

Emperor 2481

[Chapter 2481: Who Has Cultivated The Nine Secrets?](#)

The old man smiled wryly after hearing this and had to reveal his intention: “I do have a tiny request, Your Majesty. When you do take action, please go easy on us. Nine-linked Mountains is just a small place that can’t handle your invincibility. If the mountains were to be destroyed in the process, our disciples will be forced to leave their homes and wander about.”

“This place is small, huh?” Li Qiye gently shook his head: “Vast is the right word, and it has taken the most fertile part of Nine Secrets too.”

“That’s only for regular people.” The old man replied: “For someone such as yourself, Your Majesty, this is a tiny, barren wasteland, not worth mentioning. It can’t handle your full power. If you don’t care about the disciples here, please think about the citizens of the system, just go a little easy and spare us. Otherwise, one punch of yours might penetrate the system completely, signaling its end.”

The old man wasn’t exaggerating. An existence that was, at the very least, an immortal progenitor was a monster. Destroying a system was no problem, perhaps with a single strike.

“I suppose I can’t refuse after you put it this way.” Li Qiye smiled: “Don’t worry, your Nine-linked Mountains will be just fine, it won’t lose an arm or a leg or anything else. I’m a merciful person who always cares for the people.”

“I thank you on behalf of everyone, Your Majesty.” The old man stood up and cupped his fist towards Li Qiye.

Meanwhile, Liu Chuqing sat next to Li Qiye without uttering a word.

“Oh right, how about giving me the plaque at your sect’s entrance?” Li Qiye casually brought this up.

The old man didn’t know how to answer. He awkwardly coughed before replying: “Your Majesty, it’s embarrassing but I can’t make that decision since it was left behind by the great forefather.”

“Is that so?” Li Qiye continued with a smile: “I personally don’t care for most items in the world since they’re worthless, but I like this silly girl. If you wish to pay respects to me, I think it’s about time for a greeting present.”

The man smiled wryly: “Well, I’m afraid that anything I can take out can’t get into your sight. The regular items in this world aren’t worthy as presents to a celestial like The Lady.”

Chuqing became embarrassed again and looked down on the ground, still not used to this particular address.

“Then hand over the nine secrets.” Li Qiye nonchalantly demanded.

She was stunned to hear this. The nine secrets were priceless and no one could gather all of them. Li Qiye spoke as if he was asking the old man to hand over some cabbages.

“Your Majesty, you are messing with me. I’ve only fixed a few things, it’s easier said than done to gather all nine, let alone reaching grand completion.”

“But your Qian is at grand completion.” Li Qiye replied.

“Nothing can hide from your eyes, Your Majesty.” The old man sighed and said: “The truth is that this is the accomplishment after a lifetime of effort. I am slow and inept, probably won’t be able to finish all nine. As far as I know, True Emperor Jiu Ning is the only person who has done so.”

“She has done so successfully, just like the rumors?” Chuqing became curious.

“Yes, as far as I know, My Lady.” The woodcutter nodded: “She studied both Jie and Lie in Calm Lotus, Dou and Zhe at War Saint, and the rest in Nine-linked Mountains, but that’s just starting on all nine. She had a long way to go before reaching perfection for all nine. Who knows what comes of it since she left for Immortal Lineage.” He stared at a particular location in a daze after revealing this.

“I thought Emperor Zheng had also done it.” She asked.

The woodcutter replied: “That’s not the case. The emperor didn’t train in all of them but he definitely could have, given his amazing talents. Maybe it was because of his talents that he opened a new path, resulting in the supreme manual - Lucidity Scripture. This allowed him to jump out of the Nine Secrets System’s boundary.”

“I see. So True Emperor Jiu Ning is the only person after the progenitor.” She murmured to herself.

“That’s true till now, but who knows about the future?” The old man nodded before glancing over at Li Qiye.

“Just the nine secrets, I’m not that interested in them. However, the underground parts or the item beneath this lake, that’s another story.” Li Qiye said.

“You’re joking, Your Majesty!” The woodcutter’s expression changed after hearing this.

“I am not.” Li Qiye calmly said, clearly revealing his stance.

“Your Majesty, please, please leave behind a little bit for our sect.” The woodcutter had a pained expression, virtually begging.

Despite Li Qiye’s nonchalant looks, he could see that the guy was serious. The consequence would be unimaginable and no one could say otherwise.

“I’m already leaving things behind for the sect. Otherwise, I would refine this place and take it as my own.” Li Qiye smiled.

The man knew that Li Qiye was telling the truth. If Li Qiye wanted to, he could refine the entire system, not just Nine-linked.

“Your Majesty, our sect is very barren already.” He kept on trying.

“How about my silly girl right here?” Li Qiye ignored the crying old man and gently stroke Chuqing’s hair. One could see the clear adoration on his face.

“The Lady is a priceless gem yet to be polished with the constitution of a heavenly being.” The old man praised.

Chuqing couldn't handle the flowery praises: "Senior, you're too kind."

"I am not exaggerating." He explained: "There are plenty of dragons and phoenixes in this world, but few can actually enter His Majesty's sight yet you can. That's a testament to you being special, My Lady."

He wasn't just flattering the girl. He knew that to earn the grace of a character like Li Qiye was a great fortune, exceedingly rare as well.

Beautiful girls have been viewed as ants by him in the past, such as Qin Jianyao. Liu Chuqing, on the other hand, had a higher standing in his eyes.

Li Qiye said: "Life is a game of chess. Some people believe that they're the chess players, but in reality, I'm the only one playing."

"Your Majesty, you mean..." Chuqing didn't understand this random comment. Of course, she was satisfied just being around him and didn't care for other matters.

"That's why all of these items will be returned to your sect in the future, with my permission." Li Qiye said.

"Your Majesty, you have already made up your mind, it's not like we have a choice." The old man smiled wryly.

"Indeed." Li Qiye said: "Work for me and gain great benefits, or I can be more direct and get straight to the result, what do you think?"

"Please don't, Your majesty. We'll just obey all your wishes." The old man became startled and hastily said.

Li Qiye laughed and stroke her hair again: "This world and its people need to thank my silly girl for bringing mercy here."

"Why?" She asked for clarification.

Li Qiye gently patted her head and said: "Alright, just keep on focus on comprehension."

She obediently obeyed and sat down cross-legged to enter a state of meditation - becoming one with heaven and earth.

The old man understood what Li Qiye was trying to convey. The guy didn't care for Nine Secrets or its people.

The girl ahead was the reason for him to show mercy, leaving behind certain things for this system. Otherwise, it would only be another place along the way in his journey. He wouldn't care about its prosperity and existence.

"My Lady, you are blessed to have earned His Majesty's grace." The woodcutter emotionally said.

"No, one makes their own destiny by following the grand dao - treating promises like gold and possessing a peerless dao heart. Everything else is unnecessary."

[Chapter 2482: Party](#)

The stone forest in Xiang Island was located at the very center - laden with hills and peaks next to each other. It resembled a world of stones; these peaks looked like trees growing there.

Staring down from aloft, it looked just like a forest of large stones, hence its name.

There existed a great altar at the very end of the field with two peaks to the rear, seemingly protecting it from the weather.

A stone stairway led up to the ridge of the peaks, culminating in a raised platform with a throne. The tables, chairs, and even the steps nearby seemed to have been carved out of the two peaks, originating from the same piece.

The two sides were multiple statues resembling guards with spears as their weapon of choice. They seemed to be protecting something as they lined up by the steps.

However, this place has not been cleaned in a long time. After years of rains and winds, it has lost its initial color and sharp edges.

It was normally very tranquil with no visitors until the feast today. The heroes and prodigies from all over the world livened up the area.

Preparation has been made quite early at the base of the steps. The servants darted back and forth to prepare - putting fruits and dishes on the tables for the guests.

Jianyao arranged an informal banquet instead of a meeting. The guests could sit down or walk around and talk in groups.

The lack of codes and formality made the atmosphere fun and exciting.

The invitees were all important characters. This was a great chance for them so they tried their best to stand out.

Woven mats were laid on the ground with no pre-arranged seating chart. The guests mingled - talking with old friends or making new ones.

As the feast was about to start, Jianyao raised her cup and spoke up: "The heroes of Nine Secrets gather today - a rare fateful event for all of us. No need to be reserved, we're not leaving until we've had enough fun."

"Cheers, Fairy Qin!" The guests raised their cup towards her. This was the climax of excitement at the feast.

After the toast, she walked around the place, still as beautiful, charming, and transcending as ever. She occasionally talked to certain prodigies and was in her elements.

She was the main target during this feast; eyes were following her steps.

Some geniuses took this opportunity to come and chat with her, or even shamelessly tag along. They didn't wish to waste this rare chance of being close to the beauty.

All in all, the feast gave everyone an amazing opportunity to meet the talented and accomplished geniuses in the system since the quality of the guests was excellent.

Thus, not all wanted to be around Jianyao. Some wanted to befriend the other geniuses.

Old friends gathered into groups and talked about all kinds of things.

Tang Hexiang, Yang Bofan, and Ma Jinming naturally had the biggest crowd around them. It didn't matter if they were strangers at first.

Tang Hexiang remained relatively calm while Bofan was very amicable. As for Ma Jinming, he had a gloating expression while occasionally stealing glances at Jianyao.

Jianyao didn't show slight towards anyone. She looked quite natural and open-minded. A frown or smile - either one - could still seduce anyone. Watching her made some geniuses lose their mind.

"Fairy Qin lives up to her fame." One person sitting with his group by the corner said with admiration.

Those with a humble background thought of her as a fairy and didn't dare to show their crush out of bashfulness and an inferiority complex.

"Fairy Qin is truly peerless. Who is actually worthy of her?" Someone from a third-ranked sect felt inferior while staring at Jianyao.

"Perhaps the future king." Others felt the same way.

"Not many in our system, but General Tang might be one of them." One spectator sighed while looking at the impressive Tang Hexiang in the distance.

Only a matchless man was worthy of Jianyao, and Hexiang was such a man. After all, he was quite talented and was at the top of his generation, albeit not as much as Eight Formation True Emperor or Waterwatch Saber Saint.

Plus, he was a noble so if he were to become king in the future, he would be worthy of Jianyao.

"Eight Formation True Emperor too." Another youth said: "He's an emperor already with a promising future, far greater potential than General Tang, so he's a more likely candidate."

"But I've heard he's engaged with Princess Hanyu already." His friend replied.

"So what, it's normal for a man to have three wives and four concubines. Plus, he's an emperor, he can have as many lovers as he wants." The third person didn't disagree.

The humbled-beginning cultivators had a dejected expression. Though they had a crush on Jianyao, they knew they were only frogs wanting to eat swan's meat.

"Wait a minute, Fairy Qin and the current king have a marriage pact." Another recalled a key point during this conversation.

A genius immediately barked at him: "So? Can that piece of trash marry Fairy Qin? He can stop dreaming."

“That marriage was only under the supervision of Lucidity King. He is dead now and his successor has lost the kingdom, so this marriage is no longer effective. It is only a piece of paper now, so no one will give a damn, am I wrong here? Myriad Formation and Godstep are not bringing it up at all. Let’s be real, the pacts aren’t worth a single coin to them, even more useless than a piece of paper.” A different genius nodded.

“And even if Calm Lotus Monastery wants to honor this pact, the king has to be capable enough to fulfill it. Look at him now, only a piece of trash.” Another prodigy said.

“Let’s stop this pointless debate.” A different cultivator shook his head: “Can’t you guys see? Fairy Qin didn’t invite the king and showed no interest in him. It’s clear that she doesn’t like him but that’s understandable. How could he be worthy of a supreme woman like her?”

Most agreed with this statement. The marriage pact was useless and that the king would be dreaming if he thinks he could marry Qin Jianyao.

The atmosphere became more and more exciting. So many geniuses that have only met each other began to call themselves brothers while toasting.

“How could I miss this fun party of yours, Fairy Qin?” A sweet voice resembling the pleasant ringing of bells resounded. It also carried an innate seduction causing people to go weak.

Just hearing her voice would make people imagine a sexy demoness capable of stealing the soul.

A breeze accompanied by a sweet and refreshing fragrance came about. A girl was floating closer and landed on stone forest.

Slim and graceful, soft to the touch, each of her action flirted with the spectators.

Seduction was innate in this beautiful girl dressed in a red dress with cloud and flower patterns, barely hiding her fair skin beneath. Her hair draped on her shoulders like the waves and rippled with the breezes. One lost strand of hair on her cheek looked out of place, but it only demanded more attention to her enticing features.

Her figure couldn’t be described by the pen and ink. Large, soft breasts yet proudly arching without drooping. Her dress had a low neckline, allowing everyone to see the billowing waves in motion or the white and bottomless valley. Yes, one glance was certainly not enough and people kept coming back for more.

Long, fair legs accentuated her tall and thin figure along with her perfectly round and curvy buttocks. The well-fitting dress had a ribbon tied by the waist, clearly served to emphasize and display her praiseworthy bottom. Everyone would be shocked at first before thinking about how they would feel to the touch.

Her apricot eyes, bright and animated, could hook the soul. Just a wink of hers made the heart beat faster.

Obviously, all eyes turned towards her. The youths couldn’t look away from her hot figure and sexy temperament.

[Chapter 2483: Bingchi Hanyu](#)

This woman was sexy enough to sway the mind. Spectators kept stealing glances at her; some started drooling unwittingly.

Jianyao was also a peerless beauty but in a completely different manner. She was a serene, ink-wash painting with few, exquisite strokes - so remote and transcending; exceptional like a lotus flower deep in the valley - visually incredible.

On the other hand, this woman was a colorful oil painting, seemingly done by a splashing style - very eye-catching and gorgeous.

One would instantly admire and adore Qin Jianyao, treating her as a goddess in their mind.

As for the other woman, they would be tempted into taking her as their own for she was insanely seductive.

"Princess Hanyu, your presence honors our party." Qin Jianyao personally came to greet the woman.

"That's Princess Hanyu of the Bingchi?" People still stared greedily, not wanting to avert their eyes.

Evil and possessive desires stemming from Hanyu's sexiness permeated the area but no one dared to act on it.

Remember, she was the golden daughter of the Bingchi; her power far exceeded Bingchi Yingjian on top of having incredible weapons. Her fury could take down the gods, so who would want to provoke her?

Moreover, she was Eight Formation True Emperor's fiancée at the moment. Having thoughts about her was the same as courting death. There would be no place to go in Nine Secrets after provoking them.

"I've only recently arrived and heard that you were having a party, so I'm here to take a look." Hanyu revealed a smile like a blossoming rose, causing others to gulp.

Jianyao and Hanyu were acquaintances so they were relatively familiar with each other. Tang Hexiang and Ma Jinming came over as well. Needless to say about Yang Bofan, he greeted her while assuming the role of a junior despite not being that much younger.

However, the Bingchi and Myriad Formation were allies now so she would become his mistress in the future.

"How is Tianzhi doing?" Hanyu asked.

Tianzi was Eight Formation True Emperor's real name. It was fine for her to address him as such.

"Thank you for asking, Your Highness, Master is doing well. He is in isolated cultivation to study the Immortal Slaying Ancient Formation." Bofan answered earnestly.

"His talents are far above mine. I'm sure that when he comes out, he'll have full comprehension of the formation." Hanyu nodded and said.

Though the marriage was decided by her clan's ancestors, she actually had no problem with it and was quite satisfied.

After all, the two powers were evenly matched and the emperor had great achievements. They have met each other before and she had a good impression of him. The proposal went smoothly and she would become the queen of Myriad Formation Kingdom in the future.

This was different from her last marriage proposal. The king was a useless idler so she strongly opposed it.

Unfortunately, Lucidity was still around so her opposition didn't amount to anything.

After the crown prince became the new king, Hanyu still felt the same way. Though marrying into the imperial palace was an honor, she thought that the pervert wasn't worthy of her. It was nauseating just thinking about that piece of trash. Thus, their clan decided to replace her with a fallen princess, Bingchi Yingjian.

"I'm certain of it too." Bofan replied.

Hanyu continued: "He will shock the world and I believe the time is near. I shall prepare for his coming to Nine-linked Mountains."

The spectators nearby couldn't calm their heart rate, feeling lust, envy, and jealousy. Unfortunately, this beautiful woman wasn't meant for them.

She seemed to be virtuous as well, already thinking for the emperor before the official marriage.

"Since you're here already, why not have a seat?" Jianyao invited.

"Thank you, Fairy Qin, but Tianzhi should be coming soon and I need to make preparations, unable to hang around. Here, a toast to everyone, may this party never ends until everyone is satisfied." Hanyu raised her cup for a toast before drinking it in full.

When the corner of her lips was moistened by the wine, she looked even more seductive.

"A toast to you too, Your Highness, and the True Emperor." Everyone else quickly returned the gesture. Many emptied their cup while still having thoughts about the beautiful and classy woman.

"This place looks so fun, seems like I've been missing out." Suddenly, a leisure voice interrupted the heightened atmosphere.

Everyone turned around to look at the newcomer. They saw Li Qiye slowly entering the stone forest with Liu Chuqing holding his arm like a shy wife.

"It's him!" The crowd glanced at each other in astonishment.

The ones here have seen him before so they recognized him. Nevertheless, they had no idea why he came.

After all, he wasn't invited. Was he here to cause trouble?

Qin Jianyao's brows raised ever so slightly. She had a strange feeling but couldn't quite explain it.

Ma Jinming's expression darkened. He scowled and coldly uttered: "Li, why are you here uninvited? You're not qualified to join this party!"

“I have no need of joining such a crappy party.” Li Qiye didn’t bother looking at him and went forward towards the throne.

“Who is that?” Hanyu has never seen Li Qiye before.

“Your Highness, that’s the king.” Yang Bofan quietly said.

Hanyu grimaced and took a look at Li Qiye. Her expression became one of distaste. She had heard of his ridiculousness before. After losing his kingdom, this guy still didn’t know how to keep a low-profile. What an ignorant fool.

Li Qiye stood on the steps and stared at the raised platform, not caring about anyone else.

“May, may I ask what you are here for, Sir?” Jianyao had stopped calling him “His Majesty” but she felt that “Young Noble Li” wasn’t appropriate either.

“Do I need to report to you before coming here? The world is beneath my feet and I shall go wherever I want.” Li Qiye didn’t look at her either.

Jianyao knew that she wasn’t liked so she backed off to the side, no longer speaking.

“How arrogant!” Tang Hexiang snorted. He liked Jianyao and if Calm Lotus were to support him, Jianyao might be his queen in the future.

Moreover, after obtaining the throne, he must eliminate this person.

“This world is no longer yours.” Hexiang coldly uttered.

Li Qiye finally turned back and lazily stared at Hexiang: “Aren’t you General Tang? If it’s not mine, don’t tell me it is yours?”

“The world belongs to the people, let the virtuous...” Hexiang replied.

“Okay, no need to be a scholar.” Li Qiye waved his sleeve: “Just say it if you want to become the king. You’re only now daring to speak before me with a straight back. When I was on the throne, you kneeled in the golden hall, trembling with fear, not even daring to fart. Just one order of mine and your head would have rolled on the floor. Now, you dare to act haughty?”

“You!” Hexiang turned red and couldn’t retort.

He was indeed there during the coronation. However, Silver Secret Legion occupied the capital along with Sun Lengying. Though the new king’s prestige couldn’t compare to Lucidity, he was still above the rest.

Who would dare to betray him then? Not to mention the six legions, even the five supreme ancestors obediently participated in the ceremony.

The king was indeed standing at the apex of authority at that point. The Northern General, the commander of a legion, opposed the king during the ceremony and his head instantly rolled on the ground.

He was one of the seven commanders yet the king could still order his death before even stabilizing his reign.

As the commander of the Imperial Guards, Tang Hexiang had great authority but he could only kneel in the golden hall. Like Li Qiye had said, he didn't dare to utter a single word then.

Now, his name was known across the world as an imperial candidate. Being taunted by Li Qiye before the geniuses left him in a difficult state.

"This is no longer the past." Hanyu jumped in and saved him while staring insipidly at Li Qiye: "This kingdom is no longer yours. Be smart and keep a low-profile, doing so will save your life."

[Chapter 2484: Spark](#)

Bingchi Hanyu's comment made everyone stare at Li Qiye. A few held their breath.

"She's right." Someone else quietly supported her: "He still thinks of himself as a king instead of becoming smart enough to tuck his tail between his legs. Being arrogant and raising his tail will only result in an early death."

Li Qiye turned towards Hanyu and smiled: "You're that princess from the Bingchi? Getting a new lease of life after sending a fake princess instead so you think you're a noble, a phoenix among women now?"

Hanyu's expression soured. Everyone knew about the marriage agreement back then and that she should have been the one sent to the palace if it wasn't for her clan's deceit.

It wasn't a proud matter so no one would want to say it in public. That's why she became a bit awkward right now.

"Self-awareness is a virtue, it will save you from embarrassment." She found Li Qiye increasingly exasperating.

"I agree with you on that." Li Qiye said: "An untrustworthy person, bereft of honor, shouldn't prance around all day, acting all beautiful and such. They would only be throwing away the reputation of their ancestors. Let's not act noble and show off your bloodline when you can't even maintain the most fundamental virtue of keeping one's promise. You're only besmirching your ancestors by doing so."

"..." Her expression turned ugly from the verbal slap before everyone.

"Young Noble Li, watch your words!" Bofan shouted with an aggressive glare.

Li Qiye didn't bother looking at him and casually responded: "You want to teach me how to speak? Tell your master to come instead. He was fortunate enough to be spared last time but I will make a chamber pot out of his head now."

The crowd gasped after hearing this. Some became frozen while staring at him. They have all heard of this infamous king but it looked like the rumors were all true. This guy would say anything without scruples.

Yang Bofan was ready to kill since Li Qiye publicly insulted his master. How could he swallow this anger and let this nobody run his mouth?

“You don’t know your own limits.” Hanyu snorted.

In the beginning, she didn’t hate him but as time went on, the guy didn’t change and was still as annoying either. He brought everything upon himself with his personality.

Bofan took one step forward and uttered coldly: “My master doesn’t need to do anything since I’m more than enough to handle you! Let’s see what you can do!”

He had nothing but contempt for the guy; his eyes flashed with murderous intent.

The crowd watched with bated breath. Bofan’s power was unquestionable and could kill the king as easily as taking candy from a baby.

Tang Hexiang had a gloating smile. Nothing would be better than if Bofan were to kill Li Qiye.

If he wanted to be emperor, he needed to kill Li Qiye anyway since the guy was the rightful ruler, the successor of Lucidity King. In fact, just abolishing him required more deliberation in the dynasty before it became official.

So, if Li Qiye were to be killed right now, he wouldn’t have to do so himself and bear the infamy of being a kingslayer.

“Gentlemen.” Right before the explosion, Jianyao stood up and said: “It’s rare for all of us to gather, this is a joyous occasion, let’s not ruin it with blood.”

For some reason, intuition told her that something big was going to happen, and her intuition has always been accurate.

Who wouldn’t want to give her face? This was her party, and not giving her any respect was far out of line.

“I’ll listen to you, Fairy Qin.” Bofan cupped his fist towards Jianyao and slightly bowed before glaring one last time at Li Qiye.

“Come, come, drink again.” Tang Hexiang was disappointed and started toasting people.

“Cheers, Fairy Qin, General Tang, everyone!” The atmosphere became lively again with cups being raised.

Hanyu saw that Li Qiye was still there and no longer wanted to stay. She told Jianyao: “I’ve only arrived recently to Nine-linked and have things to do. Please excuse me.”

“I’m sure you’re not used to the area, allow me to see you off.” Jianyao replied.

Hanyu didn’t refuse so the two of them said bye to the rest before leaving the stone forest.

Hanyu’s departure was understandable but Jianyao had her reasons too. She felt that something was amiss and didn’t dare to face Li Qiye. Thus, she took advantage of this and left in order to observe any changes from the sideline.

Li Qiye ignored the crowd and stared at the throne then the statues to the left and right. They stood like guards with spears propped to the ground.

Unfriendly gazes were on him. Yang Bofan and Ma Jinming actually wanted to kill him.

Bofan couldn't let go of the insult towards his master earlier. As for Ma Jinming, his young cousin was killed by Li Qiye. Moreover, the guy had embarrassed him again and again.

Tang Hexiang was calmer than the rest. He sat there with a smile, seemingly wanting to see a fun show.

A strange atmosphere pervaded because with Jianyao gone, both Bofan and Jinming wanted to do something.

Li Qiye seemed oblivious to the hostility. He started walking up the steps towards the platform with Chuqing next to him.

Everyone was watching, not knowing what he wanted to do.

"What is he doing?" Someone whispered.

"Who the hell knows. No one can read such a ridiculous person."

"Hmm, now that I think about it, what is that place?" Some started looking at the platform and statues.

"No idea." Though the party was in the stone forest, no one cleaned the higher steps and platform. Jianyao didn't dare to do so and chose to stay at the bottom instead.

"I've heard of this place." An older expert watched Li Qiye and said: "This is the Platform of Virtue. Back in the old days, the ancestors of Nine-linked gathered the sages everywhere. This practice ended later on for some unknown reasons."

People glanced at each other since it was their first time hearing this name.

In fact, Nine-linked was older than any other lineage, including War Saint Dynasty and the other five behemoths. That's why most of its tales were unknown to outsiders.

He made it to the top of the platform and glanced at the throne. With a simper, he didn't mind that it was dirty and sat down.

Remember, the platform was carved out of the ridge of the two peaks. When he sat on the throne, he could look down on everyone at the banquet. It looked like he was the king and they were his officials.

"Since so many have gathered here today, it's time to end this trite show."

Everyone quieted down just to listen, not because of his amazing prestige but they were curious about his intention.

"I'll let everyone know right now - the play is over. Time for me to bare my fangs. I don't care if you're a dragon or a tiger, you better obediently lie down on the ground or blood shall flow."

"Hmph, such a big tone." Jinming said with disdain: "You think the land is still yours?. Are you dreaming right now?"

"It is indeed, just like before. I am still its master, it's not too late for all of you to kneel." Li Qiye smiled at Jinming and declared.

[Chapter 2485: Mere Ants](#)

It didn't take long before a burst of laughter replaced the silence after Li Qiye's declaration.

"Kneel? Are you insane from wanting to stay the king? You're a king in name only, why should we kneel before you?" Someone couldn't help but laugh.

"Your Majesty, don't tell me you want us to perform a full ceremonial kowtow to you?" Another sneered.

Li Qiye sat straight and was unmoved by the taunts. He looked quite gentle as he said: "I suppose no mercy for the foolish. Today is finally time for blood and massacre."

"Massacre?" Jinming snorted and coldly said: "You can't even defend yourself, let alone talking about a massacre? Better start thinking about how to get out of here alive."

Li Qiye smiled in response: "So you wish to kill me?"

"You tell me." Jinming began walking up the steps with aggression in his eyes: "An eye for an eye. You have killed my cousin so I shall have my vengeance!"

Of course, this wasn't only about his cousin since he had a personal feud against Li Qiye.

"Looks like Brother Ma stole my chances." Yang Bofan smiled and said: "I've been wanting to teach this fool a lesson, but I suppose I can let you do it in our stead."

Bofan made it sound as if Li Qiye were completely helpless before them.

"Don't worry, Brother Yang." Jinming laughed: "I can give you a chance to vent some frustration too by taking off an arm or leg off him."

"Thank you then, Brother Ma." Bofan smiled and cupped his fist.

"Cease your clownish antics, come together so I can save time and send you both to hell." Li Qiye chuckled.

"Fool!" Jinming's expression soured as he leaped for Li Qiye.

"Boom!" Suddenly, a huge foot stomped down with the force of a mountain.

Jinming twisted his body and propelled himself backward like a carp reaching the dragon gate, able to dodge the stomp.

The sudden attack wasn't from Li Qiye but rather one of the stone statues. It looked gigantic with the attack, not allowing anyone to insult Li Qiye.

This shocked everyone, causing them to stagger backward.

"Clank!" A second statue raised its spear and threw it straight for Jinming's chest with lightning speed.

"Break!" Jinming roared and summoned a vajra scepter, smashing it straight at the stone spear in order to shatter it.

"Boom!" Sparks went flying but unfortunately, the spear wasn't broken as he would have liked.

On the contrary, the impact caused him to fall from the sky. Though his scepter had massive power, it wasn't enough to handle the spear.

"Boom!" He slammed onto the stone steps.

Before he could get up, the first statue stomped down again.

"Go!" The aghast youth raised both hands and summoned a defensive shield.

"Boom!" The large foot stomped on the shield, sending off a vibration causing everyone's ears to ring.

"Crack!" The stone steps below him started cracking. His arm muscles bulged as he mustered all of his strength to resist the foot.

Unfortunately, this wasn't enough. His own shield was being pressed down on his chest.

Everyone gasped in response. The statues coming back to life and their power shocked the crowd.

"Die!" Bofan suddenly joined in and unsheathed his sword.

Its glint flashed as he rushed forward. However, he wasn't trying to save Ma Jinming. His target was Li Qiye since he wanted to finish the guy off with one move.

"Clank!" Before the thrust could reach Li Qiye, it was intercepted by the statue closest to him with a swing of its spear.

"Buzz." Bofan raised his hand and summoned a sword formation with metallic hymns.

An ocean of sword emerged behind him and all flew for Li Qiye like a tsunami of steel.

"So strong!" The crowd was impressed by this awesome display. This all-piercing wave of swords could annihilate the world and kill the gods.

Even someone from the last generation murmured: "That's Eight Formation True Emperor's disciple for you. A few more years and no youth can match him."

Bofan was undoubtedly stronger than Jinming by a large margin.

"You overestimate yourself." Li Qiye didn't bat an eye, continuing to sit on his throne without lifting a finger.

"Clank! Clank! Clank!" Three statues threw their spears in unison straight at the ocean of sword.

"Boom!" The spears looked like true dragons entering the ocean. They ravaged and destroyed everything, quickly piercing through the formation.

It collapsed with swords flying everywhere.

"Whoosh!" The spears didn't stop there and crisscrossed on their path towards Bofan.

"Shift!" He raised his hand again to control the formation and the swords came together to weave into a shield.

At the same time, he swung his physical sword, creating curtains of blades around himself. These two lines of defenses were quite amazing. The youth was truly impressive.

“He’s a master at sword formations.” Both the young and old praised after seeing this move.

“Rumble!” Alas, both the thick shield and defensive barriers couldn’t stop the three spears and were instantly penetrated.

“Damn!” The youth flew to the sky like a gust of wind, wanting to escape.

“Whoosh!” A virtually undetectable spear appeared behind him and thrust forward.

“No!” It was too late to dodge.

Before people could react, the spear pierced through him and made a twist in the air before pinning him down on the stone steps with blood gushing everywhere.

Meanwhile, Ma Jinming’s shield has crumbled so the statue directly stomped on his chest.

“Ah!” He screamed and spat out a mouthful of blood. His chest caved in completely as blood stained his robe.

Jinming and Bofan were subdued at the same time as their blood flowed down the steps.

“...” The shocked crowd stumbled backward after seeing this.

Jinming and Bofan were definitely some of the strongest geniuses around but they were instantly defeated. One was stomped down and the other pinned down.

“How boring.” Li Qiye covered his mouth and yawned, seemingly quite bored: “Mere ants, I can’t even bring myself to fight.”

The scene became silent. None of the pale crowd knew why these statues would suddenly spring to life on top of being so powerful.

The first to react was Tang Hexiang. He has already run out of the stone forest the moment he saw Bofan being taken down.

[Chapter 2486: Carnage](#)

Everyone took a deep breath after seeing the quick defeat of the two youths. Ma Jinming was the weaker of the two but Bofan was a third-level True God, an Ascender.

Moreover, his formation skills were incredible as well. The sword formations of his had an explosive potential and awed the crowd.

However, he was still defeated within three moves by the statues. The two youths were insignificant in comparison. Could Li Qiye be speaking the truth? That it wasn’t worth his time to personally attack?

“Rumble!” While the crowd was in a daze, these statues landed from the sky and surrounded the stone forest, blocking off all the exits.

No one gave a damn about these decorative rocks among the steps a while ago. But now, they realized that these statues were terrible experts. Everyone shuddered with a bad premonition.

“What, what are you doing?!” Someone shouted at Li Qiye.

Li Qiye yawned again and said: “You tell me, what does a perverted and lawless tyrant do? Of course it is taking women and slaughtering people.”

“Don’t, don’t be insane!” Jinming was pale as he was being crushed by the foot: “The entire world hates you now, not a single legion will support you, you’re all alone! Keep on doing this and you will die without a burial!”

“Maybe you’re right, I do need the help of the legions to keep this up.” Li Qiye said with a smile.

“My father is the Central Commander and has the support of the legions and people, it’s not too late for you to release me...” Jinming immediately saw hope after hearing Li Qiye’s soften stance.

“And if I refuse?” Li Qiye smiled.

“You will be opposing the six legions and the entire world!” He threatened.

“Kill.” Li Qiye lazily gave the order by waving his sleeve.

“You! Nooo!” The youth didn’t expect this move to not work.

Alas, it was too late. “Pluff!” Head went flying and blood splashed out. His head rolled down the steps with his eyes wide open.

“Six legions? The world?” Li Qiye laughed: “I alone am enough to massacre everyone. As for those who do not obey? I’ll kill until they give up.”

Everyone was stunned. A while ago, their impression of him was that he needed the legions to support his tyrannical tendencies.

But now, he immediately killed the son of the Central Commander. This was offending all six legions.

This ruthless style of his crushed their negative pre-existing perception of him.

“Anything else to say?” Li Qiye turned his gaze towards Yang Bofan.

“Do as you will, my master will avenge me and people will sing my heroic tales later.” Bofan proudly said, not willing to yield unlike the cowardly Jinming.

“Oh? Some courage, I see. Good, as you wish then, wait for your master to avenge you. Don’t worry, you won’t be alone down in the Yellow River for long, I’ll send him down with you soon enough and you two can play master-disciple again.” He nodded, seemingly satisfied with his idea before raising his hand: “Kill!”

“Whoosh!” The three spears pierced through Bofan and pushed him down into the steps more.

“Ah!” His true fate was instantly destroyed, meaning certain death. The spears then raised his corpse to the air while drops of blood fell on the steps.

This image seemed to be frozen, causing the crowd to take a deep breath.

Ruthlessness and brutality - these adjectives were in full display from Li Qiye.

A while ago, everyone looked down on him but once he showed his fangs, they finally saw the terror of a sleeping beast. Once it woke up and opened its bloody jaw, everyone else only looked like ants.

"A while ago, some people said that a perverted king like me is reviled and abandoned by the people." Li Qiye smiled: "I'm very curious, how does one win the hearts of the people? How about this, I will give all of you a chance. Kneel and worship me to become my loyal citizen, then I will think about being a merciful and benevolent king."

The crowd glanced at each other, trembling with fear after hearing the domineering statement.

Some realized that this king wasn't actually a piece of trash! The guy was insane from start to finish!

"Alright, start now. Kneeling might be your only chance to get out alive." Li Qiye said.

"In your dream!" One genius wasn't convinced and shouted: "You think I would kneel to an unvirtuous king like you!?"

"Clank!" A stone guard immediately took action and threw a spear at the genius.

"Break!" He leaped to the sky with a deafening roar, holding a hammer with both hands and smashing it straight at the spear.

"Boom!" The spear pierced through the hammer and his chest with lightning speed. Blood drops splashed on the ground.

This genius was astounded. He has always been confident in his cultivation, not expecting to lose to a single spear throw and killed on the spot.

"We need to kill this tyrant for the sake of Nine Secrets!" Some felt pain after seeing this scene. Among them was the most powerful genius who rallied his ten friends or so to attack Li Qiye.

"Kill him!" They howled and took out their strongest weapon, using their strongest attack in unison.

"Clank!" Spears were suddenly thrown into the sky, forming a terrible net. They came descending down and sealed everything within.

"Rumble!" Though these geniuses had amazing weapons, they were quickly penetrated by the spears.

"Ah! Ah..." Next came agonizing screams. These youths couldn't even make it to the raised platform before being killed by the spears. The guards then raised these corpses to the air as an intimidation tactic.

A while after, the guards casually flicked their spear to throw down the corpses as if they were trash.

This was a one-sided massacre. These geniuses couldn't compare to the stone guards at all.

Blood flowed down the steps like a spring, one wave after another. The thick stench of blood permeated all of the stone forest.

[Chapter 2487: On Their Knees](#)

“Sigh, looks like I’m still not that good as being a tyrant.” Li Qiye shook his head: “A real tyrant would be drinking blood and eating human flesh. After all, don’t all of you wish to do the same thing while hating me? Gotta keep trying, I suppose.”

The crowd had no response for they were fixated on the corpses.

“Fuck this, run!” Finally, a few couldn’t handle this atmosphere and turned to flee.

“Go, go!” They forgot all about reputation and face. All leaped backward and began to run.

“Whoosh! Whoosh!” Unfortunately, the statues threw their incomparable sharp spears towards the fleeing geniuses.

“Ah! Ah!...” Blood and screams filled the air. These geniuses were pierced through the chest, leaving a gaping wound. They fell to the ground, no longer able to get back up or move for it was death.

“We can’t run...” The exits were all blocked by the stone guards.

“Leaping to the sky would result in becoming a target practice!” An older expert shouted.

The youths who wanted to keep on trying stabilized their stance.

“Rumble!” Next, the guards blocking the exits started marching towards them. Their spears flashed with a frightening glint.

The crowd had no choice but to walk backward, eventually being forced to the base of the steps closer to Li Qiye.

“What should we do now?” The youths lost all sense of agency and had to ask the older cultivators.

Unfortunately, even the ancestors present were helpless right now. These stone guards were unbelievably strong. Working together still wouldn’t amount to anything.

“What else can you do?” Li Qiye smiled on his throne: “Just kneel and vow loyalty and devotion to me, there’s no other choice. If I get in a good mood, perhaps I will spare your lives.”

His words seemed to be a message from above, guiding everyone towards the light. They started glancing at each other.

“Long live the king, long live the king!” A young cultivator couldn’t handle the pressure. His legs grew weak so he prostrated on the ground and: “His Majesty is invincible! Your servant was as ignorant as a frog inside a well, please spare me!”

A few people broke down after seeing the first. More dropped to their knees: “Long live the king, may your reign lasts for an eternity!”

The majority of the crowd competed to get on the ground while chanting the same thing: “Your Majesty will be eternal, a blessing for the citizens, please show mercy towards your servants!”

No one wanted to be the last one standing because it might invoke the wrath of the king and their head might fall on the ground.

None dared to stand up before given permission. They prostrated nervously, awaiting his decision.

“Looks like your bones aren’t as tough as you think.” Li Qiye looked at the crowd and chuckled: “See, it’s not that hard to kneel, is it?”

The crowd felt their face becoming hot. They were kneeling before the guy they considered to be a piece of trash to be stomped on earlier, that he wasn’t worthy to participate in this party. Now, they were obediently prostrating, stricken with fear.

This swift change took them like a storm. Their pride and arrogance all dissipated since the goal was now to please the guy so that he would show mercy. Everything was worthless compared to being alive.

“What should I do now? A competition? Maybe one to see who can flatter me the most? The ones that don’t do a good job will be decapitated?” Li Qiye smirked.

The kneelers turned pale. Li Qiye was deliberately stomping on their pride!

“Your Majesty, please spare them.” Liu Chuqing stared at the crowd and quietly spoke for them.

Li Qiye looked at her and sighed before stroking her hair: “Silly girl, I can’t say no to you even if I have a heart of iron.”

She turned red after hearing such sweet words in public, feeling very happy inside.

“How boring, killing these fools will only stain my hand.” Li Qiye lazily turned towards the crowd and said.

The dreadful crowd could finally breathe after hearing this.

“Bam!” He suddenly smashed down on his throne.

“Creak-” The two peaks behind him actually started moving, revealing gap with a stone box inside.

He opened it and unleashed rippling waves of light. It looked as if the box contained a type of immortal water.

The ones on the ground knew that this must be an incredible treasure but none dared to make a sound.

He closed the box and said flatly: “This platform isn’t only meant for ceremonies and the statues aren’t here as only decorations. They’re protecting this place.”

Having said that, he put away the box and stood up: “How boring.”

Chuqing held his arm and the two of them walked down the steps.

The ones kneeling on the ground stopped breathing and didn’t dare to lift their head. Those in the way started crawling to the side to make a path.

Li Qiye glanced emotionlessly at them before speaking: “It is not because I’m merciful that you’re alive but because this girl is too kind, that’s why I’m sparing your dog lives! You should know who to thank.”

“The Lady is benevolent, a shining symbol of virtue!” The crowd started chanting. [1]

Chuqing could only see her feet right now from being so shy. Of course, she was very pleased with being called "The Lady" since it confirms her status.

Li Qiye smiled and left with her, no longer giving a damn about the group.

"Boom!" After he was long gone, the guards returned to their initial position while holding their spears.

When the group was certain that Li Qiye was gone, they finally slowly get up.

Everyone looked astounded; no one knew what to say.

In the end, they didn't even bother talking and left in groups. Today was too humiliating since they threw away their pride and got on their knees because of fear.

Southpeak Woodcutter took Li Qiye and Liu Chuqing back to the shore. He watched them leave while lighting up his pipe: "It's a fortune that she is there to warm his heart or Nine Secrets will be done for. The world is nothing to him. At the end of the game, he doesn't mind throwing the chessboard away."

Cold sweats started running down his spine after imagining the destruction of Nine Secrets. He started thanking Liu Chuqing in his mind.

[Chapter 2488: Shocked All Around](#)

Prior to this, Nine-linked Mountains was very lively with busy young cultivators looking around.

However, the battle at the stone forest silenced the entire place. The once excited and confident youths immediately stagnated without making a sound, nearly shrinking their heads down their necks.

It didn't take long before the king kills Jinming and Bofan on top of another dozen or so geniuses. He also forced several hundred geniuses and ancestors to kneel before him.

The lucky ones who survived the ordeal found this humiliating. It had engraved deep in their mind for their entire life.

Just imagine, these geniuses and experts have always been arrogant and proud. They always held their head high and even looked down on others. Unfortunately for them, Li Qiye ruthlessly shattered their pride and stomped on their stretching neck, forcing them to lower their head.

This wasn't easy for them but if they didn't comply, they would have suffered the same fate as their fallen friends - being cold corpses at the stone forest.

It didn't matter how strong and arrogant one might be, all were corpses after death, so insignificant and lowly. That's why they had to lower their head and kneeled before Li Qiye.

This cruel method of his had indeed terrorized everyone. He was a true tyrant this time around, not afraid of murders and brutality.

One question sprung up in everyone's mind - what the hell happened to the king? How did he become so horrifying overnight?

No one could come up with an answer. Turning from a useless king to a tyrant - he successfully wiped his previous image clean.

“Was he hiding his abilities from the start?” One older expert said.

But upon careful rumination, this didn't feel right. If he was hiding his skills, it meant that he was immensely powerful and wouldn't have lost his kingdom without a fight.

Remember, even though Silver Secret and Sun Lengying were gone, he still had the six legions and the general support of War Saint. The five great powers wouldn't have dared to rebel.

At that particular juncture, he was indeed at the top of authority and had military power. There was no need to hide his abilities at this point. He should have shown them off in order to stabilize his throne.

Instead of this, his actions led to a rebellion and the loss of his throne. There was no way this could have happened if he was actually a master.

One explanation for this was that the guy was insane from start to finish. Instead of seizing the throne with his own abilities, he just let others push him off the throne. Who else would do this if they weren't crazy?

Thus, people found this to be impossible. When someone was at the very top, they would never let others bully them and take over.

But then why did he suddenly become so strong and brutal? No one understood what the hell he was doing or what had transpired.

Nevertheless, the event at the stone forest changed everyone's perception of him. He became the biggest mystery and wild card.

“This king was really hiding his abilities?” Jianyao back at Xiang was the first to hear this news from her fellow sect members.

Her expression changed after getting the full picture and felt that they might have made a wrong move.

“Just who the hell is he?” She saw a fog shrouding her vision.

Prior to this, she thought she had figured out what kind of man he was but now, only a blur remained.

“Did I make a mistake?” She murmured in a daze.

She had a marriage pact with him. Their sect didn't resort to switching the bride like the Bingchi nor aggressively demanded an annulment.

They chose to just ignore and forget the marriage pact instead. This would allow both sides to back off without any awkwardness.

She wasn't the only one who chose this plan since the ancestors supported it as well.

Say, if the king was indeed useless, then the plan would be great for them. They didn't wish to marry a promising disciple to someone like that and especially didn't want to bet on him since they would lose everything.

But what if the king turned out to be unfathomable? He would become an uncertainty, a wrench in their plan.

“Miss, what should we do now?” The old servant asked for her opinion.

“Return to the sect and ask what the ancestors want to do.” She pondered before giving an order.

The old servant affirmed and quickly ran back to Calm Lotus Monastery. She then stared outside the window to look at the lake.

Lucidity King’s era has ended so it was time for their sect to move in. Perhaps it would be just like the past where they exerted great influence into the royal reign.

The best way to obtain this was to support a new king since they have never directly seized the throne. Because of this particular choice, they have remained standing for so long. Dynasties have risen and fallen while they would always be around.

At this moment, the most promising candidates were Tang Hexiang and Eight Formation True Emperor. Calm Lotus would pick one of these two.

However, the current king came out of nowhere and showed his might. Jianyao was in disarray because they were not in control of Li Qiye.

The worst thing about it was that the king didn’t like her at all in spite of her beautiful face and transcending temperament.

So many men would fall in love with her at first sight but he had only disdain for her.

“Too smart for one’s own good... Jianyao... Jianyao, you still think too highly of yourself.” She sighed with disappointment.

Although the curtains have yet to close, she felt as if she could already guess the final victor in this contest. She realized that she had miscalculated and made a foolish choice despite being wise all her life.

“What?! Bofan was killed?!” Bingchi Hanyu was shocked to hear this.

She had a very good idea of Bofan’s power - a third-level True God that could challenge a fourth-level one through the use of sword formations.

One would be hard-pressed to find a match for him among the young generation outside of Eight Formation True Emperor and his peers.

However, the guy was high-spirited not long ago but now, he was killed by the king back in the stone forest?

“Just how strong is this king?” Her expression became serious.

Her follower began telling her about what had transpired at the party.

[Chapter 2489: Waterwatch Saber Saint](#)

Bingchi Hanyu sat quietly, perturbed, after hearing the recollection of her follower. Something of note was that the king didn't do anything from start to finish. One couldn't confirm whether he was hiding his skills and his true power.

"Could Nine-linked Mountains be supporting him in the shadows?" She thought about this possibility.

This sect has always kept a low-profile and didn't care for external matters but their power was unquestionable. Just their few disciples were enough to change the tides.

"But why?" She didn't understand why this sect would want to help a king famous for being useless.

Nine-linked remained neutral even during Lucidity King's era so it was quite perplexing for them to help the new king now.

"Return to the clan with haste and report this to the ancestor." She mused before giving orders.

After dealing with everything, she wondered again: "Go to Myriad Formation Kingdom and report to Eight Formation True Emperor. Tell him to act with prudence for this king will want revenge."

Another follower affirmed before leaving in a hurry.

This didn't lessen her anxiety at all. The clan swapped Bingchi Yujian for her instead so that she didn't have to marry the king. She had no problem with the engagement with Eight Formation True Emperor either.

They didn't have strong feelings for each other and were friends at best after several meetings. Nevertheless, she was still satisfied with the clan's choice.

In terms of innate talents, skills, status, and appearance - he was indeed a good match for her, a couple created by the heavens.

Moreover, it was wise strategically. This alliance would allow for Eight Formation True Emperor to become the king; this was only a matter of time. Unfortunately, the fallen king seemed to be abruptly emerging again.

She was worried because her side had already broken all pretenses with the king. If the king were to successfully regain his throne, he would definitely take revenge against them.

"Just what kind of person is he?" Hanyu shared the same restlessness as Jianyao.

Despite being arrogant, she wasn't a girl with big breasts and a small brain. Of course, her breasts were indeed large enough to cause blood to boil. Many were instantly seduced the moment they saw her enchanting beauty but she wasn't just a flower vase on display.

In the end, she sighed softly, aware that this situation was out of her control.

Though she was the princess of the Bingchi, she wasn't much in the grand scheme of things. There were things outside of her control, such as her own marriage. The only thing within her grasp was guiding the ship towards the most suitable groom.

"I hope we can get through this." She said, seemingly dejected.

The mood at Nine-linked Mountains remained somber. The proud youths were tucking their tail between their legs and felt a bit suffocated.

This atmosphere finally changed with the arrival of a certain person.

He came carrying his saber on his shoulder, accompanied by billowing saber intents and flashy visual phenomena. Many could sense this saber intent and instantly looked over.

He looked relaxed and at peace while wearing a violet robe. His temperament was one of nobility.

He wasn't especially tall but had eyes like the morning stars, sharp brows, and a heroic presence.

Though his saber was resting in its sheath, people could still sense its sharpness - more than enough to cut through the celestial bodies. His sharp aura dragged for thousands of miles behind him.

Strangely enough, the aura wasn't unbearable and aggressive. It was rather free-flowing and natural. He didn't try to exert the aura in full either or let it run wild.

Some saber users had a massive aura as well, like a reservoir filled with water. When necessary, they would release it and let it rampage through the nine heavens.

This particular youth's aura, on the other hand, seemed to be innate and natural - akin to the always-flowing current in a river. He didn't need to actively release it.

Because of this, the spectators actually felt comfortable instead of the usual prickly sensation.

"Waterwatch Saber Saint!" Someone recognized him right away.

"He's here? Is he back from his vacation or did he have a good cultivation session?" His arrival caused quite a stir.

"This guy is really comparable to Eight Formation True Emperor, no, maybe even one level higher." An older cultivator sentimentally said.

This famous youth was the successor of Waterfront. Some even believed that he was already the pavilion master but the sect has yet to publicly announce this. He might be the strongest member of the young generation right now.

He didn't share the same reclusive style as Jianyao nor enjoy the fame of Eight Formation True Emperor; he was just a saber - unrestrained and lofty.

Virtually everyone in Nine Secrets has heard of Eight Formation True Emperor before. He spent most of his time in the system as well.

This wasn't the case for the saber saint. He preferred to travel the world with only his saber as a companion. This was why he wasn't as famous as the emperor.

However, for most cultivators, no place was better to train than their own system. After all, cultivating the system's merit laws in the dao land received added benefits and efficiency. That's why the emperor preferred to train in Nine Secrets.

Despite being away from home, the saber saint still had amazing achievements. Everyone believed that he could fight a good match against the emperor.

“He sparred against Jade-break and Puresword True Emperor before. It’s not an exaggeration to say that those are two of the strongest emperors of the young generation in Imperial Lineage. It’s fine to say that he could take on Eight Formation True Emperor as well.” An old expert praised.

Jade-break was the current emperor of the Li and Puresword was from the Mu. Either of them was currently stronger than Eight Formation True Emperor.

During his journey across the world, the saber saint had sparred with both of these emperors so he was very experienced in battle.

He walked the path of the True God instead of the imperial path but he could still take on the emperors.

Eight Formation True Emperor have fought against Eternals before but not against the other emperors, so he lacked experience compared to the saber saint in this field.

That’s why the public had a high evaluation of the saber saint. They believed that he was one of the best candidates to be the next king. Unfortunately, he seemed to lack interest in the throne and never stated his stance.

[Chapter 2490: Senior Brother](#)

The saber saint saved the atmosphere at Nine-linked Mountains by arriving. The suffocation became slightly tolerable.

His massive saber intent spanning for thousands of miles left others in great admiration. Though he still had a way to go before being on the same level as the top Eternals, it was only a matter of time.

The saint continued southward until he made it to Great Desolate Mountain. The crowd naturally took an interest in this because they immediately thought about Princess Liu Chuqing.

“Am I looking at this right? Waterfront Pavilion wants to support the king?” One speculator mused after seeing the saint’s first destination in Nine-linked.

After all, Waterfront was the only one among the five that kept the promise pact. Their princess has been following and willing to marry the king. Perhaps it has always been siding with him.

“I’m not sure.” An ancestor with a good information network gently shook his head: “The princess herself wanted to keep the promise and met heavy resistance from some of the ancestors. Saber saint dotes on her a lot, maybe that’s why he’s coming to visit her.”

“That makes sense.” His old friend nodded: “Because if Waterfront was siding with the king from the start, they would have mobilized to help him during the rebellion instead of waiting till he had lost everything with no value to speak of.”

“If he dotes on her like the rumor, would he let her marry someone like the king or would he give him a slash?” Someone else wondered.

This made people glance at each other. Of course, some wanted nothing more than for this to happen.

“The saint is invincible among the young generation, I don’t think the king can escape death regardless of his abilities.” A young genius bitterly said.

The bitterness was justifiable because of the humiliation he suffered back in the stone forest. How could they not have enmity towards the king?

The saint climbed up the peak and stood outside the palace made out of stones and rocks. He didn’t bother knocking and pushed his way through, strutting inside without a care in the world as if this was his place.

The spectators held their breath, waiting for a fight to break out between him and the king. All eyes were on the door now.

Meanwhile, Li Qiye leisurely sat inside and didn’t have a big reaction to the sudden intruder. Chuqing was meticulously boiling tea for him like a virtuous wife.

“Senior Brother!” She looked up with slight excitement and surprise.

“Master said you are here so I’ve come to take a look.” He revealed a doting smile after seeing her.

Ever since their youth, he treated her as a real sister and has always taken care of her.

“When did you return?” She happily asked.

“A while ago, only to find our treasure Junior Sister is not in the same, so I’ve come to look for you.” He smiled.

“I’m doing very well right now, you don’t need to worry, Senior Brother.” She had a bashful smile.

The saber saint gently sighed - what more could he say? After the signing of the marriage pact, he vehemently refused it and had a fight with their supreme ancestor. Unfortunately, the sect didn’t have a choice under the circumstances. Who would dare to go against Lucidity King?

His eyes fell on Li Qiye and became as bright as two divine lamps.

People could finally feel his terrifying abilities at this point, like a saber leaving its sheath - capable of killing everything in its path. Such a sharp gaze was the origin of fear.

Alas, Li Qiye sat there, completely unaffected.

“You’re very lucky to marry my Junior Sister.” His eyes could tear apart the world and bring about the primordial chaos once more.

“I know.” Li Qiye sipped his tea and chuckled.

“She is the jewel of Waterfront Pavilion, so we will respect her decision.” The saint said coldly: “But if she were to experience any grievance or slight, even the smallest one, I don’t care if you are the king or the heaven’s favorite, I will be the first to interfere and you will need to answer to my blade!”

He tapped on his saber and unleashed a ferocious saber intent. This majestic murderous energy was shudder-inducing.

“Quite sharp.” Li Qiye smiled and praised: “However, the women who stay by my side are lucky, I always spoil them.”

“Hmph!” The saint didn’t approve of this response.

Chuqing started pouting after seeing the potential conflict: “Senior Brother, His Majesty has been treating me very, very, very well.”

She blushed after finishing and lowered her head.

The saint glanced at his Junior Sister then at the nonchalant Li Qiye. He sighed again and forced a smile: “You’re already siding with him before marriage, I can’t imagine what you will be like after.”

“Senior Brother, tease me again and I’ll start ignoring you.” The shy girl said.

He shook his head before giving Li Qiye a cold stare: “She is the best girl in the world, you better treat her well or I will take your dog life!”

“You don’t need to tell me twice.” Li Qiye casually responded.

The saint looked at Chuqing whom he has always viewed as a real little sister: “I’m here mainly to see how you’re doing and if anyone is picking on you. Just let me know if anyone dares to and I will have your back.”

“I know.” She nodded, happy at the familial bond.

The saint left right away without saying goodbye to Li Qiye. Chuqing turned towards him and was worried about Li Qiye being annoyed: “Your Majesty, my Senior Brother bears no ill-will. He’s been like that since we were young, very protective of me.”

“Right.” Li Qiye gently stroked her hair with adoration.

All the spectators have been eagerly waiting outside. After the saint came in, he released his saber intent. Each strand was chilling and laden with murderous energy, causing the crowd to shudder.

“Is he about to attack?” Everyone’s heart skipped a beat. The youths shamed by Li Qiye were quietly celebrating.

“He’ll definitely shock the world.” One youth couldn’t wait to see the saint taking down the king and delivering them from this indignation.

However, the saber intent came and left quickly, disappearing without a trace.

“Looks like he didn’t do anything, it might just be a warning since he loves the Waterfront Princess.” An experienced master read the situation perfectly.

Sure enough, the saint came out of the hall with a natural look, bereft of bloodlust. People could see that he didn’t attack.

The youths were disappointed and sighed, thinking that the king got lucky this time.

“Hmm, looks like Waterfront Pavilion isn’t supporting the king, but they won’t be opposing him either.”
An old man murmured.