

Emperor 2611

[Chapter 2611: One Slap](#)

“Such ridiculousness!” The merchant kept on laughing since he didn’t know how to react.

Though he was willing to see Li Qiye antagonize the entire world, he still didn’t like the current humiliating treatment so he shouted: “Our Trade Federation swears to not exist together with you, we will destroy you for Imperial’s sake, so that it can enjoy a clear sky...”

A few experts here almost burst out in laughter but managed to stop themselves.

Just a few moments ago, he was blood sacrificing mortals. Though he wasn’t a devil, he was just as cruel as one.

But now, he shifted to the side of justice? Acting as the defender of Imperial?

Such hilarious irony, almost like a butcher suddenly becoming a vegetarian.

“I’m about to puke. Shut your mouth now, don’t spew that nauseating crap here.” Li Qiye waved his hand and interrupted the merchant.

Some of the crowd gave the merchant the side-eye. Though they were still annoyed at Li Qiye, the merchant’s comment just now wasn’t pleasant at all.

If he considered himself to be a hero, then everyone else was practically saints.

The merchant quivered with anger. If it was anyone else, he would have already slapped the guy’s face off then crush him to death. Unfortunately, Li Qiye was far superior to him.

“Very well, I shall destroy your trash federation now.” Li Qiye casually said as if he could destroy the famous alliance with a hand wave.

“Such shameless boasting. No one in the present day dares to make this claim.” A roar came about since Green-robed Heavenly Merchant was too angry to respond.

“Boom!” Four beams of aura shot out of Mingluo. Four old men leaped into the sky and came to the scene.

It was as if four primal beasts were awakening. They instantly suppressed the area. Each step of theirs stomped on the heart.

“Boom!” People found it hard to breathe in their presence.

They carried an oceanic momentum and looked quite unbeatable. One was gray all over; another had a golden horn...

“Whitebeard Heavenly Merchant, Golden-horn Heavenly Merchant....” Someone shouted after seeing them.

All five heavenly merchants were present - quite a rare and magnificent scene.

After all, they came from different systems and usually presided over their own areas. They rarely gathered in the same place. This was enough to represent the Trade Federation's stance on this matter.

This was the federation's strongest Eternals outside of Venerable Deer Merchant. One would need to think twice before fighting them.

One person quietly said: "No one can take the five of them on with the exception of Lucidity King, Gu Yifei, and maybe Venerable Deer Merchant himself."

These were the toughest Eternals during their respective days. Though they weren't born in the same generation, their power was quite similar.

"Yes, I heard they have fought against Venerable Deer Merchant before. Though no one knew the outcome of the fight, people believe that only those like Lucidity King and the merchant can take them down. That's another reason why the five merchants are so loyal towards Venerable Deer Merchant." One ancestor said.

"The deer merchant is special indeed. Aged and weakened yet he's still at the top of Imperial." People felt respectful towards him.

Rumor has it that he was the oldest Eternal in Imperial. One rumor stated that during his prime, Lucidity King lost to him by a single move.

Later on, his vitality withered but he could still take on Lucidity King.

In the present, most believed that these two were on the same level but during their prime, the merchant was most likely stronger.

Of course, one needed to bring Gu Yifei in as well. This person might be the strongest in Imperial, even above the other two.

"I wonder if Jade-break and Puresword True Emperor can handle these five." Another added.

"Jade-break True Emperor can for sure, but I don't know about Puresword True Emperor." Her supporters were present in the crowd.

"Utter rubbish!" Fans of Puresword True Emperor immediately disagreed. The two sides started going at it.

"Hmph!" The four merchants released their auras straight at Li Qiye, wanting to take him down. Their scowl in union erupted thunderously.

"What an arrogant junior, daring to look down on the alliance on top of opposing the entire world." An old man with a golden horn said.

"Perfect, all of you are here now." Li Qiye said: "This will save me some time from looking for you one at a time."

The four merchants' expression became ugly.

"We'll cut you to pieces today." The gray-haired man furiously declared.

Li Qiye's body suddenly flashed. In the blink of an eye, there were four, no, five of him in the sky.

Four of them stood in front of the four merchants while the last one remained in the same spot. This last one might be Li Qiye's true body.

"Watch it!" Green-robed Heavenly Merchant warned his friends right away. He had experienced Li Qiye's power already so prudence was the right choice.

In fact, his friends felt the same way and instantly seized the initiative.

"Break!" They had an unspoken understanding and combined their powers, resulting in a divine seal crashing down towards Li Qiye.

"Boom!" The world quaked before their might. Everyone felt as if the ground was sinking. Numerous cracks appeared all over the city.

The spectators shuddered at this impressive first move. It looked like this wasn't their first time working together. They had methods for taking down someone individually stronger than them.

Completely useless. This divine seal shattered from a single slap.

Everyone saw the four being swatted away while vomiting blood. Next, they loudly slammed into the ground and created four huge pits with cracks emanating from them.

Li Qiye seemed able to deal with any technique. Even the four merchants lost to a single slap.

Only one Li Qiye was standing in the sky, as relaxed and leisure as always.

In fact, there weren't five Li Qiye earlier. His speed was unbelievably fast so his remnant images remained in the air and confused the crowd.

The crowd gazed at the four pits and became empty-headed.

[Chapter 2612: Fear](#)

People quivered and gasped for breath after seeing Li Qiye swatting away the four merchants.

They were stronger than the ten Vajras by quite a bit yet they still couldn't stop one move from Li Qiye.

Green-robed Heavenly Merchant was stunned. Not being able to stop a single move from Li Qiye himself was already humiliating, but his group together couldn't do so either. This result struck him to the core.

It was one thing for the ten Vajras to lose since they weren't the strongest group in Imperial Lineage. But it was another issue for the five merchants to lose. One would be hard-pressed to find a stronger group compared to them.

"Simply unfathomable, there is no limit to his height." An ancient ancestor murmured while becoming truly afraid, believing that no one else in Imperial could take Li Qiye.

"No different from ants..." The crowd was frozen. Some people started repeating this line.

Prior to this, the Trade Federation viewed the natives as ants and did whatever they wanted. In fact, many experts here shared the same thoughts. The lives of the natives weren't worth a single coin in their mind.

Alas, they suddenly had the realization that they were no different from the natives in Li Qiye's eyes. Just a wave from him could push them off the edge. This self-realization was frustrating and left them with a primal fear.

"Boom!" Debris went flying. The four merchants jumped out of the pits, looking just as battered as Green Heavenly Merchant earlier.

This was the most embarrassing moment in their lives since they were used to dominating in the past and earning the worship and reverence of others. Losing to one strike was unbearable right now.

"Not bad, still alive or people would become hopeless. Four powerful Eternals losing to a single strike? That's absurd. No one else in the young generation will have any ambition afterward." Many experts heaved a sigh of relief.

The four merchants were bloodied and tattered, but at the very least, they were still alive. People would drown in despair otherwise because no one else in Imperial could kill them with a single move.

A being capable of this would be truly unbeatable and could suppress all of Imperial Lineage. Others would never have the chance to shine at that point.

Despite surviving the strike, the four merchants were pale. They exchanged glances with fear within.

After all, they had a good idea of their own power. Though Green Heavenly Merchant didn't join in, that combination earlier was plenty strong. Yet, they still lost. They couldn't imagine anyone else in Imperial capable of defeating them in a single strike.

In a one on one contest, doing so wasn't impossible, but not when the four of them were together.

All five took one step backward while thinking the same thing - run.

Venerable Deer Merchant wasn't here and the five of them couldn't take Li Qiye. Running was the wisest move.

They were experienced and have grown through conflicts and danger, no longer possessing youthful recklessness.

However, they were the strongest ancestors of their respective sect - representing its reputation. Thus, they couldn't run or they would spend the rest of their lives being sneered at by others.

"Sir, we have a misunderstanding. It's better to drop than make a feud. We weren't considerate this time so we will obey you and leave Mingluo with haste." Green-robed Heavenly Merchant said.

No one expected the five merchants to give up so easily. They were aggressive and imperious just a while ago but have now conceded in the time it takes to drink a cup of tea.

These five have never been afraid of people, especially after the federation establishment. This gave them quite a strong backing, allowing them to stand tall against the three behemoths. So now, his surrender came as a surprise.

“An old ginger is even hotter.” An expert admitted: “These five when to push and when to pull, such sly foxes, able to put their face aside. The ten Vajras were the opposite so look at them now, all dead.”

“It’s fine to give up anyway against such a powerful foe. What’s the point of fighting to the death? It’s not like there is an irreconcilable feud.” One ancestor quietly said.

Of course, this ancestor was also speaking on his own behalf. Since the five merchants have lost, it was understandable for them to be afraid of Fiercest as well.

“Isn’t it too late to think about giving up now?” Li Qiye said insipidly.

Green-robed Heavenly Merchant’s expression was quite awkward. A public surrender was humiliating enough but Li Qiye was pressing on too?

“Not too late.” He smiled wryly and put on a thick-skinned act: “We get to know each other by fighting. To be in the presence of a character like you is an honor, sir. Your actions are admirable and put us to shame. This world already belongs to the young generation...”

“Haha...” Some were caught off guard to see this ancestor flattering Li Qiye in this manner and began to laugh at his shamelessness.

Just a while ago, he was imperious and glorious, treating everyone else like dirt. Now, he had no choice but to become a sycophant.

All eyes were on Li Qiye now. In their opinion, he has achieved his goal - saving the natives on top of besting the five merchants. This earned him great fame.

Such achievements were unreachable for most masters. There was no need to push it any further, might as well just accept the sentiment.

[Chapter 2613: Carrot And Stick](#)

“Unfortunately, there is no medicine for regrets. There is only one ending today - all of you will die.” Li Qiye didn’t accept.

The crowd clamored after hearing this while the five merchants became alarmed.

Everyone thought Fiercest would let this go instead of killing them. Who would have thought that he would give up on a free debt and chose to do it the extreme way?

“That’s domineering.” One expert gave Li Qiye a thumbs-up. Justice-seekers rarely went so far so many issues were usually smoothed out.

“He’s too unreasonable. Why go so far instead of leaving some room for the future?” A few disagreed.

They felt that the merchants have given up and this should be the end of it. It’s not like Fiercest was losing anything by letting them go.

The five merchants were having a terrible time. Accepting defeat was already humiliating enough, but now, Fiercest still wasn't letting this go. This was a ruthless slap to their face when they were already bowing their head.

"Junior, you are pushing us too far!" Golden-horn Heavenly Merchant couldn't help but shout.

They knew they couldn't beat him but this bullying act was intolerable.

Li Qiyechuckled in response: "Did you think you were going too far when performing the blood sacrifices?"

The five merchants had no response, only able to cast a glance at each other.

"Sir, please don't be angry." Whitebeard Heavenly Merchant cupped his fist: "Our federation has no existing feud with you. Drop the issue today and we'll be more than happy to have a friend like you and will assist you in the future. No need to escalate the issue over some ants. We'll pay for any damage and more."

This proposal was more than enough for the crowd. The merchants were agreeing to pay Li Qiye on top of surrendering.

Remember, they were the strongest alliance right now in Imperial. Only the three behemoths could top them.

Whitebeard Heavenly Merchant has made a public statement about helping Li Qiye in the future, so he must do so later on.

Numerous people wanted this promise from them since they were strong backers. One could even get virtually unlimited resources. This condition was similar to a free pie falling from the sky.

No one could say no to this favorable condition.

"He'll say yes, only a fool would refuse such benefits over some ants." One spectator said.

This was indeed the truth. How many people would refuse over some weak strangers? Only a fool.

Wu Youzheng and Lin Yixue became nervous, aware of how tempting this offer was.

Youzheng had lived long enough to know that even lifelong enemies could make up when there was ample benefit. He wouldn't blame Li Qiye for accepting this truce either. Plus, he had already saved the natives.

Li Qiye had no mission to avenge the fallen natives so why should he escalate the issue with the Trade Federation? He himself would pick this offer.

Li Qiye said: "Ants? As I have said before, you all are no different than them in my eyes, I'm not killing you for vengeance, only because you're an eyesore."

The crowd became stunned while exchanging glances.

"Is he mad or foolish? Why would he do this?" Someone said. Even a fool would know to accept the favorable offer when presented in this manner.

“That’s why he’s Fiercest.” An ancestor sentimentally said.

“It’s insane, no one else can match him in this.” Another sighed in response. Refusing this offer from the merchant required great power and resolution.

Yixue started crying after hearing Li Qiye’s response. She suddenly thought that he was the most incredible man she has ever seen!

The five merchants didn’t know what to do. Green-robed Heavenly Merchant’s surrender was quite good already, but Whitebeard Heavenly Merchant’s offer was even better. They were confident that no one could refuse their offer. Was the guy foolish or insane?

“Sir, what do you want then? As long as you are willing to drop this, just tell us what you want and we will do our best.” Whitebeard Heavenly Merchant spoke with a serious tone.

All they wanted to do was leave this place alive right now. Thus, they needed to satisfy him since escaping was impossible.

“I just want your heads and I’ll drop the matter with your Trade Federation, not destroying it.” Li Qiye said in a casual manner to the astonishment of the crowd.

“Do you think our federation can’t stop you?!” Golden-horn Heavenly Merchant shouted once more.

“Alright, no more wasting breath. Go together, this is your last chance. If you can survive, then you get to stay alive. If not, then blame yourselves for being weak.” Li Qiye waved his sleeve.

The crowd smiled wryly. This might be the most insane person they have ever met - wanting to kill the five merchants over what amounts to basically nothing.

The five merchants were furious but it was hard to show this anger when they were clearly weaker. They knew that a combination strike at full force still wasn’t enough to kill Li Qiye.

But now, fleeing meant a quicker death. At their level, losing their battle intent would make them even more susceptible to someone stronger.

“Fine, let’s do it the hard way then. We’ll go down together!” Green-robed Heavenly Merchant no longer gave a damn.

“I’ll be perfectly fine, don’t think so highly of yourself.” Li Qiye chuckled at the comment.

The five merchants seethed with rage. It seemed that this man would always hold them in contempt.

[Chapter 2614: Kingdom Of Gods](#)

“Junior, have it your way!” The five merchants made up their mind and started floating higher.

They made a circle, seemingly creating a large confinement around Li Qiye. They had no choice but to go all out just once, leaving it all to fate.

Accepting defeat didn’t work. Negotiating didn’t either. What more could they do? Getting on their knees and prostrating was too much for them to handle.

People of their level required face and prestige. Even if complete subservience could save them, they would still choose against it.

Plus, they have experienced enough things in their lives. Dying here wouldn't leave them with many regrets.

"Buzz." This circular formation from them seemed to be cutting the nearby spatial zone apart into a separate dimension.

The area continuously rippled like water as they become ethereal, seemingly melting with space.

"Creak." A great gate began to open in this separate dimension. There seemed to be a hidden world in the sky.

The ancient gate slowly opened to reveal an entirely new kingdom before the crowd.

"Rumble!" Loud blasts resounded as a majestic power rushed out, akin to an endless primordial flood.

Everyone's eyes brightened due to a gradually rising sun. It was more blinding than anything and made people close their eyes. The kingdom behind the gate was full of divinity and brilliance, making observing quite difficult.

"What is that?" Someone barely saw the kingdom in the sky through the blinding light.

Multiple great figures emerged in this kingdom. They were as big as mountains so others had no choice but to look up at them.

They resembled stone statues yet not due to their divinity and gave everyone the feeling of possessing actual flesh.

"Look, aren't those five figures at the front the five merchants?" Someone observed carefully and shouted.

These figures lined up in a triangular formation - fewer in the front and more in the back.

The person at the very front was an old man with gray hair holding a walking stick made from deer antlers. Behind him were five figures - the five merchants. [1]

Further to the back were numerous experts lining up; all at the Eternal level. In other words, anyone below this realm wasn't qualified to be standing here.

"It's the entire Trade Federation! Look, that's Venerable Deer Merchant at the front!" Another yelled after getting a good look.

"They're all here in person? That's unreal, a dozen of Eternals or so, who will be able to stop them?" A young cultivator didn't fully grasp the situation.

The federation consisted of many reclusive ancestors. Their appearance together could even cause the three behemoths to feel dread.

Of course, it wasn't easy for all of them to gather in the same place since these Eternals were all over Imperial Lineage.

“No, the real bodies of the five Eternals are still over there, I believe those are just dao images.” Another youth disagreed, thinking that the figures in the kingdom weren’t real.

“The rumor is true.” One ancestor said.

“What rumor?” An expert became curious.

“The kingdom of the gods.” This ancestor elaborated: “After starting the federation, Venerable Deer Merchant summoned all the Eternals of the federation and created a dimension emulating an immortal realm. These Eternals left behind their arts and avatars, forever co-existing with this dimension.”

“An immortal realm? Is this true?” The crowd became startled.

“It’s one possibility.” This ancestor said: “Venerable Deer Merchant might have visited Immortal Lineage before on top of reaching the Everlasting World there. Of course, this is all hearsay, but apparently, this gave him enough insight to create this kingdom.”

“The Everlasting World? No one has been there before, it simply doesn’t exist.” Skepticism arose.

“This is only a speculation, who knows if it is true or not?” The ancestor replied: “Same with the deer merchant’s trip to Immortal Lineage.”

“No way because why would he come back, not to mention the difficulties in returning. The stronger the person, the harder it is.” Another expert added.

“However, he is indeed qualified to go there, given his powers. He just chose against doing so.” One more joined in.

The five merchants flew into the kingdom and fused with their figures.

“Boom!” The kingdom quaked from the fusion and became even more resplendent.

The aura of Eternals poured out in a boundless manner and drowned the area. A more frightening matter occurred. All of the Eternals inside this kingdom, whether it be Venerable Deer Merchant or anyone else, opened their eyes in this split second.

The entire kingdom has awakened. A while ago, it resembled a slumbering giant but no more. This explosive eruption could crush the firmaments.

“This is the real might of the federation. This kingdom can be opened anywhere by its members. Once fused with their own figures, it’ll wake up the kingdom. The more fusions, the more power.” This ancestor said.

“Since these Eternals have left behind various powers here, all of them being summoned together will result in something devastating. It’s definitely on the same level as the foundation of a system.” Another expert became startled.

“This is what makes the federation formidable.” The ancestor nodded.

“Junior, do you dare to come in here?” Green-robed Heavenly Merchant challenged. The five merchants have regained a sliver of confidence after waking up their kingdom.

The crowd glanced at Li Qiye. He would be walking into the tiger's den by doing so.

"Why not?" Li Qiye smiled and flew straight into the kingdom.

[Chapter 2615: Strong Resistance](#)

"Boom!" The figures exuded powerful forces to deal with the intruder.

They instantly surrounded Li Qiye while forming a great formation. All had a shining glow of an Eternal, especially the five merchants. Their radiance was brighter than the others as if they were sanctified, seemingly made of gold.

'Buzz.'" Pillars of light from above descended on the figures inside the kingdom. With this infusion of power, it seemed that these beings were actually here in person.

"Kill!" These figures began to rotate in a circle with increasing speed until they became mere shadows.

This torrential movement caused nonstop explosions. Weapons and treasures, incredible laws and techniques; all of these aimed for Li Qiye at the same time.

The five merchants and the rest disappeared and turned into a god with countless hands. Each hand had a different treasure and used a different technique with great profundity.

Li Qiye fell into this trap. All of his weak points became targets while his movements were sealed.

Moreover, it wasn't a random attack either. Each hand was perfectly coordinated and left no openings. It sealed all of his escape paths while aiming for the fatal meridians.

This was an ultimate blow resembling a tornado surrounding Li Qiye.

The spectators gasped in horror. No one could stop this barrage. Even ancestors would turn to ashes.

"All angles and coordinates are under siege. If Fiercest makes a move, he'll expose himself even more and the torrential forces will take advantage of this situation, turning him into a sieve. He needs to stay still." One ancestor knew that he couldn't stop this move.

"Buzz." Li Qiye remained motionless. A golden glow emerged around him.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!" The hands didn't wait and struck him at the same time. The entire dimension started trembling chaotically.

The unbelievable happened. All the moves and weapons connected but Li Qiye remained unharmed.

The sharp swords, heavy axes, and domineering punches... everything failed to harm his seemingly-cast-from-gold body. It was akin to a thousand eggs being thrown at a man adorned in full iron plates.

Li Qiye didn't vomit blood; his chest wasn't penetrated. He stood there, relaxed. Not even a strand of hair went missing. Moreover, the onslaught didn't manage to move him by an inch.

"How, how can this be?" The crowd became slack-jawed at his display of might again.

"Is this the mythical indestructible diamond form?" Some couldn't believe their own eyes.

Indestructible diamond form was a well-known belief yet impossible to obtain. Even the toughest beings could be hurt when meeting a stronger foe.

But now, Li Qiye was truly displaying this notion against the onslaught.

“My turn.” He smiled and moved his palms together, gathering a blinding light.

There seemed to be a million suns within his palms, culminating into the most dazzling brilliance.

“Boom!” The suns exploded at the same time and emitted a destructive shockwave.

“Rumble!” Cracks began to appear in this kingdom of the gods from the impact.

When people could see the inside of the kingdom, they saw figures being turned to scattering specks of dust.

The five merchants were blown flying with blood gushing everywhere. The shockwave nearly turned them into bloody mists.

“That’s insane.” The crowd trembled with fear.

“That move can easily destroy a sect, or even pierce through an entire system.” One ancestor turned pale.

“Ants have no great moves to speak of. Your attempt was futile.” Li Qiye patted the dust off his robe in a casual manner.

The merchants had nothing but fear and shock on their face. They didn’t expect to lose so fast in their independent dimension, and in such an utter manner as well.

“Damn it all!” They roared and started risking their lives.

“Buzz.” A mirror appeared inside the kingdom. It looked like the surface of a lake, only filled with blood instead of water.

Lost souls hovered around this mirror and wouldn’t dissipate. Thus, the mirror carried immense grudge and hatred, enough to tear the world apart.

“What is that?” Many shuddered before this terrible mirror.

“So many lives must have been refined to create this monstrous, no, forbidden weapon.” An ancestor saw the hint; his expression darkened.

“Your Trade Federation deserves death just for creating this mirror.” Li Qiye coldly uttered.

“We’ll see if you can survive to say that again!” Green-robed Heavenly Merchant roared.

Their vitality materialized into arcs streaming straight into the mirror.

“Zzz...” Their vitality naturally depleted, resulting in their body drying up. The mirror seemed to be sucking them dry.

“The merchants are using their lifespan now, gathering their longevity blood into the mirror. Looks like they won’t live for long even if they manage to defeat Fiercest.” An older master murmured.

This group was determined to take Li Qiye down with them.

[Chapter 2616: Forbidden Weapon](#)

The bloody mirror shot out a crimson ray after undergoing a monumental change from receiving the longevity blood of the merchants.

“Buzz.” It actually transformed into a rippling lake consisting of thick blood.

In the beginning, the spectators thought that the lake and blood were only an image or a derivative form. The influx of vitality has changed it to the real thing. Perhaps this was no mirror in the first place, just a lake of blood refined into a little mirror by a great technique.

A sanguine stench accompanied by deep hatred permeated the area. The lost souls began to lament and wail, seemingly chanting the most terrible curse in existence - aiming at all living beings.

“That’s, that’s horrifying.” The spectators trembled at this sight.

“A forbidden weapon refined from countless lives?” A junior almost lost control of his legs.

“I believe it might be more than one million people.” An ancestor said with a solemn expression.

The crowd took a deep breath. One million to refine this forbidden weapon - quite a ruthless deed.

They began to ponder. The federation consisted of many Eternals with powerful systems behind them, a dozen or so. No one would really notice if they capture one hundred thousand from each system.

After all, a powerful system was boundless. Some had ten thousand sects or more with billions and billions of living beings. One hundred thousand seemed like a tiny group in this sea of people.

“Maybe, just maybe, Venerable Deer Merchant started the federation with this plan in mind. Maybe it’s the whole purpose behind it.” Someone murmured.

This was a bold and frightening speculation.

Using several million people for the sake of refining an artifact within one system would definitely be noticed and be barraged with criticism. However, spreading it over a dozen systems? This made it more discrete.

More often than not, an all-out battle between sects would yield a higher number of casualties. This made it harder for anyone to learn about the federation’s weapon refinement attempt.

“Maybe this was only a test.” One old ancestor with knowledge of this creation process mused: “Since this was successful, they might try a higher number later. There is a legend that when one refines an entire world into a weapon, it will result in something unbeatable. I don’t know how legitimate it is.”

The crowd nearby shuddered after hearing this. If he was right, then this mirror was only an experiment. If successful, the federation might try refining even stronger ones.

At that point, they would require dozens or even hundreds of million lives, disguising it in one way or another within their systems.

Wars were common in Imperial. The destruction of a kingdom or sect was neither a small event nor a big deal. It would only give birth to some conversations and gossips around the world.

“That’s a terrible ambition.” One ancestor shuddered at the thought.

“Buzz.” While everyone was talking about the implication, the mirror exuded a bloody ray from the sky.

It instantly engulfed Li Qiye like a waterfall from above, pouring down in an unceasing manner. It looked more like a stream of liquid than a beam of light, seemingly inescapable once touched. It didn’t take long before Li Qiye was completely drowned out.

The entire process was extremely vast so even a fast cultivator couldn’t dodge.

Moreover, this was the kingdom of the gods. There was no running away from this dimension and the bloody mirror.

“He’s finished!” The five merchants became ecstatic.

They worried the most about Li Qiye leaving the kingdom before they could activate their mirror, or that he would use a heaven-defying method to dodge the light.

“We really did it!” They didn’t expect this to go so well, thinking that Li Qiye wouldn’t be able to escape from the light no matter how strong he is.

The beam slowly receded like a lake slowly losing its water. People finally saw Li Qiye, realizing that the missing light has infiltrated his body.

“Is this his counter?” Someone thought Li Qiye had devoured the bloody light.

“No.” Another expert startlingly said: “The light is the thing attacking him right now, crazily drilling into his body and bypassing his defense.”

“What will happen then? Will it refine him?” The first speaker said with astonishment.

“Boom!” The dimension quaked as if an invincible force was pressing down on it.

The space inside this dimension suddenly shrank at a rapid pace with Li Qiye at the center, seemingly wanting to crush him.

Moreover, the area was exuding increasing pressure on him too - invisible yet all-encompassing.

“Clank!” Metallic ringing happened inside him from the bloody light that got in earlier. They turned into laws wanting to seal him. Every fiber of his being was being affected.

The laws then started shrinking as well and wouldn’t stop until there was nothing left.

“Buzz.” A bizarre scene occurred. Everyone saw Li Qiye continuously shrinking, several ten thousand times smaller than before.

[Chapter 2617: Size Morphing](#)

Finally, he became the size of an ant to the astonishment of the crowd.

In the beginning, they thought this mirror would release a destructive strike or a brutal method, perhaps even a curse.

Who would have thought that this ray would shrink him down to the size of an ant?

People glanced at each other, thinking that this mirror was too bizarre.

“This bloody mirror is frightening indeed. It looks like a curse, a sure-kill move.” One expert commented with trepidation.

“It’s not just a curse but more like a seal. It wants to lock Li Qiye’s dao. Only by doing so would it be able to turn him into an ant.” One ancestor slowly said.

“Not just that.” A gray-hair ancestor added with a serious stare: “It looks like Lu Keweng’s experiment is a success. They will want to create an even more powerful forbidden weapon in the future. Don’t forget, they have plenty of systems to work with, an endless supply of materials.”

The crowd was horrified since he was obviously referring to people when he said “supply”. The higher the number, the more powerful the weapon would become.

The five merchants rejoiced at the successful attack. Golden-horn Heavenly Merchant laughed happily and praised: “Brother Lu sure is amazing, he’s the only one who can come up with this idea.”

“Yes, his vision is peerless.” Whitebeard Heavenly Merchant added.

“We have nothing to fear now with this weapon!” A different one laughed arrogantly.

They glanced at each other and started celebrating. An even bolder thought appeared in their mind.

Li Qiye was very strong and could easily take down the five of them together. However, he was still sealed by this forbidden weapon.

However, they could even create a stronger one. People were right - they used several million lives to refine this particular one.

Many members among them protested this idea because it was a big deal. Plus, the product might not be that powerful. People at their level already had plenty of weapons.

Now, this success fueled their ambition even more. Not to mention the other systems, even the three behemoths would fear them if they could create something greater.

At that point, it was fine to use a hundred million people or so. After all, they were mere ants.

“Hahaha! All ants!” The group viewed the world with disdain after realizing the future potential.

Green-robed Heavenly Merchant sneered while looking at the miniature Li Qiye: “Who’s the ant now? You are! That’s what you get for opposing us.”

“Kill him now, just an ant, can’t reach the apex.” Golden-horn chuckled.

The five of them became relaxed and no longer cared for public opinion.

This made it clear to the crowd that they were planning for something more sinister.

"It's over for Fiercest. He made fun of them earlier but now, he actually shrank down to the size of an ant." One spectator said.

Some people didn't like him at all. One sneered: "That's what he gets for being so arrogant, not understanding the unfathomable power of the federation. He can't oppose such a monster alone, so suicidal."

"Boom!" A giant foot came down for Li Qiye inside the separate dimension. It heavily slammed on the ground.

"No!" Lin Yixue screamed. There was no need to look - one could imagine his fate right now, just a lump of flesh.

Tears flowed out but there was nothing she could do.

"That's the end of a great genius." Some felt sorry for him while looking at the foot.

"He was too stubborn and aggressive." One expert shook his head.

"He was being unreasonable, the five merchants yielded already yet he kept on pushing them towards the edge. He deserved being crushed like an ant." One fella scoffed.

"Rumble!" A series of explosions interrupted the crowd. The kingdom was quaking, subjected to great pressure.

"What's going on?" The five merchants were startled since this power didn't come from them.

"Oh? Another development." The spectators were surprised.

"Boom!" The giant foot was lifted to the air, revealing Li Qiye beneath.

He grew back to his original size in the blink of an eye, but it didn't stop there.

"Rumble!" He quickly turned into a giant.

In the beginning, he was the size of a hill. Next, the size of a mountain range, then his head was right below the firmament; his feet ravaged the earth...

A bloody light appeared around him - the one from the mirror earlier. They served as dao laws pulling on his body, causing it to grow larger. He eventually reached the size where one strand of his hair could fall down and crush a mountain range.

The dimensional kingdom couldn't contain him any longer and started cracking.

Remember, this huge space was virtually an independent world. Alas, Li Qiye still overfilled it.

Everything inside was being crushed, including the bloody mirror.

"Run!" The five merchants ran with all of their might.

"A reversal is always entertaining." Li Qiye spoke. His voice was ten thousand times more sonorous than thunder, causing the world to tremble.

He reached forward, aiming for the fleeing merchants. Empowered by fear and desperation, the group was quite fast and made it many million miles away.

[Chapter 2618: Death To All Opposers](#)

One must be impressed by the merchants' escaping speed. They instantly crossed through the realm and nearly left Stone Harmony System in the blink of an eye.

However, this still wasn't enough to escape the scope of the great palm. It seemed futile to even try since this palm was larger than the world. Thus, as long as one was still within the confinement of the world, escaping was impossible.

Once the palm grasped them, they were transferred into a different realm. They looked up at the sky and couldn't leap out.

This dimension of the palm was unimaginably vast, probably ten times larger than Stone Harmony. The five became extremely tiny and insignificant, akin to specks of dust.

"Ants." Li Qiye's voice frightened the world regardless of how strong the listeners were. So many were forced to the ground by his thunderous voice and couldn't get back up.

"No!!" The five merchants bellowed after being trapped. Despair overwhelmed them.

They have never considered themselves to be insignificant before. Remember, they might not be the top Eternals but they were strong enough. At their level, they could decide life and death for other people. Now, Li Qiye could decide their fate and they were powerless to stop him.

"I refuse to accept this!" Golden-horn Heavenly Merchant screamed; his voice filled with unwillingness and anger.

It was too late. When Li Qiye's palm began to close, the world beneath compressed and crumbled. All of its power pushed on the five merchants, rendering them helpless.

"Pop!" All five turned into bloody mists that scatter to the wind. They were trivial compared to this great world.

The spectators shuddered in response. Not many would claim to be stronger than the five merchants. Of course, some of these ancient ancestors could be stronger, but not by much.

These five were crushed so easily by Li Qiye - truly a shocking spectacle. This was even more stirring than the death of the ten Vajras.

Li Qiye did it with such ease as well, not resorting to using any weapon from start to finish. One could only imagine the destruction once he actually uses one.

Li Qiye began shrinking down. It looked slow relative to his massive size, but this process was quite fast.

He eventually regained his original appearance, looking as ordinary as ever like another random person in a sea of people. No one would remember him at all.

Alas, despite his misleading appearance, he had just taken care of the five merchants and an armada from Hidden Gold Grotto.

Would anyone think that he was an ordinary person now?

They looked at his common face, thinking that it was more horrifying than the grimace of a furious god. In fact, just one glare of him right now could scare a True God to death.

The bloody rays around him began to burn and turned to ashes and bright particles. They belonged to the blood mirror so they were created from the vengeful blood of the sacrificed. The attempt was to seal Li Qiye's grand dao, performing something akin to a curse to shrink him down to a tiny ant.

In reality, this type of blood couldn't seal his grand dao.

He chose to block his own grand dao on a whim, wanting to reverse the particular seal. That's why when he reserved it, he became incomparably large and shattered the entire kingdom.

Bright particles appeared, seemingly floating up from the depths of hell and heading for heaven.

At this particular juncture, the spectators could see faces in the particles with a smile of liberation, going from hell to heaven. It was true satisfaction and salvation to leave the darkest despair.

"Though there is no heaven in this world, I will still send you on your way." Li Qiye said.

These particles were clearly the sacrificed ones trapped in the bloody mirror. They have been crossed over by him; their hatred refined away so they returned to the light.

Everyone held their breath at this sight and didn't know what to say. The smiling faces actually left them speechless. For a few of them, light and kindness actually blossomed in their heart and mind.

It was a sentimental moment. Several million lives have been refined by Lu Keweng's group but Li Qiye had saved them now.

"Young Noble!" Lin Yixue couldn't help but cry, wetting her dress with tears.

Li Qiye was a supreme existence in her eyes right now - the savior and protector of the world.

After the particles dispersed, he turned towards the crowd and declared: "From today onward, all outsiders must leave Mingluo. Take one step inside and it'll be your demise!"

No one could question his declaration.

"That's, that's too overbearing, Mingluo isn't your home..." One expert was bold enough to show some dissatisfaction.

"Pluff!" Li Qiye pointed at him, turning him into a bloody mist.

Everyone quickly moved away from where he was pointing while turning pale.

"Yes, I am overbearing, a true tyrant. I don't care for logic and reasons since my words trump all. All you need to do is obey, there is no room for negotiation." Li Qiye didn't bat an eye after that move.

The crowd shuddered after hearing this.

"Let's leave." No one dared to refuse him now.

[Chapter 2619: Matchless Young Noble](#)

“Keep on, don’t stop moving.” Seniors yelled at their juniors during the exodus from Mingluo City.

Since Li Qiye was watching with a cold stare, even the strongest among the crowd didn’t dare to disobey him.

Some ancient ancestors were stronger than the five merchants but they still obediently complied.

Li Qiye seemed to be unstoppable after his two recent battles. Everyone understood how accurate his title was. Once provoked, he would send anyone to their death regardless of their status and backing.

Just his presence alone deterred and intimidated the crowd. Not one single soul tried to hide in Mingluo during the commotion.

Even if they weren’t afraid of death, they didn’t want to drag their sects down with them since Fiercest would probably destroy everything to make a point.

It didn’t take long before the visitors were gone from the city. In fact, some even moved quite far away from the walls before making camps.

“Okay, as you please now. Don’t leave the city.” Li Qiye clapped his hands and said before leaving.

“Thank you, Your Majesty, may you live forever!” The natives got on their knees and started showing him respect.

They considered him to be the savior and king of Mingluo right now since their head would be rolling on the ground right now if it wasn’t for him. They wouldn’t stop showing their gratitude and continued bowing their head.

“May His Majesty lives forever!” This chant echoed across the area.

Li Qiye stopped and looked at the kneeling crowd. He said: “That sounds unpleasant. You all may call me a young noble instead.”

“Young Noble, may you be forever matchless!” Lin Yixue shouted.

“Young Noble, may you be forever matchless!” The crowd chanted sonorously in unison. [1]

This particular legend and phrase would pass on for generations in this city.

The area became quiet after all the outsiders have left. Nevertheless, they still stared at the bright city.

The gates were closed and it was defenseless yet no one dared to take a step inside or attempt to sneak in.

Li Qiye’s declaration became the strongest line of defense. The city has turned into a forbidden ground. Only suicidal people would try to enter.

“We need to back off whenever and wherever we see Fiercest from now on.” A senior coldly told his juniors: “If anyone happens to offend him, then just kneel and offer your head to him, don’t bring us down with you!”

The realization that Fiercest usually took things to the extreme has convinced the rest of the world to obey.

“Looks like we’ll have to give up on the immortal stone then.” One expert sighed with disappointment.

A few ancestors have speculated about its appearance in Mingluo City. Unfortunately, no one could take this stone unless they wanted to risk it all.

“No rush, there will be a chance.” One ancestor calmly said: “Mingluo will be very lively soon enough. Venerable Deer Merchant and the four Esteemed Monarchs won’t let this go. Both the federation and the grotto will have their revenge. Moreover, the three behemoths haven’t joined yet. The Mu, the Li, and especially someone like Jade-break True Emperor aren’t that easy to negotiate with. When the three of them come, that’s when the true storm will happen.” His eyes became serious as if he could see this scene already.

“Okay, Fiercest is insanely strong and can take several masters on by himself, but what about the rest? He might be able to handle the grotto and the federation, how about the three behemoths? It’s still a mystery whether he can be Gu Yifei or not.” Another ancestor agreed.

“We just need to be patient, this isn’t over yet. Save our strength to fish in troubled water.” The first ancestor said.

Regardless of these schemes, no one has violated the declaration so far. The city became more serene and peaceful than ever.

On this night, Yixue and Youzheng have taken care of the natives in the city. They returned to the palace and prostrated before Li Qiye again: “Young Noble, the city will always remember your kindness.”

“Go now. A storm is coming, don’t leave the city.” Li Qiye opened his eyes to speak before closing them again.

“We’ll never forget you, Young Noble.” The two bowed their head again before slowly leaving.

They were right about the city’s gratitude. Li Qiye has given the natives another chance at life. He was like another parent to them.

Thus, on the next days, the households here erected a longevity plaque to worship him. Some also created statues of him and began recording his great deed.

At the same time, Wu Youzheng has somehow summoned back the disciples from Stoneclearing School.

No place was safer in Stone Harmony than Mingluo right now with Li Qiye around. That’s why he decided to call them back. These disciples were naturally happy to be back home.

This peace didn’t last long. With a wind-breaking sound, an imperial banner crossed through the air like a shooting star.

“Boom!” It landed on a mound right outside the city.

“Someone’s here.” The experts camping outside took note of this.

They looked over and saw the character, “Jian”. It pulsed with a frightening aura like an unsheathed sword. [2]

“Puresword True Emperor, he’s coming here.” Everyone knew its owner.

“The Mu Clan is coming...” This caused quite a stir since one of the three behemoths was coming here.

“Buzz.” Imperial laws flowed around the banner like streams of water, filling up the area around the mound.

Next, they pinned themselves on the ground and came together to create a portal.

[Chapter 2620: The Mu Clan's Arrival](#)

“Buzz.” The portal opened, revealing a pulsing light. However, no one has come out just yet.

The runes intertwining inside the portal made its direct connection to the clan apparent.

“Rumble!” The runes on the mound continued to spread until it covered the nearby mountain range.

Next, pavilions and other buildings erected from the ground. They were made of runes and empowered by the strongest imperial blessings. This area quickly became the land befitting that of an emperor.

The crowd shuddered in response. The emperor wasn't here yet; he could be located at the Mu Clan or any remote region in Imperial Lineage.

In the far reaches of space, he just needed to throw an imperial banner towards the vicinity of Mingluo City. This allowed him to open a portal connecting the clan to Stone Harmony System.

Outside of possessing a great treasure, this also showed the emperor's power and might, causing many Eternals to feel dread.

More importantly, he wasn't here in person yet but his grand dao laws have already built a fully-empowered dao land here - allowing the dao to spread without shackles.

“Anything below the realm of an emperor is only rotten wood.” One Eternal lamented.

Even the Eternals with similar battle prowess to Puresword True Emperor were shaken.

This particular phrase made sense to a certain degree since a True Emperor should be stronger than an Eternal, provided that the gap between the two sides isn't overwhelming.

After all, becoming an emperor meant opening twelve palaces, something above the reach of Ascenders and Eternals.

When a Grand True God opened their third palace, they would become an Ascender, a first-level True God. A second-level Ascender would have four palaces, a fifth-level would have five, and so on and so forth...

After becoming a ninth-level Ascender, they would have eleven palaces. At twelve, they would turn into Eternals with a new world opened up for them.

Though they were called “Eternals”, this didn't imply immortality or supremacy - hence the phrase above.

True Emperors simply had access to greater techniques and new grand dao unavailable to Eternals. This resulted in better future potential and overall power.

An Eternal had twelve palaces just like a True Emperor, but there existed a fundamental difference. Emperors' palaces were lit up, allowing for a better concentration of true energy and grand dao.

The admiring spectators were envious of the creation ability of this emperor.

"Looks like Puresword True Emperor has five palaces now." One person speculated based on the grand dao aura permeating the dao land.

"Right, the fifth one should be lit up now. I heard he was a four-palace emperor already before entering his most recent isolated cultivation." One old expert said.

"Hmm, that's when they have access to Perpetual Weapons." An Eternal sighed with envy.

"From pondering immortality stems the creation of true weapons." An even stronger Eternal said: "We need to be at the amaranthine level to create them."

"Not all Amaranthine Eternals can do so, many need to be at the epoch level first before crafting something like this; the success rate can be low too." An ancient Eternal added.

So after lighting up four palaces, emperors became qualified to ponder the mysteries of eternal life. With that, they could start crafting Perpetual Weapons. Of course, a long and arduous path lay ahead of them.

"That's normal. Talented men can become Eternals but still don't have Perpetual Weapons." One more Eternal said with a tinge of regret.

Not all Eternals were equal. They were graded on a temporal scale. example, a regular Eternal could go back by one generation in the river of time. If they could go back by one hundred generations, they would become a Centurial Eternal...

Thus, the levels were from lowest to highest: One Generation Eternal, Centurial Eternal, Millenium Eternal, Myriad Eternal, Ceaseless Eternal, Amaranthine Eternal, and Epoch Eternal. [1]

"Well, anything below the realm of an emperor is only rotten wood, this phrase is only for us. For the emperors, they might be looking up to the progenitors instead." Another commented.

"True, there are levels for progenitors too, the grand dao is so long." One more smiled wryly.

For people all over the world, becoming an Eternal was already incredible enough. However, after actually getting to this level, they realized that there was still a long way to go.

"The dao requires longevity. We need to become an Everlasting before we can talk about truly being eternal." An old Eternal in the bunch slowly said.

"Everlasting indeed." The rest murmured.

Becoming an Everlasting is the pursuit of many Eternals, their lifelong goal. Say, an emperor's goal was to become a progenitor. An Everlasting was an equivalent to a progenitor.

"That's probably when we'll be qualified to talk about Perpetual Weapons and the rumored world of immortality." One Eternal said.

Some believed that an Everlasting could potentially take down a progenitor. This gave Eternals hope in catching up to the progenitors.

Of course, this topic wasn't easy either for them. Becoming an Everlasting required incredible talents. All the previous Everlastings in history were amazing geniuses.

The juniors nearby were in awe of this conversation as well. They thought that their ancestor was already powerful and famous enough in Imperial. This was their first time hearing about the various levels in this realm. Plus, above the realm of Eternals was Everlasting. It was a throne up in the clouds, impossible to reach.

They finally understood why people said the grand dao was long and arduous.

In their mind, becoming an Eternal was an impossible test already. But for Eternals, becoming an Everlasting was the real achievement. Maybe there were differences among Everlastings too.

This was the case for progenitor as well. Their power level varied despite reaching the grand dao.

"Buzz." The portal on the mound slowly opened again, interrupting the various conversations.

A youth walked out - a stranger to many visitors. However, the natives of Mingluo knew him quite well. He was Yang Tingyu of Luo Faction, previously defeated by Li Qiye.

"Oh? That brat is Puresword True Emperor's disciple in name, the strongest expert in Stone Harmony. Becoming the emperor's disciple is a good indicator of his abilities." People recognized him.

After all, Puresword True Emperor was too famous. Even just recruiting an in-name disciple was a big deal. That's why many knew about Yang Tingyu.

An army with great momentum followed right behind him. Not a single weakling was part of this group. These were the experts of the Mu.