

Emperor 2741

[Chapter 2741: Friend Or Foe](#)

“Amitabha. A monk like me toils for living beings. I will cross him over.” The monk placed his palms together while putting on a serious expression.

“Cross him over? What do you mean by that? Do you want him to join the Buddhist doctrine, kill him, or just imprison him?” The girl smiled, looking as beautiful as a hundred blossoming flowers.

The group instantly looked at the monk in a different manner and became cautious. They clearly viewed him as an enemy now.

“That’s a bit too much, Junior Sister. Monks are merciful and do not kill wantonly.” The monk frowned and said.

“Plenty have been killed by you.” The girl smiled and said.

“Amitabha.” The monk placed his palms together: “Buddhism grants salvation to the fateful ones, I simply crossed them over to paradise, saving them in a sense.”

The monk avoided using the word “killing” and sounded very benevolent. However, upon closer inspection, the group found him to be full of bloodlust as if he had killed millions and crossed over their lost souls.

“You’re talking about killing people right?” Ruoxi stared curiously at him.

Weizheng became afraid and pulled Ruoxi back, thinking that this monk might actually kill her.

“Amitabha.” The monk sincerely answered: “Crossing people over to the paradise is my responsibility. Buddha teaches that anyone can be saved by letting go of their blade. That’s all I’m doing, getting people to let go of their evil, mortal shell.”

“Got it, so it’s killing...” Ruoxi concluded after listening to the monk’s implicative words.

“Senior Brother, you have twisted our ancestor’s grand dao.” The girl disapproved: “He gazed into the world and changed its momentum in order to find a method to save everyone. You claim to have the heart of a Bodhisattva and the capabilities of one. However, you’re just trying to destroy your own obsession instead of actually ridding the world of evil.”

“Junior Sister, of course I am insignificant compared to the great ancestor. Alas, I’m still offering everything I have for the world.” The monk shook his head.

“I’ve heard the seniors talk about you before. The ancestor viewed you highly after meeting you, unfortunately, your obsession binds you, preventing you from saving people.” The girl said.

“I am ashamed.” The monk listened attentively to the criticism.

“He and I are connected so I will take him away, please don’t stop me, Senior Brother.” The girl changed the topic.

“Amitabha.” The monk replied: “I’m afraid you will be disappointed, Junior Sister. I also wish to do something good with this benefactor for the sake of all. We’re connected by fate as well.”

The monk clearly didn’t relent about this issue.

Meanwhile, Jiankun and the others kept on staring at the girl then the monk. They felt that this duo was very strange.

They seemed to have the same ancestor but not from the same sect. They spoke in a respectful manner but wouldn’t yield either.

“So you must oppose me...” The girl said.

“Amitabha. Yes, the fateful connection is deeply rooted so you will have to excuse me.” The monk gave a straightforward response.

Weizheng was certain that this polite conversation wouldn’t last much longer. A battle could break out at any second.

“Senior Brother, I entered this world specifically for him. I will not return to the sect before forming a karmic bond, so this is the last time I’m asking, will you yield?” The girl remained steady.

“Amitabha. I also wish to help you, Junior Sister, but on the other side of the scale are all living beings. I am helpless.” The monk said.

“So a battle between us is inevitable.” The girl’s eyes narrowed and became blinding like the stars.

“So how about this, the loser will have to leave?” She proposed.

“I agree. I’m interested in seeing your Graceful Blade.” The monk solemnly said: “I’ve seen it in passing back in the sect and it was truly amazing. It will be an honor to see the ancestor’s art once more.”

“You will see it again now.” Her eyes turned cold and her voice sounded like the clanking of a sword.

“Amitabha.” The monk exuded a Buddhist light; his eyebrows arched aggressively and made him look like an untouchable king.

This Buddhist glow was rather gentle in nature yet it felt unbeatable. He could stand there and suppress an entire age.

“Clank!” The girl also started glowing in a gentle manner, almost like the flow of water.

However, when this flowing radiance spread, people could sense a sword intent soaring to the sky. A treasure trove of swords seemed to be opening with enough power to flatten the world.

The group became afraid after sensing these two’s terrible power. They were clearly monstrous existences that could kill little guys like them with no problem.

“Hmph!” However, a thunderous scowl interrupted the duel.

This noise mercilessly slammed the duo like lightning bolts. Their radiance instantly collapsed, forcing them to stagger backward - seemingly wounded.

The rest of the spectators were startled and realized that it came from Li Qiye. The duo was shocked too and became frozen.

“Scram.” Li Qiye stated his supreme will.

Everyone shuddered before his command, even the strongest True Emperors and mighty masters.

“My apology.” The frightened monk bowed with his palms together and left without any hesitation.

“I’ll be back.” The girl in blue hesitated for a bit but still bowed then left.

After the two left, Li Qiye still sat there without batting an eye as if nothing had happened.

Weizheng and the others became drenched with cold sweat, thinking that their ancestor was the real master.

“Young Noble.” Jiahui quietly said.

Alas, Li Qiye didn’t bother responding, seemingly lacking interest in these trivial matters.

She heaved a sigh of relief. Only their young noble could take care of these troublesome masters.

“Let’s go.” Weizheng no longer wanted to linger in this place to avoid further complications. He has been frightened enough times already today.

The group gathered their things and hurried back on the road.

Fortunately, nothing else happened along the way. The old man, monk, and girl no longer showed up.

Li Qiye also didn’t wake up again to force the group into training. Thus, they moved with swift speed towards Reincarnation Mountain. Weizheng knew that the final training location would be there and led the way. They were about to get there ahead of schedule.

Before actually reaching the city, one could see majestic mountains on the horizon. Some of them were too high in the sky to see the summits.

These mountains spanned for a hundred thousand miles or so, creating an independent world.

On top of them were old and stately palaces and shrines. Each was big enough to be classified as a city.

[Chapter 2742: Reincarnation Mountain City](#)

Reincarnation Mountain was Immortal Demon System’s largest city. The entire place had a territory of one million miles, perhaps even more.

It was more apt to call this place a kingdom rather than a city. However, there was one distinct difference.

The buildings here were built on mountains. Thus, while looking from the outside, everyone would find architectures among the stars due to the height of the peaks, quite a mysterious and awe-inspiring spectacle.

There were about ten thousand or so cities scattered among the mountains. However, only a few were famous. They were connected by numerous rainbows that look even more beautiful after the rain.

These rainbows were actually divine bridges, a way to travel between mountains and cities.

Many sects chose to stay around this area, giving it a special status. It didn't belong to one particular sect or power. No one could rule it since it belonged to everyone in Immortal Demon System.

People could come and stay for as long as they like with no entry restrictions. The city was ruled by Longevity Hall and all over sects via deliberations.

If any cultivator or sect had feuds with each other, they must leave these personal problems aside after coming into the city.

The only exceptions required consent from both parties to have a fight in the city. Otherwise, the aggressive side would need to wait for their enemy to leave the city.

Those breaking this rule would have to suffer sanctions and punishment from the rest of the system. That's why everyone considered this city to be a safe asylum.

More often than not, when a sect was on the verge of destruction, they would move all of their disciples here to seek refuge.

This resulted in the city becoming home to many homeless disciples since their sects were no longer around.

For millions of years now, no one has dared to break the armistice found here. The reason was very simple - the cities were built by Everlasting Forefather, from the individual buildings to the peaks.

His rules became the supreme laws. To violate them meant being disrespectful towards the great ancestor and the punishment could be banishment.

So the top of the city had plenty of buildings. People were curious about the base consisting of large plains and valleys. Could people also stay in these places?

Unfortunately, the answer was no because they were actually ancient battlefields.

These battlefields were an incredible place for training. Strong and qualified disciples would go there to train because it was so effective compared to other places.

Future generations didn't know the background of these places. According to the founding legend of Immortal Demon System, the forefather dragged back these places from the depths of Immortal Lineage then refined them into his own system.

The group was right outside now and Weizheng became emotional while looking at the massive cities.

"Our sect also had several seats and a large estate in this city back then." He told the juniors.

"We had an estate here?" The young ones became excited.

Their current sect looked like a small village compared to the grand scale here. Thus, they were country bumpkins visiting the city for the first time. The juniors felt honored that their sect once had territories in this place.

“Yes, Mountguard used to have more than one hundred residences here and a massive mansion.” Weizheng said softly.

“What happened to them?” Jiahui asked, aware that they no longer had them.

Weizheng smiled wryly and shook his head: “We sold them during the hard times. The sect spent a lot of money on buying pills in order to groom potential talents. This eventually led to bankruptcy and being forced to sell.”

He felt bitterness about the sharp fall from grace. Their glorious sect was reduced to a third-rate one now.

“Another reason was because Reincarnation Mountain is too far away from our Mountguard. The ancestors needed to use too many true stones in order to open the dao portal for conferences. This expenditure became too much so they decided to withdraw from this place.” Weizheng added.

Mountguard naturally wanted to keep their territory in this place but it couldn’t keep up with the expenditures.

The group became quiet after listening to their school master. The present was less optimistic for their sect.

“We’ll buy them back again, both our properties and our influence here. Maybe not today, but we’ll get it done during our generation.” Jiahui eventually broke the silence.

She spoke in such a confident manner that no one could question her determination.

“The responsibility of revitalizing the sect is on you all.” Weizheng was happy to see the group being positively motivated by Jiahui.

“To the ancient battlefield.” Li Qiye suddenly interrupted the morale call.

The group didn’t dare to mess around and instantly headed towards one battlefield.

The battlefields below the cities were different with unique characteristics.

Li Qiye told them to go to one placed between two mountains with a stone path for an entrance. After walking up the steps, they saw a massive battlefield ahead.

Broken weapons and armor plates scattered everywhere along with cones. They have lost their divinity because too much time has passed. Nevertheless, these weapons were clearly exceptional judging by their materials. Alas, the tough battles in the past still took them down.

This battlefield had broken mounds, temples, and deep pits - signs of the destruction that took place here.

“So this is an ancient battlefield?” Ruoxi murmured while looking at the area filled with fog and mist.

This was their first time seeing one, same for Weizheng too. His sect didn’t have enough resources to take him here during his youth.

Even if they were willing to make the long journey, they didn't have powerful seniors to escort them either.

It has been eras since the last battle but the bloodthirst and battle intents remained. It seemed that numerous lost souls were still roaring and battling it out.

[Chapter 2743: Entering The Battlefield](#)

It was moving watching this place. One could sense the dead combatants' unyieldingness while standing outside and couldn't help but feel respect.

Weizheng and the others naturally felt the strong battle intents and became emotional.

One could easily imagine the ferocious battles that took place here. The dead soldiers still wanted to fight after so many years.

"Get out of the way!" Suddenly, they heard loud shouting from the back.

A group came from behind, young enough to show that they were here for training.

Their attires indicated their high upbringing. All of them had an air of nobility and expensive trinkets and treasures. Poor kids like Li Jiankun's group from a tiny sect couldn't compare to them at all.

Among them was a girl whose dressing style was actually less pompous. However, her temperament seemed to be one of arrogance and pride.

They started shouting despite being very far away as if Jiankun's group was in the way.

In fact, Jiankun and the others weren't blocking anyone's path. The entrance was large and they only occupied a tiny part.

Nevertheless, they still moved to the side, not used to dealing with the imperious disciples from the bigger sects.

"Bam!" A whip struck the ground near Jiankun, nearly hitting him.

One of the male disciples in this new group shouted aggressively: "Be smart and stand to the side."

This clearly had nothing to do with the path itself. The newcomers simply wanted to act in a pompous manner and bully cultivators from the smaller sects in order to bask in their perceived superiority.

Jiankun restrained himself since the whip didn't hit him. They didn't want any trouble. Nay, they couldn't afford to provoke these bigger sects.

However, the young Ruoxi lacked patience and voice her dissatisfaction: "There is plenty of room left so why should we kee-"

Weizheng stopped her from continuing since he was used to this type of scene.

"Oh, got a problem?" The male with the whip stopped and glared at her.

"I'm merely speaking the truth!" Ruoxi was still annoyed.

“She’s too young and naive, please don’t mind us.” Weizheng hurriedly jumped in and smiled at the male disciple.

The youth snorted and forgave them after seeing Weizheng’s apology. Meanwhile, the girl at the center noticed Jiahui and her crown.

“You’re that new sage from Mountguard or whatever?” She arrogantly asked while looking down on Jiahui.

“Yes, that’s right.” Weizheng smiled and put on a humble tone.

“What a load of crap.” The girl said with disdain: “Not just anyone can wear that thing, don’t lose your head now.” With that, this group entered the ancient battlefield.

Weizheng’s expression changed but he didn’t retort.

The group didn’t stop at this particular battlefield but moved on to a mightier one.

“School Master, they were ridiculously arrogant, why did we need to apologize to them? So unfair.” Ruoxi complained.

“Fair or not, you need to watch it when we’re outside. Provoking someone stronger can bring about a disaster. This is a world where the strong eats the weak and a loose tongue may cause a lot of trouble.” Weizheng said with a serious expression.

“Do laws and justice not matter?” Ruoxi has only become a cultivator recently, the newest disciple among the group.

Jiankun and the others were used to this and didn’t feel the same level of indignation.

“If you want justice, then speak with your fist and take him down.” Li Qiye suddenly opened his eyes and said.

“But that will make me the same as them.” She tilted her head in response.

“There will be a big difference. If you’re only strong enough to beat them down, then you’re limited to maintaining the justice you so desire. However, if your fist is strong enough, you’ll be able to change the rules in a region or the entire world. You’ll become the law, able to create a sect of righteousness or a fair world. Of course, you can also create a world where you’re the number one, the sky’s the limit. Remember, laws and orders require strength and force to maintain. If you want justice, then make yourself stronger first.” Li Qiye elaborated.

The group was moved. They simply wanted to become stronger and cultivate better merit laws in the past and have never contemplated about deeper issues. They learned something new and desired strength even more.

When one’s fist is strong enough, they’ll become the laws! This phrase encompassed plenty of logic in life.

“And the chance to grow stronger is before you all now. Go train, lose some sweat and blood. Your effort will craft the life and world you desire.” He insipidly said.

“Remember the ancestor’s teachings. Only blood and sweat will change the world into something you want.” Weizheng emotionally said. He also benefited from this speech.

The group took a deep breath and bowed towards Li Qiye.

“Alright, let’s begin. Go up to that altar and worship the progenitor.” Li Qiye pointed at an altar and said.

Next to the battlefield was an old and broken altar. Nevertheless, it still had a majestic and sacred aura. There was one altar like this in each battlefield.

The group exchanged glances and tidied their clothes before slowly climbing up the altar. They then respectfully kneeled before the memorial tablet up there.

Under Li Qiye’s guidance, they channeled their cultivation laws.

“Buzz.” The texts of their merit laws appeared above them and poured down strings of light.

These strings of light circled around them, seemingly becoming a protective barrier.

“After entering, you all will face the lost souls. Remember, when your barriers are broken, you will be teleported back to the city. When feeling fatigued, come closer to these statues and you will be rejuvenated. However, losing and being teleported back numerous times is shaming me.” Li Qiye pointed at the battlefield.

The group saw several statues erected in that place. Though the face wasn’t clear, they could tell by the aura that it was the progenitor of Immortal Demon System, Everlasting Forefather.

“If you can defeat this battlefield, then keep on moving. Outside of power, this is also a test for your dao heart to see how long you can last. This makes it a good training ground to gain actual battle experience and polishing your dao heart. Don’t lose so fast after just several rounds and humiliate me.” Li Qiye sternly said.

[Chapter 2744: Seven Stars Hidden Formation](#)

The group made their way onto the battlefield after ample preparation. They had a formation ready for the push.

Li Qiye had taught them a mighty formation that was suitable for the seven of them.

“Boom!” The moment they got inside, the ground suddenly cracked open and a corpse jumped out.

This corpse belonged to a giant and was considerably taller than the group. It had four arms, two coming from the ribs. Each was grabbing a sword just as tall as the monster. The swords have rusted but were still full of divinity.

“Let’s go!” The group exchanged glances before roaring. They started glowing with runes appearing beneath them.

They relied on the same strategy as before - Jiankun taking the vanguard with his sword and shield.

He rushed forward, each step carried enough power to issue loud explosions.

However, he didn't make contact before the corpse disappeared from sight. It instantly emerged again inside their formation and caught them off guard.

"Whoosh!" It swung all four swords mercilessly at Guo Jiahui.

"Here!" Jiahui hurriedly retaliated with a horizontal slash straight at the four swords.

"Boom!" She couldn't withstand the impact and got blown flying while vomiting blood.

The corpse didn't let up and released a long sword energy wave straight for her.

The alarmed girl summoned a shield but it got destroyed. The slash made direct contact.

"Watch it!" The group shouted.

"Crack!" The sounds of bones breaking appeared and the defensive barrier around her crumbled.

"Buzz." She got teleported away.

"Take it down!" The group finally caught up to the corpse and attacked.

However, the four swords danced wildly. The group couldn't hold on for long and got repelled as well.

"Buzz..." Their defensive barrier crumbled one by one and they were forced out of the battlefield.

The group didn't last long against this powerful corpse. Li Qiye didn't comment on their failure.

After a while, the group appeared by the entrance again for another attempt.

"Idiots." Li Qiye coldly uttered without bothering to look at them: "Beaten even before using the formation, you would have died a thousand times already on this battlefield with such meager skills."

The group lowered their head in shame. This was the most powerful foe they have seen since their training.

Alas, they were actually underestimating the enemy. A while ago, certain trials took them down but they always came back victoriously. Thus, they became complacent and overconfident in their skills and teamwork.

Unfortunately, they couldn't even utilize their formation this time around before being defeated.

Li Qiye threw them some ointments and said: "If you lose after one or two moves again, just go back to Mountguard."

He was easy to speak to normally but his stricter side came out during training.

The group accepted the medicines and recovered. This ointment was amazing, allowing them to heal from grievous injuries right away.

They asked their progenitor for help once more before re-entering the battlefield.

"Boom!" They released their vitality and true energy so runes emerged around them.

The formation beneath their feet appeared once more with loud rumbling resembling the opening of a treasure grove. They became shrouded in bright lights.

Though no visual phenomena appeared from this manifestation of power, it looked like they had a power source in their chest.

One could sense the majestic power from the formation already even before an attack. They stuck to the right positions and the radius of the formation turned into an endless source of power.

The name of this supreme formation taught by Li Qiye was Seven Stars Hidden Formation. He created it himself.

The group tried their best to learn it along the way and became quite proficient at it.

They were no longer in a hurry and preferred to be prudent as they pushed closer towards the four-armed corpse.

“Clank!” The corpse chaotically slashed at the group, resulting in powerful sword waves.

“Boom!” The formation opened like a peerless treasure trove. Four shields flew out and stopped the incoming slashes.

“It’s time!” Jiankun gave the order and performed the same steps forward again. Thousands of weapons hidden in the formation rushed forward with him.

The corpse retaliated with four palm strikes. They pressed down from above with enough force to crush the sky.

Jiankun and his weapons barely stopped the suppressive palms. More golden light oozed from the treasury. Numerous pillars appeared and support his frame, allowing him to withstand the attacks.

Alas, his cultivation was insufficient so he staggered backward.

At this moment, his allies took action. Zhao Zhiting performed her Encroaching Flame and the treasury resonated with her. It also released a flame dragon.

The beast roared and flew straight towards the corpse. Meanwhile, the two Ling brothers also activated the formation. They turned into divine eagles with iron claws and started an assault.

Wang Xuehong tapped into the treasury and unleashed a flurry of stars.

As for Ruoxi, she gained the power of a dragon and began distracting the corpse.

Jiahui joined in with lightning speed. The treasury turned her into the sharpest spear thrust straight at the corpse’s chest.

This move was impressive enough because the formation granted her both sharpness and plentiful grand dao power.

The spear penetrated the corpse’s hands and reached its chest. Alas, it still managed to prevent any real damage by parrying with two swords.

The corpse became crazy and activated a sword formation above its head. A rain of swords started descending.

The group roared and utilized their own formation to the limit. It built a divine wall to stop the wave of swords.

The great formation allowed them to use powers far above their current cultivation. Most importantly, it was versatile enough to deal with any situation, switching from offense to defense in the blink of an eye.

Alas, they were still too weak and couldn't actually use the formation to its true potential.

"Rumble!" The fight became unfavorable and the formation frontline was being affected.

"Fool, your Virtuous Crown isn't mere decoration, use this powerful treasure already." Li Qiye loudly reminded the girl.

"Buzz." She activated her crown, releasing the holy power within.

[Chapter 2745: Ancient Diagrams](#)

The activation of the crown allowed Jiahui to launch an offensive wave on the corpse. Unfortunately, the group was still at a disadvantage.

Their formation was chaotic now. Re-establishing the formation lines and assuming various responsibilities weren't that easy. Their struggle only served to buy time; defeat seemed inevitable.

Their cultivation was far inferior compared to the four-armed corpse; they relied on the formation and their teamwork to barely hold on.

With the formation in disarray, they have lost half of their advantages so it was impressive that they were still in the fight. This was due to the teamwork gained from the previous training.

"Fools, retreat to the progenitor's statue. Come up with a plan then try again."

The struggling seven started retreating while repelling the corpse. They finally made it to the closest statue.

The supreme runes on top of their head started buzzing and resonating with the statue. The statue sent out a supreme light with an untouchable might.

The corpse didn't dare to get close and could only stare at the seven. If they dared to take half a step away from the statue, it would start the ferocious offense again.

"Try your best now, your lives are in your hands." Li Qiye told the group as they were trying to come up with a new strategy.

"Let's go." He then told Weizheng.

Weizheng didn't dare to disobey and started pushing the wheelchair away. They didn't get far before he looked back at the group.

"Ancestor, I think this might be dangerous." Weizheng couldn't help but worry since this was the group's first time away from home and acting without supervision.

After all, Li Qiye might have thrown them into dangerous locations before but he was still there. This was no longer the case now. Unfortunately, Li Qiye didn't answer him and assumed his hibernating state.

The seven were afraid after Li Qiye left. His presence gave them courage and confidence in the past. After all, their ancestor could handle the sky falling down. Now, they were all alone.

"What... what should we do?" The relatively young Wang Xuehong felt his scalp tingling.

"It's time for us to take care of ourselves." Jiahui said: "The young noble can't watch over us forever."

She had the most unyielding dao heart out of the group.

"Junior Sister is right. Let's take this slow, we'll figure it out eventually." Li Jiankun took a deep breath and motivated the group.

Li Qiye believed that they wouldn't be able to mature into real masters under his protection. He ordered Weizheng to push him into the closest city.

This particular one wasn't the largest but was one of the oldest. In other words, it was made by Everlasting Forefather.

Since there were plenty of cities in these mountains, the new ones were built by future generations, not just the forefather.

They stopped after reaching the gate. There was a gigantic statue of the forefather outside; its head was shrouded.

Li Qiye sighed after seeing this. This was a very good depiction of the old man. Though he was no longer alive, he left behind many legacies.

Weizheng continued into the city to look at the wall. Each city had a wall facing outward and a dao platform. The dao platform was the teleportation area for those who have failed the training.

The walls seemed to be useless because of the locations. They had ancient diagrams carved on them. For millions of years now, people believed that they were mere decorations.

These walls were cut from a massive piece of rock, extremely sturdy and heavy. The diagrams carved on the surface included images and archaic symbols - virtually impossible to comprehend.

Few in history have been able to understand them, and Li Qiye was one of them. He had inherited pretty much everything from Everlasting Xiao. No one else understood the old man more than him due to the time they spent together.

Weizheng pushed him before these diagrams. He still didn't open his eyes to look at them.

Weizheng glanced over at the dao platform nearby, thinking that Li Qiye was here to wait for the group to come out after failing.

Alas, this wasn't the case. Li Qiye was observing the diagrams using his heart and mind, not his eyes.

He could only spare a tiny portion of his divine intent to figure out these mysteries. The rest of his divine intents continued to suppress and destroy the supreme existence inside his dao heart.

These diagrams were confusing and random. However, the forefather had his reasons for leaving them behind for future generations.

Of course, only those at a certain power level could make use of them. Even the exceptional geniuses who managed to understand them would lack the power to do anything.

Weizheng quietly waited to the side, unaware of Li Qiye's intent.

During the waiting process, buzzes came nonstop on the dao platform. Numerous disciples were teleported there. Some were grievously injured; others spat out blood.

They have failed the training and had their barriers broken. Thus, they were teleported to the closest city.

Weizheng became quite worried, afraid that Jiahui's group would be the next to show up. What if one of them were to die too?

Sure enough, Wang Xuehong eventually got teleported out and rolled on the ground.

"Where are the others? Are they okay?" Weizheng became worried after seeing the bloody wounds on the youth.

"They're still fighting..." Xuehong spat out a mouthful of blood but before he could finish, a buzzing noise sounded.

Xiu Ling and Xiu Qi were pushed out of the portal as well, wounded. Next came Li Jiankun and Zhao Zhiting, also injured.

Finally, Guo Jiahui and Ruoxi were forced out. Jiahui was especially injured with gruesome wounds; her bones broken in several places. She still didn't let out a single groan.

They clearly got defeated by the corpse once more. After seeing Li Qiye sitting there, they looked quite embarrassed and were waiting to be scolded.

Fortunately, Li Qiye was still sleeping.

The seven used more ointments and healed quickly. This ointment from Li Qiye was insanely effective.

"Let's go again." Jiahui said and the group left for the battlefield.

A while later, all seven returned here with injuries - another failed attempt.

This didn't hinder their spirit. Their morale was actually boosted because the time it took for them to be sent back increased after each attempt. It meant that they were gradually improving their strategy.

Weizheng heaved a sigh of relief after seeing the obvious improvements. Their effort and pain weren't for naught.

[Chapter 2746: Feud](#)

Li Qiye stopped before the diagrams for a long time. Meanwhile, the group got teleported out several times but he didn't seem to mind.

"Old man, you really tried your best but the future is just too unpredictable. Even the most heaven-defying beings can turn to bones." After a while, he opened his eyes and sighed, gazing into the distance.

Many have walked this path before. They were the strongest and smartest existences during their epoch, the most incredible masters. Unfortunately, they either died or succumbed to depravity.

Death was heroic and moving. They could only blame themselves for not being strong enough or prepare sufficiently.

The ones fallen had the same deficiencies on top of having weaker dao heart.

Someone like Everlasting Xiao certainly had a firm enough dao heart. He traveled the realms for many eras yet still failed to save his own epoch. He was lucky enough to survive but couldn't do anything else to change the tides.

Alas, he still made preparations and left things behind to warn future generations, hoping that they wouldn't repeat the same mistakes as him.

Of course, very few were actually qualified to embark on the same path as him.

"Let's go." Li Qiye stopped thinking and ordered.

"We're leaving? Ancestor, are we not waiting for the juniors?" Weizheng glanced over at the dao platform and asked.

"They'll catch up." Li Qiye didn't care.

Weizheng followed the order and pushed Li Qiye to the next city. Li Qiye did the same thing and stopped before the ancient walls.

His patience was eventually rewarded. The group of juniors appeared on this dao platform.

Their injuries were extremely serious this time around; blood spilled everywhere along and bones were visible. However, this didn't deter their enthusiasm.

"Hahaha, we did it, we made it past that first battleground." Wang Xuehong stumbled back and forth while laughing.

So it turned out that they have beaten the four-armed corpse to enter the second battlefield. However, the enemy in the next one was far stronger and obliterated their formation.

Nevertheless, Weizheng still felt good about the whole thing because it showed considerable improvements.

"Shh..." He shushed them and pointed at Li Qiye.

The group calmed down and stopped laughing. Of course, a wide grin was still on their face.

They sat down and meditated while using ointments. Broken bones were nothing. As long as their true fate was still around, Li Qiye's medicine could easily save them.

Interestingly enough, he himself could bring them back from death because he had previously blessed their true fate.

"Alright, let's go again." The group was in high spirits and headed for the second battlefield again.

They were swiftly defeated multiple times but their tenacity remained. The period between each attempt became longer as well.

Li Qiye wanted this. The goal wasn't only to increase their cultivation and power but also to polish their determination in order to force out their full potential. Being on the verge of dying during intense training had this effect.

Moreover, this also served to sharpen their dao heart, fortifying it in the process. Defeats taught them patience and gave them more battle experiences.

Li Qiye believed that the dao heart was more important than anything else.

Numerous geniuses couldn't get back up after the first defeat due to their weak dao heart. Some eventually joined the evil path as well. That's why he needed to focus on toughening their dao heart.

Victory seemed even further away this time around. Weizheng saw the group stumbling back through the portal after another failure.

It looked like they had just gotten out from a river of blood. Some of the wounds were grisly. For example, Li Jiankun needed to be carried by the Xiu brothers even though they themselves were seriously injured.

Wang Xuehong lost an arm; Jiahui's chest was penetrated by a sword... They no longer got up after the teleportation.

"What happened?!" Weizheng flew over after seeing this.

He took a deep breath after seeing the wounds. It was a miracle for the seven to still be alive, albeit with only one breath left.

Weizheng was startled this time around because the wounds were more serious than the previous attempts. The group was on the verge of death.

Li Qiye finally opened his eyes and raised his hand to suck the group over. His grand dao turned into a cauldron with medicine inside and he placed them within.

The cauldron looked like a large cocoon at this point. Weizheng stood there and prayed, hoping that nothing would happen to these seven.

It wasn't easy for Mountguard to groom seven exceptional seeds.

Alas, there was nothing to worry about when Li Qiye was on the move. "Pop." The cauldron cracked and disappeared so the group fell to the ground.

The seven were perfect again, as vigorous as ever.

“Thank you, Ancestor (Young Noble), for saving us.” They kneeled on the ground.

“What happened?” Weizheng showed his concern. He could see that these wounds didn’t come from the lost souls.

The group exchanged glances. Finally, Wang Xuehong spilled it: “That Zhou person did this!”

“Zhou? Which one?” Weizheng didn’t know about an enemy with this last name.

“School Master, it’s that group we met at the entrance. Their leader is a girl named Zhou Ziqing, a disciple from Central Sacred Ground!” Zhiting revealed.

“I see...” Weizheng was shaken.

Central Sacred Ground was a top lineage in the system, on the same level as Eight Trigrams Kingdom. Moreover, these two had a marriage pact too.

“Did you offend her? Why did she not hold back?” Weizheng put on a serious expression.

“We didn’t offend her at all!” Xuehong shouted indignantly.

“She wanted Junior Sister’s Virtuous Crown.” Jiankun said softly.

Weizheng understood right away. Eight Trigrams Kingdom clearly didn’t give up despite their defeat at Li Qiye’s hands. It was their ally’s turn this time.

“How many attacked?” Weizheng asked.

“Just Zhou Ziqing.” Jiankun felt ashamed because the seven of them nearly died to one girl.

Weizheng lamented in his mind. Of course, there was an uncrossable distance between them and a behemoth like Central Sacred Ground.

“Ancestor, what should we do?” He hesitated before asking Li Qiye. This matter was also beyond his station because Mountguard couldn’t afford to provoke Central Sacred Ground.

[Chapter 2747: Aggression](#)

“What else is there to do? Go back and kill her.” Li Qiye said flatly without batting an eye.

The group stared at each other in response, speechless.

“Right, Ancestor, but Central Sacred Ground is one of the strongest lineages in our system, I heard they still have active Everlastings around.” Weizheng acted with prudence.

Of course, he wasn’t questioning Li Qiye’s power either. However, they have just provoked Eight Trigrams not long ago by killing many of its disciples, even crippling an emissary.

Offending Central Sacred Ground right now meant antagonizing two behemoths of the system.

He never dared to think about something like this in the past. His legs would have tremble already just by provoking one of them, lacking the courage to do so.

It wouldn't be fair to call him a coward. After all, Mountguard was but an ant in comparison. The other two sects could annihilate them at a moment's notice.

Thus, he always restrained himself when dealing with Eight Trigrams. This was a matter of survival. The thoughts of opposing two behemoths at the same time left him frightened.

"What are you going to do then? Do you think they'll stop just because you have conceded? How about handing the crown over so that they can promote the next sage?" Li Qiye smiled and said.

Weizheng contemplated. He naturally didn't want to give up the crown since it was essential for their rise in the future. Their status would be completely different after having a sage since they were part of the orthodox branch in the first place.

"If you don't want to yield, then the only thing left to do is fight." Li Qiye said: "Fight and beat them down till they can't say anything anymore, till they tremble in fear, till they give up on any greedy ideas."

"Plus, it's one sect, not like we are opposing an entire system, although that's fine too." Li Qiye nonchalantly added.

"We obey your orders, Ancestor." Weizheng made up his mind and bowed towards Li Qiye.

As the saying goes - seek riches in the midst of death. If their sect didn't dare to face this level of danger, then how could they rise up again in the future? Moreover, Li Qiye was still around.

"Make up your mind now. But remember, this will be up to you. Return and kill her in order to grow stronger." Li Qiye said.

The youths thought about it again. Finally, Jiahui was the first to speak: "We want to fight her again but further training is necessary."

Though Jiankun was their First Brother, Jiahui played the role of the spiritual leader because of her dao heart.

"This Zhou Ziqing has several powerful treasures. Otherwise, we just need to train a little bit more before taking her down." Zhiting hesitated.

"Treasures? It's no big deal." Li Qiye replied and casually bestowed mighty artifacts to the group.

These treasures actually fitted their individual strong points too. While holding them, the group found the treasures to be a perfect fit as if they were created specifically for them.

Weizheng was astounded to see the glowing treasures because they were at the imperial and Eternal level.

Their sect possessed many treasures like this before their decline. Alas, this was no longer the case in the present. Just one would be considered their sect's defining treasure, only used for the sake of survival. Not to mention an ordinary disciple, even he couldn't bring it outside. That's why he found this casual gifting so astonishing.

Of course, these treasures were nothing for Li Qiye. His treasury had enough artifacts to scare someone to death.

In fact, the youths were shocked while holding their treasures too. This was their first time seeing something so valuable and powerful, let alone being able to use them. This was just like a dream, except it was actually taking place in reality.

“Hurry up and thank your ancestor for his kindness.” Weizheng was the first one to react.

The rest regained their wits and realized what Li Qiye had just done.

“Thank you, Ancestor (Young Noble)!” The group performed a full kowtow.

“Train now, if you can’t beat them with these treasures, never mention my name and our relationship to anyone ever again. That would be too disgraceful.” Li Qiye told them.

“Buzz.” He spread his palm and opened another dimension: “This is a deep-level dimensional space, ten years in there are the same as one day outside. Try your best in there or don’t think about coming out.”

He directly threw them in there before they could react. This was a hellish type of training.

The group found that the ancient battlefields were paradises in comparison to this different dimension. Alas, they didn’t want to let Li Qiye down. They followed Jiahui’s lead and gritted their teeth.

Weizheng was both happy and nervous after seeing this. After all, their cultivation would crazily increase. They would become capable enough to perform any task in the future, if they could get out unscathed.

Li Qiye closed his eyes again afterward. A while later, the girl they met back at the entrance and her posse angrily ran over.

“Where are they?” Zhou Ziqing asked Weizheng with an imperious tone.

“Who are you talking about?” Weizheng remained calm.

“The seven disciples from your sect, especially that girl with the Virtuous Crown.” Ziqing demanded an answer.

“Oh, our incapable disciples? They have left for more training.” He replied.

“Left for more training?” Ziqing snorted with disdain: “So they ran like dogs, completely intimidated by me. You’re their school master, correct?”

“Yes.” He confirmed.

“Listen well then, hmph, call your loser disciple back and hand over the crown. Don’t blame me for not holding back if she doesn’t obey. Our sect will attack your school then, be ready to face the music at that point!” She threatened.

Weizheng was naturally annoyed. He was still a school master so being looked down in this manner left him furious.

“Our Mountguard School has always been humble and never cause trouble for anyone...”

Ziqing interrupted him and sneered: “I don’t give a damn, your so-called sage lost to me so she isn’t qualified to wear the crown. It belongs to us now!”

Weizheng's expression was quite ugly by this point. No one could handle such disrespect.

"Is that so? Sounds like you're completely confident in beating them again." Li Qiye spoke.

"Who are you?" She glared at him.

Unfortunately for her, she knew nothing about Fu Kun's utter defeat. Eight Trigrams considered this too humiliating and hid it from outsiders.

"He is an ancestor of Mountguard." Weizheng jumped in.

[Chapter 2748: Slap](#)

"Looks like anyone can become an ancestor nowadays. That's a tiny sect for you, can't produce any impressive character and have to use a cripple as a fake." Zhou Ziqing glanced over at Li Qiye after hearing Weizheng and found nothing impressive in her eyes.

"Miss Zhou, watch your words!" Weizheng finally barked back.

He didn't want trouble by provoking Central Sacred Ground, but this insult towards the ancestor was out of line.

One's honor was more important than life for many cultivators.

"So what?" Zhou Ziqing didn't give a damn: "What are you going to do about it if I keep running my mouth? Mountguard is only an insignificant sect, our Central Sacred Ground can annihilate you whenever we want."

She tilted her head upward and looked down on Weizheng, looking as if just being able to speak with her was a great honor for him.

"School Master Chen, be smart and tell your disciple to hand the crown over for Senior Sister Zhou. Otherwise, your sect is courting death." A male disciple next to Ziqing sneered, offering a piece of advice.

Weizheng was furious and scowled in response.

"Who is your master?" Li Qiye, on the other hand, seemed nonchalant about the taunting. He sat there, looking to be in poor health.

"My master?" She gave him the side-eye and chuckled: "A piece of trash like you can't ask for his name, not even if you're an ancestor of Mountguard, who the hell do you think you are?! Your sect is noth-!"

"Bam!" Li Qiye's slap came before she could finish speaking.

She got blown flying and eventually fell on the ground, vomiting out both blood and teeth.

She lost most of her teeth and her cheeks became deformed. She looked quite ugly now.

"I'm teaching you for his sake now." Li Qiye didn't bat an eye. Someone like her was nothing more than a mosquito in his eyes.

"You dare to hit me?! I'm going to kill you!" She got up and roared before summoning a dozen swords.

“Clank!” The swords flew forward, wishing to turn him into a meat paste.

“Boom!” Li Qiye flicked his finger and destroyed the swords. Another slap came and smashed her down on the ground.

“Crack!” Her bones shattered and blood stained her entire dress.

“Stop!” Her ten-or-so companions shouted and summoned various treasures and weapons to attack him at the same time.

Li Qiye didn’t even need to turn his head. These treasures exploded and the group went flying as well.

Everyone was suppressed on the ground, unable to get back up.

“Killing an ant like you will only dirty my hand.” Li Qiye lazily glanced at them and said.

“You! Central Sacred Ground will not let this go! My lady is the saintess there, the future queen of Eight Trigrams! Our alliance will cut you to pieces!” Ziqing threatened.

“Bam! Bam! Bam!...” Li Qiye casually and mercilessly slapped her ten more times.

Blood seeped out of her mangled cheeks. Her entire facial structure was ruined.

This was Li Qiye being merciful already since he could turn her to blood with one finger.

“Just because I’m not killing you doesn’t mean that I can’t make it even worse for you. I could strip you naked and hang you on the city wall, let’s see if you’ll stay arrogant then.” Li Qiye said.

The girl became afraid and shuddered, not daring to retort.

“I won’t kill you, but that doesn’t mean your previous transgression is forgiven. The disciples of Mountguard will be the ones to get payback in five days at the martial art stage in the city. One fight, you against those seven. If you win, they can only blame themselves for being weak and the crown will be yours, the same with their lives. If you lose, well, I don’t need to say more.” He elaborated.

The girl’s expression changed many times. She knew that he was far stronger than her so she eventually gritted her teeth and uttered coldly: “Fine, I accept the challenge, but you, you can’t stick your hand in!”

“Don’t worry, I don’t need to stick my hand in because just one glance is enough to kill an ant like you.” Li Qiye looked bored by this conversation.

He withdrew his power and the group struggled to get up. They looked at him and felt a chill inside, causing them to stagger backward.

“Five days then, I will kill your seven disciples and take the crown! Just, just you wait! My sect will also avenge this humiliation... My lady and her husband won’t let you off so easily!” Ziqing didn’t want to leave in such a sad manner so she left some aggressive words.

Moreover, she was telling the truth. She was a personal maid of the saintess from Central Sacred Ground, meaning that she would follow the saintess after marriage to become a concubine. Perhaps she could become a consort later on too.

That's why she was still pretty confident with the two great powers behind her. They had plenty of powerful ancestors.

Killing an ancestor from a tiny sect like Mountguard shouldn't be a problem at all, akin to swatting a fly.

"Scram before I carry out my threat and hang you naked on the city wall." Li Qiye threatened.

The intimidated girl instantly turned around and fled. The rest of the group hastily followed.

Weizheng heaved a sigh of relief after seeing this. He was actually feeling quite good because that rude and arrogant girl has met her match.

"Ancestor, five days, just five days. What if our disciples can't take her on then?" He became worried.

"Then they can only blame themselves for being skillless." Li Qiye closed his eyes again.

Weizheng smiled wryly. The only thing he could do was pray for the group to grow stronger in that deep dimension. Otherwise, a disaster would be awaiting them in five days.

He assumed that the battle would be a private event since it was a feud between a few juniors, not worthy of attracting the big shots' attention.

However, Ziqing let out a fierce message after escaping to the entire mountain range: "I will slay the seven ignorant brats from Mounguard and Central Sacred Legion will destroy this sect too!"

Normally, big threats like this were pretty normal between feuding juniors. The powerful masters would only smile and not care too much.

Alas, this wasn't the case right now. The power gap between Central Sacred Ground and Mountguard was immense - a behemoth versus an ant.

To be frank, any elder from the former could crush the latter to dust. Plus, Zhou Ziqing was rather influential since she was a personal maid of the saintess there. Her status exceeded that of an ordinary disciple from the sect.

"Also, I will take the Virtuous Crown and present it to my lady as a wedding gift!" She added, extremely confident in her victory.

"The Virtuous Crown?" People were startled after hearing this part.

[Chapter 2749: The Battle's Prelude](#)

"The Virtuous Crown?" Experts were shaken after hearing the news about it: "Does Mountguard want to assign the next sage now?"

Mountguard was a mere shadow of its former self but many great powers in the system still had a deep impression of their sages.

After all, only these sages were eligible to greet Everlasting Forefather during the reincarnation cycles. This was an extremely prestigious position. One could even say that these sages were the representatives of the forefather back then.

The disappearance of the forefather also started the decline of Mountguard. No more sages came out either.

Now, the symbol of the sage has returned once more and started a storm.

“Don’t tell me... our great progenitor is reincarnating again?” One master started fantasizing. After all, their progenitor has done so successfully in the past.

The cycle was disrupted for unknown reasons but it didn’t mean that the forefather was no longer capable of doing so, hence the hopeful thinking of the crowd.

“The crown is also the symbol of the main branch.” Ancestors from great powers felt their heart beating faster.

Everyone was tempted by this symbolic and powerful treasure. Possessing the crown meant being the orthodox branch in the system.

The crown was actually useless for the current Mountguard. It could even bring about a sect-destroying disaster.

However, for the rising sects that were part of the side branches or even more distant from the progenitor, they would be able to select their own sage after taking the crown. This would boost their status by several levels. Perhaps they could eventually gain authority and rule over the system too.

This was the reason why Eight Trigrams desired the crown so much.

“Both Central Sacred Ground and Eight Trigrams Kingdom have their own schemes with this.” A senior sighed after hearing Zhou Ziqing’s message.

Everyone knew that forcefully taking the crown from Mountguard would incite a lot of criticisms.

However, an official feud between juniors resulting in winning the crown? This was justifiable since it was a common event. No one could criticize them for doing so.

“Eight Trigrams might be in charge of this. They’re the strongest kingdom right now so they need this crown to manifest an official status.” One ancestor added.

The central saintess was going to marry into the kingdom anyway. If her maid were to grab the item, then the kingdom itself would eventually gain it and have a sage.

Numerous big shots regretted not coming up with the same scheme. If they have done this earlier, they might be the one with the crown right now.

“Eight Trigrams will get it for sure.” One expert analyzed the situation.

Zhou Ziqing wasn’t that exceptional among the young generation but she shouldn’t have any problem dealing with seven disciples from Mountguard. It didn’t matter if these seven were the best in that sect either.

Of course, the greedy spectators needed to restrain themselves. They knew Eight Trigrams and Central Sacred Ground were behind this matter too. These two sects would do anything for the crown, so it’s best not to provoke them.

Ziqing's declaration served as a delicate reminder to everyone to back off from wanting the crown.

"Mountguard won't be able to escape this disaster." Another ancestor became emotional.

As the adage goes - possessing a jade ring invites trouble. It was a crown in this case.

Mountguard was no longer the same as before. Having the crown still wouldn't revitalize their sect. On the other hand, it would incite greed from others.

If Zhou Ziqing wanted to destroy Mountguard, there will be people from the two behemoths willing to carry out the task for her.

That's why in the eyes of the spectators, Mountguard wouldn't be able to get away from this mess. The feud between the juniors didn't matter. Something else or another excuse would have happened anyway since everyone wanted the crown.

The five days passed by right away.

Today was the date for the battle between Zhou Ziqing and the seven disciples of Mountguard.

The stage had plenty of spectators with no lack of ancestors.

The battle itself meant nothing due to the disparity in power between the combatants. The seven from Mountguard had no chance of reversing the tides.

They believed that Zhou Ziqing would win for sure and were only here to look at the Virtuous Crown.

After all, this was something bestowed by the great progenitor himself. Though it wasn't an ancestral weapon, it was still priceless enough.

Zhou Ziqing was here early, still surrounded by many peers. She wore a red cloak, looking quite domineering and prideful.

She was also certain of victory, ready to put the crown in her bag. She wasn't afraid of that ancestor from Mountguard either because she invited characters of the same level here too.

"Nice to meet you, Miss Zhou." Young peers came to greet her. Some from the last generation joined in too.

If Zhou Ziqing was only a regular prodigy of Central Sacred Ground, she wouldn't have the same status. However, being the maid of the saintess there changed everything. She had the chance of becoming a concubine or even a consort of the crown prince from Trigrams in the future.

Remember, Eight Trigrams was strong enough to eventually seize the authority of the system. The crown prince could take the throne soon too and he would have everything at that point.

Just imagine, one might not be able to flatter the king from a lack of contact but they could still communicate with a consort. Through that, one could get their agenda across to the king - this was plenty already.

"The saintess isn't here to cheer her on." Someone quietly said.

In fact, the crowd wanted to see this saintess since she was considered a supreme beauty in Immortal Demon System. Her looks could charm any man.

“She doesn’t need to show up for this. As an amazing Ascender, just one word from her and plenty of masters will take action in her stead. It’s not hard for her to declare the death of Mountguard.” A master shook his head.

This was indeed the truth. The saintess was rumored to be an eighth-level Ascender, on the verge of reaching the ninth level.

Moreover, she was also the future queen of Eight Trigrams. She was influential enough to command other Ascenders to destroy Mountguard. There was no point coming here in person.

In fact, Zhou Ziqing found this to be beneath her too. If it wasn’t for the crown and potential criticisms, she would have told other experts to kill these disciples instead of having to fight them herself.

[Chapter 2750: Begin](#)

It has been a while since Ziqing got here and the people from Mountguard were still nowhere to be found.

The spectators kept staring at the entrance in anticipation. Of course, they weren’t excited to see the “geniuses” of Mountguard, only the Virtuous Crown.

“They’re putting up quite a show, want to be fashionably late or something.” A few lost their patience and complained.

“Hmph, I don’t think it’s like that. They probably escaped back to Mountguard, aware of their inferiority compared to Miss Zhou. The so-called battle is nothing but a delaying tactic.”

“A monk can hide but not his temple.” Ziqing sneered.

Some listeners shuddered. Everyone felt that by escaping back to their sect, these disciples only gave Central Sacred Ground more of an excuse to mobilize against Mountguard.

At that point, Central Sacred Ground would just say that they have broken a promise and send an army there with the perfect justification. The crown would pretty much be theirs by then.

That’s why everyone realized that Mountguard’s action didn’t matter. Both fighting and fleeing resulted in the same thing - defeat.

“Well, I think we can be sure that those disciples want to tuck their head in their shell like cowardly turtles then.” One person gloated after seeing how high the sun was in the sky.

“Who says we’re fleeing?” A calm voice came about.

“They’re here! Finally!” Someone immediately recognized School Master Chen Weizheng and shouted.

Everyone looked over and saw a total of nine people walking in. Among them was a disabled person in a wheelchair.

The spectators exchanged glances. This group looked quite weak. It seemed that the rumors about the decline of Mountguard weren't exaggerated.

They couldn't be blamed for looking down on Mountguard. They could see Weizheng's power level clearly, only barely stepping into the True God realm.

A True God was nothing in the grand scheme of things. Many great powers had numerous True Gods among the previous generation.

As for the seven young ones, they were just average at best and couldn't be considered exceptional. This type of disciples could be found anywhere in the system.

They then shifted their sight over to Zhou Ziqing. She didn't belong to the top tier of new disciples but was still considered excellent.

Though it was seven on one, Zi Qing was two full realms higher than them. This wasn't something that could be made up with a numerical advantage.

As for Li Qiye, people only gave him a quick glance since they didn't give a damn about someone looking like that.

They became clear that Mountguard was really done for since Weizheng was their strongest expert. Central Sacred Ground was immensely more powerful.

"Mountguard is just a third-rate sect now." One expert looked down on them.

Mountguard used to be an extremely prestigious sect. Even though it wasn't in control of the system, people still listened to orders from it. Alas, this was no longer the case.

"Is that the Virtuous Crown?" Eyes focused on the crown on top of Jiahui's head. They found it to be quite normal looking so skepticism arose.

"It is, looks exactly as described in the legends." An ancestor took a careful look and confirmed.

These ancestors were very tempted right now but they didn't dare to take the food from the lion's jaws.

"Time to start this, you all deserve death for making me wait so long!" Zhou Ziqing arrogantly stared at the group before uttering.

The seven stood behind Li Qiye with great composure while waiting for his order. They seemed to be more mature than before.

The training in deep space truly benefited them, allowing them to be unflustered before their enemy.

"I will have both your heads and the crown today!" Ziqing revealed a murderous expression. Alas, her eyes narrowed while looking at Li Qiye. She then reminded herself that she had her own masters waiting nearby.

She didn't hide her greed while staring at the crown at all. Taking it out on these youth was also her chance to payback the humiliation suffered earlier to the hand of Li Qiye.

Most importantly, Eight Trigrams Kingdom wanted the crown. Failure stemming from mistakes was unacceptable.

This was going to determine her future. Success meant soaring into prosperity. She would surely be rewarded and become a concubine to the crown prince from Eight Trigrams. At that point, she could call for rains and winds on a whim.

That's why she was so determined right now to get the crown. No one would be able to stop her.

"Go now, don't return without her head for doing so is insulting me." Li Qiye said without opening his eyes, not caring about the spectators present.

"Yes, Ancestor." The group respectfully bowed.

"Ancestor? Since when does Mountguard have such a young ancestor?" Their address confused many people.

Nevertheless, they quickly dismissed it since this ancestor probably wasn't that powerful. He would only be an Ascender at best, not a big deal. Only Eternals were relevant in the system.

"Hmph!" Zhou Ziqing snorted after hearing the comment, emboldened by the presence of mighty masters from her own sect.

"No one from Mountguard will leave this place alive! This is the fate of those who oppose our Central Sacred Ground!" She pompously declared.

These words were meant for Li Qiye. She wanted him to die along with Weizheng. Next, her sect would also destroy Mountguard.

The connection between Mountguard and the Virtuous Crown was deeply rooted in history. They needed to destroy Mountguard as well in order to establish a sage with the crown. No one would question their eligibility then.

Unfortunately, Li Qiye ignored her declaration of war.

"Get ready, don't underestimate your enemy. Go all out." Weizheng told the group.

He wasn't as confident in the seven compared to Li Qiye. He didn't think they could kill Zhou Ziqing just by working together.

The group acknowledged the command and walked in a line onto the stage.

"Since this is a battle to the death at Reincarnation Mountain, I hope I'm not out of line to recommend myself as the referee for both sides." An old man stepped up and loudly declared.

He had a heavy sword on his back, brimming with sword energy. The guy was obviously a powerful Ascender.

"Pinnacle Sword Saint from Pinnacle Kingdom." Some recognized him right away.

"I have no objection." Ziqing agreed.

“We also have no objection.” Weizheng hesitated for a bit before agreeing. He had heard about this sword saint before but didn’t quite trust him. Alas, he didn’t have a better candidate here right now to be the referee.