

Emperor 2441

[Chapter 2441: Helpless Wind God](#)

Wind God wondered if Li Qiye was actually useless or it was just an act. The whole appointment by Lucidity was strange. They thought that he was an illegitimate son, especially after seeing his immoral and uncouth behavior.

Otherwise, how could Lucidity dote on a piece of trash like him in this manner?

After further interaction, he felt that this brat wasn't as stupid as he seemed, just crazier yet strangely insightful - seeing things that big shots like them never thought about.

"Alright, follow me back to Godstep." Wind God eventually said.

"For what?" Li Qiye smiled and told the truth: "I guess I still have some uses for your sect, a powerful bargaining chip."

"Hmph." Wind God snorted in response: "You're overthinking it. It's just that you could die any time in the open. Myriad Formation, the Bingchi, and your own dynasty want nothing more than your death so they can have peace of mind."

Wind God was correct. Eight Formation True Emperor and his allies needed Li Qiye's death in order to legitimize their rule and taking over the throne. They didn't wish to be viewed as unrightful usurpers forever.

"It doesn't matter." Li Qiye shrugged before contemplating while rubbing his chin: "Hmm, from what I've heard, your sect has a great library, right?"

"What do you want?" Wind God's eyes narrowed as he uttered coldly.

"Don't worry, I'm not interested in your martial arts or the word Xing. If I cared about them, I would have had plenty to pick back at the imperial treasury. I only want to see your old scrolls - just the entertaining and historical ones. That might be worth taking a trip there."

Wind God didn't know what this brat wanted to do. He asked: "What are you looking for?"

"Nothing in particular." Li Qiye replied: "Just reading to improve my knowledge. Don't you know that knowledge is power? Your sect was built on espionage and information selling, allowing it to prosper."

Wind God agreed with this logic, albeit slightly surprised.

"If you want information, I can help you." Wind God generously said.

"I don't care about the present or the movements of the world." Li Qiye said: "I'm interested in ancient mysteries, the older, the more precious. Basically, just historical stories, whether they be official or just popular folktales."

Wind God took another look at him. Godstep did start out as an intelligence guild, but as time passed, many things have changed. Their disciples now pursued power and cultivation, no longer caring about mysteries of the past.

“That’s fine, you can take a look.” Wind God agreed.

“Oh right, what’s the name of your girl?” Li Qiye stood up and suddenly realized something so he clapped his hands.

“Splendorous Saintess.” Wind God said with a hint of annoyance. [1]

Splendorous didn’t only have the most prestigious bloodline in their sect but was also the most gifted. The elders had high expectations for her. Even if she wouldn’t take over their sect, she would still become a powerful Eternal, perhaps surpassing a supreme ancestor such as himself.

They naturally wanted to keep this good seed around. Unfortunately, Lucidity demanded their best bloodline to be a consort.

Wind God didn’t want this at that point because Li Qiye was a useless brat. No one would want to betroth their best disciple to someone like him. Unfortunately, out of both fear and gratitude, he became the first to agree.

Of course, refusal was not an option since Lucidity was famous for punishing nonconformity. The first to voice this opinion would suffer the wrath of Lucidity, especially when Sun Lengying and Silver Secret were still around.

This was no longer the case. These three threats have disappeared. Plus, the kingdom has fallen. Li Qiye was a king without land.

Under these circumstances, was he still suitable for her? In the past, she could arguably be reaching up to marry him. But now, she wouldn’t favor a fallen king like him.

“What, change your mind?” Li Qiye noticed Wind God’s annoyed expression and laughed.

“Self-awareness is a virtue.” Wind God replied.

Wind God was rightfully annoyed, thinking that this Li Qiye wasn’t worthy of his saintess! Of course, he had principles and was a man of his words. Since he had agreed with Lucidity on top of signing the marriage pact, he couldn’t actually change his mind nor deny this marriage.

This made him feel quite helpless. The whole thing was akin to planting flowers into a pile of manure. The only thing he could do was hope for Li Qiye to know his place and decline this marriage himself.

“Self-awareness?” Li Qiye smiled: “Your saintess is only a maid in my eyes. If she were to be my concubine, then she better serves me well. But then again, scrolls and lamps in a cold room, I do need a servant to take care of daily tasks.”

A fire of fury started in Wind God’s mind, wanting nothing more than to slap the brat to death. He was still acting so imperious and haughty.

“You’re just a fallen king right now!” Wind God expressed coldly; his intent was as clear as day.

“So what?” Li Qiye smiled: “A man must stay true to his words; this is especially true for strong people. Otherwise, they’ll stay ordinary. One decision alone could decide victory or defeat, and could also decide one’s nature and dao heart.”

“Dao heart.” Wind God closed his eyes, aware of this magical aspect and how important it was to a cultivator.

The problem here was that the young generation didn’t care for it. They only talked and bragged about having powerful cultivation and techniques. Thus, a weakling like Li Qiye bringing it up was outside of his expectations.

New cultivators only cared about having better merit laws and treasures in order to grow stronger. But in this process, they neglected to polish their dao heart. Some didn’t even know of this phenomenon.

In fact, this was indeed the case for the majority of cultivators. The dao heart was intangible and mysterious, seemingly trivial for cultivation.

An Eternal like Wind God naturally knew of its importance after reaching this level, but someone like Li Qiye shouldn’t.

“A deceiver can’t stand proud and definitely can’t reach the sky.” Li Qiye said: “A heart without honesty and integrity can’t give birth to true conviction and will inevitably waver.”

Wind God’s eyes flashed with bright rays. He was stronger than many True Emperors, so his words were worth more than gold.

It wasn’t hard for him to deny this marriage right now, given the circumstances.

However, the biggest problem was himself. Would he be able to keep his promises and integrity?

The Bingchi Clan never felt this pressure. They directly turned against the dynasty and even swapped someone else for the marriage alliance.

Lucidity and the kingdom weren’t around. Reneging wasn’t hard if they didn’t care about this personal test.

For Wind God, at the very least, he couldn’t do something despicable like Bingchi Juezun so he found himself in quite a predicament. That’s why he wished for Li Qiye to have enough self-awareness and back off.

[Chapter 2442: Godstep Sect](#)

The vexed god couldn’t do anything when Li Qiye didn’t wish to back off the marriage matter. Though he could make Li Qiye hand over the marriage pact by force, he was still a man of principle and refused to renege.

“Let’s go.” He grabbed Li Qiye before disappearing into nothingness.

When they emerged again, the clouds were still their companions, only with mountains and hills added as decoration for the sky canvas this time around. Wind God was actually crossing from one dimension to another.

Because he trained with the word, Xing, movement was his expertise. Not only was his speed matchless, but he could also cross through any dimension and realm. This earned him his title of Wind God.

Of course, an Eternal already had ample movement abilities. After training in this word, he became even more exceptional.

In terms of speed and spatial mastery, he was the best among the five supreme ancestors. Lucidity himself was inferior in this aspect. If Wind God wished to flee, no one in Imperial could stop him.

Their final destination was the magical and awe-inspiring Godstep Sect, one of the five great powers of Nine Secrets.

This was a rather mysterious power in the system. No one knew where its ancestral ground was located, not even some of their disciples.

It was still a scene of clouds as far as the eye can see. At the very end of this cloudy ocean were rolling mountains and hills. Some peaks were large enough to form their own inhabitable areas spanning for thousands of miles. Being shrouded by the clouds only amplified the mysteriousness of these mountains. Waterfalls surged down some of the tall peaks. This looked magnificent just like a river running down from the nine firmaments.

Upon closer inspection, one would find that among this mountain range were several peaks tightly packed together. They were the tallest ones too, seemingly the centerpieces of this area.

This was the central area of Godstep, containing its treasures and resources accumulated across the generations. Only prestigious ancestors had permission for entry.

Godstep had the word, Xing. Obtaining one of these words meant being blessed by the high heavens. Their main legacies and merit laws would be decided as well.

For example, Myriad Formation Kingdom had the word, Zhen, so they became the best lineage at formations and arrays in the system, both in terms of knowledge and power.

As for the Bingchi, they had the word, Bing. Therefore, they were the best blacksmiths available. It was common knowledge in Imperial that the best weapons normally came from the Bingchi, and this was indeed the truth.

Back to Godstep, most of their merit laws and techniques were derived from their secret word.

If there was a marathon contest in Nine Systems, Godstep Sect would surely take the number one spot. They had incredible movement and stepping techniques, granting them peerless speed.

Their disciples enjoyed safety compared to other cultivators since escaping would never be an issue.

Due to these advantages, Godstep could transmit information at an incredible rate in the past. They had the most comprehensive intelligence network.

In the beginning, many sects paid Godstep high fees in order to buy necessary information and intelligence.

Later on, as Godstep grew in power and had more resources, they slowly stopped participating in this line of business and focused on politics and power-gathering instead until they became one of the five behemoths.

Two people flashed into existence. Wind God had brought Li Qiye onto the highest peak of Godstep. The place was highly guarded. Each inch of mud here was glowing; they have been blessed by powerful augmentation.

There existed a building made out of stone with a wooden plaque carved with two words, Secret Depository. It served as the sect's most secretive and largest library, containing numerous merit laws and scrolls.

Of course, it also had plenty of ancestral books, mysterious tales, etc...

Outsiders weren't allowed to enter under normal circumstances, not even the disciples here without permission from the ancestors.

"Creak." The heavy doors opened, allowing the two of them to enter.

Though Li Qiye was an outsider, Wind God was a supreme existence in this sect so he could go wherever he wanted.

The building didn't look large from the outside, but after entering, one would find this place massive - akin to entering a different dimension.

The smell of books assaulted the nostrils - indicative of the great number of books found here.

This collection was comparable to the stars in the sky. Towering bookshelves everywhere with countless books. They contained intelligence and information on top of regular texts gathered across the years by the disciples of Godstep.

Unlike other lineages and due to their background, the disciples here loved collecting books. It didn't matter whether the books were useful and precious or not, they still contained information and should be collected.

The scrolls here have also undergone a strict filtering process. Some contained pieces of history and secrets and mysteries of various sects that were figured out by the disciples and recorded in their diaries or notebooks.

All in all, this depository contained the most trustworthy and varied information about Imperial.

For example, when and how a certain progenitor overcame his inner demon during a dao enlightenment session...

Or just gossip - how many wives did one progenitor have, how many lovers... Secrets were no longer secrets here.

Wind God brought him to the section containing ancient recordings and said: "Everything in this depository is open to you, with the exception of the merit law and technique sections. You can read anything else."

Wind God was being very generous, letting an outsider into their best library on top of letting him read virtually everything else. One couldn't ask for more.

Li Qiye smiled and went to the corner furnished with a table and chair made out of stone. On the table were one lamp, an inkstone, inkstick, and ink brush. It was obvious that people used to record mysteries down in this place.

However, that was all in the past. There was a layer of dust on the table now.

Li Qiye casually took out a scroll made of deerskin from a bamboo cylinder. He opened it and found that it was an incomplete map. A casual glance left a smile on his face.

“Looks like your sect hasn’t partaken in recording history and rumors for a long time now.” Li Qiye said.

Wind God didn’t answer since it was true. As the sect grew stronger, fewer and fewer disciples were willing to play the roles of historians and intel-gatherers, let alone doing something as dry and dull as recording them down.

In the present, a few still enjoyed finding information, but anecdotes and information recorders have been gone for several generations.

In fact, Li Qiye was the first person in a very long time who was interested in the texts here. Godstep disciples only wanted to cultivate and chase after power. They coveted mighty merit laws and treasures, not boring history.

Wind God became surprised to see Li Qiye focusing and enjoying the map.

[Chapter 2443: Zhang Jianchuan](#)

Wind God took another glance at this “useless king”. Why was he so interested in their ancient scrolls?

Of course, he didn’t bother pursuing this matter, having condemned Li Qiye to inadequacy. There was nothing this landless king could do right now. He had already carried out his part, paying back his debt to Lucidity by saving the guy.

“Keep reading then, I’ll send some disciples to take care of you.” He turned and left.

“Tell that girl to come and warm my bed already.” Li Qiye casually remarked.

Wind God froze in his tracks. This little bastard had no sense of propriety, still worrying about such nonsense. He snorted in response and continued leaving.

Li Qiye smiled and didn’t care too much whether that saintess would come or not. It was only a casual comment.

He strolled in the sea of books, only occasionally finding something interesting and taking them down for a look.

He didn’t care about the merit laws of Godstep Sect since he had no lack of them. The stories about Imperial, or Three Immortals, were much more interesting. These tales were precious and useful in his mind.

He picked multiple scrolls ranging on a wide variety of subjects before returning to his table to read.

Historical tales and mysteries were boring; not even the disciples of Godstep would read them. Alas, Li Qiye enjoyed his time since he could read between the lines. Others wouldn't notice anything about these simple stories, but he could find great information from a few sentences and extract unimaginable content.

This was his reason for coming to Godstep; other items couldn't get into his sight. For example, he didn't pick anything out of War Saint Dynasty's treasury.

No sun and moon were present in the depository so who knows how much time has passed? Li Qiye finally looked up and saw a youth standing next to him.

He wore a robe made out of hemp and had a tall stature. It was difficult pointing out something special about him because he looked too ordinary. One would instantly forget about him after a glance. He was just another person in the crowd.

"Cough." The youth nervously coughed after seeing Li Qiye looking at him.

He has been here for a long time but didn't dare to disturb Li Qiye who was immersed in reading.

"Your, Your Majesty..." The youth hesitated for a moment but still decided to address him respectfully.

"This low, lowly one has received the orders of the ancestor to take care of your daily needs, Your majesty." He cupped his fist and said.

He knew who Li Qiye was - the king of War Saint, albeit, one that has fallen out of grace.

He has heard of Li Qiye's unsavory tales. In fact, the entire world knew about it. In the beginning, he assumed that Li Qiye would have a wretched and vulgar appearance. He found this to not be the case after meeting the king.

"Oh? The girl isn't coming?" Li Qiye asked after taking a good look at the youth.

"Ahem, I don't, don't know who you are referring to, Your Majesty." The youth played the fool.

"It's that saintess of yours, Splendorous." Li Qiye casually threw the scroll on the table.

"Umm..." The youth smiled wryly and had to respond: "Junior Sister Lu Bing is training outside and hasn't returned, so the ancestor sent me here instead."

"It's not good to lie in front of me." Li Qiye nonchalantly said: "Looks like the geezer doesn't want her to be a maid. Very well, I've already given him the chance. It's too late to beg for it later."

The youth was speechless because of Li Qiye's direct comment - demanding for their junior sister to be his maid.

He was aware of the marriage agreement between her and the king. However, that was in the past. He no longer had a kingdom.

Keep in mind that she was the jewel of the sect, the famous Splendorous Saintess, beloved and adored by the ancestors here. So many prodigies in Nine Secrets wished to propose.

Given their current status, the other ancestors in the sect would never agree even if she were to say yes.

“Your Majesty, I have prepared everything for you.” The youth changed the topic.

“What’s your name?” Li Qiye inquired with his usual calmness.

“This lowly one is called Zhang Jianchuan.” The youth honestly responded.

He was the Second Disciple of Godstep Sect Master; his cultivation was formidable.

Wind God was quite nice to send such a powerful disciple here to serve Li Qiye. This was for his protection.

In fact, a Second Disciple of the sect master obviously had a prestigious position. Moreover, his talents were amazing as well.

Anyone else would be annoyed to receive this order, becoming a dog for Li Qiye who was essentially a nobody at this point.

Jianchuan didn’t think so and sincerely obeyed Wind God. Since he was sent here as a servant, he acted like a servant and treated Li Qiye like a king. On the contrary, no one else would call Li Qiye, “Your Majesty”; they would look down on him instead.

“You must be an undercover specialist.” Li Qiye leisurely stated.

“Your Majesty?” The youth was startled because Li Qiye was spot on about his profession: “What, what brought this up, Your Majesty?”

“As ordinary-looking as can be, the most suitable for undercover roles. A person like this is either a weakling, a great master, or someone undercover.” Li Qiye continued.

Jianchuan was shocked. He was a spy and the director of intelligence for the young generation of Godstep.

Very few disciples wanted to do this now; they rather just train in the sect or make something out of themselves in the outside world. Cultivation and aiming to grow stronger were the correct mindset for cultivators.

Because of this, Jianchuan was a unique disciple in Godstep. He was interested in researching and gathering intel at a young age. Interest turned into excellence, so the sect left him in charge of intelligence. Therefore, he was usually the first in Godstep to know of any news happening in Imperial.

This current Li Qiye was different from his imagination. The most prolific description of the new king was his debauchery. He mobilized the five legions against the Bingchi over a single woman.

Moreover, Jianchuan received news that he didn’t bother to fight back against the rebels so the kingdom fell just like that. It painted a picture of weakness and incompetence. The guy was clearly a useless young master.

As a spy, he could sense something different due to his perceptive instinct. Maybe he gathered the wrong information or there was more than meets the eye.

“You’re right, Your Majesty. I’m in awe of your vision.” He bowed again calming down.

“No need to flatter me.” Li Qiye waved his sleeve: “You seem smarter and more flexible than the old geezer.”

Jianchuan smiled wryly and didn’t dare to comment about the supreme ancestor. Wind God was the boss here, rarely seen by the juniors. Even ancestors needed to be reverent towards him. Only Li Qiye would dare to the supreme ancestor an old geezer here.

“Lead the way.” Li Qiye said.

The youth didn’t dare to show any slight and showed Li Qiye the way.

[Chapter 2444: Read A Lot](#)

Wind God showed his generosity once more by preparing a place on a mountain next to the depository for Li Qiye. Only the top-ranking ancestors could stay in this place.

He did so for both Li Qiye’s safety and to keep this whole thing a secret.

So many were searching for this fallen king, including War Saint Dynasty, the Bingchi, and Myriad Formation. His very existence was a thorn in their side.

Moreover, other powerful sects and even systems were secretly looking for him. They didn’t wish to kill him but thought that he could be used as a bargaining chip.

Controlling this king meant that they controlled the orthodox symbol and royal rule of Nine Secrets, to a certain extent.

Fortunately for him, Godstep Sect resided in the sky and rarely associated with outsiders. It was extremely difficult for someone to come in and search for news of him.

Zhang Jianchuan did an amazing job serving Li Qiye, allowing him to spend his days in comfort and leisure.

He focused on reading the mysteries and historical events recorded here. These texts were considered to be entertainment at best by the disciples, but he considered them to be precious. By using the content, he could put one and one together for useful information, or to find certain things he was looking for.

Outside of cultivation, it was just reading and reading, flipping through the pages among the ocean of text. He found valuable information and eventually obtained a thorough understanding of Nine Secrets System.

At this moment, no one understood Nine Secrets better than him, not even Lucidity king. The nine words were within his grasp as well.

As they spent more time together, Jianchuan found all of the previous rumors about Li Qiye to be false.

The guy has been meditating and researching the ancient texts. Some were too old for their sect to decipher yet Li Qiye could read them without any difficulty to Jianchuan’s astonishment.

This was the infamous perverted king? No, he looked like a scholar, hard at work.

‘Could it be that the king had changed after the fall of his kingdom?’ Jianchuan thought.

But he found this to be incorrect. If the king were to be devastated by the loss of the kingdom, he would be cultivating hard in order to become stronger so that he could take it back in the future.

The guy didn’t give a damn about merit laws and techniques right now. In fact, he seemed to not care about growing stronger and drowned himself in reading these “entertaining” texts.

No disciples would want to waste their time doing so.

“Your Majesty, may I ask why you are interested in them?” Jianchuan’s curiosity eventually got the best of him.

“Golden pavilions and colorful jades exist in these words.” Li Qiye said with a smile.

Jianchuan didn’t believe in this common phrase in the mortal world about the benefits of reading. He thought that mortal scholars only said this line for motivation.

“To understand the present, one must know the past.” Li Qiye glanced at the youth and said.

“I see...” Jianchuan carefully absorbed the meaning of this phrase.

“If one has no way of reaching the apex to have a clear perspective on the world below, what should they do instead? The answer is to read extensively, then everything will be clear. The answers are hidden behind the fog of history; some are purposely erased.”

Jianchuan still thought that it was pointless for cultivators to do so.

“Let’s talk about your Godstep True Emperor then. Was it only because of having great talents that he understood the word, Xing?” Li Qiye asked.

“Isn’t that the case?” Jianchuan said.

Godstep True Emperor was also the progenitor of their sect. He came from Nine Secrets and was able to start a sect not just because he was strong, but also because he found the mysteries of one of the nine words. This allowed him to establish a firm foundation for his heritage, and this eventually helped them become one of the five great powers.

No sect had a full grasp of all nine. Moreover, the word, Qian, has been lost for a long time.

There was a period where Xing was missing as well until Godstep True Emperor. He was able to understand it enough so that it could return to see the light of day.

Li Qiye smiled: “Godstep True Emperor was certainly talented, that’s a given. However, among the emperors, he’s not that exceptional. In the history of Nine Secrets, there have been plenty of brilliant emperors, but why was it that your emperor was able to find the mysteries of Xing and not the others?”

Jianchuan had never thought about this question before so he didn’t have a response.

Nine Secrets was the oldest system in Imperial. Their progenitor was a disciple of Bao Pu who was recorded down as the very first progenitor in Three Immortals. From that, one could see just how old Nine Secrets was.

Since its inception, numerous emperors have come out. It had experienced prosperity and decline. All in all, this was a land that had produced countless geniuses.

These geniuses eventually became emperors or invincible Eternals or went on to do other great things.

When talking about the best of the emperors, one must bring up Emperor Zheng and True Emperor Jiu Ning. These two were incredible and matchless, especially Emperor Zheng. He was the one who revitalized the system; some even placed him on the same level as Nine Secrets Ancestor.

Among these brilliant characters in history, very few have been able to understand the nine secrets.

Understanding was different from cultivating. The former meant searching for the lost words within the dao land of Nine Secrets.

Godstep True Emperor was one of the few capable of this task.

"I don't know..." Jianchuan has always assumed that his emperor's success was due to the emperor's great talents.

But after thinking about it, it seemed that their emperor wasn't superior to his peers. In fact, he wasn't on the same level as Emperor Zheng and True Emperor Jiu Ning. No, he seemed to be inferior to Weaponbreak True Emperor and Myriad Formation True Emperor as well.

Both Weaponbreak and Myriad Formation had tangible achievements. For example, Weaponbreak created a weapon on the same level as those created by progenitors. That's a heaven-defying deed.

As for Myriad Formation? According to the legends, he used his formation mastery to kill two emperors of a similar power level as him.

Godstep True Emperor didn't have anything like that. Nevertheless, he comprehended Xing, something Weaponbreak and Myriad Formation couldn't do.

Li Qiye said: "I'm not saying your emperor lacks talents and comprehension. It's not bad, but the real reason is that he found a few things that allowed him to understand the mysteries of Nine Secrets. This aided him in finding Xing."

"What things?" The youth asked.

Li Qiye smiled and rubbed his chin before pointing at the ocean of scrolls: "Knowledge. Only knowledge can take you further where talents fail. With sufficient knowledge, you will be wise and discerning. It will also polish your dao heart."

[Chapter 2445: The World Within Ones Grasp](#)

Zhang Jianchuan became jolted after listening to Li Qiye. He didn't realize it yet but Li Qiye was slowly opening a new door for him.

"Possessing knowledge and knowing how to use it - that's the way towards success. Unfortunately, no one is using this treasure grove correctly." He said, looking at the youth before glancing at the books while shaking his head.

Jianchuan stood there, seemingly comprehending a little bit. A long time ago, their sect specialized in information gathering and secret selling.

They relied on their perfect network of intelligence to find the secrets of Imperial and greatly benefited from it.

Furthermore, they always had the initiative and were one step ahead for any big event - a great advantage. This naturally resulted in them yielding a greater harvest than the rest.

They grew stronger and stronger before ending up as one of the five great powers. Unfortunately, the result was fewer and fewer disciples being interested in this business.

What brought them to greatness suffered a swift decline. No one bothered reading the ancient scrolls in the depository. It meant that they had fewer and fewer relevant secrets, losing the advantages altogether.

Of course, the ancestors thought that they didn't need to rely on this old business now that they have grown stronger. They could sweep through the world using force instead.

Jianchuan had a newfound perspective like seeing the light of a guiding torch in the mist, telling him which direction to go.

He increasingly found this king to be different from the rumors and faintly realized that the king was only putting up an act.

But why did the king pretend to be such a person, even until the fall of his kingdom? Jianchuan couldn't come up with an answer at all.

Li Qiye lived like a monk at Godstep with only the lamp and books as his companions. Moreover, he didn't care about external events, not bothering to ask a single question.

"Your Majesty, are you not curious about the dynasty?" Jianchuan was familiar enough to ask a sensitive question.

He was in charge of intelligence so he still received a number of reports every day. This allowed him to know about the world without leaving Godstep.

"What's there to find out?" Li Qiye said: "War Saint has fallen out of grace while the rest of the world chases for the ultimate authority. Unfortunately, no one has been able to seize it. Given the current political climate, who can be in charge? The other sects are useless and only the five great powers are in the picture. Actually, the dynasty with its six legions can do something as well. However, the legion commanders, your five supreme ancestors, and the other experts; none of them are willing to submit to each other! Without a person capable of rising up above the others, total authority will need to wait, replaced by stagnation and deliberations."

With that, he turned towards the youth and smiled: "The geezer hasn't shown up recently, I'm sure he's at the imperial city then. The five of them must be screaming there, but no one will give up."

This casual analysis left Jianchuan slack-jawed because Li Qiye was completely spot on about the current political climate.

Though Nine Secrets System no longer has a real ruler, the great powers here didn't wish to submit to each other. No one can suppress the entire world like Lucidity and no one had the claim to the throne like Li Qiye, the rightful successor.

Because of this, though the coalition armies managed to take over the imperial city, no one could really sit on the throne for total control. The five great powers would never yield to someone else. They didn't want to see a second Lucidity King and actively worked against it.

This created a deadlocked stalemate at the capital. The five powers also sent their legions there, completely occupying the area.

Even the five supreme ancestors needed to go themselves to preside over the situation. After all, a change in the government could affect any of them for generations to come. No great powers wanted to let this go.

Jianchuan found Li Qiye's insight to be incredible. He knew everything that was going on without taking a single step out of the door - quite unbelievable.

The youth calmed down and quietly said: "Your Majesty, the ancestor is indeed at the imperial city right now."

"It's only a waste of time." Li Qiye shook his head and smiled: "The five great powers and these supreme ancestors will, one day, come to see that they are running around blindly. This land still belongs to whom it meant to belong to, everyone else has no idea what they're doing, mere chess pieces. Only the players can decide the fate of Nine Secrets."

"Your Majesty, who are the players then?" Jianchuan asked, perplexed.

"You'll find out later." Li Qiye smiled mysteriously: "The answers are usually unexpected and will astonish people. However, there is one idiom pertinent to the situation - the mantis stalks the cicada, unaware of the oriole behind. Who knows who the real players are, but many certainly think they are, unaware that they are mere chess pieces."

Jianchuan shuddered. Though he didn't fully grasp the meaning of Li Qiye's response nor who the chess players were, he knew that something earth-shattering was going to happen.

Though the depository had many scrolls, Li Qiye had gone through most of them and got all the information he wanted about the things he was searching for - a great success.

"Didn't your progenitor leave behind a plain tablet?" Li Qiye put away the scroll and looked at Jianchuan today.

The youth nodded: "Yes, the Null Slate is located on the ancestral peak."

"Alright, let's go take a look." Li Qiye said: "There's not much to look at here in Godstep, we'll see if this tablet will be different."

Jianchuan was surprised because Li Qiye has been staying indoors the entire time. Now, he wanted to go take a look at the Null Slate?

“This lowly one will prepare for you, Your Majesty.” Jianchuan quickly agreed.

After taking care of minor details, he led Li Qiye to the ancestral peak.

This area was rumored to be where Godstep True Emperor meditated in the past. Later on, it became a place for the disciples to come and reminisce about their patriarch.

It was naturally the tallest peak in Godstep with numerous buildings. However, people were most interested in the stone tablet on top, bereft of any engraving.

The Null Slate was next to the precipice, personally erected by the emperor - or so they say.

No one knew why the emperor left this wordless tablet here. Perhaps it was to test the descendants, and that it contained a supreme art. Others believed that it was a meteor from an external realm; the emperor left it here for the descendants to study.

No one has been able to comprehend it since the foundation of Godstep. Plenty of True Emperors and Eternals from the sect have tried and failed.

In fact, they have even invited the ultimate genius of the Mu, Shaochen, to come take a look. The youth still couldn't see through it and the mystery remained.

All in all, the Null Slate's purpose and the emperor's intent became an age-long question. Despite the futility of it all, disciples from Godstep still came to take a look, hoping for a miracle.

[Chapter 2446: Null Slate](#)

Zhang Jianchuan took Li Qiye to the ancestral peak for a look at Null Slate.

The two of them crossed through numerous mountains among the clouds via bridges to make it there, meeting many peers and seniors along the way.

As one of the five great powers, Godstep was obviously powerful with substantial resources. Despite being hidden in the sky away from the rowdiness of mundane life, the place was still lively. More than ten thousand disciples were around.

“Second Brother.” The brothers and sisters on the path greeted Zhang Jianchuan.

Jianchuan wasn't famous in Nine Secrets but he had a high status in Godsect, being the Second Brother and all. Moreover, his talents for cultivation and amiability earned him the love of his peers.

He also nodded and greeted them in response. His brothers and sisters found it quite strange to see their Second Brother being so respectful while serving Li Qiye. In their sect, few elders and ancestors would need the Second Brother to wait on them.

However, this youth didn't look older than Jianchuan and was clearly a new cultivator, not an expert genius that could sweep through the world.

How could this youth enjoy such treatment from their Second Brother? Everyone became curious as a result.

“Brother, who is this gentleman?” A vivacious girl came up and asked.

Jianchuan was very careful in answering. He smiled and said: “An esteemed guest of our sect.”

He was experienced enough to give a reasonable and watertight response.

Of course, no secrets last forever since Li Qiye has been staying here for so long. The top disciples have figured out Li Qiye’s identity.

“Who is that next to Second Brother? Why is Second Brother serving him?” Someone asked their Senior Brothers and Sisters.

To which a Senior Brother snorted and said while staring at the “weak” Li Qiye: “Hmph, that’s our king.”

The young disciples took a deep breath and quietly said: “He, he’s the fallen king? War Saint Dynasty’s ruler with the shortest reign in history.”

A Senior Sister sneered: “That’s him, the wretched and perverted king, deserving of losing his kingdom. It’s already a blessing of three lives that he is still alive.”

This sister had nothing but contempt from the heart for the infamous king. Losing a kingdom over a woman? A man like this was a piece of trash.

“Hihi, don’t be so loud, he is still our guest.” Another girl said.

“It’s fine.” A Senior Brother joined in: “It’s no longer the era of War Saint, the land is no longer his. This useless pervert, no, this piece of trash is not worthy of our saintess.”

“That’s right.” The first Senior Sister agreed: “Our Senior Sister is heaven’s favorite, the jewel of our sect. She’s beautiful and talented, only a monstrous prodigy is worthy of her, not this debaucherous trash.”

No wonder why these disciples had such prejudice against Li Qiye - they were fans of their Senior Sister, Splendorous Saintess.

They knew that she had a noble bloodline on top of being perfect in every facet imaginable. She was the pride of their sect.

The girls adored and looked up to her; the boys had a crush on her.

For her to marry an incompetent and perverted king was akin to planting a gorgeous flower in a pile of manure. They naturally became indignant and resentful. Moreover, this king had already lost his kingdom and became even more unworthy.

“That’s the new king.” Many disciples pointed at Li Qiye along the way and whispered: “The perverted one.”

“Not anymore, just a fallen king, a dog without a master.” A male disciple scorned: “He’s lucky to have shelter here and being alive.”

“Indeed.” Another instantly chimed in: “He would be dead if it wasn’t for us hiding him.”

Jianchuan also heard the whispers and awkwardly apologized to Li Qiye: “Your Majesty, don’t mind them. They don’t mean it.”

He didn’t realize that he had considered Li Qiye to be anything but a lecherous king. The guy was more than he was letting on. Li Qiye only smiled and ignored the whispers, not commenting on it.

The ancestral peak was sky high with a formidable presence. There were towering architectures and billowing clouds and mist along with a pure atmosphere.

It looked like a land of paradise from the distant. The majestic aura made it seem that there was a dragon slumbering beneath, and it could wake up and disperse the cloud during its ascension.

Before the precipice was a flat, square rock. It stood on the mud without being buried in the lower-half. Nevertheless, it remained stable as if it had taken roots below.

It had a reddish-brown color; the entire thing was in plain sight, clearly without any engraving - not a single spot.

Such a rock seemed to have been unearthed then brought to this place, untouched. On the surface were traces of weather - such as rain and mist. Oh, and various faint handprints.

Ever since Godstep True Emperor left it here, so many disciples have come to try and comprehend it. They rubbed it, hoping for a connection or a hint to the mystery.

Unfortunately, none has been successful. This rock remained a rock - seemingly its true form.

Great geniuses have come and left empty-handed for millions of years. Recently, they invited an exclaimed prodigy - Mu Shaochen. Even he himself failed to find anything.

Nevertheless, the disciples here believed that this rock had innate values or their patriarch wouldn’t have left it here for no reasons. It was their own fault for being unable to understand it.

In front of this rock named Null Slate was a large pavilion, capable of accommodating several hundred people. Once Li Qiye and Jianchuan got here, they found a large group hard at work. A few disciples were leaning against the rock, hoping to sense something from physical closeness.

As the two entered the pavilion, they attracted many gazes. Some began greeting Jianchuan.

He didn’t say anything and focused on preparing a seat facing the tablet for Li Qiye first, then burning some scented grass for him - a perfect environment for dao searching.

Next, Jianchuan started a fire nearby in order to boil some tea for him.

There was a reason why this youth was chosen by Wind God to serve Li Qiye. Jianchuan was someone who would carry out all orders with sincerity.

He didn’t care that Li Qiye was a fallen king or show any slight because of this. He continued to be meticulous and earnest in his tasks.

His peers became uncomfortable at this sight, especially after seeing Li Qiye’s nonchalant attitude as if this was how it should be. Such arrogance, in their eyes, was showing contempt towards their Second Brother and sect.

“Hmm, does he still think he’s a king and this is War Saint Dynasty? All of this land belongs to him?” Someone voiced their annoyance.

“Right? Only Second Brother is nice enough to do this. I would have walked away long ago.” A Junior Brother stared at Li Qiye with disdain.

[Chapter 2447: Splendorous Saintess](#)

Li Qiye blocked out all criticism and gossip while staring at the tablet.

His eyes became profound, seemingly piercing through the entire thing. Nothing could elude him.

He sat there without emitting any aura or pressure as if he were enjoying the scenery, appreciating the beautiful days. Everything felt the same as always.

However, Zhang Jianchuan standing next to him could sense something changing while pouring tea for the guy.

He felt as if he was before a bottomless abyss - Li Qiye! Anyone who falls down would die without a burial.

Jianchuan felt a primal fear and his legs grew weak - the abyss wanted to swallow him! He could sense just how terrifying Li Qiye was despite a lack of external signs.

This ordinary man was hiding an all-devouring force. There was no escaping, only damnation awaits in the abyss.

“It’s full.” Li Qiye’s casual voice woke him up.

He regained his composure and found that tea was overflowing the cup. He quickly wiped it clean before retreating to the back, not wanting to disturb Li Qiye.

The rest of the disciples glanced at each other. They didn’t expect the fallen king to be interested in their Null Slate.

“Is, is he actually trying to comprehend our Null Slate?” One disciple said with uncertainty.

They found it hard to believe that the famous pervert would be interested in the Null Slate.

“Looks that way, he’s pretty immersed.” A Senior Sister saw Li Qiye staring intensely at the slate and confirmed it.

The disciples glanced at each other in disbelief. The legendary king of uselessness suddenly wanted to learn about their tablet - one that has never been figured out for eras?

“He overestimates himself.” A Senior Brother scoffed.

A Senior Sister nodded in agreement: “No one has been able to understand our Null Slate. The past aside, even Mu Shaochen, Imperial’s greatest genius, didn’t see anything from it, let alone a perverted king like him.”

“Does he think this is a game? Only the most brilliant in history would be able to see something. No one else.” A Junior Sister supported.

The Senior Brother spoke again: "How can someone like him be comparable to Mu Shaochen? He is only trying to start over again and create some fame, but all this will bring is further humiliation. A useless pervert like him can only be a prodigal son."

Everyone nearby nodded unanimously, agreeing with their brother.

Jianchuan could only sigh with disappointment. He couldn't stop them from speaking, only thinking that his peers had too much prejudice and didn't know that Li Qiye was nothing like the rumors.

Meanwhile, Li Qiye continued to stare at the empty tablet for a very long time.

"How senseless." He shook his head before picking up his teacup for a sip.

Jianchuan was started to hear this because he knew that Li Qiye wasn't talking about the gossiping bunch. This was a comment about the Null Slate.

It was personally erected by their patriarch. Those aware of its background would always be respectful while earnestly trying to understand its mysteries. The disciples here especially didn't dare to make negative comments about the patriarch. However, Li Qiye didn't give a damn as if Godstep True Emperor was a nobody, and that this tablet wasn't worth mentioning.

Jianchuan's rumination was interrupted by the gentle clattering of decorative ornaments.

A sweet fragrance whiffed in the air. Everyone could feel her beauty and style before she got there.

"Senior Sister!" The disciples in the pavilion and those near the tablets all stood up respectfully with hands straight down.

A figure finally appeared on the ancestral peak, accompanied by plum blossoms and floating clouds. In the next second, the figure was standing before the pavilion.

This enchanting woman was tall with appealing long, white legs. Her legs were perfectly shaped; a little bit more would be redundant but a little bit less would be deficient. Such jade legs made others have the urge to touch.

She wore a thin, pink dress with yellow embroideries of little flowers and a silk girdle that accentuates her curves - one glance was all it takes to see her perfect outlines.

She was full of life - a fair complexion with a touch of pink like the peach blossom and was as vibrant as spring itself. The images of flowers would occasionally appear around her. Her steps seemed to give birth to the flowers on the ground, looking like they were chasing after her.

"Junior Sister, you're here?" Jianchuan was surprised to see her.

Lu Bing, or Splendorous Saintess, the daughter of Godstep Sect Master. Moreover, she was also a descendant of Wind God so a great bloodline flowed within her.

Because of her prestigious status and noble bloodline, Lucidity asked for her specifically in the past. Wind God chose to comply, albeit unwillingly.

The disciples exchanged glances after seeing her. Some started looking over at Li Qiye.

The marriage between the two of them was no secret. There was a system-wide announcement during Li Qiye's coronation.

During that period, every disciple in Godstep hated this marriage. They felt indignation, especially the male disciples who were her fans. These youths hated Li Qiye to the core. Nevertheless, they couldn't do anything except to accept reality.

After all, Li Qiye still had authority and was still the leader of Nine Secrets, standing at the apex with seven legions beneath him.

Moreover, he had an Eternal like Sun Lengying as his backing. This was enough to look down on the world, be the master of life and death, the decider of others' fate.

Splendorous Saintess had no choice but to acquiesce. This was no longer the case.

The imperious king had fallen; his authority became non-existent - just another dog that has lost its master.

To be frank, even their great ancestor, Wind God, needed to be respectful before the new king just a while ago. But now, an ordinary disciple of Godstep could look down on him, or even bully him.

Thus, how could a useless brat with no authority and backing marry their golden jewel? He's not worthy of their saintess!

The eyes on Li Qiye slowly turned cold. If the saintess were to give an order right now, many disciples would be more than willing to give Li Qiye a good beating, or even take his life.

She finally looked at him with an unfriendly stare. His lazy appearance only confirmed his uselessness, so her first impression of him was terrible.

Moreover, she had heard of how he took innocent women in the capital before, completely lawless.

If she were to meet someone like him on the street, she would kill them without any hesitation!

[Chapter 2448: Breaking Off The Engagement](#)

The crowd held their breath while staring at Li Qiye, overwhelmed with excitement about what's to come. Some had a grin on their face from schadenfreude. This group wanted to see Li Qiye humiliated and shamed.

Li Qiye didn't seem to notice these disciples and even the saintess. He continued to drink his tea and enjoyed the floating clouds ahead.

Splendorous Saintess entered the pavilion and headed straight for him with coldness in both her glare and expression.

Jianchuan could tell what she wanted to do judging by her demeanor and said: "Junior Sister, you're here."

He gently shook his head while speaking, gesturing her to not do anything rash, especially without permission.

“Greetings, Brother Zhang.” She slightly bowed towards Jianchuan but ignored his signals.

It didn’t take long before she stood in front of Li Qiye, accompanied by a gentle fragrance.

“Take it out.” She stretched her jade hand towards him and demanded.

Li Qiye didn’t bat an eye, not bothering to glance at her: “You are blocking my view.”

She turned red, embarrassed, after receiving this arrogant treatment and angrily glared at him.

As the princess and jewel of Godstep, she has always been the centerpiece wherever she went, the moon surrounded by the stars. She was used to flattery and reverence, causing her to have some pride and arrogance herself.

However, Li Qiye didn’t bother to look at her before everyone and treated her like air, truly infuriating her as a result.

“This is Godstep, not your War Sainty Dynasty! It is over for your kingdom!” Splendorous coldly said.

She reminded him that he was only freeloading off their sect right now, no longer an imperious king like before.

He nonchalantly responded: “Scram before I become angry, do not block my view.”

“Who do you think you are?!” Many disciples furiously roared. This comment has incited the anger of the crowd.

How could they let anyone insult their princess, especially a fallen king that is freeloading at their sect?

Splendorous was furious, already annoyed at this marriage in the first place. Moreover, the king had a terrible reputation and this only exacerbated her distaste and disdain towards him. Plus, he was a nobody now, just a parasite at their sect.

How could such a person look down on her in this manner? It was the heaviest insult in her eyes.

She glared at him and said: “War Saint Dynasty is no longer in charge, hand over the marriage pact, don’t humiliate yourself any further.”

The crowd ate it up. One of them loudly shouted: “That’s right, we’re a great power of Nine Secrets, how dare this landless king act like this on our territory?!”

“Hmph, someone useless like him isn’t worthy of our Senior Sister. He needs to get the hell out right now. We’ve shown enough kindness harboring him for this long.” Another one yelled.

“You wish to break off this marriage?” Li Qiye finally put down the teacup and glanced at her, still with a smile on his face.

“Indeed!” She responded: “This marriage agreement is no longer valid. Hand over the pact since keeping it around is only harmful to you.”

“And if I refuse?” Li Qiye smirked.

“It’s not up to you!” Another disciple cried out: “Your kingdom is done for already!”

The saintess threatened: "You are a frog trying to eat swan's meat, just bringing humiliation to yourself! If you are smart enough to read the situation, you should know what to do!"

"So a fallen king like me is not worthy of the princess of Godstep." Li Qiye said with a smile.

"Exactly." She said: "I will reach the apex in the future and become an invincible Eternal, you are only a ridiculous and incapable king. You should be thinking about how to stay alive right..."

Li Qiye waved his hand and interrupted her: "You really think of yourself as a swan? Only a saintess of Godstep, nothing more. And an Eternal is no different than an ant, a servant, to me. Back at the imperial city, dozens of Eternals knelt before me, so stop thinking so highly of yourself."

"You!" She turned redder from anger.

The disciples' eyes burned with fury. He was insulting both their saintess and sect.

"In fact, you should be thanking Lucidity King." Li Qiye lazily said without looking at her: "You think you're pretty enough to be my wife? Being a concubine is already pushing it, no, you're not even qualified to be a personal maid. Your looks and shallow cultivation are only suitable to be a feet-washing servant. If it wasn't for Lucidity King granting you this marriage, you would have nothing."

"Bullshit! Who do you think you are?!" The disciples clamored, unable to hold back.

The saintess' eyes could kill right now. She felt a murderous urge: "You! You deserve death! You are bringing this upon yourself!"

"Junior Sister!" The situation has escalated out of control so Jianchuan pulled the saintess away: "Please calm down."

"Hmph, Senior Brother, are you forgetting that you're a disciple of Godstep?" A few disciples were unhappy and told Jianchuan since he was helping Li Qiye.

The saintess also spoke coldly towards him: "What are you doing, Senior Brother?"

He shook his head in response: "Junior Sister, I've received orders from the great ancestor to take care of His Majesty's daily life and safety, so please let this go."

"Senior Brother, back off and ignore this. I'll answer to the great ancestor later." Her tone became serious.

"No." Jianchuan maintained his position: "I am under orders, please excuse me."

"At least one person in Godstep isn't an idiot. The same can't be said about the rest, so foolish and blind." Li Qiye added to the fire.

"Ignorant fool, daring to boast on our territory, who do you think you are?" An arrogant voice came about.

A youth walked over, looking quite gallant and oppressive. White from top to bottom, he walked with both hands behind his back like a proud crane with an entourage of his own.

“First Brother! First Brother is here!” The disciples here excitedly shouted. Some stared at him with nothing but admiration.

First Disciple of Godstep - White Crane Young Noble, Zhang Hao!

His talents weren't inferior to Splendorous Saintess. Moreover, he made his dao debut much earlier so his cultivation was considerably higher. He was well-received among the third generation of disciples in Godstep and enjoyed some fame in Nine Secrets.

His eyes flashed like lightning and swept through the crowd before stopping on Li Qiye.

“Hmph, you're not qualified to comment on Godsect, trash.” He was even more aggressive than Splendorous Saintess, not holding anything back.

[Chapter 2449: White Crane Young Noble](#)

“I'm trash? False, I'm the king that you all need to prostrate before and lick my feet. Godstep and the great powers are only insects before me. Even your Wind God needed to kneel, and as for you all? A bunch of insignificant ants that won't even get to lick my feet, needing to kneel ten thousand miles away from Skywrap.”

The disciples here were shocked at such blatant insult. They weren't worth a single coin in his mouth?

“You sure know how to talk big! But insulting our sect is punishable by death!” Some loudly retorted.

“A real man doesn't bring up past glories.” White Crane Young Noble felt the urge to kill. He said with disdain: “People were only worshipping War Saint Dynasty and Lucidity King, no one gives a damn about a useless king like you. Plus, your dynasty is over now, you're just relying on our charity to live, just a dog under someone else's roof.”

“Well, excuse me then, but even if I am a useless king or just a dog, it doesn't change the fact that your Godstep Sect had knelt before me. As for the lot of you, I'm afraid to say that you're not qualified to lick my feet, only the dirty soles of my shoes at best.”

“You!” White Crane was furious but couldn't respond.

“A man fights with his fists, not his tongue.” The saintess said: “Show us what you can do right now if you think so highly of yourself instead of bringing up the past.”

“Oh?” Li Qiye couldn't help but laugh: “You really think you're something, don't you? A bunch of ants wants to see what I can do? Just one stomp is enough to crush all of you.”

“Such arrogance!” The crowd was livid. Some jumped up and rolled up their sleeves: “Senior Sister, you don't need to dirty your hand against this dog of a king, let me teach him a lesson.”

White Crane stopped them and walked forward aggressively with a murderous flash in his eyes: “Let me see what you can do then!”

“Senior Brother, you can't!” Jianchuan stopped him while continuously shaking his head.

It wasn't easy for Jianchuan being stuck in the middle, but he needed to protect Li Qiye at all cost.

“Junior Brother, step aside, I’ll handle the consequences!” White Crane uttered.

Jianchuan disagreed: “Senior Brother, I’m not trying to oppose you, it’s just that the great ancestor has repeatedly told me to take care of His Majesty before leaving, so please, ignore us or we can’t answer the great ancestor.”

“Senior Brother, I’ve recently learned a new merit law and would like to have a spar with you, please give me some pointers.” Suddenly, Splendorous Saintess blocked Jianchuan’s way.

There was no doubt that both these two and the rest of the disciples wouldn’t let this go today.

“Senior Sister, what’s the point?” Jianchuan smiled wryly after seeing this.

“I’m not making it difficult for him as long as he hands over the marriage pact or denies its existence.” She coldly said.

Though Wind God was forced in a sense, he had still agreed with Lucidity. Given his status and principles, he would never change this marriage.

This wasn’t the case for the saintess. She didn’t want to marry a lecherous and unsalvageable wretch. Furthermore, she had the power to get him to break off the engagement in order to change her own fate.

That’s why she would press on today regardless of what happens.

Meanwhile, White Crane Young Noble walked towards Li Qiye and said: “I won’t take advantage of you, I will let you make three moves first before taking your dog life.”

“Is that so?” Li Qiye smiled leisurely: “I don’t need to fight myself against an insect.”

Having said that, he took out a tiny wooden sphere with three different shades.

“Crack! Crack!” It flew out of Li Qiye’s hand and crazily assembled in a huge one.

“Boom!” It slammed down from above with the force of a mountain, aiming straight for the young noble.

Ancestral Eighteen Transformations - the treasure refined from three ancestral trees and had their power.

The crowd didn’t expect this at all! The young noble’s eyes narrowed as he shouted: “Activate!”

He raised both hands in the air like a deity raising a pagoda to stop the incoming sphere, throwing away his offer of three free moves earlier.

“Boom!” He far underestimated the power of the sphere.

“Crack!” An ear-piercing sound of bone-breaking came about with blood gushing out. Both of his arms were pulverized!

“Boom!” The sphere instantly bounced back to the sky while issuing rambunctious detonations. Its spinning speed increased and headed for the young noble once more.

The rolling distance amplified both its speed and size. The sphere continued to assemble and became ten times larger than before.

It was bigger than a hill now and carried a world-destroying power. The crowd quickly retreated, aghast.

“Chirp!” During the split second before the impact, the young noble soared to the sky like a crane with lightning speed and successfully evaded the sphere.

It didn’t give up and exploded once more, increasing in size again. It bounced to the sky, heading straight for its target with incredible speed.

“Buzz.” Space fluctuated. The young noble seemed to have grown a pair of wings. His movements became fluid like a dancing crane. He once again evaded the sphere.

“Boom!” With another quake, the ball gained a massive increase in both size and speed.

“Rumble!” Detonations resounded all over the sky. The ball crazily gave chase but the young noble’s movement technique was indeed peerless. He had learned one of Godstep’s very best, allowing him to fly just like an immortal crane, allowing him to dodge successfully again and again.

However, the sphere had no limits to the growth of its speed and power. After it reached a particular size and speed, even the young noble’s great technique was no longer enough.

“Activate!” He noticed that exerting his technique to the limit wasn’t enough so he roared, summoning a gigantic shield in order to face it head-on.

“Bang!” The grounds and the mountains nearby trembled because of the impact. His shield instantly shattered to pieces, scattering all over.

“Ah!” He screamed with more broken bones and blood gushing out everywhere, nearly being smashed to bits. Who knows if he even had one single intact bone in his body right now?

He started falling down from the sky but the sphere didn’t spare him just yet.

“Boom!” It activated itself with another explosion before starting the spinning trajectory. This time around, its speed was on a whole new level - looking like it wants to render him to a mist of blood.

[Chapter 2450: The Second Dao Fruit](#)

“Not good!” Everyone cried out after seeing White Crane’s inability to stop the incoming brutality of the sphere.

“I’m dead...” White Crane muttered and closed his eyes after seeing the unstoppable sphere coming for him.

In this blink of an eye, a person leaped to the sky with the force of a dragon and the grace of a phoenix.

“Your Majesty, please show mercy!” He shouted.

His palm blotted out the sky and pushed back the sphere, resulting in a shockwave causing the ground to quake. The person also staggered several steps backward.

The sphere rose to the sky and began to spin with massive explosions, ready to strike again.

“Go!” The person grabbed White Crane and jumped into the pavilion. He cupped his fist and said: “Your Majesty, please go easy on my ignorant disciple and spare his life.”

He was an old man with a crane robe. He looked quite fierce with a sharp pair of eyes, not allowing people to hide anything from him.

Li Qiye only slightly furrowed his brows, not bothering to look at this person. He waved his hand once and the great sphere rebuilt itself into the miniature version then landed in his hand.

Everyone stared at this wooden sphere instantly. They didn’t expect this tiny thing to have so much power and realized that it must be a heaven-defying treasure.

Of course, it wasn’t strange at all for him to possess a weapon of this level. He used to be the king of War Saint so it made sense that he would have a few of these powerful treasures.

“Master.” Zhang Jianchuan hurried bowed and respectfully greeted the old man.

“Father.” Splendorous Saintess also greeted with a touch of coquettishness and a hint of anger. She clearly wasn’t in a good mood.

The old man was the sect master of Godstep - Heavenly Crane Enlightened Being, a famous expert of Nine Secrets.

“Your Majesty, I’ve been overwhelmed with various matters and couldn’t personally come to greet you, please excuse me.” Heavenly Crane spoke with the right amount of respect, appropriate of his status as a sect master.

Li Qiye casually nodded and continued drinking his tea. This arrogant attitude infuriated the already heated crowd because White Crane was the symbol of their sect. He was insulting and looking down on their sect.

“Your Majesty, how has your stay been?” Heavenly Crane was calm unlike the rest of the disciples.

“It’s okay.” Li Qiye glanced at him before standing up and coldly said: “Don’t forget your promise, tonight, tell your golden daughter to come warm my bed.” Having said that, he turned and left.

Even the good-natured Heavenly Crane’s expression turned ugly after hearing this. He was furious but someone like him would never show his anger outwardly and only snorted in response.

The rest of the disciple was gritting their teeth and glared at the departing Li Qiye.

“Pah!” The saintess felt the same way and said with disdain: “A frog wanting to eat swan’s meat, he should take a look in the mirror first!”

Li Qiye ignored all of them and continued leaving. Jianchuan had no choice but to follow right behind him.

“Master, this little bastard is pushing it!” One disciple angrily said.

“Yes, Sect Master.” The other ones chimed in: “He’s only a useless and lecherous king with no kingdom, since when can someone like him do whatever he wants at our sect? Why are we allowing him to disgrace us like this?”

"It'll be over soon." Heavenly Crane's eyes turned cold as he stared towards the horizon, revealing a murderous intent.

"Father, we need to end this. A guy like him wants to marry me? In his dream!" The saintess stressed.

"Bing'er, I will deal with it." Heavenly Crane said with a cold expression. He would never let his daughter marry a fallen king, especially one that was so wretched.

Back in their place, Jianchuan opened his mouth but eventually decided from speaking. In fact, he was under great pressure. Protecting Li Qiye earlier could be viewed as a betrayal by his fellow disciples.

"You think that I have gone too far?" Li Qiye chuckled after noticing this.

Jianchuan smiled wryly: "Your Majesty, you should try to be closer to other people."

He could tell that Li Qiye wasn't that terrible to be around, that he wasn't such an intolerable person all the time.

To which Li Qiye responded: "Closer? If I were still the king of Nine Secrets with seven legions under me, how would my stay here be?"

Jianchuan had no response.

"From top to bottom, your entire sect would want to kneel and lick my feet. When I become angry, everyone will live in fear. To put it bluntly, just one order of mine and heads will start rolling on the floor." He turned and glanced at the youth and continued: "Dignity and pride? Those only apply when speaking to weaker people. Before Lucidity King, not to mention disciples like you, even your ancestors will act subservient, stemming from their helplessness. There's no pride and dignity involved at that point."

"But..." Jianchuan didn't know where to start retorting.

"But now, I am only a fallen king." Li Qiye continued: "Indeed, just a fallen king, a dog that has lost its master in everyone's eyes. However, in my eyes, your sect members are mere ants. Why is it that they want nothing more than to be able to lick Lucidity's feet, but just a few comments of mine and they feel insulted? It is because you all have yet to see a massacre from me. When I herald the stench of blood, everyone will realize that being able to prostrate and licking my feet is an honor." He grinned after the last sentence.

Jianchuan could only sigh. He didn't wish to comment because he was still a disciple of Godstep.

"Leave now." Li Qiye gently waved his hand. Jianchuan bowed and quietly left.

Li Qiye began meditating to search for the grand dao. He reached a state of zen with his mind traveling freely.

The Primordial Tree slowly appeared. It poured out faint strands of light, just like the opening of multiple worlds. Each strand represented the birth of a new one.

These new worlds were full of chaos - a state of the very beginning. It was full of life and possibility. The tree gave existence to the heaven and earth. In fact, even the eternal high heaven could be created by the tree.

The first dao fruit had reached grand completion. Inside were countless seeds. Each seed was a perfect grand dao, so just one dao fruit had unlimited permutations and derivations.

The second dao fruit was ripe at this point. It looked like a spinning top with a thick peel at the top - an accumulation of the evolution and changing of grand dao across the ages. One could see the beginning of the dao reflected in this thick skin.

This gave it a thick appearance with the external shell, seemingly impenetrable. The shade was a dark yellow. It looked quite heavy, millions and millions of pounds.

The bottom part was much thinner in comparison to the top and continued to rotate, hence the fruit's similarity to a spinning top. The thing looked like it could spin for eternity.

Moreover, the focus of this rotation could always target the core of its target with massive power, instantly crushing everything like a dried branch.