Emperor 2211

Chapter 2211: Pouting

These shocking scenes happened every day in the land of the fire source. Treasure seeking was another popular event here, outside of alchemy and physical augmentation.

This scorching place gave birth to many lives and treasures. It was a peerless precious ground yet Longevity Valley didn't try to monopolize it.

Many admired this decision from Alchemy Immortal and the valley for keeping this up. Other systems might not be able to do this.

Wu Bingning looked at Li Qiye and asked: "Why are we here? Treasures?"

"Just a stroll, is that okay with you?" He smiled in response.

She glared and retorted with a rather cute, nearly flirtatious tone: "Who would believe you? Only an idiot."

"I just enjoy seeing certain amazing things." He chuckled.

She inquired again: "Don't tell me you're here for the supreme treasure? That's poking at a beehive."

A rumor stated that there was a supreme item in this location, the reason why Alchemy Immortal spent so much effort to drag the entire land into his system.

Specific details remained a mystery. Even people from the valley had no idea what it was. However, some progenitors were certain of its existence, further validating the rumor.

Nevertheless, no one had any idea about it, not even True Emperors. A lack of knowledge was one thing, people didn't want to mess with Longevity Valley.

This supreme item was inside Longevity Valley so this system owned it. Anyone who tried to do anything would be considered an enemy of the system, not a wise decision.

Longevity Valley was weaker than behemoths like Yang Radiance and Vermillion Martial Court, but few would actually dare to antagonize it.

The reason was very simple. Too many people in Three Immortals owed it a favor, ranging from True Gods to progenitors.

Thus, it just needed to say the word and many masters would show their support. Provoking it was the same as poking a beehive.

"If I actually want a treasure, there's no beehive in this world I don't dare to poke." Li Qiye smiled.

Bingning stared at him and spoke with a serious tone: "Mess with Longevity Valley and I'm not exaggerating, there will be no place for you to stay in Myriad Lineage."

"You're worrying about me." He teased.

"In your dream." She gave him the side-eye: "It's best if someone were to kill a wicked demon like you."

Her tone certainly didn't carry the same harshness as her words.

Li Qiye only smiled and took out the Myriad Cauldron. He gave it a soft touch and it turned back into its original form, a creature resembling a frog.

He patted its head. The little one seemed to enjoy it and ribbited back at him.

He then looked over at Bingning: "We can't go back empty-handed. What do you want?"

"Thank you for your kind-intent, but I don't need anything." She spoke with some pride.

She wasn't being shy but due to her background and role as a successor, she had plenty of treasures unavailable to others. That's why she didn't care much about items.

"You have a World-concealing Grass, right?" He revealed with a smile.

"How did you know?" She stared at him in astonishment.

This was a secret only known by the ancestors in her system but he was able to figure it out upon their first meeting.

She didn't have an amazing stealth technique, only an amazing and rare blade of grass capable of hiding everything.

She rarely used it normally but chose to do so during the invasion. That's how she was able to deliver a sneak-attack when the alliance was in trouble.

He chuckled in response: "Just calculated with my fingers, not hard at all. It's just a World-concealing Grass, not a Longevity Grass."

"Stop trying to act cool." She didn't believe him at all and became curious: "What was that tree of yours, how did it break my grass?"

She wasn't being overconfident. It was easier said than done to defeat that concealment method since it wasn't a merit law or technique.

However, Li Qiye's primordial tree could instantly sweep through the concealment, something that her ancestors couldn't do.

"It's just an insignificant tree." He casually responded.

"Fine, don't tell me then." She scowled, seemingly annoyed.

"You can follow my Myriad Cauldron, perhaps you'll be pleasantly surprised by what you can get. It can be beneficial for your grass too." Li Qiye commented.

"I don't want any treasure of yours." She pouted.

He smiled and patted his cauldron before releasing it: "Go now, this is a good location with many fire seeds. They can be good appetizers."

"Ribbit." The frog jumped out of his palm and hopped a short distance before stopping, seemingly waiting for Bingning.

"Okay, stop pouting, go now." He gently patted her hair and smiled.

"You're not using this chance to ditch me, right?" She looked at him inquisitively.

"Don't worry, even if I want to ditch you, I wouldn't abandon my cauldron. It is one and only in history and will lead the way for you." He said.

Bingning was unhappy to hear that a frog was more valuable than her. She stomped on his foot in response. Nevertheless, she still obediently followed the cauldron.

He watched the two of them disappear before going to do his own thing. This cauldron was a supreme item that had eaten so many fire seeds and immortal grass in this world. This was a good chance for it to feast in the land of the fire source.

He wasn't in a hurry and took his time traversing the mountains and valleys.

There was a faint flame on his body, seemingly catching on fire. Others would certainly mistake him as being a member of the fire tribe.

Of course, this flame wasn't because of the high temperature here. He was devouring the flame here while leaving his seal each step of the way.

He came with a plan because the mysterious old man had dug a pit for him, one that he had no choice but to jump down. The land of the fire source had something he needed.

Others were not aware of this item's existence, but it was indeed located in this place. Outside of being recorded in many ancient scrolls, the memories of the old man from Immortal Demon Grotto also contained information about it.

Because of this, Li Qiye knew this place quite well despite it being his first visit. He also had a treasure that could aid him in searching for this elusive item - Heaven Reckon.

Chapter 2212: Winterfire Insect

Our leisure fella headed deeper into this land. More and more flames jumped on his body so he looked exactly like a member of the fire tribe, also known as a firekin.

He met others along the way, alchemists, firekins, and treasure seekers.

While crossing a valley, he saw a grassy field spanning for some length. The grasses here were also on fire and completely red in color. They swayed with the wind, resembling a forest on fire.

A crowd was forming here. One youth occupied a large area with his fellow disciples.

With an imposing aura and an expensive robe, he commanded the disciples while yelling at the others in the valley: "Stand outside this boundary right now, all of these Firehawk Grass belong to the Everlasting Kingdom!"

The cultivators were naturally unhappy. Some glared and one even retorted: "That's too greedy. We even have disciples from Longevity Valley in the crowd, how can you be so unreasonable!?"

"Because we are the Everlasting Kingdom!" The youth remained arrogant and aggressive, not giving a damn about the furious crowd: "We're the strongest sect in this system, isn't that enough? Plus, it's not like I'm not leaving areas for you all. Look over there."

Having said that, he pointed at a corner with a very, very tiny grassy plain with a pitiful number of Firehawk Grass.

"That's way too sparse for the Winterfire Insects to nest." One person complained.

"That's your problem, not mine." The youth waved his hand and said: "Go, go now, don't bother us."

The crowd was infuriated yet helpless. Everlasting was indeed the strongest sect in the system. In fact, they were even overshadowing Longevity Valley.

Furthermore, this youth came from the Wu, a clan very close to the royal family. No one wanted to mess with a noble from there.

"Those who do not obey, kill." Wu Lian's eyes turned fierce as he threatened those who didn't want to leave.

"Did you hear our Young Lord? Back off!" His fellow disciples began chasing the crowd away.

The other cultivators had no choice but to acquiesce. They were here for the Winterfire Insect, not to die. There was no need to antagonize Everlasting or lose their lives over these insects.

"Are you deaf! Did you not hear our Young Lord's command?! Scram now!" One disciple began pushing a youth who was just standing there.

His gray robe indicated his shabby background. His face turned red from being pushed back.

"Young, Young Lord Wu, I'm from the Song, also a clan in Everlasting, so I'm, I'm your fellow disciple." The embarrassed youth struggled to speak, showing his inexperience.

"You? That Song Yuhao from the falling clan?" Wu Lian glanced at the youth and said.

"Yes, yes, I'm Song Yuhao. My ancestors once contributed greatly to the kingdom." The youth named Song Yuhao hurriedly nodded, thinking that Wu Lian was accepting a fellow countryman.

"That's a very long time ago." Wu Lian said with contempt: "Not just any random dog or cat can represent Everlasting. Your Song Clan only has a few people left, not qualified to call yourselves members of Everlasting. Scram to the side."

Yuhao was insulted to the point of being frozen.

"Get going already!" The disciple who pushed him earlier became more aggressive.

Yuhao woke up from his daze and hastily shouted: "Young Lord Wu, my, my mother is very ill and bedridden, requiring the insects to save her. Just, just let me stay, give me a chance since I only need a few, the rest is yours."

"Not my problem. Leave or leave your head behind." Wu Lian uttered coldly.

Yuhao was on the verge of tears, completely lost on what to do.

"Scram!" The disciple continued pushing him out of the boundary.

"I, I only need a few to save my mother!" Tears formed in his eyes.

Men didn't cry for no reasons but he was nearly doing so because of his mother's grave situation.

Many cultivators sympathized but they didn't wish to offend the Wu Clan and Everlasting.

"Don't worry, finding Winterfire Insects aren't hard." A calm voice came behind him.

He turned around and saw a very ordinary-looking guy.

"Right, right, but only this place has Firehawk Grass, the insects will only show up where they are." Yuhao appreciated the consolation but his mind was on fire, wishing to save his mother.

Li Qiye pointed at the other side and said: "There are some over there."

"But there are so few of them, those insects won't come." Yuhao said weakly.

"Who told you that?" Li Qiye chuckled: "There is an exception to everything, the world is known to surprise people. Just wait and see."

Having said that, he dragged the youth over and slightly kicked the sparse grasses with his foot.

"That's impossible." One spectator shook his head: "Those insects love Firehawk Grass because they get to eat the flame essence and make nests below. There aren't enough over there to attract them."

Everyone felt that Li Qiye was only trying to make the boy feel better.

"I'll, I'll just buy a few from Young Lord Wu in a bit." Yuhao was pessimistic. He was willing to go bankrupt over just a few blades of grass if Wu Lian were willing to sell. He would pay any price to save his mother instead of just watching her die.

Li Qiye smirked: "If I say they are here, they will be. Just wait a sec. As for that group over there? They won't find a single one."

Wu Qian immediately heard and snorted: "Bold prediction, huh? If your few blades of grass over there can attract the insects, then the sky would fall."

Li Qiye ignored him and took out an old tree, the one beneath Ivory Gap. It looked unwilling to follow his orders but he stroke it with his finger.

It had no choice but to take roots in this particular field.

"Don't worry, when the grasses begin to burn, all the insects here will be yours, as many as you want." Li Qiye told Song Yuhao.

"In your dream." Wu Qian said with disdain: "If you can dig insects out of that place, I'll swallow all the soil here."

Li Qiye grinned after hearing this and said: "Are you sure?"

"Of course." Wu Lian haughtily responded: "A few blades like that can't attract any insect, in fact, just one is enough for me to eat the soil here. But on the other hand, you two would need to start eating if there isn't any."

"Good, no problem." Li Qiye smirked.

The crowd exchanged glances. Everyone felt that Li Qiye was being too confident because they agreed with Wu Lian's opinion.

Yuhao was speechless. He got dragged into this bet by Li Qiye before he knew it.

Chapter 2213: Randomly Digging

All eyes were on the Firehawk Grasses. One took note of the time: "It's almost the time for the grasses to burn..."

"Poof!" Sure enough, the fresh grasses ignited with smoke and fire. The smoke rose to the sky.

It was similar to hay being burned. The fire crazily intensified and seemed impossible to extinguish. Everyone held their breath, aware that this was the time when the insects would come out. This was a harvest season of sorts, just not their harvest.

The grasses would burn every once in a while. During this process. The Winterfire Insects hiding deep below would come out and devour the fire essences of the grasses to empower themselves. That would be the best time to capture them.

It didn't take long before the grasses all became ashes, leaving behind only the soil.

"This is it." Someone murmured.

"Start digging." Wu Lian ordered the disciples from his clan.

They instantly started digging up the ground in order to find the insects.

"You're not starting?" Wu Lian looked around and sneered at Li Qiye and Song Yuhao.

"No rush, you first." Li Qiye smiled back.

Wu Lian grinned and coldly said: "Enjoy this moment because a bit later, you'll be eating all the mud here."

"We'll just see about that." Li chuckled.

Wu Lian was quite annoyed at the constant rebuttal and glared angrily at Li Qiye.

Yuhao was horrified and pulled Li Qiye's sleeve, signaling him to back down.

"Faster, I want to see them swallow the mud." Wu Lian shouted at his group.

Loud rustling noises continued as they dug out the whole area but not a single insect could be found.

"Young Lord, there's none." A disciple reported.

Wu Lian's expression changed as he yelled: "How can this be? You all didn't dig deep enough then, keep going, flip the ground over and bring me these insects."

The disciples had no choice but to keep going. The pits grew larger and deeper but no insects could be found.

"This doesn't make sense." The spectators were perplexed.

One said: "Just three inches should be enough to see them, but they went much deeper now and found none."

This has never happened before to the crowd's astonishment. These insects would always come up to devour the fire essences of the grasses. Wu Lian seized the entire field but couldn't obtain a single one.

"Keep going then, three thousand feet or whatever, get me those damn insects." His expression turned unsightly as he screamed off the top of his lung.

He had made a strong bet earlier so there was no backing down.

"Our turn." Li Qiye leisurely said after seeing the failure of the other group.

The crowd's attention darted towards him. They didn't believe that he could find the insects since Wu Lian's field was hundreds of times bigger versus their corner plot and its few blades of grasses.

There was no way the insects would ignore the large field for these random grasses on this side.

Wu Lian scowled: "My several hundred plots got nothing, so stop daydreaming. Start eating now and I'll spare you from eating the entire field after we find some."

"Don't be so sure now." Li Qiye remained nonchalant: "We'll see who will be the last one smiling."

He pointed at the old tree after saying this, sending it back to his fate palace. The tree had begrudgingly obeyed while thinking that it was a waste of its talents so it didn't wish to stay out any longer.

The incomplete tree was completely inconspicuous. No one recognized it either in this place.

The truth was that in all of Three Immortals, few could understand its magical properties. Even regular ancestors couldn't recognize it, let alone these ordinary experts.

After recalling the tree, he told Yuhao: "Start digging."

"We're really doing it?" Yuhao lacked confidence after seeing no insect in that entire field. Their tiny plot shouldn't have attracted any insect, just like Wu Lian had said.

"Do what I say." Li Qiye demanded.

Yuhao had no choice but to pick up a hoe and started digging. He could already see himself eating the mud, feeling quite sorry for being dragged into this mess but it was too late to do anything about it.

"Ignorant fools." Wu Lian saw Yuhao still trying to dig and said: "Wait till I find some, I'll make you swallow all the soil here."

His eyes flashed with a frightening murderous intent. No one was allowed to disrespect their Everlasting Kingdom in this system.

A while after Yuhao's effort, a spark came out of the ground, as bright as a hidden treasure.

He seemed to be struck by lightning, jolted and drowned with excitement as he started digging even harder.

"What is that?" The fiery spark attracted everyone's attention.

He finished digging a large pit, finding fiery balls the size of a face-washing basin within and picked one up.

Upon careful inspections, they were actually fiery insects resembling silkworms, just much longer. They squeezed together and formed circles as if something was attracting them. That's why they looked like fiery balls at first sight.

"That's, that's Winterfire insects..." Someone shouted.

"So many, must be more than one thousand!" Another guessed.

"I can't believe it." The spectators were amazed. It was impossible for so many insects to gather at this small plot.

"Even this entire field can't produce so many Winterfire Insects." An experienced alchemist chimed in: "It's almost a miracle to find so many below that small plot.

The crowd looked at Li Qiye with strange gazes, wondering how he knew there were insects below.

Chapter 2214: Reneging

The people here naturally didn't know that the old tree was a peerless immortal medicine. Wherever it was, it could definitely attract a bunch of Winterfire Insects, causing them to squeeze together. Thus, the real attraction in the small plot was the tree, not the sparse Firehawk Grasses.

"Yes, they're really Winterfire Insects, my mother is saved!" Song Yuhao held the ball of insects with both hands while emotionally trembling with tears.

He gathered his wits and picked out a few insects before leaving the ball in front of Li Qiye: "Young Noble, I only ask for six to prolong my mother's life, the rest is yours."

Li Qiye didn't bother looking at the insects: "Consider it a gift, I have no use for them."

"What? No, I can't take them, they're, they're too precious..." Yuhao stuttered, still not fully composed.

"Just do what I say." Li Qiye asserted.

This event came too sudden for Yuhao so he was left in a daze. He risked his life to come to this area for these insects in order to save his mother. Just obtaining a few was more than he could ask for, but this guy had just given him more than one thousand.

Others felt the same way. Li Qiye was being too generous. These insects were relatively pricey, and one thousand of them was a fair amount of money. Plus, he was giving it to a stranger on top of that without any hesitation. Truly unbelievable.

"Young Noble, I will forever remember your kindness and will work like an ox for you." Tears finally streamed down his cheeks as he kneeled and bowed his head.

Li Qiye accepted the grand gesture before waving his sleeve: "Stand up."

Yuhao got up and stood to the side, carving this act of generosity into his memories.

Wu Lian, on the other hand, had an unsightly expression. They still couldn't find a single one but Li Qiye's group found so many. The winner of the bet was as clear as day.

"Time to eat all the soil here, right?" Li Qiye casually remarked while staring at Wu Lian.

Wu Lian turned red then white, completely awkward. He decided to go tough: "We're not done digging yet, what's the hurry!?"

"Okay, I'm a patient man anyway but remember to do it in a bit or I'll force it down your throat." Li Qiye said with a smile.

"Go, dig everywhere, find these insects for me!" Wu Lian shouted at his fellow disciples.

Everyone could see who was the winner. Even if Wu Lian were to dig three thousand feet below, he wouldn't be able to find as many as Li Qiye.

The disciples tried and tried, completely futile. Not even a shadow of one could be found. The only thing clearly visible was the ugly expression on Wu Lian's face.

"It's over." A spectator murmured.

"Right, at least lose with grace when you're betting. This is throwing away the reputation of Everlasting." Some were already unhappy with him so they started jeering and sneering.

Wu Lian was certainly affected but there was no way to get out of this.

"It's about time, eat up already." Li Qiye demanded again.

The Wu disciples had dug out a huge pit, so the soil taken from the ground was the size of a small mountain now.

Wu Lian retorted and decided to play dirty: "Time? We didn't specify the time. It can be one day, one year, or even a hundred years! Our bet isn't over until I see some insects!"

"Just be straight and say that you can't handle losing such a little bet. A loser like you still dare to call yourself a disciple of Everlasting? You're throwing away its reputation, but I guess this reputation is crap already anyway since it groomed someone like you." Li Qiye sneered.

Wu Lian angrily shouted back: "Brat, you can insult me, but not our kingdom! Doing so will end in an irreconcilable feud!"

Everyone knew that he wanted to change the topic and push a crime onto Li Qiye. All eyes were on Li Qiye now. A wise person would know to back off because this particular crime was indeed a big deal.

No one wanted to antagonize a behemoth in Everlasting. Nothing good would come of it.

"So what if I'm insulting Everlasting?" Li Qiye didn't damn a damn: "It can't be that great if it produced someone like you."

Song Yuhao was startled and pulled on Li Qiye's sleeve again, telling him that he was playing with fire.

"Ignorant fool!" Wu Lian's eyes turned cold and ferocious as he uttered: "Death to those who insult our kingdom!"

He would never miss this chance to take care of the guy in order to renege on his bet. People would focus on the new topic instead while he had a perfect reason to kill the guy - taking down two birds with one stone.

"You and what army?" Li Qiye didn't bother glancing at the group.

Many quietly shook their head. This was not a wise move because Wu Lian could continue on this path now. Li Qiye was putting himself in danger.

"I see, looks like you won't apologize. Death it is!" Wu Lian aggressively went on: "Go, capture him alive, I want him to taste a fate worse than death to know the consequence of insulting our kingdom!"

The Wu disciples put down their hoe and other tools. They surrounded Li Qiye with their weapons unsheathed, eyes brimming with brutality.

"Die, brat!" They slashed and hacked, channeling all of their prior indignation and anger on him, seemingly wanting to dismember the guy.

Li Qiye simply waved his hand and all of the disciples got blown flying. He laughed and started walking towards Wu Lian: "Dogs like you dare to prance around in front of me?"

"Die!" Wu Lian remained calm and took out a gigantic cauldron. It poured down endless flame towards Li Qiye, wishing to burn him alive.

Li Qiye didn't bat an eye and casually pointed straight forward. The entire cauldron crumbled and its flame extinguished.

Wu Lian realized that he had met a master and tried to flee. Alas, the moment he turned around, Li Qiye picked him up like a little chicken.

The spectators glanced at each other. They didn't expect Li Qiye to be so powerful due to his ordinary appearance. They felt that he was just a nobody but a nobody couldn't subdue the Wu Young Lord so easily. Even if Wu Lian was a domineering idiot, he was still a strong cultivator.

"You're not leaving until you swallow all the soil here." Li Qiye smiled deviously.

"You! Brat! Touch a hair of mine and our Wu Clan will never forgive you. Everlasting will cut you to pieces!" Wu Lian was scared out of his mind and billowed threats.

Chapter 2215: Eating Mud

Undaunted by the threat, Li Qiye smiled and said: "Everlasting is nothing in my eyes, not worth mentioning. Offend me and even if you're the son of a True Immortal, I'll kill eradicate you. Come on now, be a good boy and start eating."

This was definitely a declaration of war towards Everlasting, at least in the eyes of the crowd. If his words were heard by a big shot from Everlasting, that kingdom would never be able to swallow this anger.

Li Qiye grabbed the youth's hair and sealed his body before forcing his mouth opened. He then lowered the youth's head to the ground and started going in a circle around the mud with him, treating his teeth like a plow.

Of course, his teeth weren't as tough as a plow so after a full round, his front teeth were broken. Blood and mud filled his mouth.

"A man takes responsibility for his words. Since you have lost, I must force you to have your fill." Li Qiye dropped him and picked up a handful of soil and stuffed it into his mouth.

He was forceful enough to cause the boy's eyes to go white, unable to breathe. He finally stopped when it was completely filled and patted his hands: "Alright, this is enough. I'll spare your dog life for now. Provoke me again and I'll flay you."

Wu Lian was unable to speak and could only glare back while panting. The spectators were dumbstruck by this scene, thinking that this youth was so ruthless. This public humiliation was worse than just killing the boy.

"Alright, the show is over, time to go." Li Qiye wiped his hands clean and tidied his clothes before leaving.

Song Yuhao had the wits to follow Li Qiye and shouted: "Benefactor, please let me have your name!"

"No big deal, don't worry about it." Li Qiye left too quickly and Yuhao couldn't catch up.

He stood there in a daze. After a long time, he realized something and quickly left. His mother was still waiting for him back home.

Meanwhile, the disciples from Wu took a while before removing all the mud and soil from his mouth and throat.

"Useless idiots!" He slapped these disciples, deciding to vent his rage on them instead.

"Little animal! I swear to never share the same sky with you! I won't forgive you for this!" Wu Lian stared towards the direction of Li Qiye and roared. His eyes were engulfed with hatred, wanting nothing more than to tear the guy to pieces.

The spectators realized that a feud had been created on this day.

Li Qiye continued for the deeper regions. The flame from the source became stronger and stronger, nearly to an unbearable level.

Because of this, fewer people were around along the way. After reaching a certain depth, even a True God could be burnt to ashes.

He was holding something now - Heaven Reckon Ruler, the one he got from the golden shrine.

This was a heaven-defying treasure from its own epoch and had an amazing origin. It wasn't meant for combat but was magical enough, capable of measuring the heaven and earth, the past and future, even the wills of the heaven...

The tip was glowing and pointing towards a particular direction and kept on making adjustment as he walked around. It bent to his whim, capable of pointing him towards his desired destination. Just like that, he was heading for the hiding location of the treasure in the land of the fire source.

Few items in this world could hide from the calculation of this ruler as long as the user wished so. It meant that it could provide an answer to the location of any treasure or secret.

The flame on his body still intensified. At this point, one could no longer see his features, only that he was a walking flame.

The ruler eventually led him to a place with an ocean of surging magma. The heat here made intruders feel as if they could be rendered to ashes at any moment. It was not enough to instantly melt the weapon at the True God level.

Li Qiye didn't think twice before jumping into the magma and was submerged. Though the heat was impressive, it had no effect on him. Remember, Li Qiye had experienced the sea of tribulation before and its terrifying lightning currents. This was nothing to him.

He continued to sink towards the seemingly bottomless ocean. After a while, he eventually reached a layer of pure water.

"Splash!" A refreshing and cool feeling permeated throughout his body. It was quite unbelievable to find such clear water beneath the ocean of magma above.

During this comfortable descend, he found many creatures living beneath. Some fish swam around him; water plants and other vegetation could be seen; spiral shells and conch were playing...

This was an incredible world existing beneath the all-melting magma, a paradise for aquatic life.

The temperature of this water gradually decreased. The cool temperature turned chilling then freezing. Once it reached a serious level, Li Qiye turned ablaze. It was the flame he has been gathering ever since he came to this land.

It danced around his body like a playful spirit and chased away the coldness to protect him.

The colder the water, the more powerful and bigger the flame. The intense drop of temperature wasn't enough to extinguish the flame on his body. The two of them canceled out each other.

Just like that, his feet eventually made contact with the bottom.

The glow on the ruler became brighter as if the item he was searching for was right here.

"Whoosh!" The flame on his body surged like a tsunami into the ground. It seemed excited and happy as if it was coming home.

Strange enough, he didn't feel cold this time around despite the flame leaving him.

Chapter 2216: Silver Thread

The muddy layer eventually cracked with something coming out a while after the flame went inside.

It looked like a silk string but definitely not made out of silk. No, this was a river of stars condensed into the size of a silk string.

Upon careful inspection, stars and other celestial bodies floated around this string. Scorching suns exuded powerful heat. These suns were actually made from the flame protecting Li Qiye earlier. These suns were the things illuminating this galaxy, resembling decorative rubies of sorts.

The string started circulating around Li Qiye's hand as if it had its own life. The rays touched his skin like little tentacles. Just the slightest movement could scare them.

Finally, the string itself obediently coiled around his hand like layers of bandages. Next, they ignited into flame in entirety. Strangely enough, this flame didn't hurt him at all. Instead of an unbearable feeling, it was a feeling of warmth like water running through his hand.

It ended with the string of stars being burned completely. The suns also dispersed, leaving behind tiny silver threads. Small they might be, they were the most essential outlines for an entire universe. This framework of thread continued to play around, seemingly creating time and space. It was silver in shade and had a fiery glow, looking quite animated and lively. It wove together into a spark that kept on changing shape. Perhaps it was deriving something amazing.

Finally, the silver spark exploded like the end of a sun and turned back into silver threads. These threads shot towards all eight directions and disappeared into the water. Who knows where they were going?

Li Qiye didn't give chase and only smiled with a comment: "A fine item indeed."

He then looked at his ruler before putting it away. There was no need to worry about treasures with this thing in his possession.

"Poof!" Another flame once again completely covered him, allowing him to float towards the surface.

Meanwhile, the land of the fire source became quite lively. A fire lotus was about to bloom so this attracted many experts, especially from the fire tribe. This was a godsend opportunity for them.

The fire lotus in this land was a unique and precious flower. Though it wasn't a material for alchemy, the moment when it started to bloom, it would release a type of flame that could refine a cultivator's body and remove impurities. Thus, it would increase the physical constitution on top of lowering the chance of gi deviation.

Firekins were close to fire at birth. They loved using these lotus flames to purify their body. The effectiveness was much higher for them versus the other races.

More and more people poured in with circulating rumors and news.

"I saw the martial goddess from Vermillion, so beautiful..." A young male disciple excitedly told his friends.

"She's also here?" The young guys were naturally ecstatic to hear this.

"It's true. I saw her crossing a magma river yesterday. She's really strong and crossed it so easily. You know, a grand True God once carelessly fell down there and got melted. She, on the other hand, looked like she was taking a stroll. That's why she's the most amazing female genius in Myriad Lineage, worthy of her title as the martial goddess." The young fella elaborated.

"Vermillion Martial Goddess is indeed amazing. She's on the same level as the three Young Nobles." Someone else agreed with this sentiment. [1]

Wu Bingning was known as Vermillion Martial Goddess. Not only was her upbringing prestigious, but her talents were also amazing enough to let her become a True God at such a young age. Her system had high hopes for their strongest genius.

Furthermore, she was also a kingdom-toppling beauty. So many people in Myriad Lineage lost their mind over her.

"I heard she followed the alliance to attack Insane Court System. Looks like she contributed greatly this time." An older cultivator said.

"That's for sure. The alliance suffered heavy losses, nearly ten thousand elites died, only the ancestors came back alive. The fact that she could come back too showed what she was capable of during that expedition." An elder from Vermillion stated.

Everyone knew about the result of this battle at this moment. However, they have obtained their goal. The three Insane Blood Gods were dead while Insane Court had to sign another agreement. This was a win to some of the systems.

Of course, they have only heard this from the words of the surviving ancestors. They publicly announced that it was a hard victory but they successfully killed the mastermind behind it all, forcing Insane Court to sign another agreement.

The ancestors certainly chose their words, but they weren't exactly lying.

The Insane Blood Gods were dead, it didn't matter who had actually killed him. Furthermore, Insane Court was still following the same agreement. It didn't matter which side actually forced the truce. Only the upper echelons were privy to this knowledge.

Wu Bingning being a hostage wasn't announced just yet. After all, it would shame the alliance and have detrimental results for both Vermillion and Wu Bingning herself, hurting their prestige and reputation.

Thus, everyone in Myriad Lineage thought she came back triumphantly with the ancestors. Many felt nothing but respect and admiration for her feat.

They knew that Insane Court had sealed its gates and was on alert. Attacking this system was the same as invading a tiger's lair. It required a lot of courage for her to join the ancestors on the battlefield.

"Women are just as amazing as men. The martial goddess is an exemplary model for our young generation. In fact, I think she's definitely better than the three young nobles in this aspect. Her courage puts men to shame."

Chapter 2217: Miracle Young Noble

"Miracle Young Noble is also in the land of the fire source right now." Someone brought this up after a comparison was drawn between the goddess and the three young nobles.

"Really?" Some became excited right away: "Is he here to refine a batch? Or for some treasures?"

"Who knows?" A disciple from a great power in this region said: "I saw him walking to the lotus pond accompanied by several famous members of Longevity Valley."

"Only someone like him can go with the big shots." Someone said with envy.

"It's not strange that he can go there because he should be on the same level as a True God. Plus, his alchemy is peerless. His Sourceboost and Longevity Pills are the best right now. Both the young and old want to ask him for help, so he'll have a good chance of becoming a True Emperor on top of being an amazing alchemist - a chance to catch up to Alchemy Immortal." A disciple from Everlasting was proud of Miracle Young Noble.

Everyone glanced at each other after hearing such high praises. No one refused this because he was indeed quite exceptional.

This was a great genius from Everlasting, rumored to be a grand True God. Some even believed that he was so close to being half-step True Emperor. Who knows if this was true or not?

The date when he took the reign of Everlasting drew closer; all of this made him one of the three young nobles in Myriad Lineage.

The three were: Miracle, Dragon, and Conqueror. They were the three most promising candidates to become emperor. [1]

Miracle might not be the most talented or the strongest among the three, but his cultivation soared like crazy. In the beginning, he was inferior compared to the other two and almost had zero chance to be considered part of the trio.

Later on, his cultivation speed became as swift as the wind and caught up to these two, maybe even surpassing them. The group of two became the group of three afterward.

The reason for his success in cultivation was obvious - his Sourceboost and Longevity Pills.

Coming from Everlasting, he had an innate advantage in alchemy, not something the other two could compare to. This was the most powerful kingdom in Longevity System. Their power could even be greater than Longevity Valley. Moreover, their alchemy and knowledge of medicine were top-notch.

Miracle inherited all of these legacies. Even the Pill King highly praised him before.

Many True Gods asked him for help with Longevity Pills and gave him handsome payments. On the other hand, his Sourceboost Pills increased his cultivation as well. This allowed him to be on the same level as the other two young nobles despite being less talented in terms of cultivation.

His arrival here caused quite a stir. Many youths were willing to follow him, even big shots and True Gods from the last generation due to his alchemy abilities.

The young ones wished for the Sourceboost Pills while the old wanted the Longevity Pills. Thus, he was always a welcome sight wherever he went.

The crowd was very envious that he was qualified to enter the lotus pond. This was a place only meant for elders and ancestors, usually sealed off to everyone else.

Fire lotuses were everywhere, but the best ones were in this pond, far more valuable than the rest. The pond was actually a valley of lava. Standing at the top and looking down, one would see the valley resembling a lake spanning for a hundred miles with extremely hot lava.

This lava was as hot as a branding iron while violent bubbling was occurring on the surface. The weak couldn't come close at all since that would be a suicidal endeavor.

Strange enough, lotus flowers were actually growing in this terrible temperature. The main difference between the ones here and those outside was the red hue from the heat. They varied in size with the ones closer to the center being larger, especially the buds. The ones here also had a faint golden border as a unique characteristic.

Not all of them were red, however. The two lotus flowers in the very center were the biggest on top of possessing a different color - one was yellow and the other silver.

The big one had stems the size of an arm. When the bud fully blossomed, it would be as big as a palm as well. This one looked as if it was made from pure gold.

The other one was slightly smaller, seemingly cast from silver.

"That's the lotus king and lotus queen." Even the big shots from the last generation were coveting these two flowers due to their benefits.

Miracle Young Noble and the older great characters have entered the valley. Other geniuses also followed them.

Wu Lian and his peers were the next to enter. They sealed the entrance and stopped everyone else from coming.

"Get back! Get back!" Wu Lian was as aggressive as ever and shouted at the crowd: "The pond is full now, only successors and elders can enter. If you're not anyone important, stand to the side. There are more lotus flowers over there!"

Having said that, he pointed at a small stream near the valley's entrance.

There was indeed a stream of lava flowing out from the pond with many lotus flowers growing there. Of course, these ones were inferior to those in the pond.

A few older cultivators were quite annoyed at his imperious action. Most could accept this monopolistic tradition. Ordinary cultivators couldn't get close to that pond at all. It was a world where the strong takes all. The problem was Wu Lian's contemptuous attitude, offending everyone present.

"So fierce huh? Wasn't that fierce when he was eating dirt." Someone else quietly murmured.

Wu Lian heard this and his expression soured: "Who?! Get the hell out here!"

The speaker wasn't stupid enough to stand out and had already hidden in the crowd.

Wu Lian was trembling with rage now. Being forced to eat dirt and soil was too humiliating. He had regained some confidence with Miracle as his backing now but was still embarrassed after someone brought this up.

"Hmph! Tell that animal that I'm waiting at the lotus pond for him. Come here if he dares! I'll dip him slowly in the lava, melting him inch by inch!" He vented with a twisted expression.

Chapter 2218: Lotus Of The Fire Source

Such brutal words from Wu Lian actually pleased the crowd. They have known of the previous humiliation event so his fury now was a sight for sore eyes.

Wu Lian felt quite good about the silent crowd, unaware of their schadenfreude. Sooner or later, he would have his revenge, letting Li Qiye taste a fate worse than death. That would be the time for him to blow off steam.

Why would he be afraid of Li Qiye now that his Young Lord, Miracle, was around? He didn't give a damn about the experts from all the clans.

After being quite content with himself chasing away the others, he entered the valley and stood next to Miracle like a servant.

The fox was exploiting the tiger's might to the chagrin of the crowd. Alas, they couldn't do anything outside of scowling.

They didn't want to provoke him because his background was indeed mighty. Plus, Miracle was here too. No point in provoking such a petty and prideful man.

"Elders, gentlemen, please pick your lotus flowers." Miracle was very respectful towards the big shots and geniuses here.

The best ones were the golden and silver flowers. The latter was a bit inferior in comparison.

Next were the ones closest to the center. Normally, seniority determined the first pick.

"No, Young Noble, you go ahead." A polite response came about.

A few big shots here had a greater position and status than Miracle. Ultimately, he was still only a junior.

However, these big shots who were ancestors wanted to ask him for help, coveting his rare Longevity Pills. Thus, they decided to flatter him.

"In my opinion, you should take the king lotus. A genius like you deserves it." A minor True God said with a smile.

Miracle certainly thought so too. However, he modestly answered: "Senior, you're too kind. I am only a nobody, inferior to everyone here in terms of age and experience. I can't accept this."

"No way." Another big shot smiled: "Young you may be, your accomplishments are still peerless. Last time around, the king lotus was taken by Longevity Master. Now, you're also qualified to take it."

"I don't dare, how can I shamelessly compare myself to Longevity Master?" Miracle remained humble.

Longevity Master was the current sect mast of Longevity Valley. Her status was much higher than the emperor of Everlasting on top of being exceedingly gifted. Her reclusiveness didn't deter her world-renowned fame at all.

Despite knowing that the big shot was only flattering him with this comparison, Miracle still felt quite good inside.

In this system, Everlasting had strong military prowess and claimed to be on the same level as Coiling Dragon System. Alas, they were still only a sect below Longevity Valley, still not a system. Longevity Valley was still the main branch so even if they were stronger, they couldn't replace the valley.

"No need to be so humble, Young Noble. This king lotus should be yours." A different ancestor added: "I heard the martial goddess is also here, so please excuse me for this bold suggestion, let her have the queen lotus."

"Good idea." The minor True God busily agreed: "She's another incredible genius, so right, the queen lotus should be hers."

"I agree." Miracle responded instantly with a beaming smile; the future looked quite bright right now for

Vermillion Martial Goddess was a great beauty and genius with so many fans in Myriad Lineage. Miracle was no exception. He believed that he was a good match for her. In fact, Everlasting once thought about asking Vermillion about a potential engagement.

So now, when everyone here made this decision, they clearly tried to match the two of them together.

"This lowly one agrees." Wu Lian began flattering as well: "Young Noble, you are the greatest genius in our kingdom, versed in both alchemy and cultivation, certainly a True Emperor in the future. Meanwhile, the goddess is the prettiest with unbelievable innate gifts. The two of you are a match made in heaven, the king lotus for you and the queen lotus for her? What a fitting decision."

"Watch your mouth now." Miracle scolded despite loving the statement in his mind. Nevertheless, keeping up a gentlemanly appearance was necessary.

The big shots could read him like a book but didn't say anything else. Though they wanted to flatter him, they didn't wish to make such blatant comments about the goddess. She was a big deal as well.

"Brother Wu is right." A young genius had no qualm: "Young Noble, you and the goddess are perfect for each other, crafted by the heaven and earth."

This guy truly wanted the finest-ranked Sourceboost Pills from Miracle. Of course, some of the geniuses here didn't like it too much since they were fans of the goddess too.

The elated Miracle responded: "Please, these comments are not very proper. It wouldn't be good if the goddess were to hear this."

Spring had come for him. He could already see this unfolding into reality, the scene of him embracing the beauty.

"I've seen shameless people before, but to this extent? Quite rare." Someone sarcastically clapped and interrupted the joyous atmosphere.

Everyone looked over and saw an ordinary youth standing outside of the valley with a grin on his face.

It was naturally Li Qiye who had just return from underground. He heard these sycophants and didn't give them any face.

"It's him!" Someone recognized him right away.

Not long ago, Li Qiye had forced Wu Lian to eat dirt. Now he had offended everyone here. It made everyone curious about his identity, what made him so bold and not give a damn about offending Miracle?

This was definitely a verbal slap, so Miracle's expression became unsightly.

"You!" Wu Lian's eyes flashed with fury. He gritted his teeth, wanting nothing more than to mince the guy to pieces.

"Fellow Daoist, please stop. No outsiders are allowed past this point." A disciple from Everlasting stopped Li Qiye from entering the valley.

"Bam!" Li Qiye waved his hand and all the disciples got blown flying. He didn't look at them twice before making his entry.

Everlasting was playing the role of a host to the big shots and geniuses here from various sects and system. Miracle was the one in charge of this reception, so there was no way he would take such disrespect in stride.

Chapter 2219: Looking Down On All

It didn't take long before Li Qiye made it to the pond. He gave the lotus flowers a quick glance, not giving a damn about the rest of the people present.

"Little animal, you dare to come here?!" Wu Lian shouted at him before turning towards Miracle: "Young Noble, he's the one who insulted our kingdom."

He didn't mention about their feud or that he was forced to eat dirt, only the matter of reputation and face. The goal was to turn Li Qiye into an enemy of the kingdom.

Miracle Young Noble slightly grimaced while looking at him: "Your action is out of line. Not to mention whatever happened in the past, your disturbance today is rude towards the ancestors and heroes who are here to participate in the lotus selection."

He was far more eloquent than Wu Lian. Not only did he represent his kingdom, he also brought the ancestors and big shots here into the mix.

"Is that so?" Li Qiye smiled: "This isn't your house. I can come and leave whenever I want on top of teaching a lesson to those who try and stop me."

The direct and domineering response made the spectators outside the valley feel quite good. Miracle and his group's monopoly of the pond had antagonized the crowd. It's just that they were too afraid to say anything.

Thus, Li Qiye's fierce intrusion was naturally a crowd-pleaser.

Miracle's expression soured as he slowly said: "The fire lotus flowers are limited so the ancestors have a priority for their dao enlightenment. This has been the tradition for millions of years..."

Li Qiye interrupted him and smiled: "Rules or not, I don't give a damn. My words are the laws, so today, this pond is mine."

Miracle was shocked to hear this, same with the ancestors and big shots. If he were to take over the pond, would they get their share at all?

"So arrogant, who do you think you are?!" An easily-provoked genius yelled at him.

"Ignorant fool, doing this in front of the ancestors and our Young Noble? Your death will not be a pleasant one!" Wu Lian cried out.

Miracle also glared at Li Qiye and said: "You must be able to back up your words with skills if you want to monopolize the pond. It has always been an issue of seniority for the lotus flowers, so today, to put it frankly, you're not qualified to take some."

He was being quite direct. Anywhere in the system was virtually Everlasting's territory so he was afraid of no one, even if Li Qiye was a master.

It didn't matter how strong he might be, provoking Everlasting meant asking for trouble and potential death!

"If Young Noble Li isn't qualified, then who is? You?" A cold voice joined the fray.

Despite its aggressive nature, the voice was still very pleasant. People followed the voice and saw a supreme beauty. She was unbelievably gorgeous, affecting people to the very core.

"Vermillion Martial Goddess!" A spectator shouted after seeing her.

Everyone suddenly became excited, especially the young cultivators due to her beautiful appearance. Even those who have never seen her before have heard of her fame.

"Just like the rumor, she's not only powerful but is also as pretty as a goddess." One male cultivator couldn't help himself from admiration.

Those who have seen her before were still smitten all the same. Some forgot about everything around them.

Miracle himself fell into this trap. He had seen her before and fell in love at first sight.

"Martial Goddess." Even the big shots from the last generation had respect for her, albeit for a different reason than the rest.

It was because she represented the young generation in the assault on Insane Court. Treading deep into the enemy's territory was something difficult even for the war-hardened combatants yet she still came along. This was worthy of respect.

Miracle forgot about everything else and came forward to greet her: "Please excuse the late reception, Miss Bing."

Miracle was all-smiles, revealing his most handsome appearance. He himself thought that he was quite dashing right now.

Alas, Bingning only gave him a quick glance before walking to Li Qiye's side.

Her attitude made it a bit awkward for him. He hastily said: "I have saved the queen lotus for you, it's very suitable for physical purification."

"Young Noble Li wanted all of the fire lotuses, so let him divide them." She said flatly.

With that, she held his arm, seemingly quite intimate and obedient. They walked together until they made it to the king lotus. He didn't focus too much on the flowers, only on the actual water.

The scene became quiet. Everyone exchanged confused glances with each other.

The goddess in everyone's mind looked so docile standing next to Li Qiye and even helped him up the king lotus. It was as if she would listen to all of his commands and act as his strongest supporter.

This was the beloved jewel of Vermillion Martial Court, a phoenix belonging to the nine firmaments. Such nobility and prestige... However, she was showing so much love to an unknown junior. No one could accept this so they instantly viewed Li Qiye as an enemy.

Miracle's expression kept on changing. He was jubilating before and thought about winning the beauty over. Now, he was overwhelmed with jealousy.

He gave an eye signal towards Wu Lian. His hound instantly understood and shouted again: "Little animal, this is the territory of Longevity System, not a place for you to do as you please. The pond is not yours, all the ancestors and clans will never allow such disrespect to happen. You must be tired of living..."

He couldn't finish before Li Qiye grabbed and threw him into the lava.

"Ah!" it instantly melted part of his body into ashes with smoke everywhere.

"Young Noble, save, save me!" Wu Lian was scared out of his mind, not expecting Li Qiye to attack before so many ancestors and Miracle.

"How impudent! You think Everlasting has no capable men?!" Miracle stepped up and took out a divine sword, pointing it straight at Li Qiye: "Li, spare yourself from this mistake and let go of our kingdom's disciple or we will never let this go, not until death!"

"No one's afraid of your Everlasting.!" Bingning answered before Li Qiye could: "I'll take you on if you want to fight, no need for the young noble to waste his time!"

She looked even more beautiful than before when stepping up, causing everyone's heart to beat faster.

Chapter 2220: Monopoly

Wu Bingning's sudden involvement shocked Miracle. He stood there frozen, not knowing what to do. His complexion kept on changing color. The guy didn't want to go all out against her because he thought there was still a chance for them in the future.

Even if he was ready to drop all friendly pretension, he wasn't confident in winning. As a grand True God, he wasn't necessarily weaker than the other two young nobles.

However, his talents were definitely the weakest so he had to rely on pills for a strong cultivation. Thus, he had no advantage to speak of when going against her.

Everlasting didn't focus on offensive grand dao and didn't possess that many primordial merit laws since it was only a kingdom in this system.

This wasn't the case for Qingning. They were in charge of Vermillion System, the orthodox branch. She cultivated primordial laws since youth so this was a great advantage. Moreover, their progenitor's title was Martial Ancestor. His fame was built on his might and martial arts with deadly techniques.

Even if his cultivation was better, he might still lose in an actual fight. Thus, the situation became quite difficult for him. To help or not to help? The former might not be beneficial since it might create an enemy out of the goddess and Vermillion.

As a kingdom, opposing a system required further deliberation. They definitely didn't have the upper hand.

The spectators were pleased once more to see his struggling expression. They were annoyed at his happy attitude earlier.

"Miss Bing, I do not wish to oppose you but this guy is way out of line." Miracle told her before shouting at Li Qiye: "Release our disciple already or become our kingdom's enemy forever!"

"I want to see that." Li Qiye didn't look back and pushed down even more.

"Ah!" Wu Lian's scream echoed across the valley as he was entirely submerged down the lava and became ashes.

Miracle had no chance to save him even if he wanted to at that moment.

"You!" He rushed up in rage but Bingning blocked his path.

"Miss Bing, you want to oppose us for the sake of a nobody?! You think that's worth it?!" He couldn't help raising his voice at her.

"You think my Vermillion is afraid your Everlasting?" Bingning coldly responded: "You should be happy that it is me fighting you. If it was Young Noble Li, you wouldn't even have a chance to resist."

Miracle's face became unsightly. In his mind, she was looking down on him while praising Li Qiye. Being shown such disdain by a crush left him trembling with rage.

It sounded like an insult but it was indeed the truth. If it was her, out of consideration for the alliance, she would show mercy towards him. Li Qiye would kill the guy before he could blink again.

Miracle was a genius indeed with few rivals in the same generation, but Li Qiye could slaughter Ascenders without any difficulty.

The atmosphere grew tenser along with Miracle's fury.

"Poof!" At this moment, the lotus flowers suddenly blossomed. The buds began to spread, revealing the petals.

They exuded a tiny flame that carried a pleasant warmth like bathing in a hot spring.

The two in the center were especially beautiful. The golden lotus was dazzling with golden rays. No one could look straight at it. This resembled a lotus seat beneath a Buddha.

The silver lotus was amazing as well. The blazing flame oozed out like melting platinum, an incredible scene.

"It's happening!" A spectator shouted.

"It's a rare chance, let's get started!" The big shots near the pond began jumping onto the flowers, waiting for the flame to purify them.

"Miracle Young Noble, let's put his aside and talk after the process." One of them told him.

This was out of goodwill, giving the young noble a chance to back off without losing too much face. Ultimately, Everlasting was an underdog compared to Vermillion.

Miracle hesitated after hearing this, still thinking about the right move.

After the petals have fully spread, the flame on each of the lotus intensified. They shot out crystallized rays of light that could pierce through everyone's body, washing away the impurities and imperfections.

"Now!" Some ancestors closed their eyes, waiting for this illumination process to refine their body. It was a very enjoyable and beneficial event.

"Poof!" The lotus flame was going in full force like a volcanic eruption. People would never forget such a magnificent scene.

The lucky ancestors waited and waited with their eyes closed. After a while, they felt that something was wrong.

The flame on each of the lotus wasn't actually splashing on them. Some opened their eyes and saw that the flowers were indeed exuding flame, but these individual flame waves were being siphoned by someone else.

They looked towards the direction of the flame streams and saw a frog-like creature. It opened its mouth and sucked in all the lotus flames.

"Ribbit!" Its mouth was like a terrible black hole. The flame waves had no chance to escape.

Of course, this ugly frog was naturally Li Qiye's Myriad Cauldron. It was taking in the flames from the golden and silver lotuses as well.

The ancestors were stunned to see this. Their rare opportunity was being stolen by this ugly frog. There was no word to describe their current feelings.

"Ribbit!" After eating the last strand of flame, it jumped on Li Qiye's shoulder and playfully stuck out its tongue as if it was still hungry.