

Emperor 2461

[Chapter 2462: Liu Chuqing](#)

Despite the inpouring of cultivators to Nine-linked Mountains, Great Desolate Mountain to the south remained peaceful. No one came to stay at this area or to bother Li Qiye.

It was truly remote, far removed from the central area. It wasn't suitable for habitation either since no one would want to be assaulted by this murderous energy daily. It was akin to suffering without benefiting from it. Only a true masochist could enjoy something like this.

Nevertheless, the mountain range spanned for tens of thousands of miles. An influx of 100,000 disciples still change much; the place still seemed as desolate and empty as before.

Of course, Li Qiye was happy to be by himself. Unfortunately, this morning, someone was standing outside of his palace.

"Creak." Li Qiye woke up early to meditate with the murderous energy. He opened the door and saw a girl.

She has been waiting patiently, seemingly for a long time. Just the sight of her could brighten the eyes.

Well-defined brows, eyes like the morning stars, curly and animated eyelashes - her soft face looked like a piece of art with perfect proportions, whether it be her straight and tall nose, plump red lips or jade cheeks. People would never get tired of looking at her.

Her face had a hint of innocent unlike her tall figure - proud peaks and round bottom that couldn't be hidden beneath her dress. This made her look mature like a ripened strawberry; anyone would take to take a bite. Unfortunately for some, her innocent and angelic face was refreshing - washing away all temptation and lust.

Her black hair draping on top of her shoulders fluttered to the wind with a misty glow, causing her to look transcending.

She resembled a piece of jade deep in the valley, green and pure with water seemingly dripping off and permeating into the soul of the spectators. People couldn't avert their gaze.

She looked quite nervous, touching her sleeves with her head lowered while patiently waiting.

She instantly looked up the moment Li Qiye came out, seemingly caught off guard and retreated several steps. She slightly opened her mouth but no words came out.

Li Qiye leaned on the door with his hands crossed in front. With a smile on his face, he asked: "Miss, who are you looking for?"

The girl stared at him before quickly stealing glances in the room only to find that no one else was there.

"Are, are you the new king? No, I meant are you His Majesty?" The girl asked while nervously clenching her fists.

Li Qiye smiled: "I believe I'm the only one with that role in Nine Secrets. Of course, that is until a newer king takes the throne. However, I prefer to be called Li Qiye instead."

“Ah, then I found the right person.” She heaved a sigh of relief.

He looked her up and down like he usually would, not showing any restraint just because she was a lady - seemingly wanting to see through everything.

The girl turned tense and took more steps backward, recalling his unsavory reputation. She felt as if she was being stared at by a wolf, feeling regretful for coming here. Nevertheless, thinking about her destiny made her take a deep breath to muster more courage.

“Why are you looking for me?” He withdrew his gaze and smiled.

“My... name is Liu Chuqing.” The girl quietly said, not daring to look face to face.

Li Qiye shook his head: “No idea, but that’s all right, I’m very easy to talk to, especially when you’re such a beautiful girl. I’m more than willing to chat with you about random stuff, maybe even romance.”

The girl’s mood switched back and forth between tension and courage gathering. She eventually took one step forward to look straight in his eyes.

This didn’t last long. Just a few seconds later and she lowered her head again, feeling hot by the ears.

He seemed patient and stood there waiting with a smile, staring at her.

A while later, she said with a serious tone: “I’m the princess of Waterfront Pavilion, here, here to carry out the promise.” Her voice trailed off towards the end.

“Oh, I remember now.” Li Qiye patted his forehead and said: “You’re that girl, the golden daughter of Waterfront with the most precious bloodline. Your old geezer had mentioned you before.”

“Yes.” The girl was still nervous being alone with Li Qiye, moving her head up and down like a little chick pecking grains.

“Really here for the marriage?” He became amused.

Back when Lucidity King forced the issue, Waterfront Pavilion’s supreme ancestor did promise to marry their noblest bloodline to the crown prince. She was Liu Chuqing. Li Qiye didn’t remember since he didn’t care at all about this matter.

“Yes.” She nodded and stole another glance. Blood was rushing to her head.

After all, this man was going to be her husband, her lifelong companion. She kept on playing with her sleeves, feeling quite timid.

“I’m quite surprised that your sect is upholding the promise, how interesting.” Li Qiye’s eyes became profound.

Though he had marriage pacts thanks to Lucidity King, they were pretty much useless after the fall of his reign - no different than another piece of paper.

The parties involved didn’t quite need to carry it out. In the sects’ mind, reneging had little consequences since a fallen king like Li Qiye couldn’t do anything to them.

The first to do so was the Bingchi Clan. The only issue was that their supreme ancestor had made a promise. As one of the strongest Eternals, keeping his words was very important or he could be criticized for it later on. Thus, the clan master of the Bingchi decided to swap Bingchi Yingjian for Bingchi Hanyu.

The other four powers were in the same situation. Same with Wind God, he wasn't in a position to deny this marriage either. However, the girls didn't have the same limitation.

Their life was greatly affected by this. Plus, they didn't want to marry such a rotten king given his terrible reputation. That's why Splendorous Saintess tried to do something else.

Right now, the princess of Waterfront actually came to carry out their part - quite a surprising choice.

"Our pavilion keeps our word." She looked straight at Li Qiye and answered, mustering courage out of nowhere.

In fact, the majority of the ancestors there opposed this marriage, same with the sect master. They shared the belief, like many others, that the new king has lost his kingdom, just a dog without a master. It's already a blessing from above that he was still alive.

A guy like that still want to marry their princess? Utterly ridiculous.

Liu Chuqing was the one who wanted to do so. She didn't want her great ancestor to break a promise, same with the sect's reputation. This was an important event for their sect, one that determined her fate, and certainly not a joke. The promise with the royal family must be carried out.

[Chapter 2463: A Girls First Time](#)

Moreover, the entire world was aware of this marriage. At that point, she has become the new king's woman for that is her fate. She knew that she would have to marry him and didn't think about changing it, preferring to accept it and adapt.

"And you?" He chuckled in response.

She has been maintaining her determined glare: "People must keep their promise. Since the marriage agreement exists, I, I shall fulfill my obligation."

"Remember, you're not the one who decided it." Li Qiye rubbed his chin.

She gently nodded: "I'm aware, but the pavilion took care of me and the ancestors have spent great effort as well. I should be contributing whatever I can. If the great ancestor had agreed to it, I shall not make a deceiver out of him."

"Good, not many people keep their words nowadays, especially towards someone they deem below them." Li Qiye clapped and praised.

She loosened up and stopped speaking after getting her message across. The truth was that few members of Waterfront supported her since it was not a good match. Their sect's talent would be wasted on this pile of manure.

Unfortunately, Chuqing still snuck out after making up her mind, not wanting the sect to stop her.

“What will you do now?” Li Qiye asked.

She gave him one quick glance before being embarrassed by her own response: “If you marry a chicken, follow the chicken; if you marry a dog, follow the dog.”

The common adage could barely be heard towards the end. She felt her entire face becoming hot.

“Well said, I like a good girl like you. Come on in.” He nodded approvingly.

The girl’s heart skipped a beat from being nervous. Nevertheless, she thought that this was only the beginning and cheered herself up.

Li Qiye had already entered. She hesitated for a moment before following him into the stone hall.

She suddenly realized something afterward. This mountain and stone hall were large, but there were only the two of them around.

She had heard of his infamous debauchery as well, like everyone else in the world. What was she going to do if he wanted to ... do something ungentlemanly in this abandoned place?

She had thoughts of retreating. An innocent girl of her has yet to experience certain things, and this frightened her. However, the two of them had a marriage agreement, so their status as husband and wife have been determined. Even if he were to do a certain something to her... at the very least, it’s natural and should happen anyway.

While feeling uneasy with fear, she still didn’t want to give up. She eventually took a deep breath and followed right behind him, wanting to get used to this on top of changing his nature.

Li Qiye sat down on the main chair and smiled: “If you wish to be my wife, you must learn how to serve me. I will give you an opportunity right now, wash my face.”

The girl was jolted for a moment before softly speaking: “I, I got it.”

With that, she busily prepared items to wash his face.

As the princess of Waterfront Pavilion, perhaps she wasn’t that pampered compared to other golden daughters, but she never had to do anything dirty or serve someone else before.

It was already amazing that she didn’t have servants despite her prestigious status, let alone serving someone else. Nevertheless, she willingly started today like an obedient wife.

Li Qiye sat there and watched her rush around like a spinning top, seemingly enjoying this rare, beautiful scene.

After a long time, she finally got all the items ready and brought a basin of warm water before him.

“Go ahead.” Li Qiye sat still and nonchalantly said.

She was surprised again, thinking that he would wash his own face after having the necessary items. Who would have thought that he wanted her to do it for him?

She took another breath to relax - this was her husband anyway, she'll be following him for the rest of her life. Clumsiness was inevitable since it was her first time washing someone else's face, but she was meticulous and careful.

After she finished, Li Qiye smiled and gently touched her exquisite chin.

"What, what do you want?" She jumped like a frightened deer, thinking about his perverted nature.

"A man and a woman all alone, what can we do, I wonder?" He blinked one eye and said.

This was the expression of a pervert, as wretched as can be.

She took one step back with a changed expression: "We, we shouldn't do that."

Being so nervous made her forget that she was a top prodigy of Waterfront while he was a weakling.

"What should we do then?" He smiled.

"I..." She had no response despite opening her mouth for half a day.

He leisurely continued: "You're already my woman, so don't you think we should do something romantic? It's perfectly justified."

She lowered her head, agreeing this with logic. It was only a matter of time for certain things to happen between a husband and wife.

After a brief lull, she eventually asked: "Can, can you not be like this?"

"Like what? Our matter right now or something else?" He smiled.

The girl hesitated for a moment before courageously stated her thoughts: "Just, those ridiculous and unreasonable things I've heard about. Can you change a little?"

"You wish to change me?" He grinned, amused.

The girl looked straight at his eyes and said: "I don't want you to be someone like that. After all, we're married now and there is a long future ahead for us. It, it's fine that you're weak, it doesn't matter, not just anyone can become an expert... but I hope that others won't mock my husband for being so ridiculous. I sincerely want you to become a good person instead of being an absurd king like in the past."

It wasn't easy for her to say this but they came from the heart - her most sincere and honest words. She didn't mind that he was incapable and weak, only for him to stop being a perverted and irrational man.

There was no changing this marriage, so she wanted to change Li Qiye instead. She was an earnest person so she couldn't help revealing everything to her husband. Her goal in coming here wasn't only for the marriage but also to change him.

"Hmm, makes sense." Li Qiye nodded.

[Chapter 2464: Embracing The Beauty](#)

Li Qiye found amusement while looking at her clear eyes. He leisurely said: "And if I don't change from being a perverted king, still as useless as ever, what will you do then?"

She contemplated before quietly responding: "I, I will keep trying."

Li Qiye only gained interest after seeing this innocent girl: "In order to change a man, a woman must first attract him, so, there are certainly ways for you to change my mind."

Having said that, he paused and winked provocatively again: "For example, I'm very curious and my eyes light up whenever I see a pretty girl, so it's hard to not be a pervert. I admit, you are very beautiful, but if you want to restrain me, you must serve me well, especially in bed. If you can make me forget my ways there, then maybe you can change me. That's why you need to try your best and show me what you got." He spoke, looking a bit sinister.

"You..." The blushing girl no longer dared to look straight at him and quietly replied: "How, how can you say something like that...?"

The already bashful girl couldn't handle the blatant flirting and wanted nothing more than to hide in a hole right now.

"Why not?" Li Qiye calmly defended himself: "Must I remind you that since you want to carry out the promise, we are a husband-and-wife now. The joy in bed between a couple is a natural part of life, it's nothing to be ashamed of."

"Well..." She couldn't come up with a response, too young to deal with an old fox like Li Qiye.

"If that's the case, you should be serving me, right?" Li Qiye got his prey where he wanted her.

"I, I got it." The girl was successfully persuaded, looking a little pitiful while looking down on the ground.

"Then come here." He waved at her with a smile.

The girl was scared out of her mind and instinctively made some distance from him.

"That hurts my feelings, wife. Do I look like a man-eating monster?" He smiled widely.

The girl didn't know what to do. Before coming, she had thought about numerous possibilities including the more sexual ones. However, this was happening all too fast. It was their first meeting and he already wanted to start? She was caught entirely off guard.

"Come now." Li Qiye chuckled and waved again.

The girl took a deep breath and mentally told herself that she could do it. Li Qiye was right - they were married now so this was only a matter of time.

She closed her eyes and continued walking towards him, feeling a tingling sensation on her scalp. These few steps seemed like an eternity.

As the distance lessened, her nervousness rose. She felt her legs trembling with anxiety.

Now, inches away from him, she could faintly feel the hotness of his breath, causing her to go numb and weak. She had the urge to run but fought against it.

Her eyes were closed, not daring to look at him. Her hands still timidly held on to the sleeves.

He looked like a bad young master while she resembled a bullied maid.

"It's pointless just standing there. Have a seat, I won't hurt you." Li Qiye smiled and tapped on his thigh, looking just like a perverted young master.

"I... I..." His appearance only added more anxiety to her, causing her to stammer.

"Changing your mind?" He egged her on.

She took a deep breath and let caution go with the wind before decisively sitting down on his lap.

This was her first time being so close to the opposite sex; her body became stiff and straight, tense to the core.

"That's better." He grabbed her by the waist and turned her to directly face him.

She let out a soft moan and quickly closed her eyes, imagining the embarrassing matter that is about to happen and feeling hot all over.

Time seemed to be frozen. The extremely nervous girl became empty-minded, not daring to move an inch.

However, seconds passed by and nothing terrible has actually happened, contrary to her imagination. Nevertheless, she still didn't dare to open her eyes, not wanting to look.

She felt better during this peaceful moment and could hear his heart beating.

"Badump, badump..." The beats were strong and resounding with a clear order. It sounded as if the world was existing due to the beating of his heart.

She found herself in his embrace, no longer as tense as before. The only thing separating the two of them were their clothes.

She could feel his burly chest. Though it wasn't the steely or bulging muscle type, one could sense a frightening and explosive power beneath. The consequence of its eruption would be unimaginable.

When her soft and ample breasts pushed against his chest, she felt currents coursing through her, turning her weak and numb - an unprecedented sensation for her. No strength to lift even a finger. She wanted to place her hands to block between the delicate areas but couldn't move them.

After a long time, she discreetly opened her eyes to catch a peek of him. His face was inches away. His breath caused her to feel a little itchy and hot, similar to being drunk.

The bashful girl took a good look at him, finding him to be very ordinary. However, there were charisma and charm, completely different from his perverted and spoiled looks earlier.

She suddenly found him to be quite attractive despite his mediocre features. His angles and lines seemed to have been polished through the ages - always unchanging - akin to an everlasting statue.

Not brilliant nor shocking at first sight but deserving of careful appreciation. One would never get tired of his handsome face - she thought.

[Chapter 2465: Intimate Whispers](#)

The embrace felt quite comfortable and pleasant to the point where Li Qiye, seemingly falling asleep.

Liu Chuqing was bold enough to steal glimpses of him. His eyes were a top target but she wasn't that audacious just yet so she stared at his brows.

Suddenly, he opened his eyes. There was no impressive aura or visual phenomena but she felt as if his eyes contained a cosmic power - capable of changing the very state of the world.

This feeling was too exaggerated but she told herself that it was indeed the truth. The world turned dark when he closed his eyes and vice versa.

He looked at her, peering through her windows of the soul. She found his gaze looking straight into her heart and mind.

There was a warm yet penetrating sensation. No secrets could be kept from him; everything was laid out in the open.

She couldn't help but look into his eyes due to the irresistible attraction, almost like a magnet. She found his eyes to be extremely profound, rendering her unable to look away just like a moth drawn to the light.

Her soul seemed to be leaving the body, wanting to fly into his eyes. It didn't matter if turning to ashes was the outcome. With her soul devoured, she was becoming one with him.

She felt infinitely close with this fusion. The feeling left her heart jubilating with joy; her entire being was under his control yet it was as pleasant as floating among the clouds.

She wanted nothing more than for time to stop for she had fallen into his trap, drowned by his embrace.

Li Qiye had reached an incredible level. He didn't need any trickery or scheme to conquer a woman. Just his one gaze alone was enough - if he willed it so.

"I know I'm very attractive but you're drooling right now." Li Qiye blew softly into her ear before whispering.

The girl regained her wits, overwhelmed with embarrassment. She felt weak all over as if she had no bones to support her, leaving her limping on his chest. She buried her head deep in there in order to hide her red face.

After a long time, she coquettishly groaned, wanting to get up but Li Qiye held her tight enough that this struggle was futile. She gave up right away because this act of resting on his chest was very pleasant.

She felt happiness, peace, and comfort - this matter wasn't as scary as she had thought. The initial fear and nervousness have all disappeared, even her shyness was dissipating while listening to his heartbeat.

"Do you know what is the most precious thing in this world?" He leisurely said.

She gently shook her head but still tried to answer: "An invincible treasure or a peerless merit law?"

This was the answer for many cultivators.

“No, it’s the heart.” Li Qiye stated.

“The heart?” She mumbled and mused.

“Not just any heart but one that is brave enough for self-reflection. Once you dare to face who you are and realize your flaws, you will have a fearless heart in the future - the foundation of an immovable dao heart which leads to resolve. Usually, a heart this pure is only found in newborns.” Li Qiye said sentimentally.

“So a fearless heart leads to having strong resolve.” She quietly repeated.

“You’ll understand later.” He smiled, not wanting to elaborate.

Just like that, Liu Chuqing stayed behind to serve him in Great Desolate mountain just like a young wife - innocent and cute.

She had thrown away her status as a pampered princess of Waterfront Pavilion, choosing to stay as an obedient wife.

She never needed to do menial tasks back in her sect but after following him, she started to learn every little thing so that she could do a good job.

During their time together, she slowly found that Li Qiye was nothing like the negative rumors. People said that he was a useless king, a debauchorous tyrant that loves sex more than his own life.

On the contrary, he was very proper when dealing with her, even to the point of being very protective and doting. It didn’t take long for this young girl to fall in love with the domineering man; no cure for a maiden in love.

She loved every second with him, adored being embraced and doted on by him. She thought that everyone else purposely vilified him in order to take his throne. They started false propaganda with that purpose in mind.

In her eyes, Li Qiye was virtually perfect. She would believe just about anything when they came from him. She couldn’t resist the charm of such a supreme existence. There was no escaping once fallen.

“A mortal like me shouldn’t go to the immortal garret...” early in the morning, the old man began to sing. His powerful voice became a part of Nine-linked Mountains.

“That grandpa must be very strong, absorbing the murderous energy every day.” Liu Chuqing standing next to Li Qiye on the peak praised after hearing the old man.

She has grown used to watching him refine energy and gather firewood each day.

“He himself is not strong, but his dao heart is stronger than the majority of people in Imperial.” Li Qiye gently shook his head.

“A fearless dao heart?” She asked. The two of them have grown closer in recent days.

Unfortunately, she became a bit absent-minded due to being envious. She was not courageous so she envied those different from her.

“No need for that.” He chuckled and said: “You are even more amazing than others. Being courageous doesn’t mean possessing a fearless dao heart, two different matters.”

[Chapter 2466: Fear Or Not?](#)

“Really?” Liu Chuqing looked at him and asked with uncertainty.

Li Qiye fixed some stray hair on her forehead and smiled: “Silly girl, you’re courageous with a strong dao heart. Your issue is being shy, that’s two different things. The only thing you need is more training.”

“Are you telling the truth?” She felt much better after hearing this but still asked for confirmation.

“Don’t worry, I wouldn’t lie to you.” Li Qiye chuckled: “Without courage and a strong dao heart, you wouldn’t be standing here right now. You’re not the only one who has a marriage pact with me, there are four others but how many are here right now? Only you. It’s not because you’re foolishly lovable but because you are facing it head-on without denial. You could have avoided, refused, or did some scheming. The courage to do what you did is much greater, readily accepting and wanting to make the situation better.”

He looked at her and continued: “Of course, this is a combination of you being stupid and having a strong dao heart.”

“I’m not stupid!” She coquettishly stomped her foot like a cute wife.

Li Qiye smiled and stared at the horizon: “These few things can be trained and polished.”

“How?” She wondered.

“No one is born with a resolute dao heart. They must be unfeeling or emotionless in that case, but it’s impossible anyway. A firm dao heart is the result of experiences, such as hesitation, fear, and other various emotions... yet the person still preserves. This is a process, not a gift from above. For example, courage is fighting against fear, allowing you to move forward.”

“Right.” She became immersed, thinking about how she wanted to run several times after coming here. However, courage still emerged at key moments and helped her.

“What you need is more training.” Li Qiye told her: “I just happen to have a mantra that is perfect for you. Though it won’t let you become invincible or add wind to your cultivation speed, it will give you courage and decisiveness.”

“There’s a merit law like that?” She was surprised.

“Why wouldn’t there be?” He said: “Why do mortals cultivate Buddhism? For Buddhist laws or to become Buddha? These laws are omnipotent, allowing one to gain great abilities. As for becoming a Buddha, it allows you to be untouchable by myriad laws with an eternal Buddhist heart. Which do you think is stronger? The laws or the heart?”

“Well...” She couldn’t answer right away.

“This goes back to the reason for cultivating the dao, is it to gain amazing abilities or to have an eternal dao heart?” Li Qiye continued.

She earnestly listened because this was a new and beneficial topic for her. No one has talked to her about this topic before.

“To become an invincible True Emperor isn’t hard, but to become one with an eternal dao heart is exceedingly difficult - the latter might not show up in an epoch.” Li Qiye continued: “With an indestructible dao heart, no laws can touch you. Even if the world were to collapse, you would still be fine during its destruction. So which is more crucial, having dao laws or a strong dao heart? The laws won’t make you eternal, but the dao heart can.”

Anyone else would be snorting right now, thinking that Li Qiye was spouting worthless nonsense. Liu Chuqing didn’t think so. She had a rather pure and intelligent heart. Her innate fortunes far exceeded other geniuses.

She was completely entranced by the relevant topic, leading her into a new domain.

“All of this is possible?” She said softly.

“Nothing is impossible for me.” Li Qiye said with a smile: “Listen up, I will pass the mantra down to you now. Carefully train and ask me if you have any questions.”

With that, he began chanting while she carefully listened and memorized every single word, not missing a single detail.

Keep in mind that as a princess of Waterfront Pavilion, she had access to its most profound merit laws, even one of the most coveted things in the system - the word, Lin.

On the other hand, Li Qiye was only famous as a useless and perverted tyrant with no cultivation to speak of! How could such a person comprehend some profound mantras? What a joke.

He was going to teach the genius of Waterfront a mental cultivation technique? One would laugh their teeth off after hearing this. What was more profound than one of the nine secrets in this system, and she had access to one!

He was simply displaying his slight skill before an expert, not knowing his own limitations.

Strangely enough, Chuqing was entirely immersed in the mantra.

As the saying goes - a woman in love is a fool. Li Qiye had occupied an important person in her mind. Even just a casual line would be memorized earnestly by her, let alone this wondrous and highly-coveted mantra.

A fool is blessed in other ways - or so people say. In fact, her pure and innocent heart was the reason why she obtained this great fortune and earned Li Qiye’s favor. Anyone else, regardless of how subservient, wouldn’t be taught this mantra.

Though she was bashful and lovably silly, her talents were incredible. She just didn’t put as much focus on training as others.

Because of this, she instantly memorized the entire mantra and began to research it. After a long while, her wits returned: “This mantra is incredibly profound, I can feel it coursing through me.”

“It’s because you have the halcyon bloodline. This cold and penetrating bloodline is helping you with the mantra.” He chuckled.

“You noticed?” Her mouth became agape, looking quite cute.

People only knew that she had a prestigious bloodline but not the exact one. Only a few ancestors from her sect had this knowledge yet Li Qiye could figure it out.

“Nothing can hide from my eyes as long as I will it so.” Li Qiye bragged.

She tilted her head and stared at this ordinary yet charismatic man. Perhaps she could never get tired of doing so.

“You’re so much different from the rumors.” She murmured.

“The world is full of illusions and hindrances, no one can see clearly.” He said: “It is a chess match, how can a piece see the entire board or the actual players? That’s why the majority of the world just listen and repeat blindly.”

“I see.” She didn’t want to think about the rationality behind this line and went back to focusing on her mantra.

She eventually had a question: “I feel a sense of familiarity as if I’ve seen it before, maybe not. What mantra is this?”

“You’ll find out later but this is only the beginning. Take your time and understand it then I’ll teach you another.” He said.

“Alright.” She nodded obediently just like a virtuous wife.

Li Qiye smiled, enjoying her demeanor. Others would find this impossible. The princess of Waterfront with boundless potential was willing to marry a useless king and follow him for the rest of her life.

Moreover, she even happily learned his mantra. People would think that she was insane and foolish beyond cure.

She didn’t care about these matters because the moment she came here, she was prepared for the worst. However, after actually spending time with him, reality didn’t seem so bad. She actually found happiness and thought that just one lifetime with him was too short.

Others could think that she was stupid all they want; she didn’t mind at all. She enjoyed her time right now even if Li Qiye was actually a useless king like the rumors.

[Chapter 2467: What Is Honor?](#)

As the days went by, more disciples came to Nine-linked Mountains.

A while ago, the southern region was completely devoid of people outside of the old woodcutter. However, a few have appeared in Great Desolate Mountain to search for the dao. Of course, no one really wanted to pick this place due to its murderous energy.

With people came news and gossips.

“The princess of the Bingchi is coming.” Someone revealed this information.

“Which one? That one?” Another asked curiously.

“How many do they have? I thought just one.” Someone became surprised.

“Far more than one, don’t you remember one of them being married to that new king?” Another disciple responded.

“That’s not a real princess from the Bingchi.” The guy understood and shook his head: “She was only a puppet. Her name is Bingchi Yingjian from a fallen branch with no authority and influence, only bestowed the title of a princess to be a sacrifice. The clan only has one real princess - Bingchi Hanyu.”

“Oh, so Princess Hanyu is coming here? Doesn’t that mean Eight Formation True Emperor is coming as well?” A different disciple joined in.

“How are the two things connected?” A disciple unaware of the current situation casually asked.

“I heard Eight Formation True Emperor is Princess Hanyu’s fiance now.” The knowledgeable disciple said.

“Myriad Formation Kingdom is having a marriage alliance with the Bingchi?” The crowd became surprised.

“This is old news, everyone knows by now.” An older man jumped in: “It’s not surprising at all. When the Bingchi was surrounded by the five legions, Myriad Formation was the first to come help. It shows how close the two powers are. Plus, after the new king had lost his throne, the world is chasing after this supreme authority. It makes sense for them to team up, especially with a marriage alliance.”

“But, I thought Princess Hanyu was betrothed to the king? Didn’t the supreme ancestor from that clan have a marriage pact with the late king? It seems rather strange for her to be engaged to Eight Formation True Emperor now.” A young one quietly said, aware of this potentially dangerous statement.

The cultivators nearby looked around and found that no one from these two powers was around. They felt much better.

“The time has changed.” The old cultivator shook his head: “Lucidity King was still alive back then with all of the authority, who would dare to refuse him? The crown prince at that point was useless but still had a prestigious status. Once he became emperor, he would be standing at the top of Nine Secrets. Under those circumstances, Princess Hanyu might be noble but not much before absolute authority. Marrying the new king meant being exposed to this power, so the princess was actually reaching up...”

The experienced old man sighed before continuing: “Unfortunately, the party didn’t last long. The death of Lucidity King heralded a total collapse of War Saint. The royal rule has lost its brilliance and the new king is useless. How could the princess marry such a person? That’s just life. You can’t blame anyone for it. When standing at the top, people naturally flock to you. When you fall into the abyss, people will leave, some will even throw rocks down at you.”

“Promise, marriage pact? All useless.” A vigorous youth said: “They’re nothing before absolute power. A fallen king wanting to marry Princess Hanyu? That’s a frog wanting to eat swan’s meat.”

“Exactly.” A different cultivator echoed the sentiment: “The Bingchi still sent another princess to the royal palace, which is in accordance with the marriage pact. They were already nice enough, it’s the king’s fault for being so lecherous, harassing innocent girls and losing his kingdom over a woman.”

The crowd became silent after hearing this.

It was a world of the strong - everyone found this normal and acceptable.

In their eyes, the fallen king was no longer worthy of Princess Hanyu. The Bingchi was nice enough to send a different princess to him.

Honor, promise, and morality weren’t worth much in the minds of many masters.

“Princess Hanyu is a genius and a kingdom-toppling beauty. Who is worthy of a woman like her? Definitely not the useless king. Only the brilliant Eight Formation True Emperor, a heaven’s favorite, is worthy of her.”

“Indeed.” Another youth added: “The two are indeed a match made in heaven, a perfect union. Nothing can be better.”

People supported this particular marriage because Eight Formation True Emperor was one of the strongest members of the young generation. He only had two palaces for now but his potential was limitless. Some even thought that he could take over Nine Secrets in the future.

“If he becomes the next king, the Princess Hanyu will become the queen. Looks like she is meant to be a queen, one way or another.” Someone else thought it was fate.

“Hey, I actually heard that the new king is in Nine-linked Mountain.” A non-tactful person suddenly said.

The atmosphere turned cold right away; no one uttered a word and started glancing at each other.

The new king was here? Princess Hanyu and Eight Formation True Emperor were coming as well. What would happen during the meeting of these three?

In fact, this piece of news has been spreading at a rapid rate. The new king has been missing since the fall of Skywrap. Many were searching for him in secret, wanting to use him as a puppet to take reign.

Furthermore, some became worried about the potential of war. However, no legions came, contrary to everyone’s expectations.

The Bingchi, Myriad Formation, and War Saint Dynasty didn’t mobilize. Some big shots were certainly arriving in secrecy, but nothing of a bigger scale was materializing. No one tried to invade the mountains and kidnap the new king, not even Eight Formation True Emperor and his men.

Everyone suddenly realized that this lack of action wasn’t due to a lack of interest, but rather because of Nine-linked Mountains’ strength.

The older cultivators found that these great powers didn’t dare to act recklessly here.

In the beginning, the youths didn’t care much about Nine-linked Mountains either. After all, it had too few disciples. Some even treated it as a hotel and came and went as they pleased.

However, as the storm was approaching, even the behemoths didn't dare to do anything. The ignorant ones finally realized that the truly strong masters were afraid - including Eight Formation.

"No wonder why Lucidity King kept a low profile when coming here instead of marching with Silver Secret. Looks like this sect is unfathomable." Someone from the last generation murmured.

Even the great king of three generations gave this sect face? Their true power must be immense.

[Chapter 2468: The Kings Tales](#)

The entire mountain range knew about the king's presence. It was no longer a secret.

New disciples, ordinary cultivators, and ancestors have all heard about the king.

His coronation was a great event, announced to the entire world. Later on, his fall was also heavily publicized. With that, the old and young of Nine Secrets all heard about the king.

Of course, their impression of him was unanimous - that he was a perverted fool! That's the reason why he lost his kingdom.

After controlling the capital, the various legions of War Saint, the Bingchi, and Myriad Formation Kingdom purposely proliferated this propaganda.

The world heard that when Li Qiye was on the throne, he committed all kind of debaucherous deeds - raping, taking others' wives, even his subjects' wives and palace maids weren't spared.

They even said that he even ordered the death of an entire clan for a woman. Imperious, lecherous, unreasonable, no merits to speak of...

In short, the alliance painted the picture of a horrible tyrant. Just hearing about his tales would make others hate him to the bones, thinking that a rebellion should be in order. They obviously did this in order to hide one thing - their betrayal!

They wanted to justify and garnish their betrayal, that they were in the right to overthrow the king, not a usurping attempt.

Numerous older cultivators naturally understood this, but the young ones - especially those that have only recently joined sects - believed these rumors.

Because of this, the young ones were very curious to see the lecherous tyrant after finding out that he was staying in Nine-linked.

In the next few days, young cultivators popped up around Great Desolate Mountain. Though they didn't climb up this peak, they stood in the areas nearby or float in the sky.

They saw Li Qiye absorbing murderous energy early in the morning. This attracted everyone's attention.

"That's the new king." One youth pointed and murmured.

"And here I thought the legendary tyrant would look quite fierce with three heads and six arms. He just looks like an ordinary person." A female cultivator wanted to satisfy her curiosity but became disappointed instead at Li Qiye's appearance.

When they heard about his sexual crimes, they thought that he would look quite wretched and lowly. Who would have thought that his appearance couldn't be more common and ordinary?

"A guy like that can become the king? How strange." A new cultivator wondered.

Someone who can become the king of War Saint Dynasty should be a supreme person, not someone like Li Qiye.

"It's because he has a good daddy." Someone couldn't help but mock: "He's the previous king's illegitimate son, that's more than enough for someone like him to become king, but keeping that position is an entirely different story. Didn't you see, the guy didn't even sit straight on his throne before losing his kingdom. Hmph, an idiot can't rule the world."

"That's true." A relatively older disciple nodded: "Given the current circumstances of our system, I don't think there's a more suitable and qualified person to be king other than Eight Formation True Emperor. He has two palaces right now and could become a progenitor in the future."

"I agree. He's a brilliant talent, it's appropriate for him to be our king, unlike a certain person with a good daddy." Another sneered: "But that's all in the past now, Eight Formation True Emperor will be our ruler and Princess Hanyu will be a great match."

"A great match indeed, you can't find a better pairing." His friend stared at Li Qiye in the distant and sneered: "It's fortunate that Princess Hanyu didn't marry that fool or it would be such a waste."

The youths nearby nodded in agreement.

"Is he cultivating?" Someone else changed the subject.

"Yes, he does this every day." A different disciple has been watching him early on so he had a good grasp on Li Qiye: "He's very diligent too, always on time."

"Maybe losing the kingdom was a great blow to him." A sentimental commenter stated: "Perhaps he wants to change completely and start all over again, that's why he's here at Nine-linked Mountains to train hard in order to rise up after becoming a master."

"In his dream." A supporter of Eight Formation scoffed: "With his pitiful cultivation, he could cultivate for another thousand years and wouldn't be as strong as one finger from Eight Formation True Emperor. The emperor will easily crush him."

No one bothered to respond because the situation was very delicate right now in Nine Secrets. Who knows if Eight Formation True Emperor can become the next king?

However, most did admit that he made sense. At the very least, the new king wouldn't be able to accomplish anything regardless of his change.

Everyone could see how weak he was, not comparable to Eight Formation True Emperor and the others at all. Seizing the throne again was simply impossible.

As for Li Qiye, he ignored all of these gossipers. They didn't affect his daily ritual at all.

Despite the crowd building around Li Qiye, they only wanted to satisfy their curiosity and didn't do anything to him.

After all, there was no conflict or enmity between them and the new king. Even if he was a lecherous tyrant during his reign, they were too far away to be affected. Plus, they weren't qualified to meet him back then either.

Furthermore, he might not have a kingdom anymore but some remnant vestiges and authority remained. No one wanted to mess with this matter because it might bring about a calamity.

This isn't to say that all the youths felt the same way. Some had ulterior motives and reasons.

Today, one youth climbed up the peak with a dozen of tough-looking men. Each had a ferocious presence, clearly part of the army.

The youth had an expensive robe but due to his impressive physique, he seemed to be a warrior as well.

"Zeng Yibin is coming for the new king." This news came out while the group was climbing up the peak.

"What does he want to do?" A curious spectator wondered.

"Probably to pick a fight." A cultivator from the capital quietly said: "Don't forget, Yibin is a cousin of Young Lord Ma."

"The Ma Clan? The military one of Central Legion Commander Ma Mingchun?" People shuddered after hearing this.

"That's the one." The person answered.

The crowd glanced at each other and took a deep breath.

The Central Legion was one of the strongest legions of Nine Secrets. Even back in Lucidity King's reign, this legion was one of his strongest fighting force. Ma Mingchun was a powerful Eternal, beloved by his men. His words carried a lot of weight.

Everyone knew that he was the mastermind behind the betrayal of the six legions. Meanwhile, Zeng Yibin was his grandchild on the maternal side, once a part of the Central Legion.

This clearly wasn't a case of a subject looking for his king. All eyes were on him now.

[Chapter 2469: Menace](#)

"Boom!" After Zeng Yibin and his men made it to the top, one of them walked to the front of the stone hall and stomped on the door.

It was instantly blown flying.

"Who is being so rude?" A lazy voice came about. Li Qiye slowly walked out with a beautiful girl behind him, Liu Chuqing.

He had a faint smile on his face with no sign of anger.

"Me, Zeng Yibin!" Yibin arched his chest proudly, knowing that many people were watching.

As Ma Mingchun's grandchild, he was relatively exceptional among the young generation. Unfortunately, he couldn't handle the tough army life and returned to his clan.

Of course, he couldn't compare to the real geniuses and was only a little well-known, no match for his older cousin, Ma Jinming.

Doing something dominating like this satisfied his ego and vanity. After all, others wouldn't dare to do this right now.

"No idea who you are." Li Qiye drowsily said.

"Now you do." Yibin arrogantly said: "I am a child of the Zeng Clan, the captain of the eighth battalion of the Central Legion with one decorated star..."

He had a good background and eventually became a low-ranking general in the legion. This raised his status so he looked quite pleased when introducing himself.

"Oh? Battalion captain? No, just a nobody that isn't qualified to even lick my feet at the Golden Hall." Li Qiye casually said.

The gloating youth's expression became extremely unsightly as if someone had just poured cold water over him.

Unfortunately, he couldn't quite retort because this was indeed the case. Someone of his level wasn't qualified to enter the Golden Hall, let alone prostrating before the king. Only a commander like Ma Mingchun could be there.

During the reign of Lucidity King, the dynasty produced countless talents. An insignificant and low-ranking general like him wasn't worth mentioning, just another fish in the ocean.

The spectators laughed in response because Yibin's demeanor just now was so wretched, like a dog finally able to bite a downed tiger. Though the king was even more useless, he was still the king.

"Hmph, keep on acting cool, this general won't stoop down to your level." Yibin snorted and coldly answered.

He was still boasting about his position despite not being one any longer.

"Get the hell out. From now on, we are in charge of this peak." He declared.

"Why should I?" Li Qiye smiled and said.

"Because I like this place. Our Central Legion is about to occupy this area, so be smart and scram, don't invite needless trouble." Yibin revealed an unfriendly expression.

A spectator in the distance quietly asked: "The Central Legion is really coming to Nine-linked Mountains?"

"No way, he's coming up with an excuse." An older cultivator said with uncertainty.

"And if I refuse?" Li Qiye asked.

Yibin's eyes chillingly flashed as he responded: "I'm afraid it's not up to you. It will be considered obstruction against official military business. I'll break your arms and legs then will throw you down the cliff like a dead dog."

He laughed and looked down on Li Qiye as if the guy was an ant. This style gave him great pleasure, satisfying his ego and previous grievances.

Keep in mind that a general like him wouldn't be able to meet the king at all. This fool, as long as he was on the throne, was still a supreme existence - able to look down on a general as if they were ants.

This was no longer the case. This imperious king was now a dog without a master. No one would give a damn about him.

He could treat this king like an ant now - an amazing feeling of schadenfreude.

The spectators didn't say anything. They didn't know whether Yibin was acting on his own accord or if he was under the orders of Commander Ma Mingchun.

"Don't you know who he is?!" Liu Chuqing was furious and stepped up for Li Qiye's sake.

"Of course." Yibin laughed loudly in response: "How could lowly characters like us not know about our great king? Oh no, our legs are growing weak because of his prestige and royal aura, we should prostrate and worship him now..."

The sarcasm was too clear. He continued on with a fierce glare: "Unfortunately, that's all in the past. Move now or I'll make you wish for death!"

Even the nice Chuqing couldn't handle this tone. She scowled and said: "Such impudence! His Majesty is not someone you can insult. Leave now, His Majesty will spare you."

"Who are you?" Yibin was a fool but after seeing Chuqing's incredible presence, he could tell that she must be someone important.

"Liu Chuqing of Waterfront Pavilion." She had no intention of hiding her identity.

"Waterfront Princess!" Though Yibin has never met her before, he has heard of her fame and took one step back, astonished.

The crowd felt the same way and needed to take a composing inhale.

Chuqing rarely showed herself in public so people have only heard of her before. Nevertheless, virtually everyone here knew who she was.

The princess of Waterfront was prestigious and had an amazing bloodline. More importantly, her talents were rumored to be top-notch as well.

People haven't seen her in action yet, but Waterwatch Saber Saint once lamented that he was only the second place in the pavilion in terms of talents.

Keep in mind that the saber saint was the best genius in Waterfront, famous alongside Eight Formation True Emperor or even above.

The crowd felt perplexed, not knowing why the princess would be together with the new king.

“You... you’re Waterfront Princess?” Yibin was shocked, realizing that he couldn’t afford to mess with someone like her.

Provoking her might invoke the fury of Waterwatch Saber Saint.

“Yes.” She nodded without putting up a haughty act.

“Hehehe...” Yibin sneered with disdain at Li Qiye: “Hiding behind a woman, what a coward. No wonder why you lost your kingdom, someone like you will never amount to anything, not worthy of being a king...”

He directed his attention towards Li Qiye instead.

“How dare you?!” Chuqing grew red, wanting to teach the youth a lesson.

Li Qiye pulled her back behind him and smiled deeply: “I see, then I should stop hiding behind her then.”

He gave Yibin the side-eye and said: “You wanted to break my legs, right? I’m right here, come.”

“Be careful.” She was worried about him and whispered.

“Good, still have a backbone. That’s a king for you.” Yibin was very pleased with himself, not expecting for his taunt to actually work.

“Men, if he doesn’t move, then break his bones and throw him away.” He revealed a cruel smile.

[Chapter 2470: Wood Cutter](#)

The spectators pondered about Zeng Yibin’s intent. The experienced youths shook their heads.

They weren’t empathizing with Li Qiye, just annoyed at Yibin’s gloating demeanor.

When the king still had his kingdom, he probably wouldn’t have dared to let a fart out. Look at him now, acting all high and mighty.

Few in this world would care about the weak, but they didn’t like this gloating act from Yibin either.

During any other day, someone like him was only a minor character, insignificant in the grand scheme of thing. Such arrogance and bossiness earned him the resentment of the crowd.

Of course, the spectators didn’t feel like speaking, let alone helping the king.

Yibin himself might not be a genius, but he was still a member of the Zeng Clan, the grandchild of Ma Mingchun. That’s an impressive background.

Plus, the king was only a dog without a master right now. Who would want to interfere for his sake?

After receiving Yibin’s order, the muscular men behind him surrounded Li Qiye with eyes full of aggression.

They were part of the army and wouldn’t show any mercy the moment Yibin gives them the go-ahead.

“Your Majesty, will you break your legs yourself or do we have to help you?” One of the men smiled and asked.

The scene became quite tense; all spectators held their breath due to the excitement.

Suddenly, loud exhales disrupted the ongoing situation. Yeng Yibin and his men all turned around.

They saw an old man sitting on a boulder nearby with a wood cutter hanging by his waist and a bundle of firewood beneath. He sat on a boulder and enjoyed his smoke.

No one knew when he got there; it was as if he had been there the entire time but no one noticed his existence.

He puffed out a ring of smoke and noticed everyone looking at him. He tapped his pipe to get the ashes out and coughed: “Excuse me, I’m at the wrong place, continue on.”

No one had a clue who he was. Yibin ignored this and ordered: “Start.”

He had no other choice and delaying this matter might create further problems.

“Your Majesty, don’t blame us for being merciless. Blame yourself for being blind.” One man smiled grimly.

Four of the group exchanged glances before shouting: “Let’s go!”

They reached for Li Qiye, each aiming for a different arm and leg - wanting to raise him in the air.

This didn’t look like a simple bone-breaking move, more like dismemberment via running horses.

“Clank!” Suddenly, a snow-white flash appeared.

“Pluff! Pluff! Pluff!” The shade of red emerged.

“Oh no, my wood cutter.” Everyone, still confused, heard the old man shouting and saw him holding his waist.

However, the wood cutter was nowhere to be seen.

In this split second, there was a sharp white blade flying in the air. It severed the arms of the four men from the shoulder down, as easily as cutting tofu.

“Ah!” The men finally realized what had happened after seeing blood gushing out from the wounds and screamed.

This wood cutter hovered in the sky and blood dripped down from its tip, one drop at a time. No one was controlling it; it seemed to have its own mind and moved on its own volition.

“Come back, I need you to stay alive!” The old man anxiously shouted again.

Everyone immediately thought that he was putting up an act.

“Old man, you’re courting death!” The other men immediately turned towards him with a shocked expression.

“Clank!” They took out their saber and sword before lunging for him like tigers and wolves.

“It has nothing to do with me, you got it wrong!” The frightened old man waved his hands in denial.

However, these men wouldn’t listen to him. The wind-cutting howls of their lightning-fast slashes came straight for his neck.

They wouldn’t give the enemy a chance to retaliate at all, not caring who the old man actually was.

“Whoosh!” The hovering cutter suddenly flashed and came for them.

“Watch it!” The men noticed this and turned their blades upward.

“Bang! Bang!” Their sabers and swords crumbled with pieces flying everywhere. Blood came next.

The knife cutter dashed through the air, creating a beautiful white arc before slashing down. More arms dropped to the ground. All became armless men, unable to resist at all.

Their weapons were crushed and gone were their arms.

“Ah!” They let out miserable and heart-wrenching scream.

The spectators were alarmed after seeing the one-sided battle.

“It’s a master.” Everyone could see that the old man was a hidden master.

“Run!” After the initial jolt of pain, the men realized that they needed to ignore the pain and retreat as fast as possible.

“Pluff!” The cutter flew up in the air before descending once more, decapitating the escaping victims.

These poor, headless victims still ran for a while longer without a head. When their head dropped down and rolled on the ground, they could see their body falling to the ground with blood gushing out. They opened their mouth, wanting to scream but no sound would come out. Their blood on the ground flowed together and formed thick streams.

The spectators watched in a daze, shuddering.

The imperious Yibin was frozen. His men were all experts that have survived numerous battlefields. None of them was weak but they were instantly murdered by this old man. The guy’s power was insane.

“Shit!” His wits returned and he decided to run for that was the only option.

Honor, reputation, face? None of them mattered. Nothing was more important than staying alive so he mustered all of his strength to flee.

Unfortunately, the blood-stained cutter unleashed another vertical slash.

“Thump!” Yibin didn’t make it far before his legs got cut off. He immediately rolled on the ground.

“Ah!” Once he stopped rolling, he finally noticed that his legs were missing. The pain and realization made him scream.

“Shit!” The pale youth used his arms to crawl instead, leaving behind two trails of blood.

