

Emperor 2691

[Chapter 2691: Crucified](#)

“Ah!” A miserable lament echoed across the world as blood dripped down from the tip of the spear.

Terra Damnation has pierced through the daoist’s chest but he didn’t die right away. The wound started to burn and subjected him to endless torment.

“Ah!” The next screams were louder than the previous, tearing apart the blue clouds. The power of the spear was gradually refining him.

People couldn’t help but shudder while listening to his pitiful cries. One could only imagine the pain he was going through.

“Yes, that’s how it should be.” Alas, some found this to be the right judgment and felt much better.

“Fiercest is the guardian of our world.” One person sighed and felt a weight off their shoulders.

Li Qiye’s status soared to an all-time high. They felt that he killed daoist for the sake of Imperial Lineage.

“Ah...” The final scream resounded before the daoist turned to specks of dust scattering away.

A bright lake appeared at the killing ground.

“Look over there!” Worldly energy gathered along with thick true dao water.

“Boom!” These two essences suddenly returned to the Mu System.

“That’s everything the daoist stole from the Mu.” One expert said.

“Fiercest is really something else. This method is too heaven-defying.” One Eternal sentimentally added.

Though the daoist was burnt to a crisp by the spear, the powers he stole from the system were still around.

“Rumble!” The water and energy jumped back to the system in a torrential fashion.

This was akin to an ocean pouring down on a desert and quickly filling up the place.

Loud explosions occurred all over the place. The collapsed mountains and peaks, dried lakes and rivers began to recover. The barren forests had green leaves once more.

Though the system couldn’t regain its old appearance, the influx of energy and water gave it enough life force to no longer be a useless wasteland.

“Fiercest is so generous too, who else can do something like this?” Everyone, including his old enemies, had nothing but respect for this act of this.

Even a fool knew that these energy sources were great nutrients, especially for people above the realm of Eternals. They could refine the sources into their own for amazing benefits.

All would covet such gains. Moreover, Li Qiye obtained it in a justified manner. There was no guilt for him in keeping them.

Alas, he chose to return them back to the Mu System to the astonishment of the crowd. No one should have been able to resist this temptation.

“Boom!” The system became bright with water splashing again. Life force has returned but unfortunately, not a single mortal and cultivator from the system itself could be found. Nevertheless, a new group could take root here and make it their home.

“It still doesn’t matter.” One spectator shook their head. The system was still around but the previous inhabitants have been massacred by Solar Daoist. It’s just an abandoned system now.

“Maybe there are still survivors.” One ancestor sighed quietly. After all, not all of the disciples from Mu were here. Some might have been visiting other systems.

Finally, the entire system started floating away before disappearing completely. No one knew where it was heading to.

It never appeared again in Imperial Lineage. This once prestigious system became history in just one night.

The spectators had complicated feelings while watching this. One of the three untouchable behemoths went down just like this.

Their own system couldn’t compare to the Mu. This result made everyone more cautious.

“No flower can bloom for a hundred days; no man will enjoy a thousand good days.” An ancestor reflected.

People began to ruminate about their own circumstances, hoping to never repeat the Mu’s mistake.

Everyone was distracted by the floating system and forgot about Lucidity King and Sun Lengying.

“Oh, not running?” Li Qiye, on the other hand, remembered and appeared before those two.

They didn’t respond and looked a bit silly, aware of their fate.

All eyes turned towards them. They used to be dominating characters but were completely insignificant before Li Qiye.

In fact, they resembled ants now. He could easily take down an Everlasting like Solar Daoist, let alone them.

“The world is vast but there is nowhere for us to run and hide.” Lucidity King let out a bitter smile.

They didn’t want to run even if Li Qiye were to ignore them. Running to the edge of the world was meaningless because if Li Qiye wanted to kill them, he could do so with a single palm strike regardless of the distance.

“They courted death.” No one sympathized with these two at the moment.

“Looks like you have some self-awareness. Will you end yourself or do I have to do it?” Li Qiye smiled.

The crowd stared at the two. Big shots like them couldn’t die without fanfare. Perhaps they could die in a grand and dignified manner right now.

[Chapter 2692: Wise Lord And Loyal Servant](#)

The crowd patiently waited for Lucidity King and Sun Lengying's response.

They believed that this was the end of the story for these two since the daoist himself couldn't escape. Their death was a matter of "how" now, not when.

"Your Majesty, we can negotiate." Sun Lengying broke the silence.

"Negotiate?" Li Qiye smiled and said: "You think you have anything worthy to discuss with me?"

Sun Lengying took a deep breath and respectfully bowed: "Your Majesty, we know Her Highness' location and who took her. Moreover, I must defend myself and state that we had no ill-intent towards Her Highness. We only wanted to use her to bait you in and never wanted to hurt her."

"Is there a difference?" Li Qiye said.

"I know that capturing Her Highness is crossing the line, a crime worthy of death and I do not wish to avoid responsibility. I want to redeem myself by providing information. With one condition."

The crowd became curious about this condition of his. Some started to think that he might sell out Lucidity King. After all, everyone would cling to life before death's door regardless of the cost. It would be completely normal for Sun Lengying to betray the king right now by assigning blame.

"Oh?" Li Qiye smiled: "If you're asking to have a dignified death and an intact body, I can agree with that."

"Your Majesty, I only beg you to forgive Lucidity King." Lengying bowed deeper: "I was the mastermind behind all of this from capturing Her Highness to luring you here, doing it all on my own initiative. I alone will accept all punishments."

The crowd was both surprised and impressed after hearing this. Some also felt envious.

"Sun Lengying is really a loyal servant even after three generations. No wonder why Lucidity King views him so highly as a confidant." One Eternal added.

Another king reigning over a different system said: "Just give me one loyal follower like Sun Lengying. That's all I ask for in this life."

Everyone knew that Sun Lengying had absolute loyalty towards the king and had carried out numerous meritorious deeds.

Of course, the king didn't mistreat him either and gave him plenty of power in Nine Secrets.

More often than not, Sun Lengying represented the will and authority of the king. The latter never worried about Lengying overstepping his bounds.

For three generations now, the duo had trust and loyalty between them. Their relationship was a great story in Imperial Lineage. Countless rulers and leaders desired a follower like this.

Sun Lengying's first thought in this crucial moment was about Lucidity King, not himself. He would rather die to save the king.

How could people not respect this level of devotion?

“Lengying, how do you still not understand me after so long? I will never cower and beg before anyone.” Lucidity King shook his head and smiled.

“Your Majesty!” Lengying blurted out.

The king waved his hand dismissively: “It’s fine, we’re dying to thirteen palaces, that’s not disgraceful at all. It’s a shame that I am too weak to protect you.”

“Your Majesty, an orphan like me is only standing here today thanks to you. I’m the one ashamed for being useless at this moment.” Lengying prostrated before Lucidity King.

“I have no regrets in life because I have someone like you.” Lucidity King helped the guy up and laughed heartily.

“A wise king will have loyal confidants.” Many became emotional at this sight.

One could say that only a wise lord like Lucidity King would be worthy of having a follower like Sun Lengying.

“Such a moving tale between a master and his servant, but I still have to send you two going.” Li Qiye chuckled.

“I will tell you the location of the girl as my last good deed.” Lucidity King stood brave and proud before death, not bothering to beg Li Qiye.

“No need, no one can hide from my eyes in this world. It’s not hard for me to find someone when everything is within my palm.” Li Qiye smiled.

The king smiled wryly and nodded in agreement: “Indeed, I, Lucidity King, has truly messed up out of arrogance. My careful calculations couldn’t surpass your power, but that’s fine. The five powers of Nine Secrets are either destroyed or swore loyalty. The Mu is done for, same with Solar Daoist. That’s not a bad result for me at all.”

People exchanged glances after hearing this and were slightly moved by this analysis of his. In the past, though Lucidity King was still in control, there existed a delicate state of balance between the various powers.

But now, Lucidity King’s plan with Fiercest managed to disrupt this balance and brought total unity to Nine Secrets. As for Imperial as a whole, Lucidity King baited Fiercest to kill the Mu and Solar Daoist. How could people not be utterly impressed by this chess match of his?

“You just didn’t know who the real players were.” Li Qiye casually chuckled.

“Right.” The king shook his head: “Even if I’m to be considered a chess player, I would only be a second-rate one at best. The true masters can calculate and scheme the ages. But alas, even a perfect plan is useless before absolute power.”

Lucidity King reflected on his actions. He felt that in order to truly grasp the universe, one needed absolute power as support. Wily schemes alone weren’t enough.

“Okay, how do you two want to die?” Li Qiye brought this up again.

“I have never begged for mercy before in my life.” The king took a deep breath and remained unyielding: “We won’t just sit idly by waiting for death! We will still fight regardless of the futility!”

The crowd thought that Lucidity King was superior to Solar Daoist in this manner. Everyone knew that this wasn’t an even fight and the king would die for sure.

However, an Everlasting like the daoist bowed his head against Fiercest in order to survive.

On the other hand, Lucidity King still showed his fangs and won the heart of the crowd.

“A king of three generations... he lives up to his fame, truly an amazing hero.” His friends and foes alike found his courage admirable.

[Chapter 2693: True Emperor Jiu Ning](#)

“We need to show what we got even if it means dying!” Lucidity King declared resoundingly.

“Commendable courage, very well, I shall let you have a dignified death.” Li Qiye was amused.

Sun Lengying and Lucidity King looked at each other before nodding somberly. This duo didn’t need words to understand each other. One glance was more than sufficient.

“Go!” The two roared and attacked at the same time.

The king had a majestic and regal aura; Sun Lengying’s merciless sword bit like a poisonous snake, aiming for the fatal spot.

However, people weren’t that interested in watching because the result was obvious.

“Clank!” Li Qiye casually flicked his finger twice and sent out two dao laws.

“Boom!” Their domineering moves and their strange yet dangerous weapons didn’t matter.

The two dao laws crushed everything along with the duo’s barriers.

“Pluff!” The laws shot through the two’s chest like divine arrows and pinned them down, staining the ground with their blood at a rapid rate.

“Ah!” The duo screamed and struggled but they couldn’t move at all.

They eventually gave up because the power gap was insane. Further struggling was futile.

Everyone expected this outcome. These two were indeed mighty, perhaps some of the strongest Eternals around. Alas, they were mere worms before him. He only needed to lift his foot and stomp down.

Some started recalling their glorious past. Just hearing the title “Lucidity” back then was enough to intimidate people - such a striking contrast to the current scene.

“Crossing my line will result in a thousand methods to make you two wish for death. Just any one of them will torture you for an eternity, to the point where you can’t handle living but can’t commit suicide either. Your screams will echo in Imperial for ten thousand years.” Li Qiye stared insipidly at them.

The nonchalant comment frightened the crowd and made them tremble from top to bottom. Everyone could imagine the wails of torment spanning across an eternity. Just how terrible would the prolonged torture be? They started swearing to never provoke Fiercest in their mind since once fallen into his grasp, death might be a sweet release.

“Make your move.” The king still smiled: “No one can live forever. I have experienced three generations and seen enough of life. It is my honor to die to thirteen palaces.”

Lucidity King showed his unyielding characteristic, something superior compared to many Eternals and big shots.

“Dao Brother, please show mercy and spare the two of them?” A heavenly voice disrupted the conversation.

Two girls descended from the sky but one of them garnered everyone’s attention.

One of them was the captured Liu Chuqing. The other looked like an immortal in a light green dress. A very simple style looked exceptional because of her, brimming with life. When people breathed in, they felt an immortal presence.

“So pretty.” Everyone got drawn in while looking at her.

No one had any licentious glint in their eyes - only pure admiration and intoxication. Her beauty was one thing but her aura was transcending. She should only exist in the upper world, not in the mortal realms.

“I’m afraid not.” Li Qiye smiled and shook his head: “Fate has brought us together once before but this is not enough for you to ask me this favor and not enough for me to show mercy.”

The girl was the mysterious guest when Li Qiye had just gotten to Nine Secrets. It was as if she appeared in his dream before.

“I know.” The girl sighed: “But I’m still asking you to show benevolence. It’s fine to destroy their cultivation so they’ll become mortals for the rest of their lives.”

Everyone was surprised to see this woman coming out of nowhere to help the duo. They didn’t recognize her and had no idea of her origin.

“I will not ask anyone for mercy, it’s just death. Don’t beg for my sake.” Lucidity King laughed boisterously.

“Shut up!” The girl shouted and an imperial aura oozed out. The powerful Eternals spectating shuddered in response.

Strangely enough, the proud king obediently obeyed her and stopped speaking.

“Dao Brother, I will offer you my service if you agree to spare them.” The girl beseeched again.

Anyone else would have felt bad saying no to a beauty like this and caved, not Li Qiye.

He simply shook his head and smiled: “No, those who have crossed my line are doomed. Even a progenitor can’t convince me otherwise, let alone a twelve-palace emperor like you.”

Li Qiye didn't back down from his original stance.

"I, I know who she is, that's True Emperor Jiu Ning!" An ancient ancestor blurted out in astonishment.

"What?!" The members of the crowd were shocked and couldn't close their mouth.

"That's True Emperor Jiu Ning?" The experts here stared intensely at the girl.

"Yes, that's her. I've seen her before one generation ago. She had only become a True Emperor then but now, she has twelve palaces."

"A twelve-palace emperor..." The crowd became stirred. This was a top-level existence, only inferior to progenitors.

"She's Lucidity King's daughter." Everyone felt like this was a dream.

The world knew that Lucidity King's proudest deed wasn't reigning for three generations or his numerous conquests. It was his peerless daughter - True Emperor Jiu Ning.

She didn't let him down at all. The brilliant woman has become a twelve-palace True Emperor, the strongest of this level in Three Immortals.

[Chapter 2694: Tender Sentiment](#)

True Emperor Jiu Ning was prominent for being the most brilliant emperor in Imperial during the previous generation.

Many emperors came out in each generation but she was the best among her peers. In fact, some said that she was comparable to her ancestor, Emperor Zheng.

One emotional spectator said: "I think people were right back then. She's really on the same level as her ancestor who revitalized Nine Secrets."

Her appearance was unexpected since she has been gone for so long.

"Didn't she leave Imperial for Immortal during the last generation?" Someone regained their composure and asked.

Though people haven't seen her in person, they have heard of her legends before. Her ascension was to be expected. Such a thing happened every generation too.

A True Emperor would leave for Immortal after becoming strong enough, same with Eternals.

People aimed for higher ground while water flowed downstream - this was a part of life. However, her sudden return surprised the crowd.

"Looks like she is aware of a few things and comes back for her father." One Eternal said.

"That's insane, it's not easy to return at all from Immortal." One old ancestor stared at her.

The difficulty of descending was well-documented from any world. It required a massive amount of resources, perhaps a great price too.

This process was proportionally harder for stronger beings, such as an emperor. But now, True Emperor Jiu Ning came back unscathed - a clear showcase of her abilities.

The emperor wasn't surprised to hear the refusal. She gently sighed: "How can a daughter watch her father die?" She looked at Lucidity King afterward.

The crowd turned soft after seeing her delicate and charming appearance. They would definitely forgive Lucidity King but Li Qiye remained apathetic.

The king stood there with a bitter expression and eventually said: "No need for this. This is my just deserts, I don't have any regrets after living for three generations anyway and I'm very happy to see you coming down for my funeral." He smiled brightly afterward.

Some members of the crowd exchanged stares, especially the Eternals from the last generation. They have heard some rumors about the discord between the king and his daughter.

The emperor didn't agree with all of her father's choices and didn't give him her support. Otherwise, he would have been able to flatten the five powers with his authority on top of her power.

Rumor has it that she left for Immortal Lineage early because of these differences. Alas, regardless of their bad relationship, she still decided to come down for his funeral, not knowing that he was faking it at the time.

"That wasn't a wise move." She coldly uttered.

"Indeed, but you still came back because of me. It's very much worth it just for that." He laughed.

"Come, take me down." He then turned towards Li Qiye and said without any fear of death.

He had no regrets since even his daughter came to see his passing. It was a fulfilled life.

"Sure thing." Li Qiye chuckled and started walking towards them.

"Your Highness, my apology for not being able to perform a proper greeting." Sun Lengying turned towards the emperor and said.

He watched her grow up and considered her as his own daughter, always showing her the same level of respect as he did towards Lucidity King.

"You two brothers are so alike, always causing trouble." The emperor shook her head in response.

"Your Majesty, how about sparing them?" Liu Chuqing finally spoke for the first time, looking straight at Li Qiye in a gentle manner.

Li Qiye stopped and stared at her.

Nowadays, no one would dare to look straight at him. They would shudder from his glare regardless of how powerful they are.

Alas, Chuqing had no fear and quietly said: "Her Highness Jiu Ning treated me well and taught me many things including the nine secrets. I owe her one."

So it turned out that the emperor had an eye on the duo when they went to capture Liu Chuqing. Thus, she ambushed them and rescued Liu Chuqing.

She noticed that the girl was also cultivating the nine secrets so she generously taught her. She was the only one in the system who knew the nine secrets and has cultivated them for two generations, gaining impressive expertise.

She gave her lifelong knowledge to Liu Chuqing, something extremely beneficial for the latter.

The smiling Li Qiye focused on her soft gaze and gently touched her cheek: "I suppose I can make an exception with this favor if you are asking it of me."

With that, he turned towards the other duo: "Consider yourselves lucky that our lady here is too kind. I shall break my own rule this time but if anything of this sort ever happens again, an ocean of blood will drown out this world."

Everyone got chills after hearing this, seemingly able to see the bloody carnage as a result of Li Qiye's rage. Just this comment of his scared the souls out of the Eternals present. No one really doubted his brutality and determination even though he had just changed his mind.

They understood that he has a soft spot for Liu Chuqing who is undoubtedly his "reverse scale", so to speak. Touch it and the end of days would come.

In fact, one could even say that everyone else is as meaningless as specks of dust compared to her in his eyes.

Even a twelve-palace True Emperor didn't come close to changing his mind, but one request from her accomplished the task. Her influence far exceeded a progenitor now.

Perhaps the one who shouldn't be trifled with the most in Imperial was Liu Chuqing, not Fiercest himself.

Provoking Fiercest might result in death, that's all. Offending Liu Chuqing, on the other hand, would end with a total bloodbath all over Imperial Lineage.

Thus, everyone repeated in their head to never stir up trouble with Chuqing.

[Chapter 2695: Good Daughter](#)

Li Qiye raised his hand, issuing a metallic clank. The two dao laws trapping the duo down pulled out and flew away, allowing the two to get up.

"Death might be spared but suffering is required." Li Qiye glared at them.

"Boom! Boom!" He slammed his palm down and suppressed them.

One could hear the sound of grand dao breaking.

Li Qiye instantly took away their power by destroying their dao foundation. They would never be able to cultivate again.

Their hair suddenly turned gray, almost like having snow all over them. Their skin turned dried with wrinkles everywhere. These Eternals had the appearance of a ninety-year-old mortal now.

“Cough... ugh...” Lucidity King coughed as if there was something stuck in his throat. They started hunching as well, seemingly didn’t have long to live.

The crowd did sympathize with them. These masters have reigned on top of Imperial for quite some time but now, their cultivation was destroyed so they were even weaker than mortals. This sudden change could drive someone crazy and have them wish for death.

True Emperor Jiu Ning gently sighed after seeing this. It was already the best outcome thanks to Liu Chuqing.

“Cough... I feel that death is probably more comfortable than this.” The king made fun of himself.

Alas, there was nothing he could do since his fate up to Li Qiye.

“Hmph, you brought this upon yourself. Be a good mortal from now on and live out the rest of your days in peace.” The emperor scowled.

Of course, her action betrayed her words. She certainly expended tremendous efforts in order to come down here for her father.

The crowd thought that they wouldn’t be able to accept this reality after seeing the two decrepit men. Others might have committed suicide instead.

“Well, I guess there’s nothing bad about being a mortal.” Lucidity King coughed before speaking each time and put on a wry smile, seemingly accepting this reality.

The emperor raised her hand and an immortal stem materialized in her palm. It eventually spread into two separate flowers.

They looked like lotuses with a blue shade, looking quite bewitching and filled with immortal energy.

“You and Uncle Sun can live for a long time with the power of the Yellow Springs. One for you and one for him, enough to prolong your lifespan by three to five hundred years. It’s perfectly fine to experience the life of a mortal now.”

A period of five hundred years would feel like the blink of an eye for an Eternal. However, this could be considered a miracle for a mortal.

“An immortal item...” Even a fool knew how precious these flowers were.

“Ah... what more can I ask for, I suppose we have to keep on living.” The king smiled and said. He was quite satisfied with this not because of the extra years of life but rather his daughter’s love. She clearly searched for this immortal flower after learning that his lifespan was up and chose to come down again. What more could he ask for?

“Thank you for your kindness, Your Highness...” Sun Lengying got on his knees to accept the flower.

“Stand up, Uncle Sun. You deserve this for toiling all this time.” The emperor nodded.

Sun Lengying and Lucidity King were master and servant in name but their bond was brotherly. Thus, True Emperor Jiu Ning also considered Lengying to be a senior.

“Go now, experience the life of a mortal.” She flicked her finger and opened a dao portal to send the two away.

People averted their gaze after those two disappeared. From now on, the world would never see or hear anything about the duo again.

Of course, this was already the best end they could hope for, leaving alive with a prolonged lifespan.

“Okay, the show is over now, back to what you were doing before.” Li Qiye stretched, seemingly indifferent and lazy.

It was hard for people to connect his two facets - a destructive existence versus a lazy commoner.

Li Qiye left with Liu Chuqing. The emperor also followed them.

“It’s finally over.” The crowd sighed and started departing. Peace returned to the area.

This shocking battle ended with the destruction of the Mu and Solar Daoist. The entire world became frightened and speechless.

“A new era is starting. Only two behemoths are left.” One expert reflected.

An ancestor disagreed: “No, Nine Secrets will reign alone because of Fiercest. I’m sure the Li will become reclusive because Fiercest is essentially a supreme progenitor, the crownless king of Imperial now.”

“Right, absolute hegemony.” Everyone understood that no one could rival Fiercest right now, not even the Li Clan.

Fiercest wasn’t a progenitor yet but his status exceeded one.

Sure enough, the Li closed their doors. Their ancestors announced that they could live in seclusion from now on. Their disciples wouldn’t visit other parts any longer.

The weaker experts were astounded to hear this. Of course, the knowledgeable ancestors expected this.

The Li and Nine Secrets should have been in charge now with the Mu gone if it wasn’t for Fiercest. His existence allowed Nine Secrets to be superior.

The Li understood this and got out of Fiercest’s way, hence their new isolation policy. This served to show Fiercest their stance on top of preserving their strength in a safe manner.

“The Li is quite smart. There’s a reason why Jade-break True Emperor became the most brilliant emperor of this generation.” Many ancestors understood the Li’s predicament and agreed with their wise move.

“Yes, it’s the right time or disaster may come.” An Eternal added.

After their declaration, many other great powers and mighty ancestors also announced the same policy. This left Imperial in a serene state, no longer as rowdy as before.

Even the most overbearing sect and egotistical geniuses no longer made a sound. They either started cultivation behind closed doors or lived in remote regions to avoid any possible danger.

This was actually a great opportunity for the geniuses. Fiercest's invincibility served as a warning. Those with a firm dao heart began to focus on training to grow stronger. Even if they would never be able to surpass Fiercest, they would at least be able to surpass themselves.

The world calmed down and started taking cultivation more seriously.

[Chapter 2696: The Path Towards The Dao Is Not Easy](#)

The world enjoyed tranquility just like Li Qiye's nonchalant and carefree mood.

He didn't give a damn about Nine Secrets System or anything else for that matter. Plus, peace has returned anyway.

He stared at the deep blue sky while laying in his garden surrounded by the intoxicating smell of flowers and basking in the warm wind. This comfortable feeling was hard to come by.

He seemed to be asleep while becoming one with heaven and earth.

After a while, a sweet fragrance blew by and a goddess appeared before him - True Emperor Jiu Ning.

She was staying in Nine Secrets all this time even after Li Qiye took over. She also spent her time relaxing in her old home.

Though there was a feud between Li Qiye and her father, this didn't create a barrier for her at all. These two still seemed like old friends.

She sat down next to him and smiled at the guy. Her faint smile was kingdom-toppling and made the sun and moon feel inadequate in comparison.

"There's something on your mind." She gently touched his head, resulting in a pleasant coolness streaming through him.

He opened his eyes and looked at her peerless features: "Everything is ephemeral like the clouds above, there's nothing on my mind."

"The clouds are indeed ephemeral, but people are chained by emotions and ties. Friendship, family, love, and comradery... All are subjected to them." Her beauty took the breath away.

He nodded and eventually said: "Have you faced trouble after ascending all alone?"

"Difficulties are ingrained on the path of the dao." She looked as exquisite as a blossoming flower. People would never be able to forget her face after one glance.

"Well said, if people seek an easy life, it's better to be a carefree noble instead of vying for the dao." Li Qiye praised.

"This logic especially applies to you." She looked deep into his eyes.

How many would dare to look at a supreme existence in this manner nowadays? However, she was trying to look straight into his soul.

It took a while for him to respond: "That's just part of life. One can't appreciate the good times without experiencing the bad."

"True invincibility... not just with the grand dao but also with the dao heart. No one can stay unbeaten but as long as they can get up again, they'll truly become unbeatable one day."

Li Qiye simply chuckled and continued staring at the sky.

"Brother, what is it that you seek?" The two of them sat there shoulder to shoulder without a care in the world, looking like best friends.

"What do you think it is?" He smiled.

"I don't know." She tilted her head: "I've seen many invincible characters. Some seek immortality, others strength or the apex, or pure freedom..."

She stopped and looked at him: "But I have no clue about you. I know you aren't looking for any of these things because you already have them. Alas, where I stand is too low to see your high aspirations."

"Hahaha..." Li Qiye patted her shoulder and laughed: "If your perspective is too low, then the rest of the world is pretty much blind."

She smiled after hearing the praise. Someone like her should really exist up above; each of her little actions was enough to make the heart flutter.

"I know you're not a regular person." The emperor sentimentally said: "The prosperity and waves of the myriad ages are ephemeral in your eyes. You have walked across the realms and left behind legends, never staying in one place. But how can the sparrow and swallow know the will of the great swan? Perhaps no place was good enough to keep you around. The end of your destination will have your true pursuit, a thing that attracts you above all else."

"Endless traveling doesn't discredit the previous places. It doesn't mean that those memories were worthless." Li Qiye answered: "One could keep on moving in order to protect home; another simply stays because they don't have the abilities to go farther, not out of sentiments."

"I see." The emperor carefully analyzed the comment.

She then stared deeply at his eyes and said: "What are you protecting? Your loved ones? That has to be it, or is it the three thousand worlds? Someone has to be the protector of the river of time, but who can uphold this responsibility?"

"Normal people do not know about the looming dangers or the necessity of having these protectors." The emperor said: "They only worry about personal gains and the prosperity of their sects but that's all meaningless in the grand scheme of things. As long as the world continues to exist, all will be well, so temporal protectors are crucial."

She seemingly wanted to get some clues judging by his eyes.

Li Qiye gently shook his head: "You're overthinking it, little lady. I'm neither a protector nor the savior of this world. I don't believe in those things anyway."

“Maybe, maybe not.” She disagreed: “You might think that you’re not a savior but that’s not the case for everyone else. For example, killing Solar Daoist was saving Imperial Lineage. This stopped numerous systems from being devoured.”

“Let them think what they want. Even if I didn’t do it, you would have done it yourself. It was only a matter of convenience.” Li Qiye said.

She only smiled in response, thinking that she got the upper hand in this exchange.

“Have you seen the three immortals?” Li Qiye asked after a brief lull.

The emperor’s expression became serious: “I have not. Immortal Lineage is far vaster than Imperial so I can’t fully explore it. There are far regions only available to progenitors. Anything less could only reach the surface or a superficial level of understanding.”

“You have the abilities and the potential, just lacking time and an opportunity. It’ll come, and accumulation is not a bad thing. You will be able to soar even higher with a better foundation.” He replied.

“Thank you for your blessing, Dao Brother.” She nodded: “I hope I’ll be able to search for the truths after becoming one.”

“Such as the tales about the three immortals.” He smiled.

She smiled wryly, still looking as pretty as ever: “That’s an extremely ancient legend, virtually impossible to verify. Who has actually seen them before? If yes, maybe only a very select few.”

[Chapter 2697: Legend](#)

Three Immortals have always existed strictly in the legends.

Some said that the name Three Immortals World came from the three separate realms. Everyone wanted to become an immortal and ascend, hence the names.

However, another faction believed that the name serves to remember the three immortals because they were the founders, hence the names.

Most didn’t know the exact details about the three immortals.

Some believed that they were the most ancient and powerful grand emperors known as Emperor Sui, Emperor Xi, and Emperor Nong.

This particular speculation was archaic and couldn’t be taken as facts.

All in all, most considered the tales of the three immortals to be legends, a topic for the tea houses.

However, after reaching a certain level, especially the realm of progenitors, cultivators would start to research more about this legend.

For progenitors, was the immortal level the final stop or was there something even stronger? This was a question only the immortal-level progenitors could research.

Of course, the most obvious possible answer would be the three immortals!

Immortal-level progenitors always wondered about this distant legend, questioning its validity.

The legends said that all the cultivation systems of this world came from the three immortals. However, their era was too old and beyond traceability. No records remained of them.

This was a timeline shrouded by mist. Though it still belonged to the river of time, no one could see its real appearance.

The search has never stopped for the progenitors. It wasn't only about finding the three great existences. The most important thing for them was wanting to find the source of cultivation.

Only by understanding these systems would they be able to jump out of it, escaping the shackles of the systems to reach a higher level.

Thus, these immortal-level progenitors took on the arduous tasks and didn't mind paying the price.

That's why True Emperor Jiu Ning had a respectful expression right now, not only for the three immortals but also for the sages of past who have embarked on this unending journey.

Maybe after becoming an immortal-level progenitor, she would also walk on the same path to reach the source of cultivation.

"Truth becomes fiction when the fiction's true; real becomes not-real where the unreal's real." Li Qiye smiled and said: "You will understand when that day comes, but at that point, true and false will no longer be important. After all, you'll be at the apex with a newfound understanding." [1]

The emperor carefully listened before nodding her head. She then changed the topic: "Dao Brother, may I ask you something?"

"Speak." Li Qiye chuckled, still looking at the sky.

She didn't try to hide her curious eyes at all: "In my humble opinion, you are not from the same line as us. It makes me think of a particular adage - there is always a higher sky, maybe I ask if you come from such a place?"

He turned towards her and the two made eye contact without any awkwardness.

"That's not important." He didn't answer her directly: "As you have said, I'm just a traveler. This will always be the case regardless of the world, always moving forward without resting."

The emperor carefully digested the statement. A traveler that has walked through numerous world and ages from the past to the present and even during future days.

The shadow of this person stretched endlessly in the river of time, leaving behind his loved ones and those who love him along with the prosperity of the worlds.

He continued onward alone on this path. Perhaps he had friends and companions once. Some left him; others chose to stop or died. In the end, the trek had no one but him. This would never change.

"Have you gone weary of this, Dao Brother?" She gently rubbed his forehead and wondered.

“Didn’t you say this earlier, difficulties are ingrained on the path of the dao. And weariness will go away eventually since you’ll grow numb.” Li Qiye smiled.

“I’ve heard a wise sage said that after so many years, one either becomes a saint or a devil. What do you think about this line?” She quietly asked.

Li Qiye flicked her forehead in response and shook his head: “No need to pry, becoming either one only requires a single thought of mine. So insignificant.”

“I’ve underestimated you then. Your depth is beyond my abilities to fathom.” She apologized.

She then looked at the sky and reflected: “Everyone wants to reach the apex but how many knows the loneliness and adversity of the dao?”

“To gain something is to also lose something.” Li Qiye said: “A frog under the well has its own happiness, a Kun Peng soaring in the sky has its own problems. Only one with an immovable dao heart will be able to keep on smiling through the ages.”

“Thank you for your beneficial advice. I’ll remember it.” The emperor emotionally said.

The two stopped talking and quietly lay there to enjoy the beautiful, cloudless blue sky.

The gentle breeze accompanied by the fragrance of flowers made people drowsy.

The emperor eventually broke the long silence: “Dao Brother, I’m about to depart, what about you?”

She returned to Imperial for her father. Now that everything was over, it was time to leave. There was nothing left in Nine Secrets or Imperial for her to worry about. Perhaps this would be her last time here.

She became slightly emotional after realizing this. After all, she grew up here so to leave it forever left a sentimental taste.

“We’ll go together. It’s time for me to come to Immortal Lineage too.” Li Qiye has also finished all of his businesses in Imperial Lineage.

“Perhaps one day you will also depart Immortal like you are leaving Imperial.” The emperor said.

She knew that he didn’t belong to this world, so it was only a matter of time before he leaves. Maybe he didn’t have a world he belongs to- this eternal traveler.

“I suppose.” He closed his eyes and smiled.

“Well, if you ever see the three immortals, I hope you will come back to tell me the stories.” She revealed a peaceful smile: “Intuition tells me that you have the highest chance out of anyone to see them.”

He chuckled in amusement and didn’t respond.

[Chapter 2698: Goodbyes](#)

The cold night was laden with tassels of light from the crescent moon. The rays warmed a bed filled with a holy aura.

Li Qiye held Liu Chuqing by the waist as she rested her head on his shoulder, deep in slumber. Her brows would occasionally quiver, same with her lips curling into a smile - the signs of a good dream.

She eventually opened her eyes, seemingly satisfied with the sweet situation after seeing the person in her heart. Her bashful cheeks turned red - one could never get tired of this scene.

She looked up and saw Li Qiye's profound eyes as bright as the stars above. He resembled the ruler of the world, always peering and assessing without faltering to fatigue.

Her jade-like fingers brushed past his chest before massaging his other shoulder. He didn't say anything due to his current focus.

"You have to leave." She said with a gentle voice.

"Yes, I must." He nodded with a natural expression.

She couldn't help but sigh, knowing that this day was inevitable. Her man was a soaring dragon. Even a place as majestic as Nine Secrets couldn't hold him back. In fact, Imperial wouldn't suffice either.

"It's a shame that I can't go with you." She held him by the waist and leaned her head into his broad chest, taking full advantage of this fleeting moment.

"Right." Li Qiye nodded. Another one of many unpleasant goodbyes was about to happen.

"I will pray for you." She quietly said, aware that his destination was endless and she couldn't come along because she would become a burden.

Thus, the only thing she could do was protect this realm and wait for his return while praying.

He caressed her soft and clear skin, only replying with a sigh.

"Why can't my talents and comprehension be better so that I can accompany you on the battlefields?" She lamented but eventually decided to keep the same decision.

She wasn't strong enough to follow him but protecting Nine Secrets and this world was still within her abilities.

"Everyone has their own mission. Certain things can't be changed or everything will change." He said: "Some people are destined to slaughter their way forward while others focused on protecting their homes."

He paused for a bit before looking at her clear eyes: "If you were to become someone who can kill on the battlefield and paint it with blood, then you will no longer be yourself, the kind and lovable Liu Chuqing."

She nodded and murmured: "Right, everyone has their own mission..."

"That's why you will be the lord of this system, a supreme existence guarding this land. It needs you, so you need to be you and no one else but you. I don't want you to change either. Everyone is precious in a different way, and this goes double for you." He whispered.

She slightly tilted her head and answered: "I, I will watch over this land until you return."

He didn't respond because the future was impossible to predict. No point making empty promises.

"Your main cultivation is the nine secrets so possessing this rope means controlling the entire system. No one will be able to wrest control away from you." He handed the Nine Immortal Rope to her.

In spite of having already established a supreme status for her in Nine Secrets, he still gave her the rope so that she would have total control and the ultimate force of this system.

"I will use it well." She took it and nodded: "If you don't come back till I'm long gone, then just say a few words in front of my grave so that I can find comfort."

"Silly girl." He gently hugged her: "Why speak these foolish words, I'll eventually return after everything is done."

She strengthened her embrace and told herself to guard this land and wait forever for him.

On the second day, Li Qiye called for Ill Lord's group while sitting on his throne.

Experts like them had no choice but to prostrate before their master, knowing that their power was akin to an ant.

"I shall be leaving. The world will be under Chuqing's control from now on." He said flatly.

"Rest assured, Young Noble, we will protect Her Highness till death while offering our full support." The group swore while on their knees, having absolute loyalty for both Li Qiye and Liu Chuqing.

"Very well, you will help her watch over this land from now on." Li Qiye nodded.

His words became laws and left no room for questioning. This command has firmly established the future path of Imperial Lineage.

"To the death." The group said. Li Qiye saved them from the heavenly prison on top of giving them cultivation guidance. They were ready to give their lives in his service.

"Don't worry during your trip, Young Noble. As long as we're alive, Her Highness will be perfectly fine and the land will enjoy peace and prosperity." Ill Lord powerfully added.

He was the strongest in the group and the other four always followed his command. This oath of his added further assurance.

"Okay, I leave matters here to you all." Li Qiye said.

Next, he called for Bingchi Hanyu and Qin Jianyao. The two of them were in charge of their respective clan now.

"You two will also shine in the future and be responsible for Nine Secrets. The system shall flourish under your watch."

"We will not let you down, Young Noble." The two said respectfully.

"Chuqing will rule with the help of pillars such as yourselves." Li Qiye looked at the two of them.

“Calm Lotus swears loyalty to Her Highness for generations, we’ll jump into boiling cauldrons for her sake.” Jianyao said.

She knew this day would come because someone as talented as Li Qiye wouldn’t hang around. His vision far exceeded regular people like them.

“The Bingchi Clan offers our service for generations to come.” Hanyu prostrated on the ground, completely subservient to him.

“Good, the future is bright as long as everyone works together. Your tales will be recorded in the historical annals.” He said.

“See you again, Young Noble.” Jianyao got up and bowed. She felt a sense of regrets while looking at this man since they might never meet again.

“Indeed.” He nodded.

After she left, Hanyu also got up and found her eyes wet with tears. She has been conquered by him and couldn’t bear to see his departure.

“Will, will we really meet again?” She emotionally asked.

“Yes, if it’s meant to be. Plus, this land is worthy of my remembrance.” Li Qiye chuckled.

[Chapter 2699: Abdication](#)

Li Qiye took out the three Immortal Slaying Swords and bestowed it: “Your clan has great weapon expertise, I’m sure you will make use of this sword formation in the future.

“I will not let you down.” She accepted it and said before turning to leave.

Alas, she didn’t make it far before running back and tightly held his neck, offering him her sweet lips. This hot kiss lasted for a long time because she didn’t know when he would come back, if ever.

“I’ll wait for you, always, till the seas run dry and the stones go soft.” Her soft whisper was a stark contrast to her determination.

She finally let go and ran away, disappearing into the hallway.

Li Qiye stood there quietly and watched her departing figure, eventually culminating in a sigh.

Goodbyes across millions of years didn’t fully kill his emotions. His heart was still hot and beating, not made of stone.

His next task was an abdication ceremony consisting of the strongest ancestors in Nine Secrets. They came with the greatest fanfare, showing both respect and sincerity.

Beneath the throne were thousands of people - sect masters, ancestors, and top Eternals.

The scene was magnificent and grand. No one else in Imperial had this much summoning power in the present day. Just one word from Li Qiye could summon the most powerful Eternal.

In fact, for the rest of the world, just being able to see Fiercest was a supreme honor.

All eyes were on him as he slowly walked out with Liu Chuqing next to him and True Emperor Jiu Ning in the back.

A twelve-palace emperor like her was being overshadowed by Li Qiye. Of course, everyone else was subjected to the same thing.

He looked just like a mortal while sitting on the throne, not exerting any impressive aura and divinity.

Alas, the great members of the crowd held their breath and stared at him with reverence.

“May you live forever, Your Majesty.” Everyone kneeled on the ground, including the people not from Nine Secrets.

Though he has yet to unify Imperial Lineage, he was already a crownless king of this world. The top Eternals and ancestors have submitted to him. Just being here was the greatest honor.

For example, not everyone was qualified to meet and bow to a progenitor. Li Qiye had greater prestige than one at the moment.

He started looking around; his gaze caused the crowd to shudder even though he looked quite normal at the moment. The supreme ancestors themselves trembled like ants beneath his feet.

“You may rise.” Li Qiye nonchalantly said.

“Thank you, Your Majesty.” The nervous crowd bowed once more before getting up.

They all kept their head lowered, only stealing a glance at him at the very most. No one dared to look him straight in the eyes.

“I’ll be brief today.” Li Qiye slowly announced: “The throne will be passed on to Her Highness, she’ll be in charge of the system henceforth.”

The crowd was stunned to hear this. Meanwhile, he placed his crown on her head and personally led her over to the throne.

No one expected such an early abdication. Nevertheless, they got on their knees again and shouted: “May your reign be eternal, Your Majesty!”

No one showed an inch of opposition or disrespect. In fact, it didn’t matter who Li Qiye was passing the throne to.

Now, Liu Chuqing has become the rightful ruler of Nine Secrets, the lord of all.

The reasons for the abdication didn’t matter at all. Li Qiye didn’t need to explain himself to the rest. Everyone else just needed to accept this and obey the new king from now on.

“Rise.” Liu Chuqing gave them permission this time around.

From now on, every other lineage in Nine Secrets must obey her commands. In fact, she became the new de facto ruler of Imperial the moment she sat down on this throne.

“Fiercest wishes to leave.” Many Eternals analyzed the situation.

This abdication gave Chuqing full authority. She inherited his will and would watch over this world in his stead.

“It’s inevitable, this happens for all progenitors too. There’s no reason why he would stay here when he has thirteen palaces.” The old ancestors expected this.

Li Qiye possessed the most amazing miracle in the thirteen palaces. Someone like him naturally deserved to soar among the nine firmaments. There was a bigger world waiting for him above and larger battlefields to be conquered as well. His staying here would be a total waste, an impossibility.

The crowd had conflicting feelings. Some rejoiced, others felt a sense of loss and disappointment...

“Well, a new age is starting and it shall be brilliant.” One ancestor speculated with optimism about the future.

All in all, this grand ceremony firmly established Liu Chuqing’s supremacy, mostly due to her relationship with Fiercest.

“Her Highness will be the one to start it.” Another commented.

Liu Chuqing sat on the throne with a commendable composure taught by Li Qiye. She was a king now, no longer the shy girl like before. Of course, she still had many things to learn but she was determined not to let her man down.

Joy and shock weren’t present in her eyes despite being crowned king, only the image of Li Qiye.

Supreme authority and total supremacy didn’t matter to her. They weren’t comparable to him. She wanted to gaze at him for as long as possible since they might never meet again. Because of this, she ignored the crowd’s praises and congratulations.

“Your turn.” Li Qiye sighed and grabbed her hand.

She regained her wits and stood up alongside him.

[Chapter 2700: Embarking](#)

Few people knew Li Qiye’s departure time and location. Only Liu Chuqing and a few others came to see him off.

Chuqing put on a calm expression but the atmosphere remained moody.

As always, the separation was a sad matter, whether it be via death or just distance.

“Go, this sending party won’t last forever.” Li Qiye stroked her hair and said.

She shuddered inside since it was finally time. It was as if her heart was being torn apart. They were about to be separated by an untraversable distance, never to see each other again.

She breathed in deeply and gave him a tight and long hug before eventually letting go and taking one step back.

The young lady became very determined, evident by her gentle yet unyielding eyes.

“May you forever be victorious. I’ll be here waiting, always.” Chuqing looked at him and said.

He embraced her again and kissed her soft hair: “Silly girl, go back now, I’ll come back alive regardless of how far I travel later.”

“Just let me watch you leave.” Chuqing whispered.

She wasn’t as brilliant or talented compared to other women. However, she was certainly a perfect model of being a virtuous wife.

“Very well, see you later.” Li Qiye tightened his hug one last time before.

Having said that, he turned and left without looking back. True Emperor Jiu Ning and he disappeared into the sky.

Liu Chuqing stood there like a statue and stared at the horizon. Tears wetted her cheeks before she knew it but she didn’t sob, not wanting Li Qiye to hear her.

“Your Majesty, please return.” Poison Phoenix Lady said softly.

“Lady, will we see him again?” It took a while before she responded.

“Yes, Young Noble is a man of his words. He’ll return triumphantly.” The lady paused for a moment before replying.

“Right, I’m just afraid that he might die on the distant battlefield...” She nodded and shuddered, not wanting to speak of this matter lest she jinxes him.

Though she didn’t know what he wanted to do and his true pursuit, she could tell that he would be facing an unbelievably strong enemy later. Thus, she wasn’t worried about him keeping his words but an entirely different risk.

“Your Majesty, don’t worry. Young Noble is invincible with the one-and-only thirteen palaces in existence. No one else in this world can stop him. Just trust him.” Ill Lord consoled.

These five were left behind and had absolute loyalty towards Liu Chuqing.

“Goodbye, I’ll be waiting.” Her tears have dried up as she said her last words with him before leaving.

Li Qiye and True Emperor Jiu Ning traveled at a ridiculous pace - one realm with each step. It didn’t take long before they entered a broken area with no one in sight.

The two didn’t speak along the way so the atmosphere felt quite tense.

True Emperor Jiu Ning could sympathize because she has also experienced separation. Separation by death was one thing, but being alive yet unable to see each other was worse.

“I don’t like coming back to Imperial. I thought I’ve forgotten but that’s not the case at all. I’ve only buried it deep inside. A few things can’t be erased even after millions of years and numerous eras. Time can’t grind it away; all we can do is bury them deep enough to not remember.” She wistfully reflected.

Of course, these experiences and emotions across time served her well, allowing this brilliant True Emperor to walk even further down the path.

“Joys and sorrows; partings and reunions - all unavoidable in life.” Li Qiye nodded and said slowly: “A few apex existences laugh at these emotions such as love and friendship, thinking that they are silly and unnecessary. Little do they know that they’re the ridiculous ones. When they don’t have someone to love, worries, or anything worthy of protecting, their heart is already dead and their dao aimless.”

“A being without emotions normally falls into the evil path. If one truly believes everyone else are mere ants, then world destruction seems just fine. This makes one prone to devour everything else because their heart only has them.” He continued with an insightful gaze.

“No emotions at the apex.” The emperor agreed: “One should only forget about personal ties, not the overall stance.”

“Sometimes they have no choice because everyone else leaves for one reason or another, leaving them all alone on the path.” Li Qiye said.

She became quiet. This was indeed true. As their journey continued, their friends and loved ones couldn’t keep up and died from old age, disappearing among the river of time.

Loneliness wasn’t a matter of choice for some top beings. However, they needed to maintain their humanity. Even if they didn’t care for their personal well being or sect, they needed to guard the three thousand worlds.

“Both good and bad at the apex will stem from a single thought.” Li Qiye said.

“And you’re on the good side because there is still something in this world that you care about. You walk forward all alone in order to protect.” She felt like she understood him.

“I’m not that noble.” Li Qiye finally smiled for the first time during this journey while shaking his head: “It’s only a matter of convenience for me, I’m just doing my own things in order to see what I can be in the future. I don’t think about saving the world.”

“A Buddhist monk might only be searching for the dao but he would also gain abilities and technique in the process. That’s because when his heart has Buddha, he automatically gains these things. That’s your level, something exceeding all of us. We struggle and struggle but still have a long way to go.” She replied.

“As long as you keep your mind set on a goal, you’ll do even better in the future. No one is born with absolute power and comprehension. Ultimate achievements are only obtainable through efforts and polishing.” Li Qiye chuckled.

“I hope so.” She nodded with profundity in her eyes and a determined expression.

“Where do you plan to go up from?” Li Qiye asked.

“I know of an ancient path on this remote region that can reach Immortal Lineage.” The emperor replied.

There were several paths to reach the next world. The most common one was brute force.

Of course, both of them were strong enough to do so.

However, it was troublesome and demanded ample preparation so they decided against it. Moreover, this process was also relatively dangerous. The probability of something going awry was low, but even a light case would result in grievous injury. The worst-case scenario was death.