

Emperor 2471

[Chapter 2471: Who Is He?](#)

“Whoosh!” The blade slashed down again with a flashing glint. Yibin’s arms were severed from the shoulder as well. The youth was covered in blood, limbless - quite a horrifying scene.

“Ah!” He rolled back and forth in his own blood while howling.

“Why, why are you so cruel, we have no grievances...” He bellowed.

“No, no, it’s not me, this has nothing to do with me.” The old man defended himself and chased after his blade. He finally grabbed it and heaved a sigh of relief while patting his chest: “Good, it didn’t fly away or I’ll go hungry.”

“It’s your blade, who else could it be?” Li Qiye smiled and shook his head: “No need to deny anything after you kill them all.”

“Young friend, you’re accusing me of something I didn’t do, I’m just a woodcutter, not a killer.” The old man put on a painful expression.

“I’m not accusing you of anything, it is as clear as day.” Li Qiye waved his hand dismissively.

Everyone was staring at the old man, certainly believing Li Qiye. They believed that he was a reclusive master. Of course, this was indeed the truth.

His blade had just killed that entire group, who else could it be but him? He was only playing the fool.

People trembled because the old man didn’t need to use any technique at all. Just how strong was he?

“It’s really not me, I’m innocent.” The old man vehemently denied to no avail. Everyone has made up their mind.

Li Qiye ignored the old man and walked towards Yibin who was looking quite pitiful at this moment.

He stood there and looked down with a smile: “Didn’t you want to break my legs and throw me off the cliff like a dog? I’m still waiting.”

“What, what do you want?!” Yibin shouted as Li Qiye’s shadow covered him. He had lost his limbs and cultivation - just a fish on the chopping board right now.

He felt an unprecedented fear destroying all of his courage.

“What do you think? What should someone do against an enemy who wants to cripple them?” Li Qiye smiled with no sign of anger.

“Don’t, don’t be insane! My uncle is the commander of the Central Legion with millions under him, he, he won’t let you go if you dare to kill me!”

“Your uncle?” Li Qiye leisurely said: “He used to kneel before me, you think you can scare me by bringing up a servant?”

“You...” Yibin couldn’t come up with something else.

“I’ll have you know that I’m waiting for him to bring his head here too...” Li Qiye said.

“Crack!” He stopped speaking and ruthlessly stomped down on the youth’s skull. It exploded like a watermelon, brain matters and flesh splashed.

“And I’ll finish him just like that.” He finished his sentence, completely indifferent to this gruesome murder.

Unfortunately, Yibin was already dead and couldn’t hear him.

People shuddered after seeing this. They remembered that the king was known to be lecherous and unreasonable, but don’t forget, he was also considered a tyrant!

A ruthless and cruel tyrant. Do not be fooled by his ordinary appearance or his unsavory reputation as a useless and perverted king.

This was a tyrant who had sat on the throne of Nine Secrets - definitely someone who could murder without batting an eye! He might be incompetent but this didn’t mean that he was a coward.

“Old man, since you have killed them, you can’t just leave their corpses out like this. The heaven wouldn’t appreciate that.” Li Qiye smiled and told the old man.

“It has nothing to do with me, I didn’t kill them.” The old man refused.

“Who else could have done it but you? Come on now, bury them. I’m just a weakling who can’t even truss a chicken, and you definitely can’t let the young lady bury the dead, right? That’s why this terrible job is yours.”

Having said that, he ignored the old man’s response and entered the stone hall with Liu Chuqing.

“Sigh... such terrible luck, so unfair. Why must I bury them...” The old man murmured with resentment.

Nevertheless, he still threw the bodies into a crevice off the cliff. He then washed his hands and patted his blade: “Look at what you’ve done, almost got distracted from our real work. Still have to go trade some firewood for rice.”

With that, his powerful song began to echo across the mountains again as he was leaving.

All cultivators nearby watched each of his moves. No one dared to disturb him or utter a single comment.

They heaved a sigh of relief after he and his song disappeared from the area.

“Who is that?” One youth questioned.

No one expected that a random person would come out of nowhere and save the king, killing Yibin and his men.

“I don’t know, I’ve never seen him before.” How could the youths here recognize the old man?

“He might be from Nine-linked then.” An older disciple said with a serious expression: “I’ve been here twice and saw him chopping wood too, around five years ago.”

“A master of Nine-linked?” People glanced at each other.

The truth was that no one knew the exact details about Nine-linked Mountains. No one knew its sect master was or how many experts it had.

However, they were aware that even Lucidity King came here while keeping a low-profile.

“Why did he save the king?” Another asked.

The crowd started thinking but no one could come up with an answer. It seemed that the king and the old man was quite close.

“Oh, don’t you remember? When Eight Formation True Emperor attacked the palace, the king was saved by someone. No one knew who it was then but it looks like this old man did it.” A disciple from a great power tapped his head after having an epiphany.

People took a deep breath, thinking that this answer was reasonable. This old woodcutter might be the one who saved the king back then. He has been lingering around just to protect the king as well.

“Why does Nine-linked want to protect him though?” Another curious spectator wondered.

Speculations arose. The disciples from the big sects had wilder thoughts.

Remember, Nine-linked Mountains had a unique position in Nine Secrets. It seemed to be independent and never interfered with the system.

But why was it protecting the king now? Could it be that it wanted to show itself and support the king, helping him get his throne back?

[Chapter 2472: Qin Jianyao](#)

As the lakes’ color-changing date approached, more and more disciples from Nine Secrets have arrived.

Some were here for dao enlightenment but the majority came specifically for this event. They consisted of members of big and tiny sects, even vagrant cultivators.

This was a unique aspect of Nine-linked Mountains. As long as the person was a member of Nine Secrets, they were treated in the same manner regardless of their background.

Even a weak vagabond could enter Nine-linked Mountains as long as their merit law came from the system.

A prestigious noble wouldn’t have special privileges and a lowly cultivator wouldn’t be denied at the entrance. Lucidity King himself was subjected to this. Those who came here would be given a place but no disciples or servants from Nine-linked Mountains would serve them.

Because of this fair treatment, Nine-linked Mountains was considered to be neutral and independent.

In the beginning, more smaller sects arrived. Later on, the big powers and even the five behemoths have entered.

The appearance of geniuses and experts increased the pressure felt by the young generation due to the heightened competition. Once these five behemoths joined in, even the other big clans and sects would lose, let alone the smaller ones.

“Rumble!” Today, the valleys trembled after loud detonations.

People shuddered, wondering who would dare to come here in such a haughty manner. They quickly looked towards the direction of the noises.

They saw a group of riders, only around a dozen or so. Nevertheless, their ride had an impressive momentum just like a destructive tsunami of steel - simply unstoppable.

Despite the few numbers, they still gave everyone the sense that a great army was approaching. Even the air was shaking. They seemed to be one with their stallions. Both the riders and their mounts were covered in armor plates - more than strong enough to crush through mountains.

The leader was a youth with sharp brows, bright eyes, and a tough physique. His gaze was quite sharp on top of having an aggressive aura - clearly indicating that he was a battle-worn soldier.

“The Ma Clan.” People noticed their identity right away.

“It’s Ma Jinming, their young lord.” Another was startled to see the young leader.

“A junior general of the Central Legion.” The group of riders attracted a lot of attention on their path.

“Does he want revenge for his younger cousin?” Speculation arose.

Ma Jinming was Ma Mingchun’s son and Zeng Yibin’s older cousin.

Unlike Yibin who was a fox relying on a tiger’s might, Jinming was far more powerful. He accompanied his father on the battlefields and showed great talents at a young age- a real genius and expert.

Everyone instantly assumed that this group traveling with great fanfare was here for revenge.

However, Jinming didn’t travel to Great Desolate Mountain right away. They stopped on a different peak in Nine-linked Mountains. After he got down from the horse, he stared towards the direction of Great Desolate and scowled.

This showing of patience actually surprised the crowd.

“The young lord is still an experienced soldier, able to keep cool.” An older youth nodded approvingly.

“Brother Ma, I can’t believe that it has been three years since our last meeting.” Many youths came to his camp for a greeting.

Among them were old friends and even strangers. Nevertheless, his camp was packed with people.

On the other hand, Li Qiye who was the king had no visitors.

Of course, these youths and experts had their reasons for coming to see Ma Jinming.

His father, Ma Mingchun, was the commander of the Central Legion right now. War Saint Dynasty was currently a snake without a head after the king was gone.

Meanwhile, as the strongest and oldest of the legion commanders, Mingchun had both influence and power. It could be said that the legions were willing to follow all of his orders right now. When all six worked together, they wouldn't be weaker than any sect in Nine Secrets.

Thus, some even said that the new king of Nine Secrets will be dependent on Ma Mingchun's stance. This was the reason why so many powers want to flatter him right now. They would start on Ma Jinming first to create a connection with the Central Legion.

His arrival did cause a stir but it was nothing compared to the next person.

This person didn't come in such a haughty manner - no stallions nor riding across the sky with loud explosions.

She came without making a single sound with a sword in her embrace. She seemed to be walking slowly but each step encompassed hundreds of miles.

Despite her low-profile, people still noticed and became excited.

She wore a green dress and was serene as a lotus in the valley. Her long hair and scarf draping over her neck and shoulders fluttered with the gentle breeze in an animated manner, resulting in a transcending style.

She was quite beautiful - bright and spirited phoenix eyes - nearly divine in nature. Many people were instantly attracted by her eyes and would lose their composure.

"Miss Qin." The ones who saw her along the way all bowed to greet her. It didn't matter if they were disciples from the big sects or young lords and princes.

A few geniuses couldn't hide their crush on her at all. She nodded back in response. Both her temperament and gestures were immensely attractive.

"That's Miss Qin from Calm Lotus." A person praised after seeing her from the distance.

"Fairy Qin is here now?" So many youths wanted to take a look after hearing this news. They became frozen and charmed at her sight.

"Qin Jianyao." Someone from the previous generation also felt admiration: "The successors of Calm Lotus are always incredible - phoenixes among women, virtually incomparable."

Qin Jianyao didn't have a cool title, but many were willing to call her Fairy Qin or Fairy Jian. Though she rarely showed herself and seldom participated in fights, her fame still spread across Nine Secrets.

[Chapter 2473: Scram](#)

"If there is really a fortune happening at the lakes this time, we aren't really qualified to compete against Miss Qin." Someone sighed sentimentally after seeing her.

Some were naturally happy to see Qin Jianyao but others felt great pressure instead. If she came specifically for the color-changing lakes, then no one could really match her.

It wasn't because they were unduly humble but she was just that strong. To be more specific, Calm Lotus Monastery's strength exceeded people's imagination.

On the surface, it was one of the five great powers and should have similar power. This wasn't the case.

The older experts knew that Calm Lotus was far above the rest. Both the Bingchi and Myriad Formation Kingdom, even Waterfront Pavilion - all far inferior.

Remember, outside of War Saint Dynasty, Calm Lotus was the only other lineage with two secret words. Their foundation and real capabilities were no joke.

Before Lucidity King, the previous rulers of the system were related to Calm Lotus in one way or another. Though this sect rarely grasped the central authority or took the throne, it had helped many previous rulers. In this manner, it also controlled the overarching direction of the system.

This continued on for a very long period of time until Lucidity King. Calm Lotus' influence gradually lessened before disappearing altogether.

Nevertheless, they were still very powerful and might have been the only lineage capable of fighting against War Saint Dynasty during its golden age.

"A new king is in order." An old cultivator sighed after seeing Qin Jianyao.

Given their past history, Calm Lotus would, sooner or later, groom another ruler. So now, when the reclusive Qin Jianyao is traveling the world, perhaps she was looking for a new royal successor.

Her destination was Great Desolate Mountain this time.

"Why is she heading to Great Desolate?" People were surprised because the current king was staying there.

"Are you forgetting that she is engaged with the king?" Another whispered.

The crowd didn't expect this. Those who have a crush on her were devastated upon hearing this. People have forgotten about this matter until now.

"Hmph, that guy has lost his kingdom so the marriage pacts are no longer in effect." A genius who likes her scowled.

"Not necessarily." An instigator took advantage of the situation: "Waterfront Princess is also staying with the king. A famous beauty, beloved by so many prodigies, yet she's still serving the king. A marriage pact is always effective unless purposely nullified."

The instigator successfully annoyed the youths.

"Hmph, a fool like the king wants to marry Fairy Qin? Maybe in his dreams." One genius said with disdain.

The instigator leisurely said: "Are you sure? What if Calm Lotus wants to support the king again? After all, he's the legitimate heir of the orthodox branch. If Miss Qin were to marry him, she'll be the queen in the future - able to give orders to the rest of the world."

"Stop spouting nonsense!" The geniuses barked back.

Geniuses were always arrogant and proud. Though they knew being with Qin Jianyao was virtually impossible, they still wanted to fantasize about it.

Plus, they all considered the king to be a useless and immoral wretch that couldn't be fixed! They had nothing but utter contempt for the king.

If Jianyao were to marry such a piece of trash, how could they ever let this go?

Thus, they put on a non-caring appearance about the issue, contrary to their actual nervous thoughts since she was now climbing up the peak.

"Disciple of Calm Lotus Monastery, Qin Jianyao, wishes to have an audience." She stood outside the stone hall and asked. Just listening to her pleasant voice was quite enjoyable.

Everyone held their breath while watching. Eventually, the door creaked and opened. She bowed before entering.

The crowd didn't leave since they wanted to know the result of this.

Inside the hall, Li Qiye sat there, seemingly asleep. Liu Chuqing quietly told him when Jianyao got closer: "Your Majesty, Fairy Qin is here."

Li Qiye finally opened his eyes. His nonchalant and invasive gaze fell upon her.

It was as if there were a pair of invisible hands gently caressing her body, and this vexed her.

"Calm Lotus' Qin Jianyao, greetings, Your Majesty." She slightly bowed with no intention of kneeling.

"Are you here to carry out the marriage? Will you stay to serve me?" Li Qiye smiled while half-lying down, a very improper posture when speaking with a guest.

"I come bearing the good-wills of my ancestors to see how you are doing, Your Majesty." She diverted the topic while looking transcending and attractive.

"So you have no intention of fulfilling the marriage pact?" He smiled, not worrying too much about his manner.

Any other men, geniuses and prodigies, would want to act elegant and graceful in front of her - showing her their best side. This wasn't the case for Li Qiye.

"The marriage was decided by the ancestors so I do not dare to make a decision on my own, please ask them yourself, Your Majesty." She responded.

This was a good response - not admitting or denying the marriage pact. She remained elegant with a good sense of propriety - nearly perfect.

The difference between her and Splendorous Saintess was as clear as day.

"And here I am, leaving a spot for you." Li Qiye smiled and shook his head: "Looks like you do not value it. Very well, next time when you wish to try again, you can be Liu Chuqing's maid instead. That's already very generous of me."

“Thank you, Your Majesty.” Of course she was unhappy about this distasteful comment but not to the point of being angry.

“You should be thankful indeed. If I were to destroy your sect, you wouldn’t be qualified as a maid at that point, only a bed-warmer at best and only if I’m in a good mood.” Li Qiye leisurely added.

“Your Majesty likes to joke.” Jianyao remained courteous but her tone grew colder after hearing such harsh words.

“Alright, scram now.” Li Qiye grew disinterested and waved his hand: “I will remember your Calm Lotus Monastery’s false courtesy. When I mobilize, I will think about sparing your sect’s old men. At the very least, they know how to put up a proper act.”

Jianyao’s annoyance intensified but she didn’t express it. She bowed once more and said: “I’ll be taking my leave.”

“Have you decided on the next successor?” He asked as she was leaving.

“I’m only an ordinary disciple and do not dare to participate in such an important matter.” She responded.

“Then remember this for me - Nine Secrets is still under my control, your sect is nothing but a bunch of ants. Be smart and kneel before me to beg for forgiveness when the time comes. Otherwise, you will be a part of the eventual destruction.” Li Qiye reminded.

Jianyao didn’t respond this time and left, floating in the air.

[Chapter 2474: Just Another Girl](#)

After Qin Jianyao left, Liu Chuqing started a conversation: “Your Majesty, weren’t you a bit too rough on her? She came with good intention.”

“Good intention?” Li Qiye patted her soft hair in a doting manner: “Silly girl, you’re too kind. There is no good intention or humaneness to them, only value.”

“Really?” The good-natured girl was skeptical.

“All right, let’s say that Calm Lotus wants to pick a new king while I try to stop others from taking the reign, what would Calm Lotus do?” Li Qiye chuckled.

“Eliminate you...” Being kind didn’t mean she was stupid and understood his implication instantly.

“Even if I don’t try to stop the coronation of a new king, don’t forget that I’m still the rightful ruler, the only one in Nine Secrets. If someone else were to ascend, you think Calm Lotus would let me run around outside? Even if they don’t kill me, they will still imprison me.”

She realized that as well. For millions of years now, Calm Lotus was closely related to the royal rule even if they never directly grasped the throne. Many of their disciples actually went on to become queens.

The tyranny of Lucidity has finally ended so the world was up for grasp. Calm Lotus might think about grooming or supporting one again. However, a useless pervert like Li Qiye couldn’t even come close to being a candidate. In that case, his very existence was a thorn in their side.

Chuqing could only sigh. She has always been staying at Waterfront, preferring to not get involved with the external power struggle.

“The marriage pacts are finalized - they should have either disagreed with it, risking their lives, but once signed, they must stay true to it.” Li Qiye said: “Whether it be a lineage or a cultivator, they need to keep their words. In the eyes of Calm Lotus, it is only a wasted piece of paper.”

“If that was the case, why should I be courteous to Calm Lotus Monastery?” Li Qiye smiled: “I was already generous offering her a maid position.”

“I see, but she’s Fairy Qin, how could she become my maid?” Chuqing was surprised to see that he wasn’t kidding around.

“Only a disciple, not a fairy.” Li Qiye shook his head: “Only a title given by regular people, a fairy isn’t that easy to find. Plus, if I want to, even a real fairy will come to be your maid. Fairies aren’t worth much, only those who earn my favors are priceless.”

Chuqing stared at him in a daze, feeling quite sweet inside to the point of feeling tingly from happiness. She felt as if she was floating like a cloud from being adored by this man. His charm has completely won her over; she wanted nothing more than to fall into his embrace and enjoy his loving...

People were still anxiously waiting outside the stone hall, wanting to know the result of the conversation.

After all, the situation was very delicate in Nine Secrets, especially when Calm Lotus has the power to support a king. All interested parties would keep an eye on them.

Jianyao’s visit made people think about Calm Lotus wanting to help Li Qiye taking back the throne. Would she marry him too?

The fantasizing geniuses, in particular, didn’t want to see such a thing.

“Creak.” The door opened and attracted everyone’s attention. Jianyao came out and stole the spotlight.

“She’s out.” Some quietly murmured and became quite nervous.

Her decision could break her fans’ heart on top of changing the current political landscape of Nine Secrets.

They stared intensely at her peerless face, wanting to read her expression.

Unfortunately, her expression was blank even though she was very annoyed. This made it hard for people to read anything.

The clue was in her swift departure, one without looking back. It meant that she no longer cared. The experienced spectators noticed something.

“The king is abandoned.” An older cultivator speculated.

The young ones heaved a sigh of relief, especially her potential suitors who no longer feel anxious.

“A frog can’t eat swan’s meat after all.” One genius said: “That idiotic piece of trash needs to take a look at himself in the mirror. So what if he has a marriage pact with the fairy, it doesn’t mean anything now.”

“The world no longer belongs to War Saint.” An older one had to admit: “He’s no longer the king with full authority. Using a marriage pact to tie down Miss Qin is impossible. He’s the one reaching up now. The fact that she even gave him the time of day is a lucky break.”

The older experts didn’t care for romance and focused on a different aspect. One said: “It’s impossible for the king to take back his throne, he’s completely abandoned now despite being the rightful ruler. Even Calm Lotus won’t help him, he has no value to be taken advantage of now.”

After leaving Great Desolate Mountain, she headed straight for Xiang Island inside one of the nine lakes. [Ref] I need more context to accurately name this place, it’s a little tricky, might need to come back later after seeing the names of the other lakes/islands. [/ref]

This revealed her intention and increased the level of the competition for the color-changing event.

Nevertheless, some people still wanted her to stay around. This might be their chance to get closer to her.

A few experts came to visit her, including prodigies and masters of great powers.

Of course, outside of wanting to get closer with her, some wanted to build a social relationship. Calm Lotus was strong enough to warrant flattery for the eventual benefits. However, Jianyao closed her doors under the excuse of meditation and didn’t entertain guests.

Even Ma Jinming himself couldn’t meet her despite being an important character among the young generation.

People realized that in order to earn her grace, one needed to be a big shot. Ordinary masters and geniuses weren’t enough.

Finally, one youth has finally entered her sight.

“My name is Yang Bofan, here to wish you well under the order of my master, fairy.” He wasn’t handsome but had a majestic aura resembling a mountain.

People shuddered after hearing this name and instantly stared at him.

“Eight Formation True Emperor’s direct disciple.” They instantly recognized his identity.

“He might be the best talent of this generation.” Even his peers felt admiration.

Some classified Eight Formation True Emperor and Qin Jianyao’s group as the older generation while Yang Bofan’s group was the start of the new age.

Yang Bofan was the leader of his generation, enjoying an immense level of fame.

[Chapter 2475: Immortal Slaying Ancient Formation](#)

Yang Bofan had many admirers in the audience. Even the arrogant geniuses had nothing but praises for him.

His strong qualities had nothing to do with his master and his background. His exceptional talents spoke volumes.

Remember, Eight Formation True Emperor only had two palaces but Bofan, his disciple, was already a third-level True God.

The emperor wasn't as strong as Eternals or his peers, but ordinary Ascenders couldn't compare to him.

The issue here was that Bofan was still very young and hasn't become his disciple for that long. Being a third-level True God already was very impressive and indicative of his amazing talents.

Some even said that he was more gifted and brilliant than his master. Perhaps catching up was only a matter of time.

Today, his visit here on behalf of the emperor was worth musing over.

"How has the emperor being?" Jianyao has not granted any audience until now. This special privilege only further proved Bofan's talents, not just because his master was a True Emperor.

Ma Jinming was inferior to him in this regard despite having a legion commander - an Eternal - for a father.

However, Jinming still couldn't gain Jianyao's respect so Bofan was clearly above him.

"Fairy, my venerable master has been in isolated cultivation." Bofan quickly bowed and said.

"He wants to open his third palace?" Jianyao asked.

"Fairy, he is not aiming for the third palace but rather researching the Immortal Slaying Ancient Formation left behind by the forefathers." Bofan revealed.

"Immortal Slaying?" Jianyao was surprised to hear this: "The emperor is indeed a master at formations, virtually peerless in the contemporary. The fact that he is in isolated cultivation for Immortal Slaying means that he has a great comprehension of it already, not bad. He might reach grand completion the day he comes out."

"Thank you for your blessing, Fairy." Bofan said: "Master did have some good findings prior to this session, he is aiming at understanding the formation's core profundities this time."

"Immortal Slaying has always been difficult to control." Jianyao nodded: "If he could understand it, he would be a tiger with wings roaming through the realms."

"I do hope so, and we'll require your help in the future." Bofan said.

The crowd was startled to hear such high praises from Jianyao.

"Immortal Slaying Ancient Formation?" The young ones have never heard of this name before.

Meanwhile, the older experts and even the ancestors shuddered.

“Is it really strong?” A youth curiously asked.

“Very.” His ancestor said with a grave tone: “Myriad Formation Kingdom clearly relies on formations to compete with the rest of the world. The kingdom itself is a super formation, but they also have three other supreme formations. However, strictly speaking about arrays and complexity, Immortal Slaying is far superior to the other three. It wasn’t created by that kingdom, its origin is too old to be traced. Well, you can tell just how strong it is from its title. Unfortunately, few people from Myriad Formation could actually control this formation. It requires the realm of an emperor just to start learning about it...”

The ancestor paused for a bit with a serious expression: “If the emperor could actually understand it, it’ll make him comparable to a three-palace emperor and could even fight against a four-palace emperor.”

“Surpassing levels at the imperial realm...” People took a deep breath.

Those with common sense knew that at the imperial realm, the levels were very strict. A two-palace emperor couldn’t fight against a two-palace emperor. Having an additional palace meant total oppression. One exception to this rule was if the lower-level combatant was in possession of an ancestral weapon.

However, if Eight Formation True Emperor were to learn Immortal Slaying, then he could challenge emperors above him up to the fourth level.

“It’s just like an ancestral weapon, or even stronger than a common one.” Another murmured.

Remember, Nine Secrets System has been around for so long after its progenitor’s era. Thus, only a few lineages had an ancestral weapon.

Understanding this formation would give the emperor an ace card fortifying his status in the system.

“It looks like Fairy Qin views the emperor highly.” A speculator whispered.

“He is worthy of it if he can figure out that formation.” Someone from the last generation nodded: “The guy will be unstoppable among the young generation, even Waterwatch Saber Saint might not be able to take him on. At that point, Calm Lotus might start supporting him in the competition for the throne.”

“That’s true.” His peers agreed: “If he becomes the one with the most potential in our system, then he should be the king, nothing’s surprising there.”

“The Bingchi is quite perceptive. They sent a downtrodden princess to the new king and married Hanyu to Eight Formation True Emperor instead. Myriad Formation, the Bingchi, and with Calm Lotus’ support? I think that’s game over.” People shuddered after realizing this.

The Bingchi and Myriad Formation were two of the five great powers. Their alliance was already strong enough, so if the emperor were to win the support of Calm Lotus, then that’s three great powers in their alliance.

Who would be able to compete against them then? Eight Formation True Emperor would definitely become the next king.

While people were still musing about this matter, another meeting took place.

A youth came riding a vigorous stallion. It rode the waves just like a true dragon flying in the mist. He had an impressive and dominating aura despite not moving that quickly. Such presence attracted everyone's gaze.

"It's General Tang." The spectators immediately recognized this rider.

"Tang Hexiang. Since when did he get here? So secretive." Someone else said.

"No idea, I don't think anyone saw him." People glanced at each other, confused.

Hexiang was the commander of the Imperial Guards, a great genius of War Saint Dynasty, and a practitioner of the word, Zhe.

"He's coming to see Fairy Qin too." Everyone knew what he was trying to do.

"Well, he's still a good candidate for the throne, supported by War Saint Dynasty." An older expert said.

After the king lost his kingdom, Hexiang became the de-facto leader of War Saint. Many supported him becoming their next ruler.

After all, he was also from the royal clan - a great advantage. After the disappearance of Li Qiye, he had a good claim to the throne based on his background and status.

Because of this, the six legions and their commanders wanted him to be the next king.

This created a stalemate after the siege of the imperial palace between Myriad Formation, the Bingchi, and Myriad Formation. They couldn't pick out a new king.

"Hexiang is strong but I don't think he can take on Eight Formation True Emperor. Plus, the Bingchi and Myriad Formation are stronger than the six legions." Someone commented.

"In theory, yes." His senior elaborated: "But don't forget, Hexiang has a better rightful claim to the throne. He's part of the royal clan, so the other sects won't have a problem with him taking over. It would be a lawful coronation. On the other hand, this doesn't apply for Eight Formation True Emperor, it would be considered a usurping attempt. Not everyone will accept him."

People agreed with this statement. Hexiang's royal background was a great advantage.

[Chapter 2476: Planning](#)

The impressive Tang Hexiang rode the wave, brimming with vigorous vitality - seemingly capable of stopping an entire army by himself.

This powerful warrior was also an expert at military strategies. Because of this, the powers of Nine Secrets and numerous other legions camping around the system had high hopes for him.

There was no doubt that Eight Formation True Emperor was stronger than Tang Hexiang. However, the former focused on dao cultivation while Tang Hexiang had other good points.

He grew up in the royal clan so he was exposed to strategies and business operations. Later on, he joined the military and had great success leading the Imperial Guards, going as far as receiving praises from Lucidity King on several occasions.

His experience and history earned him the support from War Saint Dynasty and the six legions.

Many powers in Nine Secrets felt the same way. With someone like him as the king, he could do a great job governing the system, taking care of conflicts between his tributaries.

This wasn't the case for Eight Formation True Emperor. After becoming the king, he would definitely show great promise and potential for the future. In fact, he could become a second Lucidity with the help of the Bingchi and Myriad Formation.

However, total tyranny would return to the system. Every other sect would be under their control.

In order to prevent this, people found Tang Hexiang to be the best candidate.

Of course, the ones that could actually affect the direction of Nine Secrets were War Saint Dynasty and the five behemoths. The other clans and sects could only increase Hexiang's influence by a bit, unable to make him the king.

"General Tang's backing still can't compare to Eight Formation True Emperor's." Another person said: "I don't think it'll be easy for him at all, the emperor is a tough rival but even Waterwatch Saber Saint is not inferior to him at all."

"True, but we don't know for sure yet." An ancestor replied: "I have heard that the Sacred Cabinet is coming back out to help him."

"The Sacred Cabinet..." People were startled to hear this name.

This organization used to be the central power of War Saint Dynasty before Lucidity King, consisting of their strongest ancestors.

It was in charge of both the dynasty and the system, and this limited the influence of the king.

Later on, Lucidity King changed everything during his prime. He forced the cabinet into disappearing. Some said that he had personally destroyed them while others believed that the two sides have reached an agreement and the cabinet voluntarily retired. Either way, this ended up with a total dictatorship for Lucidity in Nine Secrets.

Thus, hearing about their second coming was obviously surprising. Perhaps this could change the tides in the current power struggle.

"Alright, if Tang Hexiang can get Fairy Qin's approval, it'll confirm his position and maybe Eight Formation True Emperor will be smart enough to back off." An ancestor said with a profound expression.

Everyone was immersed in watching Hexiang. Everyone knew that Yang Bofan has successfully met Qin Jianyao, meaning that she thought highly of Eight Formation True Emperor.

If Jianyao were to ignore Tang Hexian right now, it would be a detrimental blow to his cause.

Of course, gaining her support would be incredible. With the help of Calm Lotus and his own advantages, Eight Formation True Emperor would need to think twice before going up against him.

“Please excuse my uninvited visit and grant me an audience, Fairy Qin.” Hexiang stood on the other side, his voice echoed across the lake.

The atmosphere became frozen since everyone held their breath, waiting for the answer.

“You’re too polite, General Tang.” Jianyao’s pleasant and enjoyable voice resounded.

She personally came out again to show the world her wondrous beauty and astonish the youths nearby.

“I have many things to ask you, Fairy Qin. Please guide me.” Hexiang courteously said.

“Guide is too strong of a word. We can have a chat instead.” Jianyao nodded. Her ethereal appearance made the heart beat faster.

Everyone glanced at each other after seeing this. It looked like those who could win an audience were eligible to become an emperor. Someone like Ma Jinming was not.

“Looks like it’s down to Eight Formation True Emperor or Tang Hexiang then.” A cultivator said.

“Maybe, maybe not, Waterwatch Saber Saint has yet to show up. Remember, he’s even more brilliant than Eight Formation True Emperor.” Someone from the last generation shook their head.

Qin Jianyao has caused quite a stir because of these meetings. Everyone knew that to a certain extent, her sect could decide the next candidate for the throne so all eyes were on her.

“Your Majesty, General Tang and Eight Formation True Emperor’s disciple have visited Fairy Qin. I’m afraid this isn’t good news for you.” Chuqing has heard talks about the meetings and told Li Qiye. Despite her innocence, she was keen enough to know the negative implications for Li Qiye.

Because of this, she became worried while he was completely nonchalant.

“Let them be.” Li Qiye shook his head: “What are they going to do? Just struggling meaninglessly, thinking they’re smart and capable enough to control the world. Unfortunately, it’s only wishful thinking since they’re mere chess pieces.”

Chuqing refrained from replying. She was only worried about his well-being. As for the throne? That meant nothing to her. Being around Li Qiye was more than enough to keep her happy and satisfied. He could just be a regular citizen and she would still stay by his side.

“Silly girl, don’t be distracted by this nonsense. Any progress on the mantra I’ve taught you?” Li Qiye chuckled.

“It is awfully magical.” Chuqing said: “I just feel a lack of experience and accumulation, an intangible feeling like it’s there yet not.”

“It’s good that you’re sensing something.” Li Qiye smiled: “Alright, while there is still time, I’ll take you out since we just can’t stay in the house all day.”

“Where?” She was surprised.

“Around Nine-linked Mountains, of course, since we’re already here. We can’t waste our trip.” Li Qiye replied.

Chuqing nodded without objecting since she was willing to go wherever he went.

The two of them went down the mountain and headed northward. It looked like a sightseeing tour. This path would take them across the nine lakes.

The lake closest to Great Desolate Mountain was their first destination. It was around a thousand miles long. When traveling via a boat, one would think that they were in a great ocean.

Li Qiye stared at the lake and played with the water. After a while, he looked at her and asked: “How are you feeling?”

“Very good, the air is pure and refreshing.” Chuqing felt as if they were the only ones on the lake right now so she smiled brightly.

“Silly girl, you think this is a stroll? I’m taking you places so you can feel this land.” Li Qiye gently pinched her cute nose and said.

[Chapter 2477: Qian](#)

“I see.” Chuqing realized she misunderstood and lowered her head, blushing and embarrassed.

She became an obedient wife, closing her eyes in order to carefully sense the land.

After a long while, she opened her eyes and said with excitement: “Yes! A certain aura is echoing but I can’t really grasp it. It resembles a crisp sound.”

“Good.” Li Qiye smiled and nodded: “You didn’t waste time training in your mantra. I’ll have you know that you’re currently training in two secrets of the nine right now.”

“Two secrets?” She blurted out in astonishment: “You’re, you’re telling me that the mantra you gave me is two of the nine?!”

She hastily covered her mouth and looked around, afraid of being overheard. Fortunately, no one was around so she heaved a sigh of relief while patting her plump chest.

Li Qiye had nothing but adoration for this cute appearance: “What else could it be?”

“I, I don’t think this is proper.” Chuqing hesitated and worriedly looked at him: “You’re secretly giving me Dou and Zhe, it’ll bring a lot of trouble. I don’t want to learn it anymore.”

The nine secrets were the strongest merit laws of this system - its very foundation and core.

Everyone desired them; just one was enough.

Other people would celebrate this opportunity. It was a peerless fortune. Moreover, Liu Chuqing had trained in the word, Lin. She knew the significance of training in one.

Strangely enough, instead of rejoicing, she only felt worried because of Li Qiye.

If he were to pass these secrets of War Saint to someone else, a punishment would be in order. Even the king couldn't do so.

In her mind, his safety far exceeded these secrets. As long as he could live a worried-free life, she wouldn't ask for anything else.

"Why can't I pass it to you? Don't you want to be my wife? Then it's a matter of course for me to give it." Li Qiye smiled.

The girl became red from ear to ear, feeling very sweet inside when he said the word "wife".

This address was better than all others and she loved it.

"But you still can't pass them down." She looked up, still worried.

She naturally knew the rules of great powers. These secret laws couldn't be given away; no exceptions either. The consequences would be grave.

Li Qiye disagreed: "I, Li Qiye, can do whatever I want in this world. If I say yes, then it is allowed and no one can say otherwise. Plus, I'm not giving you Dou and Zhe."

"Not those two?" She became frozen again. Everyone knew that War Saint Dynasty had access to Dou and Zhe.

"I'm giving you Qian." Li Qiye revealed.

"Qian?!" She couldn't stay calm: "I thought it was lost."

Nine secrets existed in the system but only eight were known. Qian has been missing; no one has heard of anyone nor lineage possessing this particular word in the present.

Moreover, no one could materialize and derive this word from the dao land.

"That word doesn't apply to me. I can find all that is lost without a single problem, as long as I will it so." He casually said.

Chuqing was still shocked. She didn't expect that she was actually training in a lost word. No one would believe her.

"Qian... it is a merit law that can boost power and allow its user to enter a crazed state?" She curiously asked.

"This is the reason why it is lost. The fools only managed to learn the bare surface, thinking that they have mastered it. Because of this, they used it repeatedly and lessened their lifespan, or even dying from implosion." Li Qiye shook his head and laughed.

The practitioners of Qian in the past could enjoy a massive, temporary power boost. Once activated, they would fall in a state of frenzy, allowing them to defeat enemies of a higher level.

"As you comprehend the mysteries of Qian more and more, you will find that entering the crazed state is only elementary and not presentable. The true practitioners of Qian will have a heroic and fearless heart, and this will, in turn, polish your dao heart. In fact, one can say that Qian is the guiding principle

of the nine secrets. After comprehending it in full, you will have a smooth-sailing to learn the other eight while lowering the risk. You will soar in the sky like a true dragon.” He elaborated.

She listened attentively and began to ponder the content in a daze. Each word was carving into her mind.

“Alright, silly girl, don’t just stand there, start comprehending the mantra.” Li Qiye pinched her nose again.

The bashful girl regained her wits and entered a state of meditation. Being around Li Qiye made her have peace of mind. That’s why she could meditate in public without any problem.

Some cultivators also spotted these two during their journey northward.

“Looks like the king’s nature is still the same and here I thought he had changed completely to focus on cultivation. He only lasted a few days, I guess mud can’t make a lasting wall.” A few people became disappointed and shook their head after seeing the two idling about.

“That’s why he lost his kingdom.” Another was much more disdainful: “Fairy Qin had no interest in him and she’s right. This piece of trash is not worth mentioning, there’s no way he can get into her sight.”

“What a pity for Waterfront Princess.” An older cultivator felt pity: “Her talents mean that she has a bright future ahead, but now, she’ll enter stagnation by hanging around with the king, bound by the marriage pact. She’s destroying her own future.”

“Right, that marriage pact is useless, she’s only doing this to herself, no need to carry out a nullified pact.” People felt sorry for her - a flower pinned in a pile of manure. Her potential wasn’t inferior to Bingchi Hanyu or even Qin Jianyao but she chose to waste it.

In fact, everyone knew that even if she didn’t hold up her end of the bargain, the king couldn’t do anything anyway.

The Bingchi sent a fake promise. Calm Lotus and Myriad Formation pretended that the pact didn’t exist without suffering any consequences. The princess of Myriad Formation and Qin Jianyao are doing just fine.

The king had nothing right now, not worthy of these ladies. Even if he were to bring up the marriage pact, he would only be asking for humiliation.

Liu Chuqing was the only one carrying it out. In the eyes of others, she wasn’t thinking straight and choosing to jump into a pit.

“In this day and age yet still upholding a promise with the weak. So, so rare, I don’t know if this is considered a virtue or stupidity.” An ancestor sentimentally said.

This choice of hers could even result in her death, marrying an insect when his enemies were the five great powers. Who would want to pay such a heavy price for the sake of a promise? The majority of cultivators certainly wouldn’t.

[Chapter 2478: The Storm Approaches](#)

Others only saw Li Qiye and Liu Chuqing playing around and enjoying the scenery. However, she had an amazing harvest during the trip.

Meanwhile, the reclusive Qin Jianyao suddenly held an event and invited many prodigies and talents.

"It's rare for everyone to gather at Nine-linked Mountains, so I invited everyone to the stone forest so that we can get to know each other." Jianyao said.

The sudden event at the stone forest caught some people off guard because she has been staying behind closed doors after coming to Nine-linked Mountains, not meeting anyone outside of Yang Bofan and Tang Hexiang.

"It's to be expected." The experienced ancestors have predicted this.

"Calm Lotus Monastery is finally choosing to participate, wanting to divide the world after Lucidity King's departure." They could read her like a book.

During the reign of Lucidity, Calm Lotus couldn't share the royal reign at all and had retreated from any power struggle.

With his end came their beginning. Because of this, their successor finally showed herself in these tumultuous times.

"Looks like they have made up their minds about their candidate." Another ancestor realized something and shuddered.

This sect had two secrets so they were quite unfathomable. No one could take them on outside of War Saint Dynasty led by Lucidity. The other four great powers couldn't begin to touch them.

In fact, in Nine Secrets right now, every single person and sect were paying attention to their choice. They had the whole world in their grasp.

"Is it Tang Hexiang or Eight Formation True Emperor?" This question lingered in everyone's mind.

Both Tang Hexiang and Eight Formation True Emperor were quite evenly matched. If one of them could gain Jianyao's support, they would definitely be able to seize the throne.

The older experts knew that this sudden event was premeditated and could very well determine the fate of this generation.

Thus, anxiety and excitement permeated the crowd.

Unlike the insightful masters, the younger cultivators cared more about the list of invitees. For these youths, especially the genius, being invited by her was an honor and a proof of their status. Plus, they would have a chance to get close to her. That's why everyone was waiting for their invitation card.

Though she never really participated in political affairs, this event was swiftly carried out. Plenty of cards were sent right after the announcement. In fact, the requirement for entry this time was relatively lenient.

Of course, it was all relative. The invitees were still famous youths consisting of mainly geniuses and incredible talents.

Because of this, the lucky ones became quite excited after receiving their letter and earning her sect's recognition - an honor indeed.

"I'm so proud of myself, being able to participate in Fairy Qin's party." One genius exclaimed.

Ma Jinming was among the first group to receive an invitation. He laughed heartily and said: "Fairy Qin is insanely insightful and visionary. I will do my best if she ever requires anything of me."

He has been brooding about not getting an audience from her in the past. However, to be among the first wave of invitation wiped away any grievances.

Eventually, the prodigies in Nine-linked Mountains have received an invitation, same with some of the older experts.

Of course, the crowd still consisted primarily of younger people from Nine Secrets. The ancestors could tell that she was using this to establish her own position and gain some prestige.

After the last wave, some meticulous people noticed that she didn't invite a particular person.

"Fairy Qin didn't invite the king." The person who noticed this became surprised.

After all, in terms of status among the young generation and even the previous, the king was on top. He had total authority before despite losing it now. This didn't diminish the innate nobility within him but she still didn't send an invitation.

"How strange that the fairy to not invite him." The youths were surprised.

After all, the first thing she did after coming here was visiting him. It seemed that there was some consideration to be had at first, but the lack of an invitation now was truly puzzling.

A genius thought that he understood the matter and sneered: "Hmph, she acted based on his status but when she actually met him, she found that he was a piece of trash so she left."

"Looks like he can't enter her sight. This really shows that he isn't worth a single coin." Many geniuses agreed.

"Maybe Calm Lotus Monastery has abandoned the king since he has no value to be taken advantage of." An older expert also felt this way.

"Well, perhaps that sect has a different candidate to be the next king." An ancestor took it to the next step.

He thought that maybe Jianyao was going to reveal some news about the next king. Inviting the previous would only lead to unnecessary conflict.

Of course, many didn't care at all and focused on taking advantage of this opportunity by putting on a commendable front. No one wanted to waste energy worrying about the trash king.

They didn't care about Li Qiye, but Li Qiye surely didn't care about them for the same perceived reason.

In the next few days, he spent his time leading Chuqing around the area - the main mountains and the nine lakes.

She had an incredible harvest thanks to his guidance. Her comprehension of the word Qian was improving at a rapid rate. She only needed time for training and polishment before obtaining a precious dao heart - Li Qiye was confident in this.

“What does one become after understanding all nine secrets?” The innocent girl had a strange thought and asked Li Qiye along the way.

“What do you mean? They’ll still be a human, not suddenly turn into a monster or anything. The progenitor finished all nine and he remained a progenitor, not an immortal.” Li Qiye smiled and said.

“Oh, I see.” Chuqing was embarrassed by the question since it’s not like no one has done it before. It’s just that in the present, people only had access to one or two, so it was hard to imagine the result of cultivating all nine.

“Maybe only the progenitor can finish training in these precious words.” Her training under two words right now gave her a clearer understanding of their abilities. She thought that someone capable of finishing all nine must be extraordinary.

“The most precious thing in the system isn’t the nine secret words.” Li Qiye gently shook his head.

“No? What is it then?” Chuqing was frightened and remained a skeptic.

Everyone knew that the nine secrets were the very foundation and core of the system, precious beyond imagination. What could actually be more valuable in this land?

“Nine-linked Mountains.” Li Qiye casually said.

Liu Chuqing immediately looked around this beautiful place and scratched her head: “Are you saying that there are hidden treasure groves buried under this place?”

Li Qiye shook his head: “Those aren’t necessarily precious either. The nine secrets and treasures are not the most precious thing. Don’t judge using a layman’s vision. There’s a reason why your progenitor was able to pass down this system, and why Nine-linked Mountains has been standing strong for so long.”

“I see...” Chuqing didn’t quite understand.

The two of them finally made it through the eight lakes. Only one was left.

They appreciated its scenic beauty, a boundless expanse of blue water.

“That’s Xiang Island over there.” Over yonder across the mist and fog was an island - a scene as beautiful as a painting. She couldn’t help but remind Li Qiye.

“We’ll return after finishing this lake.” Li Qiye gave it a quick glance but didn’t care too much.

They were waiting at a relatively small dock. Many other cultivators were waiting as well and immediately noticed these two.

[Chapter 2479: Idiots](#)

Everyone in Nine Secrets knew about the king. When they saw him, a clear look of disdain surfaced or at least a cold smile.

Once they noticed Liu Chuqing, they felt pity and unfairness. Such a supreme beauty and heaven's favorite was ruined now by this useless king.

Back when he was still on the throne, many would have prostrated in the most subservient and sycophantic manner. But now, at this small dock, no one was willing to greet him.

Nevertheless, Chuqing was still close to him - leaning on his shoulder as he held her hand.

Being able to walk intimately like this with Li Qiye was sweet happiness filling her heart. She didn't care about how others view him.

"Boom!" Suddenly, a cavalry galloped closer with a mountain-pushing force and an incredible speed. It only had around a dozen members or so but this didn't deter its frightening aura.

"Neigh!" Their stallions instilled fear and intimidated the nearby spectators as they were rushing over. People staggered backward in response, not wanting to be in the way.

Impressively enough, despite the swift velocity, the stallions raised their front hooves and stopped instantly. They looked like statues, creating quite an imposing atmosphere.

"Nice!" Many people clapped after seeing this.

"That's elite soldiers from the Ma for you, so experienced." An impressed spectator stated.

The cavalry was led by Ma Jinming. He proudly sat on his mount and enjoyed the praises before jumping down.

"Young Noble Ma, long time no see." Many quickly came over to greet him, acting very familiar.

He was surrounded by these young cultivators and became the moon surrounded by the stars - a clear contrast to the abandoned Li Qiye.

The time was changing. A little character like Ma Jinming would have been standing in the back of the line outside the golden hall, not even getting the chance to prostrate and lick the king's boots. Unfortunately, no one wanted to fawn on the king or even get close to him.

Ma Jinming was more than content in this situation. He was indeed a talent, a dragon among men, but just not on the same level as Eight Formation True Emperor or Tang Hexiang. Nonetheless, one would be hard-pressed to find an opponent for him among the young generation.

Furthermore, his father was an authoritative figure in charge of the Central Legion and had the support of the other legions. His status was quite something right now.

After chatting with the crowd, he turned towards Li Qiye with a cold gaze before coming over.

The crowd made way for him. Some had a sneer on their face while staring at Li Qiye.

Though their contempt of the king has been made clear, they didn't wish to provoke him. After all, a centipede dies but never falls down. The king used to be in charge so his prestige still somewhat remained, especially when War Saint Dynasty was still around.

Ma Jinming was walking closer but Li Qiye only stared at the scenic lakes and mountain, not bothering to look at him.

“Li Qiye.” Ma Jinming coldly uttered.

Li Qiye didn't bother to respond either as if he didn't hear the guy.

Everyone watched with bated breath, aware that the king had killed Zeng Yibin, the cousin of Ma Jinming. The guy wouldn't let this go so easily.

Moreover, one had lost all momentum while the other was akin to a rising sun. It wasn't impossible for Jinming to kill the king.

The crowd was also surprised. Though the king had nothing right now, he was still putting up quite a haughty act.

“Li, don't tell me that you're too scared to speak?” Jinming's eyes had an aggressive glint: “I guess that's not strange at all. A useless idiot like you lost the throne for a reason, no courage to even breathe loudly before me now.”

No one dared to criticize or yell at Li Qiye directly earlier but Jinming was doing so. This required some courage and power.

“Just a traitor, can't reach the apex.” Li Qiye finally turned around and said: “Your father could be eligible to prostrate before me, but you aren't even qualified to do so.”

“You!” Jinming couldn't restrain his anger: “Such arrogance! Do you still think that you're the king? No, only a lost dog, a piece of trash that isn't worth a single coin! I will teach you a lesson right now about the cruel reality of the world!” Having said that, he stepped forward.

However, an older soldier pulled Jinming back and quietly shook his head.

It wasn't because he was worried about his young lord but because Li Qiye was still the king. He has yet to be deposed.

It would be inexcusable to harm him right now because the Central Legion still belonged to War Saint Dynasty. The justification for the previous rebellion was predicated on doing it for the people.

But now, it would be a bullying act, a stain on their young lord and the legion's reputation. Their legion might be in control right now, but they couldn't afford to make any reproachable mistake.

Jinming tried hard to calm his fury. He glared coldly at Li Qiye and threatened with a snort: “Li! My little cousin's death won't be in vain!”

Unfortunately, Li Qiye has already lost interest and started watching the lake again.

“Splash!” They were interrupted by splashing noises. A ship traveled at an impressive speed and instantly made it to the dock.

Everyone's eyes brightened after seeing the girl standing at the bow of the ship. She met the wind like a fairy as her sleeves and ribbons fluttered.

“Fairy Qin!” The crowd was instantly won over.

It was Qin Jianyao of Calm Lotus. She attracted everyone’s attention and caused them to stand there like fools.

She looked at Jinming and said: “Sorry for the long wait and the inconvenient location, Gentlemen. Please board the ship.”

Jinming and several geniuses were the first to come and got a personal reception by Jianyao - a clear display of their great status.

“You shouldn’t have, Fairy Qin.” Jinming happily jumped on the ship and came next to her. He cupped his fist and said: “It is an honor to be here with you.”

His ego was fully satiated. He stood there proudly with his chest arched forward.

Jianyao then turned towards Li Qiye and nodded ever so slightly for the greeting: “Young Noble Li, Miss Liu, we meet again.”

She no longer called him “His Majesty”, using his real name instead.

Chuqing was always nice to everyone so she nodded back. On the other hand, Li Qiye ignored Jianyao like the rest. People considered her to be an unreachable fairy, but Li Qiye saw her as no different from another ant.

Jianyao didn’t even have time to react before Jinming scowled and defended her: “Li, Fairy Qin saying hi to you now is a blessing of three lifetimes. Don’t be so shameless.”

He thought about putting up a good act to make the beauty happy.

[Chapter 2480: Woodcutter from Southpeak](#)

Li Qiye turned a deaf ear to Ma Jinming’s rebuke and didn’t pay attention to Qin Jianyao either.

Jinming wanted to impress the fairy and earn her favor, not expecting this lack of response from Li Qiye. He felt a murderous urge after being left in this awkward situation.

Jianyao simply stared at him and didn’t mind. The two of them were from different worlds. After today, they might not be able to meet again

This so-called king would fall into obscurity and never appear on her path again since she would reach the peak and leave Imperial Lineage.

Thus, he could act all arrogant and nonchalant for he was nothing more than a ridiculous king. No, no longer a king, just another mortal. Why would a peak existence in the future care about the attitude of a mortal? She has already done her courteous part by greeting him.

“A mortal like me shouldn’t go to the immortal garret...” Suddenly, a resounding ode came about.

A wooden boat crossed through the lake like an arrow and instantly made it to the dock.

Everyone looked over and saw an old man sitting there rowing, allowing the boat to reach incredible speed.

“It’s him!” Some murmured in a daze after seeing the old man.

They recognized that this old woodcutter was the one who participated in the killing of Zeng Yibin.

Some glanced over at Li Qiye and wondered about the old man’s identity.

Even the calm-as-water Jianyao changed her expression. She quickly bowed and respectfully said: “Senior Southpeak.”

Her sudden action stunned everyone and made them think about the implication.

However, the old man didn’t look at her, seemingly not hearing her greeting. He stopped the boat nearby.

“Senior Southpeak, this little girl is Qin Jianyao of Calm Lotus. I’ve only got here and didn’t dare to disturb you...” She respectfully bowed again.

The crowd was speechless. This was the successor of a sect in possession of two secrets. Her status was incredible, not to mention that all the ancestors loved her.

She rarely performed such a respectful greeting to her ancestors, let alone an outsider like this. Could it be that this ordinary woodcutter was even more important than the five supreme ancestors?

He gently waved his sleeve in response: “Young miss, you are mistaken, I am only an ordinary working man.”

He then bowed towards Li Qiye and said: “Your Majesty, I heard you and the lady wishes to check out the lake. May I row your ship?” [1]

Chuqing lowered her head, embarrassed, after hearing the address. Of course, she felt quite good about it[2]

Li Qiye withdrew his gaze from the lake and glanced at the old man: “Go for it.”

The old man happily affirmed and acted as if this was a grand departure: “His Majesty and The Lady are setting out!”

Though they didn’t have any servant or guards, he still performed the regular announcement.

This might be the shabbiest entourage of a king. Everyone wanted to laugh but they didn’t dare to utter a single sound.

After Li Qiye and Chuqing got on the wooden boat, the old man shouted again: “Proceed!”

He had a serious expression as if they were back in the imperial palace and he was the king’s eunuch.

“Splash!” The wooden boat began to move with his rowing, seemingly empowered by his ode as well: “A mortal like me shouldn’t go to the immortal garret...”

Everyone continued staring until the boat disappeared from sight. Even Jianyao herself remained in a bowing position and didn’t straighten up her back till the old man was gone.

She stood there and couldn't regain her wits in full. She knew many stories and secrets about Nine-linked Mountains, especially about this woodcutter from the southern region. Her supreme ancestor also told her about him prior to the trip.

She was almost certain that this old man was the legendary woodcutter - the most unfathomable character in this sect, perhaps all of Nine Secrets. Few knew of his existence, but he was a frightening Eternal.

'Why is someone like him valuing the king so much?' She thought but couldn't come up with an answer.

Keep in mind that even Lucidity King was rather respectful and humble in Nine-linked Mountains, and one of the reasons was because of Southpeak Woodcutter. Only the top talents could figure how strong he truly was. For example, Gu Yifei from the Li Clan.

A being of this level actually wanted to serve Li Qiye by rowing his boat? Jianyao was truly astounded.

In her eyes, the king was useless now; her sect agreed with this viewpoint too. This didn't seem to be the case any longer after seeing the woodcutter's attitude.

Everyone else gasped as well. Who was Qin Jianyao? There was no one else worthy of such respect from her outside the supreme ancestors.

Just who was this normal-looking woodcutter?

After calming down, Ma Jinming noticed her still standing there in a daze. He tried to curry favor: "Fairy Jin, don't mind them. That Li guy is ignorant and arrogant, still shamelessly thinking that he's the king..."

"Shut up!" Jianyao shouted, no longer wishing to speak. She felt a loss of control over the situation resulting in a looming danger and wasn't in the mood to chat with this Jinming.

Jinming turned red. As the young noble of the Central Legion, no one has ever yelled at him like that besides his father.

However, he didn't dare to act out towards Jianyao so he channeled his indignation and anger towards Li Qiye instead. That bastard was who caused this and he swore to have revenge, sooner or later!

The tiny boat undulated on the lake filled with blue water, looking just like a piece of jade. It had a diameter of a thousand miles, not much different from being in the ocean. The gentle breezes soothed the soul.

Li Qiye smiled while laying down on the boat and resting his legs on the hull: "How rare to have a big shot like you rowing for me, this might shock all of Nine Secrets. Lucidity King himself probably never got this treatment."

"Your Majesty, please. My meager skills can't get into your sight. Just a single thought of yours could decapitate me, and you would be using my blade to do that too." He tapped the cutter tied to his waist.

He had his reasons for following Li Qiye. His cultivation was unfathomable to outsiders, which was why Lucidity had reservations about acting arrogant in this place.

However, his weapon was directly taken and controlled by Li Qiye. He as its master couldn't regain control during the process at all. It meant that Li Qiye's will had reached a frightening level. His own mental ability was that of a child compared to Li Qiye's.

An ability of this level, at the very least, belonged to a progenitor of the immortal level. This might be the strongest master he has seen in his life.

"As the saying goes - fawning favors hides ulterior motives. What is yours?" Li Qiye leisurely said.

"Your Majesty, I am hiding nothing, just wanting to be a good host for you." The old man said.

"I won't be reserved if you have no requests then. Just don't blame me for not being upfront with you later." Li Qiye smiled.