

Emperor 1691

[Chapter 1691: Return](#)

Li Qiye went to say goodbye to Matriarch Yu's group.

"Your Excellency." The matriarch kowtowed. This might be her last opportunity to perform this grand ceremony towards him.

Li Qiye lifted her up and spoke softly: "No party lasts forever. You have followed me your whole life, it's time to bid farewell." He was too used to such sentimental scenes but he still became slightly emotional.

"I wonder if I will be able to see you again." The matriarch was emotional. People came and went through the years. Even His Excellency, the eternal, had to leave right now.

Li Qiye eventually said: "There are endless possibilities in the world, leave it to time."

"May you come back triumphantly!" In the end, the matriarch gave him her blessing. There were too many words in her mind but this was all she could say.

"I also hope that you will be able to live for a long time to come." Li Qiye said. He felt the same difficulty as her in expressing their goodbye.

After saying their goodbye, Li Qiye no longer hesitated and left.

The matriarch stood there and watched until his shadow disappeared into the horizon. Tears finally flowed from her eyes as she said: "Goodbye, Your Excellency. The nine worlds are less brilliant without your presence."

His next destination was Heaven Suppression. However, he didn't interfere with its affair and only came to see Zi Cuining.

"Get ready, it is time to leave. I leave the arrangements of Heaven Suppression to you." Li Qiye told Zi Cuining.

She gently nodded: "I understand, I will make good preparations."

Even though she couldn't bear to leave her home, she still chose to do so because a broader horizon was waiting for her.

"This is the right choice." Li Qiye nodded: "Staying here would only waste your talents and the Immortal's Blood Spear. This is a weapon that had killed an emperor before. Don't let it rust here in Heaven Suppression. It should appear above the nine heavens to pierce the throats of gods again, are you confident in doing so?"

She took a deep breath and solemnly nodded: "I will not let down my dao. I shall use it to break down all obstacles!"

"Such determination is good. Go get ready then." Li Qiye said before leaving.

The Peacock Monarch also visited to send him off. They didn't get far before Li Qiye stopped and told her: "Go back, Heaven Suppression is waiting to rise again. It needs new blood like you to shine again."

The monarch smiled wryly and didn't become excited about having new authority in the sect. On the contrary, she felt an unprecedented pressure. After all, if they didn't work hard this time, they would be letting down their ancestors.

"Ancestor Shan and Ancestor Ye are still around to give orders. We juniors will do our best as well." The monarch said.

Ancestor Ye was naturally Ye Jiuzhou. He survived the fight against Soaring Immortal.

"No, they're old now. Heaven Suppression needs the young generation. When they are capable, the sect will flourish. The old generation alone can't support a sect. It would be like the setting sun. A downfall is inevitable." Li Qiye shook his head.

The monarch quietly nodded. She understood the logic but the burden was quite heavy, especially after Zi Cuining's departure.

"Ye Jiuzhou is a capable person." Li Qiye chuckled: "I don't care what he had done but remember, he will never betray Heaven Suppression. The sect will do fine with his support."

"But, Ancestor Ye is..." The monarch quietly said. After the end of the battle, Ye Jiuzhou turned himself in at Heaven Suppression. However, Zi Cuining pardoned him. Nevertheless, he had been down ever since Gu Zun's death. After all, he considered Gu Zun to be his father.

"He'll get over it, the guy had experienced enough troubles in his life. He will know what to do for Heaven Suppression and determine its future path." Li Qiye answered with a smile.

"I understand." The monarch gently nodded before bowing deeply towards him: "Even though our time together was short, your guidance has left me a lifetime of benefit, especially on my dao path. I will always remember your kindness."

Li Qiye nodded and accepted her gesture. He then crossed through space, all the way from the Grand Sea back to the Grand Middle Territory to return to the Cleansing Incense Ancient Sect.

Bu Lianxiang's group all came out to meet him. Li Shuangyan and Chen Baojiao ran ahead of the pack.

"Young Noble!" Chen Baojiao couldn't restraint herself and rushed forward to give her young noble a tight hug containing her love and how much she had missed him.

"Come, come, all give me a hug." He happily gave everyone a hug. The girls all smiled back at him.

Finally, he tightly embraced Bu Lianxiang. She spoke softly to him with love: "Welcome home."

Li Qiye smiled while looking at the girls. It didn't matter how far he had gone, he would return to this place because there were people who cared for him here and vice versa.

"First Brother is back!" The news of his return quickly spread across the entire sect. The atmosphere became jubilant. All the disciples were excited, especially the ones that have recently joined. They wanted nothing more than to catch a glimpse of their First Brother's supreme style!

As the sect was celebrating, Li Qiye and Bu Lianxiang enjoyed a moment alone in their room. They gently embraced each other.

"What are you worrying about?" After a while, she looked at him with concern.

He chuckled and looked down at the beautiful woman before him: "It's nothing, no big deal. I do plan on visiting the Heavenly Corpse Burial Ground though."

"You are... if it is for my sake, no need to do so." She was slightly surprised.

"Even if it wasn't for you, I still want to go." He gently sighed: "I still can't let go."

"Because of the Ancient Ming?" Bu Lianxiang understood.

"You know me." He didn't hide it at all: "Yes, I am still worried that the Ancient Ming would come back so I have made up my mind about going to the burial ground."

"Everything has a price." She said quietly. Having been buried in a dragon vein in there before, she had a certain understanding of the place.

"I name the price in this generation, no one will barter with me." He said leisurely: "No matter who they may be, they must follow the agreement decided by me. Otherwise, I won't mind flattening a few burial grounds. I must show them my determination in protecting the nine worlds!"

She embraced his neck and said: "The inhabitants of the nine worlds fear you and even curse you, but how many actually understand you and know of your deep love for the nine worlds? How many are aware that you have protected it for generations. Even though you want to leave, you still can't abandon the nine worlds."

"I don't care what they think." He smiled and said slowly: "If you agree, I will go get you another generation at the burial ground?"

She pondered before speaking: "I know that you can't let go and I can't either. But there is a price to pay for exchanging an entire generation of longevity. I won't have freedom so if I have to pick, I rather leave in a more elegant fashion. Plus, we have lived long enough now, since the Ancient Ming Era to the present."

"Plus, I should stay and carry your lineage here in the nine worlds. You're worried about the Ancient Ming coming back, right? I can watch this world for you with what remains of my lifespan and create a lineage capable of stopping the Ancient Ming. Someone in the future will quietly guard over this world!" She held him tighter.

He embraced her back and said: "Why must life always be so difficult?"

"My love, you are an unyielding man, do not hesitate because of me." She smiled: "Don't make me suffer in order to live longer. This is my choice, let me leave in peace. Our time together is even more precious than an eternity!"

"I understand." He quietly replied.

Even though he could change all of this, he respected her choice. After all, time had no emotions. Living for longer wouldn't necessarily bring happiness. He had immortality once, he knew that facing the endless time was a type of torment!

[Chapter 1692: Another Meeting, Old Ghost](#)

Li Qiye immediately headed for Ancient Sky City. It wasn't for himself but an agreement was necessary for the nine worlds.

It was a completely different mood and feeling on this second visit. Last time, he came together with Li Shuangyan's group. Now, he was all alone.

He gazed at the entire burial ground and wondered if its existence was good or bad for the nine worlds. However, the Ancient Ming remained the greatest threat.

He went to Old Ghost's shop right away. It was still the same as before as if it would never change through the river of time. Nothing could ever destroy this tiny shop.

Old Ghost was still hiding inside but he immediately opened his eyes once Li Qiye entered. His eyes with more white than black seemed to be revolving like the yin and yang, capable of refining the nine worlds.

He ignored the terrible gaze fixated on him. The truth was that after reaching grand completion with four physiques, he could sweep through all enemies without relying on schemes and methods!

He sat coolly in front of the old man and stared at him.

"I'm old and have forgotten about many things." The old man said feebly: "Including a particular legend, of course. However, this legend is sitting in front of me."

"I don't blame you for not remembering." Li Qiye chuckled: "You are only an avatar. Time will wash away your memories and will. But certain things can't be forgotten. They have been engraved into the depth of your soul!"

"Yes, forgetting is not necessarily a bad thing." The old man murmured. His eyes became dazed as if it was completely empty.

"I want to meet you." After a long silence, Li Qiye requested.

"I'm right before you, I am me." The old man spoke powerlessly.

"No, not you, not the one before me." Li Qiye shook his head: "You are only an avatar to avoid the high heaven. I want to meet the you hiding in the burial ground, evading the tribulation from the villainous heaven, the you that can form a blood pact with me!"

The old man's eyes lit up as if they were two suns. This scorching power could pierce through everything in the world.

Li Qiye was unmoved before this gaze and sat there calmly, waiting for a response.

Eventually, the gaze disappeared. His eyes became muddled like before and shook his head: "The grand dao is not easy but hiding away is even harder. There is too much chaos around, messing with the mundane world will invite the attention of the high heaven towards our burial ground. Otherwise, we wouldn't be so reclusive. If you really want to meet, come with the nether boat and leave it up to fate."

“This is not up to you, we must meet.” Li Qiye smiled and said: “I don’t care for your reasons and I don’t have time to board the boats. That’s why I need you to understand my intent. Whether you are willing or not, you must meet me!”

“Our burial ground isn’t the place for you to act imperiously. Outside of the high heaven, we’re not afraid of anything.” The old man answered slowly and solemnly. Each of his words was full of power.

“I’m aware.” Li Qiye replied: “Even though each epoch has a different comprehension of the nine grand scriptures, and the nine scriptures themselves have different meanings in each epoch having to do with their resonance with the origin of the grand dao, but go ahead, use the perspective of our era to take a look, see how powerful my four grand completion physiques are, is it capable of tearing your Heavenly Corpse Burial Ground apart? You might not remember some of the legends since you are old and your memories rotten, but you should know that I possess other means with comparable power to the four physiques!”

He paused here and stared at the ghost: “Do you want me to kill my way in or get someone to invite me in? Your choice.” Having said that, he turned and left the shop.

The old man sat there for a long time in silence. It was as if time had stopped. Even millions of years later, he would still have the same posture.

After leaving the shop, Li Qiye entered the burial ground itself. It was still the same as before and engulfed in the same corpse energy. Earth corpses were everywhere.

He instantly unleashed his four physiques with their spewing immortal radiance. He suppressed the entire area with an unstoppable prestige while holding nothing back.

It was akin to an Immortal Emperor visiting. The ruler of the world has arrived. Gods, devils, and all fiends must retreat or prostrate.

All the earth corpses instantly knelt on the ground, not daring to lift their head. The four physiques have completely suppressed them!

“Fiercest!” The cultivators here were stunned to see Li Qiye. Ancestors and kings were obediently dropping to the ground. This power made all resistance futile.

After exuding his power, he quickened his pace to the horror of the spectators. They thought that he was about to declare war against the burial ground.

“Fiercest wants to challenge and capture the Heavenly Corpse Burial Ground before becoming an emperor? It would really be an unprecedented achievement.” An ancestor murmured.

Not too many people would dare to fight against a burial ground. Only emperors after obtaining the Heaven’s Will were qualified to do so. Otherwise, it didn’t matter how brilliant they were before the ascension, they wouldn’t dare to attempt this reckless task.

Li Qiye crossed through the dragon veins and locations with sleeping Earth Immortals. The ones sleeping here were all amazing talents such as the Martial God and Lion Monarch.

When Li Qiye forced his way in, both Treasure Lords and Earth Immortals were quiet. They didn’t dare to act out despite being woken up.

Though they were exceedingly powerful when they were alive, they felt that they would be crushed instantly by this intruder.

He stopped at the Heaven Reaching Peak and glanced at the coffin hanging on the steep wall. The coffin opened and a middle-aged man sat up.

The man had an armor that was penetrated completely through his chest. Even though so much time had passed, this wound still couldn't close. He was a tall and handsome man with sharp eyebrows. One could tell that he was a dashing charmer during his youth.

This was the person who helped Li Qiye's group back then when the Lion Monarch and the Martial God chased after them.

After seeing him, Li Qiye took one step to reach the area and sat down next to him, revealing a faint smile.

"The lords and Earth Immortals always talk about the legends of His Excellency, the Dark Crow. Who would have thought that you would personally come into being in this generation." The middle-aged man said with a tinge of emotion.

"The world is always unpredictable like that." Li Qiye chuckled: "Since I'm here, I shall make this generation special."

The middle-aged man carefully thought about his next question: "What is the purpose of your visit, Your Excellency? Is it to meet the lord of this place?"

"Yes." Li Qiye nodded: "I need to talk to the burial ground."

The middle-aged man believed that only Li Qiye could negotiate on even grounds with this burial ground. Not to mention his past identity, just his four physiques alone now were enough to shake the entire place.

He simply sighed, not wishing to state what was on his mind.

Li Qiye noticed and said: "I know you want to live again for a generation. Alas, it is too late. If I were to wish it so, I could discuss this with the burial ground. But as you are now, you are not worth my effort."

[Chapter 1693: The Past](#)

"I know that I have lost my chance since I refused your tutelage back then, letting down your good intention." The middle-aged man smiled and said.

"No, that's not the case." Li Qiye shook his head: "I wanted to make you my disciple but this wasn't out of anything personal. I was hoping that someone could shoulder the heavy responsibility of fighting against the Ancient Ming in the nine worlds, a sky-piercing genius from the human race that could defeat the young Tian Tu and take the Heaven's Will to stop that race's monopoly. It wasn't about me training an emperor; the nine worlds needed one, the human race needed one."

Having said that, he stared at the man and said: "But you! you refused. You believed that you could oppose Tian Tu alone based on your talents, to go against the Ancient Ming and win, no need to rely on me, an outsider to become your dao protector! But you lost against Tian Tu and the nine worlds lost

against the Ancient Ming! If my recruitment was due to personal reasons, I wouldn't have pushed back the Ancient Ming with the arrow for you back in the bamboo forest. I wouldn't have led my army to protect your rear at the Towering Heaven either so that you could fight against Tian Tu! I wanted the nine worlds to have a spark capable of stopping the Ancient Ming. Alas, your pride and arrogance were the reasons for your continuous failures!"

He became cold here and said flatly: "An eonic genius is indeed amazing and precious. However, how many of them have actually become Immortal Emperor?! What was the reason behind the high failure rate? It was out of sheer arrogance and blind confidence in their talents. They believed that they were untouchable, no need to learn from anyone!"

"If it wasn't to stop the Ancient Ming, do you think I would have saved you so many times? One needs to seize the moment instead of just relying on sheer talents and fortunes. Otherwise, everything will be wasted."

"I did let you down and you are right about my lackings." The middle-aged man smiled: "I don't have many regrets about the past, only that I had never been able to defeat Tian Tu even once while he made me suffer for generations."

"The grand dao is endless, talents alone won't do. One needs vision and a strong dao heart." Li Qiye said.

The man laughed: "I'm sure you're not here to make fun of me, Your Excellency. You're not one to hold a grudge."

"If I was that type of person, I would have destroyed you or let you die long ago, not just come here to mock you. I'm here to tell you something, your enemy is still alive. He will take action sooner or later, can you come out again?" Li Qiye replied.

The man shuddered. He calmed his emotions but his trembling hands betrayed him.

"Even if you could come into being for the second time, you will only be slaughtered." Li Qiye shook his head: "Even if your wound were to heal, allowing you to return to your peak, you're still no match for him just like before! I once had great hopes for you but now, I see that you are not capable of shouldering the heavy responsibility!" Li Qiye was very disappointed and sighed after seeing the man's current state.

The man took a deep breath. After a brief lull, he smiled wryly and said: "You are right. Even if I come out again, defeat is imminent. Certain things can't be reversed. It is impossible."

Li Qiye didn't want to say anything else. He could tell that even if the man were to come out, he wouldn't be of much use.

"Are you here this time because of the Ancient Ming?" The man asked with a solemn expression.

Li Qiye didn't hide it and nodded: "That's right, the Ancient Ming still has remnants left in the nine worlds and will come back when the time is right! They will not accept peace for they covet the fat land that is the nine worlds. Darkness will return, thus, the nine worlds need protectors. I want some to be around after I leave."

The man bitterly smiled: "It's so embarrassing. Your Excellency, you have always cared for and protected the nine worlds for many generations. But I only think about my personal feud, unable to quell my desires and stubbornness instead of worrying about the nine worlds and its inhabitants. Back then, I have always wanted to settle the score with Tian Tu. I wanted revenge for my sect, that was the only thing on my mind. But I never thought about their enslavement of the myriad races and the terrorizing darkness. I deserve all of this right now." He gently sighed.

"Wait and keep at it, perhaps something will change for the better." Li Qiye said slowly: "it is up to your own effort whether you are worthy of taking up the mantle as a protector of the nine worlds. I can't force you to do anything, you will have to make up your own mind and walk on your own path. Will you keep on burying yourself here or go all out when the darkness returns and offer your strength? It is up to a single intent from you."

The man became quiet after hearing this. Li Qiye no longer wished to continue the conversation and left the peak.

After a long period of contemplation, the man gently sighed and gazed towards the horizon in a daze.

What was left in this world? Anything that he was still attached to? The people of the past were gone; his sect had turned into ashes; the ones he loved and those who loved him have returned to the soil.

The only thing that he couldn't let go, the driving force behind his will to survive was his one desire!

The coffin closed again with a loud bang and his disappointment.

Li Qiye marched onward, deeper into the burial ground. However, a series of orderly noises exploded before he made it to the deepest area.

A coffin appeared before him, carried by a group of ants. The speed was unbelievably fast. How could these ants have such power and speed?

Li Qiye smiled and murmured: "This is it, riding it this generation. Not a bad start."

"Boom!" Some ants opened the lid, revealing the empty content.

Li Qiye couldn't help but smile and thought about an old phrase - the appearance of the Underworld signals the rise of rebirth; the path to heaven debuts the way to the divine stone. Enter the heavenly coffin to obtain eternity; awaken the corpse earth to achieve the everlasting blessing of the heavens!

"This is all I can do for the nine worlds. Its fate is in its hands." Li Qiye gently sighed and stepped inside without any hesitation. He laid down like a corpse.

"Boom!" The ants closed the lid instantly. With a series of rumble, they carried the coffin towards the deeper region of the burial ground.

It was completely quiet inside the coffin. Li Qiye couldn't hear anything or even feel the movement of the coffin. It was especially comfortable inside, like lying on one's own bed and quickly met with a sweet dream.

He wasn't afraid or anxious while inside and didn't care where it was taking him. If the place came to greet him like this, it didn't have any malicious intent.

The concept of time didn't exist here. Who knows how long he had been inside before reaching the destination?

The ants were no longer there when the lid came off once more. A gloomy palace stood before him, one that had been split into two halves.

Many things here were broken beyond description. However, a large chair remained perfect. The aura of this chair made people wonder whether a lord used to sit there and gave orders to the rest of the world.

The separation gap was a bottomless abyss. There was no light below, no sound either. Any creature falling into this abyss would be swallowed instantly.

The mood here and the fact that this was the Heavenly Corpse Burial Ground would scare even the most courageous.

[Chapter 1694: The Old Ghost In The Abyss](#)

After getting out of the coffin, Li Qiye climbed up and sat on the throne.

It seemed that this particular throne was created by a supreme existence. Unfortunately, things have changed and stars have moved. Even this imperial chair was wasting away in this place.

He looked down at the abyss next to him with a flashing glint that could see through all illusions and time itself. Nothing in this world could elude his eyes.

In this split second, it illuminated the bottom of the abyss. He could see everything clearly!

A scowl came from below. This scowl alone could shatter the galaxy and annihilate true gods. It was enough to make the nine worlds tremble. It contained a peerless and unquestionable divinity. No one could challenge its power.

Li Qiye ignored the scowl and simply smirked.

"I heard you wanted to see me." A voice finally came from the abyss. It was feeble and upon a careful listening, one would find that it was completely identical to that of the old ghost. They would think that the old ghost was hiding below.

"Yes." Li Qiye smiled and looked around the place. He leisurely commented: "The abode of the Heavenly Corpse Lord. I have always wanted to come here but have been unsuccessful due to the obstacles."

"The Heavenly Corpse Burial Ground is not inside the nine worlds or any world for that matter. Plus, we do not welcome outsiders." The old ghost responded.

"I know, only the remnant of an epoch." Li Qiye replied: "All of you buried yourselves in the best location of your epoch for generations to avoid the punishment of the villainous heaven, evading the ultimate judgment. But this only turned all of you into moving corpses."

"Allowing you here shows our respect and good-will. I expect the same in return." The old ghost replied.

"I'm not unhappy or anything." Li Qiye smiled: "This is indeed a very prestigious entrance, being carried by the ants here. Only you enjoy this treatment in the entire burial ground."

The old ghost became silent before speaking: "Since you are here, you must have a transaction for me. I'm listening."

"It's nothing, I only want to have someone watch the nine worlds for me." Li Qiye smiled and said: "The Ancient Ming doesn't only have some defeated soldiers, their lords are still around. Some Immortal Emperors are still hiding in the nine worlds! Thus, I hope someone can take charge after I leave and win a decisive battle!"

"That's impossible. You have been the ruler of the nine worlds during your Dark Crow's days. You should be aware that I haven't left this burial ground for who knows how many years? I don't even remember." The old ghost said.

Li Qiye nodded: "I know. You must pay a great price to forcefully leave this place."

"That's why my hands are tied. You will need to ask someone else." The old ghost replied: "Of course, if you really need something, my avatar can do it for you. It does owe you a favor."

"No." Li Qiye shook his head: "I won't deny the immense power of your avatar, it can fight against an emperor but I need one decisive battle to annihilate the Ancient Ming! They have the Corporeal Zone, your avatar isn't enough even if it goes all out. Plus, it is not stable at all due to the withering of time! There are too many restrictions."

"Then I can't help you. The price of leaving this place for me is beyond your imagination." The old ghost concluded.

"That's your business and I won't be inquiring further." Li Qiye chuckled: "I want to let you know that I'm not here to negotiate. You must do it regardless of your intent!"

"You are threatening me?!" A chilling aura erupted from the depth that could instantly kill a true god and freeze three thousand worlds over!

Li Qiye was unperturbed on the throne and calmly answered: "Correct, I am threatening you."

"You are indeed powerful, not one yet but even mightier than an emperor. But don't forget, this is the Heavenly Corpse Burial Ground, not your nine worlds. You're not allowed to leave in such a haughty manner under my domain!" The old ghost said coldly.

Li Qiye smiled back: "I know, no one is allowed to be impudent here, even an emperor does not think they can leave this place unscathed or some would have taken it down already. However, let me ask you, you think you can kill me if you go all out? How many moves?"

The old man didn't reply.

"I'm not afraid of death or anyone who wants to kill me. I don't think anyone can do so either, outside of the Villainous Heaven." Li Qiye spoke in a matter-of-fact manner.

"There are things much worse than death." The old ghost stated.

"I have experienced too many of them. Plus, what is more frightening than coming back alive from the end of the world? I'm no stranger to suffering and torments."

"Hmph." The old ghost scowled, showing his discontent towards Li Qiye.

Li Qiye leisurely continued: "Do you know the consequence of not being able to kill me? It's very simple, I will rise again. Don't forget, the Ancient Ming is a big threat to the nine worlds but your burial ground is a looming danger as well! It's just not as clear as the Ancient Ming."

His eyes turned cold at this point: "What do you think I will choose to do when the nine worlds are facing two separate threats? Let me tell you, everything will change when it comes to that point, I will flip open your heavenly coffins and refine all of your corpses into an ultimate weapon, one capable of destroying the Ancient Ming! This is called using the enemies against them!"

"You!" The old ghost was furious after hearing this and continued to assault the myriad realms with his torrential aura.

Of course, this had no effect on Li Qiye. He took his time responding: "You understand the mysterious phrase about this place more than I do - enter the heavenly coffin to obtain eternity; awaken the corpse earth to achieve the everlasting blessing of the heavens! Because of this, what choice do you think I should make?!"

The old ghost in the abyss endured. After all, Li Qiye being here showed that he wasn't afraid of them. Moreover, like he had said, in order to kill a being with four grand completion physiques, they would have to pay a monstrous price if it was even possible. Their burial ground would become a battlefield!

The old man calmed down and said: "Aren't you overly confident with your claims? No one is capable of this since the start of time!"

"But I, Li Qiye, am capable." Li Qiye said leisurely: "I just need to drop my pride. Among the nine heavens and ten earths, I can still rally some helpers and as long as I am willing to pay the price, I can take down your burial ground and unearth your coffins! I will even suppress the Heaven's Will and go all out for two generations. At that point, am I capable yet to refine your corpses into an ultimate Ancient Ming slaying weapon?"

At their particular level, words weren't sufficient as threats any longer. Li Qiye wasn't just blustering or talking crazy. If he was willing, he could indeed do so by ignoring all scruples.

"That's how it is with the world, one must pay a heavy price for anything good." Li Qiye said: "Work with me and destroy the Ancient Ming or watch on the sideline then I'll pick to destroy you first. It is no longer the same as before. Even though your group isn't as threatening as the Ancient Ming right now, it is still a looming seed of danger."

"That is why I am here to express my attitude towards the current situation. Are you a threat or a friend to the nine worlds? It is up to a single decision from you." Li Qiye solemnly added.

The old ghost took his time thinking in silence. A character of his stature didn't like being threatened by others. But indeed, the burial ground's fate was up to a single thought from him at this moment.

"You are right, heavy prices must be paid. There are no free lunches in the world. Then what are you paying for this transaction?" The old ghost finally asked.

[Chapter 1695: Protection](#)

Li Qiye smiled and responded to the old man's question: "Yes, nothing is free in this world. I can give you the things that you absolutely crave. Ready? Wait until I come back triumphantly from the final battle, I shall pardon all of you and remove your punishments, allowing you to see the light again to stay in the nine worlds with the myriad races!"

The old ghost's breath paused for a moment after hearing this.

There was no doubt that this comment was truly tempting to the burial ground. This was their desire and longing.

However, his blood didn't boil just yet with excitement. He calmly mused it through before speaking: "What if you fail?"

"You can only pray for my success then. If I were to fail, then all of you will stay in this dark river of time for virtually an eternity of bleak loneliness."

"You're only describing an illusionary oasis in the desert, not anything tangible." The old man said coldly.

"I won't deny that." Li Qiye shrugged: "Nevertheless, who else but I can even offer this so-called illusionary oasis?! No one else is even qualified to do so! At the very least, my condition gives you a sliver of hope for the future. Otherwise, you all will continue to suffer in a pit of despair, even hope would be an unreachable luxury!"

The old man had no response. Li Qiye's words have struck his weak spot.

"What are you looking forward to? As long as the villainous heaven is around, you all will continue to be moving corpses, buried and rotting away in this place. No one remembers you anymore as time passed. As you can see, not even a strand of hope can be found in this place. That's why, I bring hope, such a precious emotion, priceless, even. My strand of hope can illuminate your dejected burial ground and your lightless heart."

The old ghost continued to be quiet.

"Thus, you can pick my side and I shall pardon your burial ground if I were to be successful in the future." Li Qiye said solemnly: "Otherwise, you all can keep on this hopeless path. In case of my victory in the future, all of you will continue to be trapped in despair, never seeing the sunlight again!"

The old ghost finally responded in an unruffled manner: "Even if I were to agree to take action for the nine worlds, there is only one opportunity for me to go outside. I won't be able to handle coming out several times."

"That's why you need to wait for the right moment and seize it all while delivering the fatal blow towards the Ancient Ming." Li Qiye elaborated: "If they come out, there will be legions sweeping through the weaklings. However, if their overlords climb out too, I'm sure your avatar can handle them! Keep doing that and force the Ancient Ming to go all out. When their old geezers arrive, the Corporeal Zone will come too. That's when you attack!"

The old man contemplated before finally answering: "Very well, I accept. I shall appear at the perfect moment to settle it all!"

The old ghost chose to work together with Li Qiye since he had no other choice. Joining Li Qiye gave their burial ground a sliver of hope.

Li Qiye was right. Hope was all too precious and hard-to-come-by for their burial ground.

“One battle to settle it all. Perhaps your burial ground can even obtain the Corporeal Zone afterward. That would be incredible.” Li Qiye smiled and told the old ghost.

There was no response because the old man didn’t care about this. If he were to fight, he must pay a monstrous price since he couldn’t leave the burial ground. The worst case scenario would be his death in the battle.

But ultimately, the sliver of hope trumped all of the sacrifices. They could only pray for Li Qiye to win at the final battle so they could see the sun again.

After finishing the arrangements, Li Qiye didn’t wish to linger around. He said with a smile: “I enjoyed our conversation today.”

The old ghost had no response. It wasn’t enjoyable at all. This was a one-sided threat from Li Qiye. However, he was willing to accept the deal instead of worrying about trivial details.

Li Qiye took two steps before turning back and said: “Oh right, that brat on the cliff is not bad. Perhaps you should let him exchange for an entire generation.”

“An exchange is necessary, there is no exception. I can’t break the rule either.” The old ghost said.

“I understand.” Li Qiye shrugged: “You just need to give him an opportunity. As for the particular price, that’s up to him and his effort.”

“He can wait for the underworld boat.” The old ghost didn’t make an exception because of Li Qiye.

“That’s fine, I have created a red string for him with this. What happens next doesn’t matter. How should I put this, even though eonic geniuses are a bit questionable, if you could have a capable one, he will be very useful in the future war against the Ancient Ming. This is beneficial for your burial ground.” Li Qiye smiled and said.

The old man didn’t agree or refuse him. The abyss was silent.

Li Qiye was too lazy to dwell on this matter. He turned and left coolly. In his eyes, he had done all he could. The world and its bullshits no longer had anything to do with him.

During his trip, the grand dao strands flowing down from the sky were gathering. In the last several days, they were quite conspicuous in the night sky. However, after their awakening, this magnificent scene disappeared.

“Buzz!” All of the world portals lit up after being abandoned for several tens of thousand years!

The Black Dragon King had torn the Heaven’s Will apart after his fight with Immortal Emperor Ta Kong. This started the Difficult Dao Era and the isolation of the nine worlds.

Everyone in the nine worlds was excited to see the bright portals again. This meant that the nine worlds were about to be reconnected and they were able to see a brilliant age again.

Though this didn't mean that everyone was capable of interworld traveling, this gave all cultivators hope. As long as they worked hard and gathered enough refined jades, they could go on an adventure in a different world.

Godkings would no longer need to risk their lives by forcefully attacking the world walls. It was simply too risky.

"Yes! Stone Medicine World, brace yourself, I am coming to see whether your alchemists are better or me!" An alchemist from Mortal Emperor laughed cheerfully. His eyes lit up thinking about an opportunity to compete against those from Stone Medicine.

"It is time for us Charming Spirits to show that myriad races that we are the favorite children of the heaven." A spirit from Heaven Spirit was eager to try while staring at the nearly-opened gates.

"It is time to see the grand world." A genius from the ghost race felt his ambition burning in Sacred Nether.

Of course, not everyone was optimistic. One from the last generation became worried: "The nine worlds are connected again. This might bring out an age of plundering. The experts and imperial lineages will take all the resources, the smaller sects have no chance at all."

This particular sentiment was reasonable. For the smaller sects, they might not be able to gather enough refined jade for traveling, let alone thinking about plundering for resources in a different world.

Only experts were able to travel as they please. As that point, imperial lineages would seize everything while the fire of war would spread to the smaller sects.

Nevertheless, the young generation was excited and eager to try because it wasn't only about the world portals. The Heaven's Will was about to take form as well!

[Chapter 1696: The Nine Worlds Future Threat](#)

Li Qiye's destination after visiting the burial ground was not Cleansing Incense but Heavenguard. He was about to leave the nine worlds so he needed to prepare everything perfectly, especially towards the legion that he had such high hopes for.

He didn't wish for the legion to fight again but time had changed, leaving him no choice.

Worldkeeper personally went to greet him. The old man bowed and said: "Greetings, Your Excellency."

Li Qiye immediately helped him up and said: "Worldkeeper, you have followed me till old age, no need for such formality."

After helping his master towards his seat, Worldkeeper said: "You must be here to say goodbye, Your Excellency." His expression turned gloomy after understanding that this might be Li Qiye's last visit to Heavenguard.

Li Qiye nodded in response: "It's time for me to leave so I'm here to say goodbye. Plus, I need to hand you a few things."

Having said that, he took out an ocean of items for Worldkeeper: "This is a few resources I've gathered. The legion can make use of them, treat it as your military funding."

This amount of treasures was astounding since it came from the Ancestral Terra and Soaring Immortal. No other lineage could produce this shocking amount.

Worldkeeper hurriedly responded: "I can't. You're about to leave and will have to face the emperors and gods above. This resource is needed for the incoming war. Our legion still has many treasuries, enough to last for one to two generations even for wide-scale expeditions."

"No, I still have some reserves." Li Qiye shook his head: "Plus, this treasury might not be useful above. And then, no one knows how long the war will last. Plan for the worst, at the very least, I don't want your legion to be worrying about resources during times of war."

"I thank you on our brothers' behalf." Worldkeeper wasn't a long-winded person so he solemnly accepted the gift. He understood Li Qiye's personality too well.

Li Qiye then took out some powerful weapons. His mood was very serious this time so he even used the pentagate to seal the area. In the end, even the lamp with the black flame was taken out.

"Save these items for a rainy day." Li Qiye gave these supreme artifacts to the true god.

The true god was startled since he was knowledgeable and recognized them: "Your Excellency, other treasures might have limitation up there but this lamp... it could sweep through any place and era, an item above Immortal Emperor True Treasures. Even the people up there might not be able to create a more powerful item."

"I know of its power." Li Qiye nodded: "But I'm still leaving it here."

Having said that, he gently sighed and even took out the Nether Emperor Hexagear Launcher to hand it to Worldkeeper: "Take good care in keeping this item."

"Your Excellency!" Worldkeeper was astonished this time. He accepted the item with both hands and still felt hesitation: "You created this weapon to kill the emperor and gods and you need a deterring threat up there. I can't accept this, it's better if you keep it."

"I want to as well, but someone with a great burden like you also knows that you might not only be facing the Ancient Ming later. But just them alone is enough for me to worry."

He paused for a moment before continuing: "They still have Immortal Emperors hiding, this is the thing that worries me the most. When the war starts, the Ancient Ming will have no other choice but to go all out. That will bring an unimaginable disaster to the nine worlds."

"The Ancient Ming is indeed heaven-defying. Their emperors are still able to stay in the nine worlds even after shouldering the Heaven's Will." The true god said with exasperation.

"What can we do about it? Who can we blame for the fact that they have the Corporeal Zone?" Li Qiye smiled wryly: "Luckily, because of the Heaven's Will, despite hiding right now, they will have to avoid the

villainous heaven the moment they come out. That's why they don't show themselves too easily due to the inevitable price. They're biding their time before going all out. Thus, they also need one decisive battle to settle it all."

"If these hiding emperors won't take risk, what is considered a ripe moment for them?" The true god asked for clarification. He needed to understand many things since the responsibility to protect the nine worlds was his in the future.

"If these emperors want to hide from the villainous heaven completely, they have to be able to master the Corporeal Zone. This is easier said than done. The minimum requirement is twelve emperors. Of course, it would be best if they all have grand completion Immortal Physique as well. Otherwise, they can try reducing it." Li Qiye said slowly.

"Twelve emperors!" True god's expression darkened. He naturally understood the significance behind this! Twelve emperors existing at the same time would be extremely horrifying, even without the Corporeal Zone! No one could stop twelve emperors at the same time in the nine worlds. Plus, no two emperors have been together, at least not in the nine worlds. Just imagine twelve...

"I wonder how many emperors are still hiding then?" Worldkeeper became worried.

Li Qiye pondered for a bit before answering: "Ancient Ming emperors also go up after receiving the Heaven's Will. However, they were hunted instantly, this is something the people up there are one-hundred-percent adamant about!"

"I have been up there several times and carefully analyzed it. There are still nine emperors that haven't appeared from that race. Either they hid really well after coming up or they have been hiding in the nine worlds. Regardless of the real situation, you need to prepare for the worst."

"Nine emperors! They are actually hiding nine!" Worldkeeper took a deep breath and murmured.

Worldkeeper knew full well just how terrible the race was from being their lifelong foe. However, he was still astounded by this revelation. Nine emperors were no joke. This was an earth-shattering news.

"That's the Corporeal Zone for you." Li Qiye gently sighed: "I've always wanted this item but never had the chance."

"Nevertheless, if the Ancient Ming wants to rise again, they have to go back in full force. Otherwise, even if they were to reign again, they would still be hunted up above. In the past, they ran for their lives and only managed to run down here due to the Corporeal Zone. Otherwise, they would have been annihilated completely. They do not accept this. In their eyes, the nine worlds are only their garden for them to recuperate. After sufficient preparation, they would suck everything from the nine worlds, all resources!" He sighed and said.

"So the Ancient Ming still want to go up there." Worldkeeper murmured.

Li Qiye nodded: "Yes, they have two choices right now. One, to keep staying in the nine worlds so they need more time to obtain twelve emperors. Or, they will utilize this chance to rush up to the nine worlds during my ascension as well. Up there, they could gather twelve emperors in just one generation. If it reaches that level, they could indeed rise again!"

“Twelve emperors and the Corporeal Zone. That’s also an unstoppable force up there.” Worldkeeper said.

“Yes, once they have true control over the Corporeal Zone, it will indeed be very frightening. Even if the people up there work together, they would find it hard to suppress the Ancient Ming. This race might even have the chance to fight the ultimate battle too.” Li Qiye commented.

The true god was quiet and thought that the world didn’t know just how terrible the Ancient Ming was. Nevertheless, he happily said: “It’s fortunate that they have to avoid the heaven or the nine worlds would really suffer.”

“Not necessarily, even without needing to hide from the high heaven, the Ancient Ming wouldn’t be able to do much either. Our nine worlds have produced so many emperors so if all of them show up, they could gang up on the Ancient Ming and make their teeth fall all over the ground. It was precisely the fact that they chose to hide that they were able to survive. Otherwise, they wouldn’t have been able to survive up there even with the Corporeal Zone in the beginning, let alone making it down to the nine worlds.”

[Chapter 1697: Relating To The Ancient Ming](#)

The true god smiled wryly after hearing this: “I really don’t know whether the will of the high heaven is good or bad. Perhaps the powerful existences all curse this while regular beings treat it as their guardian and hope.”

“The high heaven will not show empathy even if the regular beings reach that step. Otherwise, why do people need to try so hard every epoch? No one can escape their fate under the high heaven, hence the common adage - the will of the high heaven is unopposable.”

“My fate is mine alone! Only the imperial level would worry about this problem.” Worldkeeper brought up another common phrase used by powerful existences, especially Immortal Emperors.

He gently sighed at this point since this wasn’t his pursuit and question. His meaning of existence was to protect the nine worlds and stop the Ancient Ming.

“So Your Excellency, you went to the Heavenly Corpse Burial Ground to find an ally against the Ancient Ming?” Worldkeeper was still amazed at how Li Qiye couldn’t let go of the nine worlds even when he was about to leave.

“Yes.” Li Qiye gently nodded: “If the Ancient Ming were to go all out, their emperors would come out too. Just the Azure Dragon Legion alone is not enough, so I had to invite that burial ground to join, hoping for one decisive battle.”

“I’m afraid the Ancient Ming won’t fall for the same Gong Yang trick again.” Worldkeeper joked.

“No more schemes this time. The Lord of the Heavenly Corpse Burial Ground will personally take action, that’s the only way. Even if we used trickery, it’s not enough to wipe them out in full.” Li Qiye shook his head.

“It’s a good thing that the Ancient Ming fell into the trap back then and lost a considerable amount of forces or we would have to pay an even bigger price.” Worldkeeper said.

“That’s true. I used the Immortal Demon Grotto to bait the Ancient Ming back then. They didn’t prepare sufficiently so the Corporeal Zone was suppressed, resulting in the great loss in several overlords. They didn’t dare to come out again after that.” Li Qiye said with a smirk.

“You wanted to capture the Corporeal Zone and that item in the grotto at the same time. Alas, it didn’t go as you wish. The two sides didn’t annihilate each other.”

“The Ancient Ming knew that they have fallen into a trap after seeing the unfavorable situation so they immediately retreated. At the same time, the grotto wouldn’t let me watch and harvest the aftermath so they purposely let the Ancient Ming go. Not everything can go as you plan, it’s fine to lose the two items.” Li Qiye chuckled.

The story of Gong Yang was told by Li Qiye back then to Imp at Necropolis. He baited the Ancient Ming into attacking the Immortal Demon Grotto back then with the intention of obtaining the Corporeal Zone and the other treasure.

The Ancient Ming lost that battle. Even their emperor with the Corporeal Zone couldn’t take the grotto down. This made it even harder for them to control the zone after losing several overlords.

The true god felt regretful about how the event went. If the grotto didn’t purposely let the Ancient Ming run, that could have been the decisive battle that Li Qiye wanted - not paying a heavy price yet still able to capture both the grotto and the devious race on top of obtaining two eternal items.

Despite the lack of a total success, this still laid the foundation for the Immortal Slaying War since the Ancient Ming was weakened. Without this plan, the nine worlds would have needed even more sacrifices to defeat the Ancient Ming.

Keep in mind that the wise sages of the nine worlds worked together and still suffered heavy losses. Not too many actually survived the war. The myriad races had a force numbering at one hundred million. However, less than one million had actually survived. One could easily imagine the grotesque brutality of the war.

Li Qiye sighed emotionally and said: “The legion has been resting after the war and I had no intention of bringing it back to the cruel battlefield. This was a big reason why in each generation, I would try to find the Corporeal Zone by searching all around. I hoped to personally finish the Ancient Ming but alas, I have failed because the Ancient Ming learned from the previous massacre. Who would have thought that I would need to start with the legion again, giving you the responsibility once more.”

Even though he was the ruler of the nine worlds, there were things beyond his control.

After the massacre, the Ancient Ming with their Corporeal Zone knew that the moment they gave the smallest clue to their location, the greatest of armies would instantly come running. That’s why they didn’t recklessly take action and continued to hide.

Li Qiye kept on searching but the Corporeal Zone made it impossible for him to uproot them completely!

“This is our mission.” Worldkeeper solemnly said: “Like you have said, you feel sorry for us. We can not go to the other battlefields but we must fight against the Ancient Ming to the bitter end. That was your initial goal in forming the legion, right? If they dare to show themselves again, we are responsible to

keep on fighting until the death. You can't let go of the nine worlds before leaving, still caring and working for it. So why can't we, its inhabitants, do the same?!" Worldkeeper sonorously stated.

Li Qiye could only sigh: "This is all I can do. It is up to you all in the future and the nine worlds itself. If I can't return, I hope everyone will work hard instead of relying on someone else to save them. There is no savior."

"No, in my eyes, you are the savior and the guardian of the nine worlds." Worldkeeper disagreed: "It doesn't matter how much the world fears and curses your name, no one had paid more attention to the nine worlds than you in history. Who had paid a bigger price to keep it safe?! No one! You toiled on and on not only to accumulate resources but to also stop the Ancient Ming! Otherwise, you wouldn't have returned after coming to the tenth world. Others aren't aware but I know full well. After Empress Hong Tian, you have trained enough emperors to sweep through the thirteen continents yet you still returned to the nine worlds. It is out of fear of the Ancient Ming rising, you want to let them know that you are still guarding this area!"

Li Qiye gently sighed and said: "That's in the past now. I used to go back and forth but this generation is different. I might never be able to return! If I'm prepared sufficiently up there, then I shall begin the final expedition while swearing to never come back before victory."

Worldkeeper became quiet, realizing that this was the last goodbye and while His Excellency was so meticulous. Li Qiye had never said goodbye to him before leaving the nine worlds in the past.

"Take care." Li Qiye said: "Live on, the nine worlds still need all of you to defend its last ray of dawn."

"You too, Your Excellency. May you return triumphantly." Worldkeeper kowtowed ceremoniously on the ground.

Even though they were master-follower, they were also master and disciple. They have experienced moments of near-death together across the dark times and bloody battlefields.

Today might be the final goodbye which was why Worldkeeper chose such a grand and respectful gesture.

Li Qiye didn't lift Worldkeeper up this time and accepted the gesture.

"Your Excellency, you should take Su Zhen with you. Even though she can't do anything at the moment, her blood is different from everyone else and worthy of further grooming. Perhaps she will be able to lend you a hand in the future." Worldkeeper said after standing up.

Li Qiye agreed: "I was going to take her even if you didn't say anything since I have promised him and Mu Tian. Tell her to get ready at Cleansing Incense, time is not waiting for us."

"I shall." Worldkeeper nodded.

Worldkeeper personally saw Li Qiye out of Heavenguard's entrance. After making some distance, Li Qiye glanced back at the word "Heavenguard" and became disappointed for various reasons before leaving.

[Chapter 1698: Nine Worlds Connected](#)

“Whoosh!” In the last few days, the night sky in the nine worlds was especially beautiful with the occasional visual phenomena. Images of a phoenix would fly towards the horizon, engulfing the world in a royal aura as if the noblest of creature was about to be born.

True dragons would also jump in the sky with their billowing aura. Before the primordial lord of beasts, everyone else felt as if they were little kittens.

Resplendent totems would emerge with sun and moon together within. Stars would circle around the flowing galaxies. One could see the three thousand worlds floating up and down.

The power of the nine worlds gathered with these visual images. It was omnipresent and everyone could sense it.

This power reigned over the nine worlds and the myriad realms. It came from the worlds yet didn't belong to them. It represented the high heaven, a reflection of its will.

This was the Heaven's Will that had finished forming, just waiting for a new emperor to shoulder it. This was the state of the nine worlds with the emergence of the Heaven's Will, filled with its awe-inspiring power.

Both Godkings and Emperor Candidates felt insignificant before this power, no longer finding themselves invincible. Only by shouldering and controlling the Heaven's Will would one reach true invincibility, able to smile proudly while strolling through a generation and capable of sweeping through the nine worlds.

This was the most tempting aspect about the Heaven's Will, the reason why so many experts and geniuses chased for it in order to reach the peak of this world! There was nothing greater than the Heaven's Will for all cultivators to pursue.

“Who will be accepted by the Heaven's Will in this generation?” Older Godkings were envious at this sight. If they could pick again, they would pick the path for the Heaven's Will without any hesitation. Since they have seen its power before, they couldn't resist its temptation.

Meanwhile, many geniuses were eager to try with boiling blood. They wanted nothing more than the Heaven's Will's recognition in order to embark on the path of the competition. The day couldn't come sooner for them while fantasizing about becoming an unbeatable emperor.

With its emergence, the portals to the nine worlds completely opened. The great powers began to take over these locations and sent their disciples to the other worlds in order to broaden their horizon.

As for the smaller sects, they could only hand refined jades over so that they could teleport as well.

“Mortal Emperor World, here I come. This place full of talents shall be my next battleground.” A genius from a different world excitedly claimed after entering Mortal Emperor.

In a short time, many geniuses and even older experts from Stone Medicine, Heaven Spirit, and Sacred Nether rushed into Mortal Emperor. For outsiders, Mortal Emperor was a sure visit because many competitions in the past had been held here.

"I represent the Vajra World to take on the heroes of the worlds. My first stop shall be Mortal Emperor. Their supreme geniuses shall taste defeat by my hands!" A monk from Vajra powerfully declared.

"I, Sacred Supreme, from the Western Bull World, challenge all the aspiring candidates of Mortal Emperor. I don't care if it is one-on-one or everyone together since the throne is mine!" An unstoppable genius from Western Bull immediately challenged everyone during his first visit to Mortal Emperor. [1]

More and more experts came in droves to Mortal Emperor. Everyone was ready to challenge the local geniuses. Of course, some were very reasonable and stood on the sideline to watch, waiting to see who the real rivals were.

The monk from Vajra and Sacred Supreme from Western Bull's blatant challenge was unanswered by Mortal Emperor. No one actually bothered to respond.

The foreign geniuses found the lack of response astounding.

"Does your world not have any geniuses or something? Look at how unbearable these two are but no one wants to take them on?" A cultivator from Vajra quickly made friend with someone from Mortal Emperor. He asked with curiosity.

The Mortal Emperor cultivator leisurely responded: "Oh? That? No big deal. They're only ants compared to Fiercest from our world, not worth mentioning. Fiercest doesn't care for such weaklings so the other young people don't need to interfere either. No one wants to steal his thunder."

"Ants? Impossible!" The Vajra cultivator couldn't help but shout: "Do you know how strong that monk is? He had never lost before since his dao debut and had even once tore a Godking to pieces with his bare hands. His cultivation is unfathomable while his defense is impervious."

"Oh, is that so? That's an impressive tale, not a bad topic to talk about." The Mortal Emperor cultivator was still as nonchalant as ever.

"That's it? Only worth talking about?" The Vajra cultivator was unconvinced and said: "Then how strong is your Fiercest?"

"Thirteen palaces, four grand completion Immortal Physiques, annihilated Soaring Immortal, sacrificed four imperial princes with their own grand completion Immortal Physique, killed an Emperor Rival, completely unbeatable." To which his friend calmly recalled each of Fiercest's miraculous feat. There were simply too many.

"Thirteen palaces? Four grand completion Immortal Physiques? What? No one can accomplish these things in the world!" The Vajra cultivator shouted again.

"But nothing is impossible for Fiercest. His achievements are well known in these parts. He is the miracle creator, other geniuses are only trash before him." The Mortal Emperor cultivator flatly replied.

"Soaring, Soaring Immortal is that legendary sect with five emperors?" The Vajra cultivator swallowed his saliva and asked.

The Mortal Emperor cultivator glanced at him and said: "Who else dares to have that name outside of that sect in this world?"

“But, but they are an imperial lineage with five emperors that has stood strong for generations...” The Vajra cultivator didn’t dare to believe of Soaring Immortal’s destruction. Its prestige was simply too illustrious in the nine worlds.

“It still collapsed before Fiercest. Its four imperial princes were sacrificed and even Imperial Queen Ren Xian was killed. Her scream echoed across the planes.” Another matter-of-fact statement was made.

“Imperial princes and queen...” The Vajra cultivator felt his mouth becoming dry. For him, these were untouchable and virtually unbeatable existences yet they were still killed by this Fiercest?

He didn’t dare to speak again.

As more people poured into Mortal Emperor, more heard about the tales of Fiercest. They were unconvinced at first but Soaring Immortal’s destruction robbed them of their ability to speak.

Even the imperious monk and Sacred Supreme from the other two worlds were speechless. Their expression became solemn.

“Fiercest? Is that Li Qiye?” Some cultivators from Stone Medicine, Sacred Nether, and Heaven Spirit were stunned to hear this all too familiar name.

“How many Fiercest can there be in this world? That’s him!” Cultivators from Mortal Emperor told them.

“Damn it! We were confused about his sudden disappearance. So he has been here at Mortal Emperor? That’s the reaper for you, killing imperial lineages like pigs wherever he goes, so merciless!” Those who were aware of Fiercest’s battle record blurted out.

The ones from these three worlds were curious about his whereabouts. So it turned out that he had returned to Mortal Emperor.

Meanwhile, Cleansing Incense was busy receiving guests such as Lan Yunzhu, Long Jingxian, Jian Wushuang...

The sect became lively instantly with carriages and people everywhere. Some fans even came to have a glimpse of Fiercest.

[Chapter 1699: Meetings](#)

The first to arrive was Lan Yunzhu. She smiled happily after seeing Li Qiye: “Wow, Uncle, I didn’t expect that you were hiding so many beauties here!”

“What is this about hiding? I’m clearly doing it in the open. That’s why I told you, your looks alone can barely qualify to be my bed-warming maid.” Li Qiye said flatly.

“Less daydreaming!” Yunzhu coquettishly blurted while clawing at him like a young girl. Of course, Li Qiye was unperturbed.

Yunzhu was the hottest topic in Sacred Nether at the moment, the goddess in so many young experts’ mind, the lover in their dream. Alas, she was only a jovial and normal girl before him.

“Since you are here, get ready.” Li Qiye said.

“Yes, I will follow you wherever.” Yunzhu answered directly this time without putting up a show.

Long Jingxian and Jian Wushuang came right after to the sect. Wushuang was always quiet but Jingxian immediately chattered it up.

“Ugly Qiye, I’ll suppress you now!” This was her greeting towards him.

“You alone? Too inexperienced and weak.” Li Qiye smiled and shook his head.

Jingxian didn’t refute and immediately opened her fate palaces. Twelve appeared neatly above her head, full of authority and immortal energy.

Anyone else would be shocked at this sight due to the rarity of this achievement even across the long trek of time.

Li Qiye wasn’t surprised at all and nodded: “Hmm, you’re finally successful with the twelve palaces. But it is still not enough. Your dao foundation is steady while leaving no room for criticism. More polishing will make it more perfect.”

Li Qiye expected this because she had a natural Immortal Fate. Such a peerless constitution was even rarer than twelve palaces.

After starting over, Jingxian indeed worked hard and her effort didn’t betray her. She broke through her own limits and obtained the twelve palaces.

“Hmph, are you going to die just by praising me a little bit?” Jingxian unhappily said: “It wasn’t easy for me to cultivate them since you told me to destroy my foundation back then to start over. Do you know how painful this was? I suffered so much, not being able to leave the house...”

She hastily complained due to her dissatisfaction with his reaction. Of course, it was indeed harder for her since she already had eleven palaces in the past. Others would never want to start over given that situation.

“Hmm, amazing indeed. Keep trying, maybe you will become a second monster just like Immortal Emperor Jiao Heng.” Li Qiye nodded and smiled.

“Hmph, you’re not even trying.” She was still annoyed with his lackluster and half-hearted praise and snorted. However, her mood changed quickly and she smiled to ask: “But I’m a benevolent person anyway and won’t hold it against you. Tell me, are there any fun places in Mortal Emperor so I can go have some fun? It’s been a while.”

Li Qiye glanced dismissively at her: “Fun? It’s about time to go up above. All of you need to work harder. Shuangyan’s group is practicing the Immortal Emperor Slaughtering Formation right now, all of you will join them. Your talents will be helpful and everyone will be participating in the future to control this formation.”

Li Shuangyan has always been interested in formations. She was quite gifted in this aspect so he left her in charge and told the rest of the girls to help.

“More cultivation...” Jingxian scowled after hearing this.

Li Qiye replied: "You think we're going up there to sightseeing? If you want to be an ant, fine, since all ants are similar anyway regardless of the location. But if you want to stand at the peak, that place is even crueler than the nine worlds. Even emperors are hunted up there. In that place, they still keep on training to be stronger, so why can't you do the same?"

"Got it, fine, we'll go so you can stop yapping like an old woman." She still agreed despite showing some reluctance.

"Watch her." Li Qiye told Jian Wushuang. This girl was arrogant but she was much more mature compared to Jingxian who only wanted to play.

Wushuang simply nodded. Next was Ming Yexue who stepped forward.

She spoke softly before Li Qiye: "Are we really going up there? The elders from the beastworld are worried. Rumor has it that only emperors can go up there."

This wasn't just a personal trip for her because the entire beastworld was going to follow her too with Li Qiye.

"That's the past, no longer the case now." Li Qiye said flatly: "If I have agreed with those old geezers, then I have absolute confidence and have prepared well enough. But the question is, is your Bi'an Beastworld ready? What you will face is much more complicated up there."

"We're ready." She nodded: "Of course, I can't guess how strong our opponents will be, but our beastworld will accept all challenges under our best state. The elders said that this is our only chance so we'll go all out!"

"Very well. Tell them that it won't just be the pressure from emperors and gods. There will be many existences who want a bite of something as useful as the beastworld in the tenth world." Li Qiye said slowly.

"I understand." She nodded seriously. The elders have told her that the tenth world was a place always surging forward with great momentum on top of being merciless.

She left after several days at Cleansing Incense because she was different from Jian Wushuang and the others. She was responsible for the beastworld too so she had more to prepare.

With the arrival of the girls, Li Qiye began his plan to go up to the tenth world. He sent a message to the Bloodbull Godfiend's group as well.

The first to come was the South Emperor, Gu Guo. He gave the feeling of returning to the origin this time to be part of nature. Others would find it difficult to spot him standing there.

"That's an eonic genius for you, your cultivation has risen considerably this time. It would be difficult for you to not become an Immortal Monarch with such talents and dao heart." Li Qiye had to praise.

Gu Guo smiled naturally without any trace of complacency: "It is thanks to your guidance, sacred teacher. Without it, I would only be searching blindly in the dark."

Li Qiye smiled and shook his head: "Without your talents and determination, my guidance wouldn't have necessarily been useful."

Gu Guo replied: "You are surely going all out this time. I heard the weapons above are different than the ones in our nine worlds. Should I change my weapon?"

Li Qiye explained: "They are different indeed but your Sky Piercer is different. It's not a conventional soulbound true treasure. You can just bring it, no need to change. There are still similarities between the worlds. A few weapons from the nine worlds are still usable and completely unaffected, such as the Declivity-Mountain Bell and Heaven Sealing Pentagate.

"That's good." Gu Guo said: "I've used this weapon for more than half my life and I love it. It would be difficult adapting to a new one."

Li Qiye smiled: "Get ready to go all out. With your talents, you will be the first among us to become an Immortal Monarch. No one is more qualified than you to seize the Heaven's Will. Let the geniuses in the tenth world see the style of a peerless genius from the nine. Take down their arrogance."

"Thank you for your blessing, sacred teacher. I will not disappoint you." Gu Guo remained composed and smiled.

"An eonic genius is not just in name. With enough perseverance and sticking to the right path, your future will be boundless. It is a shame that most of you are too arrogant, thinking that your talent alone is enough to sweep through everything. Such brittleness... that's the reason why so many of your peers have fallen." Li Qiye commented.

Gu Guo sighed after hearing this. This was the case for him too, in the past.

Who wouldn't be arrogant being an eonic genius? At this particular level, any youth would look at others with disdain and thought that they wouldn't need to rely on anyone.

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A romantic air permeated the tasseled bed behind the red curtains with Li Qiye and Bu Lianxiang tenderly embracing each other.

After a long time, he spoke softly: "I'll leave behind a few treasures for you. There are some treasuries I left hidden around the nine worlds, you can open them later when needed."

After her decision to stay, Li Qiye instantly left her many things, such as the Declivity-Mountain Bell, the small wooden coffin, and other artifacts.

"My Bu Clan has many treasures, you don't need to worry about me. You'll need more resources up above." She gently responded.

She wasn't just boasting. Her clan and the Middle Continent Kingdom used to be one of the strongest lineages during the Ancient Ming Era. It stood strong for so long before finally being destroyed by Immortal Emperor Tian Tu.

"No one can have too many treasures." Li Qiye smiled and said: "This is just preparation for the future. These treasures are different from imperial life and true treasures. For example, the mountain bell is similar to your yin yang mirror. Even if the time changes, it will still be unsuppressed. That small coffin is even more extraordinary. Its evil affinity could scare godfiends. Just open it and see."

“That’s the last resort though.” Li Qiye sighed: “Who knows how the world will change later? Maybe another race will rise or the laws of the heaven and earth will be different. It’s better to play it safe by preparing ahead of time.”

She agreed and nodded: “That’s fine. The clan had left behind a secret location. In case of a complete change, I might hide and live in seclusion until everything calms down. That’s another choice.”

“It’s not a bad one.” Li Qiye said: “I will also leave the Myriad Age Tree for you in case you want to live for another generation.”

She wanted to speak but he pressed his finger against her lips and said solemnly: “It is decided. I know that it is not easy for anyone to live another generation. Even emperors have to suffer endless torment. Like that guy in the Drystone Courtyard, he endured for generations just to live again. But sometimes, we have to make a hard choice. I’m leaving this tree behind not to force you to do so. This is only a possible path, another choice. It is safer this way in case of the unexpected and the tree might be useful later.”

She acquiesced and said: “Don’t worry, just keep treading onward. I survived the Ancient Ming Era so how bad can the future be? I’ll just hide in the clan’s hidden location. According to our progenitor, this place could hide from all calamities. The only reason our dynasty ended back then was because my father and the elders were too confident. If they ran to this place earlier, they could have escaped.”

“I believe it.” Li Qiye confirmed: “If your progenitor had said this, it proves just how amazing this secret location must be. It might not be comparable to existences like the twelve burial grounds and the six ancestral earths, it should be one of the few places that can hide from the heaven.”

“It sounds like you know our progenitor very well?” This prompted her to ask.

There were very few records of their progenitor, only a few sentences from their inheritance writings. Their descendants didn’t know where they came from. It seemed that their progenitor had appeared out of thin air.

Such a character capable of starting this clan and laying down its great foundation couldn’t have been a nameless person.

But strange enough, even the nine worlds had virtually nothing written about their progenitor.

In her speculation, their progenitor was no lesser than Immortal Emperors. It was strange that such a powerful being was so unknown.

“A little bit.” Li Qiye said: “But I’m not too certain about a few things, they stop at being mere guesses without evidence. Unless he is alive to reveal it himself, there’s no way to confirm. After all, it is a true separation. I’m the only one who can really travel and find information between the two worlds.”

“So our clan is from the tenth world!” She concluded. This was one of the theories about her clan’s origin.

“Yes.” Li Qiye nodded: “This is something I’m sure of. However, your progenitor has erased many things in the past. He didn’t want the world and his descendants to know about it.”

“Above the nine heavens...” She was slightly dazed. After a while, she asked: “Why did the progenitor bring our clan down to the nine worlds?”

“He’s the only one who knows the reason. In my opinion, he might be hiding, hoping that his descendants can quietly flourish instead of competing for hegemony. Unfortunately, they have let him down.” Li Qiye mused.

“Was it to avoid the enemy?” Bu Lianxiang wondered.

“I don’t think it’s that simple. At his particular level, all enemies should be crushed by him.” Li Qiye shook his head: “Not more than ten people would be able to take their descendants down from the tenth world. Plus, few among them are still alive right now, probably around five.”

“What’s the reason then?” She was startled, having been aware of her progenitor’s strength but didn’t expect it to be at that level.

“Hard to say, he might be the only one who knows. I think it is to avoid a heavenly calamity. Your secret location might not be created by him either. It must be from an ancient era, created by the heaven and earth. It is an ultimate treasure to avoid heavenly calamities. Such a treasure ground would be fought over up in the tenth world. After all, their descendants would at least have a spot to hide. Few in the nine worlds should be aware of this type of places. Even Immortal Emperors who were aware wouldn’t use them to stay in the nine worlds. Because of this, no one tried to seize your place, outside of maybe the Ancient Ming.” Li Qiye stated.

Bu Lianxiang nodded. After destroying her kingdom, the Ancient Ming searched everywhere. It wasn’t just for simple treasures.

“I’m aware of Immortal Emperors going to the tenth world. It is unavoidable after obtaining the Heaven’s Will. But why are there so few people who have descended? The tenth world is the realm of the gods and emperors so there should be many unstoppable beings. They should be capable of this.” She became curious.

Li Qiye replied: “The price is immense even if they are capable of descending. Like I have said, not more than ten beings can rely on their own strength to come down while paying the price. For example, your progenitor is certainly strong enough. Bringing your clan down from up there must have been tremendously difficult. His death would have been the simplest payment.”

“So our progenitor died because of this.” She was startled.

“You can put it that way.” Li Qiye nodded: “That’s why no one who is capable of this feat wants to do it. It’s like being a tycoon having everything they want suddenly becoming a beggar without arms and legs. Would you want to do it?”

Stunned she was with this question. Indeed, no one would be willing to do so but her progenitor did for some unknown reasons.

“Looks like we have let him down.” She gently sighed. The Bu Clan was still annihilated in the end.

Their fate was sealed the moment they became allies with the Ancient Ming.

“The ancestors can’t control everything. Even though they are always hopeful about their descendants, some of these children will be less than acceptable.” Li Qiye chuckled: “If their descendants are always virtuous, then no imperial lineages would ever fall in this world. How can the smaller sects ever rise then?”

She could only nod and accept the words of consolation.