

Emperor 2501

[Chapter 2501: The Nine Secrets](#)

The countless needles of light floated in the air and astounded the spectators.

“What is this?” Someone murmured and reached up to touch the light. Unfortunately, the light seemed to be incorporeal and his hand simply passed through it.

“Pop!” Li Qiye flicked his finger. With a series of quiet buzzes, the floating lights started shaking.

As the shaking intensified, they seemed to be attracted by something, almost like needles heading to a magnet.

They started coming together and flowing like currents without interfering with each other in the slightest. Everything was orderly without a touch of chaos.

This scene was magnificent. The currents of light rapidly flowed with an all-penetrating force. These currents gathered together; each with their own special order and trajectory in the air.

They looked like powerful pulsing rays now, seemingly forming an unknown sequence and order. Since the rays were so close to each other, they looked like gigantic ones from the distance.

In the end, there were a total of nine massive rays darting around in a magnificent manner.

“Rumble!” With the momentum of a great army, the nine rays fell down from the sky and suddenly leaped back up; this process repeated continuously. It resembled an assault of countless divine swords to the horror of the spectators.

They had enough power to pierce through any entity in existence, more than enough to destroy Nine-linked Mountains in the blink of an eye.

Some were scared out of their mind, trembling with shaking knees.

After several metallic hums, the rays suddenly stopped and started connecting with each other. Upon closer inspection, the needle-like strands of light were turning into laws - innumerable and complicated.

Next, the quiet laws began to weave together as if there were a skillful pair of invisible hands directing them. The results were nine extremely thick laws lying across the sky like iron chains - splendid beyond words.

“Clank, clank...” The nine laws began to coil around just like true dragons with full autonomy. They were performing their own derivation and transformation while emitting a blinding light. No one could keep their eyes open.

“Clank!” The first law finished its transformation, drowning out the world with its brilliance.

“Boom!” The heaven and earth quaked violently because of its tempestuous aura - capable of breaking anything as if they were dried branches.

Not to mention regular cultivators, even True Gods were quivering with fear, realizing how insignificant they were.

It turned into an ancient word and imprinted itself in the air.

“Lin!” Many recognized this ancient word.

The saber saint gasped despite his rich experiences because this was the word he trained in!

“Boom!” A second explosion signaled the successful transformation of the second law. Another word accompanied by a massive energy appeared.

“Bing!” More screamed out its name.

Hanyu was the pale one now because she was too familiar with it. However, this particular aura was far more primordial and pure compared to her own!

“Boom!” Next came the third. “Dou!” The crowd burst into an uproar.

“Zhe!” And another loud shout afterward.

“Jie!” Some even jumped in the air from bewilderment after seeing the fifth word.

“Zhen!” The screeching furor was reaching a climax after the sixth word.

“Lie!” Their cries echoed into the horizon, lingering for a long while.

“Qian!” Their throat was on fire now but they still roared.

“Xing!” The ninth and final word finally showed up, garnering a roar in unison from the crowd. The entire mountain range shook from the outcries.

“Lin Bing Dou Zhe Jie Zhen Lie Qian Xing.” Someone finally read the whole mantra. The energy of this power immediately engulfed the world.

“The nine words! They are really the nine words!” People boisterously blurted out.

No one could stay calm while looking at the nine characters floating in the sky, regardless of their own experience and knowledge. Some even dropped down on the ground.

One ancestor murmured: “My life is not wasted... to be able to see the nine secrets. I have no regrets now as a disciple of Nine Secrets System.”

Tears began to flow down their cheeks. In their mind, the nine words were unreachable but today, to be able to see their true forms in person... This filled them with fulfillment.

“...” Jianyao was completely stunned by this incredible scene. Her cherry mouth was wide open since the unreachable nine words were so close to everyone.

Hanyu thought that she was dreaming. No, not even in her dream would she be so close to the nine worlds. She was mentally unprepared for this development.

The only one staying calm was Southpeak Woodcutter. He put down his pipe and stared at the words.

“Only True Emperor Jiu Ning managed to cultivate all nine, yet this person can grasp them so easily.” He took a deep breath, overwhelmed with emotions.

The saber saint thought of himself as a cool-and-collected person with plenty of life experiences. But now, he felt dread and awe.

As for Tang Hexiang, the guy was dumbstruck and couldn't regain his wits.

[Chapter 2502: All Trashes](#)

The nine secrets were the supreme merit laws of this system, the very foundation yearned and researched by its members.

It was a well-known mantra. For millions of years, numerous geniuses and wise sages have tried to understand them.

Each word could become a mental chant, merit law, martial style, or an unstoppable technique.

However, returning to the origin was the true profundity of the nine words - a display of their true power.

Though each only consisted of a single character, they also contained the transformations of the profound grand dao and various worldly orders. Because of this, understanding them was exceedingly difficult. Just figuring out one would yield lifelong benefits, going as far as allowing one to start their own sect.

This was the case for War Saint Dynasty and the five great powers. Their patriarchs figured out some of the nine words and managed to start their own long-lasting legacies.

Just figuring one out resulted in these achievements, what about all nine? That would be on the same level as becoming a system progenitor and shocking the entire world.

“I've heard rumors about Nine-linked Mountains hiding the words, looks like it is the truth.” One ancestor murmured in a daze.

This rumor was the reason why so many disciples in each generation came to this sect. Unfortunately, the majority returned empty-handed. Eventually, people questioned its validity.

Alas, the old sages didn't lie to them but their own incapacities let them down.

“See? Too easy to grab the nine words.” Li Qiye casually commented while the crowd came to a hush.

Prior to this, no one believed him and criticized his ignorance and arrogance. Now? The truth was before them. He pulled out the nine words so easily.

He could make any domineering, insane comments and it would still be acceptable. He had the power and qualification to say whatever he wanted at this point.

His right hand reached forward with one flicking finger. A ripple effect started from his fingertip and spread to the entire mountain range in a fascinating manner.

The nine words also undulated from the resonance. They turned into specks of sand and started scattering.

His fingertip suddenly had an attraction force and all the specks started flying and gathering in front of him.

They came together into a tiny law, yellow in color and looked like a gold chain - exquisitely made and complicated with many parts just like a work of art.

The tiny law flashed with the luster of a diamond; each pulse was moving as if it had formed its own world.

"The law of the mantra." An ancestor salivated after seeing the tiny entity floating around Li Qiye's finger.

The knowledgeable spectators knew that although it was small, it contained the nine words. To have this law was the same as grasping all nine.

Every disciple in the system knew how precious the nine words were, truly priceless and above anything else.

Because of this, people started salivating. Possessing this law meant creating their own sect would be no problem in the future.

"That's the nine words, nothing's special." Li Qiye carefully looked at the tiny law and casually told Liu Chuqing: "Little girl, consider this my meeting present to you."

With that, he touched her forehead with this finger.

"Pop!" Her mind opened and the tiny law entered her ocean of memories before she could even calm down.

"Boom!" A tsunami overwhelmed her consciousness so she stood there in a daze - a sensation akin to being smashed with a boulder. She started seeing stars, unable to digest the massive influx of information.

After all, the nine words have entered her mind. Its profundity was as vast as an ocean, virtually endless.

A genius still couldn't comprehend this profound grand dao so quickly. It was incredible that she hasn't fainted.

The crowd was struck just as hard. The nine words were a priceless treasury. Any man or sect could benefit from them for a lifetime.

There was no doubt that they would keep it to themselves, not wanting to share it to their closest ones.

Everyone thought that Li Qiye would keep it as well, but he casually gave it to Liu Chuqing. This required so much generosity and decisiveness. Even the richest wouldn't be able to take this step - throwing away the nine words like trash. The unaware would think that they were common items.

That's why the crowd was so stunned and couldn't believe their own eyes.

"Is he insane?" One ancestor refused to accept this.

After a while, the crowd calmed down and realized that they weren't just seeing things. The king had indeed given the nine words to Liu Chuqing.

That's the nine words, nothing's special - this might be the most domineering thing they have ever heard and he was indeed backing it up with his action.

People started staring at Liu Chuqing. Some felt greed, others envy and jealousy. A few wanted to be her right now.

A few ancestors started to ponder about karma. Just think about it, when the world laughed and looked down on the king, going as far as to renege the marriage pacts, who continued to stay by his side? Only Liu Chuqing.

She didn't mind carrying out her end of the bargain and accepted the same ridicule while being with him. Thus, she surely deserved the nine words right now.

Qin Jianyao was overwhelmed with emotions. She was confident in her own intelligence and vision, thinking that she could read people. Unfortunately, she found herself wanting today.

If she wasn't blinded by prejudice and conventional ideas back then, perhaps she could have recognized the jewel instead of being a frog under the well. Perhaps she would be standing behind him as well.

Unfortunately, there's no take back in this world and no medicine for regrets. It was over the moment she made her choice.

She sighed with disappointment and accepted his prior criticisms of her, that she has yet to transcend from having a "vulgar" and "basic" mentality.

[Chapter 2503: Gifting The Nine Words](#)

Bingchi Hanyu was greatly affected by this generous showing of Li Qiye. She quivered for quite a bit as chaos infiltrated her emotions.

It wasn't only about losing the bet but the sheer ridiculousness of it all. How could this guy give this priceless treasure to his woman without thinking twice?

He was full of charisma and decisiveness right now, a unique case since no other men would be willing to do this in Nine Secrets, not even Eight Formation True Emperor.

Even if the emperor had the nine words, he would keep it to himself in order to train.

Of course, she would understand because she wouldn't give it to someone else.

Thus, this unique characteristic of Li Qiye overshadowed everyone else, causing her to have all kinds of emotions after recalling about their marriage pact.

If the clan had continued it then...

This was quite an uncomfortable moment for her. She hated and even looked down on this man, thinking that he was a useless king. However, this man managed to easily grasp the nine words, something her clan couldn't do. Most importantly, he even casually gave them to his woman.

Comparison only brought about pain. She couldn't find relief from these emotions.

The saber saint murmured to himself: "Lucky girl. I guess a fool has his own fortune that no one else can get. I don't think the ancestors could have expected this."

He was quite happy for Liu Chuqing. Previously, she faced strong resistance but still decided to come here. He herself was very worried, afraid that Li Qiye might bully her or that she might have a tough life. But now, he became rest assured since no other man could be so generous.

Tang Hexiang was speechless. The five fingers holding his spear were completely pale.

Everyone held their breath while watching this scene, realizing that the king was deserving of his throne, that he was the rightful ruler of Nine Secrets. Anyone else would only be mere usurpers!

"You have lost." Li Qiye told Bingchi Hanyu.

She shuddered again, biting her red lips and couldn't respond from the emotional instability.

All eyes turned towards her. In fact, no one would mock or laugh at her right now.

No one believed that Li Qiye could easily summon the nine words. It was simply impossible. They thought she would win for sure, not expecting for this unbelievable miracle to happen.

"I, I will keep my words. Do as you like!" She gritted her teeth and said resoundingly.

"No rush." Li Qiye smiled and turned towards the spectators: "Anyone else who isn't convinced? I know many of you are annoyed at me. That's okay, this is a good chance to voice your criticism. I'm listening."

Not a single word came out from the crowd. The ones who laughed at him earlier lowered their head.

Come on now? A man who could take out the nine words? Messing with him was the same as courting death. Everyone was feeling regrets. They should have been watching the situation more instead of being so harsh earlier.

Since no one responded, Li Qiye spoke to Tang Hexiang: "I know you want to kill me, here's your chance. If you can withstand three moves of mine, I will pardon you."

The crowd wondered if Hexiang would dare to fight or not.

Hexiang's grasp on the spear trembled for a bit. He took a deep breath and said: "I'm not in a hurry."

Li Qiye shook his head disapprovingly: "How disappointing, even if I don't kill you, you wouldn't amount to anything for the rest of your life."

Hexiang's expression soured. This was so humiliating but he still managed to restrain himself, turning a deaf ear.

Everyone could tell how terrifying this king was right now, so both the amazing geniuses and powerful ancestors present were smart enough to shrink into their shell.

“I’ll try!” Suddenly, a burst of laughter interrupted the silence and one man stepped up.

“Waterwatch Saber Saint!” This surprised everyone.

Even a fool could see that the king especially dotes on Liu Chuqing. Perhaps the king wouldn’t be that nice to Waterfront Pavilion, but he wouldn’t be tough on them either.

So they thought the saber saint would be the last person to walk up right now. Alas, he shocked them all.

“You?” Li Qiye smiled.

“That’s right.” The saber saint was in high spirits like a saber leaving its sheath.

He looked straight at Li Qiye and said: “I rarely misjudge people but I was wrong about you. I don’t know how strong you are, but I still want to try!”

“Ninth level.” Li Qiye casually commented after a quick glance at the saint.

“That’s right, I’ve just broken into the ninth level, not enough to reach the apex.” The saber saint said without any arrogance.

“A ninth-level True God!” The crowd was shaken to hear this.

“That’s more powerful than Eight Formation True Emperor!” Someone murmured.

“Yes, in terms of cultivation but the emperor has the Immortal Slaying Ancient Formation, that’s incredible too.” Another whispered.

“The saber saint is something else, no wonder why he’s the top genius of our system.” A genius became moved.

As a ninth-level True God, the saber saint was very close to being an Eternal. This was a commendable achievement, perhaps he could become even stronger than Lucidity King.

“Can’t reach the apex indeed.” Li Qiye smiled: “I’ve met a sword god at the ninth-level but his dao is far superior than yours.”

Everyone took a deep breath after hearing this. A being at the ninth level was immensely powerful, looked up by so many people. Yet the king spoke as if they were worthless?

If ninth-level True Gods were worthless, then they would be inferior to insects!

“Even an insect should try to fight against the heaven.” The saber saint held his saber and had a serious expression: “Can’t just give up because you’re nothing at the start.”

“Good, I can appreciate that.” Li Qiye clapped: “An insect, however weak it might be, should still go all out just once instead of giving up. Because of this comment, I will spare your life.”

[Chapter 2504: Imperial Saber](#)

Li Qiye had already talked about going easy on the saber saint even before the start of the battle. This could have invited ridicules in the past because of the saint's cultivation. It was indeed impressive among the young generation. Perhaps not even Eight Formation True Emperor could take him on.

Now, Li Qiye spoke as if he was so certain of victory. Of course, no one opened their mouth because they knew that a fierce battle was going to ensue.

The one paying the most attention was Tang Hexiang. He attentively stared at the two while holding his spear tight enough that his fingers started to turn white. The guy resembled a bow fully drawn, ready to shoot at any moment.

"I should thank you for showing mercy then." The saber saint showed no sign of anger and took a deep breath before slowly unsheathed his saber, issuing a metallic hum.

During this slow process, the saber and the sheath had a clear sound from the friction, almost like a song of sorts. More and more of the flashy glint inched out. Once the entire blade left its cover, its brilliance rushed out all at once.

"Clang!" The saber hummed loudly and clearly like jade and gold hitting each other with a trace of grand dao contained within.

Space rippled as a result. Though he has yet to emit his explosive aura, the saber intent was in full swing. His saber stood tall among the heaven and earth, completely immovable. No one could take half a step past him and his eventual slash.

"Clang!" Another hymn came about, not from the blade itself this time around but from the saber saint.

As he held the saber with both arms, he became an invincible saber with incomparable sharpness. The snow-white rays coming from him could cut through all.

He seemed to be one with his saber - he is the saber and the saber is him. This sharp saber intent was enough to make the crowd shudder with fear.

"Boom!" He finally released his energy and majestic aura, turning him into a mighty mountain - towering, powerful, and immense.

"Lin." People recognized this aura of his.

"He might have the most energy among the young generation." One ancestor claimed.

Lin was a merit law focused on energy. Although its user would have a slow time amassing and increasing their overall energy level, the grand completion of this merit law would yield a massive amount far exceeding others.

The saber saint's energy level wasn't only pure and thick, it also had a regal presence akin to a rainbow reaching for the sun.

This regal force made him look like a king and changed the color of his violet robe to a yellow shade - that of an imperial king.

Say, a while ago, he was a noble, then now, he was a saber king - able to rule the world as long as his weapon was in his grasp. The combination of his ample energy and this particular regal force made him quite peerless and stately.

"This is my minor achievement in the dao of the saber. I named it, Imperial Saber."

The saint didn't resort to using the merit laws from the sages of Waterfront Pavilion, not the True Emperor ones either. Instead, he chose his own creation.

"Imperial Saber... the name is apt." One spectator saw the magnificent state of the saint and agreed.

"Well done. Temperament, energy, and dao are all fused together in harmony." Li Qiye praised.

"Please." The saber saint pointed his saber forward with a solemn expression. He remained courteous in battle since to him, showing respect to the enemy was the same as showing respect to himself.

Li Qiye smiled and said: "Since you're using the Imperial Slash, I'll be using a Fiendish Slash then."

His eyes slightly focused, resulting in a deafening explosion. An evil flame engulfed his body and devastated the area around him.

He instantly turned into an unequaled devil king with eighteen black wings. All existences only served as his food.

"Damn!" This oppressive power boost startled the crowd, forcing some of them to drop butt-first on the ground.

"What evil merit law is this?!" One guy quivered.

"It's not a merit law." An ancestor carefully gazed at Li Qiye before concluding: "It's a direct transformation process."

"A single thought to become a devil..." The saber saint became even more serious. He has seen many strange things during his journey so the guy realized the terror of Li Qiye's ability.

"Clank!" Li Qiye raised his hand and an evil saber emerged from the flame.

It possessed an aura drowning out the world, turning it into a fiendish hell. This saber seemed to have been empowered by evil energy a million times over.

It pulsed with a dark flame, adding to the image of him being a devil king even more. Just one slash could reap countless lives.

"I've been bored for a while now so let's play with this form." Li Qiye casually swung his saber around to warm up, not looking like a serious combatant at all.

No one dared to say anything about his flippant attitude. Only respect and awe permeated the crowd after seeing his transformation.

"Please, your move." The saber saint was ready. He was a king with an orthodox grand dao. Just standing there made him look like an inviolable ruler.

Li Qiye smiled and said: "I will be a bully if I were to go first since you won't have the chance to retaliate. You may start with three moves before your inevitable defeat."

The saber saint didn't take offense to such arrogant words at all.

"Very well, excuse me then." He didn't refuse and took a deep breath before taking his stance.

"Boom!" His regal aura erupted, capable of toppling the mountains and overturning the seas.

"Clank!" He made his move, bereft of flashy movements yet enough to flatten the world.

Dangers and difficulties became trivial before this regal slash, only a broad and open road lay before him.

"The Path of a King!" He roared and unleashed his attack. Who knows if he was the one performing the slash or if his saber willed it so.

This was a technique-less slash, only a dao of the saber that could calm the universe.

The move naturally astonished the spectators. All along, they searched for refined and fatal techniques.

However, these techniques seemed meaningless and feeble before this regal dao of the saber saint.

[Chapter 2505: Three Slashes](#)

"The Path of a King? Li Qiye chuckled at the sight of the incoming slash and nonchalantly swung his saber: "Fiendish Annihilation!"

"Boom!" The evil saber exuded endless radiance. Each strand of light resembled a mighty pulse with enough force to pierce through the stars above.

In this blink of an eye, Li Qiye no longer existed, neither did the "devil king" and the evil aura. Only the saber was left behind with an apocalyptic slash without equals.

"Boom!" The Fiendish Annihilation directly shook the Path of a King.

The move from the saber saint had flattened everything but this path was shaking right now. The rainbow-like passage leading to the sun weakened.

"Rumble!" Inch by inch, the passage began to crumble. The slash from the saint lost its brilliance and regal energy - akin to a flickering candle in the wind.

At the same time, the saint was suffering a terrible pressure as if he had just been struck mercilessly by a hammer in full force, causing him to stagger several steps backward.

The saint had just lost after the very first move. The crowd shuddered with fear after seeing this.

Moreover, it was just a casual move from Li Qiye yet it was enough to trouble the saint. Just how strong was this man?

"The Path of a Conqueror!" The saint roared, gathering more true energy in the form of a tsunami, one wave after another. His momentum became multi-layered as a result.

There was no end to his true energy right now. This oceanic source allowed him to always be able to utilize his moves at their strongest potential.

“Clank!” He instantly unleashed the second slash, less regality and more domination.

This ferocious attack shattered the earth and the sky - the apex of power and domineering. The move actually also empowered his energy source, causing a total eruption. He looked like a god of war right now. The swings of his saber could take care of everything.

The slash scared the soul out of people, instilling fear into the enemies in three waves.

“Boom! Boom! Boom!” Each wave was more powerful than the previous, intending to destroy the evil saber. Fiery sparks went everywhere and brightened up the sky.

“So domineering.” People said with admiration after seeing the saint rising up to the challenge with unstoppable momentum.

“Clang!” Unfortunately, it only managed to slightly shake the evil saber. The latter retaliated with the same move - Fiendish Annihilation. Nevertheless, this move was still a sure-kill, destroying the eight realms and the myriad ages.

The saber saint might be fierce but he still couldn't stop the evil slash. Everything crumbled before its power. The only thing the enemies could do was to stretch their neck out and accept their fate.

“Boom!” The saint was pushed back dozens of steps this time around and vomited a mouthful of blood.

His domineering aura instantly dispersed while his majestic true energy became significantly weaker, though not to the point of depletion. He finally lowered his dimmed saber and became quite pale, clearly wounded from the previous exchanges.

“Is it over?” A spectator wondered.

Everyone held their breath - the saint was considered an invincible genius by many yet he had lost to the king already. They didn't think anyone else in this generation could challenge the king anymore.

“Seems like the king was indeed hiding his abilities.” The crowd thought, horrified. They felt a chill surge coursing through them, almost akin to being bitten by a venomous snake and on the verge of death.

They have confirmed that the king was actually a terrifying master, far stronger than a ninth-level True God.

What would be the result of those who have betrayed, mocked, and bullied him? They shuddered after thinking about this since many among the group have mocked him before. Even if they didn't verbally express their disdain, they certainly thought lowly of him.

What if he were to seize the throne once more? They could already see the disasters to come. So many people in Nine Secrets were about to die.

“Your saber dao isn't bad, just lacking polishing. When you reach grand completion, you might be able to stop several moves of mine.” Li Qiye's voice came about.

He appeared again in the same pose and spot as if he didn't move at all.

This no longer sounded like an insult but just straight fact now, due to the changed circumstances.

The saber saint took a deep breath and roared: "Again!"

He took another step forward in the sky: "The Path of a Ghost!"

This was a reverse slash, starting from the bottom then up vertically.

"Boom!" A lofty saber energy was unleashed but he didn't stop there, releasing more slashes in succession.

The energy waves eventually gathered into a saber, flying straight for Li Qiye in the same sweeping motion.

The hymn of the saber drowned the world, adding an ocean of energy, more than enough to herald an apocalypse. Even the stars above weren't spared.

Everyone found it hard to breathe while being stuck in this aura. They struggled to get out of this ocean of energy.

"Annihilation." Li Qiye didn't bat an eye and the evil saber casually swung down again.

Resistance was futile before absolute annihilation. Even the gods up in their firmaments could do naught.

"Buzz." In this split second, someone suddenly appeared behind Li Qiye - the saber saint! It seemed as if he had been there the entire time.

"Pluff!" He thrust his saber into Li Qiye with lightning speed.

"A ghost is indiscernible." He slowly uttered.

"No!" Chuqing finally realized the gravity of the situation and shouted.

"Raa!" At the same time, a golden dragon came out of a spear thrust. Tang Hexiang who has been observing leaped into the air and turned into a golden ray full of murderous intent.

"Pluff!" The spear instantly pierced Li Qiye's head.

Time seemed to be frozen and became an image. The crowd stood there, stupefied.

The crafty move from the saber saint was unpredictable enough but Tang Hexiang's ambush took everyone like a storm.

[Chapter 2506: Sneak-attack](#)

The sudden thrust ended successfully in a tiny fraction of a second to the astonishment of the crowd. No one could regain their wits.

This was a fair duel between Li Qiye and the saber saint. Though the saint's last technique ended with something resembling subterfuge, it wasn't a sneak-attack but rather a crafty move.

One couldn't say the same about Tang Hexiang. He, as a spectator, got involved in the fight and took advantage of Li Qiye's weakness. Such action couldn't be construed as anything other than being despicable.

Of course, cultivators have always performed ambushes and sneak-attacks before in the past, just not in circumstances like this one.

Tang Hexiang was a genius of Nine Secrets and arguably the representative of War Saint Dynasty. Furthermore, he was the commander of the Imperial Guards. Each of his actions and words was influential and reflective of his moral conduct and reputation.

It was one thing to ambush a mortal enemy. However, Li Qiye was still the king of War Saint busy in a duel. Taking advantage of this moment was utterly contemptible, inappropriate to his status and position. This move would always be criticized, a permanent stain.

"What the hell are you doing?!" The saber saint was greatly affected. The duel has been ruined by Hexiang.

"Saber Saint, I'm simply lending you a hand to avoid further complications." Hexiang smirked.

Li Qiye was too big of a threat so he didn't want the guy to have a chance to breathe.

"You're nothing! I don't need someone like you to get involved in my fight!" The saber saint's saber intent intensified while his voice became aggressive.

A genius like the saber saint hated people interfering with his fights the most!

Tang Hexiang naturally didn't take this in stride. He always believed that the two of them were on the same level, but the saber saint clearly didn't think so! He took this as a great insult.

"Your Majesty!" Liu Chuqing nearly fainted from shock. She composed herself and rushed forward.

"Junior Sister..." The saber saint didn't know what to say. It was one thing if he were to defeat Li Qiye himself but the ambush had stained the duel, leaving him in a difficult spot.

"Your Majesty..." She grabbed him as tears poured out.

"Pop." A bizarre event occurred. Li Qiye was still in her embrace but another him came out from his body, almost like a shedding process.

After the second one came out, the first one disappeared with a spatial fluctuation.

The crowd was stunned again and again, realizing that it wasn't a shedding process but he has always been there - just in another dimension. Both the saber saint and Tang Hexiang failed to hurt him.

"Silly girl, don't cry. No one in this world can kill me and those feeble laws can't hurt me." He hugged her back and wiped away the tears.

She leaned deep into his chest and tightened her grip, afraid of losing him.

The saber saint heaved a sigh of relief since Li Qiye being alive was good for him. If Li Qiye were to die, he would lose the joy of victory on top of feeling guilty towards his Junior Sister.

“The Path of the Ghost is a bit interesting once you become an Eternal, but the current you is still too young.” Li Qiye chuckled and said.

The saber saint smiled wryly and sighed: “I humbly accept my defeat.”

He had no intention of going again, aware that Li Qiye didn’t go all out and was only playing around. Otherwise, after three moves, he would be lying on the ground already. He knew the great disparity between the two of them, virtually impossible for him to ever catch up.

He found the rumors of the king being useless and idiotic to be hilarious. The world actually considered a being who viewed them as mere insects to be useless?

At the same time, he became excited for his Junior Sister. It looked like she has chosen the right person.

“This so-called genius from War Saint is but a despicable fool, not worth worrying about.” Li Qiye glanced towards Tang Hexiang and chuckled.

All eyes turned towards Hexiang. Though the crowd didn’t say anything, their expression revealed plenty.

No one was perfect, but the sneak-attack earlier betrayed his status and position.

Hexiang grimaced, overwhelmed with embarrassment from the spotlight. If he were successful earlier, then it would be just fine since the victor takes it all; his goal would be achieved. Who cares what others say by that point?

But now, this became a terrible mistake for him.

“Come out and fight, I will have your dog head today!” The saint pointed his saber at Hexiang.

He was truly furious since he had a fair duel with Li Qiye. The outcome didn’t matter since losing was part of life. Even the greatest warrior would eventually lose.

However, Hexiang suddenly interrupted their fight. Others might even think that he and Hexiang were conspiring together. This would be a stain on his reputation in the future. Thus, the only way to quell his anger was to quell Hexiang.

“Saber Saint, we have the same enemy, that’s why I helped you out of goodwill...” Hexiang forced a smile and said.

“Shut up!” The saint interrupted Hexiang and didn’t hold back: “We do not have the same enemy since you’re not qualified to be on the same side as me, come out to accept your death!”

“Clang.” His saber hymned again with impressive murderous intent.

The saber saint didn’t give Hexiang any face at all, causing Hexiang to have an ugly grimace. They were both young and he was the commander of the Imperial guards; they were equals in his mind.

Meanwhile, Qin Jianyao shook her head. Though she didn't want to kick a man while he's down, Hexiang was too despicable and asked for this. If it was a different matter, she would try to mediate but not something like this.

The spectators became excited again. The saber saint was being aggressive but as a ninth-level True God, he was qualified to act in this manner.

Someone like Tang Hexiang still had a way to go before catching up.

"Saber Saint, you're being serious right now?" Hexiang uttered coldly.

The saint snorted: "You think I'm afraid of you? Go ahead and call for backups, my Waterfront Pavilion has never been afraid of trouble."

Hexiang gripped his spear tightly again, thinking about killing. His goal wasn't the saint but rather Li Qiye. He still had hidden aces up his sleeve but the saint was making this difficult. Of course, he couldn't back out right now since he had reached the limit of his patience due to the saint's overbearing manner.

[Chapter 2507: Worm](#)

As a genius of Nine Secrets, he had both power and backings, why should he be afraid of the saber saint?

"Saber Saint, you better think twice. It is not wise to oppose me." The murderous intent in his eyes reddened.

"Stop blabbering, come out now." The saint's saber intent intensified as well. He wanted to kill Hexiang regardless of the guy's backings.

The saint wasn't a nice person. During his journeys, once he had made up his mind, he had killed people regardless of their background and sect.

The crowd thought that in a one-on-one fight, they would naturally pick the saber saint as the victor.

After all, one was a ninth-level True God while the other was only at the fifth-level. The power gap indicated a boring match.

However, Tang Hexiang didn't seem like he was looking for a duel. Thus, people became curious about what he had hiding in his sleeves.

"Hmph." He scowled, not wanting to back off like a coward.

"Alright, you can back off." As the atmosphere between those two became quite tense, Li Qiye suddenly waved the saint off and said: "His dog life is mine, just stand there and watch."

The saber saint glared at Hexiang before uttering: "Consider yourself lucky today." Having said that, he sheathed his saber and stood to the side.

Hexiang was very annoyed right now, being treated as a non-factor by the saint. How could he be feeling good after being shown such contempt?

Li Qiye turned towards Hexiang and chuckled: "How do you want to die? If you want an easy death, then kill yourself. If I have to do it myself, it won't be pretty, your corpse will be a mess."

Hexiang was about to explode, being looked down upon by the saint and now Li Qiye too? Though he realized how strong Li Qiye was, he still couldn't contain his anger.

"You think you're invincible?" His eyes spewed out fury.

"That's right, I'm invincible." Li Qiye said while looking around at the crowd: "Anyone who thinks they can challenge me, come, I'll show you how unbeatable I am."

Even a True Emperor wouldn't dare to make this declaration but the king had just done so to the rest of the world.

People smiled wryly. This king hasn't changed at all. When he was weak, they assumed that he was an idiot. But now, after realizing he was strong, they only had one word to describe him - insane.

His nature hasn't changed at all, only the perspective used to view him.

"What now? Going to be a coward like earlier again? Unfortunately, that still won't save you." He turned back towards Hexiang.

If Hexiang didn't dare to fight right now, his reputation and prestige would be in shambles. Even if he were to somehow become king in the future, many people wouldn't be convinced by him.

Hexiang took a deep breath and glared back: "Very well. I am a general versed in leading troops into battle, adept in formation and strategi-..."

"Stop, no need to be indirect." Li Qiye interrupted him: "Just say that you want to go with your group, what is this about leading the troops to battle nonsense."

Hexiang turned a little red. He was indeed trying to come up with an excuse to go together with his men.

After all, he knew full well that he couldn't match Li Qiye in a duel. His biggest card right now was his men but he couldn't blatantly say it.

"100, 1,000 men, or your entire legion, whatever, even the six entire legions too. I, alone, am more than enough." Li Qiye nonchalantly smiled: "Of course, it's best if all six of your legions come together so I can save time, not needing to deal with them one by one."

The crowd shuddered after hearing this nonchalant statement. They could smell the stench of blood in the air wafting by their nose.

They suddenly saw an illusion - Li Qiye waving his hand and massacred the six legions. Millions of troops fell to the ground; bones piled as mountains and rivers overflowed with blood.

They suddenly believed that Li Qiye could actually carry it out. The six legions would have a hard time escaping this disaster once he made up his mind.

"That's why a tyrant like you lost the trust of the people, why all your friends and followers have abandoned..." Hexiang coldly responded.

“Stop preaching.” Li Qiye interrupted again: “I don’t need to hear this from a worm. It’s time to call for help or I’ll kill you right away.”

Hexiang’s expression became extremely unsightly. He roared: “Start the formation, we’ll see what he can do today!”

“Clang!” With this order, the group behind him immediately stepped up and organized themselves.

“Buzz.” Once they took out their diagram, a great formation with intertwining runic lines appeared beneath their feet.

Hexiang leaped back into the center of the formation. With a buzz, numerous laws floated around him. The formation’s majestic power gathered on his body.

Some people rolled their eyes at this sight.

“How strange.” One quietly murmured.

“What about it?” His friend asked.

“You don’t notice it?” The person said: “This group isn’t part of the Imperial Guards; they’re the elites of the Central Legion, mainly the old soldiers from the Ma. But look at this formation, so smooth and well-practiced, not a hasty measure at all.”

The ones nearby became surprised and carefully pondered this little detail. Remember, the ones with Hexiang right now were the elites of the Central Legion, not his own group.

These two legions were far off from each other, so how could Hexiang be working so well with these elites? This teamwork required practice and experience, impossible to be done this well during their first attempt.

“Well, remember now, Lucidity King was on his deathbed for a long time.” One ancestor flew closer and chimed in.

The group understood right away. After the king’s death, who was the most likely candidate for the throne of War Saint? Clearly Tang Hexiang.

This implied that Hexiang and the Central Legion have been scheming for a long time. That’s why they could work so well right now.

“Boom!” Tang Hexiang started growing bigger and bigger. The members of the formation also fused into the array, turning into a large shield in his hand.

“Rumble!” Eventually, he was the size of a mountain, wearing the sky on his head and trampling on the ground with his feet.

The clouds only reached his waist and the lake water only managed to reach his calves.

[Chapter 2508: Using Nature Power](#)

Tang Hexiang stood there holding a great shield, looking as mighty as an ocean. The spear in his hand also became larger, almost resembling a golden dragon. Just a casual swing seemed enough to destroy the myriad dao.

Tang Hexiang looked awe-inspiring as he looked down on the world, seemingly untouchable.

“Li, come fight now!” He proudly declared with eyes shining like divine lamps hanging in the sky. He looked down and they emitted rays like two waterfalls.

He purposely released his divinity so his aura resembled a sea drowning out the area.

“How strong is he right now?” Someone murmured.

Though they couldn’t exactly gauge his power level, they could tell that he was far stronger after this array fusion. He wielded the power of the elites from Central Legion - their vitality and true energy as well.

Not only that, he had become one with the shield-shaped formation. Not to mention his own power boost allowing him to become a giant, the formation itself was quite formidable. All in all, he had an insane surge in fighting potential.

“Hard to say, shouldn’t be weaker than a ninth-level True God, but I don’t know if he’s above an Eternal right now. That’s a tough gate to get through, not that easily broken.” An ancestor stared at the Giant and said.

“Li, what are you waiting for?! Come out and die!” The majestic Hexiang shouted again with full confidence.

“You’re a clown for wanting to rebel with such meager abilities.” Li Qiye glanced briefly at the guy before concluding: “A piece of trash like you can still be considered a genius of War Saint is truly humiliating to the kingdom.”

“Do you dare to fight or not?!” Hexiang turned red and shouted.

“You think too highly of yourself.” Li Qiye smiled: “I can barely warm up fighting an ant like you. The saber saint is considerably stronger than you.”

Hexiang had enough of the continuous disdain: “Come if you dare, you can’t possibly comprehend my power.”

This made people glance at each other. Li Qiye’s might was as clear as day so why was Hexiang so confident still? Did he actually have something warranting this outrageous challenge against the king?

“Alright, let’s see what you have then.” Li Qiye smiled and made a move.

“Boom!” The casual wave lifted the water from the lakes. The entire volume rushed to the sky and became a tsunami.

“Ra!” The aura of a dragon surged like a storm, assaulting the entire area in a reckless manner.

Everyone looked up at the expanse of flashing golden light above and saw a massive dragon created by the lake water. The water had turned golden so this dragon also had a blinding shade of gold.

The body expanded for ten thousand miles, seemingly cast from gold. The scales, tendrils, and the sharp claws seemed so real as if it was an actual dragon. At the same time, its torrential aura spared nothing.

“That can’t be a real one, right?” The crowd was stunned by this magnificent scene.

“No, but it is very animated and vivid.” An ancestor was impressed by the majestic draconic aura.

“No big deal, can’t reach the apex.” Tang Hexiang looked down on this art. In his eyes, turning water into a dragon was child’s play. No matter how perfect the art might look, it was only impressive in appearance and couldn’t possess that much power.

“Ra!” The dragon seemed to have intelligence and understood Tang Hexiang. It answered with a vertical claw slash.

Just imagine the sheer size of this creature. Its claw came down like a golden Wuzhi Mountain. [1]

“Crack!” Space crumbled, resulting in a scene of glittering glass fragments falling down.

“Boom!” The power of this strike shocked Tang Hexiang. He hastily raised his shield to block it.

The terrorizing force made his monstrous body take several steps back and trampled a mountain.

The dragon didn’t stop and slashed again, leaving two deep scars on the ground. The earth seemed to be as fragile as tofu before its might.

Everyone took a deep breath, astonished. No one expected for this golden dragon to be so powerful.

“Die!” Hexiang grimaced. All of this effort to grow this strong yet he was forced back by some lake water? Quite a humiliating result.

Though he was indeed underestimating his enemy, the dragon showed its capabilities with the first blow.

“Clank!” Hexiang’s spear became resplendent, acting as another golden dragon baring its fangs. In this split second, he unleashed a thrust with a deafening hymn pricking everyone’s eardrums.

The light of the spear gathered together into something incomparably sharp and faster than lightning. It also pierced through the sky and left a permanent scar.

The dragon didn’t let up, clawing directly forward to meet the thrust.

“Boom!” The shockwave crushed the area with gigantic fiery sparks, akin to the eruption of a thousand volcanoes.

During this contest of strength, Hexiang slammed his shield mercilessly in a simple yet effective manner. The shield contained immense weight and power, resulting in a black hole.

The dragon blocked the destructive slam by swinging its tail but the impact was great enough to make the beast flip around three times in the sky.

“Limitless Spear Ocean!” Hexiang roared and swung his spear vertically down. The light of the spear drowned out the dragon and restricted it.

“Boom!” The dragon struggled to withstand this ocean of spears. At the same time, He slammed his spear with a meteoric force right on its head, successfully taking it down.

The dragon fell into the lake, resulting in massive waves that propelled the beast upward again. Once it fell down for the second time, it was forced back to its original form - turning into the lake water again.

“Splash!” The surface of the lake raged wildly but the majestic draconic aura and the beast were no longer present.

There was no doubt that Hexiang had successfully subdued the beast.

[Chapter 2509: One Move](#)

This victory from Tang Hexiang earned him some admiration from the crowd. They were shaken by his current power.

“Definitely strong, perhaps enough to fight against Eight Formation True Emperor, unlike most others.” One expert said sentimentally.

Although his despicable sneak-attack earned him the contempt of the spectators earlier, they had to admit that this lowly man was quite powerful.

“Clank!” Hexiang pointed his spear straight at Li Qiye and looked down with an arrogant smile: “Such meager skills aren’t worth showing off.”

All eyes were on Li Qiye now. Of course, most didn’t think the king would lose since he was simply unfathomable. They were only curious about his next move.

“Shamelessly boasting when that’s all you got? Very well, behold what I can do.” Li Qiye smiled and slowly stood up.

“The king is finally getting serious now.” Everyone watched as he stood up with their eyes wide open. They didn’t want to miss a single action from him.

Hexiang was annoyed to see the attention the king was getting. In the past, he was the one in the spotlight, not this terrible king!

“The king is unfathomable, he’s about to shock everyone.” An ancestor said with a serious expression.

Someone else quietly brought up: “How many moves can Hexiang handle?”

“I’m guessing, around five. He’s fused with that formation so it’s not just his own power. Those elites are there too.” A young expert replied.

“Five moves? You think too highly of him. The saber saint gave up after three moves, and I don’t see how this guy is stronger than the saber saint who is a real ninth-level True God, and a strong one at that.” A different genius disagreed.

Hexiang naturally heard the comments as well so his face became quite ugly. Previously, whenever he made a move, everyone would be talking about how amazing he was as a genius and how they wanted to see his amazing techniques.

But now, it sounded as if he was so incapable. Others were actually looking down on him!

His eyes flashed with murderous intent as he threatened: "Li, don't think about leaving this place alive today!"

Li Qiye stood there and dismissively waved: "Got your fill of threats yet? If you're done, then get ready, once I make my move, you won't even have the chance to retaliate."

"Let's see what you got!" Hexiang angrily roared.

"Boom!" His true energy erupted straight to the sky like a pillar. This pulsing mass of energy seemed to be shooting straight to space.

He exuded an endless light. Layers of gold metal materialized on the shield and made it bigger and thicker.

"Ra!" Same with his dragon spear. It also grew in size to become a weapon capable of piercing the firmaments.

"Boom!" The world quaked once as he chose a stance with the shield blocking in front and the spear in the thrusting position, parallel to his waist.

This stance was perfect since it consisted of both offense and defense.

"It's about to happen, let's see how strong Hexiang is really." Some of the crowd praised him.

"Li, come now!" After gathering all of the true energy onto his body, he was confident in stopping a move or two from an Eternal.

Li Qiye smiled in response and flashed into nothingness. He was unreasonably fast and ended everything before the sound could catch up.

"Pop!" Space rippled from his speed exceeding all limits.

The realm trembled as time seemed to come to a halt.

Fear and nervousness permeated the spectators as they watched this still-image in disbelief - Li Qiye kneeling the gigantic shield.

It instantly collapsed and Tang Hexiang's gigantic body flipped over backward while vomiting blood.

"Boom!" A while later, the sound of the impact finally came about. Li Qiye had nearly exceeded time itself, creating an illusion of temporal stagnation and chaotic dimension.

Time began flowing again and the crowd finally captured these developments.

Hexiang landed on the lake, causing the entire mountain range to shake. Water splashed up everywhere like tidal waves before pouring down like rain.

He was floating on the surface; who knows if he was dead or alive?

Just a little while ago, people were still debating how many moves he could last. Some said five, others were less optimistic.

However, no one expected for the king to crush Hexiang's shield and knocked him down with a single knee. This truly rendered them speechless.

Bingchi Hanyu was terrified to the very soul by Li Qiye's power. This was the first time she had witnessed such a powerful man.

She thought that her fiance could sweep through the young generation, but this belief was being questioned right now. She felt the emperor being insignificant and weak while standing before Li Qiye.

Jianyao gently sighed, realizing that this story was over. The new king would be the ultimate supreme of Nine Secrets. He was only playing around earlier.

In this system, regardless of how brilliant and powerful one might be, they were just chess pieces on his board.

The saber saint forced a wry smile. Li Qiye was just toying with him earlier, showing mercy by letting him slash three times first. If Li Qiye were serious, he wouldn't have been able to block a single move. Just one slash was enough to split him in two.

Though he wasn't an arrogant person, he was certainly proud. Unfortunately, all of his achievements so far were trivial, virtually nothing compared to the king.

[Chapter 2510: Dumbstruck](#)

The crowd stood there dumbfounded with their mouth agape.

"See how ridiculous you are? Boasting with such meager power?" Li Qiye nonchalantly said, posing with both hands behind his back as if he hasn't moved at all.

People actually felt that he wasn't the one who attacked earlier. They eventually regained their wits and stared at him, shuddering and feeling their hair standing on end. They exchanged glances - the power of the king far exceeded their imagination and judgment.

"What is his cultivation realm? An untouchable Eternal?" Someone quietly speculated.

This made people ponder since they had no information about his cultivation. There was no way to find out either.

"I don't think anyone in the young generation is his match." The normally-prideful geniuses all lowered their head, not daring to look at him.

"It looks like the late king was wise and insightful for passing the throne down to the prince. He must have known that the prince would be able to handle this." One ancestor commented.

Prior to this, everyone thought that Lucidity King had grown senile or was too doting towards his illegitimate child. However, in retrospect, he was perfectly clear-headed and had chosen the right successor for Nine Secrets.

They realized the gap between themselves and Lucidity King. There was a reason why he was able to reign for three generations.

“How does he compare to Lucidity King?” Many shared this particular thought.

They wondered who was the stronger between Li Qiye and Lucidity.

During his era, Lucidity’s prestige suppressed the entire system. No one dared to be disrespectful towards him so comments and evaluations weren’t readily available. After his death, people began to assess his actual power and contributions. So now, they compared him to this new king.

“Maybe he’ll be a second Lucidity King.” Someone else said.

Certain members of the crowd were shaken after hearing this and needed to take a deep breath. No one dared to respond.

Just imagine, Lucidity King helped make Nine Secrets into one of the strongest systems in Imperial. Only the Li and Mu Clan were on the same level.

However, this wasn’t a good thing for the sects and lineages within the system. They had to live in terror because of Lucidity’s total authority, always being under his shadow. A second Lucidity King was something frightening to think about.

“Splash!” Their rumination was interrupted by splashes and flood-like waves.

The floating Tang Hexiang struggled to get up. He was as big as an ocean so he created large waves from the attempt.

He finally made it with the help of his spear. The spear’s weight made the ground shake as if something extremely heavy was knocking on it.

The guy stood upright, showing wounds and broken armor plates everywhere. The shield in his hand was in pieces.

Blood flowed down the corners of his lips, looking as pitiful as can be, no longer as imperious as before.

“He’s up!” Someone shouted.

Everyone felt that he had already lost. Wanting to reverse the tide was virtually impossible unless he had a real killer move up his sleeve.

Jianyao gently shook her head while looking at him. Though he could still stand up, she knew that the outcome has been determined. No one could change the overarching direction. Trying to go against the current was only a waste of energy.

Instead of struggling needlessly before death, if Hexiang were smart enough to surrender to Li Qiye, perhaps he would be able to keep his life.

“Boom! Boom! Boom!” Water poured down from his body resembling waterfalls.

After standing up, Hexiang straightened his back while arching his chest proudly forward - always arrogant and proud regardless of the circumstances.

After all, he came from the royal family of War Saint Dynasty; the blood of nobility flowed through him. His conceitedness was understandable. Alas, he was knocked down today by someone he considered to be a perverted and useless king, nearly unable to get up.

This has crushed his pride in a cruel manner. Thus, he tried his best to stand straight in order to protect his dignity and face.

“You do have a bit of willpower to be able to stand up.” Li Qiye smiled and said: “I thought you would stay down.”

“Don’t celebrate so early, we don’t know who will be the last one smiling yet!” Hexiang shouted and let out his fiery fury.

“Is that so? Looks like you still have moves left then. Go ahead, use them all, I’m waiting.” Li Qiye stood there and said.

“Boom!” Hexiang released his true energy straight for the sky again, trying to connect with the heaven and earth.

“Buzz.” A great formation appeared with dense coordinate lines appearing. Ancient lines emerged above and beneath him, beginning to change and fuse together.

After a loud explosion, the formation exuded a blinding light. Light rays from the stars poured down and illuminated Hexiang as if they were being attracted by the formation.

“Rumble!” The pulsing cosmic energy turned him into the center of the universe. The stars seemed to be rotating around him.

“Boom!” Finally, the stars entered his body. Each inch of his flesh became resplendent, seemingly cast from these celestial bodies.

The massive power surge eventually formed two large wings of fire behind him.

“Clank! Clank! Clank!” The shattered shield and armor came into form again.

He was fully equipped with a flashing glow around him - looking more radiant and powerful than before.

“He’s stronger now.” Everyone was startled to see him fine and well.

“That shield might have been broken earlier, but not his formation.” An ancestor understood the events and explained: “Looks like he and the Central Legion has fused to the limit. This teamwork must have taken a long time to perfect.”

Tang Hexiang pointed his spear at Li Qiye and roared: “Again!”

He was brimming with battle intent and vitality once more, looking quite intimidating. He believed that he was too careless earlier and didn't prepare sufficiently. He wasn't going to repeat this mistake.

"Foolish beyond words. Do you think using this formation to the extreme can stop me? Know your own limits." Li Qiye smirked after his patient wait.