

EMPEROR 1271

Chapter 1271: Forced Abdication

With the banner before him, Li Qiye spoke forlornly: "An imperial legion was nothing. They were mercilessly killed after provoking the supreme prestige!"

Back in those years, the Zhang, Hong, Xu, and Lin ancestors decided to retire from the Indomitable Battalion, so he personally gave them this banner. Their descendants were allowed to hold onto this banner, the symbol of his will!

Unfortunately, after they passed away, their offspring declined one generation after another. This banner was never again raised in Heaven Spirit, it was just left in this corner as a rotting piece of tribute.

The youths felt their blood churn while clenching their fists. They wondered when their lake would be able to relive their old might and glory.

"What a shame, this banner can't shake Heaven Spirit with its gallant dance on the battlefield anymore." Li Qiye gently sighed.

Hong Yujiao's group became dejected as well after comparing the old prestige to the dysfunctional power grabbing situation in the present.

"One day, our ancestors' war banner will flutter again!" Hong Yujiao clenched her fist after making this claim.

Li Qiye only smiled and didn't say anything. He slowly sat down on the big chair in the middle, situated higher than the rest of the chamber.

For some odd reason, the others didn't feel that this was out of place at all. It seemed as if the chair was created just for him. Him sitting there was a natural occurrence.

"Squeak." At this time, the door to the chamber was opened. Some elders walked in, followed by protectors and supervisors.

After entering, this group darted their eyes at Hong Tianzhu and then Li Qiye, who was sitting in the main chair. They quickly exchanged glances.

They went and sat down in their own seats. One elder looked at Tianzhu and spoke after a short contemplation: "Sect Master, why have you dragged an outsider to this place?"

"Drag?" Tianzhu took a deep breath and coldly answered: "Even if Young Noble Li is an outsider, what about Yujiao and the others? How did the ancestors treat them? Their most important life decision was decided in secrecy. It is one thing to betroth them to humans, but why are we sending off our most excellent bloodlines to be used as incubators for the sea demons!"

"Wyvern and the Bloodshark Village have always harbored malicious intentions towards us. They are hungry tigers and bloodthirsty sharks that prowl our lake. Sooner or later, they will try to divide us. Marrying our own blood to them is simply inviting wolves to our home!" Hong Tianzhu harshly scolded the elders and the others.

For him, today was the day that he would break all pretenses with them. He abandoned caution and chose to go all out, even if the situation was unfavorable!

“Everything in Dongting is decided by us old men. We have our own reasons.” A cold voice sounded at this time.

Powerful auras came in one by one; gray-haired old men filed inside. Despite their old age, their eyes flashed with shudder-inducing glints.

The lower-tiered members didn’t dare to say anything after these old men arrived since they were only juniors in the hierarchy. The old men were all ancestors of the lake from the great clans, aside from the Zhang who had left in the past.

The ancestors here were at the paragon level. Their power was enough to suppress all the juniors here, so they had complete control of Dongting Lake.

Because of this, even if the juniors disagreed with them, there was nothing they could do to resist.

The ancestors’ flashing gazes swept by the crowd. When they saw Li Qiye in the high chair, they scowled. One of them coldly said: “It is good that you are here!”

They knew who Li Qiye was without a doubt.

“Tianzhu, since you want a trial, we shall give you a trial!” A Xu Ancestor began: “You colluded with an outsider and indiscriminately killed the innocent, leading to creating powerful enemies for our lake and causing a great disaster for us all. On the basis of these crimes, we hereby remove you from your position as the sect master!”

Tianzhu powerfully retorted against these accusations: “Ancestor, even if we assume that I am colluding with an outsider, at the very least, he is still a human! Ancestors, ask yourselves, are you not inviting wolves to our home? Against the wishes of your own disciples, you all chose to betroth them to the sea demons, our most excellent bloodlines at that! What kind of crime is this compared to mine?!”

“Ancestors, it is better to be direct and frank from the start, so I’ll speak.” Hong Tianzhu sneered: “The disciples of the lake aren’t properties of the clans. They are the resources of our lake. Each of them belongs to the lake, not any individual clan! They follow the laws of the lake and not the will of any ancestor who wants to influence the fate of the lake!”

“I am not the one violating the iron creeds of our lake, it is all of you ancestors!” He continued on: “So the first to be removed from your positions should be you, not me.”

“If the lake wants to oust me, fine, I have no problems with this. As long as everyone follows our creeds, remove the ancestors first, then remove me as well!” Tianzhu had decisively and completely sided against the ancestors since he had made up his mind prior to this.

An ancestor shouted: “How impudent, you unfilial brat!”

“Tianzhu, you have crossed the line.” Even an ancestor of the Hong Clan deepened his tone: “Marrying Yujiao to Wyvern is for the sake of an alliance. Is there a better union than this? It will give us another ally.”

Tianzhu responded with a deep breath: “Ancestor, you are my senior, so I should respect you. However, what you have done in this matter leaves the hearts of myself and that of our disciples cold! Don’t be bringing up the lake with such cliché excuses. If you want to berate me, then take out the agreements that you have with Wyvern and Shangguan Feiyan. Show it to all of us disciples.”

Tianzhu gazed at his own clan’s ancestor and said: “Ancestor, don’t think that I don’t know about your selfish motives for these unions! Don’t tell me that you ancestors didn’t ask for longevity pills from the Roaring Conch with Feiyan as the middleman.”

“This so-called union for allies is only a guise for your own sake, for the pills from the Roaring Conch! In order to live longer, you don’t give a damn about the lives of your disciples! They are only objects to trade, mere cattle in your eyes!”

The Hong ancestor’s embarrassment turned into fury as he cried out: “Enough, Tianzhu, this is not only disrespectful, you are also betraying your ancestors! It is a capital offense!”

“I agree that I am being disrespectful, but as for betrayal? I, Hong Tianzhu, can use my true fate to swear that if I am betraying my ancestors, lightning shall condemn me to eternal damnation!” Tianzhu angrily shouted back: “There, now, dear ancestors, do you all dare to pat your chests proudly and swear that you haven’t betrayed your ancestors? Who are the ones who have abandoned our laws and creeds?! Who betrayed the ancestral teachings?! I was not the one to do so, take a moment to reflect on who the real traitors are!”

Hong Tianzhu’s rage was at its limit. He had thoroughly lost all vestiges of faith in these ancestors after he found out that they wanted to hand him over to Wyvern. They were only working for their own benefits with wanton regard for the lives of their disciples!

Several ancestors were tongue-tied and unwilling to face this topic. Meanwhile, the elders, protectors, and supervisors didn’t dare to interject.

“Tianzhu, as long as you recognize your mistakes and apologize to us and ask for forgiveness from Wyvern and Bloodshark Village, I’m certain they will forgive your misdeeds.” An even older ancestor from the Hong Clan with a higher position spoke austerely.

“Ask for forgiveness?” Tianzhu snorted: “Ancestors, I’m already standing here today, there is no chance I would beg the enemies for mercy! I can accept being tried and admit my mistakes and incompetence to the old forefathers, but don’t even think about making me apologize to the enemies!”

“I was born in Dongting Lake and I shall die a ghost in Dongting Lake. Behead me if I was wrong, I shall die without uttering a single complaint! But if you ancestors must act so servile towards those two powers, then go ahead, take my head and hand it to them!”

Chapter 1272: Drawn Swords and Bent Bows

His speech silenced the entire chamber. None of the members here wanted to talk.

As for the ancestors themselves, they didn’t think Tianzhu would suddenly act so tough and openly revolt against them by challenging their authority.

“You traitorous disciple, daring to bluster like this!” A Lin Ancestor shouted: “Go, tie this traitor up and punish him.”

No one moved after this command came out. All the elders, protectors, and supervisors remained still.

“First Elder, what are you waiting for, go capture this traitor.” The ancestor raised his voice.

Among the section for elders, one elder looked at the Lin Ancestor and Tianzhu before answering with apprehension: “Ancestor... about this...”

In fact, no one wanted to take action in this matter. Capturing Hong Tianzhu was one thing, but handing his head over to Wyvern was something no one wanted to do.

Not to mention that cutting off the head of their sect master and giving it to their enemies was an act that would cause their lake to never be able to lift its head again, none of the members here wanted to bear this infamy.

Whoever cut off Tianzhu’s head would be recorded in the annals of history. Strictly speaking, Tianzhu didn’t quite violate any laws from the lake. Under such circumstances, the one who decapitates him would be remembered and reviled by the future generations for an eternity.

Thus, who would be willing to carry out the order of these ancestors? The members here weren’t fools. The ancestors were willing to kill Tianzhu for their own gains — this meant that no matter who became the next sect master, their head could fall if they went against the interests of the ancestors in the future as well.

These ancestors were in control at this moment, so they used the lake’s resources as their own. The members needed someone who could contain the ancestors so that they wouldn’t be able to do as they please, so that they can’t sacrifice the lake for personal gain.

Tianzhu’s upheaval was a good beginning. If he could accomplish his goals today, then the juniors from the lake could stop the ancestors from their dictatorial nature later on.

However, if Tianzhu were to be killed today, the lake would completely belong to the ancestors and they would become mere pawns. The regulations and laws of the lake wouldn’t be able to stop these ancestors any longer.

“All of you want to rebel as well?” The Lin Ancestor shouted after seeing the First Elder staying still.

Li Qiye commented out of nowhere at this time: “At least Dongting Lake can still be saved with some people who can see the big picture. They understand that the lake doesn’t belong to you.”

The Lin Ancestor furiously shouted: “Shut up, junior, we’ll deal with you in a second—”

In a flash, Li Qiye disappeared. Before the ancestor could finish his words, he was sent flying from Li Qiye’s punch while spurting blood. He didn’t even have the chance to stand before Li Qiye had him by the neck.

“Junior, don’t be crazy!” A different ancestor from the Lin Clan instantly stood up and screamed, but he didn’t dare to do anything while his peer was in Li Qiye’s grasp.

The ancestor in his clasp cried out: “Junior, if you, you even dare to hurt half a hair of mine, don’t even think about leaving the lake alive.”

“I could have spared your life out of consideration for your ancestors. Unfortunately, you are too stupid.” Li Qiye glared at this ancestor.

“Crack!” He easily crushed his neck then threw the corpse to the side like trash.

All this happened incredibly quickly. The other ancestors could only watch the death of their fellow ancestor.

When their minds returned, Li Qiye was already back in the high chair. In an instant, all the ancestors from the clans surrounded him.

A Hong ancestor sternly stated: “Junior, you think you can do whatever you want just because we want to capture you alive?”

A Xu ancestor exclaimed: “Capture and hand him over to Miss Shangguan!”

Li Qiye glared at these ancestors and spoke with contempt: “Just a bunch of Virtuous Paragons, yet you dare to bluster in front of me? Are you all too stupid to gather information? Shangguan Feiyan is a God-Monarch, yet I took her down with one fist. What can any of you do?”

The ancestors shuddered after hearing this. They exchanged glances and immediately took out their best weapons. The group was still eager to try with an imposing momentum.

A Lin ancestor retorted: “Junior, even if you are powerful, don’t forget that this is Dongting Lake. Since you’re here, don’t even think about leaving.”

They weren’t willing to back down at this moment since their lake still had an ace up its sleeve. Their great formation was still dormant; once they activated it, they would be able to trap a powerful God-Monarch like Li Qiye.

Li Qiye coldly declared: “If you had half this courage when facing the enemies outside, your Dongting Lake wouldn’t have been reduced to this pathetic state of bending over and scraping for favors. Only a bunch of idiots who can only bully their own nest. Very well, I will massacre all of you today and eradicate your ancestors’ unfilial descendants in their stead.”

Hong Tianzhu’s heart skipped a beat after hearing this. He quickly interjected: “Young Noble Li, please show mercy.”

Even though he was going against the ancestors, he never thought about killing all of them. After all, they were still his seniors. It would be a huge sin if he was part of the reason why they were all killed.

Li Qiye dismissively countered: “They’re just a group of fools, leaving them behind will only cause more trouble for the lake.” His eyes revealed a murderous glint.

The ancestors’ hearts jumped after seeing the terrifying murderous glint in Li Qiye’s eyes. They received a wake-up call of just who they were dealing with and immediately cried: “We beseech the Virtuous Ancestors.”

“Such arrogant words!” A heartless voice emerged. It had a hint of stateliness that prevented others from resisting.

At this time, four old men were carried inside. They were sitting on big chairs with tiger fur linings. They were extremely hoary and gave off the feeling of death. Their eyes were half closed; it was as if the moment they closed them completely, they would bid farewell to this world.

Moreover, their blood energies were essentially non-existent. Nevertheless, their half-closed eyes still emitted flashes as sharp as swords capable of tearing through all things.

“Virtuous Ancestors!” Hong Tianzhu was completely shocked after seeing the four ancestors and had to take a step back to calm himself. The other members were astonished as well and bowed their heads.

These four were the strongest ancestors that currently presided over Dongting Lake and had been living reclusively. They were also the ones behind the old reformation that abandoned the old creeds and unions. In the end, they forced the Zhang Clan away and divided all the properties of the lake.

Even though they rarely showed themselves, the direction of the lake was entirely under their control. All of the ancestors here were either their disciples or direct descendants. It could even be said that in order to prolong their lives, they kept a vast amount of resources from the lake for themselves.

The ancestors made way for the four old men. They quickly formed a formation to surround Li Qiye.

At this moment, no one dared to say anything. The elders and protectors dared to challenge the other ancestors, but they lost their courage in front of these four Virtuous Ancestors.

Some of the elders who were privy to past information were even more fearful of these four ancestors. They were aware of the four’s cruelty. Any disobedience would result in either banishment or house arrest. Nothing good would come from opposing them.

Hong Tianzhu’s face paled; he secretly winked at Li Qiye to let him know how bad the situation had become.

“First, capture that traitor Tianzhu.” The four ancestors didn’t bother glancing at Tianzhu. They had absolute power and controlled the life and death of the lake’s disciples.

A younger ancestor immediately came closer to capture him. At this time, Hong Tianzhu could only stand there with an austere demeanor. He knew that resistance would be futile due to his lack of strength.

Chapter 1273: Spirits Of The Ancestors

An ancestor shouted at Hong Tianzhu: “Traitor, surrender now!”

Tianzhu instinctively stumbled back and shouted as well: “Young Noble Li, go!” He became desperate the moment the four Virtuous Ancestors showed up. There were no chips he could use to bargain against them.

“Get down!” Li Qiye’s eyes focused as he chanted an oppressive mantra.

“Boom!” The ancestor that wanted to capture Tianzhu lost control of his body. He was struck by Li Qiye’s spell and was forced several steps back.

The four Virtuous Ancestors turned serious after seeing the mantra Li Qiye chanted. They immediately opened their eyes completely. The sharpness of their vision painfully scraped others’ skin.

“Junior, you are indeed strong.” One of them coldly uttered: “But you are wrong about one thing. Our Dongting Lake might be willing to negotiate for peace with others, but this does not mean we are weak!”

“I understand.” Li Qiye chuckled: “You want to use Wyvern to suck up to the Roaring Conch like a dog in order to obtain longevity pills from them. This is throwing away all the face of your ancestors, no, you descendants are spitting on your ancestors’ faces.”

“Little animal, you can keep running your mouth.” A different ancestor sneered: “We’ll sever your limbs and muscles before handing you over to Miss Shangguan.”

With that, all four took out their weapons. Their expressions became quite solemn and ruthless afterward.

These four weapons were quite old; their spots and scars spoke volumes of the many battles they had seen. The ancestor’s battle intents surged with the appearance of the weapons, like a battle horn riling up the mighty cavalry.

In a short amount of time, a ferocious bloodthirst filled the entire chamber like a true dragon entering the sea, a thirsty tiger leaving the mountain or a direwolf leaving its cage. The four weapons’ will to kill was unstoppable. They could destroy everything standing in their way!

“The forefathers’ weapons.” The members here were dazed at the sight of these ancient weapons and retreated. There was a sense of reverence in their eyes.

“Junior, accept your defeat.” The four ancestors revealed menacing smiles. They shouted at the same time and attacked with their weapons. It was the start of a great formation!

They had confidence that the moment this formation was formed, they could even stop a Godking, let alone a young junior.

“Whoosh!” However, before the four weapons could suppress Li Qiye, he slammed both hands down on his chair and an order writ came flying towards the banner on the wall. The fox on it seemed to be coming back to life.

In this split second, the four weapons continued to fly towards Li Qiye, but not to attack him. They jumped to him as if they had just seen a family member.

An incredible thing happened. The weapons floated above his head in a very happy manner, like singing skylarks.

The four ancestors were aghast before this scene. These weapons had always been in their possession. After abandoning the iron creeds, they had gained full control of the weapons until today.

“Return!” The four recalled the weapons in unison. However, there was no reaction. The weapons continued to float above Li Qiye.

“Start!” The four didn’t give up and didn’t mind using their own longevity blood to amplify their summons. Alas, it was still useless.

“Impossible!” This spectacle left everyone speechless. Their lake’s weapons were being controlled by an outsider. However, how could they possibly know that these weapons were personally created by Li Qiye who then handed them down to the forefathers of the Hong, Zhang, Xu and Lin Clans? Who in this world could understand these weapons more than their own creator?

“The four weapons of the Indomitable Battalion belong to everyone, they’re not the personal properties of you fools.” Li Qiye coldly uttered: “Your foolishness has ruined your ancestors’ prestige and glory. Today, on their behalf, I sentence you to death!”

While issuing large explosions, the four weapons immediately attacked the four Virtuous Ancestors; all of them were aghast. They took out their own strongest weapons in order to resist the assault.

“Boom!” Another loud blast resounded. The four ancestors were forced to take several steps back. They were indeed powerful and stopped one attack from these ancient weapons.

Li Qiye shouted: “Where are my generals of the Indomitable Battalion?!” At this time, the crow on the back of the seat suddenly came back to life. It spread its wings and covered Li Qiye completely while flying above him.

This was initially a carved image of a crow, but it suddenly came back to life. It poured down one holy, untouchable law after another.

“Splash!” The part of the lake that faced the chamber had bubbles and waves everywhere. Four sturdy figures emerged from the lake.

These four came into the chamber. They were made from the lake water, so they were sparkling and translucent.

The crowd became astonished the moment they saw the faces of these figures made from water. One person glanced at the portraits along the wall and screamed: “Ancestors!”

Though there were many portraits on the walls, the paintings of these four were bigger than the others. Without a doubt, their status was much higher as well.

At this time, the members here found four particular portraits that matched these figures. They were the first forefathers of the Lin, Zhang, Xu, and Hong Clans!

“Our ancestors’ spirits!” Hong Tianzhu shouted while recalling what Li Qiye had said before. He quickly prostrated on the ground, bowing his head.

This scene was too shocking. Their oldest forefathers suddenly appeared in spiritual form. All the ancestors and lower-ranking members were scared out of their minds. They never thought that such a day would come.

“Ancestors...” After seeing Tianzhu kneeling on the ground, the other elders and protectors quickly followed suit.

“Unfilial bastards!” The four men made of water released a shout that shook the mountains and rivers. They were existences that had once swept through the world. All the ancestors here shivered in the face of the pressure they let off.

The four Virtuous Ancestors turned pale and turned to flee. They had abandoned the iron creeds and the union — this was a clear violation of the ancestral teachings. They had a guilty conscience, so the appearance of these spirits made their souls fly away and scatter from fear. All they wanted to do was to get the hell out of this place.

However, these water figures wouldn’t let them escape so easily. They casually reached out and the four weapons fell into their hands. This heralded the coming of four godly generals.

“Boom!” The weapons mercilessly suppressed this entire area and set off a monstrous battle aura.

“No...” The four Virtuous Ancestors had already lost their will to fight and couldn’t react in time. All four were swiftly suppressed by these weapons.

The water figures threw these suppressed ancestors down before Li Qiye.

Li Qiye stared and coldly uttered at the four Virtuous Ancestors on the ground: “The Dongting Lake of today and the Indomitable Battalion of past, what is the judgment in accordance to the iron creeds?”

The four water figures mercilessly replied: “Death!” At the same time, all the portals on the walls lit up. Every single one of them exuded an invincible battle aura. Ruthless laws emerged from these paintings, the symbols of their honest and incorruptible creeds within a martial order.

“Kneel!” Li Qiye’s eyes turned cold. The crow above his head exuded a supreme divine aura. It seemed like an eternal existence was coming back to life. This crow proceeded to glare at everyone present. At this time, Li Qiye’s words represented an untouchable will.

“Bang!” The four water figures kicked the ancestors, forcing them to kneel on the ground.

“Kneel!” Li Qiye shifted his attention towards the other ancestors from the great clans. At this time, all the elders and protectors were already prostrating while these ancestors were trembling with fear.

After seeing his cold glare and the iron creeds within the portraits, they didn’t dare to resist and immediately kneeled on the ground.

Li Qiye declared: “Abandoning the iron creeds, shattering the union, violating the ancestral teachings, what should the punishment be?”

“Clank! Clank! Clank!” Metallic reverberations came about. The iron creeds within the portraits intertwined to form a tiger tally with the word “death” on top of it.

Chapter 1274: Suppression

Everyone present trembled before the iron creeds. At this time, they understood the real meaning behind the creed. This was a real entity meant for rewards and punishments, it wasn’t just a concept.

“Kill.” Li Qiye mercilessly declared the fate of the four Virtuous Ancestors.

Four water swords protruded from the water figures’ hands. They raised these swords and cut down at the same time.

“Pluff!” The Virtuous Ancestors’ heads fell to the ground. Blood rushed out from their necks and dyed the chamber red.

All the ancestors here trembled when they saw the rolling heads. Their arrogance from earlier disappeared right away. Even their Virtuous Ancestors were killed, and they were not much in comparison.

Li Qiye sat back in his high chair and coldly swept through everyone with his piercing eyes. Everyone was now kneeling while feeling a fearful chill, Hong Tianzhu included.

They finally understood what a supreme authority was. This was the true suppression of the nine heavens. The moment the Dark Crow spread its wings, the entire world would be blotted out. Billions of existences would begin to tremble.

Li Qiye questioned them: “Before your forefathers and the iron creeds, do you confess your sins or do their spirits have to force you?”

The four water figures came forth emotionlessly. Even before their descendants, they were as cold and ruthless as ever. Each took over a corner with their sword raised. Even though these blades were made out of water, they were still flashing with bloodthirst. These were god-slaying weapons.

The ancestors here were aghast when the spirits of their ancestors blocked the four directions. They understood that if they tried to escape, these spirits would show no mercy in striking them down.

“I, I confess my sins.” A Hong ancestor realized that the situation was no longer salvageable. Struggling any further would be futile and suicidal, so he dropped flat to the ground and said: “I am guilty and willing to accept the punishment of the iron creed.”

“I, I confess as well.” With someone taking the lead, the rest of the ancestors eventually bowed on the ground, no longer daring to resist. People all valued their lives. In their eyes, a clean and honorable death was no match for a borrowed life.

“Very well, the capital punishment can be forgiven, but judgment must be delivered.” Li Qiye coldly uttered: “In accordance to the iron creeds, they shall be punished for their gravest sin. Their sentence shall be banishment to the detention precipice. Their lives shall be spared so that they can serve the lake in the future.”

“Clank, clank, clank!” Iron laws flew out from the portraits and instantly nailed themselves into the bodies of these ancestors. They then dragged these ancestors away without meeting any resistance.

The iron creeds were the vows of their forefathers and all the brothers in the Indomitable Battalion. These laws contained their unbendable will and heroism. To resist these iron laws was tantamount to resisting the entire battalion.

In the past, these newer ancestors chose to abandon the creeds. Not only did they stop passing down its teachings, they made decisions in secret instead of debating using this chamber. In the end, they didn't have the ability to destroy the creeds themselves.

The lower-tier members were continuously shivering while watching their ancestors being dragged away. Even Hong Tianzhu was startled.

They had heard about the iron creeds in the past despite their ancestors' unwillingness to talk about this subject. However, they thought that the creeds were only a written set of rules like the ancestral teachings. They didn't expect it to have such power.

They finally realized why the Virtuous Ancestors chose to abandon the creeds and stopped debating in this grand chamber. So it turned out that these four were afraid of the creeds.

It all became clear now. If everything was carried out in accordance with the creeds, the clans could only carry out their own responsibilities without taking advantage of the lake. There was no way of imposing their will on the laws and direction of the lake.

Li Qiye coldly declared: "I don't care how many resources and docks your clans have occupied. From today on, the iron creeds are in effect again. I will give you one year to complete this process. The violators shall be at the mercy of the creeds."

Hong Tianzhu was the first to agree to the re-implementation of their old legacy. He prostrated on the ground and quickly declared: "I shall obey the iron creeds."

"We also agree." The others quickly did the same and stated their willingness. In their eyes, even the ancestors were powerless to stop this, let alone them.

Li Qiye flatly said: "Very well, I am here today to represent your forefathers in order to clean up this mess, but ultimately, the authority of the lake still belongs to all of you. The fate of the lake is within your grasp."

The crow floating above him returned to the chair while the portraits on the wall turned still once more after the iron creeds slowly went back inside them. The four water figures also returned to the lake.

"We respectfully bid farewell to the ancestors." Hong Tianzhu thought about a legend after seeing the features of these figures that were completely identical to the portraits on the wall. He bowed his head once more to the spirits.

"Farewell, Venerable Ancestors." The others did the same. They understood that the spirits of their ancestors had always been within the lake.

"I come bearing news!" After the four water figures left, a disciple hastily rushed in. When he saw the scene within the chamber, he was at a loss for words.

While still in his chair, Li Qiye spoke in an aloof manner: "What's the matter, speak."

A stranger sitting in the main seat of the chamber was a very strange event. However, this disciple uncontrollably answered: "Wyvern and the Bloodshark Village have declared war. They demand an answer within forty-five minutes or else they'll begin the siege." [1. The raw is three-quarters of an hour.]

Li Qiye sneered: "Naive fools. Very well, today, everyone in the Dragon Demon Sea shall open their eyes to witness the true might of Dongting Lake!"

"With the exception of the elders and protectors who need to maintain their posts, everyone else follow me. It is time for all of you to see the invincible prestige of your ancestors, their style as they swept through the nine worlds. Be ready to engrave it in your minds." With that, he stood up and went outside.

Outside of those who had to return to their posts, the rest followed Li Qiye outside. The great armies of Wyvern and the Bloodshark Village were surrounding the lake. They had made preparations to attack with both the village master and the King of Wyvern boosting their morale. They awaited the order to attack.

The disciples from the lake guarding the checkpoints were quite nervous. They didn't know whether the lake could withstand this looming disaster. Many great powers and cultivators from all over the seas eagerly watched. Some just wanted to have some fun while others aimed to take advantage of the situation.

Shangguan Feiyan rose to the sky and declared: "Forty-five minutes have passed. Elders, if you don't give us a reply, don't blame us for attacking your lake."

"I'll give you a response right now." A dismissive voice came about. Someone was floating above the lake's sky with Hong Tianzhu's group right behind them.

"Li Qiye!" Shangguan Feiyan immediately became aggressive. Her eyes turned red upon seeing her enemy again!

"It's Li Qiye." The others watching from the horizon were surprised to see Hong Tianzhu together with Li Qiye.

Shangguan Feiyan angrily blurted: "Li, you actually dared to linger here?"

Li Qiye only smiled in response: "Why not? You think you are a threat to me? You're just a loser who lost to me before."

"You!" Feiyan had no retort to this nonchalant statement. Meanwhile, the others exchanged glances. Even though some thought that she lost due to her own carelessness, this was an irrefutable truth.

She took a deep breath and said: "Li, someone else will take care of you. I am talking to the lake right now."

With that, she shifted her gaze towards Hong Tianzhu and coldly said: "Hong Tianzhu, where are your ancestors? They have agreed to hand Li Qiye over, this is the condition for surrender."

So it turned out that the ancestors from the lake had already finished negotiating with Feiyan on the conditions of surrender the moment she gathered her troops here.

Chapter 1275: Bloodshark Sovereign

Hong Tianzhu was unperturbed while standing behind Li Qiye. He flatly replied: "Miss Shangguan, Young Noble Li is our lake's plenipotentiary. If you wish to talk, you can talk with him."

“A plenipotentiary?” Not only were the spectators surprised, even the guarding disciples of the lake were caught off guard.

Such a large lineage like the lake actually gave complete authority to someone this suddenly. Moreover, it was under duress. How could people not be shocked by this development?

The disciples from the lake didn't even know who Li Qiye was, let alone understand him.

Feiyan's expression changed after hearing this as well. She didn't expect this reversal.

She coldly uttered: “Tianzhu, you should think twice. This is an existential crisis for your Dongting Lake!”

Li Qiye smiled in response before Tianzhu could answer: “There's no need to waste time. Didn't you want to talk? Go ahead, I am a very open-minded person. Say what you want.”

Judging from the lack of response from Tianzhu and the other elders, Feiyan knew that the lake was on Li Qiye's side.

In spite of this, she still thought that she had a strong card up her sleeve, so she was full of confidence: “Li Qiye, if you want to save the lake, first kneel and confess your sins, I will be the judge. Second, the lake must hand over fifty female disciples with excellent bloodlines to become our incubators. Third, Wyvern and the Bloodshark Village will station troops at the lake. Only when these three conditions are satisfied will we withdraw our troops.”

A disciple blurted out: “Bullshit!” No one with a sliver of pride would ever accept such conditions.

This was a great humiliation to their lake. If they were to agree to these demands, they would never be able to lift their heads up again. This was an indelible shame.

The cultivators nearby secretly shook their heads. These conditions were too outrageous. No lineage would agree to them.

“And if we refuse?” Li Qiye didn't become angry. Instead, he gently smiled.

Feiyan's eyes turned serious, just like her tone: “If you refuse, well, it won't be up to you. We'll capture you and flay your skin before ripping out your tendons! As for the lake, we will trample it, kill all the men and enslave the women!”

This remark definitely didn't win over the disciples from the lake. They became even more furious.

A disciple angrily shouted: “We'll fight to the end!”

“Yes! Fight to the end!” Many echoed the sentiment with blaring roars towards Feiyan.

Li Qiye remained calm and faintly smiled: “Do you want to hear my opinion? It is very simple, you will be the one to kneel and present your head as an apology. Second, all the disciples from Wyvern and the Bloodshark Village must surrender to my whim. If you can agree to this, then I will only kill your ancestors and elders while sparing the others. If not, then it will be even simpler. I shall massacre Wyvern and the village and trample through your ancestral grounds, turning everything to ashes. Your lineages shall be no more in the Dragon Demon Sea from tomorrow onward.”

Such outrageous words shocked everyone present. One person among the spectators commented: "That's an incredible response."

Gongsun Meiyu's death had shown everyone that Li Qiye was strong, but it was a bit ridiculous to declare the destruction of two great powers.

"Senior Sister, give the order, let us kill this little animal!" The disciples from wyvern were enraged and primed to fight.

Feiyan's expression was as cold as ice as she replied: "You'll defeat us with just your empty words?"

"Why not?" Li Qiye dismissively said: "A loser like you isn't qualified to negotiate with me."

This repetitive retort left her face red. It was too great of a blow to her; the only way she could erase this disgrace was to kill him.

"Hahaha, such blustering. I have traveled across the four seas, yet I still haven't heard of someone declare that they would destroy my Bloodshark Village." While Feiyan had yet to respond, a gloomy voice came about instead.

In this great army of one hundred thousand soldiers, an old man was being carried out. He was seated on a great throne and had an imperious temperament.

People finally noticed his great stature when he slowly stood up. They felt much smaller after seeing his full size.

However, his physical prowess was not the only reason why others felt insignificant before him. He exuded a divine aura that made him seem as if he was untouchable, like a god overlooking all creation.

An old paragon recognized his identity and shouted: "Bloodshark Sovereign!"

"Bloodshark Sovereign!" Even the younger ones who had never seen him before had heard of his fame. They became quite frightened due to his notoriety.

Hong Tianzhu's group took a step back in astonishment.

"He is a heaven-defying expert that had the chance to become a sea god back then." Older paragons stared at him in awe.

This was a preeminent character during the last generation, someone accepted by the Trident. His fame was at an all-time high during that period because everyone in Heaven Spirit assumed that he would be the next sea god.

However, for some reason, the Trident left him later on and accepted a different sea demon as its master. That sea demon later became the Lithodidae Sea God!

Despite being abandoned, the sovereign still reached the top to become one of the most powerful demons of his time.

Today, his personal arrival left everyone gasping. They understood now that Wyvern and the village had no intentions of peacefully resolving the issue with the lake. Its destruction was their primary goal.

Some sea demons became quite excited and muttered: "I'm afraid the lake will become ashes the moment the sovereign takes action."

"Feiyan is quite influential, to actually be able to tempt even the sovereign." Some now realized why Feiyan was this confident. With a hidden card like the sovereign, victory was certain.

The atmosphere turned tense to the extreme. The lake's disciples went pale after seeing the famous sovereign. Despair reared its ugly head in their hearts since their lake was facing probable destruction.

Outside of the battlefield on the distant horizon, many powerful charming spirit ancestors watched everything play out. In this region, charming spirits didn't want to mingle with sea demons, especially those at the ancestor level.

This ancestor from an ancient lineage with astral eyes murmured: "That devil Bloodshark wants to take action, I wonder if the lake's real power is still there or not."

A disciple next to him curiously asked: "What do you mean?"

In the eyes of many youths and even the previous generation cultivators, Dongting Lake could be considered a great power, but it couldn't compare to actual first-rate sects.

"It is an ancient legend that I have only heard of." The ancestor explained: "The tales speak of the lake's incredible ancestors that once contributed to an invincible legion. Our own ancestors have said that their ancestors left behind an incomparable protection for their descendants."

This was the first time this junior had heard of this legend, so he skeptically replied: "Really?"

"Most likely." The ancestor continued: "The lake is a coveted treasure ground. If they didn't have this protection, others would have destroyed it already, there wouldn't be any need to wait till today."

Back on the battlefield, the atmosphere was quite solemn. The disciples from the lake all felt a cold chill and thought that they wouldn't be able to escape this disaster.

"Haha, it seems like disappearing for a single generation has made the youths much more arrogant." The sovereign coldly stared at Li Qiye: "You must be tired of living to bluster about destroying my village when I am still around."

No one found his words unreasonable due to his established prestige.

Chapter 1276: Indomitable Battalion

The fearful crowd didn't dare to oppose the burly Bloodshark Sovereign. Even though he failed to become a sea god, he was still frightening all the same.

"Just a fake god, yet you still dare to spout your nonsense here?" Li Qiye nonchalantly cast a glance at the sovereign: "Not to mention a pretender like you, even if a true god came, I would still nail him to death."

Everyone was stunned after hearing this. God-slaying was what came out of Li Qiye's mouth. Perhaps in the entire world, no one would be able to do this, let alone someone from the younger generation.

The Bloodshark Sovereign's expression soured. As a very powerful sea demon, the world had always been respectful to him even before he came out. But now, when his true body was here, a junior showing such public disdain left him without any face.

"Naive fool." He turned scarily stern while a murderous bloodthirst surged from his glare like two great rivers of stars. It made the whole region tremble.

Living beings shuddered before his current mood. His chilling voice echoed across the world: "Today, I shall cut you down and crush this lake. From today on, Dongting Lake will be no more."

"Boom!" A boundless vitality gushed out of his body. It engulfed the entire Dragon Demon Sea. What truly made others shiver was that an endless sea of blood appeared behind him. A terrifyingly gigantic shark was swimming in this sea. It created waves that towered for ten thousand miles and its enormous jaws seemed capable of swallowing the lake whole.

"So powerful, this is the Bloodshark Village's totem!" Many people trembled after seeing this. A powerful lineage was about to be swallowed by this gigantic bloodshark.

Feiyan revealed a sinister smile after seeing the sovereign's might. She sneered: "Li Qiye, doomsday is here for you. Even if you were a True Monarch or a Bestowed Monarch, you are powerless!"

"Ignorant child, kneel and accept your death, or do I have to personally refine you?" The sovereign looked down on the world and its inhabitants. He carried a style as if he could annihilate this world.

"I think only a Godking's actual presence would be able to stop him." An old paragon felt dread and said: "Li Qiye needs to be much stronger than a Bestowed Monarch."

"Just a fake god yet you dare to bark in front of me?" Li Qiye snorted: "There's no need for me to personally slay an ant. Today, you shall open your dog eyes wide, and the same goes for all the sea demons here. Those who dare to act presumptuously before Dongting Lake shall be killed mercilessly!"

Everyone was astounded after hearing this. Many sea demons angrily glared at him for this verbal provocation.

Even the humans in the distance felt that he was being too arrogant. This was akin to challenging all the sea demons in the region — a very unwise decision.

At this time, he shouted: "Banner, heed my call!" With a crashing sound, the banner that had been hanging in the middle of the lake's chamber immediately rushed into the sky.

"Clank!" It pinned itself into the sky, using the heaven and earth as its pole. Nothing could shake it.

"Whoosh!" The banner swept through the world. While fluttering in the wind, the silver fox embroidery came back to life. The fox's tail seemed to come out as it entrenched itself in the physical realm. The gods all quaked with its coming.

It was a silver fox with ferocious bloodthirst. Its appearance instilled shivers in everyone, no matter if they were gods or deities.

Li Qiye chanted: "Where is my Indomitable Battalion?!" The banner continued to dance with his call.

Roars resounded. This was the resonating horn of war.

“Splash!” The lake water suddenly turned into a tsunami. It assaulted the sky and caused the stars to shake!

When this tsunami disappeared, a battalion appeared in the sky. It was arranged in a rectangular formation with four cavalries stationed in each corner. Each cavalry had one commanding general.

The whole world was enveloped in a harsh and somber aura. Every soldier in this battalion was formed from water. Nevertheless, people could still smell the stench of blood wafting from them.

It was as if each warrior from this regiment had bathed in blood. They had arrived after walking through the bones of their enemies and had experienced countless battlefields.

These battle-hardened troops were full of death, blood, and ruthlessness. Their motto was a single word: “Indomitable”!

“The Indomitable Battalion of the Silver Fox Legion has finally come out.” Jian Longwei, watching from afar, was dazed.

Li Qiye stood under the banner while belittling the world. He coldly glared at the crowd and said: “All existences in the Dragon Demon Sea, open your eyes. From today on, those who dare to provoke Dongting Lake will only meet death!”

The sovereign shouted: “Junior, I’ll kill you first!” His bloody tide engulfed the sky while the giant shark swam forward. Such an attack could shatter millions of miles of land and crush any helpless cultivator into a pulp.

However, with the fluttering of the banner and the protection of the silver fox, his attack was stopped completely; it was unable to harm Li Qiye.

Li Qiye glared at the sovereign and commanded: “Slay them, slay them all!”

“Kill!” The war horn blared again. The four generals led their troops and instantly attacked without any hesitation. They rushed with great speed towards the grand army from Wyvern and the village.

Feiyan shouted her order: “Face them!”

“In formation!” The great army frenziedly screamed in unison: “Kill them!”

In the blink of an eye, they shifted their position to form two great formations. One turned into a gigantic dragon and the other a shark covered in blood. The dragon was thousands of miles long while the shark could devour the heavens. It was a frightening spectacle.

This army had the absolute advantage when it came to numbers! The dragon-shaped formation immediately coiled around the attacking cavalries in order to take advantage of their numbers. Meanwhile, the bloodshark opened its mouth in order to take a bite out of the approaching enemies.

“Ahhh!” However, these battle formations were useless before the Indomitable Battalion. This elite force quickly shattered their formations. Both the dragon and shark instantly disappeared. The regular army was again exposed before the cavalries.

“Rumble!” The Indomitable Battalion mounted their offense like a raging storm and trampled over the opposing army.

“Ahhh!” Screams continuously sounded left and right. The Indomitable Battalion harvested skulls as if they were harvesting wheat. Heads went flying as enemies fell to the ground with blood gushing from their corpses. The rain of red painted over the sky.

In almost no time at all, the 100,000 strong army was sent into disarray. Even though the battalion was few in number, they were no different from a flood of steel. The other army wanted to counter-attack, but their defense and momentum had been shattered upon impact in the face of the hooves of the battalion.

These cavalries had experienced countless wars, so they were practically unstoppable. An army of this level was simply no match for them. Only imperial legions were worthy of being their opponents, not babies like these!

The screaming continued without pause during this massacre. Eventually, the army collapsed completely. Many disciples wanted to run, but they didn't get far before being met with the scythes of these gods of death. Their heads rolled on the ground while they watched blood spurt from their severed necks.

The disparity in strength was enormous. It was not an even battle at all! During this slaughter, some soldiers in the army didn't even realize that they had lost before being decapitated.

Mournful cries resounded through the heaven and earth. The King of Wyvern was killed by a general. This general raised Wyvern's king's body up high with his lance. Blood slowly dripped down from the corpse.

Feiyan saw her father being crucified up high and let out a sharp howl: “No!!!”

Chapter 1277: Imitation Trident

An army of one hundred thousand was slaughtered in the blink of an eye. The Indomitable cavalries swept through them like the wind blowing around autumn leaves without the slightest signs of stagnation. The difference in power was far too great.

Everyone was shocked after this scene and couldn't regain their sanity. The battle just now was too cruel and terrorizing. This was the scariest army they had ever witnessed — completely ruthless and invincible!

“Among the four legions of the Dark Crow, the Tiger Legion is the most ferocious while the Silver Fox is the most crafty!” Jian Longwei exclaimed after the quick massacre: “This Indomitable Battalion is famous for being quite ruthless in the Silver Fox Legion as well as being the top elites. Zhang, Hong, Xu, and Lin... these four great generals had killed the generals under an Immortal Emperor before! How could this meager army be a match for them?”

“Ancestor, have you seen the Silver Fox Legion before?” Jian Xiaotie's hair was standing on end. This was the first time he saw such a scary regiment, the first time he witnessed such a sweeping victory!

“No.” Jian Longwei shook his head in response: “I heard it from our progenitor. Legend states that the Silver Fox Legion is very mysterious and has followed His Excellency for a very long time. No one knows where they are, but when His Excellency requires their service, they will suddenly appear behind the enemies and destroy them within the shortest amount of time possible.”

Jian Xiaotie murmured: “So this is the hidden power of Dongting Lake.”

Longwei nodded: “That’s right. According to the rumors, after the Indomitable Battalion retired and died from old age, they buried their bodies and refined their true fates into heroic spirits. They prepared a supreme formation under the lake where these spirits have been sleeping ever since. They required the nourishment from this treasure land in order to maintain their form as a spectral army.”

“Just think about it, Dongting Lake is part of the Dragon Mountain Range. In addition to getting the consent of the Dragon Kingdom, the important part is that they have the power to protect themselves.” Longwei gently sighed: “If they didn’t have this powerful protection, how could their current disciples possibly guard the lake? These sea demons are only a bunch of fools who think that they can take over the lake. They have forgotten about another problem. Who would dare to try and divide parts of the Dragon Mountain Range’s ancestral ground without permission from the Dragon God?”

Xiaotie remained quiet. Their Grandfather was named Jian Longwei not at birth, but rather through a process of bestowment. This name represented a supreme glory.

Jian Longwei was just like his name, he was the guardian of the Giant Dragon Kingdom!

After a very long time, some big shots from the previous generation finally calmed down.

“The legend is true, it’s not a baseless assertion.” A paragon, aghast, took several steps back and murmured: “They are the mythical spirits of the saints that have always been protecting Dongting Lake.”

For a very long time, rumors have been circulating in this sea, stating that Dongting Lake was protected by the saints of this world. However, many snorted at this claim, especially skeptical due to the decline of the lake. They believed that this was only a false rumor, that these spirits were intangible and baseless.

However, everyone today saw these spirits in person, the real power of Dongting Lake that had been keeping watch over them.

“How impudent!” With reddened eyes, the Bloodshark Sovereign crazily roared. He initially wanted to break the banner in the sky in order to kill Li Qiye. However, everything happened too quickly. His army was massacred so fast that it caused his eyes to flush red. Under a blinding rage, he wanted to kill the Indomitable Battalion.

“Leave your dog life with me.” Li Qiye interjected while the sovereign was lunging for the battalion.

“Little animal!” The sovereign instantly turned around and stared at Li Qiye in a frenzy.

Li Qiye slightly raised his right hand and slowly enunciated: “Trident, come.”

His words turned into mantras and the mantras turned into laws.

“Splash! Splash! Crash!” The water in the lake crazily churned as if it was boiling. A boundless divine light came from within.

This light illuminated the world. A gigantic formation with countless engraved runes emerged from the lake. This great and ancient array was connected to the veins of the lake.

At this time, the lake seemed to be a living entity, as if a dragon heart was beating within its earth. People could hear a powerful and resonating thump.

“Buzz!” The light sprayed everywhere as if gods were descending to this world.

Within this light, a great spear emerged. It was simple and natural. There were three sharp prongs at its tip. It looked like an ordinary decorative artifact, but such an ancient style resembled the opening of a world.

It was clearly formed by the water in the lake, but it gave the sensation that it weighed billions of pounds. It seemed that outside of sea gods, no one could handle this great trident. [1. The raw is actually one hundred billion, but it is just being used as a large number and not an exact amount, so billions work better.]

“The Trident!” Even someone as incredible as the sovereign turned silly after seeing this great weapon. He turned haggard and stumbled backward.

The sea demons watching from a distance shouted its name as well. The masters from the other races all gasped.

“Is that our sea god’s Trident?” The eyes of all the sea demons widened in astonishment.

“No—” An old sea demon paragon carefully looked at this trident and was jolted. He quickly blurted: “This isn’t the real Trident, it’s only an imitation!”

Many sea demons felt relieved after hearing this revelation. One of them murmured: “Lucky, it’s just a fake.”

The Trident was the symbol of the sea demons. It carried the greatest significance in their hearts, the spiritual totem in their minds.

Thus, only the supreme of their race, the sea god, was qualified to wield this invincible symbol.

If the Trident fell into the hands of the humans, it would be too great of a blow to their race and drive them completely mad.

It was no wonder why they were so worried. Ever since the start of Immortal Emperor Ta Kong’s generation, a sea god had yet to appear. The same was true for their Trident.

The last sea god was Lithodidae; he appeared during Immortal Emperor Yin Long’s generation. [2. Ta Kong = Space Trample, Yin Long = Roaring Dragon.]

So now, when the Trident appeared out of nowhere, all the sea demons naturally became alarmed. They thought that it had fallen into the clutches of Dongting Lake.

Unlike the relieved sea demons, the Bloodshark Sovereign’s eyes were still glaring at the Trident.

He was once accepted by the Trident, so he had it under his control during his youth. It was the most glorious time of his life. Back then, his cultivation soared by leaps and bounds. Many of his talented peers lost to him, including the young Lithodidae Sea God.

This quick jump in power placed him among the top echelons. Later on, the Trident abandoned him for some reason and chose Lithodidae instead, allowing him to become a true sea god.

Losing the Trident cut off his path to becoming a deity. From then on, his life fell into a trough. Even though he continued to cultivate and made progress, he couldn't regain the surging years of yore and his old invincibility.

Later on, since he wasn't willing to give up, he also tried to create an imitation of the Trident. However, the only result was failure. These fake tridents didn't have the same unstoppable power. Ultimately, they were only scrap metal.

It wasn't until many years of experimentation that he realized that he couldn't understand the profundities of the true Trident. Creating a replica was simply impossible. In fact, many sea demons had tried to do so for millions of years now. Even for those who were successful in copying the Trident, the end result was a weapon much weaker than the real deal.

His mind quivered as he looked at the Trident before him. Due to his past, he was very familiar with its power. Even though this was only an imitation, it had the unstoppable might of the real Trident.

"Trident..." He was both scared and shocked. He didn't expect to see such an imitation, his lifelong pursuit!

However, he was also frightened because he knew the power that he was about to face!

Chapter 1278: No Mercy

The Trident was an eternal legend. Sea gods relied on this weapon to contend against Immortal Emperors. It was the reason why the two entities were considered even.

The Trident was something unique to the sea demons. Its power even exceeded that of Immortal Emperor True Treasures.

Even though the one ahead was only an imitation, the force exuding from it still deterred the sovereign's very soul. It was something that belonged only to the real Trident.

This imitation was no match for the real thing, but it still emitted a force capable of causing any sea demon to tremble.

"This can't be real..." The pale sovereign couldn't believe his own eyes. Why did a human succeed in creating a copy of the Trident even though so many sea demons had failed? This was completely inconceivable to him.

He quickly gathered his wits and shifted his body in order to cross through the void to escape. He had no desire to fight against this trident.

"Buzz!" The great formation under the lake lit up. An infinite amount of power burst out like a volcanic eruption. In a short period of time, it pushed the trident flying as if a gigantic hand had just thrown it.

“Boom!” The void collapsed and a black hole emerged. Even though the sovereign had fled quite far, the Trident caught up to him in an instant.

“Activate!” The sovereign was frightened by this pursuit, but he had no way out. He shouted and summoned his most powerful weapon while channeling his strongest defensive technique in order to stop the trident.

“Bang!” The Trident penetrated his weapon and barrier then continued to fly towards him with an unstoppable momentum.

“No!” His mournful cry echoed across the ocean. Drops of blood fell into the sea and dyed it red.

The sovereign was crucified to death just like that. His eyes were still wide open in disbelief. This was not the result he envisioned at all, thus he died with many regrets.

The entire world turned gloomy. All the sea demons who saw this were aghast as a cold tingle went down their spines.

The older sea demons questioned in a daze: “How can this be?”

The Trident had ended the sovereign’s future once by abandoning him, and ultimately, an imitation ended his life. It seemed that this was all part of karma. The sovereign couldn’t escape his connection to the weapon. He owed it both glory and death. It was as if the heavens was playing a cruel joke on him.

“That’s the hidden power of Dongting Lake.” The lake was now viewed as an object of fear. Everyone understood that the lake had an imitation trident on top of the spectral army.

A charming spirit ancestor solemnly spoke: “So many years have passed, but the lake is still like before with its invincible power.”

After seeing its power today, who would dare to have any ideas about it in the future?

Even the disciples from the lake were slack-jawed. They had never imagined that things would play out this way. Hong Tianzhu, the other elders and the protectors were astonished as well. They never knew that the invincible ancestors had always been protecting them.

Just recalling how they had abandoned everything from their ancestors for their own benefits left them ashamed. How could they stand and face their ancestors later on?

For many, many years, the lake had never worshiped the ancestors with ceremonies. They had all but forgotten about the traditions, yet the ancestors still continued to protect their unfilial children and the lake. Their hearts were full of shame and regret.

Meanwhile, the crowd was still deterred while watching the four cavalries in the sky. This spectral army could truly sweep through all enemies.

Li Qiye’s cold voice resounded: “Don’t think about leaving when you’re already here.” It was chilling to the bones.

Feiyan woke up from her stupor and sorrow. She wanted to escape as fast as possible. In her mind, as long as the verdant hills remained, there would be no fear of running out of firewood.

However, she didn't get far before Li Qiye blocked her path. Her pretty face became twisted after seeing him. Moreover, it was blanched from both fear and fury with a touch of despair.

This was the enemy who had killed both her father and little brother. She wanted nothing more than to tear him to pieces. However, reason told her that as long as she stayed alive, everything would be possible in the future, including killing this enemy to avenge her family.

She didn't want to die, for everything would turn to ashes afterward. Her sect was the Roaring Conch. As long as she could go back, she would have the opportunity for vengeance.

These were the thoughts that occupied her mind. She stood there and didn't dare to act rashly.

Meanwhile, Li Qiye fixated his gaze on her. All the spectators watched with bated breaths.

Prior to this, many people were bullish about Feiyan because she had a strong backing. However, in the blink of an eye, the situation had reversed completely. Feiyan, who should have won for sure, became a dog with a dead owner.

Li Qiye flatly asked while looking at her: "Don't you want to kill me?"

While locking their eyes, Feiyan gritted her teeth, her smoldering fury evident in her gaze. She cried out his name: "Li Qiye!"

He leisurely replied: "I understand your hatred."

"I want to peel your skin, drink your blood, and taste your flesh!" She shouted: "I swear to never live under the same sky with my father's murderer!"

"So what?" Li Qiye nonchalantly responded: "I am a ruthless person, not to mention that I have given you ample warnings, yet you still dared to oppose me. Therefore, you must experience the massacre."

She was livid. Her sworn enemy was standing in front of her, but there was nothing she could do.

He continued on: "I'll borrow your words. Kneel and accept death, or do I have to kill you myself?"

She understood that there was no chance for survival, so she cried out: "Li, either you or I have to die. I would rather die if you exist in this world!"

He insipidly replied: "Very well, at least you have some courage. Still better than your little brother, not begging before death."

"Li! Do you dare to fight me? If I lose, I will have no complaints. Otherwise, I will haunt you as a scornful ghost!" She made a clear decision since she knew there was no escaping. What she was worried about was the spectral army and the Trident from the lake.

Li Qiye laughed in response: "I'm not even afraid of gods, let alone mere ghosts."

She restrained her anger and continued with her plan of fighting him one on one. Even if she had to pay with her life to kill him, she would consider avenging her dead family a good end.

“However, since you are so eager for revenge, I’ll satisfy your wish.” He smiled: “You think you actually have an opportunity, so I shall grant it to you. I like shattering someone’s self-esteem and confidence so that they can have a taste of despair.”

She found a glimmer of hope in this desperate strait and immediately shouted: “Good, Li, this is your choice. We will fight one on one, a gentleman’s words cannot be taken back!”

Li Qiye was amused and answered her coldly: “Don’t gauge a gentleman’s heart by using one’s own wretched scale. Don’t worry, I, Li Qiye, will always keep my word. Killing you won’t require any external help.”

“Very well, we’ll fight to the death!” Feiyan felt jubilated after gaining a chance for revenge.

Li Qiye looked at her with one eye and said: “Go, die in despair, a fate reserved for my enemies.”

At this moment, everyone held their breaths while watching this scene. Even though sea demons felt sympathy for Feiyan and wanted to help, none of them dared to try and rescue her.

Chapter 1279: Seavinity Banner

This marine region was drowned in a state of quietude. No one dared to breathe loudly as they watched the confrontation between Li Qiye and Shangguan Feiyan play out.

“Summon!” Feiyan took out a banner and held the pole with one hand. An oceanic atmosphere assaulted the spectators; it was as if this flag was gestating a god.

The sea demons here quivered before this banner. They felt an urge to kneel and worship due to an instinctive sense of respect that came from nowhere.

“The Seavinity Banner, a weapon left behind by a sea god from the Roaring Conch!” Someone immediately shouted after seeing the banner. [1. Exact raw is Sea God’s Banner. Sea god is a term that is used too much already. For example, in that sentence, I would be repeating sea god twice. The other problem is that Sea God’s Banner sounds like a descriptor and not an actual artifact. What if another sea god has a banner? Thus, this made me want to use Divinity Banner or any other adjective similar to divine/hallowed, but this would leave the sea part out. Adding sea to it makes the title too long, and I’ve been hesitant towards using long titles for readability recently. Seavinity includes both; it is a made-up word, but for a proper name, this shouldn’t be an issue, especially after readers see this footnote and understand my thought process.]

It instilled fear and awe into the spectators. This was the flag of a supreme sea demon; it represented their invincibility and glory.

Even though the Trident was the most powerful weapon during the reign of all sea gods, they had no way of retaining it. When they died, the Trident would fly away and reappear when it was time to choose a successor in the next generation.

Because of this, no one viewed the Trident as an inheritable weapon. Each sea god would create their own powerful artifacts and weapons, but none of them could compare to the Trident. However, these artifacts truly belonged to them and were able to be passed down to their descendants.

The banner in Feiyan’s hand was a weapon created by a Roaring Conch Sea God.

“She actually has a sea god’s weapon.” Both the young and old of the sea demon race became quite envious.

Even though the Roaring Conch had two sea gods, it also had millions of disciples. It was quite a glory to inherit a sea god’s weapon. This was enough to show just how much the sect valued her.

Feiyan shouted with the banner in her hand: “Li, you must stay true to your word, don’t change your mind in front of the world.”

She was afraid that he would change his mind after seeing this weapon and wouldn’t want to fight her alone! After previously losing to him in just one move, she understood that her strength was no match for his. In her mind, he was at least a True Monarch or a Bestowed Monarch.

Thus, she placed all of her hopes for revenge on this weapon! Because she was afraid of him reneging on the deal, she loudly shouted so that everyone could hear her. If Li Qiye were to change his mind today, his reputation would be destroyed.

“You are too funny. Let alone make me change my mind, you actually think that you can do something to me with this sea god’s banner? This is such a blatant underestimation.” He shook his head and laughed: “Very well, since this banner is giving you so much faith in your revenge, I’ll shatter it.”

With that, a saber hymn resonated through the sky. With a saber in his hand, he coldly stared at her.

An imperial aura engulfed the region with its coming. With the Benevolent Saber in his hand, an immortal aura surfaced around his hand. The weapon seemed to become one with him.

This blade was the true fate weapon of Immortal Emperor Min Ren. Its creation required painstaking efforts from both the emperor and Li Qiye.

Today, his ability to wield the blade was no less than if the emperor was using it himself. The only thing missing was the Heaven’s Will. If Li Qiye had the Heaven’s Will, he would be able to exert the same power from this blade as the emperor of past.

“An Immortal Emperor True Treasure!” Hailing from the Roaring Conch, Feiyan knew her stuff. Her face paled as she stumbled backward.

At this moment, her pupils contracted, revealing both fear and despair! Even though she had a sea god’s banner, the blade in Li Qiye’s hand was a true treasure!

With respect to comparing the weapons of sea gods and Immortal Emperors, the Trident was the first part of the equation. True treasures were no match for its power — this was the reason why sea gods could fight against Immortal Emperors!

However, without the Trident, sea gods were only Emperor Assailants at best; they couldn’t truly fight against a real emperor. Because of this, the arsenals they personally create were no match for imperial weapons, let alone a True Treasure.

Despair reared its ugly head again in Shangguan Feiyan. It was just like Li Qiye had said, her hope had been shattered.

The banner that she thought would allow her to get revenge for her father and brother paled in comparison before his True Treasure!

Many sea demons were astounded to see his weapon as well.

A sea demon blurted in disbelief: "Isn't he the successor of Peacock Land? A tree controller? Since when did he become a descendant of an Immortal Emperor? To actually have a True Treasure!"

Many knew about Li Qiye's status as Peacock Land's successor, but no one would ever have thought that he would be the owner of a True Treasure as well.

Li Qiye insipidly said: "I told you that I would crush your hope." [1. This is too cruel now...]

"Buzz!" Li Qiye poured his vitality into the blade. At this moment, he seemed to be incredibly far away, as if he was standing above the nine layers of the heavens.

"Boom!" The world trembled. Li Qiye unexpectedly emitted the aura of an Immortal Emperor. The blade lit up, allowing its snow-white edge to illuminate the horizon. The blade itself seemed to be returning to life as an eternal existence.

"How, how can this be?" Many people were dazed as Li Qiye seemingly turned into an emperor. Many of the people with weaker cultivations dropped to the ground due to weakened knees under his pressure.

They found it completely inconceivable as they gazed at Li Qiye in the sky.

"No way! Even a Godking can't bring an Immortal Emperor True Treasure back to life!" A commenter's voice was trembling.

"It is because he has been recognized by the True Treasure. This is quite rare no matter the generation." A human who understood these weapons understood what was happening.

"Thump. Thump. Thump." Feiyan kept on faltering before this scene. True despair had struck her.

"Li, I'll die with you!" Feiyan plunged into madness. She spat a great amount of longevity blood onto the banner. Her complexion turned deathly white afterward.

This determined her demise. Despite her young age, she had used all of her blood as an offering for the banner. Even if she could win this fight, she wouldn't be able to live much longer due to her withered lifespan.

"Aiming for mutual destruction... even victory won't let her stay alive." Everyone knew that it was over for her.

"Boom!" After the refinement, the banner became much more brilliant and poured down gigantic universal laws. These pillar-like laws plunged into the vast sea.

"Splash!" Tidal waves of endless height assaulted the sky. All of these pillars of water intertwined with the laws to turn into a stout figure.

At this time, the banner coiled around this aquatic figure, turning it into a deity. It was as if a sea god had returned to life. This figure turned and opened his eyes.

“Boom!” The world quaked with his coming. His celestial flames engulfed the entire region. The grand aura emanating from this sea god spread across the Dragon Demon Sea as if a real sea god was here in person.

“Your Excellency!” Many sea demons were stirred and prostrated on the water. Some even broke into tears.

An astonished human asked in horror: “Is that a resurrected sea god?”

“No.” An older human gently shook his head and explained: “This is a tribute. She used all of her longevity blood in order to bring about one invincible strike from a sea god! All of the forces from the weapon have been gathered into this blow. Victory or defeat will depend on it.”

“Can Li Qiye withstand a blow from a sea god?” Miss Lin’s group was quite worried after seeing the gigantic figure.

Chapter 1280: Public Execution

An invincible attack from a sea god would take everyone’s breath away. Countless beings quivered in fear before this suppressive aura.

“Clank!” The saber sang again and became exceedingly bright. The blade itself disappeared to turn into the world’s most brilliant light. It illuminated the ten continents and imprisoned everything with its resplendence.

It was the combination of an imperial aura and an unstoppable saber intent that culminated within Li Qiye. This saber intent rose above the heaven and earth before suppressing the Yin and Yang. Up in the sky, Li Qiye was the saber and the saber was him.

A peerless blade — there was no better word to describe this current saber intent. It was omnipresent and engulfed the entire world; there was no escaping it.

At this second, everyone could feel themselves being immersed in its intent instead of the sunlight. It was as if the Benevolent Saber had replaced the sun over yonder.

“He has not only been accepted by the weapon, he has also mastered an invincible dao of the saber. With the blade in his hand, he can combat an endless horde of foes!” Even God-Monarchs felt chills while looking at Li Qiye becoming one with his weapon.

“Die!” There was no other way for Feiyan. She let out a cry after offering everything she had. This moment would either end in the death of her or Li Qiye. She wouldn’t mind mutual destruction either.

Her only choice was to face him directly. Death was certain whether she tried to flee or fight, so she might as well go all out!

“Rumble!” As her battle intent surged, the sea god made out of water stepped towards the sky. Each of his steps shattered the void as if it was made from porcelain. This was a magnificent scene.

Moreover, the laws of the grand dao were screaming. They couldn’t contend against this sea god.

“Bang!” The figure finally attacked with a hand that stretched across the world in the form of a mudra. Ancient aquatic runes erupted like a volcano. Each rune resembled a tiny star. These stars then came together to crush everything in its path to ashes.

People’s souls left their bodies the moment this sea god’s mudra emerged. Its power of suppression sank deep to the soul; everyone was completely powerless under its might. They were currently helpless kittens and as insignificant as specks of dust — not enough to reach the apex.

Li Qiye made his move against this mudra. His blade traveled through the sky and illuminated myriad eras. It severed the Yin and Yang and extinguished the karmic cycle.

“Clank!” One sabre to alarm countless realms. This light lit up every single corner of the world, even hell itself was no exception. The gods and devils had nowhere to hide.

This was the first of the three Benevolent Slashes, nothing in this world could hide from its brilliance! Everything became straightforward and clear. Dark and light, Yin and Yang, life and death — everything lost their abstruseness in the face of this slash.

It was no longer just a saber technique but a type of righteous will that belonged to Immortal Emperor Min Ren. He wished to save all sentient beings.

Everyone would feel inadequate and ashamed when met with this attack. Evil had no place to hide; it would turn into smoke from this illumination. Sea gods and devils seemed especially insignificant in the face of this attack.

“Boom!” This slash didn’t waste time as it severed the sea god’s mudra and the divine creature itself.

“Splash!” The water returned to the ocean like waterfalls as the gigantic figure slowly disappeared.

The banner was left in the sky, but a corner of it had been cut off by the Benevolent Saber.

“Buzz!” The damaged banner howled and quickly fled to the horizon.

“No—” The one to scream was not Shangguan Feiyan, but rather a few of the spectating sea demons.

It was too great of a blow for them. A sea god was killed; their supreme had been defeated.

A sea demon sect master murmured in a daze: “That’s not a real sea god anyway, it was just a battle intent of the weapon.” Even though he was correct, it didn’t hide the sadness in his mind.

“Slaughtering a god...” The human cultivators, on the other hand, felt their blood boiling.

Keep in mind that in the current Dragon Demon Sea, sea demons reigned supreme. Sea gods were untouchable existences and were considered to be invincible in this race’s minds.

But today, the Benevolent Saber came out and immediately killed the sea god in addition to severing a piece of the banner. This was a blow to the confidence and morale of the sea demons.

The humans were elated by this event. This would go down as a glorious part of their race’s history.

A human couldn’t hide his pride and resoundingly exclaimed: “Our Immortal Emperors are invincible, regardless of the era!”

Jian Longwei witnessed this scene and emotionally spoke: "The Benevolent Three Slashes are said to be the emperor's proudest saber techniques. Some even say that he placed it even higher in his heart than his Heaven's Will Secret Law. A rumor states that this technique combined with the saber is completely unstoppable unless the opponent has the Heaven's Will!"

Feiyan was petrified like a statue. The thing she relied on the most had flown away after being defeated. Her only hope has been shattered, so she stood there in a daze.

"Kneel and accept death." Li Qiye emotionlessly stared at her with his blade pointing straight at her.

Feiyan's mind returned. She immediately tumbled backward with no color in her complexion.

She shouted: "Never!" Even at this moment of defeat, she still held her head up proudly.

With the shining blade in his hand and a surging saber intent, Li Qiye coldly uttered like a supreme emperor: "It is not up to you to decide!" The imperial aura continued to assault the world. His order was completely irresistible.

These auras absolutely trampled over her pride. With a bang, her knees gave in to the pressure.

"No!" Even before death, she still stubbornly derived laws in order to turn into a phoenix and soar to the sky. In her mind, she would rather commit suicide than be killed while kneeling.

"Bang!" However, her transformation was quickly put down by the saber intent. Her struggle only weakened her. She prostrated on the ground with her kneecaps shattered.

Her resistance could have been stronger. Unfortunately, she had offered all of her longevity blood to the Seavinity Banner, so she no longer had the same strength as before.

Li Qiye slowly raised his blade and declared: "In this world, I don't care about those who oppose me. Even a defeated enemy can be allowed a dignified death. However, those who think that my human race has become weak and tiny enough to become slaves or incubators, mere objects for sex... I shall destroy their entire race and devoid them of a dignified death..."

"I am not the guardian of the human race or the savior of this world. However, sea demons and treants, listen to me well: I am a human, so if you wish to enslave my people, think carefully about the consequences!" Each of his words was resounding and sonorous with determination. They pierced straight into everyone's minds.

"Pluff!" The blade chopped down and Feiyan's head flew up. It eventually rolled on the ground as her blood gushed and stained the sky red before dripping down into the sea.

A beloved daughter of the heavens, a genius of the sea demons, a young God-Monarch was beheaded while kneeling. This scene shook the heart — this was especially true for the suffocated sea demon spectators.

"Our race might be weak, but we will never become slaves!" A human cultivator had tears in his eyes while he tightly clenched his fists.

In the Heaven Spirit World, the human race was quite weak. Cultivators from the Exquisite Valley were better off, but as for vagabonds or smaller sects, they suffered bullying and repression from the sea demons everywhere.

Today, Li Qiye's actions made the crowd jubilant with pride.

As for the sea demons, they stayed silent before this blatant provocation in the form of an execution. They knew that without sufficient strength, opposing Li Qiye was suicidal!

Li Qiye put away the Benevolent Saber and returned to the banner. He gazed at the horizon and commanded without mercy: "Indomitable Legion, heed my order. Destroy Wyvern and the Bloodshark Village. When the sun rises tomorrow, they must be no more."

"Bang!" The battalion answered with action. The expedition had begun as the troops separated into two groups. One headed straight for Wyvern while the other aimed for the village.

This invincible regiment instantaneously crossed through space.

Someone without any knowledge of its origin murmured in a daze: "This, this spectral army is too invincible..."

An old charming spirit ancestor watching from the distance murmured: "A legion from the legends... Even an imperial legion suffered continuous defeats. Even if they have died and turned into ghosts, they are still invincible! A truly unstoppable force."