

Emperor 2721

[Chapter 2721: Minor Goal](#)

“Don’t say that!” Zhiting immediately stopped the senior sister.

Unlike the others, she knew that Li Qiye wasn’t actually a crippled mortal. The guy was an unfathomable master. Provoking him could result in great danger for their sect.

Jiahui waved at her fellow sect members before starting the journey with Li Qiye on her back.

The rest followed her for a bit. Although the mountain looked like it was in front of them and that she would get there in no time, there was still quite a distance left.

This first path wasn’t difficult at all since she was still a cultivator that had trained for several years. Carrying a person wasn’t a problem even if she wasn’t an expert.

It took a long time before they made it to the foot of the mountain.

She looked up and finally felt its immensity. It towered in the sky with clouds floating even before the midway ridge. It seemed to be the center of the universe up there.

A winding path made of rocks existed from the base and headed straight for the peak. It was narrow and dangerously steep, only meant for one person at a time.

Zhiting helped Jiahui check everything one last time. They then tightened Li Qiye’s rope.

“Go now, I’ll be waiting for you right here.” Zhiting nodded after confirming.

Jiahui nodded and held Zhiting’s hands before waving goodbye again. Zhiting continued to watch the strange duo slowly moving up the pass. She didn’t look away until they have disappeared from sight.

In the beginning, Jiahui was relatively fast but this pace didn’t last long. After a short distance, she felt the same as a mortal, struggling and realizing Li Qiye’s weight.

Her power no longer worked so carrying a man took a lot of effort. Just imagine, a regular girl carrying a full-grown man up a steep pass? This was quite arduous but she persevered on.

She had labored breathing the more she went up. Alas, she didn’t want to give up. When she ran out of breath, she would take a short break before trying again.

This process only became increasingly harder. It was as if her legs were tied with iron weights. This was even before considering Li Qiye.

Every three steps made her gasp for breath, nearly suffocating. A while later, just one step took everything she had. She was drenched with sweat, on the verge of collapsing from dehydration.

She stopped to consume some recovery pills in order to make it through this torturous climb.

Soon after, she felt as if she was carrying a mountain. Her back was being bent. Moreover, there seemed to be a flame scorching her chest. This heat would spread and boil her blood - truly a terrible feeling.

The pass didn't make it any easier for her either. The steepness required her to climb while tilting forward. Just one wrong step and she could fall down to an ugly death.

Several days have passed and she didn't make go too far. She looked up and saw the peak still as unreachable as ever with no end in sight.

Anyone would feel the urge to give up under these circumstances. Her mind started wavering after each agonizing step. Her bones were cracking all over, on the verge of collapsing.

She gritted her teeth and didn't want to give up despite her mind and body telling her to do so. Only a single thought kept her going, telling her not to listen to any excuses for giving up.

She started losing feelings as time went on. Though the weight on her back only increased, she no longer felt afraid. Each step was a tiny goal for her now.

This ultimate focus put her in a zen state. The weight encumbering her and the winding pass were no longer on her mind.

The only thing right now was her target - one step at a time. Each successful attempt made her feel a sense of improvement. The pain and resistance gradually increased but she had thrown these feelings away.

Of course, little did she know that Li Qiye was withstanding the brunt force of the suppression for her.

She alone couldn't reach this point. The suppression at this level would have instantly rendered her into a bloody mist.

Only a minuscule pressure got through Li Qiye and landed on her. This wasn't enough to crush her to death, only perfect to stimulate her latent potential. Li Qiye was controlling the amount of pressure that got through to the finest detail.

It was nothing for Li Qiye but Jiahui still had a hard time with it. This torture seemed to be lasting for an eternity.

However, as long as she remained unyielding, the pressure could force out her true potential and grant her a lifetime of benefits - akin to shedding one's mortal shell and bones for something far superior.

The zen state took away emotions and physical feelings. Hunger was solved with rations and recovery pills. Thirst was quenched with the springs along the way. Fatigue went away after resting by leaning against the cliff.

This journey didn't end as long as she still has a sliver of physical power and consciousness left.

Along the way, she wasn't aware of the pressure slowly growing and stimulating her potential at all. Her cultivation didn't increase but her body was transforming. The pressure refined her bones and flesh on top of polishing her dao heart.

The sun rose and set repeatedly. She didn't know how many days she has been up here. All in all, her only conviction was to accomplish one minor goal in the form of one step at a time.

[Chapter 2722: Polishing](#)

The sun circled and the seasons changed. Guo Jiahui continued to carry Li Qiye towards the peak of the divine mountain, one step at a time.

She exerted so much sweat and effort but was paid back with maturity - a transformation akin to a cocoon turning into a butterfly.

She didn't even notice the cycle of the sun and moon. There was only a firm conviction in her mind - reaching the peak! This mindset of hers grew stronger the more she climbed.

She experienced days and nights, violent gales that nearly threw her off, dangerous snow and ice layers nearly freezing her, or the hot sun above nearly roasting her...

The torture here exceeded her imagination. Alas, they only served to accelerate her growth.

One day, she suddenly sat down and her normal state of mind returned, allowing her to notice something shocking.

She was actually standing at the ridge of the mountain now. It seemed like an independent world.

Her sect was nowhere to be found; the mountains and rivers over yonder were gone too. This area looked like a boundless space with celestials hovering right above. She could reach up and touch them.

She found herself insignificant in comparison, almost like a speck of dust. The peak was still visible, hiding in the deepest and highest area of this space.

The crossing meteors made the scene as beautiful as a painting. There were several planetary battleships floating far away from her. Just one of them could crush an entire system.

Who knows how long these ships have been abandoned? They had rust and damages all over. It seemed that they have left the battlefield and took anchor here.

Jiahui was astounded by the magnificent scene. This was her first time seeing something of this level. If it wasn't for this ascension, she would never be able to witness it.

She realized that the previous struggle was completely worth it just to see this and couldn't avert her gaze at all.

She eventually glanced over at Li Qiye and found him to be still asleep.

She nearly died several times or fell down from the pass but Li Qiye didn't react at all, seemingly not giving a damn.

He had his reasons for doing so. If she couldn't handle this little test, then she wouldn't be qualified to stand at the apex in the future and uphold the great responsibility. That's why he purposely let her suffer in order to stimulate her potential.

The girl couldn't compare to other geniuses. If she wanted to surpass them, she needed to work harder and pay a bigger price. A failure here would imply that she isn't worthy of his grooming.

Jiahui stopped looking around and carried Li Qiye forward again. She was far more courageous, unyielding, and decisive at this moment. Her body, mind, and the dao heart all evolved from this test.

Under this space, a girl was carrying an adult man across the winding and narrow road. Her shadow looked quite long and lonely beneath the star lights.

People would automatically think of one particular adage to describe this - the path towards the dao is lonely.

The seasons didn't stop cycling beneath the foot of the mountain. Zhao Zhiting has been patiently waiting for those two and even built a wooden hut here.

In the beginning, she was anxious and impatient. As time passed, her dao heart became calm. She continued to cultivate while waiting.

This type of solitary training made her quite profound and greatly benefited her. Nothing bothered her, allowing her to have super concentration. Her cultivation soared like the wind, the same with her actual power.

As time passed, the disciples of Mountguard have forgotten about Jiahui. Everyone assumed that she had died up there.

"Poor girl." Only her master would occasionally stare at the mountain and shook his head with regrets. He couldn't go pick up her corpse even if he wanted to because the mountain would just turn him to blood.

After countless changing of days, Jiahui finally carried Li Qiye to the peak of the mountain. She was still in a state of zen. It took a while before her wits returned.

She looked around and finally noticed that she was standing at the summit.

"We're here, Young Noble, we're here!" She excitedly told Li Qiye but he didn't react and share this moment of joy with her.

She certainly felt happy but wasn't too crazy about it. Why? Because this was expected. She deserved this after putting in the effort and determination.

She found herself to be standing at the top of the world right now. The celestials and grand dao were all beneath her feet. She looked down and noticed that everything else was tiny in comparison.

This was an unprecedented feeling making her think that the arduous journey earlier was completely worth it.

The whole thing felt like a very realistic dream. In the beginning, this was something she didn't even dare to dream of. Now, after the trials, she stood at the summit.

She wanted to scream and celebrate but she refrained from doing so. She gazed at the boundless space and eventually calmed down.

She thought that she had matured, no longer the timid and cowardly girl from before. She took a deep breath and looked forward.

There was a cave ahead, pitch-black without any light.

“Immortal Demon Grotto.” She knew exactly what it was.

[Chapter 2723: Immortal Demon Grotto](#)

Everyone in Mountguard Sect, no, the entire system knew of this cave - the area where their progenitor searched for the dao and where he reincarnated after a cycle.

Prior to this, Jiahui considered this place to be a legend, a place she could never visit. Today, this legendary location lay before her, causing her to palpitate.

She regained her composure and slowly carried Li Qiye towards the cave.

“Pop!” A powerful force greeted her the moment she made it to the entrance, causing her to go flying and crashing into the ground.

Light suddenly emerged from the dark cave. These faint barriers seemed to have numerous grand dao circling around them.

Though they were faint, the barriers seemed to be the toughest things in existence. Nothing could ever penetrate them.

Jiahui realized that there was a seal here, meaning that not everyone had permission to enter.

She didn’t know what to do for she lacks the strength to break it. No one in her sect could either.

Suddenly, a hand reached out from behind her, Li Qiye’s hand.

He touched the barrier, resulting in pulsing ripples. His hand exuded numerous runes that eventually fuse with the barrier.

“Pop!” A noise similar to a balloon popping came about and the barrier disappeared.

“Young Noble!” Jiahui was ecstatic to see him up because he has been slumbering the whole time.

Li Qiye didn’t open his eyes nor answer. He withdrew his palm and went back to before.

Jiahui was used to this state of his and carried him inside the cave. She was stunned after entering, thinking that this was the wrong place.

The famous Immortal Demon Grotto looked just like an ordinary cave. There was no immortal energy and pulsing divine light, no merit laws carved all over the walls either. A cave similar to this one could be found everywhere in Mountguard.

Disciples of the sect would never believe that this was the legendary cave of their progenitor because of its unimpressive appearance.

She calmed down and looked around only to see a person sitting in the corner. She became startled and took one step back.

It was an old man sitting in a meditative pose. He wore a shabby robe and had no other ornaments.

He had a stalwart stature - just him sitting there gave a mighty feeling like that of a great mountain.

His beard draped down his chest, looking quite heroic. The opening of his eyes seemed capable of intimidating the world.

There was no aura on him. Perhaps he had been dead for a long time now because of all the dust on his robe.

If one wasn't attentive enough, they would think that he was just a statue in the corner.

"Who is this?" Jiahui wondered.

Could this be their progenitor, Everlasting Forefather? She shuddered after this.

However, she knew this couldn't be the case because their forefather had stopped his reincarnation cycle long ago. The old sages would have found him here in the past.

Thus, she became curious about this old man choosing this place to die.

She came closer in order to have a better look at the old man. She wanted to find out if he was a wise sage from Mountguard from the old generation.

"Boom!" The old man opened his eyes without warning the moment she got close. The entire cave was illuminated by his gaze.

"Ah!" She stumbled backward since she thought he was dead.

His eyes looked like two suns capable of melting everything. In the next moment, they became profound and able to contain the nine heavens and ten earths while deriving three thousand worlds.

He was stately without trying to do so. Despite not having a powerful aura, his eyes belonged to a supreme above looking down on the rest. People couldn't help wanting to prostrate.

She took a deep breath and looked straight at his eyes. She wouldn't have the courage to do so in the past. Her dao heart would have wavered, forcing her to drop down on her knees.

However, the previous experience has polished her dao heart. At the very least, she could stare straight at him now.

The old man then stood up, giving a sense of immensity as if he was shouldering the high heaven. All other living beings had to show their reverence at this sight.

Jiahui took another few steps back since she could sense an unstoppable power. A single finger of his could annihilate her.

He took a quick glance at her. This was more than enough for him to understand everything about her - from her background, cultivation, and foundation.

However, when he looked over at Li Qiye, he needed to focus his sight even more and releasing a dazzling light. His supreme aura intensified greatly. The gods and emperors would be suppressed before his presence.

Jiahui couldn't withstand this pressure. Her legs became weak, on the verge of dropping to the ground.

A hand touched her shoulder and instilled a warm sensation coursing through her entire body. It eradicated the pressure in entirety.

“Play nice now, don’t scare the little girl.” Of course it was Li Qiye.

“Young Noble!” Nothing else in the world gave her a sense of security like his voice. She could finally breathe easily now with the pressure gone.

The old man tried to see through Li Qiye with his heavenly gaze. Alas, he didn’t see a single clue. The guy was clearly unfathomable. No one else could fully judge him.

To the rest of the world, he was an untouchable existence. That’s why he could tell that Li Qiye was a terrifying being, not a person to be trifled with. The guy was at a far higher level than him.

One would be hard-pressed to find someone stronger than the old man in this world. However, this youth was clearly above him.

The worst part was that he knew nothing about this person.

“Where are you from, Dao Brother?” He took a deep breath and withdrew his gaze before bowing respectfully.

[Chapter 2724: Old Man](#)

“Just passing by.” Li Qiye unenthusiastically answered.

He let Jiahui put him down and he raised his hand.

“Buzz.” Space suddenly rotated.

One scene appeared after another as they moved around in space. No one felt that the cave was normal any longer.

Both Jiahui and the old man felt that they were traveling through different dimensions.

In reality, they didn’t move at all. Other spatial realms were simply overlapping with the cave.

Ramparts made of bronze appeared around them. This was an extremely powerful seal.

Those who touch these walls would be rendered to ashes regardless of who they are.

The old man was intimidated after seeing this seal. These spatial stacks resulting in this seal were definitely at the level of an immortal progenitor. However, one couldn’t casually perform it.

They needed to augment and refine it several times. Basically, great efforts and resources were essential.

The strangest part was that he sensed a familiar presence in this seal, allowing him to know its creator - Everlasting Forefather. This astounded him because he has been cultivating here to learn the mysteries of the system along with its merit laws.

One session lasted for numerous years but he never found this spatial stacking and the seal. Clearly, the person who left it and the one who found it were both stronger than him.

“Buzz.” Li Qiye released more flashing dao laws from his palm. They resembled a silkworm spitting out strings. Each law was profound on the same level as a supreme grand dao. They coiled together and transformed to form a peerless dao.

The old man’s eyes narrowed as he focused on deriving this grand dao. Alas, his power level couldn’t see through this law in such a short time.

More importantly, this grand dao wasn’t just old. It seemed to have escaped the five elements and the samsara cycle, meaning that it wasn’t subjected to the shackles of Tree Immortals World. Maybe it didn’t originate from here. However, the same presence of Everlasting Forefather could be detected too, even if only for a split second.

However, this youth couldn’t be Everlasting Forefather! But then, who the hell was he?

The old man had plenty of questions but he was certain about one thing - the youth had deep ties with Immortal Demon System, maybe with the forefather as well. Otherwise, he wouldn’t have been able to concoct this aura. The latter might not be the case, but the former was virtually guaranteed.

The grand dao started turning into symbols that instantly imprinted themselves onto this area. They then melted and became one with space, seemingly making up for the previous incomplete parts.

“Clank!” One could hear an unlocking noise from shackles. The numerous seals in this area were opening up to the old man’s astonishment.

Only Everlasting Forefather should have been able to do this. Even an immortal-level progenitor would need a long time before breaking something of this level. However, Li Qiye did it so effortlessly as if he was the one who created it.

This was simply unbelievable. He started looking at the youth again, thinking that maybe he was indeed the reincarnated forefather.

Alas, this wasn’t too plausible because according to the rumors, the forefather would always reincarnate inside this cave.

He has been here for who knows how long but the forefather never happened before. But now, this guy came out of nowhere and knew the forefather’s grand dao so well - truly a shocking matter.

The old man started thinking that maybe the reincarnation spot for the forefather had changed. Of course, these were only speculations.

“Rumble!” The stacked space opened up a massive abyss that makes the old man shudder with fear.

One could easily lose their way in there and never be able to get out.

“Boom!” Li Qiye reached into this abyss. This resulted in a blinding radiance as if a world was being created there.

Immortal lights gushed out along with ancient laws. Some living creatures might be wanting to leave this abyss.

However, before these things could come out, immortal hymns started resounding. They resonated with the grand dao. Each hymn was giving birth to a peerless dao.

“Boom!” Li Qiye finally pulled back, revealing a scripture in his hand.

It exuded wondrous light, looking just like a pristine and primordial world.

People couldn’t look straight at it unless they were strong enough. The old man could see two words engraved on this scripture, made from mighty runes.

However, these ancient characters definitely didn’t belong to Three Immortals nor any world for that matter, at least in the old man’s knowledgeable mind.

“A heavenly scripture?” Alas, this didn’t stop him from knowing the value of the scripture due to an ancient legend.

Several heavenly scriptures have appeared in Three Immortals before. Their origin remained unknown.

As time passed, these scriptures disappeared from sight. People began to think that they didn’t even exist in the first place, only mere fabrication.

[Chapter 2725: Longevity Scripture; Samsara](#)

The scriptures remained an unreachable legend in Three Immortals. Alas, the real masters here have always coveted them, resulting in arduous searches.

After reaching a certain power level, they could break the shackles of the dao after obtaining a scripture.

That’s why numerous emperors and progenitors have searched for them. Only a very select few have been successful.

The old man was absolutely sure that Li Qiye was holding a highly-prized heavenly scripture.

His eyes became serious with a terrible and aggressive flash. It would be a lie to deny temptation when staring straight at a heavenly scripture.

Not to mention ordinary experts or an Eternal, even a progenitor would start palpitating. However, the old man looked away and instantly calmed down. He quickly dropped any idea about it.

He would have gone for it if it was anyone else, even a progenitor. Unfortunately, he couldn’t see through Li Qiye at all.

Intuition told him that if he were to try, his fate would be very miserable - probably turning into ashes.

Meanwhile, Li Qiye didn’t bother batting an eye at the old man as if he didn’t care about a potential robbery, acting nonchalant the whole time. Vigilance wasn’t necessary at all.

Jiahui couldn’t understand the gravity of the situation earlier. The dangerous and tense moment only lasted for a split second. A great battle nearly happened just now with the result being the death of the old man because of greed.

“Old man, to actually leave something like this behind? Looks like you have predicted the future.” Li Qiye gently sighed while being slightly emotional.

This was one of the nine Heavenly Scriptures with the name Longevity Scripture in the present. It didn't have this name back during Everlasting Forefather's epoch. Its name used to be Samsara.

Now, it will have a new page and a new name after being in Li Qiye's possession.

This scripture has been passed down numerous eons. Everlasting Xiao had it for a long time then it was lost after his eon. Later on, he found it again and sealed it in this cave.

Today, Li Qiye took it out, thinking that the old man purposely left it here. He was slightly touched that the old man would leave behind something for him.

He knew that the Longevity Scripture and Longevity Grass were a perfect pair. Having both would be very significant.

Now, he had both the Death Coffin and Death Scripture. Alas, the Longevity Grass' location remained unknown.

The old man saw his expression and confirmed that this youth wasn't Everlasting Forefather. However, they were closely related. That's the extent of his knowledge.

"Bring that crown next to you here." Li Qiye put away the scripture and ordered the old man.

The old man stared at him briefly and followed his order, taking a crown by the corner and bringing it to him.

People would be shocked to see this because this old man had a heaven-defying background. Even progenitors right now needed to address him as "Dao Brother" or "Fellow Daoist".

But now, Li Qiye ordered him like a follower or a servant. The more unbelievable part was how the old man listened, not caring about his own status or take pride in it.

Jiahui took a look at the crown and saw that it was a circular style, not an imperial crest with tassels. Made from unknown materials, it emitted a holy and scholarly presence.

"Since you have carried me here, this will be your just reward." Before she could calm down, Li Qiye placed it on her head and said.

Jiahui quietly accepted since she couldn't refuse a gift from him.

The old man glanced at the girl with a glint in his eyes. She didn't know the actual significance of the crown and what it symbolizes, only thinking that it was a treasure.

In fact, not to mention Mountguard, this crown wielded great significance over the entire system. Those wearing it would gain incredible prestige.

Not just anyone in the system was qualified to put it on. Jiahui certainly wasn't with her current strength. Only heaven-defying beings were eligible.

Of course, the old man could put it on too. He just wasn't interested.

He didn't oppose this decision from Li Qiye so it was a tacit recognition of her status.

In his mind, someone like Li Qiye wouldn't casually give this crown to a random person. It meant that she was worthy of this crown.

She didn't know that her destiny has been decided the moment she wore this crown. She was no longer an ordinary disciple from Mountguard.

"Let's go." Li Qiye closed his eyes and fell into slumber again.

Jiahui put him on her back then bowed to the old man before walking towards the entrance.

"Senior!" The old man couldn't hold back and decided to be humble.

Jiahui stopped, waiting for Li Qiye to respond.

"Senior, I have many unclear aspects with my grand dao, please guide me." The old man took a deep breath and kneeled.

No one in Immortal Lineage could handle this grand gesture from him but he still assumed the role of a junior before Li Qiye.

"You have learned Everlasting Forefather's Samadhi Dao and reached the peak. The issue is in your head, that's all." Li Qiye opened his eyes and glanced at him.

"Please guide me, Senior." The old man bowed again.

"Very well, I will show you the path." Li Qiye pointed at the old man.

"Pop!" A dao law shot into his forehead, resulting in a galactic-level explosion. He started shaking violently.

He felt as if a divine bridge has been erected in his mind, allowing him to reach an entirely new realm and world.

[Chapter 2726: Return](#)

The divine bridge spanned across his ocean of knowledge, seemingly crossing to the other shore. The shaken old man felt as if he could see the sun behind the clouds now, a chance to break through the dao.

This was a shackle that has plagued him for many years but a single action from Li Qiye woke him up.

In all of Immortal Demon System, no one else had a deeper understanding than him regarding Everlasting Forefather's Samadhi Dao.

There was no doubt that Li Qiye was far superior in both dao comprehension and actual knowledge of the forefather's dao compared to him.

This shouldn't be possible because few could exceed him in all of Immortal Lineage, let alone an ordinary-looking youth like Li Qiye.

"Thank you, Senior." The old man calmed down and bowed deeply.

Li Qiye had already closed his eyes and stopped moving. Jiahui didn't say anything and quietly carried him down the mountain.

The old man continued bowing towards the departing duo until they were gone.

He then took a deep breath and returned to the corner of the cave, entering a statue-like state of meditation. The cave regained its peaceful state - the same as before since the ancient days.

Spring left then winter soon followed. Budding sprouts could be seen below the divine mountain. The fish and birds have left their caves and came out searching for food.

There was a wooden hut at the foot of the mountain. Zhao Zhiting has been training here and had great improvements recently. Her peace of mind amplified her cultivation effectiveness.

She seemed more mature and looked quite charming while concentrating. Every morning, she would look at the stone pass and wait for Guo Jiahui.

The days passed and Jiahui was nowhere to be found like a stone thrown into the ocean. Nevertheless, Zhiting continued to wait.

She was confident in Jiahui's return because of Li Qiye. Nothing would happen to Jiahui when Li Qiye was around even during his slumbering state.

Today, she also gazed at the pass just like any other day, more so out of habit instead of optimism. However, she actually saw a figure walking down the winding path, one familiar yet not.

She thought she was only seeing things in the beginning and rubbed her eyes. However, the figure was approaching closer.

"It's them!" Astonishment struck her.

She knew that these two would eventually return but seeing them in person still left her ecstatic.

"You're finally back!" Once Zhiting calmed down, Jiahui with Li Qiye on her back were in front of her.

"You're really back, really back..." Zhiting rushed over and hugged them deeply with tears pouring down.

"Senior Sister." Jiahui was moved and reciprocated the hug.

There was someone who still waited for them after that arduous journey. Others probably have forgotten about them by now. That's why the two started crying.

"Enough, go take a bath now, the smell is unbearable." An insipid voice interrupted this emotional reunion.

The two became startled and separated. Zhiting looked over and saw that Li Qiye still sleeping.

Jiahui shook her head towards Zhiting. The young noble was too unpredictable in both his actions and thoughts.

"You have matured." Zhiting took a good look at Jiahui.

The latter felt like a completely different person - someone as tough as a mountain that had withstood the battering of the elements who could face any problem without batting an eye. Indeed, the tortuous journey had polished and transformed Jiahui.

Meanwhile, Mountguard School was as peaceful as always. Its disciples were training hard.

It has been a long time since Jiahui left. Very few disciples remembered her and her suicidal attempt at climbing the mountain.

The seniors assumed that she had died up there. After all, elders like them couldn't go up there either, let alone an ordinary disciple.

Today, many disciples were training in the training ground in front of the entrance. They saw two people coming from the distance and became startled.

"Isn't, isn't that Senior Sister Zhao? She's back from her cultivation session?" Many disciples knew that she was cultivating at the base of the divine mountain.

"Wait, that's Junior Sister Guo!?" An older senior brother noticed that girl walking next to Zhao Zhiting and recognized her.

"You're right!" His peers started shouting.

They couldn't believe it and opened their eyes wide to take a better look. They saw Li Qiye on her back as well. It was indeed Guo Jiahui.

"I can't believe it... someone actually came back alive from the divine mountain..." The shocked disciples murmured.

"It's a miracle, did she actually go up there?" Another wondered.

"Senior Sister Guo is back! She's back from the divine mountain!" It didn't take long before the news of her return swept through the sect like a storm.

"What did you say?! Back from the divine mountain?" Even her master, the other elders, and the school master couldn't believe it.

"It-it's a miracle..." School Master Chen Weizheng was shaken. This regular disciple has done something none of them from the previous generation could.

Zhao Zhiting and Guo Jiahui were quite busy after getting back to their place. Jiahui needed to wash up in order to avoid being chastised by Li Qiye again.

Meanwhile, Zhao Zhiting was meticulously taking care of Li Qiye.

They didn't even have time to chat after finishing up their task due to a guest.

"Congratulation, Junior Sister." Li Jiankun bowed towards Jiahui for accomplishing this admirable task.

"Thank you, Senior Brother." Jiahui returned the courtesy in a calm manner. This new temperament of hers truly surprised Jiankun.

"The school master and the elders wish to see you." He told her.

Jiahui and Zhiting glanced at each other and Zhiting nodded.

"I'll go see them then." Jiahui said.

"Push me there." Li Qiye spoke.

Jiankun was shocked and looked over. Back when they found them, Li Qiye only flashed his eyes once. He didn't know that Li Qiye could speak.

"Junior Sister... what's going on?" Jiankun didn't know what to say.

"He's our Young Noble." Jiahui and Zhiting prepared the wheelchair for him.

[Chapter 2727: Virtuous Crown](#)

"Junior Sister, I'm afraid that's not proper. The meeting is a private matter of our sect, an outsider can't be there." Jiankun said.

"It'll be fine, Senior Brother." Jiahui didn't want to waste words explaining. All she needed to do was listen to Li Qiye.

"Junior Sister, the elders might become angry." He reminded again with good intention.

"No need to say more, Senior Brother. Junior Sister Guo knows what she's doing." Zhiting shook her head towards Jiankun.

She knew that Li Qiye would always stick with his decision and not allow anyone to say otherwise.

"Very well, do as you please, Junior Sister." Jiankun gave up and gave Li Qiye a strange look.

He didn't understand the situation at all. Her decision in taking care of Li Qiye could be construed as kindness, not wanting him to die in the wilderness.

Jiankun could understand that. However, taking Li Qiye up the divine mountain was perplexing, the same with her decision of bringing him to a private meeting.

He knew that her return was considered a miracle. Perhaps she would be viewed highly by the upper echelon from now on.

This was a good chance for her so she should take advantage of it. Bringing this person along could make the seniors unhappy and she might lose this rare opportunity.

The elders, hall leaders, and even the school master of Mountguard have gathered at the conference hall. In fact, virtually all the influential figures from the last generation have shown up.

This rarely occurred unless something big was happening. Today, they were here because of one disciple - something even stranger.

School Master Chen Weizheng sat in the main seat with the elders to his left and right, watching Jiahui's group come in.

They weren't surprised to see Zhiting tagging along. After all, Zhiting has been waiting all this time for Jiahui and even built a hut there to wait.

They could sympathize with the girls' great relationship. However, to see the person in a wheelchair being pushed in was a different matter. This put a frown on their face.

"School Master, elders." Li Jiankun bowed and retreated to the side, aware that this wasn't his place to speak.

"Ridiculous." Her master said seriously: "The elders and the school master summoned you for official business. How can you bring an outsider in here? Take him outside."

Jiahui paused for a moment before bowing: "With all due respect, Master, School Master, and elders, the young noble certainly has a reason for being here."

In the past, she viewed these men as unreachable existences. Now, she knew that Li Qiye belongs to the apex. Even that old man in the Immortal Demon Grotto needed to be subservient towards him, let alone others.

"Such insanity, we can't allow a mortal to enter our sect's important ground!" A different elder shouted.

Jiahui wanted to respond but was afraid that no one would believe her anyway. Plus, telling the whole truth could make Li Qiye unhappy and the consequences would be unimaginable.

"Where did you get that crown?" The school master noticed the crown on her.

"From Immortal Demon Grotto, given to me by the young noble." She bowed towards the school master and said.

'What?!' The scene became rowdy right away. Some even got up from their chair and stared at her in disbelief.

"From Immortal Demon Grotto...?" One elder couldn't believe it.

"You really made it to the top?" Another was skeptical.

Jiahui continued: "Yes, I climbed the stone pass and made it to the cave at the top."

Jiankun's jaw dropped to the ground after hearing this.

The skepticism here was warranted since it has been many years since someone from Mountguard made it to the top. In the present day, very few in the entire system could reach the cave. But now, an ordinary disciple had done it. How could anyone believe this?

"You, you really made it to the grotto?" Another person asked again.

"Yes, Elder." Jiahui was very calm and composed now even when facing these seniors.

"Impossible, just impossible..." The elders and hall leaders began discussing quietly in the background.

Everyone assumed that she made it to the ridge before going back down. This was already a miracle.

"I do not, School Master." She shook her head, not knowing anything about the crown. She has been wearing it after Li Qiye bestowed it to her.

"Its name is Virtuous Crown, do you know its origin?" Chen Weizheng took a deep breath and said.

"That's Virtuous Crown?!" The hall erupted with rowdiness. All the seniors couldn't believe it.

"The lost Virtuous Crown?" One elder stared at the crown in disbelief.

"That should be it." Weizheng said with a solemn expression: "Our last sage couldn't wait to see the next reincarnation from our progenitor and left the crown there for a worthy successor. From then on, the world never saw it again."

The group exchanged glances. If this story was true, then Jiahui had indeed made it to the cave.

"The crown is proof that you have entered Immortal Demon Grotto." Weizheng said, not expecting a normal disciple to inherit this crown.

"Yes, School Master, I wouldn't dare to lie." Jiahui bowed with sincerity.

"But Jiahui is only a junior, is this suitable? For her to have the crown?" An elder objected.

"Yes, the crown has always been the defining treasure of our sect, worn by our greatest members. Letting an ordinary member wear it will be disgraceful and shaming our sages. Plus, the treasure might be lost too, and we'll become sinners in that case." A different elder joined in.

"How about the sect takes it back first and reward Jiahui with another treasure. Her bringing it back from the grotto is a great contribution that deserves a big reward." A hall leader suggested.

"Yes, the Virtuous Crown isn't just a symbol of the sages, it is also an extremely powerful treasure that can't be lost." Other elders joined in.

All eyes were on Weizheng now. He was the most powerful cultivator in Mountguard on top of being supported by all elders.

The school master pondered for a bit before answering: "Jiahui is only a junior at our sect yet she has accomplished what none of us can despite trying for a lifetime. This means that her possession of the crown is deeply rooted in fate and that she has passed the trials of our sages and progenitor. If that's the case, then she is qualified to have the crown. Plus, it has been missing all of this time anyway until now thanks to her. It's fine if we lose it again. Her cultivation might be shallow now but who knows later on? Her future accomplishments might be worthy of it."

This answer from him was logical so the group started thinking.

"Hmm, you're not too idiot and might be one of the saving graces of your sect." A voice interrupted the silent rumination.

[Chapter 2728: Casual Suppression](#)

Expression changed around the room. This was the conference hall of Mountguard and every important member was present today including the school master.

To speak in such a disdainful manner was insulting, a blatant attack on their prestige.

All eyes turned towards the source of the voice - Li Qiye in his wheelchair. He has opened his eyes and lazily sat there, seemingly still drowsy.

“Don’t be insolent, mortal.” One elder had an aggressive glint in his eyes.

“You have something on your mind, friend?” On the other hand, Chen Weizheng remained calm while staring at Li Qiye.

“Push me forward.” Li Qiye told Jiahui.

She quietly pushed him towards the main position where Weizheng resides.

“I must get involved and preside over the matters today. Stand aside.” Li Qiye ordered Weizheng.

“You wish to take over?” The school master’s eyes turned cold but still managed to stay cool - a commendable display of patience.

“Take over what? This little authority is less significant than an ox’s hair in my eyes.” Li Qiye said: “It’s just that you fools have thrown away your progenitor’s reputation. Such a great lineage reduced to nothing from improper cultivation.”

The school master finally became offended since this wasn’t a personal matter any longer. Li Qiye had insulted their entire sect.

“Friend, watch your words. You’re in Mountguard right now.” Weizheng coldly uttered.

“Ignorant brat, you dare to run your mouth before us? Throw him down the mountain.” The furious elder prior shouted.

“Junior Sister, your friend is too unreasonable, are you taking him down or do I have to do it myself?” First Brother Li Jiankun stood up after receiving an order and spoke.

Jiahui hesitated and eventually shook her head, signaling Jiankun to not be reckless.

“If you won’t do it, excuse me then, I will have to throw him out myself!” Jiankun ignored this and roared.

Having said that, he reached for Li Qiye.

“Boom!” He instantly got blown away and crashed into the ground before touching Li Qiye.

“So you’re an expert, let’s see how tough you are!” The furious ancestor lunged for Li Qiye as well.

“Boom!” The result was exactly the same as before - him meeting the ground.

“Who are you?!” The other elders were astonished to see this because Li Qiye didn’t move a single finger.

“Not giving up? All come together, I’ll beat you into submission.” Li Qiye said flatly.

The hall leaders and elders were annoyed at his arrogant demeanor. Their sect has indeed fallen but to be looked down in this manner was too much to take, especially when it came from a cripple in a wheelchair. How could all of them not match up to a single mortal?

“Fine, we’ll see if you can back it up!” All elders and hall leaders were in a blind rage and attacked at the same time.

They simply didn’t believe that he alone could be stronger than all of them together! They used their strongest techniques in order to press down to the ground.

“Boom!” Li Qiye retaliated with a finger flick.

The hall nearly exploded as all of the combatants were repelled and fell flat to the ground.

He then tapped the arm of his wheelchair ever so slightly before they got up, issuing loud bangs.

The ones trying to get up fell face-first to the ground again, smashing against the hard concrete so blood splattered everywhere.

The only person who didn’t take action was Chen Weizheng who stood there with his mouth agape in disbelief.

Jiahui wished to say something but this was a matter above her station. Meanwhile, Zhiting was shocked too despite being mentally prepared.

She knew that Li Qiye was unfathomable but not to this insane extent. In her mind, the elders here were powerful characters, the toughest members of Mountguard.

However, Li Qiye just needed to move his finger so slightly to suppress all of them without facing real resistance.

Li Jiankun became frozen as well. He thought that Li Qiye was only a crippled mortal the first time they met. He even wanted to kill the guy.

Now, he realized that Li Qiye wasn’t a mortal at all, just a master who couldn’t move for some reason. This made him drenched in cold sweat. If it wasn’t for the kind-hearted Jiahui, he would be one dying back in that forest, not Li Qiye.

“Senior... If our sect has offended you in any way, we sincerely apologize and accept any punishment...” Chen Weizheng trembled in fear and bowed his head. He’s very close to getting on his knees.

Personal honor didn’t matter to him. Protecting Mountguard and its members was more important. He didn’t mind prostrating in order to accomplish the goal.

These members were the pillars of his already-weakened sect. It would be helpless without them.

He knew that they have met a true master whose level far exceeded them. Even a True God like him couldn’t stop a single move from this man.

“I didn’t need to wait until now to destroy your sect if I wanted to. Just a casual wave would have been more than enough.” Li Qiye looked at the sect master and insipidly said.

Li Qiye tapped with one finger again and the pressure disappeared. The elders and hall leaders could finally get up and quickly retreated to the side. They shuddered while looking at Li Qiye now.

Even a fool could see his incredible abilities. Who knows if their sect could survive the disaster today?

“Inflexible fools.” Li Qiye said: “Longevity Forefather’s legacy is wasted on you all, reduced to a pile of dogshit.”

None of them dared to retort this time around.

“May I ask for your name, Senior? From which great land do you hail?” Weizheng tried to make peace.

“What great land? From now on, I am a disciple of Mountguard and will take charge of this place.” Li Qiye looked at him and coldly said.

Everyone was caught off guard by this development. Such a powerful cultivator joined their sect just like that?

A regular disciple that could easily suppress the elders and hall leaders?

Their sect was tiny but they had a process in accepting disciples. Everyone needed to pass an examination before joining. But now, Li Qiye’s claim to be a disciple left them speechless.

[Chapter 2729: Ancestor](#)

The group exchanged glances of confusion. Well, they should be happy with the addition of such a powerful member. It meant that revitalization could be possible.

The problem was that Li Qiye wasn’t a real disciple. He came out of nowhere and they knew nothing about his identity and background.

How could they rest easy when an unknown person is in charge of their sect?

“Ah...” Chen Weizheng forced a smile and bowed towards Li Qiye again: “Senior, well, look, our sect is only a run-down place, just a puddle of water not fitting for a true dragon like you...”

“Afraid of me taking over and you won’t be the school master anymore?” Li Qiye asked.

“No, of course not.” Weizheng hurriedly shook his head and put on a righteous expression: “I do not care for status and power and am more willing to resign when there’s a better candidate available. But, Senior, with all due respect, we don’t know anything about you since we have just met...”

Weizheng was indeed telling the truth. He has always wanted to revitalize the sect but couldn’t because they had limited power.

He was the strongest in the sect as a True God. This was insignificant in Immortal Demon System.

Meanwhile, the young generation had limited potential as well and probably couldn’t surpass the previous due to the deteriorating condition of the sect.

Even if some supreme geniuses were born in their territory, they might not want to join Mountguard anyway since there were better choices available, such as Eight Trigrams Kingdom.

If say, Mountguard could produce someone stronger and more capable than him, he would be more than happy to pass on the leadership.

However, they knew nothing about an outsider like Li Qiye. Who knows what plans he would have for Mountguard?

“Don’t be idiotic.” Li Qiye replied: “What is there in this run-down place for me to scheme? Only trash is left now, so I am sitting here today to teach you worthless descendants in your progenitor’s stead!”

The group couldn’t even get angry after being called trash because this existence was too strong. The exceptional qualities and achievements that they once took relative pride in were nothing in front of him.

“Senior, are you saying that you’re an ancestor of our system, a sage of our sect...? Weizheng was very quick-witted.

“Curiosity killed the cat.” Li Qiye gave him the side-eye.

Weizheng shuddered, feeling that he was an ant standing before a massive behemoth from the primordial age. Not to mention him, even the entire sect wouldn’t be enough to fill this beast’s appetite. Thus, he no longer dared to speak due to fear.

Li Qiye stopped bothering with them and raised one hand.

“Boom!” Space rippled with numerous barriers emerging along with wondrous auras.

He activated a spatial rift to reach Mountguard’s library in order to take out two manuals. This astounded the hell out of the seniors here.

Though their sect has fallen, the actual foundation was still there. The library was blessed and strengthened by numerous emperors and sages, even their progenitor himself.

This meant that the defenses of the library were still as powerful as ever. Outsiders would find it impossible to get through.

However, Li Qiye just needed to stretch his hand. Not only did he cross through space, he easily got through the barriers and took out various manuals.

This heavily-guarded trove of information became his personal bookshelf. He could take whatever he wanted on a whim as if they were just ordinary books, not precious manuals.

The seniors thought that if Li Qiye could do this, he could also take anything from their sect, even the things hidden in the most mysterious and guarded locations.

Mountguard no longer had any secret or defense in front of this guy.

“The two of you fit these merit laws, do your best.” Li Qiye casually threw one scroll to Jiahui and Zhiting each.

They didn’t know what to do because learning the most powerful merit laws required merit points. Now, Li Qiye skipped all the necessary steps and gave them the original copies.

“Buzz.” He raised his hand again and took control of the spatial realm in Mountguard. Everything here was within his grasp so he had absolute supremacy.

“Rumble!” Majestic powers of the grand dao oozed out from the ground of the sect.

The disciples felt much closer to the grand dao. The entire sect seemingly changed into a sacred ground perfect for cultivation.

The dao power permeated every inch of the land. Runes started glowing on the ancient ruins - marks left behind by their sages and emperors. These marks disappeared before with time but now, they were returning once more. It was as if these great beings have returned to various locations around the sect.

If one were to listen to their chants in these ruins, they would improve greatly.

“I have stimulated and squeezed out the hidden potential of Mountguard’s foundation. If the present generation still amounts to nothing, then your foundation will wither and your sect will be at the end of the line, destruction will be imminent. This is your last chance, it’s best not to waste it.” Li Qiye declared.

With that, he told Jiahui to push him out.

Meanwhile, the remaining members in the hall stood there in a daze. Extracting the foundation meant that cultivation would be much easier in this generation. They would have a greater chance of revitalizing the sect.

However, the disadvantages and risks were immense as well. If they were to fail this generation, then their sect would turn to ashes.

“Senior, Senior!” Weizheng regained his wits and gave chase.

Jiahui stopped while the sleeping Li Qiye ignored him.

“Senior, may, may I inquire what we should do with the Virtuous Crown?” Weizheng hesitated before asking.

[Chapter 2730: Choice](#)

“S-senior, according t-to the rules of Immortal Demon System, the emergence of a crown master should be announced to all the other lineages, what do you think we should do?” Chen Weizheng stammered, beginning to treat Li Qiye as an ally.

This matter was quite a headache. Back during their prime, the issue of the crown and any sage was their own. However, after their decline, other powerful lineages in the system interfered in order to gain more clout.

“Do as you please.” Li Qiye answered and let Jiahui push him away. Zhiting also followed.

Weizheng respectfully saw them off and began to ponder.

The elders and hall leaders crowded him and said: “What now, School Master? What’re our options?”

They didn’t have a clear direction because of the unexpected development. This insane master came out of nowhere and wanted to take over their sect.

“Any idea?” Weizheng looked at them and asked back.

The group exchanged glances and no one stepped up to speak.

Be forceful against Li Qiye? That’s impossible. What the hell could they use against him? That’s just not realistic. What about a softer approach with schemes? None either.

“How about this? We report this to Eight Trigrams and ask for help?” One senior said: “They have always considered themselves to be the leader of the system so they won’t sit idly by.”

“No, absolutely not.” An older elder replied before Weizheng could: “They have ulterior motives. Inviting them is easy, asking them to leave is impossible, akin to replacing a tiger with a wolf.”

“We’re still the orthodox branch of the system. If we ask Eight Trigrams for help, it’ll give them an excuse, legitimizing any takeover here.” A different elder disagreed as well.

They were still part of Everlasting Forefather’s main branch. Other great powers didn’t have this status and truly craved it.

“Yes, that’s not an option.” Weizheng voiced his opinion: “They won’t leave after coming and our sect will fall into their grasp, we’ll be nothing more than puppets at that point. On the other hand, this senior seems to have deep ties with our sect. I don’t think he has any ill will towards us.”

“I agree.” The older elder nodded: “In my opinion, this senior doesn’t want anything from us because he could just take it via force. There’s no need for him to stay at our sect, why bother putting in so much effort?”

The group agreed as well. To be frank, this guy could annihilate them with a single finger and then take whatever he wanted.

“I feel the same way. His power level is far beyond our imagination. If he wants something, it’s pretty much in his pocket already.” Another elder chimed in.

The group became quiet, not too content with this grim reality. Their library had great defensive barriers but he still took the scrolls without any difficulty. No one here could stop someone as strong as him so there was no need for him to scheme.

“What does he want then?” Another member was confused.

Li Qiye’s intention remained a mystery. Why did he care about an insignificant sect like theirs?

Someone like him should be at the level of a True Emperor. He didn’t need to hang around in this tiny pond. Alas, he specifically chose to do so and confused all the members here.

“The senior told us already, he’s here to revitalize our sect and to make up for its unworthy descendants. He’s taking over because he has deep ties with our progenitor.” Weizheng solemnly said.

“How valid is this?” Another hall leader asked.

After all, letting an unknown person take over one’s sect was indeed nerve-wracking. Skepticisms and doubts were warranted.

“Just think about it.” Weizheng said seriously: “Don’t forget, our library has been blessed by the progenitor before and our foundation has been built by the blood and sweat of the sages. However, this senior activated the foundation then took the scrolls without facing a single ounce of resistance. So, he should have been attacked if he didn’t have anything to do with the progenitor. Isn’t that the biggest proof?”

The group nodded in agreement after hearing this insightful breakdown.

“I feel the same way.” The older ancestor nodded: “He can be insanely strong but the defensive lines should still have affected him. That type of harmonization makes it seem like he’s part of our line, not an outsider.”

“That’s why this is a good opportunity for us.” Weizheng said: “Everyone can see that our foundation is stimulated, a great time for cultivation. Of course, the risks are obvious but we’re on a declining slope which will lead to destruction anyway. This is the crossroads for us, we have to grasp this chance and soar to the sky. Perhaps our combined effort will bring the sect back to its old glory.”

He became emotional at this point because he has tried so hard in the past but his abilities betrayed him. Li Qiye’s arrival showed him a glimmer of hope. There was no way he would let this chance go.

“Everyone, feel the grand dao power around us, we’ll train so much easier now. If we don’t do our best then the next generation will really be the end of us. We’ll really become sinners then.” An elder became excited.

This excitement spread to the rest of the group. A feeling of hopelessness has been pervading the sect in the past as they were reduced to a third-rated power. Now, they could finally see a chance for total revitalization.

Doubts and skepticisms slowly turned into hope. They began to think of Li Qiye as a young ancestor instead of a stranger.

Meanwhile, Jiahui and Zhiting also trained hard after returning. Li Qiye’s power had done a number on them.

They used to think that their elders were strong but he only needed one finger to defeat everyone.

It was a godsend opportunity to have a master of this level around helping them with their cultivation.