

Emperor 1981

### [Chapter 1981: Conclusion](#)

Blood slowly dripped downward as his clothes became tattered. His body was ruined as well with bones visible in many places and smashed flesh. Nevertheless, he maintained a proud and straight posture.

The situation of this epoch lord looked downtrodden but not him. He stood there, determined and even relaxed - mentally prepared for this moment.

The emperors had no comment. For the high-level ones, they could see a bit of them while looking at him.

He was an apex existence, something they were aiming for. Thus, his end was more of a warning to them.

It didn't matter whether he was a good or bad person; a defender of light or walker of darkness. From a cultivation perspective, his achievements were worthy of respect. Moreover, morality was not as black and white for them. People simply had a different perspective on the world.

Thus, the death of this invincible being painted a melancholic feel. They weren't exactly sympathetic to his doom, but they saw many things in this event, including a potential end in the future. Perhaps it won't be as grand and shocking like Samsara's death, but it'll come.

"Time to end this." Li Qiye said. He had killed too many people already, one more was just fine.

"Yes." Samsara smiled: "I've been hiding and accumulating strength all along in order to defeat the high heaven. But the truth was to escape death. But now, when death is actually here, there is no fear in me."

Samsara was aware that his defeat was assured. He knew that Li Qiye still had other methods up his sleeve. Retaliation was futile.

"Any last words?" Li Qiye asked.

"What do I have to say? Those worthy of my attention are long gone, those I love and those who love me. Even my old friend and enemy, Saint, is no longer around. The world has nothing for me to look at now." Samsara was very calm in the face of death. His attitude was worthy of being a supreme overlord.

He continued: "Well, I guess my last words will be hoping for your victory at the final battle. This path has lasted for too long, the cycles of epochs, so many wise sages and heroes have bent their back. Unfortunate, I won't be able to see it."

"The day when I return triumphantly will come." Li Qiye stoically said.

It wasn't only for Samsara to hear but also the rest of the emperors.

"I see." Samsara looked up towards the wildland epoch one last time back in the river of time. His darkness once loomed over it; the inhabitants there detested him.

He had turned it into an ocean of blood and devoured countless beings. He was the devil, the bringer of nightmares. But ultimately, it was still his epoch where he lived, so he still had to look at it again.

Perhaps this was the only thing worth another glance from him.

“Goodbye.” Samsara closed his eyes and said: “Fellow Daoist, do it. What you want are in my lair.”

“Time to finish this!” Li Qiye uttered calmly.

“Poof!” Samsara’s blood erupted like a storm. It was then dragged out by Li Qiye and refined into laws intertwining together to form a key.

In the beginning, when Li Qiye was refining that pond of blood, he had prepared something in there. Samsara thought he had crushed it but it was still secretly there.

This was a way for Li Qiye to obtain Samsara’s origin blood, the only way for him to open the guy’s lair.

“Boom!” Samsara fell backward to the ground. His body was burning after his origin blood got refined.

There were wisps of smoke left behind, not belonging to light or darkness. He used to be a living person so after death, he turned into smoke. It was a way to return to the roots, a place without light and darkness.

The battle has finally ended. The wildland would become history, no longer shrouded in darkness. The entire region became quiet; the wailings have disappeared.

The emperors involved in the battle heaved a sigh of relief. This was definitely their toughest fight since one wrong move and they would have turned to ashes.

The spectating emperors were speechless as well. The slaughtering of a dark overlord had shocked them, especially his power. If one day, when the darkness finally came, they would be mere ants if they didn’t work together.

If it wasn’t for the Dark Crow planning the whole thing with the help of someone like Saint and twenty emperors, there was no chance of victory. Emperors like them were nothing before Samsara, not even enough to be appetizers.

“Boom!” Back on the river of time, all the holy light in the wildland epoch started to fly. It had destroyed the darkness entirely and fused with the epoch a while ago. However, it peeled off from the epoch and left.

“Rumble!” Loud explosions echoed on the river of time. The light was gathering together to form a dao heart.

A holy heart once again appeared above the sky of the wildland epoch. It exuded holy strings reaching everyone. Time was no longer a limiting factor so everyone could sense this string reaching their heart. It was warm and harmonizing, worthy of people yearning for it.

The heart began to beat at a slow pace. Each beat was moving across the river of time and everyone could hear it. Their heart also jumped in the same rhythm.

A strand of holiness was born inside and illuminated their own heart. It seemed to be eternal despite its flickering nature. They wouldn’t be lost in the shadow since this light would show the way.

They didn't exactly know what was going on but henceforth, holiness was within them. In their most desperate moment, this light would spark some hope into them. Just a little bit of hope, enough for them to move forward.

The thirteen continents were affected as well. The other emperors couldn't actually see all the details happening in Pure but after sensing this heartbeat, they could clearly feel the power of light.

### [Chapter 1982: Eternal Holy Light](#)

The twelve continents were far away from Pure. The low-level Emperors couldn't peer through the distance to observe. Even the high-level emperors could only see a muddled scene.

Nevertheless, the magnitude of the war shook the continents. All emperors could certainly feel it so they could come up with rough speculations.

The heart beating on the river of time was as clear as day. They could feel the ripples emanating from the holy power of an entire epoch.

"Thump! Thump! Thump!" A resonance to the beat appeared in the heart of the existences on the river of time.

"Boom!" Suddenly, the heart suddenly exploded and the light became more dazzling. It illuminated the river like the rise of dawn reaching every corner. There was no place for the darkness to hide.

Outside of raising hope, it was also scaring the dark existences.

"No!" An overlord scowled and ran deeper into the shadows, not daring to show his face.

The powerful emperors traced back the river of time back to the wildland epoch. They saw the explosion of holiness - its snow-white light lit up everything in its path.

Saint was a great man worthy of respect. He didn't only fight to bring the light to his epoch; at the very last second, he even became a spark to strengthen the light in everyone.

The emperors were shaken. One Grand Emperor commented: "Lighting up Saint, such an aggressive move. Hopefully, this will be able to warn the future generations."

More dark overlords dug deeper into the shadow since they didn't wish to see the light.

It took a long time before the light dispersed. The explosion resembled fireworks in the night sky; dazzling yet ephemeral. The time of river continued to flow quietly afterward.

In the end, even the wildland epoch calmed down. The light didn't overwhelm the darkness and the latter didn't devour the former. The epoch was neither light or dark now.

This made the emperors felt even more respect towards Saint. He was the final winner in the epoch yet he didn't try to control this temporal period and simply lit himself up to illuminate the river. He didn't try to fuse with his epoch and try to make it his own.

He returned everything to the wildland. Though it didn't actually exist any longer, he didn't take the time entity that was left. It belonged to the epoch and its countless existences, not him or Samsara. Their light and darkness shouldn't occupy this temporal period.

It was a benevolent and magnanimous showing. To sacrifice without regrets - how many could actually do this? Saint surely deserved his title.

"Our Saint is gone but he'll live on in the heart of all." Li Qiye bowed deeply with sincerity and respect after seeing the complete disappearance of the light.

His group of emperors also solemnly bowed towards the river of time to show respect for Saint.

The death of Samsara has brought serenity back to the wildland. No one could hear the wails of lamentation any longer and the land was freed from darkness. Though it was still desolate, perhaps life would come to this place one day.

The light was also gone after Saint's death but it continued to exist in the heart. Samsara was certainly right that the darkness was eternal. It loomed everywhere in the world, but so did the light.

The respectful bow continued for a while before Li Qiye told the emperors while looking at the altar ahead: "We have slain the darkness, it is time for us to harvest."

The emperors revealed a happy smile. It had nothing to do with greed since this was the just reward after the dangerous battle. After all, no one would have agreed to come and risk their lives for nothing. This was the way of life, not too many could actually become saints.

Though they weren't aware of what was actually inside Samsara's treasury, his power level surely meant that it would be amazing inside. They had seen countless rare treasures yet they were still looking forward to seeing this treasury.

The spectating emperors were swallowing their saliva. Perhaps a few of them were regretting not flattering Li Qiye in the beginning and joining him in this battle so they could partake in this feast. Of course, greed aside, the best they could do was to watch. There was no thought of trying to seize it.

There were twenty emperors working together, a start of a working relationship between the races. Not to mention, Li Qiye was presiding over everything. If anyone dared to interfere, they and their clan would be wiped out!

"Okay, let us go and see. Samsara's accumulation of an epoch should be enough for all of us." Li Qiye chuckled while standing on top of the altar.

The emperors smiled back. There was no need to put on an act right now instead of just being excited. Plus, they deserved it after the battle earlier.

"Buzz." Li Qiye used Samsara's blood as a key to open the altar.

Below was Samsara's lair. It couldn't be opened by any external force. After all, Samsara was completely capable of creating an impregnable home. Even the most powerful emperor couldn't take it down. Thus, his blood was required for entry to the treasury below.

"Creak." Li Qiye and the group made it through many gates below the altar. Some gates consisted of numerous divine rings, others were made out of cogs, there was also an abyss passageway with deadly drowning water...

These gates and tribulations could lock out and even kill powerful beings. Nevertheless, the group finally made it through to the lair.

It was more accurate to call this place a world, one that belonged to Samsara alone. Using the word “treasury” to describe it was an insult to its size. No one in this world could have something similar.

The emperors took a deep breath to compose themselves at its sight. They could work for a lifetime and wouldn't be able to accumulate so many treasures and resources. In fact, all twenty here combined weren't as rich as Samsara.

Back when Li Qiye destroyed Soaring Immortal, the treasury there was quite impressive since it had five emperors. Alas, after taking a look at this one, the treasury from Soaring Immortal was quite pitiful in comparison. Just any corner here could put it to shame.

“The lord of an epoch in possession of all of its artifacts and natural resources. This is how it should be.” War-Monarch Heaven Emperor said with a tinge of emotion.

### [Chapter 1983: Incredible Treasury](#)

This treasury was a world full of treasures. All the best items in the wildland epoch had been stored here.

When the group walked in, there was a mountain of endless height towering before them. On the surface flowed golden runes. This entire thing looked like a complete piece of divine metal, the king of them all.

“I once had a tiny piece, same type as this one.” Sunset Glow Devil Emperor said softly: “This is Dracorune Immortal metal, and I only found a tiny piece after searching everywhere. This whole thing is inlaid with the same runes, it might be the source, one and only in the world.”

In fact, this was only the appetizer. When they climbed to the top of this mountain for a better look, countless treasures emerged in their sight.

Not far from there stood a massive tree growing on a continent floating in the sky. Surely Samsara didn't only uproot the tree but the entire surrounding area and took it here.

The barks were jade-like and instead of green leaves, it had treasures growing from it - jades, gold, talismans... The wind in combination with it resulted in a godly song, making others want to dance.

“The mythical Jade Tree. To think I have the luck to see it today.” Heaven Search Immortal Monarch sentimentally said.

A bit farther away was a massive lake that could be considered an ocean. However, it had sand flowing slowly instead of water - quite a beautiful and dazzling scene of gold. Everyone wanted to grab a handful.

“Goldsand of the Hidden Sea. When I walked through the thirteen continents back then, I only obtained one basket of these grains from the depth of the Mysterious Sea.” Jilin Immortal Monarch smiled wryly.

Of course, only something this amazing was fitting of someone at Samsara's level, the lord of an epoch. This wasn't out of everyone's expectation.

The most shocking thing was not the sea or the tree but rather that Samsara had sealed a sun in this treasury.

Metallic ringings resounded in this spot with a sun locked up by nine gigantic laws.

It wasn't spewing out refined sunfire but rather rays of golden flame, each capable of burning up a world.

In the depth of this sun was an extremely holy light as if the most sacred creature in the world was there. Regardless of whether such a creature was there or not, the sun was still sealed. It struggled all in naught. This was one of Samsara's greatest technique, capable of sealing an entire world.

the emperors were naturally amazed and glanced at each other at this ultimate feat. Only someone like Samsara could do so.

"Incredible, where the hell did he find a sun like this? Not too many could obtain it." Immortal Emperor Bu Zhan said emotionally after a careful look.

"That's why he's known as the lord of an epoch." Li Qiye chuckled in response.

The group stopped after a full round. They got a general idea of this treasury. It was just as wondrous as they had expected.

"Alright, fellas, this will be a nice harvest in our lives, a great feast. I am someone who does not mistreat those who work for me, whether they be from the three races or the hundred races. As long as they have stood by my side, well, no need to blabber on about this. Action speaks louder than words." Li Qiye said.

The emperors didn't add anything either. The ones from the three races were all allowed inside as well. Plus, it was well known that the Dark Crow treated his followers handsomely.

"Everyone will have a piece today, however, I do have one request. The battle wasn't easy and Immortal Emperor Bu Zhan worked quite hard, risking and damaging his Heaven's Will. Thus, any panacea in this treasury, he'll have the first pick. I'm sure no one will object to this."

"No objection, Brother Bu Zhan had indeed worked hard." War-Monarch Heaven Emperor represented his clan and said.

"None here." Heaven Search Immortal Monarch hurriedly added.

No one objected because the Immortal Emperor deserved it. At the most dangerous moment, he risked his Heaven's Will to help. If they were to lose, his will would have been destroyed completely.

"Brother Bu Zhan's method has broadened our horizon, resulting in an admirable meritorious contribution." Even a character like Immortal Emperor Can Long sang high praise for Bu Zhan.

"Senior Can Long, you are too kind. It was only due to my spear and a little research on my part."

The emperors happily smiled and accepted Li Qiye's reasonable request.

“Sacred Teacher, we don’t dare to be unduly humble. After following your order, we have maintained peace in the thirteen continents. Thus, with regards to merits, you are at the highest, so you should be the first to pick your favorite treasure?” Sunset Glow Devil Emperor sparked the next conversation.

“Sacred Teacher, please go first.” The other emperors voiced their agreement.

“Very well, let’s begin then.” Li Qiye didn’t refuse and began the process.

The amazing feast has begun, enough for all emperors to have their fill and return triumphantly.

No one regretted participating in this battle because their rewards were simply too amazing. Even the members of the three races were happy to partake in this alliance.

It finally ended with everyone satisfied.

“It is time for me to leave now.” Li Qiye told the emperors: “Isn’t time for you all to open the continental blockades?”

The Grand Emperors glanced at each other; the Immortal Emperors were smiling without commenting, while the Immortal Monarchs were less hesitant but still with reservation.

“Back then, World Emperor and everyone made an agreement to block the passages between the continents in order to avoid a calamity in times of chaos. If the blockade were to open completely, then this era will be starting its golden age. However, Sacred Teacher, if you wish to go through the portal alone, you only need three imperial lineages and six emperors to open one single gate.” Jilin Immortal Monarch finally spoke.

“If you wish to leave, our War-Monarch Clan has no objection either. We will help you open the passageway.” War-Monarch revealed his stance.

“My Heaven Search Sect agrees as well.” Heaven Search Immortal Monarch joined in.

“Needless to say about our Jilin Clan, we will listen to all your orders, Sacred Teacher.” Jilin Monarch added.

The decision to open a portal from Pure was unanimous this time. Even the Grand Emperors agreed to let Li Qiye go to another continent.

“Did Geezer World Emperor seal everything to prevent a calamity, the darkness, or me?” Li Qiye made a joke about the blockade.

The emperors here didn’t want to comment on this. It was no secret that these two were mortal enemies. Furthermore, Li Qiye had kidnapped World Emperor’s daughter back then so the emperor swore to take his head at all cost.

After making the decision to open a passageway, the emperors said goodbye to Li Qiye.

War Monarch was the first to leave with his juniors. He cupped his fist towards Li Qiye and said: “Sacred Teacher, I hope this is a new beginning for our era, working together before the darkness and letting go of past prejudices.”

“It will require the effort from all the emperors.” Li Qiye said.

Heaven Search was next: "The prosperity of the hundred races relies on you, Sacred Teacher. I hope you will stay longer."

"I'm merely a passerby, the hundred races will need to rely on themselves." Li Qiye solemnly said.

#### [Chapter 1984: Opening The Path](#)

After the Heaven Search faction left, the two monarchs from Jilin left as well.

"Our clan is completely on your side, Sacred Teacher. Just summon us whenever you need." Jilin Immortal Monarch told Li Qiye while cupping his fist before leaving.

Li Qiye nodded quietly. This clan has helped him multiple times in the past, especially Night Monarch. Alas, the scene was still the same, but she was no longer there.

"Qi Gong will be going then, Sacred Teacher. I'll offer my service again in the future." Li Qiye said goodbye to the two monarchs from Divine Dragon Mountain as well.

Sunset Glow Fairy looked seriously at Li Qiye and said: "If you have time later, Sacred Teacher, please come to my grotto. I'll be waiting."

Li Qiye nodded and said softly: "Thank you for your help, fairy. I'll definitely visit you in the future to gaze at the moon and discuss the dao."

The fairy nodded back and cupped her fist before leaving.

"We'll be going as well, Sacred Teacher. The winding future will still need you to preside over everything." In the end, Immortal Emperor Can Long from Dragon Citadel left with his juniors.

"I'm sure my presence won't make a difference as long as the emperors work together." Li Qiye replied with a smile.

"You are the only one who can unite them, Sacred Teacher." Can Long said.

"Perhaps." Li Qiye also added: "I have destroyed Soaring Immortal."

"I know." Immortal Emperor Can Long paused for a moment before speaking slowly: "Asura neglected Soaring Immortal and Ren Xian debuting? It was decided from the start. Ren Xian himself knew that this day would come, albeit unwillingly."

After Immortal Emperor Ren Xian arrived at the tenth world, people at Can Long's level immediately realized Soaring Immortal's fate.

"Bu Zhan will be leaving too." Finally, this emperor also said goodbye.

"Well done in this battle. Your responsibility will be heavy in the future too." Li Qiye smiled in response.

"You're being too polite, Sacred Teacher. You have helped me many times back in the nine worlds and I have yet to repay you." The emperor smiled back: "And as for the responsibility, this is our duty. I'm not the only one who has paid the price on this road. The wise sages before us have paid much more."

Immortal Emperor Bu Zhan also cupped his fist and left in a cool manner. He came alone and left alone, walking all by himself on this lonely world. No one could trace his whereabouts.

Many Immortal Emperors established their own lineages in the tenth world, such as Immortal Emperor Can Zhong. However, Bu Zhan preferred to be alone.

He didn't even contact other Immortal Emperors and remained mysterious.

In the end, only Immortal Emperor Ming Du was left. He walked along with Li Qiye and eventually asked: "Teacher, is Necropolis doing well?"

"Yes. You know full well that even if the world turns into ashes, that place might come out just fine." Li Qiye chuckled.

"True." The emperor nodded and gazed into the distance: "I occasionally dream about Necropolis and ferrying people there."

He came from Necropolis, a being that shouldn't have been able to leave. However, Li Qiye asked the master of Ancestral Flow to let him go so that he could become an emperor.

This meant that he was different from everyone else, not belonging to any other race - neither human nor a ghost. However, back in Sacred Nether, the ghosts included him as an emperor of their race.

"Sentient beings will dream." Li Qiye said: "A few things will always linger in the heart, impossible to be severed completely."

"Yes." The emperor sighed: "The dao of the ferry is to do so everywhere, but my heart still drifts away. The tenth world, ultimately, is different from the nine worlds."

"There are too many memorable places in the nine worlds." Li Qiye agreed: "Just take your time since there is only going forward on this path. Walk the Yin Yang and ferry life and death, this is also a type of cycle."

"But there are so many beings, how can I ferry them all?" The emperor sighed.

"Everyone made different choices." Li Qiye said: "For example, Saint, how can he save all the beings? In the end, all the paths are endless, same for mine as well."

The emperor nodded: "Every time I worry, you would come to point me the way, Teacher."

Back when Li Qiye beseeched for Ming Du's sake, he promised to never teach the emperor any merit law or technique. Nevertheless, he taught him other things unrelated to cultivation and showed him a path forward.

"Your dao heart allows you to do this, perhaps one day, I'll need you to ferry me over as well." Li Qiye also stared at the horizon after making a joke.

"There's nothing in this world that you can't overcome, Teacher. Plus, you are meticulous with great vision, I won't be needing to ferry you." The emperor shook his head lightly.

"Nothing is guaranteed." Li Qiye said: "Anything is possible in the future, I'm confident about the final battle but the grand dao is full of struggles, otherwise, the people before us wouldn't have failed. I'm only thinking about the worst, that day might actually come."

The emperor became quiet and eventually said: "If that day comes, I'll certainly cross you over, Teacher."

Li Qiye replied sentimentally: "I know, and I do find solace in knowing that as long as our world is around, all of you will continue to work hard."

"Are you worrying about the final battle, Teacher?" Ming Du asked while looking at him.

He withdrew his gaze and said: "Perhaps. I can handle losing and death, but the lack of knowledge about the end puzzles me since no one has been able to come back out before."

"Teacher, you once said that as long as the heaven and earth are the judges, anything is possible." The emperor said.

"Yes, the heart is the greatest force, but the world might not be able to handle it. Otherwise, there wouldn't be cycles of epochs and races being destroyed. The scene changes into all shapes and forms, but in the end, the heart still rules over everything." Li Qiye said.

"So you still can't let go, Teacher." Ming Du understood Li Qiye's viewpoint.

Li Qiye said: "Though I have planted a seed and worked hard for the future, I don't know what it will blossom into."

The emperor quietly listened. Beings at their level had their own perspective.

"Nothing in this world can escape the whim of the heart. The eternal light and everlasting darkness - they exist for a reason and didn't come out of nowhere but stem from the hearts." Li Qiye continued: "Like Saint and Samsara, Saint didn't become the light for no reason and same with Samsara as the origin of darkness - all affected by karma and the heart of people. To look at the darkness from the light and light from the darkness - perhaps this stems from instinct or a fear of death, but it is still up to the whim of the people."

"There is a lot on your mind." Ming Du said.

Li Qiye softly answered: "I have confidence in myself and in the future, but not in the heart of people. The seed I've planted won't necessarily determine the result."

"I'm much more optimistic. Teacher, you have toiled for many eras, surely your flower will be to your wish." Ming Du said seriously.

"Nothing is certain until the final battle, which flower will blossom? Unfortunately, I can be determined and unyielding, but I have no control over the heart of others." Li Qiye gently shook his head.

Ming Du agreed: "You're right. Despite the inevitable death, nothing is as permanent as the heart of the people."

"That's why we can't save everyone, Saint can't make everyone good, and Samsara can't turn everyone to darkness. That's something we can never reach regardless of our power. The only thing within our ability is to show a path to this world, one with a sliver of hope, that's all." Li Qiye profoundly said.

[Chapter 1985: Take Off](#)

Immortal Emperor Ming Du finally left, leaving Li Qiye alone in this empty world.

He finally left as well but not before leaving a wistful remark: "Goodbye, Samsara. You are right, the darkness will never be extinguished by anybody, but don't forget, the light is also eternal. goodbye to you too, Saint. May your wish become true." With this, he turned and left the altar.

All eyes were on him, full of reverence. Not a single loud breath could be heard.

After seeing the departure of one emperor after another, all the spectators outside the wildland were trembling.

Though the regular experts weren't strong enough to witness the battle, they were aware that emperors from all the races were involved.

In this world, who had enough reputation to invite twenty emperors? Though the cultivators didn't know who Li Qiye was, the event today was indicative of his influence. This was a supreme overlord, one respected by the emperors.

This was more than enough. No one dared to pry or talk about Li Qiye's real identity. All in all, a few High Gods and old ancestors have heard of a few legends or listened to their emperors. This allowed them to have a good guess about his identity.

Of course, they wouldn't talk about it because this was a taboo subject. Only people at a certain level were allowed to touch on this matter. They didn't question his terrifying abilities either. Needless to talk about a past event like Emperor Hunt, just what had happened today was more than enough.

How many in this world would dare to challenge a dark overlord? But this secretive being had actually flattened one of them. The world should tremble before his might!

Because of this, these people didn't wish to incite a sect-destroying disaster from running their mouth. It could even bring trouble to their entire race, so the powerful High Gods remained cautious.

Samsara Wild Ancestor and Saint have disappeared along the river of time so the curtains of the wildland closed with them. Saint failed to save the epoch while Samsara failed to overcome the darkness.

When Li Qiye returned to Eternal, everyone was kneeling in silence including the guests and workers.

Some were even shuddering, especially the experts that have commented on Li Qiye before. They were drenched with sweat and scared out of their mind.

If Li Qiye wanted their lives, he wouldn't even need to lift a finger. Just one word from him and people would be more than happy to aid him.

"Rise." Li Qiye waved his sleeve and returned to his peak.

Jilin Princess and the others were standing inside but they couldn't speak at all, even the princess who had spent so much time with him. Plenty of words but they all eluded her.

"The future will require all of you, keep on cultivating." Li Qiye patted her soft hair and said: "You have boundless potential but you need to be the one elevating yourself."

"I'll carve your words into my mind, Young Noble." The princess said, realizing that Li Qiye wanted to leave.

Ultimately, they were not from the same world. His world was too vast and she could only look up at him, at least for now.

"The Jilin Clan has produced a great talent." Li Qiye nodded approvingly and smiled.

"Will I see you again?" The princess still asked despite knowing the answer due to the gap between their abilities.

"If it is meant to be." Li Qiye chuckled: "The path is long, just follow your heart and see how far you can go. The future is full of possibilities, so you may be able to obtain your goal."

"I see." The princess nodded with a newfound determination in her heart.

As for Shi Hunlin, he simply bowed deeply. Meeting someone like Li Qiye was a supreme honor and fortune.

Even the carefree Wu Qi felt his knees being weak due to his previous conversations with the guy that he deemed to be rude. He even called him brother, but his ancestors - the emperors from Dragon Citadel - still took the role of juniors.

It was a great disrespect so if his ancestors were to find out, a strict punishment was awaiting him. That's why his scalp was tingling while imagining the potential future and rough lessons.

"Hey!" As Li Qiye was about to leave, the quiet Wu Fengying shouted.

"Once again, my name is Li Qiye, not hey." Li Qiye turned back and said.

"Are you really leaving just like this?" Her eyes fixated on him as she took some time before asking.

This was scaring the soul out of Wu Qi. If their ancestors were to find out, some terrible punishment would await. That's why he tugged on her sleeve, reminding his sister to not mess around or it won't end so simply.

But Fengying ignored this gesture and continued glaring her eyes as wide as possible.

"How else am I going to leave?" Li Qiye joked at the angry girl.

Suddenly, Fengying suddenly mustered some courage out of nowhere and grabbed the back of his head before forcing a kiss on him.

Of course, her kiss was stilted and tense despite the aggressive nature of the endeavor. The rest of the group was astounded by this sudden development and couldn't calm down at all.

She finally let go of him and became quite embarrassed. She took a step backward, blushed and not knowing where to place her hands. The boldness earlier was gone and she was facing the aftermath.

"I'm the victim here so why are you the embarrassed one?" Li Qiye shook his head and said.

She lowered her head like a little girl, no longer as bold and fierce like before - a striking contrast.

The group was speechless and thought that Fengying was the boldest woman they have ever met.

“Goodbye, little girl.” In the end, Li Qiye gently kissed the princess’ head. He then disappeared into the horizon with a smile on his face.

The princess and Wu Fengying continued to stare towards his departing direction until he was completely out of sight. After a long time, they regained their wits. The princess told Fengying with a tinge of disappointment: “Let’s go back. Hmm, I won’t be coming out for a long time.”

Fengying nodded but on the contrary, her mind was feeling quite satisfied.

“Sis, what was it like?” The playful Wu Qi grabbed his sister’s sleeve and blinked.

The blushed woman erupted and pulled up her sleeves: “Smelly brat, you’re itching for a beating?”

“No, no, of course not.” The youth was terrified and forced an awkward smile.

Hunlin watched the youth and reflected on his own life: “I’m leaving as well. Time for me to enjoy my old age, no need to risk my life any longer.”

#### [Chapter 1986: Yao Village](#)

Pure was forced into a state of tranquility after the shocking battle. Many great powers and imperial lineages decided to go into shutdown mode.

Powerful ancestors warned their disciples to not go outside and cause trouble. This was a special moment because these powers chose to cut themselves off from the outside world.

Jin Ge’s ascension was supposed to be an exciting matter in Pure but no one was talking about it any longer.

The battle at wildland was unavailable to cultivators outside of Pure. Nevertheless, they could still feel the fluctuation from the world-destroying energy. The weaker ones were unaware but still suppressed by the power.

After the battle, the former didn’t want to talk about it while the weak only heard that it was a taboo subject. This was the reason for the silence in Pure.

The juniors were curious but the seniors were careful and continuously warned them against a possible disaster from being too nosy.

There was still something good that comes from this. Because of the general isolation, the young ones trained much harder. In just a few years, more talents came out of Pure than before.

Li Qiye left Pure after the battle. War-Monarch Heaven Emperor and Immortal Monarch Jilin’s groups worked together to open a passageway to Arrogance for him, allowing a smooth trip.

There was a reason for choosing Arrogance. It was a haven and had the greatest population of the hundred races in all thirteen continents. They have been here for the longest.

Thus, the three races seemed weaker in comparison in this land.

The reason for its prosperity was due to the old sages, but of course, the biggest contributor was Immortal Emperor Jiao Heng.

He reigned over his aura and changed the name of the continent from White to Arrogance.

Moreover, he went as far as announcing a complete separation of the hundred races from their overlords and made this place a haven.

Because of this, the children of Arrogance all remembered and sang praises of his title for generations.

Li Qiye didn't meet up with the group from the nine worlds right away. His destination was an ordinary place full of mountains and towering trees. Deers and eagles were a common sight. Waterfalls scattered all over the place.

Small villages were around due to the sparse population. He stood on top of a peak to look at the villages shrouded in smoke billowing from the stoves.

The peak he was standing on was completely straight and perilous. A mortal had no way of reaching its pinnacle.

On top were numerous graves with only names on the tablets, nothing else. There must have been more than one hundred - all were unadorned and simple.

No one has been here taking care of this place but weeds and foliage didn't take over, only a few blades of grasses growing through the stony crevices here and there.

He poured good wine on them before leaning back to look at the distance.

"Watching the sunset while growing older, surrounded by children and grandchildren while dying of old age, that's not too bad. Mortals would praise such a life filled with fortune and longevity, surely a life worth living." Li Qiye chuckled while drinking and looking at the smoke emanating from the villages.

No one knew that these graves belonged to existences that have once threatened the thirteen continents. Many of them were experts at the divine level for they were the fiercest of generals. They rode on the battlefield while their fame alone was enough to rob their enemies of courage.

The wind gently blew while he sat there quietly: "That's people for you. As a mortal ant, one would yearn to be a cultivator, wanting to fly across the sky and earth, through the mountains and rivers, live among the clouds, eat nothing but dew and mist..."

"... After becoming a true expert and experiencing enough, seeing too much and understanding the mysteries, they would see that being a mortal is actually quite nice. Ignorance is bliss, or so they say. Living for only decades from birth till death, no need to experience hardships. Having parents and children, to live and die is more than enough." He gently sighed.

He took another sip and said softly: "I do envy you guys, able to let go, going back to your home and hang up your armors, leaving the cultivation world and years of domination. Unfortunately, I can't do it even if the opportunity were to come one day. Regardless of the future, I can only tread forward without rest. Who can I blame for making me this way?"

He stayed here for several more days to watch the sun goes up and down, the clouds gather and disperse, as if this scene didn't bore him at all.

"Goodbye, old friends, rest well." He finally stood up and grabbed a handful of soil before releasing them to the wind. He looked at these graves one last time before leaving.

Not far from this peak was a fair-sized village with only several dozen families. They relied on hunting to get through the day. When the sun went up, they toiled; when the sun came down, it was time to rest.

It had this name because all of the villagers had the last name, Yao. They actually didn't know where they came from, only that their ancestors have been staying here all along.

Yao didn't seem different from other villages, still focused on hunting and farming for subsistence.

A gurgling stream ran by the entrance of the village. When the sun rose from the hills, its rays fell on the stream, resulting in bright reflection.

Li Qiye was leaning on an old locust tree by the stream to look at Yao in the morning.

Repetition could be heard already from both boys and girls. They were coming from a field nearby. Normally, it was used to sunbathe certain commodities, but now, these children were sitting cross-legged there to meditate.

"A king holds his head high, always calm and collected regardless of the situation..." A pleasant voice was coming from an older lass. She enunciated each word clearly in order to teach these young villagers dao laws.

"A king holds his head high, always calm and collected regardless of the situation..." The sitting children slowly repeated after her.

The lass was around sixteen years of age. She wasn't overly pretty but had an appearance that warms the heart and delights the eye. Her oval shaped face was white and soft with a pair of lovely and spirited eyes.

She had no makeup as she looked up in the sky. Her dress was also simple but it didn't diminish her beauty. Her hair casually draped on her back, natural and youthful.

The repetition continued as she chanted mantras and the children repeated after her. It made the village much more interesting and alive.

Li Qiye couldn't help but smile as if he was brought back to the past.

In the olden days, there have been people just like her spreading the dao in this village while the children's voice echoed to the sky.

As the sun rose higher, the lass finally finished this section. She stood up and said: "We'll stop here today, go home now."

"Yay! Time to eat!" A few kids jumped up excitedly and ran back to their house like the wind.

"Big Sis Ting, when are you going to teach us real skills, so we can fly just like you?" One kid asked with a wishful flash in his cute, round eyes.

## [Chapter 1987: Yao Ting](#)

The lass slightly bent down while looking at the kid's wishful stare: "Wait until you're done learning these mantras before learning how to fly. It's just like learning how to run, you must walk first."

"Oh, I see." The kid nodded as if he understood before shouting and running back home.

After all the children went home, the lass finally stood up and stared at Li Qiye by the village entrance. Her expression was one of prudence as she walked closer towards him.

In fact, an outsider like him had caught her attention in the very beginning.

He simply smiled and crossed through the stream to meet up with her with a nonchalant attitude.

"May I ask where you are from and your destination, Dao Brother?" She cupped her fist and asked in a natural and polite manner.

In a hundred miles radius of Yao was devoid of any other village. This was her home and she rarely saw outsiders due to the remoteness of the area.

She was someone who had seen big shots before and immediately knew that Li Qiye was a cultivator. She was rightfully careful because Yao was only a small village in the mortal world but a cultivator has just arrived.

"Just a passerby crossing through this place." Li Qiye was also carefree.

"My name is Yao Ting, what about you, Dao Brother?" She asked.

"Li Qiye." He answered while walking into the village. Yao Ting also hurriedly accompanied him.

It was more accurate to say that she was keeping an eye on him. It was one thing if he was a mortal, but this was a cultivator. Nevertheless, Yao being a tiny village with nothing worthwhile did calm her down a bit. There was nothing here for outsiders to covet.

"Who taught you your Emperors Art?" He casually asked.

"A teacher from the Celestial Academy." She answered while keeping it vague.

Of course, she wasn't surprised that he knew about it because many cultivators have heard of it before.

This was one of the three great arts that were widely spread. Even mortals knew about it.

However, any cultivator in Arrogance would shudder after hearing the name of the academy and be filled with reverence. Celestial was quite famous in Arrogance and the rest of the world.

She was very attentive watching his expression and saw zero changes. This scared her due to the implication within.

"The instruction is too general, not reaching the fundamental essences of the art." Li Qiye commented.

Her heart sank after hearing this while her breathing slowed down. If an outsider were to hear this, they would definitely think that he didn't know the immensity of the heaven and earth.

Celestial was the most powerful academy in the world. One would be hard pressed to find another similar place.

Immortal Emperor Fei created it and laid down enough foundation to make it special. Even Deep South Divine Emperor, a being with twelve wills, came to celebrate its founding.

No one dared to cause trouble on that day; this was indicative of its strong foundation for ages to come. Later on, many emperors and High Gods came as guests.

For cultivators, especially the one with a humble beginning, being admitted to the academy was a supreme glory. As for the teachers there? Not one of them was weak.

But now, Li Qiye dared to critique the teachings of one? People would think that he was crazy and arrogant from being disrespectful.

Yao Ting didn't become angry and pondered the possibilities instead.

Their stroll attracted the attention of many villagers since he was an outsider after all. Nevertheless, Yao Ting's presence made them at ease.

She was their pride. Even though they didn't fully understand the height of the academy, they knew that being accepted was an honorable accomplishment. Because of her success, the royal lord of this country gave this territory to their village, allowing them to prosper even more.

Near the entrance was a small and old shrine surrounded by weeds. The wooden doors were tightly shut and creaking because of the wind. Nevertheless, it performed its duty and guarded the shrine.

Li Qiye stood silently in front and stared at the shrine.

Yao Ting was quite surprised because as she grew up, the shrine has been here the whole time. There was nothing unique and special about it. Thus, his action piqued her curiosity. She has never seen anyone opening this shrine before.

"What's special about this shrine?" She checked his intention.

"I don't know, just looking, that's all." Li Qiye chuckled and answered right away.

She didn't believe him at all. An outsider appearing out of nowhere and staring at an inconspicuous shrine?

"Ever since I was young, no one has open the shrine before. We villagers don't know what's inside." She continued her test.

"Not knowing is a good thing, a type of happiness." He said.

She didn't get anything out of him, unable to figure out the next course of action.

"How did you enter the academy?" He finally withdrew his gaze and asked with an insipid tone.

She didn't hide anything: "When I was young, Teacher came by and saw that I had a strong Dao affinity, suitable for cultivation, so Teacher took be back to learn at the academy."

A while passed before he answered: "The world is an unavoidable and unchanging cycle, people will come and go, return and leave."

She had no idea what he was talking about.

He didn't say anything else and only gave another glance at the shrine before leaving.

She followed him and eventually asked: "Dao Brother, would you like to visit my humble abode for a bit?"

She still wished to understand his intention in coming here.

"No need, we'll meet again if it's meant to be." Li Qiye smiled and refused her invitation before continuing forward.

Her goal was supervising him in order to avoid unnecessary trouble and he certainly knew this. After a long walk, he told her: "Can't see me off forever. Don't worry, I don't bear any ill-will towards your village."

She continued to watch from a high vantage point and finally heaved a sigh of relief after he was gone completely.

In the next several days, she remained cautious and watched the entire village. Nothing happened so she assumed that he had left.

This meeting made her very curious about the tiny shrine unlike before. There must have been a reason for his arrival, so she wanted to find out what was inside.

She went to ask everyone in the village, but even the oldest grandpa knew nothing about it, only that the shrine has been there ever since they were born.

### [Chapter 1988: Old Tofu Maker](#)

There existed a fair-sized city built and paved with stones. Who knows how many years it has been since its foundation but the walls were in a state of disrepair. Arrows filled the gaps along with holes from successive attacks.

People came and went; the city witnessed one era after another. The pebbles were polished by the feet of pedestrians. Some streets were even shiny from this effect.

Its architectural style consisted of streams and bridges weaving through the old buildings. This was a peaceful area for its citizens. Everyone here practically knew each other due to the small number.

If you were to ask about the most famous thing in the city, the people here would inadvertently shout out: "The old tofu maker."

If you were to ask about the happiest thing in the city, they would also shout: "Lining up to buy some tofu puddings."

Perhaps one wouldn't remember the name of this little place or its scenic spots, but they would definitely remember the tofu there. It would be an unforgettable experience, if you could buy it.

The citizens here couldn't really say what the old man was like, not even the oldest among them. There was only one impression - his tofu pudding. His existence and tofu went hand in hand.

As for his last name, his background, and the type of man he was? This remained a mystery to everyone.

"The old tofu maker, I see." Li Qiye also smiled lightly after entering the city.

"Creak." One could hear the sounds of a shoulder pole carrying something coming from an alley. The people in the vicinity became excited right away.

"He's here!" Someone shouted and was answered with erupting waves of laughter of children and young ladies. Footsteps resounded and a long line was formed right away on this street.

An old man shouldering two casks were coming. His face was covered with wrinkles, an indelible effect of time. He wore a hemp robe with a cloth over his shoulder in order to ease the pain from carrying the pole. Despite the two casks full of tofu pudding, his steps were still quite strong, giving off of old but vigorous.

He walked up to the line and dropped down the heavy casks. With a wooden ladle, he lifted the thin cloth covering the casks and said: "Opening shop now, come line up."

All of his actions were smooth, unwasted, and precise. He scooped a ladle-full into the bowl of the girl standing in front. She happily placed a bronze coin into a pouch hanging on his waist and left with her bowl full of tofu.

"Grandpa, get me one also, I lined up for nothing yesterday." So many people salivated at the sight of the white tofu, especially after smelling that permeating fragrance of the soybean.

Because of this, some stretched out their neck while staring at the two casks, afraid that it would run out before their turn.

Alas, the bottom of the casks was quickly seen since the old man finally finished selling his daily portions. He patted the pouch on his waist and heard the coins clanking and smiled: "All gone now, come early tomorrow."

He began to pack up.

"Sigh, grandpa, just two casks a day? We don't like it at all, you're just toying with us. The neighborhood would like to ask you to make four each day." A neighbor complained.

The old man ignored the complaint and tied the casks on the pole again before slowly carrying them away, slightly swinging back and forth.

Li Qiye also strolled leisurely after the old man.

The neighbors who failed could only make some querulous remarks before dispersing. The old man has been selling tofu here for several dozen years regardless of the weather. Moreover, the amount was always two casks. They could do nothing but to come even earlier the next day.

The old man's place was only a street away from his selling place. It was a tiny courtyard surrounded by a wall.

This yard was quite old, even the steps to the entrance have caved down a bit. After returning, he placed the casks down and stretched before taking out a big bucket of soybean. He grabbed a handful and began selecting them under the sunlight.

The taste of the tofu pudding was very dependent on the soybeans. Thus, the old man only used the biggest beans. He threw away the dried and bad ones before peeling his selection.

He was very meticulous. A bean with the slightest sign of being damaged by insects would be taken out. This complete concentration seemed as if he had forgotten about the rest of the world - only the beans were on his mind.

Li Qiye came in and leaned back on a tree to watch without disturbing the old man.

Once the sun was falling to the west, the old man finally finished with his bucket. He stretched his waist and slightly narrowed his eyes: "Young man, you have some business?"

Li Qiye chuckled in response: "I'm only here to visit you, and also see this place."

"What's there to see, there's only an old man like me here." He shook his head and said.

Li Qiye sentimentally stated: "There is a path to everything as long as one has enough perseverance. When one is determined enough, whether it be selling tofu pudding, straw mats, or roasted chicken, these are all different dao. After reaching the end of the path, you aren't seeing any obscured mysteries, only a persevering dao heart. Not many realize this."

The old man was surprised before becoming serious. He cupped his fist and said: "Fellow Daoist, where are you from?"

"Only a passerby from a distant land." Li Qiye smiled and blew a breath of air at the peeled strips of bean skin on the ground.

"Poof." The strips danced in the air before forming a crow. It circled above the old man's head before falling down. Next, only the same strips were left.

After seeing this, the old man slightly trembled before bowing deeply towards Li Qiye: "Oh, so it is you, Sacred Teacher. Excuse me for the lack of reception."

"No need to be so polite." Li Qiye smiled: "Though we aren't on the same side, we still share the same origin. You are quite unique in the thirteen continents."

"You're too kind, Sacred Teacher. Please come in." The old man smiled and invited Li Qiye inside.

Li Qiye glanced at the room and saw its simplicity; there was nothing but a table. Not a single speck of dust either.

"If I have to name a goal in coming here, then it would be to have a bowl of tofu pudding, your refined art in this generation." Li Qiye wasn't shy with his request.

"You came at the right time, Sacred Teacher, I do have a bowl." The old man said with a smile.

Just a moment later, he placed a hot bowl of pudding in front of Li Qiye. The guy showed no reservation and began to dig in in a slow manner with his soon. He enjoyed this as if it was an immortal liquid.

It didn't take long before he emptied the bowl. He wiped his mouth, satisfied, and said: "A common dish of the mortal world, when made by you, have become a delicacy. As long as the heart is there, even the ordinary will become magical."

### [Chapter 1989: Old Maker](#)

The old man remained cool and collected without any sign of complacency or humbleness after hearing the praise.

"You have traveled through the world, one continent to another, Golden, Pure, Arrogance... Vast they might be, you'll finish walking through them all the same. In each place, you change your craft, only one in each generation. This is quite a puzzling thing to others, making sesame cakes, straw mats, or tofu pudding. All of these different jobs you were able to reach the apex with." Li Qiye revealed.

"Sacred Teacher, please don't laugh. I'm simply trying to make it through the long years." The old man smiled.

Li Qiye smiled back: "Only killing time is not enough to polish a dao heart. Only by truly living out life would one be able to reach the top of different things, each a grand dao in and of itself."

"Only through experience would one be able to appreciate the colorful world." The old man said: "I can't be as magnificent as you, determined to sweep through the myriad ages. I am but a pebble in this epoch inside the river of time, just moving with the flow and tasting the unique scenes of the world."

"There's nothing bad about that." Li Qiye chuckled: "Though emperors are destined to be great and reach the apex, having a different perspective is nice too. However, it is because the majority of them don't have a choice, scared of the Heavenly Execution, not daring to step out to the world. You don't have to worry about this so you can enjoy in the prosperity, so this is indeed a wondrous path for an emperor."

"I blame it on my lacking talents, unable to dominate like my peers." The old man humbly responded.

Li Qiye chuckled and thought that this tiny room was another world, at least in the eyes of the old man.

"Sacred Teacher, may I ask for the purpose of your visit?" The old man respectfully asked with cupped fist.

"If there was a dao heart in this world worthy enough for me to light up again in our epoch, it would certainly be yours, not counting my own. Thus, that is my purpose, do you believe me?" Li Qiye couldn't help but smile.

Anyone else who could understand the implication would be frightened but the old man gently shook his head: "My feeble self can't get into your sight. Lighting me up will have a limited effect too, it won't reach your desired result."

Li Qiye replied: "I'm just joking. Since I'm already at Arrogance and you're here too, I wanted to come take a look at the miracle of the world. It is certainly worth my time."

The old man shook his head again: "You're too kind, Sacred Teacher. I'm only blessed by the heaven, this little dao is not worth mentioning."

To which Li Qiye retorted: “The old villainous heaven has never given a damn about anyone and even if it wanted to, it wouldn’t be possible. You’re the only one who can do this, you have reached a balance with the heaven and earth, allowing you to live.”

“Part of this is because the other emperors favored me as well.” The old man said: “They have taught me a lot. Deep South Divine Emperor, World Emperor, Crimson Emperor, and a few others have taught me about the profundity of the grand dao.”

“You’re being too humbled now.” Li Qiye disagreed: “They didn’t teach you anything, only wanting to see the mysteries of the heaven and earth on you, the harmonious balance. Unfortunately, they couldn’t replicate it.”

“They have certainly tried, maybe some will be successful later on.” The old man said.

Li Qiye shook his head: “Too difficult. The emperors from the thirteen continents and the nine worlds all want to take the next step to reach the apex, same with me. To reach our current level, we have all fought against the heaven and earth, ourselves too. No one can truly be freed from ambition and thoughts. Some emperors could reach a zen state, letting go of all thoughts, but that is taking a step back in order to jump even farther.”

“Except for you.” He continued while looking at the old man: “Once reaching this balanced state on the grand dao, even if you’re not immortal, you’re certainly not far from it. Not taking from the heaven and earth and not punishing yourself, this is balance. For a mortal, if he could reach this mindset, he could live for a hundred years. As for an emperor like you, this grants you longevity and free passage in the world without the looming threat of the execution.”

“So many of your peers desire this, but no one can do it, outside for you and Mu Zhuo. However, he took it one step further and reached a state of repugnancy. Even the villainous heaven doesn’t want him, so he can’t die even if he wanted to.”

“Fellow Daoist Mu Zhuo’s grand dao is commendable.” The old man said: “I had the fortune of meeting him before. In terms of grand dao, his is too profound, not something we can do either.”

Li Qiye smiled and shook his head: “He has gone quite far on his dao, a place no one has reached before. However, he is waiting for death while you are living, a fundamental difference. Plus, you are also peerless on your path, all the other emperors have failed in trying to copy you.”

“This boils down to my contentedness and lack of ambition.” The old man said: “The top emperors are too ambitious, enough to shoulder twelve Heaven’s Wills and the power of the ages. That’s not something I can do either.”

“To gain is to lose.” Li Qiye gently sighed: “Twelve Heaven’s Wills can indeed allow one to reach the apex, but to gain for oneself is to take away from the world. That’s why the Heavenly Execution is there, not allowing them to live forever. Perhaps this is how it should be.”

“I am quite lucky to be like this right now.” The old man said.

“No such thing.” Li Qiye disagreed again: “Step by step to reach the will, your struggle was far more than anyone else. The arduous path towards the dao is unknown to those who have yet to experience it. The world only sees the glory of the emperors, not their pain and effort.”

The old man said: "The world also doesn't know about your great acts, Sacred Teacher, yet you still protect this world quietly in the shadows."

Li Qiye shook his head: "Not for much longer, it is the responsibility of emperors to protect it now."

The old man wasn't surprised to hear this. He nonchalantly asked: "What do you ask of me, Sacred Teacher? As long as it is possible, I will try my best. Though we are not from the same race, your doings and achievements demand our help."

"It's nothing." Li Qiye said earlier: "Well, my comment earlier wasn't a joke entirely. Of course, I'm not going to light you, not right now. But when that day comes in the future, you can warn the world."

"I understand, you're still worrying." The old man said.

"Worry is a strong word, it is just that I should do what I can, that's all." Li Qiye said: "I'm sure that day is inevitable, who do you think will persevere or falter?"

The old man pondered before carefully replying: "I am too weak. The perspectives of the emperors are far beyond my grasp."

The old man was prudent with his words because he wasn't sure either. His answers would have an impact on their reputation and life.

"I don't blame you." This was within Li Qiye's expectation: "Everyone can falter, but I'm confident that one person's dao heart won't - yours!"

"I appreciate your kind words." The old man hurriedly said.

Li Qiye continued while shaking his head: "Kind words? No, I am pushing you towards your death. You know this."

The old man eventually asked: "If there is meaning in my death, I certainly won't be afraid."

"I know you will not be afraid, unlike the other emperors. That's why I'm here to see you." Li Qiye nodded.

"The problem is my weak cultivation. I won't be able to stop the waves in the future. Only twelve-will emperors can." The old man said.

"No one can be so sure, power alone doesn't mean they can bring prosperity to the world. Really, if these top beings will not hurt others when that day comes, it will already be quite amazing of them. As for whether to pay the price for the sake of others, that's too hard to say and predict." Li Qiye said flatly.

"I'm sure some will step up and protect, such as World Emperor." The old man asserted.

"Geezer Qian? I'm not trying to put down my lifelong rival, but I'm afraid that it will be out of his control too." Li Qiye chuckled.

### [Chapter 1990: Responsibilities Of Emperors](#)

The old man had no response to Li Qiye's pessimism. Keep in mind that World Emperor had twelve wills and even a True Immortal Armament.

No one actually knew how powerful he was, but if one had to pick the strongest emperor in the thirteen continents, he would certainly be in the conversation.

If someone of his level would become helpless in the future, just how terrifying was the darkness?

He eventually said: "Though I come from the divine race, bias aside, it is hard to find someone else in the three races that can compare to World Emperor. That's why, I'm confident that regardless of the assaulting darkness, World Emperor will hold onto his principles and work for the sake of the continents."

He remained confident and spoke what was on his mind despite knowing that Li Qiye didn't get along with World Emperor.

"I hope so." Li Qiye nodded without refuting.

"Sacred Teacher, what is your path? Do you wish to raise your banner to gather the emperors for the ultimate expedition? After the empresses went back then, there was a lack of result. The thirteen continents calmed down again and no one else brought the expedition up, not even World Emperor or Crimson Emperor."

"It'll come, but not right now." Li Qiye said while shaking his head: "It is a peerless and toughest war for anyone, I can't carelessly start it without enough preparation!"

There had only been six expeditions in this epoch. So many brilliant emperors and sages have started on this path, only to never be heard of again.

"Right." The old man nodded: "After Immortal Emperor Qi Zhen started the call, all of the emperors started training before embarking."

"That's only training." Li Qiye said: "In fact, the preparation time for an expedition exceeds your imagination. Qi Zhen already had this idea ever since Min Ren's fifth one, not just on a whim. She still needed time back then for more preparation so Min Ren started his before her."

The old man was aware of the difficulties despite not participating in one. Each emperor needed to pay a heavy price. It was a long war with no time for breaks along the way.

No one knew who started the first expedition, only that Origin Heaven Emperor initiated the second.

The second expedition coincided with the start of the emperors era. It wasn't as prosperous right now so he didn't get as many members joining in.

As for the third expedition by Immortal Emperor Fei and Deep South Divine Emperor, the three races were enjoying their golden age. This one was on a massive scale compared to the previous.

Then Immortal Emperor Gu Chun called for the fourth, this was indicative of the rise of the hundred races, establishing their position in the world.

As for the fifth one, it was now the golden age of the hundred races. Many emperors from both sides joined in; the racial barrier seemed to be gone.

The sixth one was a message to the world - that women weren't inferior to men.

A long period separated each expedition, up to a dozen eras. In short, each expedition was very nerve-racking, a busy time for the emperor wanting to start it from the first thought till the rising of the banner.

The old man continued: "I'm sure you have prepared for a long time now, Sacred Teacher. If you can win, the darkness won't even be considered a threat to our epoch. What are you actually worried about? The difficult final battle or the well-being of our epoch, or something else?"

"I'm not caring too much about the light or darkness, it's just that this is my world." Li Qiye said: "I'm certain that in a few eras, the destruction will come. Many emperors can sense this and are preparing to face this problem. Before the destruction will be the darkness. I won't be here anymore so I can only leave behind a little reminder, a warning even. The actual protecting won't be done by me."

The old man stopped inquiring. If Li Qiye were to leave one day, he certainly had his reasons. There must have been something even more important that he wanted to do.

As for the location, he didn't ask because it was beyond his level.

"I'll do my best if I can be useful regardless of the effectiveness and without any hesitation. Sacred Teacher, I know what I must do even if you didn't come to ask me." The old man solemnly nodded.

"I know." The old man's attitude was within his expectation.

The old man sighed and said: "This is the responsibility of emperors. The ascension is not only to grow stronger but to also be able to shoulder the responsibility that comes with greater power. Otherwise, those who have died along the way of our ascension would have all been in vain, friends or foes alike. They allowed the emperors to have experiences through blood; their bones paved the way towards the throne laden with burdens. Without this responsibility, becoming an emperor would be quite meaningless."

The old man was being very serious. Many must die along the way during a competition for the throne, not only the enemies but also friends and lovers. Thus, to avoid the responsibility was to let all of them down. For example, why did World Emperor always oppose the Dark Crow? He felt that he had a duty towards the Heaven Race.

"Not everyone can maintain their original wish, not even emperors." Li Qiye asserted.

The old man didn't answer since he didn't wish to comment on his peers.

"Sacred Teacher, how do you think the darkness will assault us?" The old man said.

Li Qiye smiled coldly in response: "In our epoch, a few people have visited Samsara Wild Ancestor before for questions. Because there are vigilant watchmen, they haven't harvested the eras like Samsara so they thought about going a step further, a complete harvest. But as for the method, I do not know. But one thing is for certain, the world won't just turn into a wildland and it won't be simple as Samsara's life harvest."

The old man became quiet because Li Qiye has always been watching the people in this world. His speculation was certainly accurate so if they were to fail against the darkness, their epoch would become history.

The entire world was only a fat piece of meat in the eyes of those lurking in the shadow. The winter was coming, and the brown bears needed to eat a prey big enough to make it through.

This was the way of Samsara, harvesting the eras just to accumulate enough resources to survive the terrible ages and the destruction. Alas, this also trapped him inside his own epoch.

But for a few existences, just living was enough, even if it meant being inside a prison. They would pay any price without hesitation - including using the rest of the world as nutrition.

It was indeed hard for the emperors to remain staunch against the darkness.