certain that she didn't want to marry Feilong. However, if the ancestors wouldn't change their minds, then there was nothing else she could do.

"Brother Li, there's no need to confront them so directly. Sometimes, the circuitous path is the right one." As a human, Jian Xiaotie kindly reminded Li Qiye: "In the Dragon Demon Sea, humans are at a disadvantage. This is the world of sea demons; if you take the Roaring Conch head-on, I'm afraid you will lose sooner or later."

Li Qiye only smiled and answered nonchalantly: "Xiaotie, I simply didn't want to kill today over this kind of shit, but after tomorrow, I will kill anyone who continues to be blind, even if it is inside the Jian Mansion."

Jian Xiaotie was without words after hearing this. He warned Li Qiye with good intentions, but Li Qiye simply didn't take it to heart.

Chapter 1255: Miss Lin

Jian Xiaotie prepared the rooms for Li Qiye's group. After taking care of everything, he finally bid goodbye.

The guy was very enthusiastic and thoughtful. This was not only because of Li Qiye's valuable gift, but also because everyone was human, so he was even more attentive towards Li Qiye's group.

Hong Tianzhu and the other disciples rode on Li Qiye's coattails and enjoyed this superb treatment. This was a reception that was normally meant for imperial and sea god lineages.

If Hong Tianzhu's group came alone, they wouldn't have been subjected to this great hospitality.

Among the disciples, some were happy while others worried. The majority were mostly excited by just being able to enter the Jian Mansion. It would be even better if they could meet the clan's disciples. After all, everyone was part of the human race, so there was an easy connection there. In this regard, the current generation of Dongting Lake was still relatively unstained from ambition and the lust for power, unlike the previous.

Hong Tianzhu, Hong Yujiao, and Miss Lin all had a sleepless night. The girls were worried about their marriages. Hong Yujiao simply didn't want to marry Feilong at all. This was doubly true for Miss Lin. She didn't know the Bloodshark Scion at all. Moreover, his reputation was quite bad. After the marriage, she would just become an incubator, used for her holy bloodline.

However, these two could only despair at their fate, unable to change it. At this time, they couldn't help but think about Li Qiye!

He was only a stranger whom they knew nothing about except that he came from Peacock Land. Nevertheless, he still gave them a favorable impression, especially when he supported them in

preventing their marriages, further fueling their hope. They inadvertently prayed that this stranger could change their fate.

Needless to say about Hong Tianzhu, his night was even longer. He didn't only think about his daughter's marriage, but also the fate of his disciples. More importantly, the future of the lake itself!

Even though he was the master of the lake, his own power was limited. The ancestors from the clans did as they pleased, so he couldn't coordinate the lake as a whole. It was simply impossible to make the lake stronger under such circumstances.

On top of it all, he was worried about his own future. These ancestors didn't mind cooperating with outside races and even betrothing their most excellent bloodline to them. This was simply inviting wolves into their home!

The most at peace among them must have been Zhang Baitu. He was very content at this moment and didn't desire much more. He simply wanted to continue to persevere on the path towards the dao. Because of this, he had the best sleep out of the group.

They woke up early the next day. Hong Tianzhu went to see the other guests here at the mansion and left the juniors behind.

Hong Yujiao's group didn't know anyone here, so they went to find Li Qiye to see what he had in mind. However, he was nowhere to be found when they arrived at his little courtyard.

Hong Yujiao asked: "Brother Zhang, where is Young Noble Li?"

Zhang Baitu shook his head in response: "I don't know either. He left very early in the morning and didn't tell me where he was off to."

The group was disappointed at his absence. The disciples looked at each other a bit before Hong Yujiao made a decision: "We'll go out for a walk. It'll be good to get acquainted with the Jian disciples."

The rest nodded in agreement. This was still a good opportunity for them to get closer to the Jian disciples. It was a good thing for the lake as well.

"Brother Zhang, come with us." Hong Yujiao didn't leave him out despite him not being close to the rest of the disciples.

They left the small courtyard in order to take a walk around the Jian Mansion.

However, they didn't get far before meeting Shangguan Feilong and the Bloodshark Scion.

Feilong asked: "Little Sister, are you all going for a walk too?"

The scion's eyes lit up like a hungry wolf after seeing Miss Lin. He smiled and said: "Brother Shuangguan and I are familiar with the Jian Clan, we should go together."

Hong Yujiao didn't want to go together with them, but she couldn't refuse so directly.

Luckily, Jian Xiaotie came at the right time and the atmosphere settled down.

“Everyone is up so early, where is Brother Li?” Jian Xiaotie wanted to bring Li Qiye’s group to more places around the Jian Clan.

He had a strange affection for Li Qiye. Moreover, Li Qiye represented Peacock Land which meant that he would also stand for the human race in the future, so Jian Xiaotie was happy to befriend him.

“We don’t know.” Hong Yujiao’s group shook their heads as she replied: “Young Noble Li has left much earlier. We don’t know where he went.”

Jian Xiaotie said with a little disappointment: “Oh. The venerable ancestor came out today from his cultivation, so I wanted to introduce Brother Li to him.”

“My big sis and Queen Gongsun have gone to meet His Venerableness as well.” Feilong immediately added. He spoke with an elated expression. After all, few could see the Jian Grandfather, but his big sis was eligible to visit him.

Jian Xiaotie looked at Hong Yujiao’s group and suggested with a smile: “If everyone wants to take a walk, I’ll show you the way while we wait for Brother Li to come back before making other plans.”

Hong Yujiao was quite relieved to hear this. They were worried since they weren’t familiar with the mansion.

Jian Xiaotie personally led the way and acted as a good host. Feilong and the scion also shamelessly followed them with the intention of getting closer to Hong Yujiao and Miss Lin.

It wasn’t only the two girls that disliked the duo, the other disciples from the lake felt the same way. However, they weren’t the host so they couldn’t do anything but let these two follow them.

Despite being the successor of the clan, Jian Xiaotie didn’t put on airs. He led the way while telling many interesting anecdotes from the clan, resulting in a lot of laughter.

At the same time, Feilong and the scion used this opportunity to get closer to the two girls. However, Hong Yujiao was polite yet distant towards Feilong while Miss Lin was trying to stay as far away as possible to the scion.

This annoyed the scion to no end. A sharp glint even flashed in his eyes. In his snobby mind, marrying him was Miss Lin’s blessing, but she was clearly hiding from him. He intended to teach her a lesson later on so that she would come to learn her own status!

Outside of certain forbidden locations, Xiaotie took the group to many different places. He was especially attentive towards the disciples from the lake.

They eventually passed by an ancient-styled courtyard. It had high walls so no one could see what was inside.

“Young Noble Jian, what is this place?” Zhang Baitu became curious at this fortress-like courtyard with its high walls.

Jian Xiaotie stopped and explained: “This is an old building in our clan that is normally closed and locked. I can’t enter either.”

He knew very little about this old courtyard, only that it dated back to the era of their progenitor. As for its purpose, he and the other disciples simply did not know.

Normally, this courtyard wouldn't be open to outsiders. He, as the successor, had only entered a few times. Alas, he failed to see through the mysteries inside and assumed that it was only a regular building.

"Young Noble Jian, the door is open." A lake disciple walking ahead cried out and curiously looked inside.

Jian Xiaotie was surprised to hear this and quickened his pace. Sure enough, the normally shut wooden door was actually open.

"Who opened it?" Jian Xiaotie was caught off guard and immediately went inside.

The disciples from the lake were curious and followed him.

This courtyard was not large. There was a lot of green bamboo here with their shadows swaying around. When the wind blew by, the leaves would flutter. This was a very elegant place, great for contemplation.

In the center of the courtyard was a stone table with chairs surrounding it, and on the table was a chess board. A statue was situated on one side while a person sat opposite to it. "Brother Li, why are you here?" Jian Xiaotie was surprised to see the person seated in the chair.

It was Li Qiye; he sat there quietly as if he didn't hear the question. The rest of the group saw him and didn't think that he would be here after leaving so early in the morning.

Chapter 1256: Torn Body And Crushed Bones

Li Qiye seemed to be in a trance as he didn't answer anyone.

This chess match was very messy. No one could see what kind of chess game this was because the pieces were placed outrageously, as if a little child had randomly put them there.

The statue sitting on the other side seemed to be a woman, judging by its appearance. However, the style in which it was carved was very vague, so people couldn't discern her features.

However, upon a closer inspection of its contours, it was clear that it wasn't the creator who chose to sculpt in this vague manner, it was because the woman didn't want the world to see her true appearance. It was hidden like Mount Lushan amidst the clouds.

Li Qiye remained there motionlessly, as if he had turned into stone as well.

"Brother Li, how did you get in?" Jian Xiaotie took a look around and found that no one else was here. He became quite puzzled because if the people in the clan didn't open it, outsiders shouldn't have been able to enter.

Nevertheless, Li Qiye continued to sit there, frozen. Who knows if he was enchanted by the chess match or something else. All in all, he seemed to be shut off from the rest of the world.

No one expected Li Qiye to be playing chess against a statue after leaving so early in the morning. They took a look at the messy board and didn't understand what was going on.

Miss Lin, who had a very favorable impression of him, bent down and whispered with a gentle demeanor: "Young Noble, are you okay?"

There was still no reply from the seemingly petrified Li Qiye.

The scion became jealous after seeing her gentle demeanor towards Li Qiye. His eyes turned cold as he sneered: "Hmph, it's only a statue and a dumb game, what's the point of acting all mysterious? Does he really think he's all that, using this board to comprehend the grand dao of the nine heavens? Hmph, he's just dressing up as god and playing the devil to act cool."

Miss Lin, who already hated him, became even more unhappy. She frowned in response: "Young Noble Li is deep in focus right now, who says he is pretending?"

"Hah, deep in focus?" The scion became even more jealous after hearing Miss Lin speak out for Li Qiye. He smirked and said with disdain: "That's only a broken statue. Does he need to contemplate so hard against a statue? Only a fool would need to do so. Perhaps this statue was picked up from a rubbish heap, heh, a work without any craftsmanship or art, a piece of garbage that only a fool would take seriously."

Jian Xiaotie's expression soured after hearing this, but he was a cultured person and didn't show his hostility in public.

Unfortunately, the scion was blinded by his own jealousy and didn't think too much or notice the look on Jian Xiaotie's face.

Feilong also shook his head and laughed: "Scion, you shouldn't laugh at the guy. People can be a little bit eccentric. Staring at a statue in a daze, this is nothing, only a type of mental disorder. I heard some miracle doctors can cure this illness in the Dragon Demon Sea."

Li Qiye ruined his business with Hong Yujiao time and time again, so Feilong wanted to kill him. Because of this, he naturally seized this opportunity to ridicule him.

"Mental disorder?" The scion sneered: "This is far worse than a mental disorder. It is an abnormal and perverted taste. Only an extremely wretched scoundrel would have fantasies towards such an ugly statue, only a monster would be interested in this stone abomination!"

The scion had lost his rational restraints and didn't realize that his words were offending other people. Jian Xiaotie's expression was becoming worse and worse. Prior to this, he was indifferent towards Feilong's taunting of Li Qiye. After all, that was their personal feud.

But now, the scion not only insulted Li Qiye, but also the statue. This was a great symbol in their clan, so how could Jian Xiaotie not become mad?

At this time, Li Qiye suddenly stood up and went outside.

"Oh? Did I touch a nerve? Are you too ashamed now and want to run away?" The scion guffawed and felt the joy of victory after seeing Li Qiye leaving without a word.

Feilong echoed cheerfully as well: "Looks like he is at least aware of his lowliness. Scion, you exposing his fetish left him no face to stay here any longer."

“Roll out here and accept your death lest your lowly blood stain the serenity of this place.” Li Qiye coldly uttered from outside of the ancient courtyard.

The initially angry scion became even more furious. He snorted in response: “Li, you think I’m afraid of you? The person who is about to die has yet to be determined!” With that, he rushed outside as well.

“That’s right, don’t think you can run rampant just because you are a treefather’s disciple.” Feilong snorted and darted outside.

Li Qiye was emotionless. This time around, the host, Jian Xiaotie, didn’t bother interfering. He stood there with both arms crossed in front of his chest and indifferently watched events unfold.

He was angry this time. It was already quite polite of him to not attack the scion for insulting his ancestor, let alone stopping the fight.

Li Qiye gave him a chilling glare before leisurely asking: “How do the two of you want to die?”

“So confident!” Feilong sneered and coldly responded: “Li Qiye, do you really think we are fish on the chopping block? The only reason I have yet to kill you is because Queen Gongsun has already claimed your dog life. But if you provoke me, I’ll still kill you all the same!”

“Less blabbering, come together, I will give you two the first strike.” Li Qiye was unusually cold. Those who knew him would find this whole scene very surprising and become frightened.

They knew that when he had such a cold appearance, his bloodthirst would be roused. At such a juncture, he would start killing without mercy no matter who the opponent might be.

In fact, Li Qiye viewed these two as ants, so he could turn a deaf ear to their jeering. Unfortunately, they were fatally naive and insulted the statue. After uttering those words, their fates were sealed. No one would be able to save them from certain demise.

“How arrogant!” The scion crazily laughed before stating: “Li, who the hell do you think you are? Do you really think that having a treefather for a master is that great? My ancestor was an invincible sea god! Your background is nothing in comparison!”

The Bloodshark Sovereign from their village had been recognized by the Trident, but it eventually abandoned him so he failed to become a full-fledged sea god.

Nevertheless, the village still took pride in him being accepted by the Trident and claimed that their ancestor was a sea god!

Li Qiye coldly declared without batting an eye: “Go, I shall kill the both of you with one move.”

Feilong angrily replied: “Very well, Li Qiye. The scion and I will test your skill.”

The scion took out a crimson blade with a bloody mist billowing around it. He licked his lips while his eyes revealed a bloodthirsty glint before speaking: “Little animal, my blade has not tasted blood in a long time, I’ll let it have its fill today.”

Miss Lin turned pale from shock and kindly reminded Li Qiye: “Young Noble, be careful of his blade.”

Her demeanor only further ignited the scion’s fury. He furiously screamed: “Little animal, die!”

With that, his body turned into a bloody ray as he came slashing towards Li Qiye.

A bang was followed by a snap, and then the harsh sound of bones cracking.

Everyone saw Li Qiye fling the scion straight to the ground with one hand. The ground cracked along with the scion's flesh. Li Qiye then grabbed him by the leg and continued to smash him mercilessly, causing his blood to splash everywhere.

Li Qiye was too fast and no one could even see how the scion fell into his hands. They only saw the smashing; fleshy bits began to fly alongside the blood.

At this time, these broken bits of meat were still bouncing on the ground, drenched in warm blood.

Chapter 1257: Cemetery

This scene of carnage was simply too shocking. Hong Yujiao and the disciples from the lake all felt the urge to puke.

They had heard of the phrase "torn body and crushed bones." However, they had never actually witnessed bones breaking into powder until today. This was truly the embodiment of "torn body and crushed bones."

They quivered after seeing this bloody display, only Jian Xiaotie stood there coolly. This was within his expectations.

Li Qiye lifted his head and coldly stared at Shangguan Feilong without taking action just yet.

Feilong's legs were trembling. He wasn't that much stronger than the scion. No, the scion was actually stronger than him, and yet he was annihilated in just one move. This result left him pissing his pants in horror.

"You... you... don't come over here! Don't come over here!" After seeing Li Qiye inching closer, he stumbled several steps back with a pale countenance. He was truly scared out of his mind this time.

However, Li Qiye continued to take one step after another while glaring at him.

"You... don't do anything foolish!" Feilong kept on stumbling backward while shouting: "I, I am the crown prince of Wyvern, my sister is the mistress of the Roaring Conch while my brother-in-law is the Seashield Prince. If, if you dare to touch a hair of mine, my, my sister will not spare you! My Wyvern will root out your nine clans!"

Li Qiye continued his stride without replying.

"Young Noble Jian, hurry and save me!" After noticing that Li Qiye had no intention of stopping, Feilong had to shout at Jian Xiaotie to try to grab onto him as a life-saving straw.

Jian Xiaotie wanted to say something, but after seeing Li Qiye's cold expression and determined steps, he knew that it would be a futile endeavor.

"Brother Shangguan, this is your personal feud, I'm afraid it is not my place to intervene." Jian Xiaotie realized that those who try to stop Li Qiye would only be seeking their own destruction. He didn't want to be someone else's cannon fodder.

“Stop, stop!” Feilong screamed louder as Li Qiye approached: “I, I won’t marry Hong Yujiao then! You can have her, okay?!”

In the face of death, Feilong desperately said everything he could; he would do anything just to survive.

Hong Yujiao immediately looked at him with disdain after hearing this. The disciples of the lake gave him the same glance.

Li Qiye stopped and coldly told Feilong: “I will give you a chance to attack.”

Feilong swallowed a mouthful of saliva and said: “If, if you stand still, I’ll do it.”

“Very well, I will give you a chance and stand still.” Li Qiye flatly replied while looking at the weak-legged Feilong.

Feilong went on: “You, you must keep your word and not move at all or, or else I’ll be the winner.”

Li Qiye indifferently said: “Quickly, I won’t move...”

However, Li Qiye couldn’t even finish his sentence before Feilong began to desperately run away with all of his strength. At this moment, he wished his mother had given him two more legs to allow him to flee even faster.

Li Qiye couldn’t help but shake his head disapprovingly after seeing the frantic escape. His eyes turned cold with a flash that shot out as fast as a divine arrow.

“No...” Right when the next enclosure was within his sight, Feilong suddenly felt a jolt of pain and had to scream. Next, his corpse fell to the ground with a loud thump.

Li Qiye nonchalantly murmured after killing Feilong with his glare: “Daring to cultivate with such a dao heart.”

Even the lake’s disciples looked down on him at this moment. Even though the Bloodshark Scion was loathful, at least he was still a fierce character. Feilong gave up his own marriage and showed that he would hand over his fiancée to someone else just to survive.

After disposing of the two, Li Qiye acted as if nothing had happened. He ordered Xiaotie before entering the old courtyard again: “Xiaotie, I’ll leave them to you.”

“Squeak.” After his entry, the wooden doors to the courtyard suddenly shut tight.

Xiaotie wanted to speak, but Li Qiye had already locked himself inside. In the end, he could only sigh.

A disciple from the lake said with admiration: “Young Noble Li is so powerful.”

Another one added: “He is the disciple of an ancestral tree, how could he not be powerful?”

Hong Yujiao watched as his shadow disappeared into the courtyard and lamented with a sigh as well. This person was a dragon shrouded in clouds and mists; no one could truly see through him.

Miss Lin was temporarily frozen while recalling Li Qiye’s invincible demeanor and style when he stood up for her. A long time passed before she calmed down as her face inadvertently blushed.

After going inside, Li Qiye sat down before the chess board again to look at the statue in a daze. After a while, he lamented: "The burden I feel whenever I come here has kept me from coming back for all this time, but I have to leave in this generation so let me see you one more time."

With that, he raised a chess piece and placed it down on the board again. The whole scheme of the board suddenly changed; the movement of one piece could stabilize the universe.

"Buzz!" The atmosphere of the board resembled an ocean of stars. It was vast and endless as it slowly swirled like a vortex.

Li Qiye stepped inside this starry vortex and disappeared in the blink of an eye.

When he regained his sight, he found himself in a place with beautiful mountains and rivers. In this place was the warm sunlight accompanied by a pleasant spring breeze. The sunlight was very gentle like the sweet embrace of a woman.

There was a small hillside. The entire hill was spread like a palm to hug someone. It was covered with grassy plains, and one would smell a comfortable fragrance if they were to rest here.

Two rows of treasure bamboos were planted to the left and right sides of this hill. These extremely precious trees exuded purple glows; each one was priceless.

At the same time, there was an old well on one side that emitted an ethereal mist. A purple hue could be found within, and the plumes of this mist continued to emanate throughout the entire hill. This well that was engulfed in a purple mist resembled an immortal land while its wondrous brilliance made it seem as if there was an incredible item buried at the bottom.

Upon a careful inspection, one would find a tablet within the mist-filled land. It had the appearance of an antique, indicating that it was made from the legendary Celestial Violet Stone.

It was truly extravagant to carve a tombstone out of this celestial stone. Fewer than few people in this world were able to enjoy such treatment. Not even a Godking was eligible for this grand gesture.

In Memory of Jian Wenxin — this was written on the tablet. Just these five words alone could last for an eternity. The withering of time failed to erode it.

Li Qiye was petrified while standing before the tablet. He eventually lied down on the grass in front of it.

He slowly closed his eyes as if he wanted to sleep here. Everything became incredibly quiet and peaceful — a state of gentle repose.

After a long time, he opened his eyes to look at the well as he spoke with a faint smile: "You know, when I took the dragonwell in order to bring a spirit vein to this place, the geezer from the Giant Dragon Mountain was very unhappy. After so many years, that old man is still so stingy. His greedy nature probably won't ever change."

The world remained silent. No one could talk or respond in this serenity.

"So much time has passed that I have let go of what should be let go of. I have made peace with the past." Li Qiye looked at the blue sky and chuckled: "But that girl, Hong Tian, will not let it go. She won't

admit her mistake back then and refuses to stand down. Alas, being right or wrong doesn't matter to me since I have lived for so long. Both of you did what you did for my sake."

The world remained still; no response could be found.

"Among the winding distant years, not too many people have understood me and know of my desire." Li Qiye heaved a sentimental sigh and continued: "It is a pity that you wanted an ordinary life."

"Perhaps your endless wisdom allowed you to see through the prosperity of this world. In your eyes, a mundane life was the most precious thing. After experiencing the pains in life, you wanted to pursue an ordinary happiness and hoped to have a warm home."

"Alas, I am destined to go on a long journey and you couldn't hold me back. Of course, I didn't force you to follow me into endless wars, an endless cycle of murder!" Li Qiye sighed softly.

Chapter 1258: Past Feelings

One grave and one person in a hushed world. The wind was gently blowing like a gentle hand caressing every inch of the flesh. A warm sensation accompanied its coolness, inducing a drowsy desire.

Li Qiye lied there and whispered intimately. No one knows if he was simply expressing himself or letting go of all burdens.

"The reason I didn't want to go back was not because I couldn't forget the past. That's all it is, the past." Li Qiye said with a trace of helplessness: "Whenever I come to Rainbow City, I can't help but recall your unforgettable words."

A prolonged silence ensued as Li Qiye became quite sentimental. He eventually lifted his head to look at the tombstone: "I came back in order to say goodbye. My journey this time will be full of the unknown."

"In the nine heavens and ten earths, I'm not afraid of the godfiends, emperors, or deities, not even the geezers from the Qian Clan. Sooner or later, I will trample on them all. I will massacre all those who try to stop me and even annihilate their clans completely!" Li Qiye claimed while looking at the horizon.

However, his mood soured once more: "The only uncertainty is the great war at the end of the world. No one knows what will come of this world. Perhaps my era will be everlasting... or it will be utterly destroyed. But someone needs to take this final step. I won't stop no matter what the final outcome might be. No, I can't be stopped and I won't make compromises either!"

"You told me that the heavens is too unreachable and that there is nothing bad about being a trapped ant in this world." He mournfully said: "But I will not be an ant! I can't handle being an ant! Whether it be the Immortal Demon Grotto or the end of the world, I will continue even if the path is endless!"

"Just like back then when you asked me if I wanted to stay. My answer will always be 'never'!" His eyes became determined: "In years past, some have broken my bones, some have exposed me to all kinds of suffering, some completely sealed my world and some mocked and reviled me..."

"Then there were the many who loved me, whom I loved, and those who were loyal to me... They slowly disappeared in the river of time... But whether it's my enemies, friends, or even lovers, none of them can stop me from reaching the end! I will either become eternal or mere ashes! These are the only two possible outcomes for me."

“When you asked why I didn’t indulge myself and became a happy and satisfied mortal, this is my answer. I refuse to compromise with anyone!” He became silent after stating this.

“This might be our final farewell. As for Hong Tian, it will be up to her. I don’t blame her, but if she blames me, I can’t do anything about it. Farewell, Wenxin, the one who understood me and my ambition the most.” Eventually, he gave the tombstone a deep look before leaving without turning back.

Jian Wenxin was an indelible name that would forever stay in his heart.

In that distant yet brilliant era, Empress Hong Tian had yet to ascend to her throne. There existed many apex geniuses and incredible characters. Three particular girls reigned supreme for the whole of this era; many men were completely overshadowed by them.

There was a widespread phrase during that period to describe the three ladies: Hong Tian — the Ill-starred Conqueror, Jian Wenxin — the Ocean’s Wisdom, Mu Yueli — the Immortal’s Legacy. [1. These are four-word phrases being used as adjectives, essentially secondary titles for the three. Hong Tian is considered to be unlucky or ill-fated with a bad constitution, so that’s her name. Ocean’s Wisdom used to be “as wise as the ocean”, but I like Ocean’s Wisdom more. Immortal’s Legacy used to be “as great as an immortal”, but it is what it is for the same reason above. The real meanings behind “legacy” are: 1/ physical beauty 2/ natural temperament/style/aura 3/ natural talents/constitution 4/ natural characters/morals. It’s hard to find a descriptor here that fits all of that, so legacy it is.]

Empress Hong Tian was not particularly excellent in terms of innate talents, but her ambition had no bounds. Because of this, many people mocked her for having “a will higher than the heavens and a fate thinner than paper” when she made her dao debut.

As the Dark Crow, on the day when he met this girl with that determined look in her eyes, the first thing he taught her was not a profound merit law but one sentence that would forever stay with her — can the sparrow and swallow know the will of the great swan?!

This phrase stuck with the little miss for her whole life. From then on, her name changed to Hong Tian, a name that would illuminate the eons and deter both gods and devils!

Her will was higher than the heavens, but her fate was thinner than paper. It was definitely not easy for her during that brilliant era since her ordinary talents couldn’t reach the apex compared to the other geniuses.

Nevertheless, even before such foes, she was determined to reign above the nine heavens! Such an unrealistic dream caused her to be ridiculed by countless people and made her suffer many painful hardships.

During those long years, she failed and cried. Tears and blood were spilled, but she persevered onward and made it very far with a crow as her companion.

Her life had no lack of failures. She had lost more than just once to the hands of Jian Wenxin.

This was a woman full of wisdom who had deep ties with the Dark Crow since youth. After her debut, she aimed for the Heaven’s Will and became one of the strongest rivals of Immortal Emperor Hong Tian.

With her great wisdom, she was able to scheme and strategize, much to the chagrin of the empress.

However, despite being so gifted at birth, she chose mundanity at the end of her path. Her experiences made her give up on the Heaven's Will as she chose to stay with the Dark Crow and plot for him from behind the curtains.

It could be said that the empress' unstoppable conquest, to a large extent, was to Jian Wenxin's credit from behind the scenes.

Born to be extraordinary yet choosing to be ordinary. She wanted to stay in this world and live the rest of her life as a mortal. Alas, she was still exceptional due to her boundless wisdom. After becoming an empress, Hong Tian consulted Jian Wenxin about a certain matter.

At that time, they shared the same belief. Jian Wenxin came up with a perfect plan while the empress carried it out. Because of this, the Dark Crow and the empress had a falling out.

For the empress, there was nothing more important than the Dark Crow. In this world, he was the only one who was there for her when she smiled and cried. No matter how difficult it was, his shadow would always be beside her!

The always-stubborn empress was never obstinate before him, but not this time. The two had a great quarrel and from then on they parted ways and continued on their individual paths.

Jian Wenxin had augured the mysteries of the heaven and earth and spied into its secrets in order to concoct the plan. Because of this, she wasted too much energy and arrived at her deathbed. Even with this turn of events, she wanted to have a peaceful end with the Dark Crow next to her.

After her departure from this world, Li Qiye buried her in this incredibly beautiful place. He then left to a faraway place and began his slumber.

From then on, he never stepped foot into the Jian Clan again. It was not because he blamed her for that particular event, but because he always remembered that one phrase from her.

It was because she knew him and his thoughts the best that it was difficult for him to forget those words. He finally returned in this generation and visited her grave because it might be their final farewell.

He sighed after leaving the cemetery. However, he also felt relieved for finally returning after so long. At last, he was able to say goodbye one last time.

Jian Xiaotie, who was standing guard outside of the old courtyard, immediately stood up after seeing Li Qiye coming out. He didn't dare to believe his eyes and had no words to describe his feelings.

This was because he had heard of a legend in their clan. He didn't know whether it was real or not, but he felt that he was seeing a ghost instead of Li Qiye.

Li Qiye looked at him and asked: "Is something wrong?"

Jian Xiaotie was startled and quickly regained his mind to say: "Brother Li, there is a problem. Miss Hong and Daoist Zhang have been captured by Shangguan Feiyan."

"Didn't I tell you to take good care of them?" Li Qiye frowned in response.

Jian Xiaotie wryly smiled and explained: “Brother Li, Feiyan was crazy as she searched for you. Since she couldn’t find you, she captured Miss Hong and Daoist Zhang instead. I could only do my best and stopped her from hurting them in the slightest.”

“She said that as long as you go meet her, she will let them go.” Jian Xiaotie was a bit ashamed as he continued on: “I have consulted the ancestors about this. If Feiyan doesn’t release them, they will force her to do so.”

Chapter 1259: Gathering Of Heroes

So it turned out that after Li Qiye killed Shangguan Feilong, his sister became furious and wanted to kill Li Qiye as an offering for her brother.

After she came running, Li Qiye could no longer be found, so she directed her anger towards the disciples from the lake instead. Luckily, Jian Xiaotie was there to stop her.

Nevertheless, she didn’t concede and took away Baitu and Yujiao while declaring that Li Qiye had to come and accept his death. Otherwise, she would kill these two instead.

After hearing this, Li Qiye’s eyes turned cold as he flatly said: “When it is time for blood to flow, there is no stopping it. If those girls wish to die, I’ll gladly help them.”

With that, he turned and left.

Though those words were casually spoken, the cold flash in his eyes left Jian Xiaotie quivering. He felt that he was looking at a death god that was about to kill.

A garden in the Jian Clan was being used to entertain the respected guests. At this time, there were many people here, including some of the most exceptional talents of the younger generation. There were a few experts from the previous generations as well. Some of them were even Virtuous Paragons.

Shangguan Feiyan and Gongsun Meiyu definitely stood out in this place; they were moons surrounded by stars.

Shangguan Feiyan was only second to the Seashield Prince among the geniuses at the Roaring Conch. Gongsun Meiyu was extremely famous as well, and her fame only rose after marrying the Profound Monarch.

At this feast, the elegant and enchanting Meiyu had an irresistible style. Each of her smiles and grimaces was able to sway souls. Nevertheless, no one dared to have any devious thoughts. It was suicidal to compete for the Profound Monarch’s woman.

As for Feiyan, she stood here in an arrogant and chilling manner. Naturally, her mood was quite foul after her brother was killed.

This was an occasion meant for the youths. They happily came together to talk about all kinds of events in the world.

“My Queen, I heard the monarch has come out of his isolated cultivation. When will we be graced with his presence?” Someone couldn’t help but bring up the monarch.

Many youths and even characters from the previous generation became excited after hearing this name. They all directed their attention towards Meiyu.

The Profound Monarch's fame was not empty. His title was slightly approved of by the older God-Monarchs as well.

It would be a mistake if someone were to think that he was old. In fact, he was not that much older than Gongsun Meiyu. His talents and constitution could easily be imagined due to his early accomplishments.

He came from the Profound Sea Dynasty, one of the four branches of Immortal Emperor Gu Chun.

This was the first emperor in this world, and his four branches were formed during the Desolate Era. From this, one could see how old and strong these branches were among the charming spirits.

They had produced three Immortal Emperors and one grand completion Immortal Physique. This allowed them to have an unshakable status in Heaven Spirit.

The monarch had been extremely gifted since his youth. After becoming a monarch, he came into control of the Profound Dynasty.

After hearing the question, the charming-to-the-bones Meiyu chuckled. This slight smile made others tremble uncontrollably.

She answered: "The monarch has returned to the origin. He is opening up his territory to create a kingdom in order to receive the tributes of his people."

Everyone here quivered after hearing this. The youths were full of envy and admiration. To become a True Monarch at such a young age was incredibly awe-inspiring.

There were five levels to God-Monarchs. In the mind of the older generation, only those at the True Monarch level and above were considered God-Monarchs.

For example, Feiyan was an Intermediate Monarch. However, in the eyes of the strong, she was not much at all; she was still a bit lacking before she deserved the title of God-Monarch.

Furthermore, there was a great gap between an Intermediate Monarch and a True Monarch. After reaching the true level, this monarch would have their own citizens and be able to receive tributes from them that would strengthen their blood energy.

Thus, these monarchs had an innate advantage that Intermediate Monarchs couldn't make up for. Right now, the Profound Monarch had opened up his kingdom to receive power from this new source.

"What a pity." An older paragon gently sighed: "If the monarch chose the path of the heavens, he could probably have become an Immortal Emperor to become a ruler alongside the Seashield Prince."

Many people gently nodded in agreement. Only Meiyu smiled and proudly declared: "Even if the monarch can't become an Immortal Emperor, he will definitely become something quite close to one."

No one would refute this claim because they believed the Profound Monarch was worthy of this high evaluation.

“That’s right, the charming spirits have the Profound Monarch and the sea demons have the Seashield Prince. Who else can compare to them in the contemporary?” A cultivator wanted to please Meiyu with flattery.

An old paragon nodded and praised: “Yes. The Seashield Prince has pretty much received the recognition of the Trident. After doing so, he will be able to reach the peak and become a sea god. From then on, he won’t need to fear even an Immortal Emperor any longer.”

Many people grew excited when they heard this, especially the sea demons. Their blood began to surge after the Trident was brought up. This was an inevitable reaction for those of their race.

It was the ultimate artifact of their race and completely invincible in this world. It was even better than an Immortal Emperor True Treasure, so it became the sea demons’ pride. In their eyes, even if they couldn’t shoulder the Heaven’s Will, they could still fight an Immortal Emperor as long as the wielder could handle the Trident.

A demon sect master commented emotionally: “Ever since the Lithodidae Sea God, the Trident has not appeared. Its appearance this time will herald a new supreme.” [1. Okay, Lithodidae is just King Crab. I mused through it and looked for another name, but Lithodidae seems close enough. King Crab Sea God is just too strange even though I usually refrain from using modern taxonomy for names.]

The Lithodidae Sea God was the previous sea god of their race. In the past, the trident had actually recognized the Bloodshark Sovereign. However, for some unknown reason, it abandoned him and chose the Lithodidae Sea God instead.

“In this era, we have two candidates who qualify — the Seven Seas Martial Goddess and the Seashield Prince.” A sea demon here immediately commented without thinking.

His friend immediately elbowed him and told him to be more careful with his words. This sea demon finally noticed that Feiyan was here and smiled awkwardly.

The Roaring Conch was one of the strongest sea demon lineages in this region. They had produced two sea gods in the past. However, there was another behemoth around — the Seven Martial Pavilion. It was even stronger since it had given rise to three sea gods before!

The Seashield Prince was considered the strongest prodigy among the sea demons, but the Seven Seas Goddess was just as excellent. There was even a rumor stating that she had learned all seven grand styles from the pavilion!

Meiyu only smiled after hearing this: “The prince is a supreme genius, I’m sure he will become the next sea god.”

Feiyan also coldly responded: “My senior brother can compete with any other genius in this generation. The trident shall be his alone no matter who the other competitors might be.”

Feiyan’s cold expression slightly melted after talking about her brother.

People were taken aback after hearing her evaluation. After all, she was still a monarch, yet she held him in such high regard. This was indicative of his strength.

In fact, some had heard that Feiyan gave up on the path of the heavens because she knew she was not as strong as her brother. Because of this, she trod the path of the grand era instead.

The normally aloof girl couldn't help but comment more on her senior brother: "He will not only become a sea god but also a user of a grand completion Immortal Physique. Others will only be wasting time trying to compete against him for the Trident."

Her demeanor unavoidably became one of yearning and adoration.

Another sea demon flattered: "The prince's Void Physique has been famous for a long time now. Even if the Seven Seas Goddess knows all seven styles of the pavilion, she still might not be able to contend against him."

Despite the glorified praise, many people exchanged glances filled with respect. This was because the Seashield Prince was rumored to have a half-completion Immortal Physique. Feiyan's statement today only made these rumors even more credible.

"We have many talents in the Heaven Spirit World right now. Even though no one has come out among the treants, just our Profound Monarch and Seashield Prince are enough to not be afraid of any other genius in the nine worlds when they become connected again." A young cultivator laughed after stating this.

"That's right. This will be the era of our charming spirits and sea demons. As for the human race... they aren't worth mentioning." Another echoed the sentiment.

"I heard that a human named Li Qiye has come out recently. He is quite strong as well." A reckless boy couldn't help but comment.

Chapter 1260: Divine Reflection Seductive Gaze

Many people were astounded after hearing this reckless kid. Everyone knew about the enmity between Li Qiye and Gongsun Meiyu since he killed her maid. And recently, he killed Feiyan's little brother as well.

Someone next to him gently gave him a nudge. However, this kid was too honest and continued on without realizing the situation: "Why are you pushing me? I'm just telling the truth. Rumor has it that back at the Jade Sea, Li Qiye refined billions of Teeming Fish, something that no one in history has ever dared to do before. The treants in that region are saying that he is as ferocious as a butcher. Everyone is afraid of him there."

The people standing next to him felt helpless and wanted to make some distance between him and them. They looked away as if to say that they didn't know this crazy fella.

Feiyan, who was sitting there coldly, scowled after hearing this, but she didn't act up.

Nevertheless, many still noticed her displeasure and immediately spoke: "I have heard about the blood sacrifice as well, but that's only a rumor. The real mastermind was the Peacock Tree, Li Qiye was only an errand boy carrying out instructions."

“But it was still refining an entire army of Teeming Fish.” The young boy was unrelenting: “He still dared to stand before so many of them, this speaks volume of his great courage. If it was me, I would have pissed my pants already.”

“Courage at times is only blind ignorance and arrogance.” Feiyan coldly stated: “Cultivators rely on power, ignorance will only lead to death.”

“Shut up, no more from you.” The senior of the reckless boy noticed Feiyan becoming angry and quickly slapped him.

The youth felt wronged after being scolded by his senior, but he couldn't do anything besides silently smolder with indignation.

“Haha, he's only a human, nothing much. The Heaven Spirit World belongs to us sea demons and charming spirits. A human alone can't create any winds or waves.” This senior laughed in order to smooth things out.

Gongsun Meiyu snickered and said: “He's just a junior, that's all. There is nothing to talk about. He has been presumptuous for too long and has now provoked me, so it is time for him to die!”

“Of course, of course.” Someone immediately echoed the sentiment: “A human is nothing in our Heaven Spirit World! So what if he is a tree controller? He can't amount to much. If these humans dare to oppose us sea demons, we'll just wipe them out completely. A bunch of ants daring to be so impudent before us dragons—”

“Bam!” A slap came before this sea demon could finish speaking. It sent him flying and made him vomit blood alongside some of his teeth.

“I want to see who would dare to destroy my human race.” A leisured voice came about. At this time, Li Qiye stepped into the garden and swept through the crowd with his belittling gaze.

“Li Qiye.” Many charming spirits and sea demons immediately stood up to look at him.

After seeing him, Feiyan's eyes emitted a terrifying murderous intent. Meiyu turned cold as well as she stared intensely at him.

Li Qiye gave them dismissive glances and nonchalantly said: “Hand over Zhang Baitu and Hong Yujiao.”

Feiyan's God-Monarch halos began to pulsate. She no longer hid her power as her aura ran rampant like a soaring dragon. These halos seemed to have the trajectory of stars as they shut out this area completely. The whole world turned cold before her bloodthirst.

At this time, she was showing off her strongest state, so those with shallow cultivations felt their legs trembling and had to stumble several steps back.

Even though they all knew she was a God-Monarch, it was still frightening when she emitted her God-Monarch's might!

The sea demon that was slapped by Li Qiye immediately shouted after seeing Feiyan channeling her energy: “Goddess Shangguan, kill him. Crush this human ant into meat paste, show him no mercy for opposing our race.”

His expression became twisted after being slapped flying by Li Qiye in front of everyone, causing him to lose all face.

“Boom!” Li Qiye kicked him down again, creating a deep pit with blood dyeing the paved slate.

Li Qiye demanded: “Let them go, this is your last chance.”

Feiyan’s bloodthirst surged even more, causing everyone to shiver. Her murderous intent came sweeping by, seemingly flaying the flesh off of everyone standing nearby.

Feiyan mercilessly exclaimed: “I can let them go if you kneel and kowtow to profess your crime, then commit suicide. I will use your skull as an offering to my brother in heaven and let those two go. Otherwise, not only will you suffer a fate worse than death, those around you will suffer the same way!”

“It seems that you still don’t know life from death.” Li Qiye chuckled.

“Come and accept your death!” The entire world was flipped upside down when Feiyan stepped forward. Her aura suppressed the entire garden so others couldn’t even move half a step. Some even felt the impulse to kneel.

Her aura rendered people out of breath before she even attacked. This made people exchange glances while feeling chills. Her fame as a God-Monarch was not baseless at all.

“When a God-Monarch is around, Virtuous Paragons are nothing.” Even an ordinary paragon from the previous generation had to murmur after feeling the pressure.

“Sister Shangguan, there’s no need to kill him so fast. Torture him first, let him taste the agony of betrayal and watch his friends die.” Gongsun Meiyu suddenly interjected right as Feiyan was about to attack.

With a buzz, a bright mirror emerged behind her head. Profound runes appeared right on the mirror; everything became as bright as scintillating snow, nothing could hide before its light.

“Celestial reflection...” A few people who knew about her looked at each other then quietly retreated to make some distance.

Celestial reflection was something that only charming spirits could do. People also called it divine reflection. It was extremely heaven-defying since it could solve the mysteries of the dao and understand the void as well as examine the changes of nature and sense the heaven and earth! She had cultivated this mirror-form constitution to a very high level, resulting in a technique that frightened the courage out of others.

At this time, two people walked out from a pavilion. It was Zhang Baitu and Hong Yujiao who were captured earlier. They looked sluggish as if they were puppets as they stood behind Gongsun Meiyu.

“Here are the ones you’re looking for. Unfortunately, they are my slaves now.” Meiyu’s smile was bewitching. The bright mirror behind her was even more influential as it robbed others of their will.

She viciously chuckled and continued: “Since you have killed my maid, your friends will be my new slaves. I will torture them until they choose the sweet release of death.”

Many charming spirits shuddered after seeing the two in a trance. A big shot murmured: "The Seductive Gaze of the divine reflection..."

The Seductive Gaze was Gongsun Meiyu's terrifying art. She was born with a natural aptitude to be an enchantress and cultivated her mirror into this type of gaze. She was able to bewitch and control people to freely use as her puppets.

Li Qiye grimaced after seeing the two standing behind her and coldly uttered: "You're courting death."

"Oh? Is that so?" Meiyu smiled in response: "If you fall into my hands, I will show you a fate worse than death."

With that, she smiled ominously and ordered: "You two, go kill him."

Zhang Baitu and Hong Yujiao immediately rushed out after hearing her command. They ferociously lunged for Li Qiye. Even though they weren't particularly strong, especially Zhang Baitu who was quite weak, they used everything they had in order to kill Li Qiye.

However, Li Qiye simply lowered both of his hands and immobilized the two on the spot. In the blink of an eye, his eyes shot out two rays of laws that struck their foreheads.

With the sound of something unlocking, the two of them seemed to be struck by lightning and took several steps back.

"Young Noble." Both of them woke up right away with a clear pair of eyes. Li Qiye was able to dispel their confusion without a doubt.

Li Qiye then started walking towards Gongsun Meiyu.

"Oh? You are unexpectedly capable." Meiyu was actually startled from this, but she maintained a confident appearance and revealed a seductive smile.