Emperor 2411

Chapter 2411: Lucidity King

The unique palace was splendorous and majestic, full of nobility. Just filling the place with items and decoration couldn't have the same effect. Just a few paintings and portraits here could overshadow other palaces made from divine metals. These works of art portrayed their master's conquests and achievements.

Li Qiye walked through the hall, unperturbed, and enjoyed looking around as if it was his own garden.

Sun Lengying eventually brought him into a royal chamber with many servants. Just one piece of wood on the furniture here could sell at a sky-high price.

One could smell a medicinal fragrance as well. An expert in this field would be shocked - the smell must be coming from an incredible pill.

An old man was lying on a bed made of expensive divine wood. The cushioning blanket consisted of nine-colored feathers from a luan. [1]

He wore a robe with the shade of flowing auspicious clouds, making it look as if he was lying among them just like an immortal.

His statue was lofty and powerful. If he were to stand up, most people would only be around his waist. His white hair draped over his shoulder just like silver threads.

Big eyes and big mouth - no different from a silver lion. A glare from him could destroy everything, changing the day into night and vice versa with a single blink. The world trembled before his whims.

Alas, he looked weak and dispirited, akin to a lamp running out of oil.

"Your Highness, the guest is here." Lengying bowed before disappearing into the shadows.

Lengying was notorious around these parts. Some even called him the King of the Night, grasping people's lives within his palm. Just a single wave of his could annihilate a powerful clan or sect.

Numerous masters would lower their head before him, but only one could make him bow with respect - Lucidity King.

Lucidity, the ruler of Nine Secrets System and War Saint Dynasty, an unfathomable Eternal. But most importantly, he had what many considered to be the greatest daughter in the world!

One could tell how frightening he was after seeing Lengying's near-subservient attitude.

Lucidity has ruled for three generations, the longest reign in the history of his dynasty. This could probably apply to the rest of Imperial as well.

Though many old masters still maintain their influence and authority, they usually withdrew to the background and stopped caring about mundane matters.

This wasn't the case for Lucidity. He ruled with an iron fist and maintained control over various matters of the system, never losing an ounce of control. Much of this was due to his unfathomable cultivation.

Nine Secrets System prospered greatly under his rule. It was even rising above the Mu Clan. Many attributed this success to his leadership during the three generations.

Lucidity opened his eyes to look at Li Qiye: "I can't stand up to greet you, Esteemed Guest. Please excuse the lack of manners."

His face turned red as if just uttering these words required immense effort, similar to a man on his deathbed uttering his last words.

"No need to be so polite, I'm only a lost traveler." Li Qiye chuckled and casually sat down.

The servants took a deep breath after seeing this. Few in Imperial were qualified to sit before their king.

This made Lucidity stare at Li Qiye again. The light in his eyes flickered and wavered, on the verge of extinguishing at any moment.

"My name is Hao Taiqing, what is yours?" The king closed his eyes again, seemingly needing rest after speaking so much. [2]

Virtually everyone in Imperial has heard of this name and knew who he was due to his peerless reputation. Even an Ascender would find their soul leaving in fear upon finding out. Only Li Qiye would treat this name as just another name, no different from the name of a random stranger on the street.

"Li Qiye." He casually stated his own name.

"It's a good name, a good name indeed." Lucidity opened his eyes and praised, seemingly very excited after hearing the pleasant name.

Li Qiye had no reaction to the king's excitement.

"Your Majesty, you are unwell, please rest more." Lengying bowed and respectfully suggested.

"Yes." Lucidity nodded before turning towards Li Qiye with an invitation: "A meeting is fate, how about becoming a guest at my dynasty?"

Others would be honored to hear this, but Li Qiye nonchalantly said: "That's fine, I have free time anyway."

"Good." The king nodded satisfyingly and told a servant: "Take good care of my young friend, do not make any mistakes."

The servant prostrated before respectfully turning towards Li Qiye: "Young Noble, please follow me."

Li Qiye nodded and followed.

After he left, time seemed to stop in the chamber.

"Your Majesty..." Lengying eventually broke the silence.

The sleeping king opened his eyes and said weakly: "I don't have much time left, it is time to appoint a successor."

"..." Lengying had no response.

"I know what you want to say, Lengying." The king smiled: "Accidentally coming across a few things is the work of fate, wouldn't you say?"

Lengying didn't reply, standing there as if he was part of the shadows. No one could spot him.

"Start early tomorrow, it's time for me to go back. If I were to die, I want to be at the court." Lucidity finished with this before entering a deep slumber.

Lengying continued to stand there, not as a shadow of himself but rather Lucidity's shadow. He was the only one who could stand next to the sleeping king. Lengying was the only one the king trusts during his most vulnerable moment.

Since he reigned for three generations, he had experienced numerous trouble. So many wished for his death. Assassins scattered hid around him, so he only trusted a few confidents.

The only person in the entire system to have earned his absolute confidence was Lengying.

Everyone knew that he acted as Lucidity's shadow and bodyguard. He would always be next to the king wherever he went with absolute loyalty, the only person to never betray the king.

Rumor has it that this relationship between them existed dated back to their youth. Being loyal to Lucidity was Lengying's purpose for living.

Thus, he also acted as an enforcer of sorts. If anyone were to disobey or betray Lucidity, Lenging would carry out a disciplinary punishment while showing zero mercy. Obviously, a king that had ruled for so long had plenty of enemies. They saw him as an annoying nail and would want nothing more than to get rid of him.

Many sects have betrayed Lucidity in the past, and that would be the time for Lengying to shine - eliminating these traitors with brutality.

This played a large part in his present notoriety. Numerous people and great powers have fallen to his cruel and bloody methods.

All in all, Sun Lengying was Lucidity's executioner and sharpest sword!

Chapter 2412: On The Verge Of Death

His servants would follow Lucidity's orders to the teeth without uttering a single word of displeasure. This showed his absolute authority and power.

Thus, Li Qiye enjoyed the highest treatments in this palace - luxurious clothes and expensive delicacies straight to him. He could call for rain and winds at his whim.

To put it bluntly, if Li Qiye wanted to eat steamed dragon meat and boiled phoenix bladder, these servants would rack their brains in order to come up with the meals.

In Nine Secrets, his orders were absolute. No one would dare to carry them out half-heartedly or with delay.

Li Qiye was no different from a crown prince in this place; many became envious of his current privilege.

Cultivators didn't quite chase after pleasures and benefits, but at this level, it became an issue of power and freedom to do whatever they wanted.

The esteemed guest of Lucidity naturally had authority - a feeling of being below just one person and above everyone else! More than enough influence to shake Imperial Lineage.

Li Qiye didn't have anything to do outside of meditating in his room.

At this moment, the Primordial Tree's second dao fruit almost ripened. Once this happened, a new experience would come for Li Qiye. This dao fruit would be different from the first.

Each successful dao fruit was different for this tree. Each fruit had its own mysteries and abilities. Because of this, he was about to open a new world of dao and epoch. The abilities granted by them were unreachable too. Others would find it virtually impossible to gain them through other means.

He didn't go to see Lucidity during his stay. Strangely enough, this king never asked for his identity or tried to pry for information. Nevertheless, he still treated Li Qiye so well.

Li Qiye didn't care too much about the king's attitude towards him as if this was a trivial matter. Meanwhile, the king wasn't doing well, completely bedridden. Lengying remained by his side the entire time.

Li Qiye's attitude was strange as well, not asking about the king's condition at all, completely oblivious to the matter or so it seemed.

Since Lucidity wanted to go back to the court, Silver Secret Legion mobilized on the second day.

Despite carrying a large palace and traveling in great numbers, the legion's speed was incredible - as fast as the wind. Just one day and they had traveled across half the system.

Their thunderous march naturally attracted everyone's attention. In fact, whether it be Lucidity alone or with an army, he would always garner curious gazes. After all, he was the most powerful figure in Imperial right now.

In recent years, his health deteriorated yet he still hasn't appointed a successor. This made people watch his every move even more.

Remember, Nine Secrets was one of the three behemoths and Lucidity had complete control over it. The moment he passed away, so many people would go crazy in a power struggle.

Thus, whoever inherited this spot would change the fate of War Saint Dynasty, Nine Secrets System, and the current political climate of Imperial. A storm would come on that day, one strong enough to shake the entire world.

In Nine Secrets, the thousands and thousands of sects and clans quietly watched the march of this legion, including great powers such as Waterfront Pavilion, Bingchi Clan, Calm Lotus Monastery, Myriad Formation Kingdom, and Godstep Sect. [1]

Everyone backed off or even prepared the path before the legion has arrived. Lucidity didn't need to give the order. The sects within Nine Secrets knew to do so beforehand while maintaining orders.

Furthermore, none dared to come seeking an audience or offering a tribute either without his permission. The great powers didn't dare to do so as well. Once again, as long as Lucidity was alive, he had absolute power - completely untouchable by anyone else in the system.

Of course, he couldn't stop people from quietly talking among themselves.

"I wonder if His Majesty has found a longevity medicine." One True God murmured.

The juniors didn't dare to comment about Lucidity. Only the ancestors of the Ascender level and up would dare to talk about him.

"I don't think so." One Eternal was quite insightful: "If they had found it, the legion wouldn't be marching in such a hurry. Look at them rushing back to the court. That day is near."

The Ascenders and Eternals in this party became shaken. The death of Lucidity would herald an earth-shattering event.

"It's close, he can't hold on no matter how heaven-defying he is." An ancestor from a clan whispered.

Lucidity had reigned for three generations now, utilizing incredible methods and longevity medicine to stay alive.

Alas, no one could live forever by escaping the flow of time, unless they were to seal themselves.

This was the reason why so many emperors and Eternals would leave for Immortal or some unknown dimensions. All aimed to live longer.

It was already a miracle for Lucidity to live this long. Everyone knew that his lifespan had depleted since several years ago. Powerful ancestors calculated that he didn't have much time left.

The purpose of his trip was to search for more medicine but it looked like a failure.

Was Imperial ready for the aftermath of this supreme existence's death?

Not to mention the various great powers, none in his own dynasty could infringe on his sovereignty. The entire system was firmly under his grasp.

The throne of tyranny would be empty overnight. Most importantly, he didn't have a son or an appointed successor!

The void left behind by him would start a bloody struggle from both internal and external sources.

Nevertheless, even when he had one breath remaining, these parties remained patient. They knew that he had no qualm against genocide, not to mention his Silver Secret Legion and Sun Lengying.

Too many lessons of failure have been taught during his long reign. No one was successful in trying to usurp him. All they got was a terrible ending.

These powers have already mobilized their troops. The only thing missing was the news of Lucidity's death.

"A storm is coming." One ancestor said.

The great powers in this system were even stronger than some systems. If it wasn't for Lucidity's abilities, they would have rebelled long ago.

Who knows if Li Qiye was sensing this fierce and murderous atmosphere? He wouldn't give a damn either way.

Chapter 2413: Crown Prince Appointed

Silver Secret Legion marched with the speed of lightning and made it back to the court within one day.

Li Qiye stepped into War Saint Dynasty. Its majestic appearance earned a smile from him.

War Saint Dynasty was in charge of Nine Secrets. It had forts everywhere in the system; its main court was located in Skywrap Mountain.

Skywrap was both the name of a mountain and the mountain range around it. There were plenty of tall peaks in this area, some towered to the clouds.

However, these peaks were insignificant compared to the main mountain with the name Skywrap. Even the clouds only made it to the base of Skywrap; the stars only hovered near the ridge. The peak of Skywrap was up in the galaxy. Quite a shocking scene.

Any random stream pouring down looked like a river with roaring currents in the form of a massive dragon. Any tiny portion of the mountain encompassed rich thickets. Just a random boulder here could be carved into a city.

On top of the peak were numerous palaces. On the ridges were cities with millions of citizens. Skywrap Mountain alone seemed like its own world.

Numerous bridges crossed through the air from one mountain to another. Some spanned for more than ten thousand miles. The smaller mountains and peaks at the base also had their own cities. The entire place must have tens of millions of people, maybe even more.

With Skywrap Mountain at the center, all of the cities nearby were considered part of Skywrap City. Of course, this was more like a kingdom than a city.

Nevertheless, this was only one part of War Saint Dynasty. Just looking at this place alone gave a good idea about the dynasty's incredible scale; same with Nine Secrets System.

After all, one of the three behemoths of Imperial naturally possessed numerous territories.

The progenitor of this system was obviously Nine Secrets. The system was conveniently named after this person. No one knew the progenitor's true name and identity.

People only knew that Nine Secrets' master was Bao Pu, nothing else.

Bao Pu was the first progenitor in the written history of Three Immortals. As one of Bao Pu's disciples, Nine Secrets started the system a very long time ago.

Because of this, few records about Nine Secrets existed, only a few words here and there in the ancient scrolls. Despite a lack of information, no one should question Nine Secrets System's power and resources.

After numerous eras, the system had its ups and downs but it still stood strong till the present.

Under the leadership of Lucidity, it once again reached the top of Imperial.

Though no one knew the golden age of Nine Secrets, they thought that its current state couldn't be much inferior.

Outside of numerous clans and sects, it also had monsters like Waterfront Pavilion, Bingchi Clan, Calm Lotus Monastery, Myriad Formation Kingdom, and Godstep Sect.

These five great powers were stronger than numerous other systems in Imperial. As for War Saint, this dynasty was enjoying its prime.

This was why whenever people stepped into Skywrap, they could sense the prosperity and confidence in the air.

Li Qiye didn't see Lucidity after reaching the imperial city. The servants have already made preparation for him without needing to be told.

He was actually placed in the eastern palace of the imperial city. In other words, the location traditionally presided by the crown prince - very prestigious.

Lucidity only had one daughter. However, after becoming a True Emperor last generation, she left for Immortal and hasn't returned.

It meant that he no longer had a successor available, so Li Qiye's current placement truly shocked others.

No one would dare to make this arrangement without permission from Lucidity. Doing so could result in a clan extermination.

At the same time, people didn't gossip about it either due to Lucidity's perfect grasp over the dynasty.

Li Qiye didn't react at all just like before as if this place was just another inn. He remained nonchalant, unaware of the significance behind the eastern palace.

All eyes were on Skywrap Mountain after the return of the king. They wanted to know about his health but none dared to visit without permission.

On this night, Lucidity sent a messenger to summon Li Qiye. The guy walked over in a carefree manner as if this was his own place.

When they met again, Lucidity was in a worse state, needing far more energy to open his eyes.

"Do you like your place, little friend?" Lucidity revealed a gentle smile, quite rare for him.

He was certainly not a nice person, more of a ruthless and imperious tyrant - bloodthirsty, even. A kind smile was the last thing to be shown on his face.

"Not bad." Li Qiye smiled back, treating Lucidity like just another person.

"I hope you will find the accommodation acceptable." Lucidity acted like a doting senior.

One would be scared out of their mind if they were to see this. Lucidity never showed such care for anyone outside of his daughter. But Li Qiye was only a stranger without any relation to him.

"I don't have much time, and no children either." Lucidity wasn't one to waste words and got straight to the point: "The dynasty needs a ruler, so I have made up my mind. Will you be the crown prince?"

His servants were astounded after hearing this. Appointing a stranger that he had only met for one day as the crown prince? How illogical.

They wondered to themselves - was the illness getting to the king?

The only person unmoved by this development was Sun Lengying who stood unnoticed in the shadows.

"Crown prince? That would make you my dad then." Li Qiye laughed in response, still rather indifferent to anything thrown at him ever since his arrival.

"Our meeting is fate, no need to worry about worldly customs." Lucidity weakly waved his sleeve.

Li Qiye smiled: "Perhaps. Is it fun being the crown prince? I can do whatever I want?"

"Indeed, you can do whatever you want." Lucidity seemed insane, forgoing his authority in order to make Li Qiye the crown prince.

Once again, he had only met this guy yesterday.

"A bit interesting, could be fun. Very well, I'll be a crown prince." Li Qiye revealed a wide smile.

"Good, go rest then." Lucidity was running out of breath and needing to close his eyes.

"Alright." Li Qiye casually responded and left, not bothering to bow or perform any ceremonial gesture towards the king.

The servants were slack-jawed by the lack of formality. This was the first time they've met someone so bizarre.

Becoming the crown prince of War Saint Dynasty? This meant gaining unlimited power and authority yet this guy didn't react at all.

'Could it be that this brat doesn't know the significance behind the role in War Saint? Does he not know how much power he had just gotten?' They thought.

Chapter 2414: Zhang Jiadi

"Crown prince, huh? Should be amusing." Li Qiye returned to the eastern palace and smiled, unaffected by his new role.

It was an unbelievable matter. Lucidity King appointed a stranger like him to be the crown prince. Meanwhile, this stranger didn't give a damn at all as if it was no big deal.

This was bizarre and unexplainable. No one would believe this story.

Lucidity - a calculating and imperious person that leaves nothing to chance - acted like a senile old man.

Remember, not to mention the great powers and other sects in the system, War Saint Dynasty had plenty of geniuses. Many of them came from Lucidity's main branch.

Though they weren't related to him by blood, they were still considered his clan members and part of the royal institution. But now, he skipped all of them and the powerful ancestors just to choose a stranger.

This was excessively unreasonable, borderline insanity. He knew nothing about Li Qiye outside of his name.

If Lucidity were to pass it on to his most trusted confidant, Sun Lengying; most would be able to take it. After all, Lengying has always been in charge of killing. No one could rationalize the king's choice.

Li Qiye's nonchalant attitude was just as strange. Even if he didn't care about a system, he should be thinking about Lucidity's intent. Or, perhaps he has seen through everything and that this development was within expectations. All in all, no one knew what he was thinking since all he did was smile after being appointed.

Someone else came to visit Li Qiye on the same day.

"Your Highness." This person bowed respectfully and said: "I am here to report for duty under the order of His Majesty."

This middle-aged man had a proper and righteous appearance, both in stature and facial features. His features were stalwart, resembling an artistic statue.

His eyes were bright and serious like gems. He wore a green robe, looking quite experienced and fierce like a soldier. He looked indifferent yet respectful.

There was no powerful and domineering aura but as he was standing there, the orders nearby bent to his whims. Any insightful person could tell that he was an Eternal.

Ever since his ascension, Li Qiye has met one Eternal after another.

This wasn't strange at all. In Myriad, an Eternal was considered a mighty and rare existence. They were also strong in Imperial but far from being uncommon.

Moreover, War Saint Dynasty was the strongest kingdom in Imperial, standing at the apex. It wouldn't be strange for it to have plenty of Eternals.

How could they maintain their position without sufficient fighting forces?

"What is your name?" Li Qiye gave a quick glance.

"Your Highness, this servant's name is Zhang Jiadi. My previous position was the captain of the imperial guards. Now, I am here to be your guard captain, ready for your orders." The man solemnly said while standing straight.

If someone else in the system were to hear his name, their first reaction would be astonishment.

He was a powerful and famous Eternal. Of course, far inferior compared to Lucidity and not comparable to Lengying.

An ordinary True God wasn't qualified to be the captain of the imperial guards for Lucidity. A strong Eternal was more suitable.

Plus, who could actually assassinate someone as strong as Lucidity? Being his guard captain was quite an easy job.

"So you will obey all of my orders?" Li Qiye chuckled.

"Rest assured, Your Highness, His Majesty has given me an order to obey you, so your orders are his orders. I will not refuse." Jiadi said seriously.

An Eternal was a big shot anywhere, including Nine Secrets and War Saint Dynasty. However, surprisingly enough, Jiadi didn't think highly of himself, preferring to assume the role of a disciplined soldier.

"Sounds like you are utterly devoted to the king." Li Qiye smiled.

"Your Highness, His Majesty has given me a second life while my parents gave me the first. I am here today thanks to him." Jiadi didn't hide this.

Zhang Jiadi used to be an ordinary soldier, a nobody in the mortal world.

During a particular march, Lucidity actually noticed this mortal soldier. The next part was even more unbelievable - Lucidity handed him the Four Divine Transformations from the Lucidity Pill Scripture. [1]

This was a big deal. Keep in mind that this scripture came from Emperor Zheng, the most amazing True Emperor of the system. Nine Secrets was on a downward trend during his youth. After becoming emperor, he revitalized the system and made War Saint Dynasty the untouchable leader.

Later on, the future generations also added him into the Radiant Decemvirate.

Emperor Zheng's Lucidity Pill Scripture was rumored to be on the same level as Nine Secrets, the laws left behind by their progenitor.

Nine Secrets belonged to the entire system, but Lucidity Pill Scripture was possessed only by War Saint Dynasty.

Thus, one could imagine how important it was to the dynasty. Normally, they would never give it out to an outsider, not even just one part.

However, no one could stop the imperious Lucidity King. Not a single soul said anything after this act, including the ancestors of War Saint Dynasty.

Zhang Jiadi didn't let him down and proved that he was right. After receiving the four transformations, he embarked on the path of cultivation. The ordinary mortal displayed an amazing gift for cultivation to the point of being devilish.

He sped through the levels and eventually became an Eternal, not quite as strong as Lengying but more than enough to sweep through the realms. Moreover, his dedication and loyalty remained, always acting as just another soldier.

The unhappy ancestors no longer commented about this matter among themselves after seeing his success.

"Loyalty is a virtue indeed." Li Qiye smiled.

"His Majesty will let Your Highness pick several treasures for protection, do you mind following me to the treasury?" Jiadi said respectfully.

Jiadi knew nothing about this fameless stranger who is clearly weak at cultivation. One could easily find so many youths like him in Nine Systems.

Someone like this shouldn't be able to order an Eternal. However, Jiadi has always followed his orders and wouldn't look down on Li Qiye just because the guy was weak. Doing it half-heartedly was out of the question as well.

The moment Lucidity sent him here, Li Qiye became his master. This was the reason why Jiadi was amazing and why Lucidity chose him for this task.

Chapter 2415: The Responsibility Of A Crown Prince

Li Qiye smiled and said: "How many treasures can I pick?"

"His Majesty didn't specify an exact amount, so Your Highness can have as many as you wish." Jiadi instantly replied.

Li Qiye nodded: "Alright, I don't have anything else to do. Let's go see if there is something good."

Jiadi immediately led the way towards the treasury of War Saint Dynasty.

Normally, opening a treasury was a big deal in any sect and kingdom. The majority of sects would have a conference between ancestors or big shots to decide. After all, this was the resource and wealth of the sect, not the property of a sect master or king. One couldn't make arbitrary decisions.

This didn't apply to Lucidity. Everything in War Saint Dynasty, whether it be resources or authority, was firmly within Lucidity's grasp.

This didn't used to be the case. The king's authority was limited in War Saint in the past. The real power was within the Sacred Cabinet, consisting of ancestors from the royal clan. They decided the direction of the dynasty and made important decisions.

During his reign, Lucidity built up one generation after the next. After three, he had enough to authority and influence, not to mention his personal strength.

Finally, he began to crack down on the Sacred Cabinet since he had all the advantages. From then on, this group lost influence and eventually disappeared from the court. This established Lucidity's monocracy and allowed him to stand at the top.

Perhaps there were stronger beings in Imperial compared to Lucidity in the present, but no one had more authority than him.

That's why no one dared to stop him from appointing a stranger as the crown prince or opening the treasury for the guy to pick treasures. This wouldn't have passed in any other system.

Lucidity was the only one in the world who possesses so much freedom and authority - truly enviable.

Not long from now, this absolute power would belong to a fameless brat named Li Qiye. He would become a fat piece of meat to everyone else.

"Your Highness, what treasures are you looking for? The treasury is massive so just give me a summary or description so that I can lead the way." Jiadi sincerely said.

"Let's have a look and take whatever then." Li Qiye freely said.

Jiadi really wondered about Li Qiye. He naturally trusted the king but Li Qiye's relaxed attitude perplexed him. Anyone else would have been jumping with joy.

He recalled back when he was chosen by His Majesty, he became too excited to even sleep that night.

He found his lack of composure embarrassing compared to Li Qiye right now. 'If I were chosen as the crown prince, will my heart be able to contain the excitement?'

"Have you cultivated before, Your Highness?" Jiadi took a good look and could tell that Li Qiye had trained before. However, the guy's cultivation was shallow and he couldn't see the implemented merit law. It must be a weak one anyway.

"Just casually." Li Qiye chuckled.

Jiadi quickly said: "May I ask which merit law you used? What's your level right now? How about I find you a suitable weapon?"

As an Eternal, he would be a respected ancestor at any system, more than qualified to teach even the geniuses there. However, he never became arrogant about his status.

"A thirteenth-level True Apprentice. As for merit laws, just random ones." Li Qiye smiled and said.

"Oh..." Jiadi was surprised before gently speaking: "Your Highness, the realm of True Apprentice doesn't have thirteen levels, the highest is the ninth level."

Even a weak cultivator would be mocking Li Qiye for not knowing the basic fundamentals and ignorantly boasting about having trained before. Jiadi didn't do so and only politely reminded the guy.

"I see. Then the third-level then, but thirteenth-level sounds much better and cooler, no?" Li Qiye said with a smile.

Jiadi had no words. This was his first time seeing someone so carefree, not knowing his own cultivation level? Did he even try at all?

"Your Highness, if you are interested, you can try other merit laws. There are many that you can choose in the dynasty. I can help you find some, with your permission." Jiadi said with good intention.

Any other disciple would be begging for an Eternal to teach them, but now, Jiadi was virtually begging Li Qiye to train.

Of course, as the crown prince under the rule of Lucidity, Li Qiye could pick any merit law in the system without facing any opposition.

"Why bother cultivating when I have you, an Eternal, as a personal guard? I rather just enjoy my life." Li Qiye said.

Jiadi smiled wryly and insisted: "Your Highness, please don't say that. I might not be able to protect you forever, plus, there are as many experts in the world as there are stars, with no lack of people stronger than me. It's better if you know a strong ability or two."

"If there's an opponent that you can't beat, then there's nothing my crappy arts can do. They can't scare the enemy away, completely useless, so why bother learning? Are you going to turn me into an Immortal in one or two days?" Li Qiye retorted.

Though his response was improper, it was certainly reasonable. Even if Li Qiye started training in some supreme arts, when real danger came that he couldn't deal with, the guy wouldn't be able to do anything either.

"I don't have a way to make you into an Eternal in such a short time, Your Highness." Jiadi conceded.

"Of course." Li Qiye smiled: "If that's the case, then I should just worry about my business as a crown prince, to enjoy a life of luxury and extravagance. As for my safety, that's your responsibility. Otherwise, what's the point of having you as my guard?"

Jiadi agreed completely. If he couldn't do this much, then what was the point of his post?

"A general leads the troops while a guard protects. Everyone has their own affair." Li Qiye went on: "If I could sweep through the world and become invincible, then what's the point of having generals and guards? I would only be wasting money to feed them. So, I just need to have authority and power as the crown prince, then enjoy, enjoy, and enjoy some more."

Jiadi couldn't come up with a response right away. Li Qiye's comments all made perfect sense, outside of the last part about "enjoyment".

If the crown prince could do everything himself, then why would he need other people like Jiadi?

Chapter 2416: When Will The King Die?

Nevertheless, Jiadi didn't give up and spoke with a soft tone: "Your Highness, it is still better if you train just a little bit. Maybe not a merit law, just a movement technique. We have several movement techniques that are virtually peerless, not inferior to the ones from Godstep Sect. It would be good if you know how to move quickly."

He tried his best to persuade Li Qiye despite being a mighty Eternal.

"What's the point?" Li Qiye looked just like a spoiled young master and smiled: "Our dynasty is unbeatable and you are my guard, who would dare to touch me in this world, however vast it might be?"

Li Qiye seemed to be without ambition, more than content at being a useless crown prince that only seeks pleasure.

Jiadi felt helpless. Anyone else would want to learn the movement steps from the dynasty, something they could only dream about. On the other hand, begging didn't even work for this guy.

Jiadi sighed and kept on trying: "Well, yes, Your Highness, you might have the supreme authority right now, but many people are salivating for it. Not to mention external enemies, just great powers like Godstep and the Bingchi Clan have been coveting the throne of Nine Secrets. If you aren't capable of suppressing them, it's only a matter of time before they rebel."

Lucidity was like a second father to Jiadi. He knew that the king didn't have much time left and at that time, these mighty sects would lose their patience.

He didn't wish to see the collapse of War Saint Dynasty, hoping from the bottom of his heart that this new crown prince could help Lucidity protect his legacy.

Therefore, he earnestly tried to convince Li Qiye to learn a few arts. Only with strength could he be able to stabilize the future. Otherwise, Nine Secrets would definitely fall into chaos and war.

"We'll talk about this later." Li Qiye didn't seem to care while fixing his hair.

What more could Jiadi say? He tried his best but failed. All he could do now was protecting Li Qiye.

"Did the king send you to be my guard or my imperial teacher?" Li Qiye said with a smile.

Jiadi hurriedly said: "His Majesty sent me to ensure your safety. I came from humble roots with no education, not qualified to take the role of an imperial teacher. If Your Highness finds displeasure in me talking too much, then I'll stop."

"It's fine." Li Qiye waved his sleeve: "Talking is fun. It would be worse if you're a statue that just follows me all day."

Jiadi lamented in his mind, not knowing what lies in the future for War Saint Dynasty with this guy in charge.

"When will the king die?" Li Qiye suddenly asked.

Jiadi became startled. He shuddered before quietly answering: "His Majesty has boundless longevity and will forever be invincible."

He was frightened because this question was no different than cursing the king - a crime punishable by death. He knew that Lucidity was a ruthless person and wouldn't spare anyone that had crossed the line.

"No need to speak such self-comforting words." Li Qiye dismissed the reply and smiled: "Even an idiot could tell that it is only a matter of time before the king dies. Maybe not today, but not far. He can't hold on any longer."

Jiadi widened his eyes, unable to tell whether this guy was insane or just reckless. Worst of all, the guy was telling it straight to his face.

Everyone knew that he was Lucidity's loyal confidant and he might tell Lucidity of this transgression. Was this guy tired of living?

Li Qiye might be the crown prince right now, but he shouldn't be wishing for Lucidity's death so that he could take over. Or, even if he harbored such thoughts, he should just keep it to himself. The blatant comment made it sound like he just wants it to happen as soon as possible.

"Your Highness, please mind your words, you don't know who might be listening." Jiadi cautiously reminded.

Anyone else would have reported such insolence to Lucidity so that he would get decapitated. Nevertheless, Jiadi pitied that the guy was still young and rash.

"It's fine, growing old and dying are a part of life, no one can live forever. I'll go ask him later when he's going to die." Li Qiye smiled and said.

Jiadi truly didn't know what to do - what is this guy's goal? Who else would dare to attempt such a thing? Not even an idiot would do so.

Jiadi stopped talking and didn't want to cause any more trouble. This made the trip quieter but Li Qiye didn't mind. He continued to enjoy the scenery along the way.

The two finally made it to the treasury guarded by numerous experts. Entry required permission.

After passing through multiple layers of verification, they entered the place.

It was massive just like another world with treasure chests everywhere. Powerful artifacts were also floating in the air.

Li Qiye looked around and said: "Is there another secret trove? There is a lot of treasures here, but they are rather mediocre."

"I, I do not know." Jiadi forced a smile.

He didn't understand his new master at all. It was understandable for a youth to speak without thinking, but this guy was on a whole different level.

This treasury contained the wealth of the entire dynasty. Not to mention a youth, he was shaken the first time he saw this accumulation of treasures.

However, Li Qiye didn't react at all and even criticized it. An Eternal like him wouldn't dare to act so pompous or easily be fooled by someone putting up an act. Alas, he didn't have a single clue about Li Qiye.

The treasures here included weapons, immortal metals, strange artifacts, divine woods...

Not just usable items but also materials and resources. Each of them exuded wondrous light of all colors, more than enough to dazzle the spectators.

Jiadi carefully watched Li Qiye to see his reaction. Normally, a youth wouldn't be able to contain their excitement knowing that they could take these treasures. Even the strong-minded ones would show signs of happiness.

Unfortunately, Li Qiye remained calm as if this was no big deal during their trip. He seemed to be going to the market to buy some vegetables. These amazing treasures were no different than cabbages in his mind. He would only occasionally stop to look at something that had caught his attention.

Jiadi's observation was meticulous. He found that Li Qiye wasn't pretending or controlling his emotions. The guy was truly leisure and relaxed, completely in his element. An Eternal like him would definitely be able to tell if someone was acting. This wasn't the case for Li Qiye.

Chapter 2417: All Mine

Jiadi only grew increasingly confused during his time with Li Qiye.

When he came with Lucidity to this treasury for the first time, he was no longer a brat but rather a world-famous expert. He had plenty of experience under his belt and has seen some incredible spectacles.

Nevertheless, he still gasped in astonishment the first time he saw these treasures, unlike the calm Li Qiye. Moreover, Li Qiye could even pick any of them.

Jiadi didn't know how to describe his emotions right now. Was his new master just slow to react or has he seen too many and got tired of them? To be this composed meant that he was either a complete idiot or that he has seen too many great things before.

Jiadi naturally didn't know that the latter was right. This treasury was nothing compared to Samsara Wild Ancestor's own.

Another treasure made Li Qiye stop - a glowing bell seemingly made from gold but with a purple glow. The entire bell was one piece, not made by men but rather created by nature in this shape. This surging purple energy was lifting the entire bell up.

"That's an amazing treasure, I heard His Majesty used it extensively during his youth." Jiadi was shocked once again after seeing Li Qiye stopping here.

Though he strolled and treated this place like a food market, he actually stopped before several items including this bell.

It showed that his vision was keen - just one glance was enough to discern the good from bad.

"Umm, not bad." Li Qiye casually nodded before moving on.

Jiadi had no comment as this new master kept on surprising him.

Li Qiye stopped again in one corner of the treasury with cannons in full display, made out of unknown material and completely black - seemingly capable of knocking down the sky.

"These cannons are very powerful but after its creator passed away, no one can create the required materials and ammunition. Once the remainder is used up, it'll be scrap metals." Jiadi introduced.

"This is quite fun, not requiring true energy to control. Yes, a good toy, shoot whichever pest is annoying me wherever and whenever." Li Qiye smiled.

Jiadi smiled wryly. These cannons were very precious and not much ammunition was left; who could bare to use them normally? Treating it as a tool to deal with annoying people? Far too wasteful.

After a full round, Li Qiye didn't pick a single treasure and decided to leave.

"Your Highness, you're not picking any?" Jiadi asked with confusion.

"Am I not in charge later?" Li Qiye answered with a question.

"Yes, Your Highness." Jiadi had to answer. This was obvious - he was the crown prince and would be the next king in the future.

"Then it doesn't matter since after the king dies, not to mention this treasury, all of Nine Secrets and the world will be in my grasp, no need to pick a few when they'll all be mine soon. We'll return later for them." Li Qiye looked at Jiadi and said.

'My goodness...' Jiadi groaned in his mind, thinking that this guy was insane - already boasting about possessing everything even before Lucidity's death. 'Yes, he must be insane, doesn't give a damn about anyone.'

Jiadi decided to keep his mouth shut, not wanting to be involved in this mess. One wrong move could invoke the rage of Lucidity and heads will start rolling on the ground!

The two finally left the treasury. Once they got outside, Li Qiye seemed as if he was missing a few nerves and started waving at the guarding ancestors: "All of you need to watch over my treasures carefully. Don't be lazy now, once I take over, I'll reward you all handsomely."

These guards started looking at each other in confusion, speechless. They felt that he was crazy. Lucidity was alive yet he thought about taking over already?

Of course, these frightened souls didn't dare to run their mouth. If Lucidity were to think that they were on Li Qiye's side, all would be dead before the next day.

Right now, they wondered about Lucidity's mental state. Perhaps being senile was why he appointed a guy like this as the crown prince.

Jiadi immediately led Li Qiye towards the eastern palace. He was nervous the entire way back, thinking that Li Qiye would ask someone else about Lucidity's inevitable death. He didn't wish for the stench of blood to stain the palaces.

Once they were back, he heaved a sigh of relief as if a huge weight has been lifted his shoulders.

At this moment, he preferred to have assassins come for Li Qiye's life. He wouldn't be afraid no matter how strong they were, but this guy's mouth terrified him to the core.

It goes without saying that Li Qiye's power warranted his going-with-the-flow attitude. Lucidity King and Nine Secrets System weren't enough to get into his sight. This only served to confuse everyone else around him.

Lucidity's decision was a mystery as well. Attributing it to senility from old age would be silly. After all, an invincible Eternal wouldn't suffer from this. But how else could one explain this lapse of logic? No one understood what Lucidity was trying to accomplish.

Li Qiye spent his days enjoying life. The servants around couldn't be more respectful to him, nearly on the verge of licking his boots.

After all, he was the crown prince, the future leader of Nine Secrets with supreme authority. Who wouldn't want to curry favor right now?

If he wanted something, anything, these servants would satisfy his demands - truly an enviable life of the future king.

The gentle breeze blew by in a bamboo thicket belonging to the eastern palace. Their gentleness made people drowsy in a comfortable manner.

Li Qiye lay down on his large chair, seemingly asleep. The wind continued to caress him like a lover.

Some time passed by later, his servants all disappeared, leaving him alone.

No, there was someone else next to him - a girl sitting on a boulder nearby. She looked relaxed and natural, seemingly one with the world.

She was unreasonably gorgeous. Longevity Sage and Yang Radiance Untethered were pretty enough to topple kingdoms and sway the soul. However, they seemed to be missing a little something compared to her.

Her beauty wasn't limited to her physical appearance but rather her aura. The other two were certainly transcending and pure like fairies, but that was in terms of appearance.

This girl gave the impression that she was an immortal, not just in appearance.

She wore a green dress with a faint, undulating glow around her like the currents in a lake. She had a gem on her forehead, as green and unfathomable as can be, seemingly connected to an ancient world.

She sat there quietly, each of her move resonated with the world, or rather, the world was moving to her actions. The orders and rhythm of nature followed her whims.

One would never get tired of looking at an immortal like her. One glance would all it takes for her to etch her image into someone's mind for an eternity.

Chapter 2418: Mysterious Woman

Only Li Qiye and the girl seemed to be existing in this plane, seemingly separated from the rest of the world.

He lazily opened his eyes to take a look at her in a brazen manner despite her supreme beauty and hallowed appearance.

Perhaps, no one can make him change his unrestrained gaze.

He took his time to the point of being invasive. Any other girl would feel as if they were naked but she remained calm, unaffected by the gaze.

After a while, he stopped looking and didn't bother standing up out of laziness, nearly ignoring her presence.

"How does it feel, being the crown prince?" She broke the silence with a fascinating voice filled with spirit energy - a feeling of transcendence.

"Words can't describe how good it feels, on the verge of melting with pleasure, do you know this feeling?" He teased.

"If being a crown prince is already that good, what will happen after you become the king? Going to start floating in the sky?" She revealed a smile enough to topple the myriad ages. This smile eclipsed the gorgeous smile of the sage and the untethered.

"You don't get it. Being the king is completely different from being the crown prince. To be a king is to toil and struggle, to kill and bathe in blood. Basically, one would have to be at the right power level with ample abilities to sit on the throne. It's no longer a feeling of pleasure but one of success while being above all, capable of exercising great power. But this isn't the case for a crown prince. Becoming one overnight, the future ruler of the dynasty? How great is that? No need to work hard with ambition yet the world still falls onto your lap..."

"... This is a real dream-come-true situation. So many fantasize about rising overnight to reach the top. A man's nature is to want things without putting in the effort. This feeling of satisfaction far exceeded the toil of a king. That's why so many people use power-increasing pills." He shook his head and smiled before closing his eyes: "In the blink of an eye, the heaven bestowed this fortune upon me, benefitting without doing anything, so amazing."

The girl carefully listened to his pleasant voice. She chuckled in response: "You're very interesting. However, being a crown prince is nice, not necessarily the case once you're on the throne. People salivate for that authority and power."

"We'll discuss that when I'm king, but who knows, maybe Lucidity King won't die. The world is always unpredictable and unfathomable; life is just a play - who are the actors and who make up the audience? And, life is also too short, just enjoy it first and no need to worry about anything else."

The immortal lady smiled charmingly at Li Qiye: "Enjoy life, I see. Is that the type of person you are?"

"At least for now." He replied: "As I said, life is just a play, who are the ones acting? And for whom? Maybe you and I are only spectators right now, the real actors have yet to come on stage."

"Then who do you think are the actors?" She seemed to be affected by Li Qiye's demeanor and became more relaxed, straightening her long, perfect legs and started stretching lazily. This didn't deter her beauty at all.

"Who knows?" Li Qiye said: "Perhaps you, me, or Lucidity, or the entire world is just acting. As long as there is a stage in your heart, there are plays going on everywhere." [1]

"True." The girl nodded in agreement: "How long do you want to put up this act?"

"Who knows, I'm not done being the crown prince yet. Maybe the heaven wants me to play the part of the king next. One play after another, the crown prince then king, then maybe the role of a dead man."

"How do you want to play the part of the king?" She asked, amused.

"How the hell am I going to play the king when Lucidity is still alive? It has to be after his death or I'll be forever stuck in the role of a crown prince." He said. [2]

"Just hypothetically then, how will you play the role?" She tilted her head ever so slightly, causing a few strands of black hair to drape down - beautiful beyond words.

"A tyrant, of course." He smiled.

"Why a tyrant?" She became curious; her eyes were the prettiest gems in the world - capable of seeing through the ages.

"Once again, freedom and pleasure." Li Qiye elaborated: "Taking wives, massacre, building a harem, mountains of meat and fountains of wine, the world bends to my whim - what's better than that? This freedom is beyond any single mind-blowing pleasure."

"A tyrant will invite numerous rebellions and resistance." She said.

"That's fine, go ahead and try to rebel. Once I lose, I just need to wipe my butt and leave." He smiled.

"With total authority, have you not thought about becoming a wise ruler so that your citizens can prosper and your dynasty to last forever?" She asked again.

"What does that have to do with me? A pie simply fell onto my lap, I just need to eat my fill instead of caring about its future." He replied.

"Don't you want to take roots here and wait for the flowers and fruits to bloom? So that your future descendants can multiply?" She said pensively.

He smiled in response: "Why should I prepare an eternal kingdom for my future generations? Do you ever see an everlasting legacy? An undying kingdom?"

The girl shook her head, still looking as charming as ever.

He continued: "It's because an eternal kingdom will still be ruined by one's descendants. If that's an inevitable outcome, why shouldn't I be the one to ruin it? That would be much better instead of having it fall in someone else's hands! Plus, I wasn't the one who put in the effort to create the dynasty so when I've had my fun, let the floods and rains of fire come." He laughed, awaiting her response with an amused glance.

However, this glance changed into something profound and penetrating, impossible for anything to hide.

The girl lifted her head and looked straight back at him without fear and awkwardness.

He chuckled and raised the stake by slightly lifting her beautiful chin: "Would you follow me if I were to become a wise ruler? We'll have plenty of children?"

The girl had a holy, inviolable aura yet Li Qiye was unaffected and maintained his lawless act.

She gently pushed his hand away and chuckled: "I'm afraid it won't be that simple."

"Nothing is difficult about it, just one woman. If I truly wish so, I can have an immortal as my wife, and you're certainly not one." He smiled.

"You're quite confident in yourself." Her temper grew as she spoke with a provocative tone.

He lay back down and leisurely said: "It's not confidence; I'm merely speaking the truth."

The girl continued to stare at Li Qiye, wishing to find some clues. Meanwhile, he closed his eyes, seemingly asleep.

A while later, the breeze returned as he awoke from a dream. The servants were back. One maid was fanning for him; another peeled some fruits and one more prepared tea.

It was as if nothing has happened, only a dream. He smiled without being surprised.

Chapter 2419: Five Supremes

The maid continued to fan Li Qiye while the indistinct sound of tea brewing went on in the background.

The servants were unaware; everything was only a dream of his, or so it seemed. Alas, the meeting just now had indeed transpired.

He didn't bother prying into it. The servants here couldn't notice anything due to their level.

Zhang Jiadi hastily came in and bowed towards Li Qiye: "Your Highness, His Majesty wishes to see you right now."

"He's about to die? It's time to pass down the throne?" Li Qiye smiled.

"..." Jiadi had no comment. This disaster of a master could only be described as insane.

The servants nearby turned pale. This was a crime of impudence - punishable by clan extermination via beheading.

Jiadi looked down and replied: "I don't know, please follow me, Your Highness."

"How boring." Li Qiye shook his head: "Just make me king already instead of wasting time with convoluted and needless ceremonies, ruining my mood."

Jiadi smiled wryly and could only pray for himself with a master like this around. All he could do was carry out his responsibilities to the fullest.

Li Qiye made it to Lucidity King's place after following Jiadi.

Lucidity was still laying in bed, sickly as ever. He was a lamp running low on oil. Who knows which immortal medicine he had used to keep him around for this long.

Sun Lengying was naturally there as well, lurking in the shadows just like a poisonous viper. No one would notice him as long as he didn't attack.

Five more old men were present, of varying height and aura. The only similarity was their obvious, shocking power - resembling five gods. The room was more than large enough but their presence made it seem crowded and oppressive.

Their strength, rather than their stature, gave off this impressive feeling. Not on the same level as Lucidity, but these five Eternals were far beyond Zhang Jiadi.

"Child, you're here. Meet the Supremes of the five great powers." Lucidity waved at Li Qiye in a kind manner.

Li Qiye smiled and glanced at the five old men before nodding. He sat down in a chair nearby without any hesitation.

"Wind God, this is the child I've told you about. His name is Li Qiye." Lucidity began the introduction, speaking to the fifth old man: "We are connected by fate."

The way Lucidity looked at Li Qiye couldn't be any more gentle and doting. People would actually mistake Li Qiye for being his son. It didn't seem like they have only met several days ago.

These five old men all stared at Li Qiye, wishing to see through him. They were powerful Eternals, not just in Nine Secrets but in all of Imperial - existences that could blot out the sky.

Li Qiye was impervious to their stares and only sat there in a lazy manner lacking a crown prince's manner, more like a hoodlum.

This made the Eternals glance at each other. The truth was that they were shocked when Lucidity summoned them for the appointment of a crown prince.

Of course, this wasn't surprising since Lucidity didn't have much time left. He needed to do so before his death.

In the beginning, they assumed Lucidity would support a genius or an ancestor from War Saint Dynasty to be the next successor. However, they have never seen or heard of this young fella before. The king's doting demeanor made them think that Li Qiye was his illegitimate child.

Lucidity has always been merciless and cruel. No one has seen this type of expression from him before.

A comparable situation would be an old man finally having a son at his late age and over-spoiling the kid.

There was a problem - everyone knew that Lucidity only had a daughter during the previous generation. However, she was brilliant and became a True Emperor, eventually ascending to Immortal and wasn't heard from since.

Right now, the five were convinced that Li Qiye was his illegitimate son. The world had no way of disproving this. Moreover, the king had too many enemies. Assassinating him might be difficult, but what about aiming for his son? Perhaps Lucidity feared this and secretly hid his son from outsiders.

The five continued to stare with torch-like eyes. Nothing could escape their gaze.

Li Qiye's cultivation was too shallow and his constitution was normal. Everyone could see that he had cultivated before but judging by his aura, this little bit of training was negligible. He had no power to speak of.

One even used their divine intents to sweep through him and found a minuscule amount of true energy. It meant that any new disciple could be stronger than him.

They eventually stopped, realizing that Li Qiye couldn't be a hidden son of his. If this was the case, Lucidity would have groomed him from an early age.

The next step of logic was obvious - Lucidity's previous trip must have been to find a long-lost son, not to find longevity medicine.

It seemed that he had a one night stand with a woman, resulting in a son. Someone like him wouldn't accept a child born in this manner but he was on the verge of death now and needed a successor. Thus, he recalled this useless child and brought him back for the throne.

"Child, these uncles are the Supremes, or the ancestors of the great powers in our system. They will aid you in the future." Lucidity told Li Qiye.

The great powers included Waterfront Pavilion, Bingchi Clan, Calm Lotus Monastery, Myriad Formation Kingdom, and Godstep Sect. They were the strongest and most influential ancestors from these sects.

Their words were laws back there, capable of exerting their will. Normally, they were unreachable existences. Even ordinary ancestors couldn't meet them.

However, they couldn't refuse this summoning from Lucidity - the absolute tyrant of Nine Secrets. They needed to go in person as well, not just send a representative.

There were plenty of powerful lineages in the system, but the ones truly in charge were these five behemoths after Lucidity's death.

That's why the king summoned them here for help. He said weakly: "The future won't be easy, this child is still ignorant and will require your help."

"Your Majesty, we will do our best to take care of the young prince." One of the old men bowed and said.

They were obviously excited, unable to resist the temptation of power. If Lucidity were to pass the throne to a powerful ancestor or a genius of War Saint, taking over would be exceedingly difficult.

However, a nameless and weak junior like Li Qiye? This was a godsend opportunity for them.

Chapter 2420: Five More Fiancees

The five old men were secretly celebrating already after seeing Lucidity's pick for the crown prince. This was great news for their five great powers.

Lucidity had terrorized Nine Secrets for three straight generations. All the other lineages felt so feeble in comparison, including behemoths like them.

They needed to tread carefully because if Lucidity wanted to destroy them, they wouldn't be able to stop him.

Thus, appointing an idiot like Li Qiye as the next ruler meant the decline of War Saint Dynasty.

The five were actually happy now regarding Lucidity's absolute authority. If this wasn't the case, he wouldn't be able to appoint this fool as the crown prince. The other ancestors of War Saint Dynasty would have disagreed. In reality, these unwilling ancestors wouldn't be able to stop Lucidity.

"Child, do your best to co-exist along with the five ancestors and the great powers." Lucidity sincerely advised like a doting father.

"I know." Li Qiye smiled nonchalantly, even look a bit impatient.

The five ancestors were speechless. Lucidity used to be domineering and brutal. Anyone would tremble in fear before him. But now, an idiot was about to inherit his legacy.

If this son was as peerless as his daughter, then the sects of Nine Secrets would remain subjugated by War Saint Dynasty. Fortunately for them, this was far from the case.

"I don't have much time left. I will be arranging the child's marriages before I'm gone." The king told the five ancestors.

One of the ancestors quickly said: "Don't worry, Your Majesty, you can pick any daughter from our Bingchi Clan."

"Our Myriad Formation has countless beauties, the crown prince may pick any to be the prince consort." The ancestor from this power hurriedly added.

This was another godsend opportunity. If they could have their female disciple as the prince consort, it would be the best method at controlling this crown prince.

Li Qiye only chuckled while watching the five ancestors loudly compete with each other.

"It's not a selection." Lucidity said: "I want the girls from your direct clans to be the consorts. This will create an alliance heading toward prosperity."

The five ancestors didn't expect this at all. They were actually planning to pick suitable female disciples from their sect and send them to the palace.

But now, Lucidity wanted direct descendants - the girls with precious bloodlines. His goal was to tie the five sects together with Li Qiye, creating a guarantee for his future.

Though everything could be sacrificed for the sake of power, some ancestors from their lineages might not agree to this. They didn't want their direct bloodline to marry a fool like Li Qiye or be tied up with War Saint Dynasty.

After all, this fool would take over after Lucidity's death so who knows how long War Saint could last? They didn't want to let their descendants be involved.

"Well, Your Majesty, you know that our Han Yu..." The ancestor from the Bingchi Clan hesitated.

Lucidity had never gotten "no" for an answer before. His eyes and voice turned cold: "What? You think our crown prince's bloodline isn't as precious as the girl's?"

"I do not dare." The ancestor quickly bowed again while having cold chills: "The imperial bloodline is as precious as a true dragon's; we're the one reaching here."

Though Lucidity was dying, he was still one of the most terrifying beings in Imperial and could easily kill them. Few in this world could match him in power.

Moreover, Sun Lengying was fixated on them like a serpent in the shadow.

"Anything else to say?" Lucidity looked over at the rest.

The five ancestors became suffocated and exchange glances. None of them wanted to speak. They knew that resistance was futile as long as Lucidity was still alive. His darkness continued to shroud over them.

"Godstep Sect agrees." The famous Wind God was the first to concede.

Godstep was closer to War Saint Dynasty compared to the others. Lucidity once guided him before so he chose to reveal his attitude to break the frozen atmosphere, agreeing to marry his sect's best to Li Qiye.

"We agree as well." The other fours had no choice but to follow along. The first to disagree would face the full brunt of Lucidity's wrath. He might even conquer their lineage before dying.

In fact, Lucidity simply forced them to marry their successors to Li Qiye, turning these girls into prince consorts. Their sects were now bound to War Saint Dynasty.

"Good." Lucidity nodded and said: "Then make the oath."

With that, Lengying left the shadows while holding a jade plate with five soul contracts.

He walked to the front of the five ancestors and said: "Gentlemen, please."

The five ancestors were caught off guard. They thought just a verbal promise was enough, not expecting for Lucidity to resort to soul contracts. The moment they signed this, then there was no changing it. Their reputation was at stake.

They hesitated because signing this soul contract was a big deal.

"I'll go first." Wind God took the initiative again and finished the signature like a breeze.

"Buzz." A mysterious seal appeared on the soul contract. Once signed, it would always be in effect.

The other ancestors also conceded and left behind the seal from their clans and sects, albeit unwillingly. It was either this or face destruction.

After everyone finished, Lengying took the plate over to Li Qiye and bowed: "Your Highness, please take good care of the marriage contracts."

Li Qiye smiled at this interesting development: "Five seems too few. Maybe I'll have them bring along their pretty sisters too for the dowries."

His debaucherous comment shocked the ancestors. An idiot like him normally would never be taken seriously by them but now, he could even marry their successors. The guy even had the nerve to ask for more concubines. Give this guy an inch and he wants a mile!

They would definitely kill this little bastard if Lucidity wasn't before them.

"That's fine, pick whoever you want later. I'm sure the five gentlemen here have no objection." Lucidity dotingly agreed and smiled.

"It's fine, as long as you wish so, Your Highness." The ancestors forced a smile. They have lost their strongest bloodline already so they didn't really care for the other female disciples.

"Good. I'll take my time visiting your sects to pick some beauties to be my bedwarmers. But, to tell you all the truth, I actually prefer married women." He revealed a devious grin.

The five ancestors' expression became quite ugly after hearing this.