

EMPEROR 1311

Chapter 1311: Sea Aberration

Fear spread throughout the crowd as they watched the corpses floating on the ocean. Several hundred Ice-spirit Sea Demons and Blazing-serum Treants were drained dry. All of their blood energy had been devoured by Li Qiye.

A cultivator murmured while quivering: "This is too terrifying, what an evil art."

Another sect master commented: "These two races are done for. All of their elites, even high elders, have died here. They won't be able to rise again. This is the result of greed, participating for an unobtainable bounty only to pay with their lives."

Many people quietly reflected on the situation. The two races were mortal enemies, always in a state of discord. But now, they actually worked together for once only to be slaughtered completely. What a tragic tale.

"That was really filling." Li Qiye recalled his cauldron of life and faintly smiled. His eyes then turned towards the sky as he flatly said: "What else you got? Bring it."

A thunderous voice came from the sky as if something was blown open: "Show the decree!"

In an instant, a divine order with a majestic will descended. Its holy text ordered the nine heavens and myriad realms.

Someone shouted in amazement: "The decree of a sea god!"

This type of decree was written down by a living sea god. The moment it came out, the user would have control over its divinity. Some decrees had specific purposes while others were more general.

The former mostly consisted of agreements between a sea god and a certain race or person. After the sea god passed away, the descendants of the other party could also use this decree to command others.

A general purpose decree was a form of willpower used to suppress enemies. It was quite powerful since it represented the sea god. Ordinary cultivators couldn't oppose it at all.

This particular decree didn't suppress Li Qiye. Its holy text and runes fell into the sea and disappeared shortly after.

The water was still calm, so no one knew of its effects just yet.

"Boom!" While the spectators were thinking about what the decree would do, a tsunami flooded the sky and flipped over the earth.

"Rumble!" The entire sea quaked with continuous rumbles. Even the sealed space with Li Qiye inside was quaking nonstop, making it seem as if the seal could break at any moment.

"Retreat!" Liu Ruyan was startled and immediately gave the order.

After the boat from the Evil Devourer School retreated, the spectators followed suit. Even though they didn't know what the item was, if the Evil Devourer School chose to retreat, it must be something major.

Gigantic tentacles emerged from the bottom of the ocean. Each of them was a thousand miles long.

“Boom!” They crowded the sealed space and immediately shattered it. The pillars floating on the sea broke apart as well.

“Rumble!” They danced in the sky while wreaking havoc. Each was as long as a mountain range, creating stormy tsunamis that towered for countless miles.

The evacuator was shaken to see this scene from a distance.

“What is that monster?” Many people found these gigantic appendages difficult to believe.

“How could this be?” The effect of this decree was beyond their imagination. They didn’t think that this monster could destroy the sealed space just by awakening.

Of course, some were secretly celebrating after the initial shock because the stronger this sea monster was, the greater the chance of it killing Li Qiye.

“Bang!” An even more terrorizing scene unraveled. The feelers on these gigantic tentacles began to suck up the water in this region. The seawater here was suddenly being drained away at a rapid pace. The sea surface rose higher and a monstrosity appeared before them.

It was a gigantic kraken, capable of easily crushing great mountains. Its body itself was monstrous in size while its long tentacles had huge feelers capable of devouring everything like tiny black holes.

The kraken opened its eyes that resembled two bright moons, brightening up the whole sea.

“What, what is this sea monster?” People gasped in the face of this monster.

Everyone could imagine these tentacles easily pinching paragons to death.

“An Emperor Kraken, a sea monster that ravaged the Dragon Demon Sea for a short period of time.” An old paragon recognized this monster. His eyes flashed with shock as he elaborated: “Legend states that a God-Monarch once challenged this monster but was torn to pieces alive. Later on, this creature met a sea god and disappeared afterward. Who would have thought that it was sleeping here.”

Sea monsters were unique to the great oceans in Heaven Spirit. There were many of them and they were particularly formidable.

They were different from sea demons. Sea monsters didn’t cultivate and would maintain their original form. Moreover, they were solitary creatures without groups.

Because they didn’t have any intelligence and maintained their original form, they could live for a long time and become extremely powerful while gaining unique characteristics. They would either grow to unbelievable sizes or were highly toxic. Some had magical gifts as well.

A cultivator curiously asked: “Which sea god was it?”

The old paragon didn’t want to answer. Of course he knew which sea god subdued this kraken, it was just that he didn’t want to invite trouble to himself.

The will of the sea god descending from the sky had awakened this slumbering sea monster.

“Bang!” Its huge tentacles immediately attacked Li Qiye. One could easily imagine their world-destroying power. Space was torn asunder as the winds hissed through the sky.

However, before these tentacles could touch Li Qiye, he instantly disappeared and reappeared on the other end to look at the kraken with a smile.

The beast reacted quickly. Another tentacle aimed for Li Qiye’s new location with lightning speed. Alas, even if it was faster, it was no match for Li Qiye. He disappeared once more to another location.

“Boom! Boom! Boom!” In just a moment, the kraken’s long tentacles slammed down on this world, creating huge tidal waves. A calamity had descended on this sea region; the end of time was approaching.

Li Qiye’s figure kept flashing back and forth in the sky. Because his speed of teleportation was too fast, his shadows were left in the sky. Eventually, these remnant images were everywhere.

At the same time, the tentacles crazily attacked with enough speed to seem like countless dancing serpents. The sky was full of these tentacles as well.

The spectators were dazed from this dance between the two combatants. They were truly too fast; no one could see them clearly.

“Bang!” At this moment, the kraken that was using the seawater to float higher fell down. Monstrous waves were generated from its impact.

At this point, people saw a bizarre scene. The winding tentacles of the kraken were unexpectedly twisted together. It had become a giant meatball, struggling to loosen the knots. Alas, the more it tried, the tighter the tentacles became, as if they were trying to strangle it to death.

“You dare to prance around in front of me with your low intelligence?” Li Qiye looked at the desperately struggling kraken.

Li Qiye deliberately planned a route during his evasion so that the attacking tentacles would tie each other into an inescapable knot.

Everyone looked dumbfounded to see this giant meatball. The kraken’s body couldn’t support its current posture and sank into the sea.

Chapter 1312: Five Generals

Li Qiye rushed down towards the sinking kraken and grabbed one of its tentacles.

“Splash!” Li Qiye then soared to the sky and dragged the monster up with him.

“Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!” The wind cried. Li Qiye spun the kraken around continuously like a windmill. They turned into a terrifying hurricane that crazily spun on the sea’s surface.

“Now go!” Li Qiye eventually let go.

“Whoosh!” The gigantic body of the beast flew and disappeared into the sky like a shooting star.

It had been thrown out of the Dragon Demon Sea towards the boundless horizon. Who knows whether this kraken would be able to survive in the future?

“He dealt with it just like that?” Jaws dropped to the ground. However, some experts felt that this was the best way to deal with the kraken.

Such a sea monster had a resilient shell. Killing it in a short period of time wasn’t an easy matter. Directly throwing it out of the sea was much simpler.

Li Qiye then stepped towards the sky and stomped on a white cloud.

“Boom!” The cloud dissipated along with a secret technique, revealing a huge ship.

“There’s no need to sneak around if you are already here.” Li Qiye stood in the sky and sneered at the exposed ship.

“Go!” Two shadows rushed out of the ship in order to escape. However, they didn’t make it far before a bang sounded; they had slammed into something and were bounced back.

They immediately changed directions with haste. Alas, the result was still the same. They slammed into something again and was forced back.

This process repeated several times, but nothing changed. This space was sealed, so they couldn’t escape.

Li Qiye watched them run around like dogs that had lost their masters. After a while, he sneered: “You aren’t the only ones who know how to seal space.”

Space Sealing was another technique from the Space Scripture, part of the Space Control chapters. It was prohibitively difficult for cultivators to destroy this containment once trapped inside.

The two fleeing figures finally stopped. They understood that the only way to escape from this space was to kill Li Qiye. People finally got a good look at them at this time.

They were two old men. One was short but had a huge shield on his back. The other was a burly fella with a spear and a sharp glare.

Someone exclaimed after clearly seeing the two: “These are two of the five generals of the Lithodidae Overlord, the Turtle and Spear Generals.”

Liu Ruyan and Zhuo Jianshi weren’t surprised at all for this was within their expectations.

The crowd glanced at each other after this revelation. Lithodidae had five generals: Turtle, Spear, Net, Hook, and Dagger. Rumor has it that these five generals had a formidable killing technique. Many experts much stronger than them had actually fallen to their hands. They had many illustrious exploits under the overlord.

Turtle and Spear appearing together at this place had answered the question of who the mastermind behind the whole thing was to many. What made others curious was how this feud came to be between Li Qiye and the overlord.

Li Qiye smiled and indifferently said: "So it is the overlord's people. Looks like he couldn't swallow the anger from the other day."

In fact, it wasn't strange for the overlord to want to kill Li Qiye. He was a ruthless man who loved challenges. Taking Li Qiye's head was, without a doubt, a great challenge.

Turtle and Spear put on dignified expressions, and Turtle lowered his tone: "This has nothing to do with our master. We did this of our own volition."

"Loyal enough." Li Qiye smiled: "Unfortunately, you two won't be able to live any longer to show your loyalty to your master."

"Kill him!" The two generals didn't waste any more words, it was time to fight to the death. Spear roared and rushed forward alongside Turtle.

"Bang!" Turtle's gigantic shield ferociously slammed into Li Qiye like a mountain. Explosions sounded even before the impact.

Li Qiye smiled and unleashed a finger strike through the sky, aiming for the shield.

"Boom!" It didn't matter how powerful or heavy this shield was, it couldn't handle Li Qiye's attack. Turtle staggered backward after this exchange.

"Pluff!" While Turtle lost the first move, Spear suddenly appeared right behind Li Qiye like a poisonous serpent with his spear mercilessly aiming for Li Qiye's ribs.

He chose the perfect time to attack in order to deliver a fatal blow. Li Qiye didn't bat an eye at the approaching spear. He flicked his finger, issuing a clanging noise and diverting the spear tip.

Next, he attacked again, aiming straight for Spear's forehead.

Spear was startled and quickly pulled his weapon back to defend.

Meanwhile, Turtle, who was repelled by just one finger, was aghast after looking at his shield. He was an All-shield Turtle, a very rare sea demon. His shield was part of his carapace and was unbelievable hard; it was countless times tougher than an ordinary divine metal. But now, there were cracks on it because of Li Qiye's finger. Just how terrifying was the power contained in that strike?

However, since Li Qiye was attacking Spear, Turtle didn't have time to think too much and instantly rejoined the fray.

"Clank!" Even though Spear was using his weapon for protection, it still couldn't stop the approaching finger. The spear cracked while Li Qiye's finger continued straight for his forehead.

While watching Spear accept death, Turtle arrived just in time.

"Boom!" His shield blocked Li Qiye's attack once more to save Spear. However, it was completely penetrated this time.

Suddenly, a net appeared out of nowhere above Li Qiye's head. It was as thin as fine silk, so it was hard for people to see. It looked just like a layer of mist floating over his head. It moved at an incomparable speed to surround and trap Li Qiye completely.

Many people's hearts skipped a beat after seeing this new development.

In this split second, the net finally engulfed Li Qiye in a firm manner as another old man appeared in the sky.

A spectator recognized him right away and shouted: "The Net General!" This was another general under the Lithodidae Overlord.

Net heaved a sigh of relief after seeing that his net had a firm grasp on Li Qiye. He laughed raucously and said: "Even if your techniques were better, you still won't be able to escape my heavenly net—"

But his smile froze before he could finish. The net was indeed solid, but the one under it wasn't Li Qiye, it was the Turtle and Spear Generals.

As for Li Qiye, he was standing where these two generals were earlier.

The Net General couldn't believe his eyes. His ambush had never failed before, yet he missed his mark this time. Li Qiye wasn't trapped, his allies had inexplicably fallen under it instead.

This was Displaced Space under the spatial control branch. It allowed Li Qiye to swap positions with his enemies, which was why the other two generals were trapped instead.

The two shocked generals shouted in unison: "Let go of us!"

During all of the commotion, a black rope slithered towards Li Qiye like a spirit serpent and wrapped around him. It was simply too fast, making it seem as if it had been waiting for Li Qiye this whole time. The moment he stood still, it immediately coiled around him.

Moreover, it coiled around him crazily as if aiming to strangle him. Another old man appeared out of nowhere while holding the other end of the rope.

Someone exclaimed: "The Hook General!"

"Whoosh!" A light flashed while the rope held Li Qiye tightly. This glint aimed for his throat in a ruthless manner in order to push him towards his death.

"Pluff!" The incomparably sharp dagger pierced his throat. Blood splattered under this fatal stab.

"Haha, even if you were stronger, you can't escape death in the face of our joint offense..." A gloomy voice sounded as the fifth old man appeared.

He was the Dagger General, a master at ambush and assassination.

He didn't have much time to think before Shield, Net, and Spear standing in front of him were aghast. They all shouted at the same time: "No!"

Chapter 1313: Space Shifting

Dagger's smile froze after hearing the group shout. He quickly looked over and found that it was Hook whose neck he pierced, not Li Qiye.

Blood spurted from his neck as his eyes went wide. He tried to speak, but people could only hear "ugh, ugh, ugg" coming out of his mouth.

Dagger was stricken with shock and cried: "No!" He didn't expect to have killed his own brother in this manner.

Meanwhile, Li Qiye was standing where Hook previously was. Even though he was still tied up, he was completely unharmed and stood there calmly.

It was Displaced Space again. He swapped positions with Hook right when the dagger swung by. Hook died without even knowing why.

Li Qiye leisurely smiled: "It seems like you really are getting old with worsening eyesight, treating your ally as an enemy."

The other four's expressions turned unsightly. Their ambush didn't harm Li Qiye at all and instead resulted in their own brother dying.

A sea demon murmured after seeing this scene: "All five generals of the overlord are here."

In fact, the five were all on the ship earlier, but after being exposed, Shield and Spear purposely came out to bait Li Qiye while the other three hid and waited for the right opportunity.

The five had always worked together regardless of whether they faced a single enemy or hundreds. Their teamwork and techniques were incredible, ranging from ambushes, assassination arts, and traps...

Because of this, many people stronger than them had fallen to their hands.

This time, even though their location was exposed, they were still confident and wanted to use their great teamwork to kill Li Qiye. However, they didn't expect for the first victim to be their own brother, Hook.

Li Qiye smiled at them and asked while still tied up: "Are you done yet?"

The four generals looked at each other. They gathered closer together as Dagger gritted his teeth and said: "Little animal, it'll be you or us today!"

Li Qiye only chuckled in response: "Wrong, it will be the four of you dying unwilling deaths!"

The four adjusted their positions while Li Qiye leisurely watched them set up their new formation.

After the four were done, this new formation surrounded Li Qiye perfectly. No matter the angle, their attack wouldn't harm their own people. At the same time, they were able to cut off Li Qiye's movements while keeping him within the range of their attacks.

"You four indeed understand how to work together." Li Qiye gave an indifferent smile and said: "Unfortunately, your cultivations are too weak. If you all had the power of a Godking on top of this teamwork, you could do whatever you want in Heaven Spirit. You can kill ordinary cultivators with your strength, but in my eyes, the four of you are not much different from ants."

"Slay!" The four of them responded with a shout. In the blink of an eye, they seemed to have a mental connection and attacked at the same time from completely different angles.

Dagger aimed for Li Qiye's neck; Net threw a poisonous net made out of sand at his back; Shield attacked with the power of a mountain in order to shatter Li Qiye's head; Spear's weapon was as overbearing as fire. He unleashed a barrage of thrusts at Li Qiye's legs.

In the face of these attacks from all directions, Li Qiye was still as calm as ever despite being tied up by the black rope.

"Boom!" Time stopped in this sealed space, making the scene seem like a picture. An unbelievable spectacle unfolded before everyone.

Dagger slashed Shield's throat while Shield shattered Spear's skull. Meanwhile, Spear pierced Net's chest and Net's sharp mesh cut through Dagger's body.

Their eyes were opened wide in astonishment. They had calculated their positions very carefully, so there was no chance of hurting their own brothers like earlier. Even if Li Qiye switched his position with one of them, accidental injuries still shouldn't have happened.

However, Li Qiye stood still this time. He had not shifted, it was the rest of them. They ended up killing each other, resulting in this scene.

"Bang! Bang! Bang!" Their bodies fell down one by one. These were indignant deaths since not even in their dreams would they have imagined that they would fall at the hands of their own brothers.

Just like Li Qiye said earlier, they would be the ones to die unwilling deaths.

"What the hell is that technique?" Many people gasped after seeing this. Even an expert at the sect master level paled with fear.

This sect master's senior, a Virtuous Paragon, explained: "This is a spatial technique. Li Qiye cultivates some kind of space technique, allowing him to arbitrarily control the movements of space."

The paragon was right. It wasn't Displaced Space this time but rather Space Shifting. In that split moment, he shifted space so that they would kill each other. Just like that, Turtle's throat was moved in front of Dagger's attack while Spear's skull was shattered by Shield.

"He can do it on a whim?" The sect master was alarmed: "Doesn't that mean Li Qiye can teleport people wherever he wishes?"

The paragon mused for a bit before answering with uncertainty: "That depends on their cultivation. At a certain level, Li Qiye shouldn't be able to shift his enemy through space, or maybe the effect would be greatly reduced."

In fact, he was right. Just as Li Qiye had stated earlier, the cultivation of the generals was too weak. If they were Godkings, it wouldn't be easy for Li Qiye to move them. And even if he could, it would be very limited.

But with their strength, they couldn't protect their own space. It was very easy for Li Qiye to shift their spatial locations.

"Sigh, why must such good brothers kill each other?" Li Qiye laughed. The black rope around him finally loosened and slipped off.

This rope was not a threat to him at all. He was only playing with the generals to let them think victory was at hand.

He floated in the sky and swept through the area. There was no other ambush, the enemy had exhausted their means.

“Trying to kill me with such pathetic means? How disappointing, I was expecting a much better trap.” Li Qiye leisurely smiled while shaking his head before returning to Ruyan’s ship.

Many were temporarily speechless after hearing this. In fact, they could see that the ambush from the five generals was quite formidable. The Blazing-serum Treants and Ice-spirit Sea Demons initiated the attack and were immediately followed by a monster like the kraken. Even a God-Monarch would find it difficult to evade death.

However, Li Qiye came out unscathed while all the generals died pitifully.

“Fierce is too terrifying, he is definitely not weaker than the Seashield Prince or Seven Martial Goddess.” A person shuddered while watching the ship from the Evil Devourer School leave.

“He has a pretty good chance of becoming the Immortal Emperor of our generation.” An older sea demon had to admit that Li Qiye was mighty.

“Heh, so what? Even if he was stronger, he can’t become the emperor.” A charming spirit sneered: “With Meng Zhentian around, he is only an ant unless he can become an Emperor Candidate in the next two years. Otherwise, Meng Zhentian will crush him to death!”

Even those who didn’t like the statement couldn’t refute due to the current consensus of Meng Zhentian’s success. Competing for the Heaven’s Will against him was courting death, even for the greatest of geniuses.

“Fortunately, the Seashield Prince and Seven Martial Goddess are sea demons, they don’t need to fight for the Heaven’s Will.” Some sea demons were thankful for this.

If they didn’t need the Heaven’s Will, it meant that they didn’t have to become Meng Zhentian’s enemies.

Chapter 1314: Seven Martial Pavilion

The ship began to depart with Li Qiye back inside. He sat down and closed his eyes to relax. What happened earlier was just a mere warm-up for him. No, it couldn’t even be considered a warm-up.

After his training, Li Qiye had mastered space control from the scripture to a peerless level.

While looking at Li Qiye, Zhuo Jianshi said: “The Lithodidae Overlord really went all out.”

The two of them understood the feud between Li Qiye and the overlord. The truth was that it was only a little resentment and not an irreconcilable feud. The problem was that Li Qiye didn’t give him any respect.

But now, this became an unforgivable feud. He paid a great price for Li Qiye’s life and wouldn’t give up until the deed was done.

“That overlord always likes to think of himself as a ferocious man who enjoys the hunt and won’t give up until the prey is dead.” Ruyan chuckled: “The bounty must have been exorbitant or else someone like Sima Yujian wouldn’t have come.”

“He’s just another ant. After I’m finished with my business, I’ll destroy their Regal Valley.” That’s was the only statement Li Qiye made about the overlord. He didn’t even have enough interest to go and kill him right now.

Jianshi and Ruyan glanced at each other. The Regal Valley was a sea god’s lineage, yet Li Qiye made it sound as if it was only a minor sect. However, they didn’t feel that his words were outrageous. Since he said so, the Regal Valley was doomed to extinction.

After all the commotion, the ladies thought that the trip to the Bonesea would be peaceful again. Alas, they didn’t make it too far before a disciple came in with a message: “An elder from the Seven Martial Pavilion wishes to meet Young Noble Li.”

“Oh? The pavilion.” Jianshi’s eyes became serious.

Ruyan smiled in response: “It looks like even a behemoth like the pavilion can’t sit still. Regardless of their purpose for coming today, it shows that you have entered their sight.”

The pavilion was the most powerful behemoth in the Dragon Demon Sea. It sat at the apex of all sea demons, a place full of masters. It once produced three invincible sea gods.

There was a phrase at the Dragon Demon Sea — if the Roaring Conch could order all sea demons in the world, then the Seven Martial Pavilion could reign supreme in the Dragon Demon Sea.

Someone in Heaven Spirit once speculated that the unfathomable pavilion was not weaker than any lineage with three Immortal Emperors.

“Let him in.” Li Qiye gently waved his sleeve with a smile.

A moment later, an old man was led inside by the disciple. He wore a gray robe and a veiled hat. His blood energy was hidden, true to his low-key appearance.

He saw the trio and bowed: “I am the third elder of the Seven Martial Pavilion. Nice to meet you, Young Noble Li, Schoolmaster Zhuo, and Schoolmaster Liu.”

“Thank you for visiting despite the long journey.” Ruyan, as the host, gracefully responded with a charming smile.

Both the pavilion and the three schools were behemoths, so they have dealt with each other before. As schoolmasters, the girls naturally recognized this elder.

The elder didn’t waste time after the greetings. He brought out a wooden box with both hands and handed it over to Li Qiye: “Young Noble Li, this is our first meeting. Here is a token of goodwill from our pavilion, please accept.”

Li Qiye casually placed it on the table before opening it. A blue light shot out; it was very pure without the slightest flaw, as if many stars were stored inside.

The box was filled with gems. Every single one of them was blue, as if each one stored an ocean.

“Heart of the Sea. It looks like your pavilion is being very cordial this time.” Ruyan chuckled after seeing the contents inside.

A “Heart of the Sea” was an exceedingly rare gem in Heaven Spirit. They were precious and could be used like refined jades. Each one could be traded for a large amount of jades. A box full of these gems was a very extravagant showing.

Anyone else would be quite impressed, but not Li Qiye. He didn’t give the gems a second glance before looking at the third elder with a smile: “It looks like your pavilion has something to ask of me. Allow me to speculate.”

“If I’m not mistaken, you want to invite me to replenish your ancestor’s life.” Li Qiye smiled after stating this conclusion.

“How did you know, Young Noble?” The third elder was taken aback after hearing this.

If this wasn’t a matter discussed only by the highest echelons of the pavilion, he would have thought that some disciples had leaked it.

“Just a guess.” Li Qiye leisurely explained: “Your pavilion wouldn’t be this enthusiastic unless you needed my help. Your sect has no lack of treasures and merit laws, so that’s out of the question. As for recruitment... this probability isn’t high either. You don’t lack talents. Moreover, I have massacred billions of sea demons, so recruiting me would be harmful to the pavilion’s reputation.”

He concluded: “Ultimately, the only thing I have that is worthy of your pavilion’s attention is my supreme alchemy. I replenished the Peacock Tree’s life, so your pavilion is tempted as well.”

“Incredible!” The elder praised: “Your mind is very meticulous, worthy of admiration.” He bowed his head.

There was no need to hide anything after all that had been said, so he continued: “It is just as you have said, our pavilion wants to invite you to perform your peerless alchemy to prolong our ancestor’s life. As for the payment, you just need to say the word, everything is negotiable.”

Ruyan and Jianshi didn’t interject. They knew Li Qiye was capable of this task, but he wouldn’t do so very easily.

Li Qiye gently shook his head: “I’m not interested. I don’t want to replenish anyone’s life right now. Even if someone is willing to pay handsomely, I still won’t do it.”

The elder quickly added: “But Young Noble, you have done it for the Peacock Tree.”

Li Qiye laughed in response: “I didn’t do so for the payment or because I owed the tree something, I did it because it has been protecting the human race. That alone is enough.”

The elder busily pressed on: “Everything is on the table if you can renew our ancestor’s life.”

Li Qiye replied with a grin: “I don’t need anything. I do not lack treasures or wealth. Since this is the case, why should I perform something as demanding as life replenishment? It is a heaven-defying matter.

Even though I don't really care about the villainous heavens' opinion, your payment isn't worth my time."

"Young Noble, you should reconsider." The elder still didn't give up. He handed Li Qiye a list and said: "As long as you are willing to try, it doesn't matter if you are successful or not, we will pay you well. If successful, we can let you pick a sea god's weapon and merit law."

Both the girls were moved after hearing this. These items were very precious, even for a sea god's lineage.

The pavilion had three sea gods so they possessed more than just a few weapons and merit laws. However, these items were still prized artifacts for their lineage.

None of these great powers would ever use items of this level for trade unless there was no other choice. Who put the prodigal son in charge?

"Now that's more interesting." Li Qiye smiled after the elder revealed his cards: "Among your ancestors, few are worthy of your lineage offering this much in exchange for life replenishment."

Ancestors were indeed valuable, but not to the level of trading ancestral weapons and merit laws for their lives.

The elder hastily said: "Ah, ah, as long as Young Noble Li is willing, everything is negotiable." [1. This line seemed a bit awkward for me the first time reading it. It looks like he is trying to stop the course of the conversation, so he repeated the same line again. That would make sense.]

"Actually, there is only one person who is worthy of this high price." Li Qiye smiled and continued: "The person whose life you are trying to prolong must be old Hallowed, correct?"

"How, how do you know that?!" The third elder's expression drastically changed as he tumbled backward.

Chapter 1315: Hallowed Ancestor

"Your Hallowed Ancestor is still alive?!" Ruyan and Jianshi were astonished as well.

"Uh..." The elder awkwardly laughed. He knew he couldn't hide it anymore, so he said: "His Venerable is still alive, but he isn't interacting with the rest of the world."

There was no doubt that their Hallowed Ancestor had been sealed this whole time in order to allow him to live until now.

Li Qiye faintly smiled and said: "He won't live for much longer despite being sealed. Two sea gods have helped him in this process, but in the end, one cannot escape death."

The elder sighed at this comment. Unpleasant as it may be, it was the truth.

Jianshi was amazed: "I have heard my elders talk about the Hallowed Ancestor before. He was the dao protector of two generations of sea gods!"

The Hallowed Ancestor was the most powerful and oldest existence in the Seven Martial Pavilion. Even in the entire Heaven Spirit World, he was still one of the most supreme characters.

When it came to the pavilion, many knew about the seven great styles, the strongest techniques of the pavilion. They believed no one knew all seven, but this was far from the truth.

Their three sea gods all understood the seven styles. The reason why their main successor, the Seven Sea Goddess, was so famous was because she also knew the seven styles. Rumor has it that she was the only one who could claim this honor in the pavilion at this moment.

The truth was that there was another person outside of the goddess, and he was much more powerful and terrifying compared to her. It was the Hallowed Ancestor!

"I heard your ancestor once challenged an Immortal Emperor with his seven styles." Ruyan became curious.

Li Qiye found the topic amusing, so he answered before the elder could: "That he did. After understanding the seven styles, he believed he was invincible and challenged Immortal Emperor Yan Shi. At that time, the young emperor didn't have the Heaven's Will just yet, but it still ended in the ancestor's defeat. Despite losing, he could still hold his head high. Being only several hundred years older than the emperor, he had yet to reach his peak..." [1. Yan Shi means Golden Age, a pretty grand title. She became an unfathomable Immortal Emperor and chose the title "Yan Shi" because under her reign, the Nine Worlds entered the golden age of peace.]

In the minds of the Charming Spirits, her achievements were incredible. She was someone comparable to their first emperor, Immortal Emperor Gu Chun.

"Alas, the defeat had a profound and negative effect on him. It made him miss the opportunity to become a sea god, otherwise he would have become one. Nevertheless, he can still be proud of his achievement of personally protecting two future sea gods. He himself reached the top and was considered an existence capable of assailing Immortal Emperors."

Li Qiye's detailed verses left the elder surprised. This was something that happened in the distant past so few knew the truth. Of course, he was feeling very proud hearing about the tales of his Hallowed Ancestor.

"Well, he was still a little off from being able to assail Immortal Emperors." Li Qiye noticed the proud demeanor of the elder and teased him.

The elder's fiery pride was suddenly extinguished by this quip. It made him quite embarrassed.

In spite of Li Qiye's comment, Ruyan and Jianshi marveled all the same. The Hallowed Ancestor's achievements were incomparable; few could be his match. Of course, from another perspective, this showed just how invincible Immortal Emperor Yan Shi used to be. Even the ancestor who had mastered the seven styles couldn't stop the young emperor.

This was precisely why after her generation, the charming spirits always tried to find excellent human bloodlines. They all wanted to groom another existence as capable as Immortal Emperor Yan Shi.

The elder took a deep breath and earnestly bowed towards Li Qiye to say: "If Young Noble is aware of this, there's no need to hide it any longer. Yes, it is our Hallowed Ancestor who needs the life renewal."

Li Qiye looked at him in response: "So, your ancestor wishes to come into being? If he stays in his coffin underground, it shouldn't be a problem to live for another two generations. The sudden desire for life renewal can only mean he wants to come out."

Jianshi understood why the pavilion wanted to do this right away. She spoke: "Your Hallowed Ancestor must want to protect the Seven Sea Goddess so that your pavilion can have your fourth sea god."

Ruyan chuckled: "In the present, the most promising candidates to become the sea god are the Seashield Prince and Seven Sea Goddess. The goddess is versed in the seven styles, so this is a great advantage. However, I also heard that the prince's Void Physique will reach grand completion within ten years, so she must be feeling the pressure."

The elder wryly smiled and didn't comment. As schoolmasters, the girls were able to understand many things with a single glance.

"Both the positions of Immortal Emperor and sea god are meant for the young to compete, so it should be up to them. Your Hallowed Ancestor wouldn't do something like eliminating his disciple's competitors."

Ruyan added: "The Roaring Conch isn't easy to mess with either. I heard they still have a living overseer. If the goddess wants the position, they might be the ones to ambush her instead. I'm still surprised about your ancestor being alive, though."

Li Qiye looked at the elder and said: "The conch is strong, but not to the level where your pavilion should be this wary. The one you are worried about has to be Meng Zhentian."

Ruyan and Jianshi shuddered after hearing this. If Meng Zhentian was to become the Immortal Emperor early and pick between the goddess and the prince then help them become a sea god, it would result in an unstoppable combination.

This would be a duo capable of sweeping through Heaven Spirit and the nine worlds. No other overlord would be able to stop them.

The two girls finally understood why the pavilion was willing to trade sea god's weapons and merit laws to renew their ancestor's life. They must make sure that the Seven Sea Goddess becomes the winner in this competition.

In order to do so, their strongest ancestor must come out and personally protect the goddess!

The elder took a deep breath and solemnly said: "If Young Noble Li is willing to help us, you can pick two items from our pavilion after the matter is done."

"It looks like you are adding more to the table." Li Qiye laughed in response.

The elder had no choice. These three figured out the essence of this issue too quickly. Without a doubt, they required Li Qiye's assistance this time. It was better for them to decisively name the price in front of him.

The other ancestors of the pavilion had told him that unless the bottom line is crossed, they were willing to agree to all of Li Qiye's conditions.

The elder stared at him earnestly: “Young Noble Li, what do you think now? Our pavilion sincerely wants to work with you. If you still think that these conditions are not suitable, you can state your own demands.”

The elder put on a pitiful posture, letting Li Qiye do whatever he wanted. This was to say that Li Qiye could name whatever price he wanted. It was the pavilion displaying their sincerity in this deal for Li Qiye to see.

“Same as before, I’m not interested.” Li Qiye was unmoved and refused with a grin.

This attitude from Li Qiye was quite a headache for the elder. Anyone else would have already agreed to such favorable conditions, but Li Qiye was completely indifferent.

The elder composed himself once more and continued: “Young Noble Li, you can pick any treasure from our pavilion as long as the life renewal is successful. Moreover, the Hallowed Ancestor will be your dao protector and shield as you become the Immortal Emperor!”

The two girls were moved this time. The immortal throne was an incomparable temptation that no one could resist.

Claiming that he would protect a human for the throne was a bold and seemingly blustering statement. However, it was different for the Hallowed Ancestor. He had protected two sea gods before, so his strength was beyond doubt. Furthermore, he was experienced in this endeavor. With his protection, as long as the genius was strong enough, the possibility of them becoming Immortal Emperor was quite high.

Li Qiye only chuckled at this new condition.

Jianshi, on the other hand, made a suggestion: “Elder, you might as well have your Seven Sea Goddess follow Young Noble. It would be a formidable alliance.”

Ruyan chimed in with a smile: “That’s not a bad idea, marrying the goddess to Young Noble. The descendant of an Immortal Emperor and a sea goddess will have matchless talents. Plus, you will become family, so it would be a matter of course for Young Noble to renew your ancestor’s life.”

“Err—” The elder didn’t respond right away. He took his time musing this idea. It really wasn’t a bad proposal at all.

A match between an Immortal Emperor and a sea goddess was perfect. More importantly, Li Qiye had an imperial bloodline. If he were to become an Immortal Emperor, this bloodline would become even more precious. Their offspring would bring a golden age to the pavilion, and the bloodline of their descendants would undergo an unprecedented evolution.

Chapter 1316: The Transaction

“Hmm...” The elder grew indecisive under the egging of the two girls.

He glanced at Li Qiye several times in the meantime while pondering. Eventually, he spoke: “Schoolmasters, I don’t have the authority to make a decision regarding your proposal, but I can talk to the ancestors about it once I return.”

In fact, this suggestion had left his heart thumping fast. Judging by Li Qiye's performance, he really did have the aptitude to become an Immortal Emperor. However, Meng Zhentian's current prestige was too strong.

However, if their Hallowed Ancestor were to become Li Qiye's dao protector and help him survive the difficult parts, he really would have a chance to compete against Meng Zhentian.

Meng Zhentian's strength was undeniable, but it was not as if the younger generation couldn't surpass him. What they lacked was time. If a true overlord was willing to stop Meng Zhentian to buy time for the youths, then the Heaven's Will might have a different master.

Moreover, the marriage between an Immortal Emperor and a sea goddess was too promising to be left out. The truth was that the pavilion had thought about working together with Meng Zhentian as well. The problem was that he was too powerful. The person in charge of the alliance and the overarching situation would be Meng Zhentian, not the pavilion. At that time, there was a chance of them giving away a bride yet still losing an army on top of it. [1. Idiom, the most popular case being the one between Wu and Shu in the Three Kingdoms. Sun Quan married his little sister to Liu Bei, hoping to trap him in Wu when Liu Bei came to Wu to pick up his bride. However, Liu Bei managed to escape with his little sister. Zhou Yu gave chase and fell into Zhuge Liang's trap afterward, so they lost troops on top of everything. If memory serves me right, Zhou Yu died soon after in the novel, coughing up blood from being angry at Zhuge Liang. That's probably one of the earliest usages of coughing up blood from anger in Chinese literature.]

Li Qiye laughed after noticing that the elder was tempted. He shook his head in response: "Don't listen to their nonsense. If you all really want to renew your ancestor's life, I can show you the way."

The elder hurriedly bowed: "Young Noble, do enlighten me."

Li Qiye spoke with a smirk: "I can renew his life and even guarantee success. My demand isn't outrageous either, I only want one thing from your pavilion."

"May I ask what you want?" The elder was glad to see Li Qiye's interest. A chance had finally appeared. He didn't care what Li Qiye wanted, as long as he was willing to participate...

A thick grin appeared as Li Qiye answered: "The seven styles."

"The seven styles?" The elder staggered back with a shocked expression after hearing this.

Ruyan and Jianshi wryly smiled as well. This wasn't an outrageous demand? Could there be a higher demand in this world?

The seven styles was the foundation of the pavilion. Rumor has it that the pavilion was established because of the seven styles.

There were too many legends about this particular technique. Some said that it was the most powerful martial style in the nine worlds. It was extremely heaven-defying with no equal.

To call it the best technique in the nine worlds since the start of time might be an exaggeration, but many people — including Immortal Emperors — thought that these styles were more powerful and scarier than Heaven's Will Secret Laws if the users didn't shoulder the Heaven's Will.

It was much more precious than secret laws and physique laws. There were other secret laws and physique laws, but the seven styles was unique.

There were reports that the seven styles might actually originate from one of the nine heavenly scriptures, the Dao Scripture. Alas, no one in the world could verify this claim. Nevertheless, the prestige of the seven styles had been untouchable the whole time. Even an existence like Immortal Emperor Yan Shi had to admit that it was unparalleled after experiencing it herself.

“Young Noble, you must be messing with me.” The elder finally regained his wits. He coughed and gently shook his head: “I’ll be candid, everything is up for discussion except the seven styles.”

The elder firmly stated this. In fact, if a day came for the pavilion that they had no other choice, they would be willing to lose or trade anything outside of the seven styles.

Li Qiye smilingly replied: “I don’t want anything else from your pavilion besides the seven styles.”

“Can’t you change your mind? Maybe a few sea god’s weapons or merit laws? As long as it is within reason, we can talk about it.” The third elder tried once more. If this life renewal were to be successful, there was a high chance that they could have another sea god.

Thus, trading two or three weapons and a few merit laws for a sea god was a great deal.

“Frankly, I’m not interested in them. The seven styles is what I want. Your pavilion should know better than anyone else, if you could do it yourself, you wouldn’t be asking an outsider for help..”

“... How much longer can your Hallowed Ancestor survive? He has been living since Immortal Emperor Yan Shi’s generation and has come into being twice since then for his junior sea gods. Even though these sea gods personally helped seal him again and spared no expense in prolonging his life, too much time has passed. He won’t be able to endure the relentless years for long.”

Li Qiye paused for a bit before continuing: “Think about it, your ancestor has used countless longevity pills, medicines, and immortal vegetation. It can be said that he has tried virtually every method of life renewal...”

“... From an alchemy perspective, it is simply impossible to prolong your ancestor’s life any further, let alone help him come into being to protect someone else.” Li Qiye laughed at this point, knowing that he had the upper hand.

“But Young Noble, you seem to be very confident.” The elder carefully thought before replying to Li Qiye’s spiel.

Li Qiye was right about the circumstances, true to what little he had heard before. Even though he didn’t know how many panaceas his ancestor had used, he was certain that the pavilion had given everything possible to the ancestor in the past.

Li Qiye smiled and said: “Yes, I do have a method for a successful life renewal so that he can happily become the dao protector of the goddess. But ultimately, I only want the seven styles.”

The elder had no response because this was an impossible demand.

“You should understand that given your ancestor’s circumstances, replenishing his life wouldn’t be easier than doing so for the Peacock Tree. For a life renewal of this magnitude, do you honestly think a few weapons and merit laws can move me? I have Immortal Emperor True Treasures and Heaven’s Will Secret Laws, so none of your pavilion’s items interest me outside of the seven styles.”

“Well, regardless of the situation, we can’t trade our seven styles.” The elder shook his head.

“If that’s the case, then I can only say that this is quite regrettable.” Li Qiye waved his sleeve and said: “The problem is not on my end but yours.”

He continued on with a smile: “If I refuse to save your ancestor, you can say that I am cruel and emotionless. That’s a reasonable statement to make. However, the truth is that I have agreed, it is your side that won’t accept. Thus, you can’t blame me for what happens, it’s your problem now.”

The elder found himself stuck at an impasse and didn’t know what to say.

“You can reconsider, I still have some time. Don’t keep me waiting though, I’ll be leaving Heaven Spirit eventually.” Li Qiye smiled.

The helpless third elder had to bid farewell to Li Qiye: “I’ll go back and discuss your demand with the ancestors.”

With that, he reluctantly left. There was nothing else to negotiate since the seven styles was absolutely not up for trade.

After he left, Li Qiye looked at the two girls and said: “Pretty grand scheme the two of you had earlier.”

Jianshi smiled awkwardly with her head hanging low like a young wife.

Ruyan, on the other hand, was still very playful: “It is mutually beneficial. If the martial goddess can ascend and you become the Immortal Emperor, your marriage would be a match made in heaven.”

She grew even bolder and charmingly smiled: “Young Noble, you have been allied with our three schools for generations. If you become an emperor with a sea goddess as your imperial queen, our schools can bask in your glory as well, right?”

Li Qiye chuckled after hearing this; he didn’t mind their attempt at all. Of course, they had their own opinions about trying to match Li Qiye with the Seven Sea Goddess.

Jianshi eventually lifted her head and asked: “Young Noble, do you really want to replenish the Hallowed Ancestor’s life?”

“Oh? It looks like the two of you think very highly of the Seven Sea Goddess. Do you really want to see her ascend?” Li Qiye batted his eyes and smiled.

“I just want to help you marry a sea goddess.” Ruyan winked back with a charming smile.

“We have met the Seashield Prince and Seven Sea Goddess before.” Unlike Ruyan who was rather sly, Jianshi was frank and sincere: “I would rather have the Seven Sea Goddess as the victor. We don’t have an optimistic view on the Seashield Prince, at least with respect to Heaven Spirit and our Void Imperfection Schools.”

Chapter 1317: Lithodidae Overlord's Second Provocation

Jianshi said in a serious manner: "We don't think highly of the prince not because of his talents, but rather his ambition for expansion."

Her gentle eyes looked over at Li Qiye as she revealed her thoughts: "Sea gods and Immortal Emperors are different. Even if an emperor comes from Heaven Spirit, they won't necessarily stay here, but a sea god will always return. Sea gods will rise and fall here..."

"... The ambition of an emperor is the entire nine worlds while a sea god's is limited to Heaven Spirit. The other locations, to them, are only fleeting visits. If the prince were to become the next sea god, his impact would be much greater than the Seven Sea Goddess. Many charming spirits would prefer to see her win."

"To be honest, we have a good personal relationship with the Seven Sea Goddess." Ruyan chuckled and winked at Li Qiye like a seductive temptress. Her charm sunk straight into the heart as she smiled: "For both personal and business reasons, we want to see a sea goddess in the future."

After hearing this, Li Qiye smiled in response: "She is so young yet well-versed in the seven styles — this means that her chance of success is quite high. However, that's the business of herself and the pavilion, it has nothing to do with me. They just need to give me the seven styles and I'll replenish the Hallowed Ancestor's life."

Jianshi emotionally sighed: "The seven styles..."

She knew that such a trade was simply impossible. The pavilion would never trade the seven styles to anyone.

"I heard the seven styles actually came from the Dao Scripture." Ruyan became quite curious and smiled: "Young Noble, what do you think?"

"You seductress, don't try to pry it from me." Li Qiye smiled then glared at her: "I don't have an opinion on this matter."

"But you really want the seven styles. I actually thought that you were trying to collect parts of the Dao Scripture." Ruyan wasn't afraid of Li Qiye.

"Dao Scripture, eh?" Li Qiye replied with great amusement: "Many things aren't just legends, but yes, the seven styles are indeed very tempting."

Ruyan softly asked: "Must you have the seven styles?"

"Little girl, you are mistaken. If I was determined to get it, it would be in my hands right now. For me, it is only a little interesting, not to the point where I must have it."

The two girls didn't comment further. They understood that the seven styles had always been a highly-coveted item for millions of years. People's mouths would start to water whenever they thought about it.

After Li Qiye killed the five generals, many thought that the Lithodidae Overlord would avoid him. After all, Li Qiye was basking in the spotlight on top of being a very ferocious genius that was always ready to massacre an entire clan or sect.

However, the overlord unexpectedly did not avoid Li Qiye at all. On the other hand, he held a public feast while maintaining a bright demeanor.

He invited many experts and young geniuses to this party. Moreover, it was held at the War Cliff, not far away from the Bonesea.

“To remember and celebrate the glory and accolades of the ancestors after coming here.” The overlord gave this reason for the celebration.

This public feast left everyone with different interpretations and opinions.

Someone who understood him explained: “Li Qiye is a monster, but the same is true for the overlord. He views Li Qiye as prey and won’t give up until the hunt is over. This overlord likes a challenge and a certain amount of risk in his conquest. He basks in success after making a trophy out of his victims. In recent years, he has killed many characters stronger than Li Qiye, and now, Li Qiye’s head is his new target. Even if he has to throw away everything, he will not give up!”

After hearing this news, a sect master slowly said: “The War Cliff is very close to the Bonesea. I think Li Qiye’s group has to go through it first. Is he really picking the War Cliff as the location for the feast just out of remembrance and to honor the ancestors?”

“I think he is trying to lure Li Qiye in.” A sea demon was certain: “People always say that this overlord is a huge deviant. If he could cut off Li Qiye’s head in front of everyone, it might be the most pleasurable thing in his life. It would be one of his biggest achievements for sure.”

“He’s quite brave, but does he have the strength to kill Li Qiye? Plus, Li Qiye might not even go to the War Cliff.” Some were full of curiosity.

Of course, some felt distressed as well, such as the ones that were invited by the overlord to this celebration. A few of them didn’t want to get into this kind of trouble. In their eyes, both Li Qiye and the overlord were too ruthless, they wanted no part in this.

However, if they didn’t accept the invitation, the overlord might hold a grudge against them. Once they were there, it would be good if the overlord could kill Li Qiye. However, if he couldn’t and Li Qiye massacred everyone there in anger, it would be quite a miserable fate for them.

“Who knows who will win?” The blatant provocation made people suddenly smell the stench of blood.

“The overlord is someone who never conducts himself in a righteous manner; he has no scruples about the methods he deploys. He is not an ordinary expert or genius. Those people require face and their conduct revolves around it, but not the overlord. I’m sure he has ways of killing Li Qiye even if he is weaker. He has never failed before, so he must have something up his sleeves before deciding to make such a grandiose move.” A Heavenly King of the sea demon race analyzed the situation.

“What a ruthless man.” Some actually felt admiration for him.

It was common knowledge that the overlord was unlikely to become the next sea god. His shortcomings were very obvious compared to the Seashield Prince and Seven Sea Goddess. Of course, he had no ambition to become the next sea god either. He enjoyed the sensation of the hunt and the thrill of killing even more. Because of this, he had a bad reputation for being a deviant in the Dragon Demon Sea.

Li Qiye also received this news.

Ruyan told Li Qiye right away after hearing about it: "That Lithodidae Overlord is holding a banquet at the War Cliff."

"A very brave man." Li Qiye smiled: "Still daring to show his face in this situation, what exceptional courage."

"He might be declaring war on you, Young Noble." Jianshi slightly frowned: "He must have prepared more traps at the War Cliff and is waiting for you to jump in."

"Not might, he is for sure." Ruyan chuckled: "He knows that he has no chance of becoming a sea god, so he is using these gimmicks to raise his own prestige. Instead of calling him a pervert, it is more apt to say he has an inferiority complex. If he was a truly ferocious character, he would be challenging the Seashield Prince's group and mercilessly force himself to become a sea god! Alas, he doesn't even have the courage to face the challenge head-on, how can people think of him as being ruthless? Knowing that it is impossible yet still choosing to do it, that is true ruthlessness to oneself."

"Such eloquence." Li Qiye laughed right away: "Reaching the throne and becoming a sea god indeed requires courage and ruthlessness. Doing the impossible — this has always been a driving force for cultivators along their endless road."

"I am elated to hear your praise." She gave a charming smile that pulled at the heartstrings.

"Are you going, Young Noble?" Jianshi was much more dignified and graceful compared to the demoness.

"Of course, why wouldn't I?" Li Qiye happily answered: "He is someone who is certain of victory, the type I like to crush the most. I will trample on his confidence and make him drown in despair before sending him to his miserable end, a descent from joy to nothingness."

"Young Noble, you are the real pervert here." Ruyan shot out a seductive glance capable of stealing away souls.

Li Qiye laughed and commanded: "Go, to the War Cliff."

The boat of the Evil Devourer School headed straight for the cliff. This didn't go unnoticed; the crowd knew that this was the prelude to the play.

"Two monsters. One who is completely undeterred by danger while the other must have a successful hunt." A sea demon commented: "This will be a splendid show."

"The result is uncertain, so it will certainly be exciting. I won't miss this for anything!" Some followed right after the boat, anxious to watch the fun.

Chapter 1318: Swiftdao Celestial God

The War Cliff was relatively close to the Bone Sea. Fierce waves slammed against the cliff in a relentless manner.

Cliffs emerged one after another from the sea. Each of them had different cracks and varying amounts of damage. Some had been severed in two while others were in shambles, and even more were pierced through completely while some were pried open...

Today, the cold seawater didn't give these cliffs any breaks, as if they were recalling the terrifying war of past.

Rumor has it that this place used to be a complete mountain with lush vegetation. Even though it wasn't considered a continent, it was the home for many cultivators.

However, a war occurred and ravaged this land. The remnants of this fierce battle rendered this land uninhabitable.

The main character of this war back then was the Regal Valley's progenitor, the Lithodidae Sea God! After those war-torn days, he managed to establish his unshakable position.

At the beginning of his generation, the Trident accepted the Bloodshark Sovereign. Later on, it abandoned him for some unknown reasons and accepted Lithodidae instead. Because of this, of course, being accepted by the Trident didn't mean that they became a sea god right away. The user must train and experience tribulations. Only when they were truly standing at the peak and able to use the laws of sea gods would they be considered a real deity.

Before grasping the laws of the sea, one wasn't considered a sea god even with the Trident. They were only candidates at best.

In fact, these candidates had been forcibly replaced many times. This was how the second sea god of the Seven Martial Pavilion came to be.

The tales told that in the beginning, the Trident didn't accept this particular successor of the pavilion. However, the pavilion was too heaven-defying and nurtured a successor with mighty power. He used supreme means to suppress the Trident while killing the current candidate.

This candidate was formidable as well, especially when he had control of the Trident. Alas, he still wasn't a sea god at that point and couldn't exert the Trident's true power without the accompanying laws. In the end, the pavilion was able to subdue the Trident and kill the current candidate.

At the same time, its successor created a supreme grand dao with his matchless momentum and pure bloodline. Ultimately, he was accepted by the Trident and proceeded to master the sea god laws to become an invincible sea god.

This was the famous Deep Blue Sea God, the second of the Seven Martial Pavilion. [1. Same words for Deep Blue, the chess-playing computer.]

Back to the tales of Lithodidae; he was accepted by the Trident at a young age to become a candidate. However, many sea demons defied him. After all, he had a humble origin. It could even be said that him being accepted by the Trident was a confusing and earth-shattering matter.

Just think about it, how could such a candidate be accepted by the Heaven Spirit World? This was doubly true for lineages like the pavilion and the conch. They especially didn't accept his position.

At that time, these sea god lineages wanted to steal his position. Some even thought about suppressing the Trident then killing him.

Finally, the animosity between the two sides erupted. The Roaring Conch formally commanded the sea demons in this world to fight against Lithodidae at the War Cliff.

The sea god personally led his army to battle against the invincible legion from the Roaring Conch.

This was a world-destroying battle; the sun and moon lost their brilliance. The end of this battle resulted in countless bodies floating in the blood-red Dragon Demon Sea. Even more corpses sank to the seabed.

In the generations to come, some people explored the depths and found mountains of bones. From then on, people were deterred and didn't dare to dive down again.

From this, one could easily imagine the tragic battle. Of course, Lithodidae paid a great price in the end and won the war. He fortified his status and eventually controlled the laws of the sea to become a real sea god.

Today, the Lithodidae Overlord held a feast here to celebrate his ancestor's glory. This action made sense because this battle was full of accolades and made his ancestor a sea god. No matter how one looked at it, this was a reasonable choice.

Even though this region had been ravaged by war with cold waves crashing into the cliffs, it was very lively right now.

Vessels made from divine metals were everywhere. Some were gigantic while a few were as small as a leaf...

These ships held the overlord's people as well as his guests consisting of many experts and geniuses from the great powers. Normally, it wouldn't be easy to participate in a celebration like this due to the long distance.

However, sects from all over the seas were coming to the Bonesea, so the overlord seized this opportunity.

The participants all knew that this feast was directed at Li Qiye. Some didn't want to become involved in this storm, but they had to give the overlord some face due to his grand invitations.

This was especially true for his neighbors. If they didn't show him some consideration today, he might take care of them tomorrow! Thus, many felt nervous about the fallout that was bound to happen.

However, one person's arrival made them heave a sigh of relief. It was the famous Swiftdao God!

He was the current lord of the Swiftdao Sacred Ground and also Sima Yujian's junior brother. He came on a leaf boat without excessive pomp. This leaf boat actually flew quickly in the air and made it to the cliff instantly.

Despite being called a celestial god, he appeared quite young and had a mighty heroic aura. He was adorned with a sapphire robe and had a sword lying on his knees, completely inconsistent with his aura.

For someone like him, nothing would be able to deter his path of triumph regardless of the occasion, location, and difficulty.

Despite looking like a fifteen-year-old, this was not his real age. Of course, he wasn't much older.

His title of "celestial god" wasn't his own choice but an honorific given to him by the rest of the world.

There was a story to this particular title. Back then, Sima Yujian suppressed all of her fellow disciples with her Dao Sovereign cultivation while vying for the lord's position.

However, when the Swiftdao Celestial God appeared, he used the cultivation of a Celestial God to defeat Sima Yujian. His advantages in cultivation were too great, so from then on, people called him the Swiftdao Celestial God for his full title. He was only sixteen at that time.

After reaching Virtuous Paragon, two different paths are available. One was the path of the heavens while the other the path of the grand era. The heaven's path was one to compete for the Heaven's Will to become the Immortal Emperor.

There were eight levels on this path: Dao Child, Dao Master, Dao Sovereign, Celestial Mortal, Celestial General, Celestial God, Emperor Reserve, and Emperor Candidate.

When a cultivator was on this path, they must create a grand dao that belonged to themselves. At the Celestial Mortal level, their grand dao could begin to feel the power of the Heaven's Will.

At the Emperor Reserve level, their grand dao would be accepted by the Heaven's Will. This was in preparation to obtain it in the future.

At the Emperor Candidate level, the great war for the Heaven's Will would begin.

It was easy to see how unfathomable he was to reach the Celestial God level at the age of sixteen. Of course, this was partly due to the merit laws from the Swiftdao Sacred Ground, but it shouldn't diminish the involvement of his peerless talents.

The Lithodidae Overlord personally came out to greet him with great enthusiasm. He said with a smile while cupping his fists: "The arrival of the celestial god is an honor for this lowly one as well as our Regal Valley."

The Swiftdao God, on his small boat, nodded his head without standing up and slowly said: "I am passing by on my way to the Bonesea. After receiving Brother Lithodidae's invitation, I've decided to stay for a bit."

The overlord was much older than the celestial god, but he didn't dare to posture in front of him. He busily received him with a beaming expression.

"That's the celestial god." Many people were relieved. Regardless of what happens next, the overlord wouldn't dare to act recklessly, and Li Qiye wouldn't attack the celestial god either.

In fact, the celestial god was very respected, especially by the younger generation. They had high hopes for him. In the view of many people, he actually had a good chance of competing for the Heaven's Will against Meng Zhentian.

Although they didn't know his current realm, they were aware that he was a celestial god at sixteen years of age. Many speculated that it was likely for him to be at the Emperor Reserve level.

Coupled with the unparalleled merit laws of the Swiftdao Sacred Ground, he could catch up to Meng Zhentian as long as he had another three to five years.

Chapter 1319: Attending The Banquet

The majority of the guests came to greet him. Both the young geniuses and older experts respectfully addressed him as "celestial god".

He was the one granting them solace from this stressful event. No matter how much trouble the overlord was about to bring, he wouldn't dare to go overboard.

The overlord prepared a platform close to the sea surface above the War Cliff. However, after the celestial god's arrival, not too many were sitting there.

The celestial god remained on his small boat and maintained a certain distance from the overlord.

Since he didn't sit down, the others didn't dare to take a seat either. They all stayed on their own boats. In fact, this was only an excuse. No one wanted to be close to the crazy overlord. Who knows what he was about to do?

Of course, the overlord didn't care. He drank his wine in a carefree manner; this feast was only a means to an end.

He commanded his disciples to serve the guests with wine and food while sitting alone on his platform. After several courses were served, he found that the time was about right.

He stood up and raised his cup while looking at the guests: "Today, it is our honor to be graced with everyone's presence. As a junior thinking about the supreme prestige of my ancestors, I find that I will never be able to achieve what they achieved in an entire lifetime. I salute everyone for celebrating their deeds. Remember, no matter the generation, the sea gods will always be protecting our sea demon race..."

The others stood up and raised their cups in response. Even though many were forced to attend, they had to give him some face in this situation.

Only the celestial god didn't stand up. He simply sat there and saluted back.

"Finish your drinks, everyone!" The overlord enthusiastically shouted after finishing his fervent speech.

The rest quickly downed their cups. They all wanted to be done with this feast as soon as possible. Of course, they were wondering why Li Qiye hadn't come yet.

"How can I not come for a drink as well when such a nice feast is taking place?" A leisurely voice sounded right when everyone put down their cups.

“Fierce is here.” Someone shouted but then busily covered their mouth.

The crowd turned around and saw the boat from the Evil Devourer School stopping at the border of the War Cliff.

Li Qiye walked off the boat, accompanied by Liu Ruyan.

The overlord was not surprised to see Li Qiye. He was actually all-smiles as he quickly walked up to greet them.

“The Evil Devourer Schoolmaster is here too?” Some people felt even more relieved after seeing Liu Ruyan. With her and the Swiftdao God present, nothing too crazy should happen.

An old sea demon quietly voiced his disagreement: “The sky will turn over if the overlord doesn’t go crazy. After becoming the Regal Valley Master, he even killed his master, a high elder of the sect, just because he desired his master’s wife. His father, the old valley master, tried to stop him, but he killed his father as well. Heh, rumors outside say that they died from illness, but this is something many in the valley know about.”

“He’s a madman. Just watch, he’ll do something insane for sure.” A disciple from the Regal Valley whispered with the lowest volume. Only his peers could hear him.

Li Qiye’s arrival prompted many guests to quietly move their ships back in preparation for the inevitable madness from the overlord.

“Greetings, Brother Li and Schoolmaster Liu. This is indeed an honor.” The overlord personally greeted Li Qiye with great enthusiasm.

Many people found his cheerful expression surprising. Everyone knew that his five generals were killed by Li Qiye. The overlord naturally knew this as well, but he acted as if nothing had happened.

“What a strange man, ordinary people can’t do this.” Another quietly spoke while looking at the overlord acting polite and respectful towards Li Qiye.

After his five generals ambushed Li Qiye, everyone could guess that it was him who paid the sky-high bounty for Li Qiye’s life. But now, he was acting as if they were old friends. It was a very disconcerting spectacle.

He led Li Qiye and Liu Ruyan to the platform. Li Qiye only smiled to this hospitality while sitting down.

Many people were in awe to see Li Qiye up there. As long as one wasn’t too stupid, they would understand that this feast was not as simple as it seems. No one would want to sit up there, but Li Qiye didn’t give a damn and showed off his arrogance despite knowing that it was a trap. Just how bold and courageous was this?

Even the Swiftdao God stared at Li Qiye in a profound manner. He also wanted to see what Li Qiye would do to overturn the tide.

Li Qiye sat down and leisurely asked: “Lithodidae Overlord, do you not know or are you pretending?”

The overlord was caught off guard after hearing this: “Brother Li, what are you talking about?”

The guests watched this conversation with bated breaths.

Li Qiye smilingly explained: "Have you not heard? A few days ago, I killed five people known to be your generals. Are you not aware of this?"

"Is that true?" The overlord was in disbelief: "My generals were sent to patrol the frontier of the Regal Valley, they couldn't have possibly appeared here!"

Li Qiye burst out in laughter at this point: "Is that so? Then me killing them is really a big coincidence. Well, I could have gotten the wrong people, but what does everyone else think?"

"I don't know anything about this since I've been busy worshipping my ancestors for the last few days. I haven't inquired about the matters of the sect." Having said that, he shouted: "Attendant! What actually happened?!"

An old man walked out after hearing the loud question. He looked at the overlord and then Li Qiye, not knowing how to answer.

The overlord lowered his tone: "I've been offering incense and burning ceremonial papers in private recently. When I'm not in control, you have full authority. Tell me, what actually happened? Were the five generals killed?"

The guests glanced at each other after hearing this play by the overlord and thought that he was really too much.

"My lord, well, about this..." The attendant stammered while looking at the overlord; he couldn't form a coherent sentence.

Fury sparked in the overlord's eyes as he coldly uttered: "What happened? Tell me now!"

Under the erupting aura of the overlord, this attendant quivered and suddenly kneeled on the ground: "My lord, this, this is because I was confused and foolish. I noticed that someone had put a high bounty for Young Noble Li's life on the black market..."

"... I, I suddenly got greedy while you were busy with the filial ceremonies. I used your seal to command the five generals to ambush Young Noble Li. My lord, please spare my life, I was only momentarily blinded by greed, please spare me!" He slammed his head on the ground while begging for mercy.

Many of the guests sneered at this scene. The overlord was only finding a scapegoat; who would actually believe this performance?

"You fool!" The overlord's eyes lit up with a frightening brilliance: "Sending false orders is an unforgivable sin!"

Having said that, he reached for the attendant.

"My lord, spare—" This attendant couldn't finish his sentence before the overlord twisted his neck off, letting blood spurt everywhere.

He died with his eyes wide open since it was an indignant death. This wasn't how things were supposed to go down.

The overlord put the skull into a wooden box and handed it to Li Qiye: "Brother Li, I have offered his head. I hate deceivers the most."

Some sneered after seeing this. A few guests felt disdain towards this act, but no one said anything. After all, the overlord killed his own people and it was none of their business.

"Is that so?" Li Qiye only smiled.

The overlord lifted the lower section of his robe and knelt on the ground. He spoke in a serious manner: "Brother Li, you are a hero in the contemporary, I have always admired you and would like to view you as a brother. Even though I am not the culprit, I am still responsible for being too lax with my subordinates. Here, I kneel before you to apologize."

People were stunned by this act. No one knew why he was resorting to this method. Keep in mind that he was the sect master of a sea god's lineage. Someone of his prestigious status would never kneel so easily before people.

For these sect masters, they would rather die before kneeling and admitting their mistakes.

But now, the overlord was prostrating, how could people not be dumbfounded?

Chapter 1320: The Overlord's Scheme

People were looking silly due to this unbelievable spectacle. An overlord of a region knelt so easily. Others would rather have their legs cut off before kneeling, but not the overlord.

Everyone wanted to see how Li Qiye would deal with this.

"Really now?" Li Qiye only smiled in response.

"I know Brother Li won't trust me." The overlord sincerely responded: "People say that a man has gold under his knees. Even though I didn't give the order, it is true that I'm still at fault, so I am kneeling to apologize. However, this might not appease you completely, so I'll sever one hand to show my sincerity."

"Whoosh!" The overlord instantly tore off his left arm. Blood sprayed everywhere as the overlord placed his severed hand on the table.

The overlord didn't even bat an eye as he earnestly asked: "Has your anger subsided, Brother Li?"

This actually shocked the crowd; they stared at the overlord in astonishment.

Even though cultivators could recreate their bodies when they reached a particular cultivation, the process was costly and required the use of longevity blood. Thus, the stronger a cultivator, the more they cherished their own body.

What's more was that for a master, losing one's arm was extremely humiliating. If an enemy were to cut off their arm, it would be an irreconcilable feud.

A few started to waver before this submissive display. Could it be that the whole thing had nothing to do with the overlord and the culprit was just his attendant who wanted the bounty?

Those who had a better understanding of him snorted instead. They knew just how devious the overlord was, so it wasn't so simple to deceive them.

Li Qiye smiled after seeing the severed arm: "So you really don't know?"

The overlord swore: "If I knew about it, it would have never happened. I admire you like the endless sea, so how could I do such a heartless thing? If I told half a lie, then let the heavens send down its thunder."

Li Qiye kept on smiling after hearing the vow. Ruyan's expression was hidden behind her veil so no one could see it. However, a happy spark flashed in her eyes.

The overlord raised his voice: "If Brother Li still doesn't believe me and think that I am the mastermind behind all of this, then just have my head to get rid of your anger and enmity."

"If Brother Li could discard this hatred, then my death would be worth it." Having said that, he stretched out his neck so that Li Qiye could wring it off.

Even more people were persuaded by this display and began to believe his words. The skeptical crowd simply chuckled without commenting.

Eventually, Li Qiye happily said: "Since you have gone this far, I will believe that this wasn't carried out by you. Forget about it."

The overlord hastily stated: "Brother Li, you are a magnanimous and benevolent man for which I am grateful to the point of tears. No matter what, this was my fault for not properly disciplining my underlings. I'll bow my head again as an apology."

After that, he got down to the ground again and bowed with his head, hitting the ground three times with force.

At this point, some believed him and felt that both his words and actions were full of sincerity.

"Such flexibility and ruthlessness, this kind of person will always be successful." Among the guests, an older cultivator quietly voiced his praise with a sigh.

A few saw that Li Qiye had accepted the explanation and whispered: "Li Qiye might be fierce, but he is still too inexperienced. Sooner or later, he'll suffer because of this."

After everything was settled, the overlord let the servants bring up his finest wine and poured a cup: "Spilling blood during this celebration must have ruined your vibe, Brother Li. I will drink three cups to apologize."

Having said that, he drank three cups in quick succession.

After the gesture, he poured some for Li Qiye and Liu Ruyan before happily smiling: "A toast for Brother Li and Schoolmaster Liu as well as the wise sages of this world. I wish that you will be able to reach the peak and obtain the Heaven's Will in the future!"

Li Qiye smiled and drank without commenting. Liu Ruyan also did the same. The overlord filled their cups once more for another toast: "The entire banquet glows with your presence. Please have another cup, everyone."

The slightly unwilling guests raised their cups as well.

After several rounds from the overlord, Ruyan said: "My tolerance isn't great, I'll be leaving first."

But the moment she got up, she tumbled and fell back in her chair while shouting: "My, my blood energy has been blocked!"

"What's wrong?" Li Qiye busily came over to help her up, but the same thing happened when he tried to stand up.

He blurted: "There's poison in the wine!"

Many guests were shocked after seeing the two and quickly channeled their blood energies. However, they found it to be unobstructed; they were relieved to find that their bodies were perfectly fine.

"It was you!" Li Qiye slumped in his chair and pointed at the overlord while being both frightened and angry.

"Li, even if you are fierce, you will still have to drink my foot-washing water soon. So what if you are strong? Your boat has capsized." The overlord smugly laughed.

"Impossible, the wine was clearly fine, how were we poisoned!" Liu Ruyan was astounded.

The overlord was very pleased with himself and laughed: "Yes, the wine was fine. If I poisoned the wine, it would have been hard to hide it from you, so I only added a bit of a sinister dragon's saliva. It will only make the wine taste even more delicious..."

"... This saliva isn't poisonous at all, but the two of you are sitting on a chair made out of shadow wood. When the fragrance of this wood is mixed with a sinister dragon's saliva, it will turn into a dangerous poison, devoiding cultivators of their blood energy and power. I'm sure you didn't expect this method at all." The overlord grew complacent as he guffawed.

"Saliva of a sinister dragon and shadow wood!" People were surprised to hear this.

A sinister dragon was a very powerful sea creature in Heaven Spirit. Both its saliva and the shadow wood were very precious items. It must have cost a sky-high price for him to obtain both.

"You! Everything you said earlier was lies? You were the culprit?!" Li Qiye kept on pointing at the overlord in amazement.

"Hahahaha, yes, I'm the mastermind behind everything." The overlord loudly laughed: "That attendant was only a scapegoat! Just a bit of goading from me and someone as arrogant as you would come, so I prepared the bait..."

"... Geniuses like you think you're superior and smarter than others. I just needed to kneel and play my part. This might be humiliating for others, but I never valued that kind of reputation. The method doesn't matter as long as I can achieve my purpose! I simply wanted to make you two drop your guard. I didn't expect for it to work so quickly, capturing the both of you right now will save me a lot of effort!" He felt quite proud of his plan.

Ruyan shouted in response: "You dare to do this in front of everyone?"

This was met with a manic laughter from the overlord: “So what? This is only dealing with a personal vendetta. Many cultivators cherish their reputation, but I don’t care what others call me. A scoundrel? A madman? So be it. Even if the world knows that I have used a despicable method to kill the two of you, so what? They can keep on calling me shameless...”

“... Plus, if everyone knows that I am the one to torture Li Qiye to death, it would be an even greater accomplishment. Yes, watch me kill my prey, it will only make the process even more satisfying.” His eyes shot out an excited glint.