

EMPEROR 1281

Chapter 1281: Massacring The Enemies

There was no suspense to the Indomitable Battalion's expedition. Remember that they once bested an imperial legion time after time on the battlefield with a matchless momentum.

Today, it didn't matter how strong Wyvern and the Bloodshark Village were, they were simply no match.

"Rumble!" On this day, this sea region was sent into turmoil with tsunamis everywhere as if the ocean itself was howling.

"Kill!" The echoes of war resounded in both Wyvern and the Bloodshark Village. Alarms rang everywhere as defensive barriers were erected in their ancestral grounds.

Alas, despite mustering all of their strength with elites rushing to the battlefield alongside their ancestors, they couldn't change their fate against the iron hooves of the Indomitable Battalion.

"Kill them..." Eventually, the war cries grew weaker. The lucky survivors stopped being so lucky on the battlefield. Their blood dyed the ocean red while their corpses floated on its surface.

"Boom!" Eventually, the regiment shattered the ancestral grounds of the two sects. In just one night, two great powers had been erased from the Dragon Demon Sea. The disciples who managed to survive basically lost everything with the loss of their ancestral grounds.

One day prior, the army of 100,000 was very confident in their conquest of the lake. The troops were full of morale. In their eyes, on top of winning their resources, they could also enslave the lake's women and use the excellent bloodlines of the human race to reproduce.

They were extremely excited for their triumphant return. Then, it would be time to drown in the debauchorous feasts and pleasures.

However, they never thought that this would be their last expedition. It turned into a sect-destroying disaster. Not only did they fail to destroy the lake, the lake's spectral army destroyed all of them instead.

The demise of these two sects caused ripples across the entire sea demon race.

Even though these two were far weaker than sea god lineages, they were plenty strong and could be listed among the top ten in this sea region. However, they were annihilated as if they were nothing.

In the end, the Indomitable Battalion returned to the banner. They were still as emotionless and cold as before. No matter the time, they seemed to be drowned in a sea of blood.

Countless people felt a stinging shiver deep in their hearts in the face of this spectral army. This was a true machine of war!

While hovering under the banner, Li Qiye coldly uttered: "Those who covet Dongting Lake, I hope all of you have gotten a good look."

People felt suffocated when they heard his words. The sea demons who wanted to take advantage of the situation were breaking out in cold sweat.

They praised their own fortune for not going forward earlier. Otherwise, they would have suffered the same fate as the two great powers.

“Splash!” The lake water gushed as the battalion sank into the lake, disappearing completely. They became one with the lake; as long as the lake continued to exist, so would they.

“Buzz.” The supreme formation of the lake opened only to close after the Trident flew in.

A lot of sea demons stared at it with envy. Even experts from sea god lineages were quite jealous because many sea gods had tried to copy the Trident to no avail. Everyone knew that this weapon before them was only an imitation, but it was still extremely strong.

Envy and jealousy were one thing, but no one dared to have any ideas about it. They weren't tired of living just yet.

“This is the foundation of the lake.” An old paragon murmured: “No wonder why no one tried to do anything against the lake in the past. It would be too reckless.”

The disciples of the lake stared at this scene with astonishment. They never thought their lake had something this powerful up its sleeves.

In the end, the silver fox disappeared. The war banner flew back into the chamber and hung itself on the wall once more.

Serenity came with the end of this battle. Many people assumed that the lake was about to be destroyed. No one expected Wyvern and the village to perish instead.

Li Qiye gave one last glance at everyone before returning to the lake. Hong Tianzhu's group immediately followed him back.

The crowd was relieved to see him gone.

An old man murmured: “That guy is too heaven-defying. With him here in Heaven Spirit, it looks like the humans will have an Immortal Emperor.”

“Way to state the obvious.” The human cultivators were naturally feeling very proud right now: “He is a tree controller, the master of Dongting Lake and also a prince of an imperial lineage. Who can become the Immortal Emperor of this generation other than him?”

Of course, these humans didn't know Li Qiye's identity and were only blurting out their thoughts. In their eyes, as long as Li Qiye became an Immortal Emperor, it would be the glory of the human race. No amount of praise would be sufficient for him at this moment.

The sea demons were quiet with ugly expressions. After all, Li Qiye had dealt too many blows to their race recently. His dispatch of the Teeming Fish and utilization of the spectral army to deal with two great powers destroyed the sea demons' morale and left them breathless.

“Our sea demons also have some supreme geniuses.” A sea demon felt like retorting because Li Qiye's fame was at an all-time high.

“Yes, our supreme geniuses have yet to take action.” Another sea demon echoed the sentiment: “We still have the Seashield Prince and Seven Martial Goddess. Rumor has it that if the prince has a grand completion Immortal Physique, he could assail an Immortal Emperor. If he could become a sea god, he’ll be even more formidable with the Trident.”

“That’s right, there’s no need to raise the enemy’s prestige while lowering our morale.” An older sea demon rallied his people: “The goddess is incredible too. She is a peerless prodigy that has learned the seven grand styles, so who can actually stop her in the present? As long as she uses her techniques, even a Godking will have to make way.”

Another sea demon replied: “Yes! The seven grand styles of the martial pavilion are unstoppable. Even the secret laws of Immortal Emperors cannot compare to them. Just remember that back then, the sea god from the pavilion used the seven styles to fight against an emperor. Who in this world could withstand all seven styles?”

“The moment the seven styles appear, its user will be unbeatable.” Whether the sea demons were getting nervous or just wanted to raise their morale, the praise went on: “I’m afraid even Immortal Emperors can’t stop all seven styles. Hmph, there’s no way that a junior can do it.”

The styles of the Seven Martial Pavilion were indeed legendary. These praises weren’t mere exaggerations.

In the Heaven Spirit World, some people believed that anyone who could learn all seven would be able to assail an Immortal Emperor even without becoming a sea god. This was the greatest martial technique in the world!

In fact, the sea demons who were desperately praising the seven styles had never seen them before or knew what the stances were.

This was because these styles were rarely used. Another believer stated that there was no one alive who had witnessed all seven because no one could withstand the entire barrage!

A human was tired of the boasting and coldly uttered: “Hmph, Immortal Physique? Seven grand styles? So what, we have Li Qiye.”

“Well, Li Qiye won’t be invincible to the very end. Hidden dragons and crouching tigers are everywhere in Heaven Spirit. Not to mention us sea demons, the Jade Sea has countless descendants of treefathers and bearers of the finest of bloodlines. And over at the Abyss Sea, charming spirits are the favorite children of the heavens, they are destined to be great.”

Another sea demon retorted: “Yes, you humans shouldn’t forget about the charming spirits. There are countless powerful spirits that don’t care about fame or fortune. Not to mention the Profound Monarch, rumor has it that the Puresun Daoist of the Ancient Spirit Island has reached grand completion in the Indestructible Diamond Physique. Some people might not be well-known, but it is only because they are low-key. Not everyone likes to show off all the time. The real masters rarely show themselves.”

It was really a bad day for the sea demons. Their arrogance had been completely snuffed out by Li Qiye and they were unable to oppose him, so boasting was the only thing they could do.

The smart humans didn't reply after hearing this answer from the sea demons with regards to real masters. A retort would only be offending the treants and the charming spirits. There would be nowhere to go if they were to be found out.

Of course, those who knew the truth like Jian Longwei didn't care enough to mince their words: "This is a case of using a butcher's knife to kill a chicken. In this generation, for both sea demons and charming spirits, if they still think their race is invincible, a second massacre like the one just now might repeat itself."

Chapter 1282: Turning Over A New Page

Inside the chamber of the lake, Li Qiye returned to the master chair with a natural and nonchalant demeanor, yet he still gave off a stately and imposing aura.

He was supreme in his throne and capable of deterring emperors and gods. No one would dare to disobey his orders.

The elders, protectors and supervisors of the lake all participated in this gathering. They quietly sat in their positions while respectfully gazing at Li Qiye.

The walls were still decorated with the portraits and a banner in the center. In the past, even the disciples of the lake didn't care about these portraits.

But today, everyone from the lake felt an instinctive reverence towards these decorations without exception. Before entering the chamber, they would tidy their clothes and posture without showing the slightest sign of disrespect.

It was because this place represented the glory of their ancestors and the highest authority of the lake.

The four Virtuous Ancestors had been killed while the other ancestors were imprisoned. This caused a great stir in the lake and a monumental change to its current power structure.

Li Qiye coldly looked at everyone present. The high-ranking members here felt a chill run down their spines from his glare.

"After today, everyone should understand the glory of the lake as well as your own responsibilities." Li Qiye flatly said: "I have returned the glory of past to all of you once more as well as control of the lake and its future direction..."

"... In the future, whether Dongting Lake shall deter the world and illuminate the nine continents or continue to fall like a group of stray dogs vying for bones and power will be up to each and every one of you!"

Li Qiye went on: "Its future is in your hands now. The younger generation will be the ones to hold the reigns, not those old geezers blinded by power!"

With that, he shifted his eyes over to the outstanding disciples like Hong Yujiao.

In the past, not even the elders could show up in these deliberations. The majority of the grand events were secretly decided upon by the ancestors. Now, even the youngest disciple was allowed to participate.

“Your ancestors have laid a solid foundation for everyone, a magnificent starting point.” Li Qiye stated: “I have restored this foundation. With such an ace, I won’t get involved again regardless of the lake’s fate if all of you can’t amount to anything.”

“Young Noble, rest assured. From today on, we will not dishonor the glory of our ancestors or disgrace them in any way. Our generation shall obey the iron creeds and inherit the union. We swear on this with our true fates and definitely won’t let you down.” Hong Tianzhu prostrated on the ground and resoundingly swore with his true fate!

In his eyes, this was the best time to change the lake. If they were to miss this moment, it would be prohibitively difficult to try again later on.

The other members glanced at each other and read the situation very well. They quickly prostrated just like Hong Tianzhu and swore with their true fates as well: “Our lake shall obey the iron creeds and inherit the union once more without regret!”

Li Qiye slowly nodded approvingly: “Very good, it is for the best that everyone has this much determination. Do not bring dishonor to your ancestors’ glorious bloodline.”

These high-elders and those of lower rankings had all the authority in the lake right now and had sworn with their true fates to obey the ancestral teachings once more. From today on, the lake would turn over a new page.

“Dongting Lake was created together by the Xu, Lin, Hong, and Zhang Clans. As their descendants, remember this, your lake also includes the Zhang Clan!” Li Qiye flatly said: “I don’t care how your ancestors divided the docks in the past, just remember that from today on, the eighteen docks belong to the lake and not any individual clan! It is time to hand over these resources in a sensible manner.”

Zhang Baitu was also present. Li Qiye’s words left Hong Tianzhu’s group and those of the previous generation embarrassed. The Zhang Clan was squeezed out of the lake completely while the other clans divided up their docks.

Hong Tianzhu hurriedly said: “Young Noble, the Hong Clan shall hand our seven docks back to the lake. We will distribute the heavenly grottos and roads as well in accordance with the iron creeds.”

In fact, the Hong Clan was very powerful right now since they had seven out of the eighteen docks. Nevertheless, Hong Tianzhu was the first to give these resources back to the lake.

“Our Lin Clan is also willing to return our five docks.” The others came forward and willingly gave back their territories.

Li Qiye nodded: “This is for the best. The lake’s future will be in your hands. Remember, your clans must unite with great solidarity just like your ancestors. Competing for petty authority and power will only lead the lake down a path of destruction. Your internal conflicts will destroy you before your enemies can even make a move.”

Some elders felt their faces burn after hearing this. It wasn’t that the lake wasn’t strong or lacked resources. Unfortunately, ever since those Virtuous Ancestors focused on gaining more power, outsiders started to think that the lake was easy to bully. Ultimately, even lineages like the Bloodshark Village and Wyvern threatened them with military expeditions.

“The four regiments have returned to their positions. The iron creeds shall take effect once more.” Li Qiye looked at them and said: “From today on, a new page shall be turned for Dongting Lake. This is all I will do to help, the future will be up to you all.”

With that, he got up from his chair and took one last glimpse at the banner and portraits before leaving the chamber.

The members present were quiet. They lowered their heads with countless emotions running through their minds.

Li Qiye was an outsider, yet he could control their lake’s spectral army and the Trident. Moreover, his own power could suppress everyone here. However, he didn’t even take a single glance at this great force before him. He had no love for the authority here nor did he demand their resources.

As for themselves, the lake clearly belonged to everyone, but they selfishly killed and marginalized each other, resulting in great disunity. As the descendants of the clans, they never treated the lake as their own home, only a feast to be divided.

No matter how they looked at it, it was a very shameful matter. They had let down their ancestors.

While drowning in this shame, many elders and protectors clenched their fists. If they didn’t cherish and protect their own home, why would others respect them? The lake was the home of every disciple and descendant, it didn’t belong to an individual.

Li Qiye didn’t leave the lake right away. He stayed for several days to bask in the atmosphere of this place while fully enjoying the scenic waters.

This might his last chance to stay at the lake. In the future, he might never come back, so he wanted to rest and make some new memories.

He sighed while looking at the sparkling water. Countless heroic souls were buried at the bottom of the lake. In their final moments, they decided to refine their souls and turned into spectral soldiers that permanently rested in this place.

In the eyes of others, such actions prevented them from entering the reincarnation cycle. To be reincarnated was a source of hope for many cultivators, so they would never be willing to do such a thing.

However, this once invincible battalion ultimately chose to do so. It was because of their great love and attachment to this land. Even in death, they chose to protect this land and their descendants.

Li Qiye sentimentally reflected: “Perhaps this is the best place for home.” In the long years, everyone had their own path.

At this time, someone knocked on the door.

Li Qiye focused his mind and lightly spoke: “Come in.”

Chapter 1283: Be A Maid?

Hong Tianzhu walked in and bowed after seeing Li Qiye: “Greetings, Young Noble.”

Li Qiye nodded in response: "Keep at it. As long as you try your best, the lake's future will be just fine."

Hong Tianzhu indeed had the will and ambition to change and strengthen the lake. Alas, his ability was still lacking.

"Thank you. Without Young Noble, the lake would not be like this today. We shall remember your kindness for generations to come." Tianzhu bowed once more.

Tianzhu thought that without Li Qiye, even if he wanted to make a change, it would have been useless. Even if the talented young disciples were on his side, he still wouldn't be able to do anything to the ancestors, let alone the four Virtuous Ancestors.

"No need to thank me." Li Qiye sat there while looking at the lake and answered: "I did it because of your determination. This is also the blessing of your ancestors, so if you want to thank someone, thank your ancestors. They are the ones who are lying in the ground; dead for millions of years, yet they are still worried about their children."

"I know your abilities are limited." Li Qiye looked at him: "From now on, go ask Jian Longwei for help. This will be good for both your cultivation and ability to make allies..."

"Can, can I do it?" He wasn't completely confident and scratched his head in response.

Even though he was the current master of Dongting Lake, Jian Longwei was the Jian Grandfather, a supreme character. Hong Tianzhu would be reaching above his post.

"Don't worry, I'll let them know." Li Qiye flatly replied: "The truth is that the lake and the Jian Clan had a deep friendship. Unfortunately, due to your clan's failures, the Jian Clan decided to ignore you later on. Of course, they cannot be blamed for this."

"I understand." Tianzhu lowered his head in shame. In the past, the lake had many allies and even strong ties with the Exquisite Valley. Unfortunately, when the four Virtuous Ancestors abandoned the iron creeds, they destroyed their own future.

Li Qiye continued while looking upon the lake: "Even now, I do not agree with humans staying in the Heaven Spirit World. Your ancestors had opportunities to settle down in the other places of the nine worlds. However, they had too much love and attachment to this land, so they ultimately decided to stay here."

Tianzhu quietly listened since he knew very little about his ancestors' past.

Li Qiye shook his head forlornly and looked at Tianzhu: "No matter what, the lake is deeply related to the Giant Dragon Mountain Range. Your ancestors prepared this land very well, so it is up to you now. If you fail to correct yourselves, the existence above the clouds will stop caring about your lake. As long as you keep on trying, your lake will be able to stand strong in the future."

Li Qiye rarely said such thoughtful words, but he did so this time out of consideration for the lake's ancestors.

He reminded Tianzhu: "Remember, with their spirits protecting you, even in difficult times of monumental change, there will always be a chance to overcome the disasters. You must protect this land just like they did or you would be unfilial and completely unworthy of their love."

Tianzhu carefully took in every single word. Even though he didn't fully understand the true implications behind them, he still firmly memorized them.

He bowed once more: "I'll engrave your golden advice in my heart."

Li Qiye nodded and quietly stared back at the lake. One day, a disaster shall befall the Heaven Spirit World. Everything would change at that point.

In the end, he chose not to think about it. He would no longer be in Heaven Spirit when that day comes. Their fate is in their own hands.

"Is there something else?" His mind returned and he noticed that Tianzhu was still standing there respectfully.

"Well..." Tianzhu wryly coughed with an awkward posture. He didn't know how to phrase his question.

Li Qiye lightly urged: "Go ahead."

After thinking for half a day, Tianzhu still didn't know what to say. Eventually, he decided to directly ask: "Young Noble, what do you think about my daughter?"

Li Qiye chuckled in response: "She is not a bad lady — full of potential. Her temperament might be a bit too fiery, but she is still quite sensible."

"Ah. Young Noble, you are too kind." Tianzhu smiled. He mused a bit before gritting his teeth to ask: "Young Noble, if you think it is possible, how, how about she go along with you?"

After saying what was on his mind, he felt relieved, as if he had carried out his responsibility.

Li Qiye only smiled without replying, so Tianzhu quickly added: "Young Noble, don't misunderstand. You are a true dragon from the nine heavens, so my daughter can't climb up that high. What I mean is, she can run errands for you and do whatever she can to help. This will broaden her horizons and train her insight."

Tianzhu knew full well that Li Qiye would one day soar to the sky. He could even become an Immortal Emperor one day, and his daughter naturally couldn't become the imperial queen.

He only wanted her to follow him for the experience. Even by being a maid, she would still gain a lifetime of benefits.

Li Qiye gently shook his head: "Your daughter is a good girl, but unfortunately, I can't keep her around."

Tianzhu didn't give up, he wanted a good future for his daughter. Staying at the lake would only limit her life's experience. As for him, his responsibility dictated that he would die here. It was not the same for her, he wanted her to see the vast world. Without a doubt, Li Qiye was the best person to entrust her to.

"It is not that I dislike her." Li Qiye gently stated: "But she cannot follow my path."

Tianzhu held his tongue after not knowing what to say while feeling disappointed.

“Father, I have my own life, so I will go down my own path.” Yujiao rushed in from outside. She was a little red and looked a bit annoyed. She had clearly heard Li Qiye earlier.

“Sister, don’t go in.” Another girl was startled by her sudden intrusion and was trying to pull her back. It was Miss Lin. She couldn’t stop Yujiao at all.

Tianzhu quickly scolded: “Why did you come in?”

“Father, I am not a child, I don’t need you to arrange everything for me.” Yujiao stomped her foot after saying this, both anger and embarrassment evident in her expression.

Tianzhu hastily reprimanded: “Don’t spout nonsense or be rude in front of Young Noble.”

Yujiao felt that she couldn’t stay here any longer due to shame, so she angrily stormed away.

“Young Noble, my daughter was impolite just now. I’ll go talk to her.” Tianzhu bowed and apologized to Li Qiye before chasing after her.

Li Qiye only smiled and didn’t care too much about Yujiao’s little tantrum.

With those two gone, only Li Qiye and Miss Lin were left in the room. She tensed up and didn’t even know where to rest her hands as she was simply too nervous.

“Senior Sister is a good person, she was just a little bit angry earlier, that’s all.” She spoke soft words to defend Yujiao.

Li Qiye couldn’t help but smile while looking at this girl as gentle as an orchid. He eventually asked: “What is your name?”

Her heart fluttered as she was stunned like a fawn and began to stammer: “My, my name is Lin Miao.”

She raised her head to look at Li Qiye only to blush before immediately lowering her face.

She was normally not such a timid person. She could greet guests and communicate freely and gracefully. However, she was especially tense in front of Li Qiye.

“The holy and wonderful bloodline of the Lin Clan.” He looked at her and nodded.

The nervous girl nodded multiple times in response: “Yes, yes, but Senior Sister’s bloodline is even better than mine. My holy bloodline can’t compare to hers.” Her cheeks were flushed pink.

Chapter 1284: Lin Miao

Looking at the girl lowering her finely-sculpted forehead, Li Qiye gently shook his head: “There are no good or bad bloodlines, no one is born destined to be noble or wretched.”

“Really?” She secretly stole glances at him before nervously retracting them right after.

Li Qiye insisted in a serious manner: “I don’t need to lie to you. My words are true and come from the heart.”

“I, I didn’t mean to question your words...” Lin Miao thought that he was offended and almost started crying.

Li Qiye wryly smiled at this tense girl and said: "Sit down, we'll have a talk about bloodlines."

She hesitated for a moment before finally sitting down next to him. Her fair complexion was heating up, but she felt a bit happy inside.

Li Qiye looked at her and earnestly spoke: "There are no noble or lowly bloodlines, at least, not in my eyes. For the rest of the world, many people believe they have noble bloodlines, but how many of them were ultimately stomped on by those with lowly bloodlines?"

"Is that so?" Sitting next to him left her with an indescribable sense of satisfaction. His soft and charismatic voice was sweet music to her ears.

"Yes." Li Qiye continued: "For ages, how many Immortal Emperors have been viewed by others as ones who possessed weak bloodlines? Not all of them had a noble upbringing. Even imperial children might lose to the common man."

"As long as you have a noble dao heart, you will be the one with the noble bloodline." He elaborated: "Many peerless existences were proud not because of their bloodline, but because of their dao heart. Be righteous, confident, and determined — these traits are more precious than anything else."

"I, I heard that Young Noble, you have an imperial bloodline. In my eyes, you are nobler than anyone else." Her eyes darted at him again. After saying this, she felt quite hot and bothered.

Li Qiye chuckled in amusement and gently shook his head: "It doesn't matter whether I have an imperial bloodline or not. All I need is my firm dao heart. With it, the entire world will be within my grasp. When I fail, I can still lift my head and break through all setbacks, becoming stronger than before. And even in success, I will not forget who I am. An indestructible dao heart will grant you eternity."

He earnestly told her: "Maintain a strong dao heart to be in control of everything."

"Well, of course, Young Noble, you are the true dragon of the nine heavens, victory will always be on your side." She couldn't help but praise him. In her eyes, Li Qiye was perfect. Embarrassment got the best of her again after her momentary lapse of emotions. She lowered her head once more.

Li Qiye explained: "You can also become a phoenix that soars in the distant horizon as long as you are determined enough."

"Even, even someone like me?" Lin Miao's mind trembled as if she had been struck by thunder. Becoming a phoenix was something she never dreamed about.

His words swept through her mind like lightning, as if he was showing her the most beautiful light in this world.

"Why not?" Li Qiye chuckled: "No one is born blessed or doomed. If your intentions are righteous, then you are noble! Countless people have risen against the heavens to change their fate. In the long river of time, some with humble beginnings left behind indelible marks."

He gave an example: "For instance, Empress Hong Tian. She was only an ordinary girl born in an era full of geniuses, she couldn't be any more ordinary."

He paused for a bit before continuing: "But this ordinary girl surpassed countless difficulties. She laughed and cried but she never faltered. In the end, she trampled numerous geniuses and slew plenty of imperial princes. Her firm dao heart paved a path towards invincibility."

Lin Miao listened while looking at Li Qiye. She was fascinated by his ordinary features. This common appearance was incredibly attractive as if it was a spell. She could look at him forever without tiring. The same was true for his pleasant words; they were full of wisdom and charisma.

"The empress' motto was this: how can the sparrow and swallow know the will of the great swan? She kept this in mind all her life, so she was named Hong Tian." Li Qiye told Lin Miao: "You can also do this instead of thinking you are inferior to others just because of your bloodline." [1. I learned something here. I used to think Hong Tian meant Grand Heaven, but after this explanation, Hong Tian is most likely describing a swan flying freely in the sky. Hong can mean swan/great/grand. I suppose her title would be Heavenswan or Skyswan instead of Grandheaven, if we were to translate this title to English.]

Lin Miao was enchanted by this revelation. She eventually murmured: "How can the sparrow and swallow know the will of the great swan?"

This single phrase illuminated her life and would bring about a new change. She saw unprecedentedly bright colors.

This was an issue she didn't ruminate in the past. In her eyes, the lake was large, but it couldn't compare to sea god and Immortal Emperor lineages.

She was only a common disciple from the lake. There were other senior brothers and sisters that were much more excellent in comparison. For example, her close friend Hong Yujiao was better than her in virtually every respect.

Thus, her life would only be a bit eventful at best. It was impossible for her to join the ranks of Shangguan Feiyan or the legendary Seven Martial Goddess. This, on the other hand, gave her peace. Her pursuits weren't overly ambitious and she was satisfied with just following her own pace and doing what she wanted to do.

But now, Li Qiye's words revealed a potential radiance never-before-seen in her life. It was a guiding beacon that she could follow.

"Dreams exist where the mind is." He smiled: "Back then, your lake's four clans didn't have the same resources as you do today. But in the end, they became an invincible legion. With great comradery, they swept through the battlefields with their children for the sake of their clans and left behind an indelible prestige."

He stared at her deeply and declared: "Your ancestors became something even stronger than an imperial legion not because of their unparalleled bloodline or incredible background, but because they had dao hearts that would never accept the word 'defeat'."

Lin Miao emotionally palpitated. A feminine girl like her still felt her blood boiling when recalling the glory of past. She became momentarily dazed and suddenly, a dream took shape in her heart. She murmured: "Dreams exist where the mind is..."

“That’s right. If you are willing, anything is possible.” Li Qiye encouraged: “The future of the younger generation is the future of the lake. No one else can control the fate of the lake other than all of you.”

She secretly stole glances at Li Qiye several more times after calming down before quietly responding: “I, I don’t dream about becoming invincible like the ancestors. I just want to live a comfortable and happy life.” She was worried about what he would think of her answer and nervously lowered her head again.

“As long as you keep on walking with great persistence and a goal, then all is fine. Whether you become invincible or not, leave that up to your fortune.” He continued: “But you must try to protect the lake. If you young ones don’t protect your own home, who will?”

“Yes.” She busily nodded, true to her thoughts. Right now, she felt that everything Li Qiye said was incredibly reasonable and wise.

“Stick to it. Work hard and protect what you hold dear so that your lake can have a better future.” He showed a rare gentleness: “I will leave the lake to your generation, can do you it?”

In the end, Li Qiye still wanted the best for the lake. Hong Tianzhu’s group was too old, so it was up to Lin Miao and her peers to take care of the lake in the future.

The shy girl felt warmth and happiness. Li Qiye just said he wanted to entrust the lake to her. Just how much trust and hope was this?

She eventually met his gaze and mustered courage out of nowhere to decisively answer: “I, I’ll listen to you.”

Chapter 1285: Departure

While looking at her firm gaze, Li Qiye nodded and smiled: “I know you can definitely do it.”

These words were spoken with credence. They gave her power like an immortal nectar and made her feel as if her body was floating among the clouds.

Such simple words carried great influence and impact. They were more pleasant than anything else Lin Miao had heard before. Very shortly, she was overwhelmed with joy and felt something sweet like never before.

“You are about to drool.” Li Qiye chuckled after seeing her dazed state.

She regained her wits with a blush that spread to her neck, making her feel quite hot. Nevertheless, she was in a great mood due to the long lasting aftertaste.

He smiled and concluded: “Go. One day, you shall soar through this world like a phoenix.”

Her heart fluttered with jubilation. Even her steps felt lighter as she walked outside. Before leaving, she turned back and asked: “Will, will I see you again?”

Li Qiye lamented in his mind after seeing her expression. This was an unfortunate feeling, but he still showed a smile and nodded: “If it is meant to be. If I am not in this world in the future, you can find me above the nine heavens.”

"I got it." She looked deeply at him, letting go of her shyness as if she wanted to carve his face and appearance deep in her mind to never forget them.

After she left, he finally sighed and looked at the lake to say: "Emotions come and go, having no emotions is easier than otherwise. But how many could actually reach a true state of emotionlessness?"

With that, he closed his eyes to enter a state of zen, no longer caring about external affairs.

Several days later, Jian Longwei came to pick him up. Even if he didn't, Li Qiye would leave the lake anyway.

Jian Longwei asked after seeing him: "Your Excellency, the divine dragon has sent word. The preparations are complete, will you leave right now?"

"I should go today." Li Qiye softly answered while looking at the lake through a window.

Longwei asked: "You do not wish to stay a bit longer?" In fact, he was hoping that Li Qiye could stay at the Jian Clan for a short while.

Li Qiye turned to look at him and smiled: "You have grown up to be quite excellent, I have nothing to teach you. As for your descendants, those who are capable will be personally taught by the old geezer. I won't steal his thunder."

He went on: "I have met your ancestors and said my goodbyes. Lingering any further would only exacerbate my frustration."

The ancestors he mentioned were Jian Wendi and Jian Wenxin.

Jian Longwei nodded silently. He didn't know much about the past, but he had heard something about Li Qiye and their ancestral aunt. [1. Aunt because Wendi is the progenitor.]

"I'm very happy about how prosperous the Jian Clan has become." Li Qiye smiled: "Even though humans are merely passersby in the Heaven Spirit World, this is not true for your clan, this is your home. As long as your progenitor and the older geezer are here as well as the mountain and the dragon kingdom, your clan shall stand strong."

"Our progenitor only wishes for his descendants to stay here." Jian Longwei added: "I heard some ancestors wanted to open a separate branch in the Mortal Emperor World, but his venerable did not agree."

"This is where he belongs." Li Qiye gently sighed: "Like many others, he has a deep affection and great love for this land; he's more than willing to take root here in this life and the next."

Li Qiye also understood that Jian Wendi still had a dao hurdle in his heart. This sister and brother duo couldn't overcome this ridge in their hearts.

Their father had hurt them too deeply, so those two would never want to return to the Mortal Emperor World. That was a land full of heart-wrenching pain, the place they experienced their most difficult years.

Of course, Li Qiye could sympathize with their horrific past, so he never forced them to do anything.

Longwei asked: “Your Excellency, where do you wish to go?”

Li Qiye looked up towards the far horizon in response: “The Bonesea. I’m finished with my business here, so it is time for me to leave.”

“The Bonesea...” Longwei shuddered.

The Bonesea was one of the twelve burial grounds, an extremely ominous location. As a taboo location of legends, even a Godking like him wouldn’t carelessly tread through it since it was a path of no return.

Of course, he knew that for a supreme existence like Li Qiye, he could easily travel to any place as if it was flat ground.

Eventually, Li Qiye withdrew his gaze and spoke: “I want to ask you something.”

“Your Excellency, please go ahead.” Jian Longwei quickly bowed in response: “If this disciple knows about it, I will definitely let you know.”

Li Qiye paused for a moment before slowly asking: “How has the Celestial Pavilion been in the last two generations or so?” [2. The actual raw is Heavenly Immortal Pavilion, but the most common meaning behind the combination of Heavenly + Immortal is a goddess/fairy/beautiful women. It can also be used as a particular class of immortal, such as celestial/heavenly immortal or earth immortal. In this case, I’m refraining from using fairy and goddess because it isn’t the same word. Heavenly Immortal is just too long and it doesn’t fit the real meaning of both the word and context; immortal and heavenly has been used too much already. Celestial is a better choice.]

Longwei was a bit surprised by this topic, but he hurriedly answered: “Your Excellency, the Celestial Pavilion is still holding strong as one of the most powerful lineages in the Heaven Spirit World. However, it has become increasingly reclusive, their disciples rarely show themselves.”

Li Qiye asked with sorrow: “Is the Lunargrasp Fairy still in this world?”

This simple question startled Jian Longwei, but he answered right away: “Your Excellency, I heard the fairy is still in this world, but I have never seen her. After the divine dragon bestowed my title, I personally visited the Celestial Pavilion. The pavilion lord told me that she is still alive, but even the ancestors from their sect can’t seek an audience.”

Li Qiye internally bemoaned: “So many years...” He knew that he had to face certain things or it would forever be an unresolved knot.

Longwei didn’t know the relationship between Li Qiye and the fairy. He quietly said: “The progenitor has said that the fairy is one of the strongest beings in Heaven Spirit right now. His Venerable himself felt that he couldn’t match up against her.”

“Yes, she has always been that powerful. How could she not be?” Li Qiye sentimentally responded: “She was someone who competed against Empress Hong Tian for the Heaven’s Will and even defeated the empress many times when she was younger. She is indeed mighty.”

“The progenitor also said that Heaven Spirit has the Lunargrasp Fairy while Mortal Emperor has South Emperor. Those two were the most gifted during that era.” Longwei found this topic quite interesting.

Empress Hong Tian's generation had geniuses coming out in droves. It could be considered a magnificent era.

Immortal's Legacy — these words were used to describe the Lunargrasp Fairy. One could easily imagine just how incredible her talents were from this title.

"Their talents were indeed peerless during that era." Li Qiye nodded in agreement and continued: "Even though there were as many geniuses as there were stars in the sky back then, they were still as dazzling as ever. However, South Emperor and the fairy were very different people. South Emperor was an elegant hermit while the fairy was an unyielding warrior."

Longwei was taken aback by this statement. Generally speaking, men were more prone to be considered warriors, but Li Qiye described the fairy as one. This made him wonder just how domineering she used to be.

Eventually, Li Qiye smiled and shook his head: "Let's go, it is now time." He left the room afterward.

Longwei busily kept up right behind him.

Before his departure, Hong Tianzhu's group showed up to bid farewell. They saw him all the way out of the lake.

Li Qiye told the group: "Go back, even if you see a friend off for a thousand miles, you will still have to part in the end."

Hong Tianzhu and the others respectfully kneeled and worshipped him: "Young Noble, take care. May we meet again."

Li Qiye smiled and took one last good look at the green Dongting Lake before flying to the sky with Jian Longwei.

As he was leaving, Lin Miao mustered courage out of nowhere and shouted in his direction: "Young Noble, take care!"

Li Qiye looked back at her and revealed a faint smile before leaving with a nod.

Lin Miao watched his departing figure in a trance. She eventually smiled, firmly engraving his image in the deepest part of her heart.

After a long time, Tianzhu told Lin Miao: "Child, let's go back."

As a senior, how could he not see it? He could only gently shake his head because Lin Miao and Li Qiye were people of different worlds. It might be too difficult for them to meet again in the future.

Chapter 1286: Giant Dragon Mountain Range

The Giant Dragon Mountain Range was shrouded in mist, so no one could see its true appearance. The word mysterious had always been its defining characteristic.

Many wanted to enter in order to understand its nature, but they had always failed. Legend states that there was a kingdom in these mountains. No one knew whether this was true or not because none had visited it.

Standing on top of a hill with an aura unique to this mountain range, Li Qiye looked over the undulating mountains. Once inside, one would find the area was completely different from its external appearance.

Everyone knew that vast continents were rare in Heaven Spirit. In fact, the only landmass considered to be a real continent was Godhalt.

However, if one could enter the mountain range, they would find that the ground they stood on looked like a great continent comparable to Godhalt.

Of course, few were privy to this scene. Even those who were qualified to enter would probably not tell outsiders about their experience.

Li Qiye smiled: "Giant Dragon Kingdom." He found the kingdom a very interesting location.

Of course, he didn't plan to visit the Dragon Kingdom this time and had no desire to give those rascals there a beating.

He gently shook his head and continued on his way. At this point, he was all by himself since Jian Longwei couldn't follow him.

He went quite deep into the mountain range through hills and deserts, after which he was met with a volcano and another ocean.

It seemed that this place had formed its own realm as it was full of vast lands. With the absence of humans, a draconic aura permeated every corner of this place.

For humans, being exposed to this aura would result in a very strong pressure. After all, dragons were mighty, so weak cultivators couldn't withstand their auras.

Li Qiye, on the other hand, enjoyed basking in this aura. For him, it was too comfortable. This journey had been a pleasurable trip for him.

"True dragons, the ultimate transformation of a demon dragon. Cleansing and refining their blood until it becomes the strongest and most precious bloodline in the world..." Li Qiye emotionally said: "The title of divine dragon is indeed apt."

Outsiders didn't know that every inch of this mountain range was quite precious. It was a treasure land that allowed the future generations to prosper.

Li Qiye murmured: "This bloodline is quite exquisite. The old geezer's choice was truly wise. Otherwise, they would definitely become feasts for the emperors and gods above the nine heavens."

The old geezer's offspring were powerful because they had inherited his bloodline. Of course,, they were far inferior to the old man himself. Nevertheless, a thick bloodline of a true dragon coursed through their veins.

In the outside world existed very diluted true dragon bloodlines. If the old geezer's descendants were outside, others would consider them as true dragons.

For their race, their precious bloodline was both a blessing and a curse. It was needless to mention the advantages, they were destined to be powerful. The disadvantages were clear as well; because their bloodline was so strong, it was difficult for them to reproduce.

It could be said that in Heaven Spirit or even the entire nine worlds, no other race had such a difficult time reproducing as the dragons. Fortunately, their lifespans were relatively long, or else they would have become extinct long ago.

Because of this, the geezer needed the Jian Clan because only their imperial bloodline was worthy of their race. Moreover, both sides had a relationship thicker than blood. The old geezer trusted the Jian Clan; this played a great part in why the Jian Clan was the only lineage in Heaven Spirit that could stay in Rainbow City.

In fact, the other four clans of Dongting Lake had deep ties with the dragon mountain as well. However, this was a matter of long ago.

The other issue with their bloodline was that, through cultivation, they could reach atavism and cause their blood to become even purer.

This, in turn, made them hesitant to compete against the rest of the world. The reason was that once a member of their race becomes an Immortal Emperor, they would have to face the world inhabited by gods and emperors.

Just imagine, their precious bloodline would become a nutritious feast, a high-level liquid for life-prolongment.

They would only become prey in such a place. It was very difficult for their tribe to establish a stronghold under such circumstances. This was why the old man's race chose to be reclusive and stay unknown to outsiders.

Li Qiye eventually reached his destination after a long trek. This was a barren land with only loess in sight. Eventually, he stood before an ordinary looking hill and heard clanking gallops from a horse.

He smiled right away and approached the stone wall. There was an entrance to a cavern at its base. It looked normal, but there was a fence seemingly made from white ivory.

A skeletal horse was pacing back and forth in front of this entrance as if it was waiting for something. This was the very horse that appeared in the ocean in the past, the mount of Immortal Emperor Bu Si. Who would have thought that it would be here?

Of course, it was given permission by the old geezer. Otherwise, even an emperor's mount wouldn't have been able to reach this location.

"Neigh—" It roared after seeing Li Qiye and aggressively lifted its frontal hooves. This was clearly an antagonistic posture.

It couldn't be blamed. Li Qiye had transformed into the young emperor in order to trick it. From its perspective, he was an enemy.

Li Qiye couldn't help but smile: "There's no need to be so hostile towards me. Maybe you will ask me for help in just a bit. At that time, it would be too late if you try to suck up to me, right?"

“Neigh—” Despite being mere bones, it still had a great amount of spirituality, so it could understand Li Qiye. As a result, it didn’t attack him despite its hostile behavior.

Li Qiye stood before the entrance and took a look before praising: “This place is pretty well sealed. Once locked inside, not only can it evade everything, nothing can come out either.”

There was a great mystery behind this cavern. Just the fence that sealed it was made from heaven-defying dragon bones from the geezer himself! Its power was unimaginable.

There was not much in the cave itself outside of a cage inside a pit on the ground that was completely inserted into the earth.

The pit itself was filled with an extremely black liquid. There might not be something darker than this liquid in this world. It could absorb all light, including the rays of the sun. There was no escape after being devoured.

At a first glance, someone would actually mistake it for a black hole. It was not an inanimate object either. Occasionally, it would slightly creep around. A full range of motion was impossible because it was in the pit. At the very least, it seemed to be alive.

Li Qiye was all smiles after seeing this liquid as he murmured: “That old geezer really risked it back then, to actually lock this thing down here. Who else in this world could actually accomplish this?”

This stygian liquid was brought back by the old man from the Bonesea. It had a frightening origin. The old man sealed it here for his own use, but he never got around to using it.

It didn’t look particularly conspicuous, but if people knew of its usefulness, they would break heads vying for it. Even Immortal Emperors would bring treasures here to make a deal with him.

His eyes then shifted towards a corner of this cave. There was an object there.

To be exact, it was two items — a pair of eyes. These eyes seemed to be casually placed in the corner as if they had been abandoned.

Chapter 1287: A Pair Of Eyes

These eyes seemed to be quite archaic, as if they were plucked out from a living being and left in this corner long ago.

They were well-preserved in this place, not at all withered by the passage of time.

They suddenly lit up at this very moment. Prior to this, they seemed to be closed, but now, they were opening. The eyes suddenly shifted, not in a tumbling sense, but the gaze seemed to be rotating in a very bizarre manner. Anyone would be frightened by this weird scene.

Li Qiye couldn’t help but grin. He understood something after seeing it and said: “Bu Si, you brat. It looks like you hid your eyes in this place. You must have paid a great price to do so.”

Everyone in the world knew about the collapse and destruction of Immortal Emperor Bu Si. Who would have thought that he had left his pair of eyes in this eternally secluded location, capable of evading everything and anything?

“Geezer, let’s do it.” Li Qiye touched the fence made from dragon bones and looked to the sky with a smile.

“Squeak—” A heavy sound came about. At this time, the fence slowly rose to the sky and the cavern was made available to Li Qiye.

“Neigh—” The horse was especially excited to see the seal being removed and lifted its hooves up high. It had been waiting for this moment and quickly rushed for the cavern in order to take the pair of eyes.

However, it immediately stopped and slowly retreated to the entrance. Despite being all bones, it could tell that the black liquid inside the cage was quite dreadful.

“Neigh—” The horse raised its hooves again and stared helplessly at the eyes in the corner.

Li Qiye smiled when he saw the horse’s appearance and leisurely asked: “Do you need my help now?”

The frustrated horse looked back at Li Qiye. It still had the same hostility as before.

Li Qiye noticed this but didn’t care too much. He shrugged and continued with a smile: “You can hate me or whatever, I won’t mind since I am such a benevolent person. However, what can you do in this situation? Will you continue to act hostile, or will you let it go and ask me for help?”

The horse glanced between Li Qiye and the eyes in the corner. With another neigh, it seemed to agree with Li Qiye. Despite this being the case, there was still a trace of caution in its demeanor.

Li Qiye chuckled: “Don’t look at me like that. If I really wanted to take you down, you wouldn’t be standing here right now. Your background might be incredible, but I could have pinned you to the ground long ago.”

“Neigh—” The horse roared again as if it found this reply displeasing. Nevertheless, its hostility had been greatly reduced.

Li Qiye grinned and revealed: “My demand isn’t high for helping you get those eyes. I just want to ride you for a bit later on, I believe this is quite fair.”

The horse tilted its skull while contemplating. It resembled a human more than a skeletal horse.

In its eyes, Li Qiye was not a nice person at all. Its sentient self remained very cautious towards him.

Li Qiye laughed and added: “Okay, what other choice do you have if you refuse?”

The horse let out another neigh before nodding its head. Without a doubt, it had accepted the condition.

“Very well, now that’s a good horsey.” Li Qiye satisfyingly beamed and reached out to pat the horse’s head.

It still didn’t completely accept Li Qiye, so it shook its head to get his hand off. Li Qiye’s smile disappeared as he withdrew his hand and then proceeded to enter the cavern. He went to the corner and picked up the pair of eyes.

He didn't immediately give it to the horse and instead carefully inspected it. The eyes met his stare with a curious glance as they darted about like the inquisitive eyes of a baby.

After a careful examination, Li Qiye couldn't help but smirk: "Immortal Emperor Bu Si, it looks like you still have an opportunity to turn things around. Brat, you are indeed full of schemes, to actually come up with something like this."

The eyes didn't understand what Li Qiye was saying. They looked like they weren't only curious about Li Qiye, they wanted to find out everything about the outside world.

"For generations, no one has been successful, but you have actually done it, not bad at all." Li Qiye grinned while looking at the eyes: "Fine, I'll lend you a hand. I will help you open your eyes."

With that, universal laws formed in his palm and rippled like the surface of a lake. He further derived these laws to expose their boundless potential and pointed at the pair of eyes.

"Neigh!" The skeletal horse by the entrance grew nervous and loudly howled. It wanted to rush in several times, but the black liquid truly frightened it. It was afraid that Li Qiye was doing something unfavorable to the eyes.

"Buzz—" When Li Qiye's finger touched the eyes, the boundless laws instantly jumped into them. At this point, a new world seemed to be opening in these eyes. This world was filled with color and swelling water — a magnificent scene.

Inside the eyes, a sun rose while a moon fell. A great sky emerged with winds and clouds. Generations changed from one to the next with continuous transformations between prosperity and stagnation... A grand universe was floating up and down within them.

The tense horse finally became relieved after seeing this. It had misunderstood Li Qiye; he was helping the eyes instead of harming them.

Meanwhile, the pair of eyes, full of curiosity, looked at the universe within. Everything seemed to be new and full of surprises.

Li Qiye then took it out of the cavern and looked at the horse while smiling: "If I wanted to harm them, would I have bothered to make a deal with you?" Having said that, he put the eyes into the horse's eye sockets.

"Neigh!" The horse excitedly roared. It took several steps backward to slowly adapt to its new eyes.

The truth was that this scene was incredibly bizarre. A horse comprised of only bones had gained a pair of human eyes — anyone would be creeped out after seeing this.

Li Qiye ignored the horse and entered the cave again. With runes in his palm, he carved them on the cage and then lifted it up: "Open!"

"Clank!" The other half of the cage under the ground was slowly being lifted by Li Qiye. Eventually, the whole cage was lifted up.

The black liquid in the pit began to stir in the midst of this process. It seemed as if Mt. Tai, a weight of trillions of pounds, had been removed from its body.

It stretched out a bit and slowly streamed out from the pit. A more accurate description would be that it was crawling out from its imprisonment.

“Neigh!” The horse was very afraid while watching this. It retreated to maintain a certain distance from this liquid.

The liquid cheered after finding out that it was finally free. Even though no sound came out, its shape and form made its jubilation apparent.

Just like that, it darted out of the hole like a gust of wind; it was excited to see the sun again.

Chapter 1288: Item Left Behind

Li Qiye followed the liquid out of the cave. After seeing the sun, the liquid found itself free and happily soared into the sky. Shortly after, a black ray shot towards the Bonesea.

Li Qiye smiled and patted the horse: “Go, follow right behind it. This will make it easier for you to enter the forbidden zones in the Bonesea.”

“Neigh!” The skeletal horse let out a roar and raised its frontal hooves before leaping into the sky. It disappeared in the black liquid’s direction.

Li Qiye murmured after seeing this: “Brat, I hope you can do it. It will definitely be a miracle. But of course, your current self is already a miracle.”

Li Qiye was not in a hurry to chase after the horse and the black liquid. He took his time leaving the mountain range.

Jian Longwei was already waiting outside for him with a wooden box in his hands.

Jian Longwei looked towards the Bonesea’s direction and curiously asked: “Is the Bonesea about to emerge?”

“It’ll be lively for some time at the western Bonesea. Many people who have been coveting items from there won’t be able to sit still.” Li Qiye smiled while staring at the horizon.

Jian Longwei didn’t comment. Even though the items there might be precious, he wanted nothing to do with them. Plus, this was a different generation; he didn’t want to leave Rainbow City at all.

He calmed down and respectfully raised the wooden box towards Li Qiye with both hands: “Your Excellency, the progenitor wanted me to give you this. He said that this is something our ancestral aunt left behind; it is related to Empress Hong Tian. The ancestral aunt gave this to the progenitor before passing away, but he didn’t know when to give it to you. He said that this might be your last time visiting our Jian Clan and perhaps your last meeting, so he ordered me to give it to you.” The ancestral aunt was Jian Wenxin.

Li Qiye accepted the box and opened it to take a look inside. After a while, he gently closed it and sighed.

“It is all in the past.” He put the box away and spoke with a hint of sadness: “I had already let go of this matter back then and didn’t blame anyone. Immortality... perhaps I was wrong...”

Jian Longwei hesitated for a moment before stating: “The progenitor said that before she passed away, she also hoped that you could forget about the issue with Empress Hong Tian...”

“You don’t know Empress Hong Tian, and Wenxin didn’t either.” Li Qiye smiled and gently shook his head: “I’m not blaming her for it. She has always been incredibly stubborn, but I don’t want her to change. Pride is part of her nature, her stubbornness is actually a little adorable...”

He recalled the olden days with the stubborn girl and couldn’t help but smile.

Even though they got into quite a fight and went their separate ways despite their complete trust in each other, Li Qiye had never blamed her.

Longwei was quiet since he didn’t know too much about his predecessors. Sometimes, he heard his progenitor talk about the relationship between the Dark Crow, Empress Hong Tian, and the ancestral aunt. It was too complicated for outsiders to understand.

After a long time, Li Qiye glanced at Longwei and said: “Your Jian Clan can co-exist with the dragon kingdom, so I’m not worried at all. You are the lord of the clan, but I don’t have any good advice for you. Just keep trying your best and continue to pass down your bloodline. It hasn’t been easy for the clan to last this long; your progenitor has spent a miraculous amount of effort. This is also the reason why he has been hanging on to dear life all this time...”

“... He is too reluctant to leave his descendants for he is full of love. His aspiration is to protect those children forever, to give them a peaceful life. He loves you all and this land wholeheartedly. His reason for living is not something personal, it isn’t because he fears death. It’s because he can’t bear to leave, there are too many things in this world that make him worry.” He gently sighed at the end.

Jian Wendi’s life experience only bolstered his self-perceived responsibility for his children. He didn’t want to be like his father who abandoned his own children for a selfish cause.

Jian Wendi was willing to do everything for his descendants. He was a good father and a proper ancestor, trying to protect his descendants for generations to come.

“Your Excellency, I will keep your words deep in my mind.” Longwei bowed with great reverence.

“I have to go now.” Li Qiye looked back at the mountain range with yearning sentiments. Then, he casually pointed forward to open a portal and quickly crossed through many territories.

In recent days, there had been sudden changes at the Dragon Demon Sea. A black star came out of nowhere and crossed the sky with great speed like a falling meteor. Because it was too swift, the void shattered and issued bursts of explosions.

This meteor was followed by a skeletal horse whose speed was no lesser than the star itself. The horse continued to maintain a certain distance behind this meteor. This bizarre scene attracted the attention of many cultivators in this region.

What was even more concerning was that when this meteor crossed the sky, the skeletons in the nearby vicinity would begin to move. Some of them seemed to have been granted life and began to crawl.

However, after the meteor disappeared over the horizon, the skeletons would lose their strength and fall apart once more, scattering all over the ground.

This was quite a creepy spectacle and frightened all the nearby cultivators. Some experts and even seclusive ancestors had no choice but to pay attention to this event. Many speculations and theories arose.

“Maybe this is a demon star that will bring about a calamity to the Dragon Demon Sea. After all, only a devilish star such as this would be able to revive the dead.” Plenty of big shots were worried.

Of course, a few ancestors were ecstatic. Their eyes flashed after seeing the moving skeletons powered by the star, and some even murmured: “This star can revive skeletons. Perhaps there is an immortal item within that will allow people to become eternal!”

In fact, many ancestors reached this conclusion. For those on the verge of death like them, nothing was more tempting than eternal life. The appearance of this black star gave them hope.

In a short period of time, the ancestors of many sea god and imperial lineages came out one after another. They thought about pursuing this black star.

Soon, news regarding the location of this star was spread. Someone personally saw it fly into the Bonesea with a skeletal horse right behind it.

“Into the Bonesea?” A big character murmured while his eyes sparkled: “Does the Bonesea really have an item that grants immortality?”

Another answered: “Maybe this is the case.”

After coming up with this possibility, these ancestors became unbelievably excited, like chickens with their heads cut off. They all excitedly stated: “There are so many tempting items in there. It looks like the momentum of the age is about to change, an item that can grant immortality is about to appear.”

“An immortal artifact is coming into being at the Bonesea!” Someone released this news to the entire region.

An item that could grant immortality was mouth-watering. Many ancestors would be driven even crazier with such a thing. This news turned into a storm that swept up all the experts nearby. Heaven Spirit itself was affected. The powerful inhabitants of the Abyss and Jade Seas immediately departed for the Dragon Demon Sea and headed straight for the Bonesea.

Even the rare existences that had been buried under the earth since the dawn of time were startled after hearing this news.

An ancient existence calmed down and murmured: “Who is the mastermind?”

Even though this particular existence didn’t know the real mysteries behind the Bonesea, they had heard stories about it, legends, even.

They immediately understood that there was a puppet master behind all of this. However, the exact reason for these events eluded them.

This was precisely why these near-death existences didn't want to come into being even after hearing about this immortal artifact. Whether it was real or not, they didn't dare to be involved.

Only truly powerful existences like them understood that very few in this world would dare to concoct such a plan.

This was a level beyond them, an even more fearsome type of existence that belonged only in legends. Despite being unstoppable for so long, they were unwilling to mess with such an existence because it might bring extinction to their race.

Chapter 1289: Rootless Duckweed

Li Qiye left the dragon mountains for the Bonesea. He wasn't in a hurry, so he opened his portals randomly while crossing through the countries.

He stopped multiple times along the way to bask in the beautiful sceneries of the Dragon Demon Sea. After all, these majestic scenes were unique to Heaven Spirit.

He had heard about the immortal artifact coming out of the Bonesea and only smiled in response.

Seeing people anxiously running there didn't affect his pace because he knew that the time was not ripe. Only when it was would he finally be able to reach his desired destination. Otherwise, it would all be in vain.

Because of this, he relaxed and took his time traveling across this beautiful sea region. However, he would occasionally become absent-minded in front of this beauty. While standing on a cliff and gazing at the vast sea, his mind seemed to drift away.

In those distant years, there was a period of time when he had a taste of the happiness of being an ordinary man. During an evening on this very cliff, there was someone who held hands with him while watching the sunset.

He continued to look at the sun slowly sinking into the sea in a stupor. After a long time, he withdrew his gaze and gave a carefree smile: "Yueli, I'll let you know that someone named Li Qiye is back. I don't mind even if you kill me. All debts must be repaid before I go to the final world."

With that, he laughed with an open mind before coolly leaving. Sometimes he would fly or ride the waves.

Among the billowing clouds were a few mountains and old pavilions. This scene looked just like an immortal paradise. Among these hidden mountains were lush, ancient pines and gurgling streams.

In the pavilions were cultivators absorbing and releasing the elements as if they were immortals.

When standing in these clouds, one would often see other cultivators traveling. When they met, it was a time to be cheerful and enthusiastic. Honorifics were thrown and greetings were exchanged. They would explore the arts of the elements.

These scenes looked particularly beautiful, but the truth was far from this. Behind these dream-like images was an unimaginable cruelty.

These cultivators hiding in the clouds belonged to the human race. Moreover, their situation was one of helplessness.

In the Heaven Spirit World, continents were far and few between; most landmasses already had masters. Cultivators didn't mind being in oceans. At a certain level, there was virtually no difference between land and water. However, humans were land creatures. More often than not, they weren't suited for the sea, unlike the sea tribes who had a love for the oceans and were born there.

Some human cultivators had no territory, so they had to stay in the sky and hide in the clouds. These mountains and pavilions weren't personally refined by them but instead were left behind by their ancestors. Of course, the lucky ones could come across places without an owner.

The abandoned mountains and pavilions were often lineages that failed to be passed down. Their final generation must have died from old age. Thus, the structures could only float in the clouds across the vast firmament. The lucky ones could then claim these as their own.

When human cultivators reached a certain power level and didn't have a landmass, they would dig out mud and soil from the ocean or move a mountain in order to refine them. This process would eventually turn into these artificial creations floating among the clouds in the sky.

The truth was that it wasn't their choice. Who would want to drift endlessly in the sky if they had their own land?

For some people, this style of life was very interesting and fun at the start. However, as time passed, they would come to find that they were not the masters of their own destiny.

Given the choice between having a home and this, no one would want to be rootless duckweed. Moreover, it was dangerous to drift around like this. Once they met an enemy who was more powerful than themselves, they could be destroyed at any time.

This dreamy life was the result of a lack of choice. In this kind of rootless drifting, one wouldn't have any way of establishing an ancestral ground, mining resources, or planting precious elixirs and plants.

Being poor was a fatal disadvantage for cultivators. A wealth of resources was crucial for cultivators and sects to grow stronger.

However, having an abundance of these resources relied on having one's own territory in order to keep them safe. It was often meaningless to have too many resources while participating in this vagabond lifestyle. Having a pavilion in the air was simply a fool's dream.

Li Qiye gently shook his head while looking at a few of the cultivators visiting and talking to each other among these mountains and pavilions in the middle of this sea of clouds.

In this helpless situation, these humans could only rely on each other for support. Otherwise, they would be easily washed away by the flood.

"This simply cannot be a place for humans to live." This was Li Qiye's only comment.

How many could be lucky enough to have their own landmass like the Exquisite Valley or Dongting Lake? Very few could enjoy being born into such a great background. To be able to join those sects was also a type of fortune.

Nevertheless, he didn't feel too sad about it. In his eyes, everyone had their own path. Even a savior couldn't save everyone.

He went on his way, riding the ocean waves without a care.

"Young Noble, where are you going? Do you want my company?" A pleasant voice rang with a hint of allurements that could stir the heart.

Li Qiye glanced over and saw Liu Ruyan standing on a boat. She was basking in the breeze with her slender figure like a willow leaf, making others truly get a sense for the fluttering wind.

She was riding a gigantic ship with the symbol of the Void Imperfection Three Schools on it. In Heaven Spirit, everyone would show some respect for this symbol.

Li Qiye smiled and got on the ship instead of refusing.

She showed warm hospitality by moving a table over before proceeding to light some sandalwood scents. Next, she boiled tea and personally handed it to him.

He didn't seem to mind the gesture and casually lied down by the table, looking quite comfortable.

She smiled and handed him a teacup while saying: "Young Noble, my craft is not as good as my sister's, please don't laugh."

Though her face was hidden behind a thin veil, each of her frowns and smiles exuded a special and comforting charm.

Gongsun Meiyu was also an enchanting person, but her charm was different. Meiyu had the mature allure of a married woman. Her charm relied on her beauty and her beauty relied on a sense of lust.

Meanwhile, Ruyan's charm was much more refined. It seeped into the heart with a touch of elegance and youthfulness. Such a woman was to be adored by all men.

He accepted the tea and slowly took a sip while staring at her without saying anything.

"Young Noble, are you going to the Bonesea?" She showed a smile that would make hearts flutter: "I'm also going to the Bonesea, may I accompany you?"

He responded while faintly grinning: "You are well-informed."

She frankly said: "Young Noble, you are a dragon among men, a supreme prodigy. Many eyes are on you regardless of the time or place as you're just like a swan among a flock of chickens. Your location can easily be found by asking around a bit."

"Little beauty, I don't care what your plan is, but don't provoke me or I might just avail myself of your charm." Li Qiye was in a particularly good mood while looking at this attractive woman.

"Do you actually dare?" Ruyan responded with a teasing chuckle: "There's no need for you to do so. If you want, I am more than willing to join you in bed. Of course, if you have some unusual tastes, I can also entertain you in that manner."

Such words truly pulled on one's heartstrings and made blood boil, especially when they came from someone as devilishly lovely as Liu Ruyan.

"Well said!" Li Qiye's eyes widened as he suddenly pulled her closer in an overbearing manner. She couldn't respond in time for he was too fast in taking her into his embrace.

"Pa! Pa! Pa!" A series of slaps resounded. Liu Ruyan cried out in surprise as Li Qiye slapped her sweet buttocks repeatedly.

He showed no sign of mercy for the fairer sex and used great force on her soft and pretty behind. She was definitely feeling a burning pain!

Chapter 1290: Martial Sisters

"You!" Liu Ruyan resembled a cat that had its tail stepped on, instantly jumping back. She glared at Li Qiye with both fear and embarrassment. Even though her speech was bold, innocence was still part of her nature.

What frustrated her even more was that Li Qiye showed no mercy at all. Her butt was burning with pain, especially if she sat down.

Li Qiye sat back and glanced at the girl to say: "I'm not someone you can tease as you please. I'll even strip you for a public display, what do you say about that?"

She gave him a fierce look and angrily replied: "Do you not know how to be a gentleman at all?"

As the Evil Devourer Schoolmaster, she enjoyed a high position in the Heaven Spirit World. Moreover, she herself was enchantingly beautiful, enough so to sway the soul of any man. It could be said that she was a demoness at the level of a calamity, a moon surrounded by the stars in the eyes of men.

No man had ever been this rude to her, but today, Li Qiye was both rude and unmerciful.

"Gentleman?" He smiled, revealing his perfectly white teeth: "Of course I know how to be a gentleman, but that depends on who I'm dealing with."

Despite her frustration, there was nothing she could do about it. She was aware of his notoriety from having killed beauties like Gongsun Meiyu and Shangguan Feiyan without any mercy at all. It was no longer surprising for this fierce man to do whatever he wished.

She sat back down but felt a stinging pain, causing her to frown.

Li Qiye couldn't help but smile after seeing her expression: "It looks like I was a bit too rough."

The remark sounded quite sarcastic.

"It's good that you are aware." She glared at him again without losing any of her charm.

He seemed to be enjoying her presence, evident by his smile. This, in turn, made her embarrassed as shown by her giving him the side-eye.

Li Qiye ignored her stare and took his time enjoying the tea before speaking: "This tea from your Evil Devourer School is quite good, but to be honest, your charming demeanor is even better than this tea."

Who knows if this remark was meant as praise or mockery. Meanwhile, she elegantly poured a full cup of tea for him, rendering a very pleasurable scene.

She sat there quietly as he drank the tea. Although she was still, she exuded a different style of attractiveness.

After finishing the cup, he looked at her and cheerfully asked: "What do you want?"

She poured another cup for him in a very comforting style and revealed a smile that would cause the body to go soft: "To steal my senior sister's man, is that alright? All the elders in the sect want her to bear your child in order to spread your bloodline."

"All because of the imperial bloodline?" He couldn't help but chuckle.

She playfully smirked and blinked her eyes: "I heard that outside of our progenitor, no one else from our school was able to become a true whale rider. If your bloodline is passed down, we might gain a new rider."

Li Qiye chuckled in response. He understood this very well since their schools didn't only want an imperial bloodline, these ancestors sought another whale rider.

After a while, Li Qiye changed the topic: "I heard your sister had married."

She replied: "I am different from her. She always placed the school first to the point of sacrificing herself. However, she is also the ideal wife in the minds of men. Elegant, noble, sensible, understanding, wise but not overbearing... which man wouldn't like her?"

Li Qiye teased: "Aren't you jealous?"

She chuckled in response: "Why would I be? She has her path and I have mine. Instead of being a virtuous wife like her, I prefer to be rebellious. The path of the grand dao is arduous. It isn't easy being a cultivator, so why should anyone burden themselves with so many responsibilities? Be free and true to your desires, that's how it should be."

He was amused by her answer as he looked at her. She felt no apprehension under his stare and instead met it directly.

"Be free and true to your desires, well said." Li Qiye nodded approvingly.

"I might not be a proper schoolmaster, but I'm definitely a proper cultivator." She smiled.

"Of course, you can reconsider." She playfully winked: "I heard some men have a particular penchant for married women. The more powerful they are, the more unimaginable their tastes are. Even though my sister was a married woman, she is still a virgin and absolutely suitable for you."

"I'm fully aware of what kind of woman is suitable for me." He smiled in response: "Your so-called competing against your sister is only a facade for you to help her."

"Is that so?" She winked once more and provocatively smiled while lightheartedly saying: "Not necessarily, a man like you is very attractive, enough to fascinate young girls. It isn't strange for me to compete against her."

“Oh?” He leisurely replied: “If the old men from your schools want something from me, fine, I’ll fulfill their wish. If both your sister and yourself warm my bed, I will consider it.”

“Wow, Young Noble, you have quite an appetite, wanting to hit two swans with one arrow... Holding beauties from both sides to fully enjoy the pleasure of men.” She smiled: “That’s quite an ambition you have there.”

Li Qiye faintly smiled: “I said I’m only reconsidering. The one losing out in this deal is me.”

She took another glance at this nonchalant man ahead of her and sentimentally sighed: “A confident man is so attractive, you’re truly swaying my heart.”

“Alright little beauty, there’s no need to goad me.” Li Qiye said: “Let your senior sister come out, your tricks aren’t fooling anyone.”

Sure enough, Zhuo Jianshi emerged from within the boat. She bowed before him and sincerely said: “Excuse us again. If we have done anything foolish, please punish us.”

Her attitude was very sincere as she maintained a very low posture. Nevertheless, she was still incredibly elegant and had a hint of sexiness. It was quite difficult to not like someone such as her, especially when her soft and silky voice entered one’s ears; they would feel quite comfortable upon hearing her voice.

“Well, I’m not from your school, so there’s no need for this type of formality and punishment.” He gently waved his sleeve.

“Young Noble, you are discerning with matchless wisdom, nothing can elude you.” Liu Ruyan smiled: “But this isn’t my sister’s fault. It was my idea, so if you want to blame someone, blame me.”

Li Qiye only looked at the two of them since he didn’t really mind: “Even your three schools do not make exceptions for you two?”

Zhuo Jianshi was hesitant to respond as she was unsure how to phrase it. In the end, she chose to stay silent.

Liu Ruyan movingly smiled instead: “It can’t be helped. At times, cultivators are unable to escape their responsibilities. If you don’t mind, how about leaving your bloodline with us? It will be a meritorious deed.”

Li Qiye looked at the two and smiled: “Who will be waiting first? Or will both of you come together?”

Such directness left Jianshi feeling hot. Even though the upper echelons of the schools wished for this, she was still a girl, so she inevitably became embarrassed when faced with this problem.

Ruyan fared better as she was still smiling: “It is okay if you want to have both of us.”

Li Qiye lightly laughed before answering: “Forget it, there’s no need to talk about this matter. Go back and tell the old geezers to give up on this idea. I won’t casually have children or leave behind my bloodline for your schools.”

With that, he stood up, intending to leave.

Jianshi softly sighed after hearing this response. What could she do about it? She understood that a man like Li Qiye wasn't so easily tempted by women.

"If you are going to the Bonesea, why don't we go together?" Ruyan chuckled: "Or are you afraid of being seduced by our charm so you don't dare to be close to us?"

"Really now?" He looked at her and actually sat back down: "Fine, I want to see just what kind of charm the two of you possess."

He naturally knew that this was her way of goading him, but he still stayed in the end.

She boldly told Jianshi: "Big Sis, since Young Noble is staying, shouldn't we be offering our services like giving him a massage?"

Jianshi instantly turned red. Even though she had agreed with the ancestors in the sect and was prepared to sacrifice herself, this was still her first time serving a man.