

Emperor 1581

### [Chapter 1581: Small Pub](#)

After entering Discover, Li Qiye and the monarch felt its ancient aura. He couldn't help but take a deep breath.

It seemed to have been brewing for millions of years. Thus, a single breath brought along this boundless time period with an intangible sad melody.

"Discover City." He smacked his lips and commented: "Such an unforgettable feeling."

"Do you know about this one defining snack at Discover that people can't get tired of?" He looked at the monarch who had the disguise of a servant and said.

"Defining snack?" The monarch was caught off guard. The majority of cultivators weren't big eaters, especially at their level. There was no need to eat food and grains.

But now, when Li Qiye brought up this mortal event, of course, the monarch became surprised.

"Come, I'll take you, haha. You won't be able to find it yourself." Li Qiye smiled and continued on his way.

There were many inhabitants in this old city. It was very bustling and busy at this moment. Characters from all over the world visited to congratulate the Yu Clan. They didn't invite anyone to celebrate Yu Taijun's successful death meditation but big shots came anyway to see her.

Li Qiye seemed to ignore all of this and took the monarch from one street to another through the sea of people.

She has been to Discover before but Li Qiye was much more familiar with each street. After taking many twists and turns, the monarch felt a bit dizzy and couldn't tell the direction. She only knew that she was still in Discover.

They finally made it to a narrow and long alley devoid of light. It was very quiet with no one around. It looked like this was a slum with tattered buildings. Many of which had been abandoned. Only old and feeble men lived here.

They came to a tiny pub with a small entrance and a banner with the word "Feng". The word was fading from its age and virtually illegible. [1]

Even mortals didn't want to hang around this pub, let alone cultivators. Li Qiye slightly smiled after seeing the banner before entering the pub.

The monarch thought Li Qiye would take her to an old restaurant to eat something special, not such a run-down pub.

They found this place to be really small with only a few tables and some randomly placed stools.

The counter was positioned inconspicuously in the corner with a faint oil lamp. It was so weak that just a small breeze could blow it out. Because of it, this tiny pub had some semblance of light. Otherwise, it would have been even darker.

The old man was lying on the counter with a light green robe. It was quite simple without any ornaments. Who knows how long he has been wearing this robe? It was turning white from being washed too many times.

Nevertheless, this old robe was still very clean without a speck of dust. It looked like the old man was very diligent with his hygiene.

He had a very righteous appearance. Despite the wrinkles, his features were bold and strong as if he was carved from a powerful blade. He seemed to be sleeping peacefully; nothing in this world mattered to him.

The monarch had no comment regarding this pub. She thought that there would be a separate domain inside but this wasn't the case.

Li Qiye walked to the counter and gently tapped to say: "You have some guests."

The old man woke up. He slowly opened his old eyes and stared carefully at Li Qiye. Alas, it seemed that his aged eyes couldn't see Li Qiye clearly regardless of how wide he opened them. Because of this, he had to rub his eyes.

"What, I have something on my face? Or am I even prettier than some beauties?" Li Qiye chuckled and said leisurely.

The old man was silent for a moment before speaking dispiritedly: "Sir, what do you need?"

"One jar of Shaoxing wine and a portion of anise beans." Li Qiye ordered before looking for a stool to sit down.

"Alright." The old man replied quietly and came to the back. A flurry of sound came about.

The monarch was still at a loss about Li Qiye's intention and had to take another look at the pub.

"Okay, no need to look around. Sit down." Li Qiye patted the stool next to him and smiled at the woman.

She sat beside him without saying anything. A while later, the old man brought a plate of anise-flavored beans and a jar of wine to the table: "Take your time."

He then went back to resting on the counter with his chin first to stare at the two, especially Li Qiye.

Li Qiye ignored his stare and poured a cup for both him and the monarch: "This is quite rare. Drink."

He raised his cup and drank slowly.

The monarch assumed that this would be very delicious and followed suit.

"Ugh.." When the wine streamed down her throat, she immediately stopped and almost spat everything out. This might be the worst and cheapest wine she has ever tasted in her life.

She garnered that only the poorest mortals would drink this type of wine not even worth a single bronze coin. There were no words to describe this awful taste, even worse than drinking horse urine.

The problem was that Li Qiye had no difficulty drinking it. He took his time as if this was the best wine in the world, that it could turn someone into an immortal.

She simply tried her best to swallow this terrible wine. Her scalp tingled and she put the cup down after one gulp.

Li Qiye relished the experience and eventually asked her: "You want to try some beans?"

She had no appetite after looking at them and shook her head.

Li Qiye just smiled and grabbed a handful. He peeled before throwing them into his mouth and chewed with crispy noise.

He took a sip then ate more beans as if they were delicacies.

The monarch had no words while watching. Are these the special food he was talking about? Maybe Fiercest had some strange urges compared to others.

The guy went on like a leisure immortal enjoying his meal. Meanwhile, the shopkeeper was still staring at Li Qiye as if something about the guy was attracting his attention. He didn't care about the monarch at all.

Li Qiye didn't care like before and continued eating and drinking.

Eventually, loud noises came from outside. Next, a group filed inside the small pub from the dark entrance.

This tiny pub was filled right away with more than ten newcomers. The group immediately surrounded the two.

The monarch took note of their clothing and became startled. This was the Yu Clan.

"Fourth Uncle, it's this brat!" A youth pointed at Li Qiye.

#### [Chapter 1582: Shopkeeper](#)

The youth was Yu Zhan who got beaten badly at the archipelago by Li Qiye. He was much bolder this time and dared to stand before Li Qiye unlike being scared out of his mind at the end of their previous meeting.

Li Qiye put down the cup and coldly glared at the youth, prompting him to take several steps back before the middle-aged man.

It wasn't because he was a coward. The pain from the torture last time left him hopeless. Without some amazing medicines from his clan, he would have needed to stay in bed for another year.

Outside of the dozen of experts from the clan, the middle-aged man was his Fourth Uncle. He was muscular with eyes like lightning.

He was fourth in line but his cultivation as a powerful paragon was only weaker than the Yu Clan Master.

The Yu Clan couldn't swallow this anger from the beating so after their disciples spotted him at Discover, Yu Zhan immediately asked his uncle to get revenge.

“You’re the one who beat down people from our clan?” Fourth Uncle stared at Li Qiye and asked slowly.

Li Qiye finally looked at him and said lazily: “So what?”

“Bam!” The man slammed on the table and caused the cups to jump while shouting: “Good, it’s good that you’re admitting this. How do you want to settle it then?”

“Why bother settling?” Li Qiye smiled and said.

To which the uncle responded: “Stop running your mouth. Our Yu Clan does not pick on the weak. I will give you two choices right now. Kneel and admit your wrongdoings or I’ll return the favor by breaking your legs!”

“And if I do not pick either choice?” Li Qiye chuckled.

“Bam!” He slammed on the table again: “Then you’re courting death!”

“Sir, please sit if you want to eat but go outside for a fight.” The old man quickly gathered the cups and plates on the table and told Fourth Uncle.

Fourth Uncle looked at him and casually threw out a gold ingot: “Old man, take it. Our clan will pay for breaking your items.”

The old man stared back without saying anything. Fourth Uncle thought that this wasn’t enough and threw out another two: “This is enough for your retirement. No need to keep the shop open later on.”

The old man took the gold and returned to the counter as if he was running from the trouble.

Afterward, Fourth Uncle yelled at Li Qiye again: “Junior, time to do this.”

“Fine.” Li Qiye smirked and finished his cup.

Fourth Uncle said coldly: “It’s not too late to admit your mistakes before I personally break your legs.”

“How amusing. Okay, I want to see how much you have learned from your clan.” Li Qiye couldn’t help but laugh

He sat there unmovingly. This made Fourth Uncle livid from being looked down by a junior like this.

No one dared to treat their Yu Clan in this manner throughout the Grand Sea, let alone on their own territory. There was no way he could swallow this anger.

“Junior, I’ll teach you a lesson in place of your seniors then!” Fourth Uncle shouted and reached for Li Qiye.

“Crack!” Bones broke as the uncle was still speaking.

“Ah!” Blood squirted everywhere. His entire arm was torn off completely.

“You...” The stunned uncle hastily retreated but it was too late.

Li Qiye’s kick was as fast as lightning and struck his chest. The man went flying out of the pub while vomiting blood.

Yu Zhan and the other disciples turned pale from fear. A paragon like their uncle was taken down so easily.

“I’ll spare your lives today out of consideration towards Matriarch Yu. Scram.” Li Qiye threw the bloodied arm at Yu Zhan and uttered coldly.

The boy was scared out of his mind. He didn’t expect his uncle to lose to a single move. After regaining his wits, he ran out of the pub.

The disciples all rushed out and helped their unconscious uncle before fleeing like the wind.

The monarch shook her head after seeing this. That group was just courting death. Fiercest would slay god if one stood in his way.

“Alright, show your real self.” Li Qiye sat down and blew the bean skin off the table. They scattered everywhere on the ground and actually formed a diagram.

It immediately came back to life and turned into a crow. It flew towards the counter and stared at the old man.

He stood up in astonishment instantly. The monarch was surprised. What was so shocking about a crow?

However, she became astounded in the next second. The moment the old man opened his eyes, a terrible time-crossing ray came out.

She felt as if a supreme True God was suppressing the entire location. She couldn’t take a single breath and felt her chair being as cold as ice. There was no way she could stand up before this terrible glare.

A storm surged in her mind. She didn’t expect this old man to be such a terrible existence.

“Okay, Zhengfeng, I’ve drunk your crappy wine. It’s time to bring out the good one.” Li Qiye stretched and said flatly.

The gaze disappeared as the old man’s eyes became muddled again. He took a deep breath and walked forward with haste to bow: “I didn’t expect you to come with your true body, Your Excellency. Please excuse me.”

“Not your fault since you have been stuck here forever now.” Li Qiye smiled and shook his head: “Nothing can really interest you in this world, rise.”

The old man finally stood up straight after being granted permission.

“After so many years, you haven’t changed at all. However, I’m a bit surprised that you don’t care for your descendants. Are you not afraid of me killing all of them?” Li Qiye chuckled.

“Do it if you want to, Your Excellency. Only a bunch of ignorant fools.” The old man calmly answered without a care.

The monarch was startled once more. This old man was actually from the Yu Clan!

“Looks like you have traveled quite far on this path, breaking through the limit already. I’m afraid even Immortal Emperor Mu Zhuo didn’t reach this level after creating this art.” Li Qiye commented with emotion.

“You’re too kind, Your Excellency. I’m only an old man, bored and waiting for death.” The old man smiled leisurely.

“It is a type of happiness to be able to await death. At the very least, time is still affecting you. Nothing is better than this.” Li Qiye said with a smile.

The old man forcefully smiled, not knowing how to respond.

“Alright, bring out your good wine already.” Li Qiye said.

The old man entered the cellar and brought out a different jar with more beans for Li Qiye. He personally poured it into the cup as well.

A fragrance filled the pub completely. It was easy to tell that this was the best of the best with just the smell.

Of course, the monarch could only stand to the side. She had no luck to enjoy the wine from a character of this level.

Li Qiye drank it all in one gulp and slowly chewed his beans. He eventually said: “You’re still as skilled as before.”

The old man quietly filled another cup for him.

“Bright Monarch, meet the greatest genius of Immortal Emperor Qian Li’s generation. He is Matriarch Yu’s older brother.” Li Qiye finished another cup before telling the monarch.

She didn’t dare to show the slightest snub and lowered her head: “This junior is a disciple from Heaven Suppression, currently the Pearl City Lord. Greetings, senior.”

The old man glanced at the monarch before looking back at Li Qiye. He smiled wryly and said: “Your Excellency, I’m only a ghost now...”

“I know.” Li Qiye waved his sleeve and said flatly: “You don’t care for mundane matters for a very long time now. However, Gu Zun will die in the future so someone needs to look after Heaven Suppression. I think that in the Grand Sea, you will be living the longest so I’ll leave this to you.”

“Very well, my clan owes you this, Your Excellency.” The old man agreed right away.

“Your clan has paid off its debt already.” Li Qiye smiled.

The old man nodded then told the monarch: “Just come and find me later.”

“Zhengfeng is someone who has lived for three generations. Do not bother him with trivial matters. If Heaven Suppression faces an existential crisis later, then you can ask him for help.” Li Qiye advised.

[Chapter 1583: Tumultuous Years](#)

“Someone who has lived for three generations!” The monarch gasped with a coursing chill after hearing this. She had always imagined just how wondrous these top existences would be but it still shocked her all the same. Such a being was beyond her imagination.

Though many Godking ancestors have lived for a long time in Mortal Emperor, they were always buried underground, not a real type of living. It was more apt to call it a hibernation to suspend their lifespan.

Even Godkings and Emperor Candidates would only live for one generation at best before dying.

Thus, living for three was too terrorizing. She has heard about the legends. There was only one person who has lived for three generations - her progenitor, the Black Dragon King!

The old man naturally could see her demeanor. He calmly spoke without any pride: “I’m only a wandering soul living a borrowed life, in no way comparable to a supreme talent like the Black Dragon King. Our situation is not the same.”

“Stop it, Zhengfeng. No need to be humble. You might not be the Black Dragon King’s match but you are still an existence that could only be count on one’s fingers in the nine worlds. When you fought Immortal Emperor Qian Li back then, you actually survived under his true Imperial Massacre. That’s an exceedingly rare achievement.” Li Qiye smiled and said.

This stunned the monarch completely. She even shuddered and understood just how powerful this being he had just introduced her to was.

A true Imperial Massacre could only be unleashed by an emperor when they channeled the power of their Heaven’s Will to unleash the ultimate blow of a life treasure.

Keep in mind that for millions of year now, many have claimed to have challenged emperors. Despite their defeat, it was still a commendable feat.

In fact, during these challenges, the emperors only used ordinary methods to fight them without utilizing the Heaven’s Will due to the unimaginable power of the latter.

Alas, this old man was able to survive a true attack from Immortal Emperor Qian Li. This was quite a feat.

“It’s because the emperor didn’t wish to kill me.” The old man sighed.

His humility didn’t diminish his achievement. Even an Emperor Assailant would die before a true attack like this.

The monarch finally regained her wits and bowed again towards the old man. Words were meaningless at this point.

Li Qiye waved his sleeve at her and said: “Leave for a bit, I have some personal business to discuss with Zhengfeng.”

The monarch quietly nodded and left with her mind still shaken. This old man was definitely powerful enough yet he still acted so respectfully towards Li Qiye. Who the hell was this guy to make a peak existence treat him in this manner?

Li Qiye smiled and said after she left: “No need to be so reserved. Sit. Not too many are left now. I can only have some nostalgic conversation with you and your sister.”

The old man bowed his head before sitting. He was only a junior before the Dark Crow in spite of his considerable power.

“Your Excellency, you’re here for Gu Zun?” He asked.

“I suppose. That and I want to take back Heaven Suppression. I don’t necessarily have to kill him because of the Black Dragon King but a punishment must be in order. If he obeys, then I’ll throw him into the eye of the sea but I will kill him if he is still unrepentant.” Li Qiye smiled.

“Gu Zun’s achievement is incredible but he’s still only a worm before you, Your Excellency. If you give the order, I’m sure there are three to five beings who will capture him for you.” The old man said.

Li Qiye gently sighed in response: “I know. Heaven Suppression is not only the effort from Lil Blackie, I put a lot of work into it as well. Gu Zun’s talents are supreme, unfortunately, he was born with the bones of a traitor. Blackie tried hard back then so I gave him a chance. Oh well, if he gives up, I’ll imprison him again. If not, then death.”

The old man remained quiet. Gu Zun might be considered an invincible character but the Dark Crow far exceeded him. Li Qiye didn’t even need to personally take action to destroy Gu Zun. This topic wasn’t worth discussing.

“Your sister made it out of her death meditation.” Li Qiye commented.

The old man nodded: “Yes, she’s still not stable for the time being. Just need some more time.”

“Then I won’t go see her so soon.” Li Qiye nodded: “It’s not easy for her either but she had been working all this time. You are different, when you reach the end of your path, it’ll turn you into loathful being.”

“It’s not good at all. Even the heavens do not want to take me out of disgust. I’ll have to keep living like this.” The old man smiled but his expression was gloomy.

“People in this world are bounded by love.” Li Qiye gently shook his head: “Qian Li has her own path and you your own. To tell the truth, I can’t judge you. You’ve made your own choice after all.” [1]

The old man sighed in response: “I can understand why the emperor didn’t like me. She can persevere on this path unlike me. Someone as amazing as her can go much further. [2]

“Your talents are countless times better than her. It’s not a problem of perseverance either, just your heart.” Li Qiye pointed at his heart and said :”In the beginning, you didn’t jump out of Immortal Emperor Mu Zhuo’s grand dao and only fallen deeper within.”

He paused for a moment: “I’m not saying that his grand dao ruined you. With your talents, you could have jumped out of it but you chose otherwise. Because of this, Qian Li became emperor and you are here. I don’t know what to say, you’re just wasting your time and waiting for death right now.”

“Your Excellency, you tried to guide me back then.” the old man smiled and said: “But I’m too stupid to shine. I have let you down.”



“Like I said, everyone will have their own path and will.” Li Qiye disagreed: “As for shining, your achievements right now are great enough. Few could even reach your level right now but the world could have been your playground. Ultimately, you chose this small pub instead.”

“I don’t know what you are choosing.” Li Qiye said lightly.

“Choosing to wait for death then.” The old man calmly said without sadness.

“I can’t comment then. Keep walking with your choice.” Li Qiye had to smile back.

“You have always been like this, Your Excellency. It is a shame that I couldn’t help the Black Dragon King in that shattering battle.” The old man said with a tinge of emotion.

“I’m sure Lil Blackie didn’t care. The two of you embarked on two completely different paths so I can’t see you two together. He’s more domineering and aggressive. If he saw your lifeless and gloomy appearance now, he might have kicked you flying to the horizon.”

“You’re right, that’s why he never cared for me even when he visited the Yu Clan so he never went here. Sigh, I don’t want to see him either or I’ll just slow him down.”

“Forget it, it’ll just end with a fight given your personality and his.” Li Qiye laughed: “Of course, when the two of you were younger, you boys were two hot-headed kids, always helping each other.”

“You, Blackie, and Qian Li... Honestly, it was quite gratifying to see three amazing talents. Though you didn’t come from my tutelage, I was happy to hear people refer to your group as the ‘three heroes’”. Li Qiye sighed at this point.

“Yes, those were some memorable years.” The old man recalled: “I was a step ahead and couldn’t join your camp but I have never forgotten about your teaching. In my heart, you are still my master. Alas, I have let down your high expectations, failing to become an emperor like Qian Li and a tyrant for three generations like Blackie, just a nobody in the end.”

He still smiled without any regrets.

#### [Chapter 1584: Memories](#)

Li Qiye was glad to see the old man’s calm demeanor: “The choice of each individual determines their future. This can all happen with a single thought. It certainly did for the three of you.”

He sentimentally continued: “Qian Li’s background was a bit worse, same with her conditions, but her confidence never wavered. She knew she would become a dragon one day to obtain the Heaven’s Will. That’s why she became an emperor. As for Lil Blackie, he loved challenges. Such a madman who only wanted to fight. That’s why he ruled for three generations. He broke through his own limit in each of them while taking a different path each time.”

He stared at the old man and said: “As for you, Zhengfeng, you are either hiding or just plain weary of it all. That’s why you don’t want to leave your nest and ultimately became a shopkeeper with only this lamp as your friend.”

“I agree. Qian Li had her imperial path while the Black Dragon King had his tyrannical dao. As for me, I probably can’t defeat my inner demon.” The old man said.

“Inner demon? Others might have this but not you. This path leads to being loathed by the heavens. What inner demon can you have? What is scarier than being unwanted by the heavens?”

“That makes sense too.” Zhengfeng smiled leisurely.

Li Qiye only shook his head and drank the fine wine. In his eyes, Zhengfeng didn't have that many flaws. It was just that his chosen path leads to darkness.

Yu Zhengfeng was Matriarch Yu's older brother and was from the same era as the Black Dragon King and Immortal Emperor Qian Li.

When he was younger, the Yu was only a minor clan. His sister back then suffered a terminal illness. All the famous doctors gave up on her.

In order to save his sister, he tried his best at cultivation to become an invincible being. The karmic nature of life willed it so. During an adventure, he found Immortal Emperor Mu Zhuo's supreme grand dao. Henceforth, he embarked on a peerless path.

There were geniuses everywhere in that era. He, the Black Dragon King, and Immortal Emperor Qian Li were always together because of Li Qiye. Others praised them as the three heroes back then.

Later on, Zhengfeng fell in love with the emperor. However, she was hellbent on her imperial path without looking back while not having any feelings for him. Zhengfeng eventually lost to her in the competition as well.

This made him dejected. Despite having the power to challenge an emperor, he grew bored of the mundane world so he returned to Discover to open a pub and spend his day doing nothing.

As for his sister, the Dark Crow back then gave him the right treatment. However, the materials required were too difficult to find since they were immortal medicines.

Thus he had no choice but to seal his sister until Immortal Emperor Qian Li found the mythical immortal medicines. Zhengfeng then asked Li Qiye for help and they finally cured Matriarch Yu.

A bit later, Matriarch Yu joined the Black Dragon Legion. This was when Zhengfeng completely shut himself from everything and the world forgot about him.

No one knew that there was an incredible master hiding in this tiny pub.

“Your Excellency, I admire you the most out of everyone. I don't know how you keep on going, I certainly can't do it.” He took a sip after pouring another cup for Li Qiye.

“Just have to keep walking.” Li Qiye drank and said with a smile.

He smiled wryly: “Easier said than done. You have been walking for millions of years now. That's a very long period. You must have suffered endlessly, bidden farewell to many love ones and even buried them yet you didn't go crazy or become a devil. You were certainly not a saint either nor choose to hide from the world. You are yourself after the arduous time, never changing your determination regardless of the perilous challenges. The winds and rains accompanied your journey with the stench of blood. Black Dragon King once said that if he had experienced so much pain like you, he would have started to hate the world and become a monster! Your dao heart isn't something we juniors can compare to.”

He finished his cup in one gulp before letting out a long sigh.

Li Qiye actually didn't know what to say and continue drinking quietly. The guy was right. He has sent away and even buried many loved ones. He had many friends and loyal confidants once but ultimately, he was the only one left. Numerous had died from old age while he continued to live on!

The most painful thing in life was not death. It was watching those close to you die one by one. At this point, death became sweet relief.

"There's a fair amount of people who have lived just as long in this world." Li Qiye said flatly.

Zhengfeng disagreed: "I know, you have told me about them but they're not actually living, only sealing themselves by sleeping. It's not the same as you who tread on the mortal plane for generations. Time and mundanity washed your body but they can't break your will and heart!"

"It's good to be alive." Li Qiye answered. It wasn't the perfect response since he didn't know how to help the guy.

Zhengfeng understood all the logic and rationalities right now. If he wanted to jump out of his dao, he must rely on himself. The problem was that he didn't care for it so Li Qiye couldn't help him at all.

Zhengfeng nodded and drank silently.

The two continued drinking. After a while, Zhengfeng slowly said: "I saw Immortal Emperor Mu Zhuo on the grand dao!"

Li Qiye pondered for a bit before smiling wryly: "Sigh, the emperor has too much of an influence on this dao. At this moment, he might be better and had walked further than you so that's why you can see him."

"He can't leave it and is just walking around in a circle. If you go on, you'll be just like that stubborn guy." Li Qiye shook his head.

"He's already an emperor, why is he going back on this path?" Zhengfeng found this puzzling.

Li Qiye elaborated: "Who knows? Just him, probably. The guy has always been a controversial emperor, different from the others. Even after ascending, he kept to himself. Maybe in his mind, he's too far removed from the world."

"It could be fate then. The emperor and I are somewhat similar." Zhengfeng answered.

Li Qiye said earnestly: "Perhaps. The two of you have failed in love before but this isn't the reason or the end. The path is still beneath your feet. It was created after he became emperor. He didn't embark on it during his youth. Moreover, his heart remained unchanging despite romantic frustration and pain, that's why he could still become emperor. But as for why he returned in the future, it might not be related to worldly matters. You and Mu Zhuo are not the same." Li Qiye stared at Zhengfeng and finished.

Immortal Emperor Mu Zhuo was a very reclusive and mysterious emperor. For many emperors, they would shine after ascension. Moreover, there would be many friends and followers both before and after. Many were willing to fight for them.

Immortal Emperor Mu Zhuo was an exception. He had always been fighting alone for that was his nature.

“Maybe he’s lonely? That’s why he returned to this path.” Zhengfeng speculated.

“Not necessarily.” Li Qiye denied: “He had two marriages on top of many lovers. His heart shouldn’t have been too lonely.”

He was born in a declining family. Because of this, his fiancée betrothed to him at a young age married a richer husband later on.

This inspired the emperor and he started to rise and become a famous hero with sufficient power. This allowed him to marry the prettiest girl in the region.

Unfortunately, tragedy struck again. His wife had an affair with a peerless genius in the nine worlds. It was quite a blow to the emperor.

He gave up all of his wealth and dissolved his sect before slumbering in a forest away from the world.

After skipping a generation, he came out and shocked the world once more to eventually become emperor.

With that, he found many lovers and eventually married one world’s most beautiful woman.

Such achievements were the lifelong pursuit of many people. However, the emperor felt life was dull and left quietly. From then on, no one heard of him again.

He didn’t create a sect nor pass down his grand dao. Though future generations cultivated his emperor laws, he wasn’t the one passing them down.

#### [Chapter 1585: Lonely Grand Dao](#)

Zhengfeng drank his wine and eventually spoke: “I really want to know why the emperor chose to return on this grand dao.”

He also cultivated the grand dao left behind by the emperor. However, this was not one the emperor used for his ascension.

The name of this dao was World-weary, created by Immortal Emperor Mu Zhuo after his ascension. He didn’t cultivate it either and only left it behind. Zhengfeng came across it by chance later on.

“You can go ask him.” Li Qiye smiled and said: “The nine worlds might not have anything that piques your interest but you can leave this pub and broaden your horizon. With that, you can personally ask the emperor why someone as invincible as him chose to walk on this grand dao.”

In a sense, the emperor was invincible and his life was perfect. There was no reason for him to pick the World-weary Dao. No one would be able to understand his choice.

Zhengfeng contemplated for a moment before shaking his head: “I don’t want to know then. He is him and I am me.”

Li Qiye took his time before replying: “Do you want anything else besides waiting for death?”

“Yes.” Zhengfeng smiled: “To die here in the same place that birthed me. That’s all I want.”

“Alright.” Li Qiye smiled wryly: “You win. There’s nothing I can do since it’s your choice.”

“No matter what, I am still grateful to you. I’m aware that you have tried several times to change me during my stay here at the pub. I can only let you down though, all I want to do is remain here.” Zhengfeng said.

Li Qiye took another sip: “No, maybe you have the right idea. After all, to die in your birthplace isn’t bad, just like the leaves falling down towards the roots.”

A momentary silence filled the air. After a while, Li Qiye broke it: “Yes, dying in your birthplace is nice but for me and many Immortal Emperors, it is too out of reach. Many of them thought about returning one day to die here but they can’t. I can’t either. It’s good that you can enjoy this.”

“That’s why you are great, same with the emperors. You all want your death to be meaningful and worth it. That’s why you guys insist on struggling without a moment of respite.” Zhengfeng freely laughed and said: “Emperors were able to become emperors and you were able to become the eternal dark hand, it must have something to do with your charisma and personalities. I, on the other hand, can only die at home.”

“I hope so, for a meaningful death, that is.” Li Qiye laughed as well.

Zhengfeng poured another cup for him while he gulped them down. Li Qiye said: “Okay, let’s not talk about these things any longer. The second reason why I’m here is because I want your fire spark. I have a cauldron for weapon refinement that is missing a fire spark so I need to borrow it from you.”

“You want the World-weary Flame?” Zhengfeng asked.

Li Qiye nodded in response: “You certainly have the purest World-weary Flame.”

Zhengfeng quickly went to get the spark for him.

Finally, it was time for Li Qiye to leave after achieving his purposes here.

Before leaving, he stared at Zhengfeng one last time and smiled: “Brat, the days are long still so keep waiting to die. Maybe I’ll die before you in the future.”

“Your life is eternal. I will definitely die before you, Your Excellency.” Zhengfeng smiled back.

They had many things to say. At their level, it was hard to find someone to talk to but before the departure, words couldn’t come out.

After Li Qiye left, Zhengfeng went back to his counter and curled up then slowly closed his eyes into a slumber. The tiny fire inside the lamp was still jumping like before. This faint light illuminated his face in a surreal fashion.

It was peaceful for this old man and his small pub residing in the little alley. It seemed that no one would pay attention to it until the day of demise.

The monarch who has been waiting outside quickly caught up to Li Qiye. She had to look back at the entrance after taking several steps. She couldn’t understand why a supreme master was hiding away

from the world in this place. Though there were many reclusive masters in the world, they would pick paradisiacal and picturesque locations instead.

Alas, this great character was hiding in such a rundown pub. No one would believe such a story.

“No need to look.” Li Qiye shook his head and sighed while walking: “He’ll stay there forever. Won’t be easy to get him to come out.”

After a long time, she couldn’t contain her inquisitive mind and quietly asked: “Young noble, who is stronger between Matriarch Yu and this senior?”

Needless to say more about Matriarch Yu. She was someone who fought against Immortal Emperor Yin Tian and was recognized to be an Emperor Assailant. As for the old man, he was Matriarch Yu’s older brother who has lived for three generations.

“You think he’s too unknown, right? Power can’t be measured by prestige. Matriarch Yu indeed has the power to assail an emperor but Yu Zhengfeng, he’s much stronger.”

“Stronger than her, even?” The monarch was shaken and eventually asked for elaboration: “Rumor has it that those who could survive one hundred moves from an emperor are considered assailants.”

Li Qiye laughed in response: “One hundred moves as the baseline? Which idiot told you that? Too many people would be assailants then. Plus, not all emperors are bloodthirsty. They actually love talents and juniors so they go easy on the challengers.”

He shook his head and continued: “This belief emanated from a few fools who are trying to increase their own worth and reputation.”

“Then what’s considered a real Emperor Assailant?” She said with great curiosity.

She has heard many things about this title. The most popular belief was the one hundred moves requirement.

“An assailant isn’t that easy to come by.” Li Qiye explained: “The normal standard is that against the regular power of an emperor who is not holding back, they just need to last one thousand moves to be qualified for this title.”

“Regular power?” She didn’t understand this.

“It means not using the Heaven’s Will.” Li Qiye continued: “The standard is strict so emperors can’t go too easy. They have to take it pretty seriously against the real ones. For example, the ones who can last one hundred or two hundred moves were usually young talents and the emperors went easy on them.”

He slowly recalled: “When Matriarch Yu fought against Immortal Emperor Yin Tian, the emperor actually used a life treasure and nearly shattered the world. Matriarch Yu relied on her own incredible strength to last more than one thousand moves. The emperor recognized her strength and bestowed her the assailant title. The other self-claimed assailants can’t compare to her at all.”

She has heard of Matriarch Yu’s legends before but no one knew the exact details of the fight or how long she had actually lasted. But now, this revelation took her like a storm. Matriarch Yu actually made it to the one thousand moves mark against an emperor using a life treasure, the grand dao, and not

holding anything back. Even without using the Heaven's Will, each strike could destroy the world. Thus, one could imagine how mighty Matriarch Yu used to be.

#### [Chapter 1586: The Three Levels At The Top](#)

The Peacock Bright Monarch had never seen an Immortal Emperor before but she could imagine their wondrous strength. Just think about it, these were the existences who won after battling the entire nine worlds. They were matchless during their own generation.

Matriarch Yu's strength was indeed enough to walk proudly across the nine worlds. The monarch eventually calmed down and said: "Then what about Senior Yu?" She glanced back at the pub after saying this.

Li Qiye said that Zhengfeng was much stronger than Matriarch Yu.

"Zhengfeng." Li Qiye said: "If we were to separate the levels, he is considered an Emperor Contender."

"Emperor Contender? What's the differentiation?" She was puzzled.

"You think there are only Emperor Assailants around? Ordinary people can only make contact with this level. The truth is that the real powerful beings at the top can be divided into three levels. They consist of top Godkings and Emperor Candidates in the following order: Assailant, Contender, Rival." He chuckled after clarifying.

The world only talked about assailants. In the eyes of cultivators, assailants were the strongest below Immortal Emperors.

This wasn't the case. People at this level understood that there were dividers with great disparities.

Because of this, the existences further classified themselves into the three levels.

"What's a contender?" She asked.

Whenever people talked about Emperor Assailants, they were full of reverence. In fact, being exposed to characters of this level alone was already amazing and worthy of pride. On the other hand, she rarely heard about contenders so she had no understanding of this concept.

"Very simple, if you can last one thousand moves against an emperor using the power of the Heaven's Will, then you're a contender. Of course, there's another standard. If you can survive against a true Imperial Massacre, then you're also a contender regardless of whether you used your own power or relied on a treasure." Li Qiye said flatly.

If an emperor was already invincible? Just how powerful would they be with the Heaven's Will? She wasn't aware of the latter but knew just how impressive it was to last one thousand moves under these conditions.

"It still counts when you use a treasure to survive the true massacre?" She had to ask.

"It's not that easy. You think you don't need strength just because of some treasures?" Li Qiye smiled and shook his head: "You think the Heaven's Will is a joke? If you're not strong enough, the treasures

won't do. Even if the treasures can survive the blow, just the impact and shockwave alone could render you to a mist of blood. Only top existences could actually resist this."

"Excuse my short-sightedness." The monarch felt that she had underestimated the power of the Heaven's Will.

"It's not surprising because you haven't seen the Heaven's Will yet. Even if you do, you won't think much of it, not until it truly erupts. That's when you'll come to realize how frightening it is. It's the condensation of the energy and essence of an entire generation!" Li Qiye smiled and said.

She finally had a clear concept about an Emperor Contender.

"Then how many moves did Senior Yu last against Immortal Emperor Qian Li?" This prompted her next question.

"The two of them fought for a long time for the Heaven's Will before his eventual defeat. After she became emperor, Zhengfeng wanted a final fight before she left. He still lost in this battle, resulting in his bad choice in the future despite creating a supreme grand dao for himself."

Li Qiye became dejected after saying this. The guy gave up his own dao and maintained Immortal Emperor Mu Zhuo's World-weary Dao instead. He could have escaped from it instead of hiding in the pub. Alas, he had no intention of doing so.

The monarch quietly listened to this old tale. Despite not hearing the exact details, she could faintly guess that they were tragedies of sorts.

Li Qiye eventually smiled wryly: "The emperor prepared for the battle because Zhengfeng was her greatest rival. She used the Heaven's Will right away in that world-destroying bout. He lost after more than two thousand moves."

"More than two thousand moves!" The monarch shouted after being indescribably shocked.

Matriarch Yu lasting more than one thousand moves against Immortal Emperor Yin Tian was impressive enough but Zhengfeng lasted two thousand moves against the Heaven's Will. Only one word could describe his power - invincibility!

"It's to be expected." Li Qiye gently shook his head: "He has been on this dark path for a long time. Didn't you see his current appearance? Completely cursed and loathed, even the high heaven doesn't want to look at him. That's why he can only wait for death."

"There is a price for everything. Waiting is even more agonizing than death itself." He finished.

"Waiting for death?" She glanced back at the pub again.

"You may not understand the meaning behind this. Let me give you an analogy. For example, even the most delicious meal tastes like wax. Your heart is a dead tree, no love nor hatred towards anyone. You're basically living like a piece of rock. That's the meaning behind waiting for death."

The monarch was slightly stunned after hearing this. Living in life without any emotions, that's just a walking corpse.



“That’s why waiting for death is very painful.” Li Qiye lightly said: “He hoped that the emperor could kill him, that would be a meaningful death so he asked her to go all out with a true Imperial Massacre. He used his most brilliant strike to fight against it. That move was his pride so he could die with dignity, going out in a blaze of glory. The massacre rendered his body to ashes instantly. However, being loathed by everything like him allowed him to live under the attack. Afterward, the emperor couldn’t bear to attack again, not that she couldn’t kill him.”

Li Qiye sighed again. The World-weary Dao was a path towards despair.

In Zhengfeng’s mind, to be killed by his crush’s true massacre was a good death. That would be the perfect ending for him. Alas, he still survived the ultimate attack and the emperor found it tasteless to continue aiding someone in suicide.

“Since he has grown tired of the world, he doesn’t want to do anything anymore. Otherwise, even if it is a sea god with the Trident, he could still take them on.” Li Qiye softly said.

She finally understood why Li Qiye entrusted her and Heaven Suppression to Zhengfeng. Someone of his level was indeed qualified to be the backing of Heaven Suppression.

#### [Chapter 1587: Invincible Grand Dao](#)

The monarch took her time absorbing the information before asking the next question: “Then what is the requirement to be an Emperor Rival?”

“This one isn’t as easy.” Li Qiye smiled and shook his head: “For eons now, few characters of this level have appeared. If there must be a requirement, then a rival has to fight evenly against an emperor.”

The monarch immediately thought about someone after hearing this, their progenitor- the Black Dragon King.

The king reigned for three generations before fighting against Immortal Emperor Ta Kong! He was the shining star in the heart of all disciples from Heaven Suppression.

So many in this region grew up hearing about his tales including the monarch. That’s why she was proud of being a disciple of Heaven Suppression!

“Yes, the most famous among them is probably the Black Dragon King.” Li Qiye continued: “He’s indeed an Emperor Rival.”

The monarch couldn’t help but say: “But I heard Immortal Emperor Ta Kong is dead. Our progenitor killed him.” She heard about the battle with Space Trample Mountain before. The emperor’s corpse was annihilated by someone from Li Qiye’s side.

“There are strong and weak emperors too. That’s why I consider the Black Dragon King to be a rival. For example, Immortal Emperor Jiao Heng, Empress Hong Tian, or Immortal Emperor Fei and Immortal Emperor Hao Hai... if he were to fight against these emperors, it’s hard to say. Immortal Emperor Ta Kong isn’t among the most elite group.”

“Then how does he rank among the emperors?” She was full of curiosity. After all, he was a well-known emperor and the only person to have been killed after shouldering the Heaven’s Will in everyone’s mind.

Li Qiye gently shook his head: "Hard to say. The emperor still had a lot of room to grow. We can't look down on him just because he was slain by the Black Dragon King. I can only say that he was too anxious. If he kept on walking down the imperial path, who knows what kind of achievements he would have up above the nine heavens. It's no coincidence for someone to become an emperor. He was the most excellent on this path in his generation. Talents, origin, merit laws, weapons, the most powerful protectors; all of this does not guarantee your spot as an emperor. A firm dao heart is also necessary. One would have the chance to reach the grand dao as long as they do not give up. However, if they don't have the courage to persist, all of the prior advantages are useless. An emperor must be able to withstand all obstacles and resist all temptations to ascend and bring about storms in a larger world."

He stared at the horizon and continued: "Disciples from Heaven Suppression shouldn't look down on Immortal Emperor Ta Kong. His achievement proves his exceptional abilities. During his period, he wasn't the most talented and didn't have the greatest background either but why did he become emperor in the end? Was it out of luck?"

He shook his head and said: "Emperors aren't made from luck. Others might be able to accomplish great things due to luck and favorable circumstances but this is not the case for emperors. The moment they embarked on the heavenly path, it meant that the whole world was their enemy. Numerous opponents who wanted to push them towards death. Challenges and assassinations along with the perils that accompany cultivation..."

"... Each emperor was battle-hardened and walked on countless bones and blood. Even if they had an invincible protector in the shadow, they must experience these challenges. Otherwise, they would only be sheltered flowers, unable to create their own supreme grand dao or being accepted by the Heaven's Will. A life of battle and never giving up, that's an emperor!"

Li Qiye spoke solemnly. Although Immortal Emperor Ta Kong opposed him, he truly appreciated the guy's imperial qualities. As for his personality and morality, that was a different matter.

"Each emperor has their own admirable quality; they are role models for future descendants. Thus, you cannot look down on Immortal Emperor Ta Kong just because he was your progenitor's enemy and was taken down by him. Do not think that he only got lucky to become an emperor."

The monarch was stirred after hearing Li Qiye's explanation. She took a deep breath and bowed: "I'll carve your words into my heart and won't forget them, Young noble."

In fact, Li Qiye's statement was very reasonable. In recent years, everyone heard about the emperor's corpse so they knew the Black Dragon King killed him. The fate of the king remained unknown.

Being the slayer of an emperor was worthy of pride. This was an insurmountable achievement!

Because of this, many disciples in Heaven Suppression became arrogant. They thought that Immortal Emperor Ta Kong wasn't much at all. So what if he had the Heaven's Will? The guy still got killed by their progenitor!

This sentiment was prevalent in Heaven Suppression. Li Qiye's guidance today was a warning for the future descendants. They weren't qualified to look down on Immortal Emperor Ta Kong even though he was their enemy.

If the emperor wasn't much, then what were they who couldn't become an emperor? Nobodies like them weren't qualified to look down on a person who experienced countless hardship and battle to become the only emperor of a generation!

This elucidated the monarch's mind even more. The path towards the grand dao was different from their imagination. It wasn't only about chasing the strongest merit law and treasure. The most precious thing was their dao heart!

"You still have a long way to go. In the future, Heaven Suppression will require your service. You need more than just talents and insightful decision-making abilities. Make sure to have a firm and understanding dao heart. With that, I'm sure the sect will prosper under your control." Li Qiye said slowly.

"You think too highly of me, young noble." The monarch smiled and shook her head: "Sect master is wiser and more talented than me. Her dao heart is firmer as well. The only thing she lacks is experience but she is still young. Her future will be much better than mine."

"No, Zi Cuining has her own mission and path." Li Qiye shook his head.

The monarch was confused and didn't understand the relationship between these two. Of course, she didn't know that Zi Cuining wouldn't be staying at Heaven Suppression. One of these days, she would leave the nine worlds completely.

This was the reason why Li Qiye told the secret of the Immortal Blood Spear to her. One day, she would continue its legend above the nine heavens.

The two of them traveled around Discover without visiting the Yu Clan right away. They took their time wandering randomly.

"Young noble, we're not visiting the Yu Clan?" This prompted the monarch to ask.

"We will but no rush for now. Matriarch Yu has just come out so she needs time to stabilize. No need to bother her." Li Qiye chuckled.

"The Yu Clan will let us see her?" She blurted out but quickly found this question to be unnecessary.

Despite Li Qiye's assault on the clan's disciples, even Yu Zhengfeng was so respectful towards him. It wasn't difficult for him to meet Matriarch Yu at all.

"The idiots." Li Qiye shook his head: "Killing one or two of them will be for their own good so that they will stop relying on their ancestor's fame to bully others while not having any skills. This is to let them know how vast the world is. Plenty of people are not afraid of their clan."

The monarch found the statement reasonable. If Li Qiye had any insidious thoughts about the Yu Clan, he would destroy it given his temperament. This was only a lesson towards Yu Zhan's group, a type of tough love.

#### [Chapter 1588: Beat Of The Grand Dao](#)

Li Qiye and the monarch strolled through the city because Matriarch Yu still needed time so they weren't in a hurry.

“Young noble, where shall we go?” She asked while accompanying him everywhere.

“There’s nothing too special at Discover. Hmm, the twelve scales can be considered one. Okay, since we are here, let’s go so you can see it.” Li Qiye smiled and said.

“The twelve scales. I have heard of it but never in person. Rumor has it that the scales can judge someone’s potential. The higher the step, the greater the future.”

“It’s only a point of reference.” Li Qiye answered: “It’s not completely accurate. Of course, it is still very significant because each step is a test for someone’s learning capability, determination, and dao heart.”

“Life is always surprising so it’s not like success is guaranteed after walking up the steps. You can try if you want.” Li Qiye shook his head and smiled before glancing at her: “With your dao heart and talents, reaching the tenth step isn’t a problem. Eleven might be hard, no chance for the twelfth.”

The monarch didn’t find this surprising. She calmly smiled: “I’ll just be an idler in my own domain, no chance of competing against the heroes of the world and especially not the wise sages.”

She spoke as a matter of fact without arrogance or a hint of inferiority.

“You can do whatever, let’s go.” Li Qiye led the way.

Nevertheless, the monarch still became interested: “If you go up the scales, how many can you go? I think all twelve shouldn’t be a problem.”

Though she has never climbed it herself, many people have said that only supreme geniuses in history could reach the twelfth step.

Li Qiye smiled leisurely: “Just twelve? No, if I were to do it, I’ll reach the top.”

“The top?!” Her pretty eyes widened in response: “Well, I heard the twelve scales are under the restriction of the grand dao. Rumor has it that only an emperor with the Heaven’s Will that has broken all dao shackles can easily climb the twelve steps. Otherwise, even the strongest wouldn’t be able to. Even our Ancestor Gu Zun has only reached the twelfth.”

It wasn’t due to her lack of confidence in him. Keep in mind that their Ancestor Gu Zun was an exceedingly rare genius yet he only made it to the twelfth step.

“In a way, it has nothing to do with cultivation, just your perception, determination, and dao heart. If you are keen enough, you will be able to hear the note within the step and lessen the pressure. Of course, it’s fine if your perception is no good. With a stronger determination and an unyielding dao heart, you can still move forward.”

Li Qiye smiled and shook his head: “The note of the step attacks your mind, not your cultivation. This is the key. So for me, no need to understand it. Just my unchanging dao heart can let me climb without any resistance.”

“The dao heart.” She said softly. Ever since she followed him, he has mentioned the dao heart several times. As a top expert, she understood how important it was. However, he seemed to emphasize it more than anyone else.

“This is where I’m different from the others. You think I’m exaggerating and placing too much of an emphasis on the dao heart?” He noticed her demeanor.

“Well...” She didn’t know how to answer. Of course, she felt that his logic was reasonable but he had too much of an attachment towards the dao heart.

Li Qiye smiled: “All along, many sects and experts, when choosing their disciples, look at talents then comprehension with the dao heart last. In fact, this belief has wasted many talents.”

He continued on leisurely: “Look, there have been so many incredible geniuses in history but very few could become emperors. We’ll talk about the ten eonic geniuses, how many of them made it to the throne? Just three.”

“As you can see, even the ten greatest couldn’t all become emperors, let alone the others in spite of the quantity. The majority of them died on this path. Why is that?” Li Qiye pointed at his heart: “There’s one problem, their easily shaken dao heart. For geniuses, everything happened too easy for them so they couldn’t handle failure or temptation.”

“Is that really so?” She couldn’t help asking.

“We’ll keep it recent with Immortal Emperor Ta Kong. After his ascension, people sang songs of his talents. That’s just flattery. In fact, the young emperor was only above average at best. He wasn’t as gifted compared to Cleansing Incense’s Mu Shaodi, the Stone Medicine World’s Stone Dragon God, or even his strongest general, Xiao Qingtian. But the last one smiling was him. Do you know why?” Li Qiye stared seriously at her.

“His dao heart.” She replied.

“That’s right.” Li Qiye continued on: “You might know the answer but not the actual reasons. For Mu Shaodi, his talents were excellent with a record of three wins and three losses against the emperor. But this was his unbecoming. He thought that he could take a shortcut in cultivation. After losing to the emperor, he couldn’t resist the temptation of taking the easy way out by using an external force. This eventually led to the near-destruction of Cleansing Incense.”

“For the Stone Dragon God, he was quite haughty at a young age and chased Immortal Emperor Ta Kong out of Stone Medicine like a dog losing its master. He was quite imperious until losing three times in a row to the emperor later on. With that, he was completely frightened and didn’t dare to come out again. His dao heart tasted fear.”

With that, he paused for a second: “And Xiao Qingtian, he has an amazing affinity with the saber, a natural born user. His saber seemed to have its own life in his hand. Unfortunately, the emperor’s shadow engulfed him and he couldn’t break out of his own shackles, being only one step away from success. This is due to a weak dao heart.”

“Then what about the emperor?” She asked. In fact, she was very interested in his past since this was her progenitor’s enemy.

“Immortal Emperor Ta Kong had countless ups and downs in his life. So many people have defeated him including Mu Shaodi, Stone Dragon God, and Meng Zhentian. Nevertheless, he never drowned in despair

or faltered before losing continuously. He rose again and again while learning from each loss. Because of this, he was the last one smiling due to his unshakable dao heart.”

“Thus, remember, each emperor is extraordinary and amazing in their own way.” Li Qiye meaningfully preached.

“So, dao heart first then the rest like talents. For ages now, how many geniuses have actually cultivated the Eternal Physique successfully? None, with the exception of a little girl with an unwavering dao heart for millions of years. Her pure heart allowed for her to create a unique miracle!”

“The dao heart is first.” She murmured to herself.

“Geniuses are in abundance but not those with immovable dao heart. That’s why it is much more important than talents when wanting to train a future emperor. This is the reason why your Heaven Suppression’s Gu Zun can’t become an emperor. His talents are even more amazing with people listing him as one of the ten eonic geniuses.” He looked at her and said.

“Why?” She had to ask. People believed that her Ancestor Gu Zun was one of the most gifted beings in the world. Some disciples from the sect actually claimed that he was the greatest of all. Big shots from the older generation said that he was definitely top ten.

However, even such a talented man didn’t become emperor in the end. This made her very curious!

#### [Chapter 1589: Requirements To Become An Emperor](#)

Li Qiye stared at the horizon for a while before answering the monarch’s question: “His dao heart is not firm.”

“Not firm?” The monarch couldn’t believe it: “That’s impossible. I heard Ancestor Shan and the others said that perseverance is his strong point.”

“That’s two different things.” Li Qiye shook his head: “You think that it’s only about wavering before difficulties? No, temptation is another test.”

“Gu Zun is a very patient person. In order to reach his goal, he can endure everything! However, his dao heart has two flaws. First, greed, second, treachery.” Li Qiye’s eyes turned profound.

“Greed and treachery?” She murmured.

“Ambition is good but when it becomes greed, that’s no longer the case.” Li Qiye explained: “Gu Zun has a greedy nature and wants everything, like an ant wanting to swallow a big cake but not one crumb at a time. Instead, he wants it all with one bite. The world isn’t that easy though.” Li Qiye smiled and said.

“What about treachery?” She asked. After all, Gu Zun was still her ancestor. The word “treachery” was quite harsh.

“In order to obtain his goal, Gu Zun could sell everything! He didn’t mind betraying everything, including the Black Dragon King!” He stared straight at her and said.

“That’s impossible!” She shouted. The king was their progenitor and pride. In their eyes, Gu Zun wouldn’t betray him no matter how evil he was.

“Really now?” Li Qiye smiled: “What kind of person do you think Gu Zun is? He’s not the Black Dragon King’s disciple or child. His status is on the same level as Lu Zhangsun; as one of the ten eonic geniuses with an amazing cultivation, why didn’t the king give him the successor role? Why did he take away all of Gu Zun’s position, leaving him with no responsibility? If you are the Black Dragon King, would you waste such a talent? The king was already merciful enough by not killing him!”

The monarch shuddered after hearing this. She has thought about this issue before too but didn’t dare to pry further. Ancestor Shan’s group didn’t wish to talk about it either.

Just think about it, their ancestor was an exceptional candidate so why didn’t he receive the great responsibility? Why did he need to wait till Lu Zhangsun died before seizing power? Someone as insightful as the Black Dragon King wouldn’t bury a talent for no reason!

Gu Zun would be highly valued and utilized in any lineage but the Black Dragon King went as far as removing all of his roles. Lu Zhangsun himself had always been vigilant of Gu Zun as well!

This meant that Gu Zun had committed an unforgivable mistake back then! But the Black Dragon King was a benevolent person. What kind of mistake was unforgivable?

Then she thought about what Li Qiye has just said and come out with a shocking answer - betrayal!

The monarch became suffocated. Though in this internal vie for power, Gu Zun was Elder Zhangsun’s opponent, he was still their ancestor. No one was right or wrong in wanting power. However, betraying the Black Dragon King was a scary matter.

If the disciples were to find out that Gu Zun had betrayed their progenitor before, they would never forgive him!

“Immortal Emperors have certain standards.” Li Qiye said flatly: “There is one more crucial requirement outside of the dao heart, an imperial ethics.”

“Imperial ethics?” She became attentive right away since this was her first time hearing the term.

“It’s a very vague concept but if I were to be more specific, betrayal is not one of them. An emperor can slaughter millions and wipe out clans, but not betrayal.”

“Why is that?” She asked.

Li Qiye continued on: “Emperors can be merciless but they must have their own rules. For example, the emperors from the Ancient Ming Race, they massacred so many, including their own, as their darkness engulfed the nine worlds. However, they will not betray the Ancient Ming Race and their soul as its member!”

“This betrayal will forever haunt an emperor. As for those who have yet to ascend, this will become an inner demon that might swallow them.” He said seriously.

“I, I heard that Immortal Emperor Ye Ti has massacred many people. His sword is always stained with blood.” She couldn’t help but bring up a different story.

“Immortal Emperor Ye Ti.” Li Qiye smiled in response: “Before becoming an emperor, he really killed many people, even those close to him. However, betrayal never happened, only cruelty. After becoming

emperor, he committed even more atrocities but strictly speaking, they weren't betrayal either. He didn't betray his heart but simply severed it."

He stared at the monarch and revealed: "But there's something you don't know. He paid a very price for his actions! He might be the emperor that had suffered the most miserable death!"

"Most miserable death? Even emperors would die so pitifully?" She became startled.

Keep in mind that even Immortal Emperor Ta Kong's death couldn't be described with these words.

"It's indeed hard for emperors to suffer this type of death but Immortal Emperor Ye Ti met a very tragic end, a fate worse than death! For an emperor, nothing could be more miserable than his end."

"A fate worse than death." The monarch shuddered. It was understandable for ordinary people to be victims of this fate but for an emperor? How terrible was it?

She simply couldn't imagine it at all!

"That's why emperors must adhere to certain rules or they'll pay a heavy price for their actions one day. The villainous heaven might not kill anyone. However, the judgment of the world has never spared anyone!"

She was stupefied before finally commenting a while later: "Even an emperor can't do whatever they want."

"That's how it is, even the villainous heaven is subjected to this. That's what a rule is. Even if you can surpass the high heaven, you will still need certain rules and guidelines or that height is impossible to reach."

"Gu Zun is very talented with a patient dao heart but he doesn't follow the rules necessary to become an emperor." Li Qiye said slowly: "Even though the Black Dragon King favored him, he still couldn't become one! In the end, the Black Dragon King personally cut off his fortune."

Hearing this secret left the monarch stunned. She didn't know what Gu Zun did back then but to earn such distrust from their progenitor meant that the sin was beyond salvation.

"Okay, no need to talk about old stories. Let's go to the twelve scales." Li Qiye smiled and said.

The monarch hurriedly followed him. Nevertheless, she still couldn't calm down since Li Qiye had revealed too many things to her.

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The twelve scales weren't just twelve steps. To be more precise, it was a fair-sized mountain.

It was located inside Discover with surrounding mist and clouds. A stream came from the summit and flowed around the mountain to eventually form a lake.

There were many hills in the vicinity with pavilions and corridors built next to them.

It was a very popular place in Discover. Visitors would come and visit at least once to test their own future. This was not a natural mountain. Rumor has it that it only showed up at Discover during



Immortal Emperor Yin Tian's generation. Another tale told that Matriarch Yu and the Black Dragon Legion used a supreme method to move the scales into this city.

Some believed that before it became a property of the city, it used to be a divine mountain for a godly race and served as its barrier!

### [Chapter 1590: The Twelve Scales](#)

How Matriarch Yu got the mountain from this mythical race remained a mystery. In short, she placed it in Discover right after. From then on, people called it the "twelve scales" and it became a beautiful scenery in this place.

Because the Yu Clan didn't place any restriction, anyone could come and try to climb it. It was a test of comprehension, determination, and dao heart. Cultivators were more than happy to try at least once, especially the younger ones. If they could climb up high, they would gain fame and reputation.

Some even considered it to be an examination mountain. The higher one could climb, the greater the future potential.

Because of this, many geniuses have tried since Immortal Emperor Yin Tian's generation. Of course, some didn't care for this test either.

Each day, many experts would come to watch or try to climb. The younger ones were much more eager since they wanted to prove their worth!

There were even more people here than normal, resulting in a lively and young crowd. The reason was very simple - the golden daughter of the Yu Clan, Yu Yulian wanted to try. [1]

The youths came to cheer her up. Moreover, Matriarch Yu had come out so many older experts came to Discover as well. Their juniors followed along. This was a good chance for them to befriend her.

People were everywhere around the scales. Conversations began to form.

There were twelve large steps that made up the scales. Each step was at least three meters high so it wasn't easy to go up at all. Cultivation didn't matter here because the entire mountain was created from the shackles of the grand dao. Only an Immortal Emperor who has broken through these chains would be freed from suppression. Otherwise, cultivation was useless.

This was because the higher the cultivation, the greater the pressure from the dao shackle. It wouldn't help the ascension at all.

Each step had its own note. Others wouldn't be able to hear anything, only the climbers.

This note was the sound of the grand dao. After each successful step, another note would ring.

With sufficient talents, one would be able to understand the mysteries of the dao note. With that, they would have a much easier time climbing the steps.

Of course, it was fine to be average talent-wise. With enough determination and a firm dao heart, they could still withstand the dao note.

This sound became increasingly more powerful at the higher steps. It would resonate with the climber's own grand dao and create a proportional pressure. Thus, the steps were a great challenge to all of the characteristics required for cultivation.

If one could reach the eighth step, it meant that they were dragons and phoenixes among men. Above this step, they could leave behind a shadow. This was a record of their achievement and glory.

Because of this, one could see many shadows on these upper steps. They consisted of famous people.

Thus, the young generation considered the eighth step to be the challenge. Once successfully reaching this particular height, they would have made it and be considered a genius.

As the saying goes, a man must leave a long-lasting legacy. Because of this, the young ones wanted to leave behind their shadow on these steps in order to become famous.

The eighth step had many shadows of all forms and ages. The ninth level had much fewer compared to the previous.

As for the tenth floor, it was a sad amount that could be counted with one's fingers.

Needless to say about the eleventh floor, there was only one shadow. It was a supreme figure that was quite young. It had an imperious presence just like a crownless tyrant.

There was only one shadow for the last one as well, a man in gray. Despite being very fuzzy, this shadow has carved itself on the twelfth step.

Many people stared at these steps enviously. There weren't that many shadows after the ninth step. However, there were some in the middle of the ninth and tenth.

This made the crowd curious. One person asked: "What's the stop between the ninth and tenth?"

"Nine and a half." One young cultivator from Discover said.

An eagle-eyed youth saw the shadows there and shouted: "Aren't that the Sky Dragon King, Golden Dragon Prince, and Hai Lin?"

These three were in the middle zone. Their shadows looked as if they were there in person.

"Yes, they're the most brilliant geniuses from the last generation of our Grand Sea." A cultivator from this region proudly claimed.

"He's right. The Sky Dragon King is in charge of the Crouching Dragon Cliff now. She was capable of challenging any other prodigy in the past." One fan explained: "The Golden Dragon Prince is in charge of Mu Zhuo's Demonic City. He's quite famous now too. Hmm, Hai Lin came out a bit later compared to these two."

"That may be but he's quite fierce, causing trouble everywhere. I mean, he's still alive now after being chased around so much." A demon recalled.

"These guys are quite amazing but the tenth step has even more frightening people." One powerful cultivator looked at the tenth step and said: "If I could leave my shadow on the tenth step, there would be no regrets in life."

There were three shadows on the tenth step. Two were a bit older and the last one was very young.

“That’s Ding Yuanhou from our demon race, the most amazing Godking in the Grand Sea. Rumor has it that he can assail an emperor.” A demon proudly pointed at one of the shadows and said. [2]

The mass was drowned in admiration after hearing the name, Ding Yuanhou.

He didn’t have the same astonishing battle record like Matriarch Yu. However, he withstood the Difficult Dao Era and eventually became a Godking. Some even said that he was the greatest genius after the Black Dragon King’s generation.

Because of this, many demons viewed him as their pride.

“That person is an ancestor from our Heaven Suppression!” In the middle of the field was a Heaven Suppression disciple. Of course, he was only an ordinary outer-sect disciple.

“Ye Jiuzhou!” Someone blurted out but immediately shut up right after since they felt that this was very disrespectful.

This particular shadow was left by Heaven Suppression’s invincible ancestor, Ye Jiuzhou!

He was very famous in the Grand Sea due to his current authority. People were quite wary whenever his name was brought up.

“What a pity... Wolong Zi. If he is alive right now, his achievements would be amazing, no less than Ancestor Ye and Dingyuan Hou.” A cultivator who had some ties with the sea demons sighed and said.

“The Crouching Dragon Cliff is amazing this generation, one sect with two prodigies. Wolong Zi and his sister, Wolong Xuan are brilliant. Some do think that Wolong Zi is more gifted than his sister though. What a shame, even the heaven is jealous of his great talents so he died during the Life Reduction.” Another person lamented.

Those who knew him felt quite bad. Even the ones who had never met him sympathized as well.

Wolong Zi was famous alongside Heaven Suppression Goddess. Unfortunately, a peerless genius like him fell to the tribulation.