Emperor 1891

Chapter 1891: Ganges River

The princess pondered after hearing Li Qiye's explanation of the river. She wondered about the epoch with Buddhism as the focus. Just how magical was it?

"Do we want to cross?" She asked after returning from rumination.

Li Qiye gently nodded: "Yes, I shall give you a fortune, and there is no better one than crossing this river in the Buddhist Plain. But as for what you can get out of it, that's up to you."

"It's possible?" She said: "Rumor has it that there had been emperors who got lost in this river, never returning."

Li Qiye agreed: "That's right. Too many have lost their way in this river, including emperors and top High Gods. Forcing the issue is very difficult. This is a very long river of time. One would die from old age before reaching its source. Only a crossing vessel would be able to do it in our time."

"Why would these emperors be lost since their dao heart is so firm?" The princess found this quite astonishing. Not to mention their power, those who could become emperor were all determined.

"Try once, you'll see right away." Li Qiye smiled.

"Well..." Her expression instantly changed, not out of cowardice but just being realistic. Even emperors have lost themselves here; she couldn't compare to them at all.

"It's alright under my protection. Just try, this might be beneficial to your future fortune. Just take a step, I'll pull you back when necessary." Li Qiye added.

She heaved a sigh of relief and composed herself by the shore before solemnly declaring: "I'm ready."

"Go." Li Qiye's voice came from behind. He gave her a nudge forward and she stepped into the river. The moment she made contact, she instantly disappeared.

The scene before her changed. The Ganges River was no longer there, replaced by a large city with an indescribable aura. This aura had a calming effect. The princess wasn't nervous at all and was still in charge of her senses.

It was a cacophony of noise with people walking about in this prosperous place. She watched people came and went. They wore a style that she had never seen before. There was all kind of races; some of which were new to her as well, same with their languages.

The people here also took several glances at her. She found them strange and different so naturally, they found her new as well.

Despite her unfitting appearance, the ones here didn't crowd her. On the contrary, they nodded and gave her a friendly smile.

She felt that this was an illusion so she greeted someone next to her, holding their hands tightly. There was a warm and real sensation as if she was actually here in this new world. Her mind was still lucid enough to tell her that this wasn't the case.

She continued walking across the city to understand its culture. She found that this was a place ruled by Buddhism. Many mortals aspired to become a Buddha. As time passed, she grew to understand this world even more after traveling to many cities and witnessing the lands.

She found herself loving this world due to its serene nature and inadvertently found herself assimilating with it.

In the beginning, she was very clear of her situation but as her fondness for this world intensified, she no longer cared where she came from. Despite knowing that she wasn't part of this world, she still wanted to be a part of it.

During her stay, she felt a call from the depth summoning her, telling her to return. At this juncture, it was beyond her control and she instinctively followed in that direction...

When she came to the right place, the sceneries suddenly changed. Everything disappeared and the quiet Ganges River returned.

She was petrified with fear with sweat dripping down her body at the realization that she had lost herself in that world. If it wasn't for Li Qiye pulling her back at the last second, she would eventually reach a state where she wouldn't obey the summoning.

It took a while before she calmed down and said: "How long have I been away?"

"Only the blink of an eye." Li Qiye chuckled.

"I saw one corner of a world." She took a deep breath and said.

"No, you only saw a single grain of sand in the Ganges River, a very short time in an epoch. For example, our own epoch had countless generations and emperors while you were only there for several days, an insignificant amount of time." Li Qiye said.

The princess became even more frightened. If her time there was so short yet she was already lost, there was no chance for her ever returning without Li Qiye's help. She got a better picture of why even emperors have lost themselves in the Ganges River. It was the same as waiting out an entire epoch.

She said in a daze: "I don't think anyone can last that long, it's practically unheard of."

"As long as you have eternal life and an immovable dao heart, you can surpass an epoch in that manner." Li Qiye said with a smile.

"There is someone capable of that in this world?" She didn't doubt the dao heart of the emperors but they weren't immortal. Trying to experience an entire epoch would undoubtedly end in death from old age.

"Someone once did it, entering the Ganges River and walked through the myriad ages, experiencing all the corners of that epoch before reaching the other shore to see a legend." Li Qiye looked at the water and revealed.

"An emperor with twelve wills, right? Is it Purewood Divine Emperor?" The princess blurted out the name of the legendary emperor.

But she quickly changed her mind after noticing his faint smile and his gaze towards the river: "It was you, Young Noble!"

Li Qiye maintained his smile, not answering.

She was completely astounded. She knew that Li Qiye was a supreme overlord but now, she had a clearer look at his unfathomable self. She was lost in that epoch in such a short period but he had experienced it in whole. What kind of monster was this? An existence capable of walking through the river of time. It was virtually the same as escape the limit of death.

He was definitely not inferior to any emperor with twelve wills!

"A crossing vessel is here. Let's go to the other shore. This isn't the same one in the past but if it is meant to be, a fortune is waiting for us." Li Qiye looked up and said.

The princess also looked over and saw a tiny boat appearing on the river. It was going at a normal pace, neither fast or slow.

It could accommodate around five people and was completely black, made from an unknown type of wood. The rower was a monk.

When the boat got closer, everyone would notice that the monk was already dead. Despite the pale complexion and hollow eyes, he was still agile as if he was alive.

Chapter 1892: Crossing The Ganges

"The crossing vessel is here." Someone shouted after seeing the boat. Many experts in front of the Golden Shrine circled around for a look. Even the ones that couldn't come closer all quickly glanced over.

"Is someone boarding?" A guy had to ask.

"What happens if we go up there? Maybe we can get to the other shore." A young expert wanted to try.

"Go up there, my ass!" His senior immediately slapped the back of his head to wake him up: "Back then, your ancestor was a top High God with three totems. He came on that boat and never returned!"

After stating this, the senior had a sad expression.

The first-timers here shuddered at this story. Even a High God with seven totems couldn't come back?

"Does this boat really go to the other shore?" The young expert asked again.

His senior shook his head in response: "Who knows? Legend tells that no one has ever returned after boarding, as if they have disappeared from thin air. There's no lack of famous characters boarding but yea, no success. At least not to my knowledge."

The spectators here for the fun became afraid. Some were tempted earlier for a shot but this warning was like pouring a basin of cold water over their head.

"Reaching the other shores, freed of karma, to obtain the auspicious fruit and eternal life. I wonder if this is true." An old expert was still tempted while looking at the boat but he managed to restrain himself.

High Gods being unable to come back were the best cautionary sign. The crowd had no choice but to let go of this thought.

Even though eternal life was quite tempting, the lack of success deterred everyone. Those stronger than them have tried and failed so they didn't dare to take the risk.

The crowd became quite curious about the rowing corpse. It had no expression, only a corpse without emotions. Nevertheless, none tried to do anything to provoke it because everything that had to do with Buddhism here had some karmic ties. There was no escaping once being involved.

"Board it." Li Qiye checked out the time and found that it was right. He told the princess before boarding himself.

The princess followed him without any hesitation. She had boundless confidence in Li Qiye and was fearless as long as he was near.

"Fiercest and Jilin Princess are boarding." The scene became crowd as many eyes darted towards them.

"This Fiercest is unreal, actually daring to go. Is there something he is afraid of?" An expert was startled to see this.

Amidst the astonished crowd, the corpse rower slowly moved the boat and left without waiting for anyone.

This has always been the case for the crossing vessels. It would appear at certain intervals by the ferry and stop for a brief period. Next, it didn't matter whether there were passengers or not, it would leave at the right time.

Legend has it that it had never stopped this particular schedule. No one knew where it came from and where it was going. Though some so-called invincible characters - the strongest of their era - had boarded, none ever made it back.

Because of this, the crossing vessel became synonymous with death. Later on, fewer people were willing to give it a shot.

Everyone watched as the duo slowly disappeared along the river.

"Hmph, Fiercest is no more from now on. Death is certain after boarding that boat, even top High Gods can't return, let alone him." A heavener snorted.

This race had a certain hatred for Li Qiye since recently, he had killed many heaveners.

"What a shame about the princess." A young expert added with regrets: "She's top two in terms of beauty and talents in Pure and will be the inheritor of the Jilin legacy. Even if she doesn't want to become an emperor, she'll certainly become an amazing High God. Ah, looks like she'll be going down with Fiercest." He sighed disappointingly, seeming a bit lonely.

"Hmph, damn this Fiercest. It's one thing if he wants to die, why is he dragging her down with him?! He must have used some magic to charm her!" Her young admirers felt nothing but hatred for Li Qiye.

"This Fiercest guy is really bizarre though. Such a weak cultivation but he's unbeatable, I hope he can create a miracle. For millions of years now, no one had ever returned alive. Everyone has give up hope on these crossing vessels, if he can return, it'll bring hope to future generations. Perhaps the other shore can grant salvation." Despite the skeptical majority, a few old big shots wanted a miracle.

If this was possible, then the future became quite bright! Perhaps the other shore truly existed along with eternal life.

The Ganges was still flowing quietly while the two were on top of the vessel. The princess looked back and could no longer see the ferry. She turned towards the other side and could only see a faint mess.

Her attention shifted towards the dead monk; it was still the same without any expression while rowing the boat.

In this split second, she felt as if they were no longer within the old spatio-temporal sphere in Pure, not even in the same epoch. This vessel has taken them out of all the karmic ties in the world as they moved slowly on this mysterious river of time.

Perhaps Li Qiye was right. The Ganges was no river; it was created from the boundless faith of an epoch and continued to flow even though the epoch no longer existed.

Anyone would be afraid in this scenario; the princess was no exception. She felt as if there was no returning until she looked over at Li Qiye's calm expression. Her mind found peace and all traces of fear went away.

"Where is the vessel taking us? The other shore?" She asked softly.

Li Qiye gently shook his head: "It's no longer that epoch so the old other shore doesn't exist. That place has become a land of death, the vessel's destination."

"The place where no one had ever returned from?" Her heart skipped a beat.

"That's right." Li Qiye chuckled: "Even top High Gods can't return alive, but we're not going there."

The princess was surprised because of the contradiction. The vessel wanted to take them to the land of death but they weren't going there?

Li Qiye wasn't elaborating and sat there with his eyes closed. She copied his appearance and sat quietly as well.

After enough time, Li Qiye suddenly opened his eyes and said: "The land of death is before us."

The princess immediately opened her eyes for a look as well. She nearly jumped from fright because she saw many black holes at the end of the river.

These black holes piled on top of each other, from one into another, like an endless chain. The more terrifying part was that these black holes were rotating towards different directions as if they were leading to different worlds.

Chapter 1893: No Other Shore

The black holes were all-devouring abysses. Existences, time, and karmic ties were all swallowed. As these black holes were rotating towards different places, they looked like many beasts opening their jaw. Anything entering would be crushed to pieces. But the river was still able to flow through these black holes, completely unaffected.

The princess shuddered while staring at these black holes. She became frozen and felt her soul leaving the body, being sucked out by the black holes

She was completely helpless against this power, unable to lift a single finger. Her dao heart couldn't protect her soul either.

She could see her body standing there and became horrified, feeling that it was over.

But suddenly, a warm current touched her soul and pulled her back into her body. After returning, she nearly fell over but Li Qiye quickly caught her.

"Don't look at them, your dao heart right now can't resist its power." Li Qiye said.

The princess didn't hear what he was saying at all and simply fell into his embrace. His muscular chest gave her a safe and peaceful feeling regardless of the incoming storm.

A unique, masculine scent lingered at the tip of her nose. It was the most pleasant smell in the world like a calming panacea. She couldn't help but come closer, feeling the sweetness in her heart as if she was up in the clouds.

The perilous nature of this place became insignificant.

Li Qiye didn't have time to look at the beauty burying her head in his chest. His eyes were serious as a supreme will came out - one thought to become a Buddha.

"Amitabha." In the blink of an eye, Li Qiye exuded an endless light. His clothes were shimmering with a Buddhist affinity, looking just like a Buddhist treasure. It turned out to be an ancient kasaya, capable of engulfing a world and turning it into a Buddhist kingdom.

More shockingly, a Buddhist disk appeared behind him. It rotated, each revolution was the rise and fall of an epoch or the moving three thousand worlds. It didn't matter how time passed, the change in karma and the derivation of the dao, he would be able to cross it all.

At this time, he was Buddha and Buddha was him. His one thought could create myriad Buddhist kingdoms and save trillions of existences. Another could calm all the chaos in the world!

The princess looked up and saw the boundless Buddhist light. If she wasn't in his embrace, she would already be kneeling on the ground to worship him, even going as far as kissing his feet.

He chanted a Buddhist mantra that eventually turned into a ray. The ray flew into the rowing monk's forehead and enlightened him.

"Amitabha." The corpse actually chanted as well and placed his palms together. In the blink of an eye, the ray in his forehead exploded and spread across his entire body.

He exuded a Buddhist brilliance as if coming back to life as an enlightened monk. He was still a corpse but he had boundless Buddhist affinity right now. This aura seemed to be granting him a new form of life.

"Bang!" The crossing vessel was heading for the black holes but the rower instantly turned the boat to the right.

He still didn't have any emotion and expression, just rowing the boat the same way as before but it still changed direction.

Keep in mind that this was virtually impossible. The passengers could only go where the boat take them but a miracle had happened. The rower was now taking the duo away from the black holes to the princess' astonishment.

The boat got farther away from the black holes before they were nowhere in sight. Despite the change in direction, the boat was still on the quiet Ganges. It seemed to be omnipresent, always staying in sight.

Li Qiye had dispersed his Buddhist light and recalled his will to reveal his true form again as an ordinary man. However, the rower still had the same Buddhist affinity because Li Qiye had left it there. Such an affinity wouldn't go away for a long time.

The princess was still in a daze. She wouldn't believe it if she didn't see it with her own eyes.

"Is it that comfortable?" Li Qiye's leisure voice rang by her ear.

She became startled and realized her embarrassing position, hugging him so tightly with no intention of letting go.

She instantly blushed and let go of both hands, feeling a heat wave channeling through her entire body. An indescribable emotion filled her.

Nevertheless, she found it to be a joyous feeling, a sweet one that permeated her heart.

She stole a glance and found him to be completely natural and at ease. This calmed her quite a bit.

She eventually asked: "What was that earlier?"

"One thought to become a Buddha." Li Qiye leisurely said.

His nonchalant answer left her astonished. She continued: "Just a single thought is capable of that?"

Some people cultivated tens of thousand years and couldn't become a Buddha. Such a feat was simply legendary.

"That depends on the person." Li Qiye chuckled: "As long as you have a firm dao heart, everything is possible with a single thought, such as becoming a devil or a Buddha. It has nothing to do with your preexisting luck or cultivation, only the dao heart. It rules everything about who you are. You aren't a Buddha just because you cultivate a Buddhist scripture and not a devil because you cultivate an evil art."

The princess pondered quietly after hearing this. A transformation relying solely on the dao heart and not cultivation? How frightening would such a dao heart be?

"Where are we going now?" She calmed down and saw a faint scene ahead, unable to make anything out of it.

"A particular place from the epoch that has truly survived the destruction." Li Qiye said softly.

The two became quiet and began to rest, leaving the vessel to do its job. As long as Li Qiye was around, the princess didn't care about the destination.

"We're here." After a long while, his voice sounded so she opened her eyes.

She saw that the boat was already anchored by the shore. Meanwhile, the rowing monk was prostrating flat on the ground while bowing ahead. It became motionless just like a statue afterward.

Chapter 1894: Nine Golden Buddhas

Li Qiye got on shore first and the princess quickly followed. She became astonished again right away.

There was another stone stairway leading up a peak. From the base, one could see the curved rooftop of a shrine.

Along the stairway were trees everywhere, including Bodhi, Vajra, and Arhat trees. Such a scene was too ordinary in Pure. This mountain wasn't that big and sacred. Even the stairway was normal-looking, consisting of regular rocks with weeds growing from the cracks. Yes, this scene was all too common.

However, it was a different story in Exploration Grounds. The princess couldn't believe her eyes due to all the green trees. This was the first time she saw living plants in Exploration Grounds. Even though Buddhist Plain was full of yellow grasses, they weren't true lush vegetation unlike this place here.

Keep in mind that these were ruins of ancient epochs and have been crushed by a destructive power before. It was hard to see life. Alas, the trees here were no different from the ones in Pure.

If not for knowing her current location already, she would mistake herself for being in a peak in Pure. This place didn't have the impure chaos energies either.

She couldn't help rubbing her eyes at this spectacle.

"No need for that." Li Qiye said flatly: "What you are seeing is real. It's so precious, the destruction wasn't thorough enough."

She became shocked after the confirmation. Buddhist Plain was already destroyed, no longer part of the current temporal sphere. It was a land of death outside of this lush location. What kind of power had managed to protect it?

The princess quickly gave chase since Li Qiye was already climbing the steps.

Meanwhile, the rowing monk was still lying on the ground, not daring to follow Li Qiye.

It didn't take long before the two made it to the top. Despite its mediocre height, the mountain seemed so close to the sky. One could reach out and touch the stars in this place. It was mystical, seemingly not part of the karmic and reincarnation cycles.

Li Qiye had entered the old shrine with the princess behind him. There weren't that many items inside, only eight Buddhist statues in meditation. Upon careful inspection, one would find that these were the bodies of supreme Buddhas, not statues.

Their bodies were perfectly preserved. There was no frightening divinity or boundless Buddhist affinity. They were dried up and dark, not as hard as steel, and looked quite relax like the body of a dying old man.

After seeing these normal bodies, the princess uncontrollably dropped to the ground with great reverence. She didn't wish to do so but it was an instinctive submission. She had no way of opposing it and more importantly, she didn't wish to do so either. Her respect came from the heart. There was no invincible power suppressing her but she simply wanted to prostrate.

Meanwhile, Li Qiye stood there calmly and gazed at the eight bodies without saying anything. It seemed that time had stopped at this moment. He was going back in time through the epochs for a chat.

An unknown amount of time passed by. She eventually regained her wits and finally stood up. Once again, no power was pushing her down to the ground.

"What is, what is this power?" She asked Li Qiye while staring respectfully at the bodies.

"No, it is not a type of power." Li Qiye shook his head: "You should be happy right now. Back in that epoch, this would be the greatest of fortune, to be able to prostrate before the eight Golden Buddhas. Only brilliant prodigies who are masters of Buddhism would be qualified to do so; the best ones in an era. This is a fateful encounter; it looks like as you took a step forward in the Ganges earlier, you have sowed a karmic fruit."

The princess was surprised. When she was in that other world, she did feel something calling her. So it was the fateful connection with Buddhism.

"In that epoch, these eight Buddhas are apex existences! Only the ones that have experienced endless pain and suffering would be able to see them. Back then, even if you have crossed the Ganges, that might not necessarily be enough to see them. Without your fateful connection, you wouldn't be standing here right now to prostrate before them, despite my interference. This is an amazing fortune." Li Qiye stared at the shocked princess and explained.

The princess finally realized what was going on behind the scene after hearing this. She took a deep breath before carefully looking at the holy bodies. She noticed that all eight were sitting down, meaning that they had the same status. However, there were nine spots but only eight bodies.

"There are nine spots. Are there nine or eight Buddhas?" She asked.

"Yes, there are indeed nine Golden Buddhas in that epoch. However, this place only has eight so one spot is empty." Li Qiye said while glancing at the empty seat.

"Where is this Buddha's body then? Don't tell me someone else took it away?" She looked at him and asked.

She was certain he had been here before so he was the most likely culprit.

"Don't look at me like that, I didn't take it away." Li Qiye chuckled: "He himself left. Plus, it's not like I can just take these bodies away. They have fused into one with their world. Taking them away is the same as taking the entire Buddhist Plain!"

"He left? So a sacred Buddha came back to life?!" The shaken princess blurted out.

If an old epoch's existence had come into being again from rebirth and could leave Exploration Grounds, it would be quite frightening due to its unprecedented nature.

"You're overthinking it." Li Qiye smiled and said: "He wasn't here from the very beginning. When their epoch was about to be destroyed, the nine Golden Buddhas deliberated. They wanted to use the power of their epoch to stop it, so they fused their Buddhist affinity with their world. At that point, numerous devout believers did the same thing, using their faith to stop the power of destruction! However, one Buddha among them had a different view."

"Why is that?" She became curious.

He looked at her and took his time elaborating: "The specks of sand in the Ganges are endless, but ultimately, they are still only sand. Using them to build towering pavilions is still only piling sand together, won't amount to anything."

The princess didn't dare to comment since she wasn't at the right level. Only a talent standing at the apex could truly analyze the statement.

"The ninth Buddha preferred offense over defense. He wanted to use the faith of his epoch to create a new Buddha with full offensive potential. Just defending against the destructive power alone was impossible. Only by turning themselves into a weapon to sever the great karma and destruction would allow their epoch to survive!"

He paused for a moment before continuing: "However, the other eight didn't agree with his view. Because of this, this last Buddha left during the moment of destruction while the rest continued with their plan, fusing with their world and using its full power to stop the destruction!"

Chapter 1895: Dragon-cat

Li Qiye couldn't help but sigh: "Unfortunately, this method still failed, unable to protect their epoch. This brilliant age couldn't escape its demise. In all of its vastness, only this Buddhist Plain is left."

"The power of an entire epoch couldn't stop the destruction?" The princess was shaken. She couldn't possibly fathom the power of destruction that could put down an epoch.

"It's not about the quantity." Li Qiye looked at her and said: "At a certain level, it's not about how many you have since it won't be a clear addition of power. This was an epoch that cared about karma. Since they gathered all the power of an epoch, they also gathered all of its karma from all of the inhabitants. Thus, it's not a clear power addition, there's no way to get through all the karmic ties that easily, weakening the accumulation process. Thus, though they had as many people as the sands in Ganges, that's all they came out to be, a river of sands. At best, they would only be able to build a pagoda of sands."

With that, he looked at the four Buddhas ahead.

The quiet princess wondered: "What about the Golden Buddha that left? Is he dead?"

"No, he left and managed to escape the destruction of an epoch." Li Qiye revealed: "But so what if he managed to survive? His origin has turned to ashes; no longer belonging to any epoch. The world does not allow for him to appear again so he could only hide. The moment he comes out, he'll have to face multiple shackles and potentially annihilation."

"Someone has actually survived the end of an epoch!" The princess was shocked at this revelation: "Where is this Buddha hiding?"

Li Qiye only chuckled and didn't answer her. She didn't dare to push the issue either.

After a long time, he eventually pointed to the left and right: "On the left and right walls of this shrine are different profound gates towards the dao. It's up to the person to see what they get beyond. You only have one chance, pick one, which?"

The princess looked at the left then the right. The two sides were virtually identical, made from green bricks.

"What's the difference?" She had no choice but to ask Li Qiye for help.

"The left one is the path of karma while the right contains the magic of Buddhism. Which will you pick?" Li Qiye chuckled and said.

She was slightly surprised because she hasn't been exposed to either one before.

"Then the right." She didn't know which to pick but she was closer to the right wall so she picked the path of Buddhism.

"Go, your fortune is in your hands now." Li Qiye replied.

The princess got up to the wall and looked at the green bricks. She was completely lost and had to ask for help again: "How do I see the magic of Buddhism?"

There was nothing else on the wall; no merit law or any drawing.

"Place your palms on the wall and free your mind of unnecessary thoughts then go with the flow. Be aware of your true heart then you can enter." Li Qiye said.

The princess took a deep breath and composed herself before placing both palms on the wall.

It was completely quiet at this moment outside of her orderly breathing. As seconds passed by, the wall suddenly became transparent before slowly disappearing. Next, the space around it rippled, like a rock thrown into a calm river. She disappeared right after. The wall emerged again, just like before as if the princess was never here.

Li Qiye smiled after seeing this and walked past the eight Golden Buddhas. He stood before the back wall of the shrine and also placed both palms on it.

After a while, space fluctuated and he disappeared as well. He showed up again under another vast expanse full of stars. The tiny starry lights beautified this area, despite being quite dimmed.

He sat there in the meditative pose with both eyes closed, seemingly asleep. This was a zone where time didn't seem to flow at all. Eventually, a figure appeared not far from him. It looked like a little dragon coiling as well as a little kitty with shaggy fur. It had a pair of big blue eyes; quite a cute looking creature.

"You have finally appeared." Li Qiye smiled and said.

"Who are you?" A divine intent answered him instead of a voice. This dragon-cat creature suddenly appeared in another position.

"I'm only a passerby across the river of time." Li Qiye chuckled.

"Poof!" The creature flashed into existence at another location again: "This isn't your first time here, what is your purpose?"

The voice wasn't old but definitely ancient as if it was coming from a distant epoch.

"You are only a strand of Buddhist intent originating from the source to here, you think I got something to ask of you? I know virtually everything I want to know, such as your epoch and origin, or the great karma of your nine Golden Buddhas."

"If you know already, then why come here again?" The creature kept on teleporting randomly with poofing noises.

"No, there is still one more thing." Li Qiye said flatly: "I know virtually all the epochs except for one particular world."

"What world?" The creature asked.

"A world that doesn't exist. If I am not mistaken, one of your nine Buddhas knew about it, or he had tried something at least." Li Qiye smiled.

"A world that doesn't exist? No such thing then." The dragon appeared next to Li Qiye this time. It stared at him with its blue eyes, seeming wanting to see through him.

"Others might not know but don't forget, I am someone who had experienced your epoch after crossing the Ganges! The non-existent world exists! I need it to reach the heaven!" Li Qiye slowly said.

"I'm afraid I can't tell you since they do not exist." The creature replied.

Li Qiye retorted: "Is that so? Your nine Buddhas never tried to research it before as a method to avoid the destruction? I'm sure when all of you became aware that there was no escaping, you all tried to come up with a method to send a seed of your epoch to a safe location, one that the villainous heaven can't reach! I'm sure that not just you Buddhas but other supreme overlords of your epoch looked for it too! That world certainly exists."

The creature stood face to face with him and said: "Surely there are reasons for its non-existence. Even if it is around, it won't allow anyone to enter, because it doesn't exist."

Li Qiye chuckled: "No need to play around with me. Your Buddhas have figured out how to enter and even how to leave! I want to know the details."

"So, you wish to go there?" The creature stared intensely at him.

He met its gaze with ease and said: "I must go there to fulfill my wish."

"I can't help you then, it is outside of my knowledge." The creature shook its head.

"If necessary, I don't mind walking through the Ganges again or even flip it over! When I do so, Buddhist Plain will become ashes. At that point, the Buddhist Epoch and the nine Golden Buddhas will cease to exist. No trace will be left, forever erased from the river of time!" Li Qiye declared.

Chapter 1896: I Shall Plant A Seed For The World

"Your threat is useless." The teleporting creature responded.

"I'm not threatening you since if I wanted to do so, I would have done it the last time I was here. I'm just telling you right now since this is my last visit to Buddhist Plain, no need to do so anymore. Thus, I need the answer or I will make it truly disappear from history!"

"I also want to tell you." The creature shook its head: "Unfortunately, we also don't know the answer since we didn't actually participate. All I can do is apologize, we won't be able to help."

Li Qiye raised his brow and said: "So, you are saying that the one who found this world isn't your group but rather the Golden Buddha that left."

"Yes." The creature said: "We only researched the way to face the disaster back then but he had his own ideas. He believed that our method was useless so he tried to look for other ways, including the non-existent world."

"I see." Li Qiye replied: "No wonder why he was able to escape during the destruction of an epoch. Unfortunately, he still couldn't let go of everything, unable to quell his desire."

"No one can, not even a Buddha after the long years." The creature said: "It is also the same for you, someone who wants to participate in the final battle. Perhaps you are like him, finding a way to help your epoch survive with the non-existent world."

"No, I am not a compassionate person. I am trying to find it for my own sake, not for the rest of the world." Li Qiye shook his head with a smile and added: "You all do not have what I'm searching for, it is time for me to leave."

"You may leave with an item." The creature spread its palm, revealing a seed on its furry paw.

When this seed appeared, a Buddhist light illuminated the entire place. It seemed to be gestating three thousand worlds with a majestic life force. Trillions of existences could be born from it. Once it grew up, it would be able to open a new world.

"If this seed germinates, it will be a brilliant era." The creature said: "No one else but you will be able to plant it. You have experienced our epoch and learned the dao here so you can also shoulder an entirely new epoch, opening an unprecedented path."

"You should keep something that amazing then." Li Qiye smiled: "I'm not a naive kid who salivates at the first sight of treasure. This karmic fruit is indeed amazing, gestated by an epoch. Unfortunately, it also carries the karma of an epoch. Even if it could bring about an amazing yield, its karma is also frightening!

Severing this karma to start a new age is quite problematic, so go ahead and keep it, let the fateful have it instead." He stood up after saying this.

"Outside of this seed, perhaps we could give you even more." The creature said: "As long as you plant this seed outside, you'll get more from our world. You're an exceptional person, you should know that there is no escaping the destruction. Don't you know what you should do during that period?"

Li Qiye couldn't help but smile. He sat down again: "Trying to persuade me? In terms of treasures, to be frank, I'm not interested in any of them. There are countless in the world, why would I need to be involved in your karma?"

He paused and continued: "As for the destruction of the world, I have also researched enough epochs, not just yours. That's why I know exactly what will happen and the consequences."

"You are a sage with vast knowledge and should know how to save the world. Even though we have failed, we have experienced that power and know it quite well. We can teach it to you." The creature said.

"No, you are mistaken again. I'm no world savior, thinking about how to save everyone. If you are thinking about teaching me about those things, you're talking to the wrong person." Li Qiye smiled.

"If you won't try to save the world, will you hide in the darkness then?" The creature asked.

Li Qiye shook his head: "Those aren't the only two options. Saving the world has nothing to do with me, I will simply cut down everyone in my path. What below my feet will be a new age, so why bother saving anything else?! Your plan was flawed from the start, thinking about saving the world during the destruction instead of taking down the inevitableness. The high heaven does not have sympathy, no one else does. Doing so will only be burying an opportunity. You might be able to save one era but what about the rest? Only by severing the dao would the world be able to exist forever but of course, this brings up another problem afterward, a real test for your dao hearts."

"The reason for a lack of a true savior is because everything is up to the heart of people. In all honesty, both darkness and destruction are due to the nature of beings. Even if you are able to save your world, you won't be able to change the heart of all."

The creature was silent. At their level, they were able to see through this clearly. Nevertheless, they still had their own stance about it.

"In your epoch, the Buddhist light illuminated everything with mercy but it still wasn't enough." Li Qiye chuckled: "Everyone knows that saving the world can't be done in just one day. The villainous heaven knows this too. Everything is just a cycle; it's not about you or me or even the heaven. It's all in the heart of people."

"If you don't want to save the world, why do you try so hard without giving up? With your current makings, it is more than enough to run far away. Why fight to the end?" The creature said slowly.

"I want an answer, thus, I must fight the final battle!." Li Qiye chuckled.

The creature said: "No one can answer your question, but perhaps you know this already in your heart, that even the final battle might not give you an answer!"

"No problem, even if I have an answer already, I'll still seek another one. If they won't give me one, then I'll beat them until I get one." Li Qiye said with a smile.

"Then what happens after?" The creature asked: "After success, like you have said earlier, the world will be beneath your feet. Why would you not save it then?"

"Like I said, the real world is in everyone's heart. Saving or not saving it is up to everyone else. Let the heaven and earth be the judge; this particular phrase isn't just a legend, imperceptible it might be, but it has always been there." Li Qiye smiled mysteriously.

"Because of this, when people look up at the sky with the descending destruction, they should touch their chest and have a moment of reflection. This intangible judge will always be there, even across the cycles and world destructions." With that, Li Qiye continued: "Your seed is a Buddhist one to enlighten and save the beings. But if there is no evil, what is there to be enlightened about? You all have done it for many generations but couldn't be completely thorough. Is it because you lack the necessary amount of compassion or is there just too much evil in the world? Or perhaps there is no good or evil in the first place and no need for you to enlighten anyone."

The creature didn't respond.

"Because of this, my path will be different from all the other epochs. It doesn't matter if I become a Buddha, a devil, a god, or an immortal. I will only plant the judgment of the heaven and earth in this epoch! In the future, the people's heart will determine the state of the world. As long as the fair judgment is there when I make it to the final battle, I will have accomplished what needs to be done."

"Everyone has a responsibility for their world since youth. That's why no savior will save them since such salvation is only ephemeral in nature. But with enough solidarity, they just might be able to do so something about it instead of doing something self-indulging like waiting for a savior."

Li Qiye's expression became solemn. He never talked about this with others but the being before him was at the level to truly have a real discussion. Others were only looking at the moon in the water or the reflection of the flower in the mist."

"The judgment of the heaven and earth." The creature murmured.

"That's why I'm not a savior, neither are you." Li Qiye chuckled: "You planted Buddhism but it didn't permeate straight to everyone's heart. Otherwise, you might have had a chance. As for the other Golden Buddha, even if he could return again, so what? Even if he could participate in the final battle? So what? All futile in the end."

Chapter 1897: Qin Baili and Jin Ge

After a long time, the dragon-cat brought its fuzzy palm in front of Li Qiye and said: "We couldn't bring Buddhism to everyone but this is a chance right now. We won't ask you to plant it then, only hoping for you to find him and give it to him. I'm sure he will tell you what you want to know."

The person the dragon-cat was referring to was naturally the surviving Golden Buddha, the only one who survived from the epoch.

"That I can help you with." Li Qiye nodded and accepted the seed.

"The grand dao is difficult; same with the myriad ages. We'll see if you can persevere. Please don't fall into the darkness like the rest of the wise sages." The dragon-cat placed his palms together and bowed towards him.

"One can only say that their dao heart wasn't firm enough." Li Qiye calmly said: "It was strong enough for them to reach invincibility and opened an unprecedented path for them, but not enough to save them from themselves! Without a firm dao heart, them having more power will only cause trouble to the ages."

"So many living beings but how many actually end from starting? Everything starts and ends with greed." The dragon-cat sighed sentimentally. [1]

"You mean others have come here already?" Li Qiye noticed something and asked: "Looks like your Buddhist Plain is still quite popular and precious."

"I'm only a lingering intent, not precious at all. Just have a few items that they desire, that's all." The creature said.

"That's true." Li Qiye smiled: "Crossing the river of time to see the accumulation of faith. So many desires immortality and believes the popular adage of reaching the other shore and obtain the auspicious fruit of the living! But they think they are worthy?!" The smile turned into a snort of derision at the end.

"The auspicious karmic fruit is no longer around, so no immortality. But those with greed in their heart hope for such a thing." The creature responded.

"Even if your other shore and karmic fruit were still around, hah, if they want it, they must ask me for permission first! Hiding inside the river of time was one thing but they want immortality too?! One day, I'll flatten them all!" Li Qiye was usually calm but his words carried great fanfare this time around.

"You can't hide your compassion for the other beings or you wouldn't care about this." The creature smiled.

"No, not for living beings. They simply want to stand in my way so I will show no mercy, not caring or showing respect for their history." Li Qiye smiled and said.

"I'm sure you can do it." The creature said: "The end of the world is far away. Take your time, be prudent. Perhaps the destruction and new cycle won't come in the future; the real answer is in the heart."

"Take care." Li Qiye nodded and turned to leave.

After returning to the old shrine, he sighed while looking at the eight Golden Buddhas. Death was the final outcome for these apex existences of an epoch. How many actually remembered them now?

He smiled, mocking himself and said: "Savior, that has never been my thing! Only death and massacre. If there must be a new world, let it be born from blood."

Alas, the dragon-cat was right. There was still a long way to go before reaching the end of the world.

"Buzz." Next, the wall of the shrine lit up with the fluctuation of space. The princess was pushed out.

"Young Noble." She revealed a kingdom-topping smile after seeing him.

"Not a bad fortune, this is a grand creation." He looked at her and nodded.

"It is all thanks to your guidance. I wouldn't have this without you." She happily bowed towards him.

She did obtain an amazing fortune this time, increasing her enlightenment by quite a bit and allowing her to take a unique path. He nodded and accepted her grand gesture.

Meanwhile, the Golden Shrine was still as lively before. There were even more cultivators in front of it. However, they weren't here to get the treasures, only to watch the fun.

In fact, many have given up about these treasures because quite a few have tried already without success. Even some High Gods have died here.

Even though the treasures were tempting, life was even more precious.

There was no room to get into the shrine right now. All the spectators were crowding together for the fun show.

The stars were no one else but Jin Ge and Qin Baili. Only characters like them would cause such a commotion.

At this time, there was a table on top of piles of gold. On one side was Qin Baili and the other, Jin Ge. Their appearance together here attracted all the spectators.

They were both famous as supreme geniuses in Pure. Even though Qin Baili had lost before, this didn't diminish his fame. As for Jin Ge, he was someone who was about to become a Grand Emperor. Thus, he was destined to be in the spotlight.

Of course, their bet commanded even more attention. The two of them prepared a table here in order to have a contest.

Remember, many would be on guard after entering the Golden Shrine. The place itself wouldn't attack anyone but a single strand of greed would guarantee death.

Who wouldn't have a greedy urge while surrounded by gold and treasures? No one would dare to claim to have control over their dao heart in this scenario.

Because of this incapability, no one dared to stand inside the shrine unless they have made up their mind after risking it all for the treasures.

At this moment, the duo was sitting calmly in the shrine. Just their decisiveness alone was worthy of admiration.

Ultimately, one was about to become an emperor while the other had immeasurable potential. Other geniuses wouldn't take this risk but the two of them were deep in there.

They had a very special competition going on. It was a test of vision and will about the treasures here.

They would each pick an item in the shrine then compare the items. The better picker would win.

In the beginning, they started with the scattered gold before moving to rarer and better treasures, including divine artifacts and Buddhist relics!

As long as one was only appreciating the treasure without greed, they would be fine in the shrine. However, the first greedy intent or the slightest palpitation from wanting to take something away would definitely end in death.

The two were from imperial lineages and have seen numerous imperial treasures before, ordinary treasures wouldn't be able to get into their sight, let alone shaking their dao heart.

Nevertheless, the treasures here were quite amazing, not inferior to any imperial treasury. It was one thing to take a glance over yonder, but a close inspection would certainly incite greed. This was a suicidal endeavor.

"Bang!" Qin Baili placed a golden cup on the table while Jin Ge chose a precious pearl.

The two of them carefully looked at each other's choice. Jin Ge started the conversation: "Brother Qin, your cup must belong to a supreme Buddha since it has an eternal essence. It might even be from the legendary other shore. My pearl was incubated by a heavenly dragon and has reached a great level but it is indeed inferior compared to an item from the other shore. You win this round, Brother Qin."

"Gulp." After Jin Ge finished his assessment, many spectators swallowed their saliva. Both the cup and pearl were priceless treasures. They would be dead right now if they were inside the shrine.

However, both Jin Ge and Qin Baili were fine. This showed that these items didn't tempt them.

"I'm just lucky, that's all." Qin Baili smiled and said: "We have both won three rounds, do you wish to continue, Brother Jin Ge?"

"We're both here already, might as well enjoy ourselves." Jin Ge smiled and said.

"Very well, I'll entertain you then." Qin Baili laughed freely in response.

Chapter 1898: Against Jin Ge

The crowd became envious at the duo's friendly bout. After all, they were enemy once. Despite the bet right now, they were still antagonistic towards each other.

However, they were able to maintain an amicable attitude towards each other like old friends. This was a pure competition of the dao without any personal feud.

Many experts had many enemies and rivals in their life. However, to have someone so evenly matched like this was exceedingly rare.

"Look, the crossing vessel!" Suddenly, someone shouted after looking at the Ganges River.

"You're just seeing things, it's not time for the vessel to come." Someone responded.

Everyone felt that this was impossible since the vessel has always been on schedule for millions of years.

"No, it really is over there!" When people looked over, they really saw a boat coming over and became astonished.

"There are people!" A keen-eyed spectator could see the passengers.

"No way, no one has ever returned before!" Some instinctively rejected this comment but upon careful observation, there were really two people on board.

"It's Fiercest and Jilin Princess!" People could finally see the two clearly. They gasped with their eyes wide open.

"This is unreal." Everyone was shocked at this unprecedented event.

Even Jin Ge and Qin Baili inside the shrine were amazed by this development.

One older Dao Celestial was in a stupor: "How...? An Immortal Monarch once admitted that even he couldn't reach the other shore, how is Fiercest coming back? This guy is insane!"

The danger of the Ganges River was common knowledge. Even High Gods have lost themselves before without returning. In fact, many geniuses have tried as well, only to be gone forever.

When Li Qiye and the princess entered the boat, no one thought anything of it. In their eyes, this was a suicidal attempt. After all, people more brilliant and stronger have failed before, let alone juniors like them.

But now, the two came back just fine. This was too shocking; the crowd stared at them leaving the boat in a daze.

"It's a miracle, Fiercest is truly unreal, breaking all common sense. This isn't just heaven-defying, it's the most insane thing I have ever seen!" An old royal lord murmured.

"Wait, returning from the other shore? Does that mean he had obtained the auspicious karmic fruit and eternal life?" Someone else blurted out.

In a short time, many curious eyes were on them. The crowd wondered what they have obtained after their trip. Could these two really be immortal right now? These gazes gradually had a greedy glint to them.

After all, who wouldn't want immortality? Some would be willing to trade everything for this. However, no one dared to do anything due to Li Qiye's notoriety.

After the two left, the boat slowly disappeared again on the river.

The crowd quickly parted for the duo, giving them a path.

"Hmph, Li Qiye!" The majority of people here were either in shock or overwhelmed with greed. Nevertheless, some snorted as if they truly hated him yet not daring to declare it to his face.

Even though Li Qiye noticed these aggressive glares, he didn't care at all. Too many people in this world hated him anyway, and he had no time for each one.

"Reaching the other shore, Fellow Daoist Li, you are incredible." Jin Ge inside the shrine commented. His voice was metallic and resounding, resulting in an immense charisma.

Everyone glanced at the two since their feud was well known. They wondered if the two were about to fight upon this second meeting.

Nevertheless, Jin Ge's generous praise was quite surprising.

"Just killing some time, no big deal." Li Qiye chuckled while looking at Jin Ge and Qin Baili.

Just killing some time? People became speechless after hearing this. Even High Gods couldn't cross this river. For him to make this statement was so domineering as if he could tread across the myriad ages without any trouble.

However, no one felt that he was being arrogant. After all, he was qualified to say so after returning alive.

"Fellow Daoist Li, your phrase just now is quite domineering." Qin Baili smiled wryly, conceding to Li Qiye's achievement.

The crowd was impressed by the friendly tone between the three. There was no sign of a battle at all despite their grievances.

"They're exceptional for a reason. People like us can't compare." An old man said with a tinge of emotions.

Li Qiye only smiled and said: "The shrine has a couple of wonderful weapons. The two of you can give it a shot."

Qin Baili clapped with laughter: "There are really too many treasures in here. Brother Jin Ge and I have been looking for a while now. Unfortunately, I can't recognize the top items. If you are interested, how about joining us?"

"Yes, we'll do a bet then?" Jin Ge also spoke with an indomitable momentum: "I am famous for being magnificent while you are renowned for being devilish. I want to see just how devilish you are, Fellow Daoist Li!"

"It's beginning now?" Someone batted their eyes and said: "A duel between a dragon and tiger."

"Maybe this is Jin Ge's chance to avenge his brother-in-law. The ones with their dao heart shaken will die in the shrine. This is pretty much a fatal contest." An expert speculated.

"What do you want to bet?" Li Qiye looked at Jin Ge.

"We're not betting items, only testing our dao heart." Jin Ge responded: "Fellow Daoist Li, you killed my father and brother-in-law, we'll eventually settle this feud. However, we won't be talking about that matter today. It is about the grand dao today, a test of our dao heart. Let's not stain our effort to reach the dao with ulterior motives."

Jin Ge made everything clear with this straightforward statement.

"That's a future emperor for you, he's qualified to become one with his attitude alone." Even the experts from the hundred races found Jin Ge impressive.

Li Qiye shook his head in response: "In terms of dao heart, if I, Li Qiye, claim to be number two, no one else would dare to claim the top spot. It is certain defeat for the two of you in this contest. A clear disadvantage from the start."

"Damn!" Everyone was left speechless again. Some glanced at each other and thought: "Does he not care about offending the emperors? He's not scared about having more powerful enemies?"

"Your statement is only making my blood boil with competitiveness." Baili laughed and said: "In terms of dao laws, we're no match for the previous generations just yet. But the dao heart is something we can work on. Brother Li, broaden my horizon then."

"There is no giving up on the path towards the grand dao!" Jin Ge also fiercely bit back "Even if you have the best dao heart in the world, I, Jin Ge, will still bet against you! The victor has yet to be decided!"

Chapter 1899: Contest In The Golden Shrine

Qin Baili and Jin Ge both had the aura of a king. They weren't the aggressive type that bears their fangs. Nevertheless, each of their words was resounding and powerful in an awe-inspiring manner.

They were flawless in both attitude and style; it was hard for people to criticize them.

"It would be difficult for men like them to not become famous. That's how a hero should be." Members of all races had this thought.

Li Qiye couldn't help but smile: "How interesting, very well, I'll entertain the two of you and see how long you can last." With that, he entered the Golden Shrine.

The princess didn't follow since she wasn't part of the bet. This was Li Qiye's business.

He entered the shrine and sat straight down as if he didn't see the piles of treasures at all. They were mere trash, unable to move his dao heart.

"Fellow Daoist Li, how do you want to do this?" Qin Baili asked.

Li Qiye smiled in response: "I'm down with whatever rules you two want. Just tell me."

"We're only testing our dao heart today, not our battle prowess. Whoever can resist temptation the best will be the winner, what do you think?" Jin Ge said.

"That's fine since you two are wanting to do that." Li Qiye looked at the two of them and said: "When you think you can't handle it anymore, quickly run. I don't want your lives today and will give you a chance."

The contest has yet to begin but Li Qiye was already so domineering in tone. It made the spectators outside glance at each other. Those who were fans of Baili and Jin Ge became quite unhappy.

"Hmph, he's boasting already? We'll see who wins in the end." A heavener scowled.

On the other hand, Jin Ge and Baili didn't become angry at all. Baili said: "In that case, we'll thank you then for sparing us. Even if I lose, I won't have any complaints since it'll just show that my dao heart is still lacking."

"I'll lose gracefully as well. There are many invincible and profound laws in this world but only the dao heart alone can reach them all." Jin Ge said: "One can be crafty with the grand dao and explain the mysteries, only the dao heart requires step-by-step cultivation! If I lose to you in this regards, it'll be a clear defeat."

"True, the thing you're missing now is the Heaven's Will. If it wasn't for the ambush, you would have become a Grand Emperor." Li Qiye looked at Jin Ge and said.

"Thanks for the kind words, I will keep on trying." Jin Ge was straightforward without being overly humble.

This was outside of everyone's expectation. They thought that Jin Ge and Li Qiye would fight to the death for sure. But now, the two were just chatting it up without hostility, or if they were old friends.

"We can't understand the world of geniuses." A young expert smiled wryly: "If it was me, I would have rushed over to fight Fiercest already due to his disdain for our race."

Qin Baili said: "How about each of us pick a treasure, the best one wins just like before?"

"I have no objection." Jin Ge replied: "Like Fellow Daoist Li said, if we might not be able to stabilize our dao heart upon a close inspection, leave instantly. Deciding a winner is good enough, no need to take it too far!"

Li Qiye looked at the two and smiled: "If you two don't mind, I can also pick a treasure for each of you. Of course, you can also select one yourself."

"That's fine too." Jin Ge looked back and said: "The only thing that matters in the Golden Shrine is the dao heart. You are an apex genius, I'm sure you won't take advantage of this."

"Foe or friend, I'm sure Fellow Daoist Li will be righteous in this place. I won't speak for Brother Jin Ge, but I don't mind at all. You can pick one for me." Qin Baili said with a smile.

Jin Ge added: "I have no objection either, you can pick one for me."

Everyone was astonished after hearing this. They would think that these two have become crazy but this certainly wasn't the case.

The bet wasn't only about their dao heart but also the quality of the treasures. They must pick something better than Li Qiye's choice. That's the path to victory. Thus, this was a test of one's dao heart, knowledge, decisiveness, and vision.

In this situation, letting the opponent pick the treasure was the same as leaving one's life in their hand. Only a fool or a madman would do such a thing.

Jin Ge and Qin Baili were neither but they still gave Li Qiye the initiative. Ultimately, they all had a righteous dao heart and believed that Li Qiye wouldn't take advantage of them.

This seemed like a foolish choice but it was about character and trust!

"Very well." Li Qiye said: "Since I'm picking yours, you two can pick mine as well."

The other two exchanged a glance. Qin Baili nodded: "Good, if you trust us, we will listen to your idea. You can pick one for us first then."

Li Qiye leisurely said: "Even ordinary imperial treasures won't be able to tempt the two of you since you are no stranger to them. At your level, I must find artifacts that are the most suitable."

Having said that, he stared at Qin Baili and said: "You come from the Can Long branch with a focus on auspicious energy and simplicity, a natural dao path. I just happen to know of a treasure beneath that cauldron." He pointed at a large cauldron in the corner of a room.

"What kind of treasure is it?" Baili was surprised to see Li Qiye's quick selection.

"This is a divine crest, worn by a god in a distant epoch. It surpassed the myriad realms and laws across the years. It carried a natural presence with auspicious energy. One strand of this energy can create countless things. Time is not a limiting factor for it." Li Qiye elaborated.

"That's a good treasure then." Baili had to praise since his cultivation required such a treasure.

"Are you sure you will be able to resist? Get ready, it is even more tempting than my description, enough for you to salivate." Li Qiye slightly smirked.

In fact, many people were already full of anticipation even before seeing it.

Baili took a deep breath and calmed his dao heart. He nodded solemnly: "I will bring it over for everyone to have a look."

With that, he walked over to the room and lifted up the cauldron. Sure enough, there was a crest inside. When he took it out, an auspicious energy erupted, seeingly turning into a supreme grand dao. Baili was instantly engulfed by this energy; it seemed to familiar with him.

His expression became quite serious but he still chose to wear it on his head.

With this, the energy instantly converged and turned into strands pouring down. Just like Li Qiye had said, these strands had boundless potential. His aura changed completely; he was now a god that could travel through the myriad ages.

"Yes, it's incredible. Wearing this crest takes him to the next level." An imperial ancestor had saliva dripping out of his mouth.

Everyone stared intensely at him. Not to mention Baili, even these spectators felt that this treasure was too amazing. If he couldn't calm his dao heart, death was waiting for him. Alas, this was a truly difficult task.

As everyone held their breath, he walked up to the table and put the crest down on the table for the other two to see.

Chapter 1900: Not Tempting Enough

"What a crest." Even Jin Ge who originated from the War-Monarch Clan was impressed. He admitted that this was a tempting treasure.

Baili took a seat and smiled wryly: "It's more than just that. This is a divine artifact. If this wasn't the Golden Shrine, then I would try to have it at all cost since it is quite useful to me, as if it is personally tailored for me. It can increase my battle potential by one level."

"It's not easy to find a suitable treasure." Jin Ge nodded. At their level, they didn't necessarily need the strongest weapon. More often than not, they wanted something suitable.

"Not bad." Li Qiye chuckled: "It's not easy to control your dao heart at the right moment."

"I must maintain my dao heart because my life is hanging on a thread. I wouldn't be able to do so at a different location." Baili said.

Outside of the shrine was a covetous horde even though this crest wasn't suitable for them. It still made their heart beat faster. But it did seemed tailored for Qin Baili. At the very last second, he managed to calm his dao heart and stopped any thought of greed!

"What will you pick for me, Fellow Daoist Li?" Jin Ge was fired up and ready to try.

It wasn't that he must win this in order to defeat Li Qiye. The only thing he wanted to do now was challenging himself.

In his mind, facing a suitable treasure while maintaining a calm dao heart just like Qin Baili was defeating the self. He wondered if he could replicate Baili's performance so he was ready to give it a shot.

Li Qiye looked at him and said: "Your War-Monarch Clan has five emperors with countless imperial arts. However, your origin is from Celestial Court, thus your heavenly marking is different from others, a yellow hue with a glow. This is evidence that you have learned the cultivation techniques of the palace."

Everyone was startled after hearing this and quickly looked at Jin Ge's forehead.

"Yes, there are tiny moving lights, I didn't notice it before." Many whispered quietly and found Li Qiye's comment to be correct.

"Fellow Daoist Li is indeed amazing, no wonder why people call you devilish. You're the first outsider who can see through my origin!" Jin Ge was shocked as well.

Jin Ge was utterly convinced by his enemy's capabilities! Outside of their War-Monarch's top ancestors and the supreme existences from the Celestial Court, no one else knew about this.

But now, Li Qiye was able to discern it so easily. Just how acute was his insight?

Jin Ge's admittance shocked the crowd too. Everyone knew that he had inherited the legacy of the War-Monarch Clan and the imperial arts. No one thought that his true root was actually from the Celestial Court.

They shuddered once more. This meant that his clan also had the backing of the Heavenly Race.

Of course, after thinking about it again, it wasn't that surprising. The clan always had a good relationship with the Celestial Court, especially War-Monarch Heaven Emperor. He was virtually inseparable from this other power.

"The secret arts from the palace might elude others but not me." Li Qiye said leisurely: "Your grand dao is pure, capable of shouldering the heaven and earth on top of possessing a tyrannical strength. This foundation is capable of both offense and defense. I know that over in that corner is an imperial gauntlet, extremely suitable for you. It alone is enough to sweep through the world." He pointed at the right corner of another room.

"Alright, I'll take a look." Jin Ge didn't hesitate and went for the room.

"Clank, clank!" He pushed the piles of treasures away and took out a gauntlet.

Keep in mind that these were amazing artifacts but Jin Ge wasn't moved at all. He only took the gauntlet away.

A brilliance oozed out with its appearance. It seemed to be cast from gold with many scales. Each scale had little dots; each dot looked just like a sun.

"Buzz." In the blink of an eye, the heavenly marking on his forehead seemed to be quaking from an influx of power. It lit up with haste.

"Such incredible power." Jin Ge instantly closed his eyes and took a deep breath to calm his mind.

This imperial gauntlet possessed an immense strength that permeated through him, granting him a great transformation. This was a moment of life and death for him.

"Open!" He shouted and channeled his own vitality into the gauntlet.

"Boom!" The gauntlet poured out even more golden light. It shot to the sky and illuminated this entire region. People had a hard time keeping their eyes open from this blinding brightness.

"Amitabha." The chant echoed as a Buddhist kingdom emerged on his right hand. Numerous sacred Buddhas appeared along with a divine beast.

It was a Qilin drowned in Buddhist light; everything here seemed to be created from it. Even the sacred Buddhas were formed from its breathing.

The crowd all had an illusion that Jin Ge's right hand could drill through the world or shatter the sky vault right now. It had an unstoppable and endless power! Anything would instantly explode back to the origin from one punch!

While wielding this gauntlet, Jin Ge changed completely, just like a supreme Buddhist emperor that could reign for an era.

"That's something..." Jin Ge gently rubbed the gauntlet before a clank sounded. He actually took it off and placed it on the table.

The mass was astonished. Jin Ge was able to protect his dao heart from greed even before this amazing treasure. It was completely unreasonable to not be tempted by a treasure of this level. The ground outside moistened from everyone's saliva.

"If I was in your shoes, Brother Jin Ge, I wouldn't have been able to stay calm before this gauntlet." Qin Baili's expression changed and said emotionally.

"I'll be honest, Brother Qin. I nearly lost it just now. I was mentally prepared first before testing the power of this gauntlet or I would have lost it." Jin Ge frankly laughed without hiding.

"Brother Jin Ge, you have done it better than me. I calmed my dao heart right after standing up but you waited until after grabbing the treasure. I lost there." Qin Baili admitted.

For them, it was fine to gracefully accept defeat. It wasn't a humiliating matter at all to accept the disparity in skills.

"Brother Qin, you are being too humble." Jin Ge smiled back.

Li Qiye also smiled and joined in: "It is indeed brilliant to calm the dao heart after grabbing this treasure. One would certainly be lying if they claim being unaffected by the gauntlet. It is capable of both offense and defense on top of penetrating all obstacles.to"

"Fellow Daoist Li, please stop. If you keep on praising it, I'm not confident I'll be able to stay calm for much longer." Jin Ge joked.

The crowd remained impressed by their friendly exchanges despite being enemies. For many experts, just being able to meet an enemy like this was more than enough.