Emperor 2201

Chapter 2201: One Slash Deciding Everything

"The power of the dao source! Commence the defensive barriers!" Both Yang Radiance Buddha and Myriad-armed King were aghast.

"Boom!" The alliance formed a line of defense resembling an impregnable fortress with mighty walls.

"Clank!" The slash came down and all turned to dust. Even the gods would be annihilated fully for this slash could be considered the deadliest.

The defensive formation consisted of True Emperor and Eternal-level weapons, but that was far from enough. It crumbled instantly as blood splashed like squid ink.

A rain of blood poured down. Several thousand elites were massacred. Even minor True Gods fell from one slash while the stronger ancestors were blown flying.

Only several hundred people were lucky enough to survive this first attack, the ancestors and True Gods. Anyone weaker had no chance of surviving. The ones alive suffered heavy injuries as well.

This scene naturally shocked everyone present. The slash was too terrifying; people rightfully shuddered before it.

"Forefather! We're saved now!" One teary member emotionally shouted.

Li Qian was emotional as well. He knew that Li Qiye was unfathomable but just one slash to virtually annihilate that alliance? It was as if a True Emperor was present. No, he was much fiercer than the majority of True Emperors.

"Over there!" Yang Radiance Buddha and Myriad-armed King noticed a particular palace. They commanded the survivors to rush there.

"Boom!" The attack destroyed the palace, leaving a young man standing there in the process of refining a pill cauldron.

There were an old man and a young girl behind him, acting as the assistants. This trio was naturally Li Qiye, Zhu Sijing, and Yang Shengping.

The several hundred True Gods instantly surrounded Li Qiye but he didn't give a damn about them. His eyes were fixated on the cauldron.

A dragon was swimming around it with increasing speed while howling. It eventually formed a tornado while exuding its immense draconic aura.

At the same time, its golden scales were resplendent like shimmering gold bars, quite an intimidating beast.

"Rumble!" The alliance formed gigantic shields, afraid of another attack. They also took out their treasures once more in order to deliver the fatal blow.

They could see that he could control the dao source of Insane Court. Thus, they were watching and waiting for an opening from him, not giving him a chance to use the dao source.

"Fourth tribulation Longevity Pill, Roaming Dragon with golden scales, this is the work of a grandmaster." Yang Radiance Buddha realized something during this tense moment.

Suddenly, one of their ancestors jumped out and rushed to the cauldron, smacking his lips like crazy: "This, this flame control art, so unique, damn, I've never seen it in action, only in the scrolls."

This was an ancestor, white in all aspects and wore a hemp robe. He had a gourd hanging on his waist and a young and rather adorable face.

"Pill King, watch out!" The Buddha loudly warned.

This ancestor was very important to their alliance. He was a high-level alchemist, capable of healing people.

"It's no big deal, you guys fight, I'll just do my own things." The old man's eyes flashed. For an alchemist like him, Li Qiye's flame control and pill refinement technique were too tempting, like a thief looking at a treasury.

The king was only inches away from the cauldron, completely fixated on it. He took a deep breath to smell the medicinal fragrance and pushed out his tongue to taste the air: "Your materials for this batch are quite bad, barely at the entry level. The best one is only seven million years old. Any other alchemist would only be able to create a third tribulation pill at beast... Strange, judging by the materials, even a grandmaster would find it difficult to create a fourth tribulation cauldron, the requirements are really too unreasonable, only a few in Three Immortals would be able to do it, and certainly none in Immortal Lineage. It's not something I can do after trying for a lifetime anyway."

Under normal circumstances, this comment would frighten everyone since the Pill King was very influential in Myriad Lineage. However, this was the battlefield and his side didn't have the mind to listen to him.

"You... you're not just trying to finish a fourth tribulation batch but this dragon has golden scales too. The result would be superb." He swallowed his saliva and said: "You, no, senior, you are too heaven-defying."

His loss of composure was understandable. As an alchemist, he was able to see just how terrifying Li Qiye's alchemy was.

The sign of the fourth tribulation appeared - the roaming dragon. This assured that the batch would be of the fourth rank.

In theory, the spirits of the materials needed to be five million years and older to create such a batch. If they were younger than that, even a grandmaster alchemist can't do it. They would only create a third-ranked batch at best. This wasn't the case for Li Qiye right now.

There were signs of the fourth tribulation, especially the golden scales. This meant that it was the finest of the finest. Normally, the materials would need to be ten million years old for this to happen.

Thus, Li Qiye essentially used the worst materials to create the best pills. Any alchemist aware of this fact would be astounded.

"Ra!" The dragon was no longer coiling around the cauldron but wanted to escape by breaking space.

The Pill King found it hard to breathe. This was the key moment of the refinement process. If the dragon were to escape, then these pills would become trash. If the beast were to enter the cauldron, then success was imminent.

"Open!" Li Qiye roared and the flame oozed out like laws to lock the dragon, pulling it into the cauldron.

"Now!" The alliance was waiting for this exact moment when he was distracted by the refinement process. All attacked at the same time by gathering their power on the shield.

It flew like a planet straight for him, causing detonations in its wake.

"No, don't do it! Let him finish the cauldron first then fight later!" The Pill King was startled and jumped up to shout.

Alas, he was too late to stop this.

Chapter 2202: Peerless

"Boom!" The planetary-scale attack had a world-destroying force. The buildings around crumbled instantly while the ground was being scorched.

The Pill King tried to stop this from happening since he wanted to see the completion of this cauldron.

The resonating blow didn't mean much to Li Qiye. He used one hand to control the cauldron and made a palm with the other.

"Boom!" A dazzling radiance came out from his palm in the form of a maelstrom. It was as if the dao source itself was within his grasp.

In the next second, a ray of light shot out. This was something that could cross through the endless river of time. No one could stop this strike.

"That's the dao source in his palm!" Yang Radiance Buddha and the rest weren't expecting this but it was already too late.

Not even in their dream did they expect for this guy to control the dao source so expertly. This was something that should be impossible but he had done it. Even a True Emperor would find it prohibitive to exhibit this level of control, let alone an unknown junior.

The ray of light slammed into their combined attack, resulting in a blast reverberating across the royal court.

Their attack shattered instantly along with their gigantic wall of shields. Several hundred ancestors were blown flying while vomiting blood from the impact, including the Buddha and Myriad-armed King.

All felt their blood and energy churning out of control, hence blood gushing up their throat.

"Clank!" Primordial laws appeared from the ground before they could get up and coiled tightly around them like iron chains.

"Activate!" They struggled to get free, evident by the loud screams - all futile.

"Poof!" Meanwhile, the flame was returning to the cauldron like a receding tide at the perfect time.

"Gather!" He opened the cauldron and placed the pills inside a bottle. This fourth tribulation cauldron was done guite well.

A moment later, he poured out one pill and took a careful look. There was a pill energy circulating on the surface in the shape of a dragon, occasionally issuing its roar. Even a True God would covet this level of pill.

"Wow, that's a good pill..." The Pill King widened his eyes and loudly praised.

He rubbed his palms together and smiled wryly: "Haha, Dao Brother, mind letting this old man take a look at your pill?"

His own allies were speechless. They were fighting to the death just now but he, on the other hand, was acting all chummy with the guy. Alas, they were aware of his love for alchemy because that was a necessary prerequisite for him to reach his current level.

Li Qiye glanced at the guy and casually tossed the pill at him.

He carefully caught it and took a look. His reputation was well-deserved since he recognized the peculiarities instantly: "The finest level. Even for a grand True God, if this is their first time using it, this pill can probably prolong their life by eight thousand years. It's extraordinary to be able to craft this pill given the shabby materials. Simply incredible and impossible to imitate."

His allied ancestors glanced at each other since these Longevity Pills were very tempting at their age.

The Pill King returned it and cupped his fist with a smile: "Hehehe, Dao Bro... Senior, are you taking in disciples? Will you give me some pointers?"

This vexed his allies even more. Acting friendly was one thing, now this guy was looking like he wants to find a master.

"Not recruiting." Li Qiye refused right away.

"How about a worker? To do labor and such?" The king scratched his head, unwilling to give up.

"Not recruiting." Li Qiye repeated, not giving the guy a chance.

The king couldn't do anything but just stand there, his old eyes continued to turn, seemingly deep in rumination.

"Activate!" The ancestors on his side were mustering all of their strength to escape from the primordial laws. Alas, this seemed to be the toughest metal in the world. One could have a million techniques and would still be shackled like a child.

"Don't waste your strength." Li Qiye nonchalantly looked at them and said: "This is the laws of Insane Ancestor that are directly connected to the dao source. Unless you can flip over the entire dao source, anything else will be futile."

"Who are you?" Yang Radiance Buddha took a deep breath and asked with a respectful tone.

"Li Qiye, only a passerby, you haven't heard of my name." Li Qiye responded.

The ancestors exchanged glances. Some of them were quite knowledgeable, even about the matters in Imperial and Immortal Lineage World. This name did not ring any bell.

"Tell me now, should I stew or steam all of you?" He chuckled: "I haven't tasted human flesh in a long time, and don't I miss that taste so much..."

He smacked his lips, seemingly recalling the delicious taste.

His act was certainly convincing since the trapped ancestors all thought, to their horror, that he was a cannibal.

"Do as you please. Since we dared to come, we are also ready for death." The Buddha was an unyielding man and retorted.

Myriad-armed King uttered coldly: "So what if you kill all of us? Our lineages and the rest of Myriad Lineage will avenge us. This world will not allow for an evil sect to do as it pleases. Your wanton regard for lives will be punished!"

Insane Court still suffered from a bad reputation due to Virtue True God's mess back then. This was unavoidable since this god and his followers truly devoured too many victims.

"One day, all lineages will flatten your Insane Court and remove the roots!" Another ancestor snorted.

"Oh? Maybe you guys are right, I should take the initiative and destroy your sects first." Li Qiye leisurely smiled.

This fierce response came rather unexpected to the ancestors. This sounded like a challenge to the rest of Myriad Lineage. No sane man would do this.

Another ancestor retorted: "You can say all you want right now in Insane Court, but wait till you leave. There are plenty of dao sources stronger than yours."

They could see that he was borrowing the dao source's power to defeat them. His own power might not be as impressive. Thus, once he left for the other system, not only that he wouldn't be able to use this dao source, he would also be facing the might of their own.

Chapter 2203: Ambush

To which Li Qiye smiled in response: "Vast the world may be, I can still carve out my own path. Only a few systems, can't reach the apex. Nothing's difficult about destroying them. Plus, not to mention a myriad system, I can destroy an immortal system all the same."

This one shut the ancestors up. It was too arrogant and in fact, talking about destroying an immortal system while staying in Myriad Lineage? This was quite a rebellious and outrageous statement.

If such words caught wind in Immortal Lineage, a big shot from there might descend. Any system here would shudder at that thought.

Though no one actually retorted out of fear for the upper realms, they certainly disagreed with his statement and thought that he was too brassy.

"Clank!" But right after he finished, a glint appeared by his neck - a fatal ambush!

"Boom!" Though the technique was swift and without any wasted movement, he still held the glint with two fingers.

Right at this second, it flashed and disappeared, seemingly escaping.

No one actually saw what was going on. This particular ambusher was quite amazing - formless and undetectable. To do so on Insane Court's territory was even more impressive.

"A bit interesting." Li Qiye smiled, waiting for the next move.

The alliance naturally held their breath, hoping that this sneak-attacker could take him down.

"Clank!" Another sharp glint appeared aiming straight for his back with ultimate speed, instilling dread into the crowd.

"Boom!" Li Qiye didn't need to turn around. He simply reached back with one finger and flicked, more than enough to stop this attack.

"Come out here." He smiled and reached for the air.

Space rippled like waves and got penetrated, destroying the hiding location of the ambusher.

"Buzz." A figure appeared - a girl with a slender figure, only for a split second. She vanished again.

"Hmm? Not a spatial technique or any supreme art and treasure, relying only on a magical grass." Li Qiye chuckled.

The ancestors on the alliance were shocked by his statement because they actually knew the ambusher's abilities and treasures.

"Bing'er, leave now! You're not his match, go back to the Martial Court and report to the ancestors!"

One from Vermillion Martial Court warned the ambusher.

"Don't think about escaping from my clutch." Li Qiye said with a smile.

With that, he opened his fate palace and the primordial tree appeared.

"Whoosh!" It penetrated everything, turning them back to the origin including time and space.

When this happened, the ambusher's location was instantly revealed. Though her magical grass was heaven-defying, there was no place to hide before the primordial tree. Changing to a different hiding spot was impossible too.

"Run!" Her ancestor shouted again.

The girl was rightfully startled since her hiding art has never been broken before, let alone so easily. She reacted fast enough and leaped upward in order to escape from the royal court.

"Way too late." The amused Li Qiye pushed down with his palm.

"Break!" The girl saw the descending palm energy from the sky and took out a dragon spear brimming with power. She thrust at the sky, wishing to penetrate this blockade.

However, Li Qiye was empowered by the dao source so he had the strength of Insane Ancestor. Even a True Emperor would be imprisoned here, completely helpless.

"Boom!" She got pushed down to the ground and dropped her spear.

Before she could get up, the same primordial laws constricted around her, stopping all movements.

She fiercely struggled, albeit to no avail. As Li Qiye had said, they needed to be strong enough to flip the dao source of the system over in order to escape.

"A very stubborn little girl." Li Qiye smirked after the capture.

She was quite young and beautiful, certainly more so than Wang Han and Chu Qingling.

Her phoenix eyes were bright like the night stars, brows like the swords, and a heroic temperament. She chose a tight robe over battle armor, resulting in a sharp and simple appearance, not to mention that it clearly outlined her perfect figure.

Thin waist, round buttocks as clear as day. The laws tightly wrapped around her made her voluptuous breasts even more prominent.

Yes, this was a kingdom-toppling but others were attracted for another reason - her aura - so fierce and suppressive. This was doubly true when she held her spear; the battle intent was insane. She looked ready for battle at any moment; perhaps "goddess of war" was the right title for her.

The ancestors sighed softly, their only hope was gone. Their entire alliance this time got routed.

"Quite beautiful, I am in need of a bedwarmer." Li Qiye looked at her and said.

"Pah! Do your worst!" The girl remained undaunted.

"Arrogant too." Li Qiye said: "You should know that even a man made out of steel would beg for mercy shortly after falling into my hands."

The ancestors were shocked. They weren't scared of torture, but this wasn't the case for such a beautiful girl.

"Tell me, how should I torture all of you?" Li Qiye rubbed his chin, enjoying this whole ordeal.

"Senior, you must be the forefather mentioned before by Fellow Daoist Li Qian." In this key moment, Resting Bull Bright Ancestor showed up and cupped his fist respectfully towards Li Qiye.

He was the only one who didn't attack earlier, playing the role of a witness.

Li Qian had a brief talk with him earlier while Li Qiye suppressed the rest. He didn't hide anything about Li Qiye because Bright Ancestor and his sect were benefactors to Insane Court.

"Got something to say?" Li Qiye smiled at the old man.

"Forefather, as the saying goes, it is better to make a friend than an enemy." Bright Ancestor said: "I talked with Fellow Daoist Li Qian earlier and know that the real villains were the three Insane Blood Ancestors, and that you, forefather, have taken care of them along with any mess from the heretical members. This storm is officially over. Though it wasn't proper for the alliance to attack the royal court, but there were misunderstandings caused by those three gods. If this escalated, both sides would suffer heavy losses. Why should we pay such a price because of those three wretches? Everyone should look at the big picture and think for the wellbeing of our sects. How about we forget all of this? I humbly recommend myself to be a mediator. An agreement between all of us had been signed in the past, why can't we continue it?"

The ancestor was being quite reasonable. He had toiled for peace in the past.

The captives stared at each other after hearing this.

Chapter 2204: Between Life And Death

Li Qiye didn't quite express a stance after hearing Light Ancestor so Li Qian had no choice but to chime in awkwardly: "Forefather, well... should we ease the tension?"

He naturally wanted for this storm to end with peace. Insane Court needed a friendly relationship with the rest of Myriad Lineage for their future. They would need to break the isolation policy eventually or revitalization would only be a fool's dream.

Outside of being strong enough, they still needed to rebuild relationships with the other sects, not quite allies, but definitely not enemies with everyone.

The continuous infamy of being a heretical sect went against this goal. Because of this, Li Qian wanted to fix this problem.

Li Qiye had won the battle on top of massacring the majority of the alliance. It showed the power of Insane Court. Thus, they had more room to negotiate via intimidation, to an extent.

Therefore, sparing these remaining ancestors was an incredible chance for the sect.

Li Qiye chuckled and said leisurely: "I personally don't care about being enemy with everyone, no big deal."

Li Qian smiled wryly back, only the forefather would say something like that.

"Forefather, you are unbeatable in this world, not afraid of anyone and is on the same level as the progenitor..." He hurriedly added.

"Alright, Li Qian, there is a limit to flattery before it becomes insincerity. You're not good at it, too stiff." Li Qiye smiled and interrupted the guy.

Li Qian didn't feel right saying this either so he stood there awkwardly, not knowing what to do with his hands.

Li Qiye then turned his gaze towards the ancestors of the alliance and revealed a devious smile: "I normally do not accept peace offering, but since some people are requesting it, you all will have to show your sincerity."

"Gentlemen, since Insane Court is willing to sit down and talk, why can't we do the same?" Light Ancestor hastily persuaded: "If the three wretches that have inflicted pain on our sect are dead, then we should eliminate this misunderstanding too."

The Pill King jumped in: "He's right, he's right. This senior is peerless, a true master, and isn't someone who would spare the three Insane Blood Gods. If that's the case, we're all smart and successful people, no need to continue on this path."

Resting Bull Light Ancestor had a good reputation in Myriad Lineage on top of being good friends with many ancestors, hence his success in dealing with the previous agreement.

The Pill King was influential as well because of his Longevity Pills, perhaps the best in this realm. So many ancestors, including Eternals, would need his service eventually.

Because of this, the ancestors here were certainly more tempted. Of course, the most important reason was their captivity and utter defeat.

Not accepting a truce would result in their head rolling on the ground. The two choices were rather easy.

"Hmph, how can we talk when you are chaining us like this?" Myriad-armed King still put on a proud act.

Li Qiye laughed and clapped his hand: "Giving you some face and you want to push your luck? Killing all of you right now is as easy as lifting a finger. As losing combatants, I'm already being nice by not forcing you all to kneel and talk."

Everyone's expression soured; some glared angrily at him.

"Death before disgrace. Come and kill us, you think we're afraid of your syst..." An ancestor shouted.

"Pluff!" His head went flying before he could finish speaking. Not even in his dream would he expect Li Qiye to kill him over one retort.

The scene became silent; everyone felt their scalp tingling.

"Appreciate your current situation." Li Qiye said: "You're not afraid of my system? I'm not afraid of you all either, a bunch of prisoners. Must I personally go trample your systems before the world realizes my invincibility?!"

No one wanted to die meaninglessly, so most of them were thinking about the truce.

"Even if your progenitors come out, I will still kill all of you just the same. Just Myriad Lineage, Three Immortals can go at me and I still wouldn't give a damn!" Li Qiye continued on with his carefree

attitude: "I'm taking care of Insane Court for sentimental reasons, so I'm giving you juniors some face, do not take this truce for granted or think that I'm afraid of the combined might of Myriad Lineage."

He had made his tough stance clear, not giving a damn about the lives of these ancestors. Just one wrong word and he could decapitate them all like he did the alliance earlier.

"Slow down, let's not be too hasty." Light Ancestor quickly intervened: "I believe the ancestors bear no ill-wills but the tongue can be out of control at times."

At this moment, both Yang Radiance Buddha and Myriad-armed King, the two strongest ancestors, didn't say anything. No one was truly fearless in face of death. Plus, the feud wasn't at an irreconcilable level, not to mention that their lives were in Li Qiye's hands. They had no advantage and leverage to speak of. There was no choice but to acquiesce.

"I'm sure everyone here won't fight to the death over a misunderstanding caused by the Three Insane Blood Gods. This hasn't escalated to the point of no return." He continued: "Insane Court has killed the remnants of the past, so the matter of the heretical blood art is over. Why the need to keep on fighting and killing each other?"

"I agree with Light." The Pill King chimed in: "Now that we know what's going on, let's not throw our lives away. Anger is the issue here, right? Take one step back and bask in the immensity of the heaven and earth. Being alive is the best."

The alliance exchanged glances. The Buddha eventually spoke with a serious tone: "I'm the leader of the alliance this time, so I'm responsible for bringing everyone back. If the heretic dregs are dead, I trust in Light Ancestor's guarantee and agree to a truce. What about all of you?"

There was no doubt the buddha and the king were the strongest and most prestigious in the group. Plus, the former came from Yang Radiance, one of the strongest sects in Myriad Lineage. If he had accepted his defeat, then others could do so without losing too much face.

He also felt responsible for bringing as many people back as possible, so this was a necessary move in his mind. The problem here was that these ancestors were big shots who cared too much about their reputation and pride. If the strongest one had conceded for a true, then they could also accept it as well.

Ultimately, as long as the circumstances allowed, being alive was still the best course of action.

"I have no objection. My Vermillion Martial Court agrees to a truce with Insane Court." An extremely powerful ancestor with great status from this sect also spoke.

This was also another top-three power in Myriad Lineage, not necessarily weaker than Yang Radiance.

Chapter 2205: Agreement

"My Lastingness Kingdom also accept this remediation." A different ancestor spoke.

"Same with me." The other ancestors chimed in.

However, Myriad-armed King scowled: "Even if we accept this truce, our several thousand disciples can't die in vain."

"So, our disciples who have died to your alliance can?" Li Qiye smiled and countered.

"You need to at least give us and our systems a reasonable answer if we're going back like this." Myriadarmed King didn't wish to give up and was ready to lose his head over it.

This particular sentiment struck a chord. Though they have conceded and agreed to a truce, Insane Court still needed to give an official response. Otherwise, they would have nothing to say after coming back.

"Perhaps it's possible to send an official note to all your sects." Light Ancestor hesitated for a moment before requesting.

"Want more communication? That's fine, I'll take a trip to your systems then, might be a good stroll." Li Qiye smiled.

"Forefather, we can't bother you with that." Li Qian was scared out of his mind: "Let me go for something so trivial instead of wasting your time."

He wasn't worried about Li Qiye's safety but rather the other systems since no one could stop Li Qiye. What if he went there and start a massacre? Blood would run like rivers.

"It's fine, I have nothing else to do anyway. Don't worry, I'll give you all a good response, is that showing enough sincerity?" Li Qiye chuckled.

Li Qian became even more horrified but he didn't dare to oppose the will of the forefather.

The ancestors of the alliance glanced at each other, feeling a bit unsure. They could see that Li Qiye had control of Insane Court, a very important man since he could control the dao source. It meant that he was untouchable in this region.

No one else would want to go to a different playground. Not only would he lose his home court, but the other systems would be able to use their dao source to suppress him.

It was fine for Li Qian, the leader of the protectors, to go instead. This was enough to give the other systems a good answer for their dead combatants. He was prestigious enough to take on this role.

But now, Li Qiye offered to go himself? This illogical action perplexed the ancestors and made them quite skeptical.

"I'll be a guarantor then." Bright Ancestor stepped up again and clapped his chest.

"If necessary, I'll be one too." The Pill King voiced his support.

What else could be said right now? Li Qiye's trip seemed to be set in stone.

"I have no objection then." Myriad-armed King acquiesced since he wasn't in a position to make demands. Nevertheless, if this guy were to leave Insane Court, they would have more options in the future.

"What guarantee will you all give me then?" Li Qiye said with a smile.

The alliance didn't know how to respond while Light Ancestor didn't wish to speak on their behalf.

After a while, Yang Radiance Buddha made up his mind and spoke solemnly: "We can guarantee that there will not be any future conflict, such as a sudden attack like today, and the old agreement will continue. If you don't believe me, I'm willing to be a hostage. However, you must let everyone else go."

He was a tough man, willing to take responsibility after leading this charge.

"No, leave me behind, let me be the hostage." The Pill King jumped up and said: "I'm willing to stay in Insane Court."

People were speechless. He sounded as if it was so nice being a hostage. Of course, they were aware that he was completely mesmerized by Li Qiye's alchemy.

"Nice try, staying behind to steal my alchemy? Scram back to your home." Li Qiye laughed after seeing the excited guy.

"Let me." The old ancestor from Vermillion Martial Court spoke: "Yang Radiance Buddha is the leader and pillar of this alliance. It's not suitable for him to be the hostage. Let me stay behind. If another alliance attacks later on, cut off my head then."

He was both logical and heroic. Rendering a leader down to a hostage didn't look good at all.

No other ancestors stepped up because being a hostage was quite humiliating. Plus, if their systems were to launch another attack, the hostage would be the first to die.

"No, let me!" The female ambusher earlier said: "I'm willing to be the hostage instead of my ancestor."

He immediately refused: "No, you're still young, go back!"

"Ancestor, you're grievously wounded and need to recuperate or there will be future trouble." The girl said.

Many ancestors agreed with this after suffering the heavy blow. If they didn't come back to recover, these wounds could become permanent and greatly affect them later on.

"No, it is not your turn to represent Vermillion, go back." The ancestor refused.

"Let her then." Li Qiye smiled and said while pointing at the girl: "She'll be the hostage."

"..." The ancestor became uneasy after a girl was picked to be the hostage.

"Don't worry, what am I going to do to her? I'll take her back when I visit your system." Li Qiye said: "Of course, I also welcome another attack but unfortunately for her, she'll be the sacrifice to the battle rite. It would be sad for so many systems to let down a cute junior like this."

"And I'm sure Insane Court won't bully the young lady." Bright Ancestor told the rest: "Let's go with this then."

He wanted to settle the issue so Li Qiye wouldn't have the chance to change his mind. Otherwise, all of their efforts so far would have been in vain.

"Alright." The ancestor from Vermillion gave up.

"Li Qian, see our guests off." Li Qiye gently waved his hand and the primordial laws uncoiled, freeing the ancestors.

Despite being freed, none dared to do anything to Li Qiye. This match has been decided the moment Li Qiye controlled the dao source. It would be suicidal to even try.

"Hehehe, senior, I still want to be a hostage. It'll be better for Insane Court to have multiple ace cards." The Pill King offered himself again.

"Scram already." Li Qiye laughed: "Insane Court won't feed anyone for free."

"Everyone, follow me." Li Qian heaved a sigh of relief. This storm was finally over.

The ancestors were happy to see Li Qiye not doing anything else to them and quickly followed Li Qian. Only the Pill King left unwillingly, wanting to see Li Qiye's alchemy again to learn.

Chapter 2206: Wu Bingning

After Li Qian took the ancestors away, Li Qiye casually raised his hand. The primordial laws also left the girl, restoring her freedom.

She was quite surprised and stared at him in a daze, not believing that he would do something like this.

"Sijing, prepare a place and treat her like a guest." Li Qiye told Sijing behind him.

Nevertheless, the girl didn't lose her caution: "What do you want?"

"What can I do? Eat you? Can't exactly do much to a hostage." Li Qiye said with a smile.

"Who knows what you want to do?" The girl snorted: "Perhaps you have some devious plans, heretics like you can't be trusted."

He stared up then down at her: "What plans? In terms of beauty, you're only average, barely qualified to be a bed warmer. I'm not staring enough to eat just anything."

"You...!" Her face turned red, eyes nearly spewing fire.

All girls worried about their looks, let alone someone as beautiful as her. Though not the prettiest in Myriad Lineage, she was still the number one at Vermillion. So many men would be willing to kneel before her.

She was certainly confident in terms of appearance so now, she certainly wasn't fond of his comment to say the least, and definitely not his current attitude - seemingly can't stand her.

"Do you know that your mouth stinks?" She gritted her teeth and retorted. [1]

If she wasn't a captive right now, she would rush forward and break that foul mouth of his.

"Wait, you tasted it before, that's why you know? Well, do you want a taste?" He smiled and teased.

"Pervert!" Her face became as red as rouge as she quivered with rage.

Li Qiye was quite amused: "Even if I was a pervert, I wouldn't do anything to you since I'm a very picky eater." Nevertheless, he looked at her again in an intrusive manner, seemingly wanting to pick out the best part.

She grew frightened and felt naked before his penetrating gaze, causing her to turn away.

Zhu Sijing smiled while watching the teasing session.

"Alright, no more playing around." Li Qiye waved his sleeve and said: "Tell the disciples to take care of our esteemed guest."

"Miss, follow me." Sijing told Bingning.

Bingning scowled and gave him a glare. One needed to bow their head when in someone else's home; otherwise, she would definitely try and fight this pervert.

"Wait, I forgot." Li Qiye added: "Don't think about causing trouble or escaping or I'll strip you naked and hang you outside of royal court. Be a good girl now."

She answered the threat with another scowl before leaving with Sijing.

After sending the ancestors away, Li Qian returned to see Li Qiye.

"I'll leave after a couple of days." Li Qiye said: "The future of Insane Court is up to you all."

"You're leaving, Forefather?" Li Qian was surprised.

"Yes, it is time." Li Qiye chuckled while staring at the horizon. He didn't come to Three Immortals because of Insane Court.

This trip here was a touch of fate, ending the karma between him and the old man.

Li Qian spoke softly: "If that's the case, I'll go in your stead and give an apology to the other systems."

Li Qiye smiled: "Are you worried about me or the other systems?"

Being exposed left Li Qian awkward. He coughed and said: "I'm just willing to work hard for you, Forefather."

"I know what you're thinking but I'm not going to the other systems just to give them an answer. I have other businesses." Li Qiye waved his sleeve and said.

"May I ask where you are going to? Which system first?" Li Qian asked for clarification.

"Longevity Valley, their pills are considered the best in Myriad Lineage so I wish to take a look." Li Qiye answered.

Li Qian misunderstood, thinking that all ancestors after reaching a certain level would be interested in Longevity Pills. Who could resist the temptation of eternal life? Alas, Li Qiye was only looking for the mysteries behind immortality.

"May I ask when you will return?" Li Qian asked.

"You want me to stay here?" Li Qiye glanced at him and said.

"Not just me, but everyone in the system wishes for you to stay. As long as you're here, we're completely united." Li Qian said.

This was indeed the truth. No one had a higher status than Li Qiye at the moment. He could give order to everyone; solidarity was important for revitalization.

"Everyone has their own path, same with a system." Li Qiye said: "Insane Court is no longer a child that needs help every step of the way. But if this is the case, it will never mature beyond being a decorative flower inside the house, unable to face the storm outside. Because of this, my departure is a test for the system on top of being an opportunity. I have done what I can and left behind what I should. Your future must be carved by you, that's the only way to truly strengthen the system."

"I'll forever keep your teaching in mind, Forefather." Li Qian bowed deeply and said.

"Insane Court still has a long way to go. You all have much to do." Li Qiye continued.

Li Qian gently sighed, aware that their path wasn't going to be easy. Nevertheless, Li Qiye had carved a path for them, much better than before.

"Where are you going, Forefather? To Immortal Lineage or somewhere even farther away?" Li Qian asked.

"You want to ask about the final destination." Li Qiye said.

Li Qian told the truth: "I'm simply curious about the end path of True Emperors and progenitors. Please enlighten me."

In fact, he wasn't the only one curious about this matter because after each era, these beings would eventually disappear. No one knew where they went. Some believed they died from old age while others said they went to a faraway place.

There was one bolder speculation - a world named Everlasting. These beings would eventually go there and live forever.

"What's the point in knowing before reaching the right level, it would only vex you. Just take it one step at a time, you'll be qualified to find out more as an Eternal." Li Qiye smiled.

Due to his massive memories and own research from ancient scrolls, he had a clear outline of the final destination in Three Immortals.

"Yes, Forefather." Li Qian bowed his head and said: "If you could see the progenitor, please tell him that his descendants in Insane Court wish him good health."

"You think Insane Ancestor is still alive?" Li Qiye couldn't help but smile.

"We can't speculate anything about the great beings." Li Qian coughed.

No one knew where the progenitors went; some True Emperors have searched as well. The only thing was that Insane Ancestor told his descendants that he would one day reborn and ascend to become an immortal.

This was why many people in Insane Court believed he was still alive.

Li Qiye only smiled instead of revealing Insane Ancestor's current whereabouts.

Chapter 2207: Denial

Wu Bingning didn't feel like a hostage while being stuck here in Insane Court. She was treated well from the very first day, freed from shackles or any outfit resembling a prisoner.

In fact, she had complete freedom without any supervision or people making it difficult for her. This was a treatment of a guest, not a hostage. She began to think that Li Qiye had some "plans" or "ideas" about her.

But after a careful musing, this wasn't the case. She was a true prisoner. If Li Qiye wanted to do something, he would have done it long ago, no need to wait so pointlessly.

At the same time, she felt that this guy was too confident, leaving an enemy to roam freely in his system.

She had too much peace and free time in the next several days, not needing to worry about a single thing. Meals and clothes came to her, a time to enjoy life.

She thought that her time here wasn't inferior to her time back at Vermillion at all. Perhaps staying was the right choice.

As the successor of Vermillion Martial Court, she enjoyed love and adoration everywhere. However, the recent days haven't gone as well so she didn't mind staying here. Because of this, she never thought about trying to escape.

She was no fool, understanding that Li Qiye had absolute power in Insane Court due to his control over its dao source. Trying to escape or anything else under his watch would be unwise. Provoking a pervert might lead to him doing some perverted things.

As the days went by, she became a bit unhappy despite her favorable circumstances. It was because Li Qiye was nowhere to be found and no one from Insane Court came to talk to her. It was as if she was being forgotten.

One of her titles was Vermillion Goddess, so despite her good nature, there was still a bit of pride and arrogance.

Despite being served quite well, she still felt uncomfortable about not being treated like a big shot.

This feeling was gone today because Li Qiye had finally summoned her.

Upon hearing the call, she snorted, seemingly dissatisfied but in her mind, she felt quite good about the whole thing.

She walked into the main hall only to find him half-lying on his chair, very comfortable and leisure.

To be more exact, he was enjoying a lap pillow from Wang Han who was peeling and feeding him fruits. Each time she bent down, her voluptuous breasts would brush on his cheek, nearly burying his head.

Meanwhile, Zhu Sijing was massaging his legs in a very gentle and sincere manner.

Chu Qingling was also present, holding onto a historical book and carefully reading it to him. Each word and page were articulated with a great rhythm. No one would want to break this enjoyable atmosphere.

His eyes were closed but he was certainly awake, eating fruits and listening to old stories.

Wang Han was the current emperor and Chu Qingling was the Grand Marshal. Only he would have this treatment in the entire court.

Wu Bingning didn't appreciate this debaucherous scene. She snorted and quietly muttered: "Show off."

Despite her arrival, he still seemed to be asleep and no one dared to disturb him. She obediently sat down, vexed but unable to change the situation.

He was a supreme existence lying in rest; all before him were ants.

After Qingling finished another story, he finally opened his eyes to look at Bingning.

"Little girl, how has your stay been so far? Any complaint?" Li Qiye asked with a smile.

"My name is not 'little girl'." She coldly responded.

"Oh? My mistake for forgetting to ask for your name, my lady." Li Qiye smirked.

"Hmph, a disciple of Vermillion Martial Court, Wu Bingning!" She declared.

"Oh wow, so you are Miss Wu, your fame precedes you, please forgive me, forgive me." Li Qiye said with no ounce of sincerity.

She clenched her fists at his appearance. If this wasn't Insane Court, she would want to break that smirk off his face!

The girls nearby chuckled, even Chu Qingling. They understood his personality after staying with him recently.

"Our beautiful Miss Wu, forgive us for the last couple of days. I am formally telling you the good news, tomorrow, you'll be leaving Insane Court with me and can go home whenever." He revealed.

"Got it." She gave a rather cold response, not excited as one would be after being released from captivity.

For some unknown reasons, she didn't want to go back to Vermillion due to all the annoyances back there. It was better being free here.

"However, our beautiful Miss Wu, I have a question for you." He continued.

"Hmph, fart if you must, no need to waste time." The arrogant girl replied. All in all, she still had a very bad impression of him.

His eyes flashed with amusement: "What are you running from?"

"I'm, I'm not running from anything." She became cautious and took one step back, eyes fixated on him.

She had become less vigilant during her stay here because of the freedom.

"Really? Then why did you want to become the hostage?" He inquired.

"All disciples should toil for their sects." She chose her words more carefully.

Li Qiye smiled: "Not in my eyes. Your ancestor was very worried when I picked you, it looks like your value far outweighs your status as a successor."

"Not true." She denied at once.

"Even if you are talented, there are plenty of other potential successors lining up in a system. Losing one is just fine." Li Qiye leisurely said before smirking: "But I believe that your value is far more than that."

"What do you want?" She shuddered with an ominous feeling.

"Nothing, just curious about your lack of excitement about going back home. Very well, if you don't want to go back, I shall recruit you."

"Who told you I didn't want to go back to Vermillion? I'm quite happy about it." Her expression slightly changed.

She was startled with her thoughts being read by him. It was as if nothing could evade his gaze.

Li Qiye continued: "Alright, I'll be a good guy then and take you back to Vermillion first. Sigh, this is such a bad trait, being too nice to girls."

Bingning was caught off guard. Her leisure days so far left her unprepared to return to Vermillion.

Chapter 2208: Bingning

Wu Bingning took a deep breath for composure before speaking straight at Li Qiye: "I won't bother you as an escort. I'll just return by myself once I've healed."

"Oh?" Li Qiye was certainly entertained: "What if something happens to you, what am I going to tell Vermillion? I have to take you there myself to be at ease."

"Hmph, certainly up to something." She scowled at him.

Li Qiye smiled in response: "Just playing with you. However, Vermillion is in the top two of Myriad Lineage so it's certainly strong. It's quite interesting that you would want to be a hostage here."

"Your imagination is too rich and can come up with anything." She denied once more.

His eyes became serious: "Little girl, I don't like others lying in front of me."

She snorted, not wanting to respond.

He continued: "I'm more than willing to listen to other people's trouble. Go ahead, tell me what's on your mind, little girl."

"I have nothing to say, you can do whatever you want since I'm a hostage." She remained prideful.

"If I want others to speak the truth, I have countless methods in my arsenal. In fact, I can make you submit to me forever." He smiled: "Alas, I dislike using violent methods, but it's best you know that I can make you speak."

"Egomaniac." She didn't believe him. If he didn't like violence, who else did? He massacred thousands right away, only an idiot would believe him.

"I can also erase everything, turning you into a slave." Li Qiye's eyes became serious.

"Do your worst! If I frown in the slightest, I'll stop being a disciple from Vermillion!" She arched her chest and declared.

"Very well, little arrogant girl, this shall be quite fun." He raised his hand.

"Buzz." She wanted to resist but it was too late.

His palm had sealed everything with its majestic grand dao power. It would be futile to resist.

She suddenly floated and landed in front of him in a crouching position. Standing up was impossible.

"Look at me." He spoke with an unquestionable charisma.

She uncontrollably looked up and saw his eyes turning extremely profound with an intense drawn. Her soul was being pulled in like moths heading for the flame.

"Boom!" Her sea of consciousness and memories exploded at this moment.

She was entering his world, seemingly melting, unable to tell if she was actually in there or he was only showing her things in the river of time.

Waves and colorful radiance existed in this world only for a brief moment, replaced by apocalyptic changes and explosions. Everything disappeared; gods and emperors died leaving behind a lonely figure. This person alone walked to the end of the world and faced the blackest darkness...

The world was drowned with blood while the gods trembled. Even ninth-level emperors began to fall but the solitary figure continued forward, destroying everything in the way. Madness, killing, blood, brutality... the world was overwhelmed with dreadful despair.

"No!" She tried to scream but nothing came out of her mouth - a feeling of helplessness.

After a while, he finally released her. She dropped to the ground, drenched with sweat and an empty gaze.

"Young Noble, you frightened the little miss." Wang Han felt quite bad looking at the soaked girl.

"I simply let her see the most terrible things about this world. If I actually wanted to scare her, she would be dead right now." He smiled.

Bingning was still in a daze, frozen on the ground.

"Poor girl." He gently touched her forehead and softly said: "Don't be frightened, the world is still full of beauties. Allow me to show you."

He raised her chin and focused his gaze, exuding an incomparable radiance. This was the opening of a new world heralded by a pair of black wings spreading, perhaps from a crow. The world found serenity and warmth under the protection of the wings while darkness was blocked outside.

A girl trekked forward in the rain and wind, protected by the wings above her. She jumped like a carp towards the sky and turned into an ethereal figure in the mist, but the crow continued to follow her. The scene shifted to a boy wrestling with the void to open a new era with a crow on top of his shoulder.

Spring came and the flowers bloomed - this was a world full of love, protected by a crow. Many tales and legends came about...

Bingning was fixated on the rotation of figures and the crow. This bird flew all over the nine firmaments, staying at the apex to look at the future. It seemed to be the ruler of this world, the protector of what's to come. The warmness beneath his wings was worth longing for.

People couldn't help but trace its footsteps, wanting to follow it despite the arduous journey. Its eyes aimed where the heart of the people did, yearning for an even more distant place.

Meanwhile, Li Qiye traced his finger down her pretty face. Her snow-white skin was soft and impeccably clear. His finger was moving elegantly as if he was composing a tune.

She felt warmth coursing through her body, as comfortable as sleeping on a cloud - a transcending sensation. She was lost in the legends and music as if she was the main character, that it was her past and future.

On the path ahead, she was still as beautiful as before with him as her companion. The journey itself was unforgettable.

Her cheek pushed closer into his palm while her hand grabbed and kept it there. The callus there seemed so comfortable and gave a feeling of security.

Everything seemed to be wonderful like the coming of spring or the melting of winter. She was completely immersed at this moment.

Some time had passed before she slowly regained her wits. When she opened her eyes again, the first thing she saw was his ordinary face. But now, it was worth remembering.

"Did, did you brainwash me?" She glared at him but now, there was a tinge of playful coquettishness, accentuating her already-charming self even more. People wouldn't be able to help themselves from wanting to embrace her right now.

"If that was the case, you wouldn't even remember who you are right now, only thinking that you're my slave, but no, right? I simply showed you a new world and future, one with so much more potential."

Chapter 2209: Another Journey

Wu Bingning paused for a moment before looking straight at him: "This is still brainwashing me!"

She sounded angry on the surface, but it was more of a playful pout by this point.

"You can think of it as brainwashing, but you know you love it." Li Qiye said with a smile.

"Hmph." She scowled but the warm feeling in her heart betrayed her. Her arrogance was being melted away by the legendary tales earlier. They were beautiful enough to draw people in and trap them within.

"The world is tough and your path is long, but I'm sure you can do it." He gently stroke her forehead.

She nodded and before she knew it, she became much more optimistic. All the troubles plaguing her seemed so trivial and dispersed. This made her much more hopeful about the future.

"I'm willing to work for it." She clenched her fist with determination after getting a clearer view of life.

Because she knew exactly what she wanted, she was willing to face the incoming pressure and trials in life on top of following this man.

"Even Immortal Lineage World is nothing. As long as you can take the next step, you'll see just how vast this world is. With me around, those wills and commands are nothing." He smiled.

"I understand." Nothing could daunt her now, evident by her fierce stare.

"You're being unfair, Young Noble." Wang Han peeled another fruit and fed it to him before pouting: "Sister Qingling has plenty of potential too. You can train her."

She was helping Chu Qingling. All of them could see that he wanted to groom Wu Bingning, so Wang Hand wanted to speak for the sake of Insane Court.

After all, as the number one genius in Insane Court, Qingling's talents were unquestionable. More importantly, she always had a great relationship with Wang Han despite being from Chu Camp. More often than not, she even stood by Wang Han on many issues. The two of them shared a common view on the upcoming path of the system.

Ultimately, even if Qingling were to become a True Emperor later on, the path was still long, especially if she wanted to become a progenitor. Thus, she needed the help of the forefather. The stronger Qingling became, the more help Wang Han would get in the future for the system's revitalization.

Qingling blushed and lowered her head, pretending to read the ancient book.

Li Qiye smiled and looked at her while shaking his head: "I'm not being unfair. Qingling's future is also very bright, but it's a bit different from Bingning. Qingling can develop here with what Insane Ancestor had left behind. Perhaps she won't be able to surpass him, but reaching the apex is not an impossibility. This isn't the case for Bingning. She has no control over certain matters, but the two of you working together will certainly bring a new golden age to Insane Court. When that day comes and Qingling is at the top, she can come to me for guidance, I'll be waiting for it. But today, she doesn't need my help to continue the path of Insane."

She lifted her head and looked at him with a gentle stare: "I won't let you down and will work even harder, Young Noble."

"I'm sure." He smiled.

"Go get ready, it's time to leave Insane Court." He finally told Wu Bingning.

She acknowledged and quickly left. Her steps were now freed of burden just like her mind.

No one in Insane Court wanted him to leave, but they knew that this tiny place wasn't meant for a soaring dragon; the small temple couldn't hold onto a great Buddha.

"Young Noble, will we see you again?" Zhu Sijing was the most emotional one and came up to hug him.

The one that had changed the most was her. She was only a regular disciple at Grand Sword and would have stopped there due to her being a Mutebane. Her fate changed completely after following him. He gave her treasures and guidance on cultivation. As being one of his confidents, her status rose in this system as well.

Without him, she would have been an expert at best in the system. Thus, Li Qiye gave her everything, a second parent even. So now, she didn't want him to leave the most. Alas, she was aware that they weren't from the same world. This could be their last moment together.

"Silly girl, it's not goodbye forever, no need to be sad. We'll meet again if it is meant to be." He hugged her back and said: "Perhaps on that day, you'll already be a phoenix soaring above the nine firmaments."

"I will work hard too." Sijing shuddered and made a bold decision. His phrase alone would be a guiding lamp for the rest of her life. She had a lofty goal now - one that she would have never dreamed of before.

"Goodbye." He waved goodbye to the rest and entered a portal with Wu Qingning to leave Insane Court.

Myriad Lineage had plenty of dao systems. Perhaps not quite ten thousand, but certainly more than enough. Some believed there was around one thousand or so systems and countless clans below.

The majority of them were connected via portals and welcome visitors, unlike Insane Court's previous isolation policy.

He arrived at Longevity Valley. Despite the name, it wasn't just a valley but consisted of a large territory. Of course, the main sect itself was located in a valley but they didn't over impose on their subjects.

It was created by Progenitor Alchemy Immortal. There were plenty of legends about him. Some considered him to have everlasting life. His Longevity Pills could be respected as the best in history.

One particular tale stood out from the rest about his ascension.

Rumor has it that during his youth, he fell into a cave and found the alchemy scripture of Emperor Nong. That started his path of becoming the greatest alchemist.

After becoming a progenitor, he used his Longevity Scripture to create this particular system.

Because of the alchemy scripture from Emperor Nong, Alchemy Immortal's Longevity Pills were magical, the topic of conversation for future generations.

Emperor Nong, Emperor Sui, and Emperor Xi were legends in Three Immortals. Their existence was hotly debated despite never being seen before.

Chapter 2210: Land Of The Fire Source

Emperor Nong's alchemy scripture made others think that the three emperors were real, not just fabricated tales.

If this was the case, then it would to another question - immortals. Many believed they were actually immortals because the legends said so. They have become True Immortals, but such beings couldn't be found in any other place in this world. If immortals existed, then they were certainly at this level.

Of course, a few believed that Alchemy Immortal simply used the story of the scripture to propel his own fame. All in all, Alchemy Immortal was definitely excellent in crafting Longevity Pills.

When he was in this world, so many people asked him for pills, including progenitors.

In terms of fighting potential, Alchemy Immortal was no match against many other progenitors. However, his status was great among his peers due to these Longevity Pills.

They also propelled the system into the spotlight in Myriad Lineage. It was certainly weaker than sects such as Yang Radiance or Vermillion, but the overall status was similar.

His first destination was actually the fire source, not the valley itself. He smiled and told her after entering the new territory: "You are free now after leaving Insane Court and may return to Vermillion."

"Why should I?" She was a bit dissatisfied because she didn't want to go back to Vermillion and he knew this too.

"I won't force you, but you need to let your ancestors know or they'll think that Insane Court had mistreated a hostage later."

She pondered for a bit, knowing that the ancestors would certainly want her back after finding this out. It wasn't that Vermillion didn't treat her well. In fact, the ancestors doted on her and had high hopes. Nevertheless, a successor of Vermillion had a heavy responsibility.

"Certain things are inevitable. Face it instead of running away." Li Qiye played with her soft hair and said: "Plus, you're my follower right now, and I can bare the sky falling down, what do you have to be afraid of? I, Li Qiye, do not allow for anyone to hurt my followers, or death to them!"

Bingning appreciated the sentiment and support from this seemingly ordinary man. He was her biggest backing now and would shoulder the falling sky for her sake.

"I will let the ancestors know." She gently nodded, feeling even more determined than previously. She found everything to be much brighter and simpler.

"But I want to see the fire source first." She looked at him and coquettishly asked.

He chuckled and said before leading the way: "Very well, just taking a look is fine."

The location of the fire source was very important in this system. It related to many secrets. Some believed Alchemy Immortal picked this location for his system precisely for this area.

Rumor has it that it was already around before the inception of the system, just floating around in a different dimension. Later on, Alchemy Immortal refined the boundaries and dao foundation then dragged the fire source location to this place, adding it to his system.

Perhaps this land of fire had something to do with the fire tribe. Some even believed that even Alchemy Immortal who was from this tribe didn't understand this fire source completely.

Strangely enough, despite the importance of this area, Longevity Valley wasn't built here and didn't guard it at all. Any visitor was allowed to enter.

Thus, many cultivators in the system and even those outside would come to see the land of the fire source.

The cultivators and alchemists from the fire tribe loved it. They could find the best fire seeds here, most suitable for pill refinement.

The fire tribe was a major race in Three Immortals. There were plenty of races and tribes, but not many were considered major. Fire tribe, humans, Heavenly Buddhas, eight-armed tribe... these were the major races.

Another common belief was that the fire tribe was the descendant of Emperor Sui. Thus, they considered themselves to be a main branch in Three Immortals.

Some cultivators came here to strengthen themselves by refining their physiques and power. Members of the fire tribe were born in flame, so this place was certainly the best for them to temper their physical constitution.

One could feel the high temperature while standing at the border. It felt like an ocean of fire with endless heat waves. This was unbearable, especially for mortals. It was as if they would be rendered to ashes after taking a step inside.

There were mountains as far as the eyes can see, all gathering together to form the shape of a dragon resting. This was the land of the fire source, not completely barren. On the contrary, vegetation and foliage were growing quite well here, even lusher than other places.

Old trees grew in the massive forests. However, they were different. Instead of a green shade, they had a red color. The leaves here looked like red gemstones.

Some places were covered in surging flame. A few valleys were filled with lava. The heat here was ready to burn all intruders, but not the beasts, birds, and fish already living here.

Fire hawks were soaring in the sky while ember leopards roamed below. Here was a place with many scenes unavailable in the outside world.

"Whoosh!" The winds were ripped by a beast galloping towards a deep, narrow valley.

It looked like a water buffalo, only that it was made from lava, still melting and flowing around. One wouldn't be surprised to see it living in a volcano.

"Let's go! We can't let it hide into the lava or we'll never see it again!" An old man shouted and led a group of disciples over to pursue the beast.

Li Qiye and Bingning moved on and climbed up a peak. They saw a young cultivator standing below a tree on the next peak over. This red tree had a piece of bark removed, revealing that it consisted of fiery crystals inside, similar to a clam holding a pearl.

The youth instantly tried to take the crystals out but a fiery spark came from the tree. It coiled around him like a chain of fire.

"Ah!" He screamed and got turned to ashes in the next second.

The chain then put the crystals back into the trunk and the cracked bark closed once more.