Emperor 3331

Chapter 3331: On Ancestral Peak

Li Qiye sauntered up the steps before bewildered eyes.

"So is there actually a seal and strong suppression power?" One disciple had to ask.

This prohibition has been well documented for millions of years now. Thus, only South Conch Dao Lord has been up there.

However, Li Qiye appeared so leisurely right now as if there was no power affecting him.

The whole thing felt so bizarre and cast a shadow of doubts on their knowledge. They thought that the grave of weapons was the highest location. Everyone needed to stop here.

"Go take a look then." An elder glared at one doubter.

The disciple immediately became afraid and didn't have the courage to give it a shot. However, one of his peers didn't buy it.

The guy was relatively strong and said: "I'll give it a shot, maybe the pressure is gone." He walked over to the steps.

"Boom!" The moment he came out of the grave's area, the suppression didn't show any mercy.

The guy got repelled backward and went flying. He smashed into the ground and vomited blood, falling unconscious.

"It's still there!" The ones nearby were horrified. One guy already lifted his foot up and was about to take another step. He immediately pulled back and thanked his luck.

No one else said anything after the confirmation. Meanwhile, the elders were still staring at Li Qiye.

"So goddamn devilish." One elder eventually concluded, saying what's on everyone's mind.

Li Qiye didn't exude any power nor was there anything protecting him. He looked like a mortal climbing up the mountain for fun.

No one here knew why he was impervious to the suppressive power of their ancestral peak.

Ping Suoweng stared intensely at the guy's back for a long time. He came up with numerous speculations and thought that the answer was unfathomable.

"Maybe he's really the son of miracle, that's why he can do something like this." One disciple murmured.

In the beginning, this sarcastic title was meant to mock him. Now, it turned out to be fascinatingly apt.

Finally, Li Qiye disappeared from sight after he entered the clouds.

"Okay, this is the end of the examination. Take your leave." Zhang Yue stopped watching and told the crowd.

"We can finally take it easy now!" Some regained their wits and cheered. Others left in dejection with their head hanging low.

The examination ended with both happiness and disappointment. Those who didn't do so well needed to wait for the next one.

Some protectors and elders also began leaving. A few chose to stay and stared at the peak: "Will the brat be able to reach the top?"

"No point in being surprised now, what miracle can't happen when he's around?" A different elder smiled wryly.

Some time passed and everyone left the ancestral peak. Of course, some still paid attention to this area, such as Ping Suoweng and the bodhi king.

There was another definite loser after the examination. One elder moaned and groaned: "I'm gonna have to sell my coffin to make up for this! Who the hell bet on Li Qiye to be number one?!"

He screamed in his own courtyard while bleeding inside.

Bets have been placed before the examination. Li Qiye had very favorable odds because no one thought that he would win. Thus, few betted on him. In fact, they were considered fools for doing so.

Lu Daowei was one of these fools. He was afraid of the house reneging while coming to pick up his winnings.

However, he didn't win as big as the children from Liu Village. He chose to spread his money over various bets, a little bit of everything.

On the other hand, the children placed everything they got on Li Qiye being number one.

The house was as sad as can be during their exchange but it was already too late.

"May the heaven smite you, Li Qiye! Three thousand years of saving... all gone in one night, damn you! Damn you!" The elder shouted at the sky.

He was in charge of the gambling house and lost everything after the examination. He nearly went mad.

On the other hand, the children from Liu were ecstatic. Not to mention the treasures Li Qiye gave them, just their winnings alone turned them into rich men overnight.

"Shit, I should have betted on Li Qiye too." Other disciples saw this and regretted their inaction. They just needed to bet something and the winnings would have been monumental.

People have been speculating the items sealed on top of the peak for generations now.

A devil king who used to be the nemesis of their patriarch? A supreme item of a grand emperor waiting for the fateful one? An immortal medicinal tree that has yet to reach full maturity? It was impossible to verify these legends.

Li Qiye continued walking up the steps covered in clouds and mist. There was still a long way to go but he was in no hurry.

He eventually reached the top and was met with a refreshing breeze. The hike was rather enjoyable.

He could see all of Divine Black from this vantage point. The scenes were truly gorgeous but he only gave them a quick glance before focusing on the center of the peak.

No devil king, no supreme medicinal material and artifact, only a fair-sized lake.

This was quite strange because there shouldn't be any source of water here. This place was the highest area of Divine Black. However, the lake didn't dry up in the slightest. It seemed to maintain this state across the years.

It didn't look magical or special in any way. The only stand out thing was something akin to an altar.

"The old geezer is lucky indeed, able to find the entrance to the grand vein. No wonder why it could start a sect. This vein definitely boosted its fortune." Li Qiye chuckled while looking at the lake. He then walked towards the altar.

Chapter 3332: I'll Be Waiting

This altar was actually just the mouth of the seal. It was made from unknown rocks and stones, perfectly carved by a great master. Each cut demanded nothing but perfection.

"From the beast veins." Li Qiye touched the materials and shook his head: "This tortoise, quite crafty, I see. So it picked up a few things."

In Divine Black, some records stated that their patriarch had entered immortal lands and paradises...

In reality, it had quite a harvest after rummaging through the ruins of Heavenhoof Ravine.

The disciples of Divine Black have been wondering what was sealed up here, perhaps a treasure?

In reality, it contained the entrance to a grand vein - the reason why the tortoise chose this place to build its sect, resulting in boundless potential.

Alas, during the great disaster, everything collapsed. The nine worlds came to an end and no one remembered this old legend.

Li Qiye just happened to be one of those who still remembered. He had entered the ancestral source of this place before and knew all the secrets there.

The fact that he appeared in Divine Black was a coincidence. Nonetheless, since he was already here, he still wanted to take a look.

These secrets were heaven-defying and worthwhile for regular people but they weren't much in his eyes.

He focused on the runes carved on the rocks. They were added by more than just one person. First was the Black Tortoise, another for certain was South Conch Dao Lord.

The dao lord certainly added more seals for the sake of Divine Black. However, one of the ones before him left behind even more impressive runes - better technique and mightier strokes, far more profound as well.

Both the Black Tortoise and the dao lord paled in comparison. This writer was far stronger than the tortoise and still stronger than the dao lord.

"It's meant for me." Li Qiye chuckled.

He knew who it was and touched the runes: "Not bad, quite a visionary. Other Immortal Emperors can't compare to these achievements."

These runes were beyond the comprehension of ordinary people due to the innate complicated dao.

However, this wasn't difficult for Li Qiye at all.

"You do get me." Li Qiye smiled and channeled the runes.

"Creak..." The entire altar started moving as a result. The individual rock and stone shifted and spun like gears. Next came the flashing of the runes.

Eventually, he placed the runes in all the right spots.

"Boom!" A beam shot up and tore apart the sky, reaching the highest empyrean.

Many in Divine Black became startled and followed the beam shooting through the clouds.

"What's that?!" The frightened disciple began shouting.

"From the ancestral peak." It took them a moment to realize where the beam was coming from.

"It has to be Li Qiye, he made it to the peak?" One disciple blurted out.

"I can't believe it, he's really the son of miracles." This became the only topic in the sect.

Everyone found this astonishing but he had actually done it. They became convinced of his abilities. First, the steps then the grave of weapons. Now, the ancestral peak too?

"Is there anything he can't do?" The protectors and elders felt the same way as the rest of the disciples.

Huang Ning and Zhan Hu's expression became as ugly as can be. They clenched their fists tightly, speechless.

Just Gong Qianyue alone had stolen their spotlight. Now, Li Qiye completely buried their ambition and reputation. He turned them into clowns and made it hard for them to walk around.

As long as Li Qiye was around, they would have no chance of rising up and taking the mantle of Divine Black. He reduced their future into ashes so they wanted nothing more than to cut him to pieces.

"Boom!" From the crevices of the sky came a boundless imperial aura. It swept through Eight Desolaces with absolute domination.

Reclusive sovereigns and peerless ancestors woke up from their slumber after sensing this force.

Strangely enough, the weaker cultivators didn't feel a thing while their ancestors became suffocated.

Yin Yang Gate, Buddha Holy Ground, Three Truths Sect, Dragon Phoenix Valley... The ancestors from these powers all stared at the sky in awe.

A supreme figure appeared on West King's horizon. It was ethereal and faint yet all sovereigns were ants in comparison.

"Immortal Emperor Zhan!" An ancient sovereign's legs trembled at this sight.

"I'll be waiting at the ancestral source." The figure left behind this eternal mantra then disappeared.

The mantra could only be heard by the top ancestors and took them like a storm. They didn't calm down even long after the figure was gone.

"The legendary Immortal Emperor!" One ancestor took a deep breath.

The ancient era was no more but the tales of this emperor remained. Some memorized every word.

"Waiting at the ancestral source?" Another ancestor speculated: "Did the emperor leave behind a legacy?!"

"Maybe all of the emperor's treasures and scrolls are there." One more wondered.

"Go, tell the sect master to go to the source right away!" Another commanded.

"Send down this message, a great treasury will appear in the near future." One ancestor came out of reclusion.

News of an emerging treasury traveled through northern West King.

Of course, only Li Qiye really knew what the message was about.

"Why bother remembering such a little thing after so many years?" Li Qiye chuckled and shook his head.

He knew who the emperor was and the location of the ancestral source. This emperor wanted to get even with him.

"Very well, let's see what you want." He stroked his chin, clearly amused.

Chapter 3333: Rising Storm

The figure of an immortal emperor frightened the hidden ancestors.

On the contrary, it didn't affect Divine Black. The sect had very few people capable of seeing past the firmament. Ordinary disciples didn't see the figure at all.

Ping Suoweng was one of them, the only member of Divine Black at the sacred level. The mantra of the emperor also echoed in his ears.

The top masters in the different sects had no idea why the emperor chose to appear and left behind these words. They assumed that it was just a coincidence or a sign of a treasury.

Ping Suoweng was different. He knew that the figure appeared because of the beam emanating from the ancestral peak. The culprit was Li Qiye.

He became worried, evident by his furrowed brows, and fell into contemplation. He knew many secrets about his sect, especially those relating to the ancestral peak.

He didn't have all the details but he knew that the sect was connected to a grand vein, perhaps the best one in all of West King.

The direct benefits weren't clear by this point but if people were to know about this connection, Divine Black would be viewed as a fat piece of meat.

The entrance was definitely on the peak. He just didn't know if it was open or not.

The beam told him that this should be the case. "Ancestral source" from the mantra was a big clue. This should pertain to the portal and the grand vein.

Others would go crazy after finding out that their sect had a portal leading to the "ancestral source". This could lead to an expedition resulting in their sect's demise.

He has been worrying about something like this all along. Now, it seemed like it would happen during his watch. This left him with a heavy heart.

"It's inevitable." He murmured. After a while, he looked at the peak and said: "Maybe one more miracle? Or the consequence would be unimaginable."

He knew that he couldn't fight the incoming struggle alone. His sect couldn't either. The coalition would be far beyond his abilities. This would end with him being a sinner for failing to stop this development.

Thus, he thought about one person - Li Qiye. This guy might be the only person who could save Divine Black.

Others might think that he was crazy for having this thought or that he was at his wit's end, desperate for anything. However, he was serious.

Li Qiye seemed to be an ordinary disciple in the Iron Skin realm. How could he save Divine Black?

Suoweng didn't agree. Li Qiye had performed numerous miracles. The first time might be attributed to luck. The same with the second. However, three times?

"Why is he here?" He asked himself this question.

He didn't know who Li Qiye was or his reason for being here. This guy turned down the weapons in the pit. Even dao lord weapons didn't matter to him. Therefore, nothing in Divine Black should matter.

"He's coming down, over there." Many disciples were paying attention to the ancestral peak and saw a descending figure.

"He really did it..." Some said with admiration.

"He has to be the number one in our sect now, no one else can climb up there." One said with disbelief. Not even their sect master could do this.

The disdain from the past has turned into admiration. Thus, they all made way for him.

He didn't possess an invincible aura during this leisure stroll. Nonetheless, even the protectors and elders got out of his way. Some disciples even lowered their head and kept quiet until he was gone.

"What did he get in there? A peerless imperial weapon from the legends?" One disciple speculated.

"Maybe an immortal medicinal root. Eating it can turn someone into a heavenly sovereign overnight." Another murmured.

"That's a thing?" A new disciple rolled his eyes.

"Yes, there are tales about it." The speaker earlier wasn't confident.

"Maybe something even more incredible..."

Numerous disciples talked about this matter and wondered what he got from the peak.

He became the ultimate member of their sect, the number one of the young generation. Gong Qianyue herself was overshadowed.

Huang Ning and Zhan Hu were all but forgotten. Very few talked about these two, much to their annoyance. Their animosity towards Li Qiye grew.

Meanwhile, the five peaks have started picking disciples from Jade Bird. With the exception of those chosen to stay, the other exceptional disciples were taken away.

The ones who were picked were ecstatic. Those who didn't make the cut became dejected. They could only wait until the next examination.

The children from Liu Village went to Eight Zhang Peak. Many were envious since they were so new.

Lu Daowei was chosen by Thousand Demons. He was ecstatic as well.

After a while, people realized that one person hasn't been picked - Li Qiye.

"No main peak wants him?" This puzzled the crowd.

After all, he was the hottest disciple in the sect right now. How could those peaks not want him?

"Maybe Jade Bird took him first?" One said.

"No chance for Furious Tiger Peak, Thousand Demons, not likely either. It'll be either Eight Zhang or South Conch. I think it's Eight Zhang." A human disciple said.

This was reasonable because Li Qiye had an ongoing feud with Furios Tiger. As for Thousand Demons, it was a place for demons. Plus, Huang Ning was from there too.

Eight Zhang should be the obvious choice because Mountainbearer King helped him during the conflict.

"Buzz." South Conch Peak suddenly became radiant. This interrupted their speculation.

Chapter 3334: Personal Visit

"Poof!" A grand dao force engulfed Divine Black. True energy chaos came like a tsunami.

Everyone could sense a certain power surrounding their sect. It seemed to be connected to heaven and earth.

They became tense because other grand dao were being contained by this one, nearly melting into one.

Thousands of runes came together and turned into a divine bridge starting at Souch Conch Peak and materializing towards Jade Bird.

"The sacred level." The crowd gasped in response. Many bowed towards the direction of the bridge while putting on their best act.

The protectors, elders, and peak lords were alarmed as well.

"Sacred level" was a short name for the Grand Dao Sacred Physique realm. Those at this level were the strongest beneath dao lords and heavenly sovereigns, only one step away from the peak.

Ping Suoweng was the only person in Divine Black. Thus, everyone knew that it was him on the move. All eyes turned towards South Conch Peak.

"The sect master is leaving." Many found this surprising, if not astonishing.

In recent years, Ping Suoweng rarely showed himself, always staying at South Conch. Only a few managed to see him.

Some gossiped about his inactivity. One speculation stated that he was training to become a heavenly sovereign. Another said that he was trying to comprehend a supreme artifact. A few believed that he was old now and no longer cared about ordinary matters...

Thus, another topic came up - the next successor of Divine Black.

"The sect master is actually coming here in person." An elder realized something after seeing the bridge: "Looks like he's viewing this with great importance."

The sect master normally didn't interfere with mundane matters in Divine Black. This had to be something he considered serious.

This elder also knew that it was because of a disciple - Li Qiye.

"I don't think the sect master has ever taken in a disciple in this manner." The older disciples of Divine Black became surprised.

This was an unprecedented honor. Both Su Xu and Gong Qianyue never got this pleasure.

An old man appeared on top of the divine bridge, looking just like a mortal wearing a cheap robe. He had wrinkles all over his face but his fingers were long and strangely vibrant, brimming with youthfulness. They looked like ten swords.

Those who knew about him were also aware of his South Conch Sword Art.

This technique solidified his position as the strongest in Divine Black. That's why when people saw his fingers, they immediately connected it to this art.

Ping Suoweng used the bridge to instantly arrive at Jade Bird.

"Sect Master." Zhang Yue, many protectors, and the disciples came to greet him.

However, Li Qiye was nowhere to be found, let alone coming to greet his sect master. This seemed rather pompous.

Nonetheless, no one dared to voice their annoyance before the sect master. It would only bring needless trouble.

"No need for formalities." Suoweng was rather amiable and approachable. He told Zhang Yue before going towards Li Qiye's place.

Zhang Yue heaved a sigh of relief after he was gone. Though Zhang Yue was also a peak lord, he was the newest and the weakest of the five, only at the yin yang realm. He felt great pressure and dread while standing in front of Suoweng even though the guy didn't release his aura.

"Back to your post." He ordered with a solemn expression. Everything in Jade Bird needed to be perfect with Suoweng around.

The other disciples could read the atmosphere and acknowledged the command. They immediately went to carry out their duties.

Meanwhile, Li Qiye was as leisurely as ever inside his room - a stark contrast to the tense atmosphere outside.

Ping Suoweng's presence didn't change anything. He still lazily lay in his chair with Gong Qianyue serving him tea like a maid.

She bowed after seeing Suoweng while Li Qiye remained still, only staring at the guy.

Anyone else would find this to be extremely disrespectful and chastise him for it.

After all, Suoweng was the sect master. No one else had a higher status than him in Divine Black. Other peak lords needed to stand up to greet him.

Now, Li Qiye didn't bother saying anything. This inaction made him seem arrogant and thoughtless.

Suoweng didn't mind and sat down nearby, staring straight at Li Qiye.

Gong Qianyue poured him a cup of tea, prompting him to nod approvingly.

Suoweng's brows furrowed at Li Qiye, not because of the perceived disrespect but rather, he couldn't see through the guy.

A cultivator at the sacred level might not be unbeatable in the northern West King but was still a great character. Anyone meeting him would have to tread carefully.

This wasn't the case for Li Qiye as if he was nothing more than a random passerby on the street.

He felt a little defeated; his confidence cracked a bit. This had nothing to do with pride but for better or worse, he was still a powerful cultivator and the sect master of Divine Black. It was rather frustrating to be treated in this manner.

He focused up and continued on checking the guy out. He confirmed that the guy was really an Iron Skin cultivator, not someone hiding their power.

Suoweng couldn't believe this. How could an Iron Skin cultivator manage to do so many insane feats? Miracle was the only word to describe them.

He himself witnessed all of it and still found it perplexing. Maybe the elders were right. Only the word "devilish" could describe him.

"Virtuous Nephew." Suoweng chose to be as friendly as possible. The other peak lords didn't have this privilege.

"Call me Young Master." Li Qiye finally sat up straight and corrected.

"..." This was Suoweng's first time experiencing something like this.

"Young Master." He smiled wryly and strugglingly said the words.

The moment he uttered those words, he felt as if Li Qiye was a supreme master while he was nothing more than a servant.

This feeling couldn't be resisted and felt so natural when Li Qiye was around.

"Mmm, good." Li Qiye nodded and said: "Spill it, you're not here for no reason."

The guy looked so lazy and carefree yet Suoweng thought that he was looking at the ultimate ruler of everything. This was an insane thought yet once again, it felt so natural.

Chapter 3335: Where Are You From?

Ping Suoweng took a sip of tea and adjusted his mindset. He pondered for a bit before starting: "Young Master, may I ask where you are from and what's your destination?"

He chose his words carefully, not directly asking who Li Qiye was. He normally didn't need to exercise such caution when speaking to someone else, not even when in front of someone like Yin Yang Gate Master.

However, he felt like prudence was the right choice. Intuition told him that Li Qiye was far beyond his imagination.

His curiosity was at an all-time high. Just who was this man?

He didn't buy that this mysterious guy came from Liu Village. A shallow pond like that couldn't produce a true dragon like Li Qiye.

His fingers on the cup tightened as he became nervous. It has been a while since he felt this emotion ever since he became the sect master of Divine Black and reached the sacred level.

He had experienced plenty of hardship and survived numerous perilous trials while keeping his cool. But now, he had a tough time waiting for Li Qiye's answer.

Li Qiye narrowed his eyes and Suoweng saw the eyes becoming extremely profound and all-devouring.

"From where I belong and going to where I should." Li Qiye smilingly said.

"Where do you belong and where do you should go?" Suoweng didn't expect this and asked for elaboration.

"It is not something you should ask nor can you." Li Qiye smiled with his eyes.

This response could be taken as blatant disrespect or even rebellious. However, Suoweng felt great danger as a chill coursed through him.

He found himself to be an ant while looking at Li Qiye's eyes. The guy was a supreme who could easily crush him.

'How ridiculous.' Suoweng thought but this feeling was as real as can be. His palms became sweaty.

He took a deep breath, confident that Li Qiye wasn't an ordinary cultivator nor was he a member of Liu Village. He no longer dared to ask for Li Qiye's true background.

Intuition told him that his curiosity might end with his death and the destruction of Divine Black.

"Young Master, may I ask the reason for your visit to our sect?" Suoweng asked despite knowing the potential danger. He simply needed to know for the sake of the sect.

An extraordinary being like Li Qiye must have a reason for coming here.

He has been wondering about Li Qiye's goal for some time now. Treasure? Merit laws? Or something else?

Treasures shouldn't be it due to the incident back in the pit. The guy refused to take dao lord weapons.

There was something even stronger than dao lord weapons - the divine sword left behind by South Conch Dao Lord.

However, he didn't think that this was the answer. Merit laws - low possibility for this too. He heard that Li Qiye chose the worst merit laws to start.

"A twist of fate between Divine Black and I, that's all." Li Qiye smiled.

Fate was an intangible concept but Li Qiye made it sound so real.

"I believe you." Suoweng eventually nodded and answered with sincerity.

Most people cared about treasures and merit laws. As for something like "fate", this wasn't on their mind.

Nonetheless, Suoweng thought that a master like Li Qiye was above seeking the former. Fate dictated his action here.

"Don't worry, you wouldn't be sitting here if I had harbored any ill intent." Li Qiye added.

Suoweng heaved a sigh of relief since this wasn't the worst-case scenario. This was the answer he wanted to hear.

"Young Master, what was up in the ancestral peak?" This was the second important matter to Suoweng.

"You already know the answer without asking me." Li Qiye glanced at the guy. Nothing could escape his eyes.

Suoweng became awkward after being read like a book. He smiled wryly and said: "I only know very little, that there is a way to reach the grand vein up there. I lack the details."

"Sounds about right." Li Qiye casually responded.

"So our sect can reach the ancestral source?" Suoweng frowned since this issue has been haunting him.

They risked being surrounded by all sides due to the mantra left by Immortal Emperor Zhan.

"Maybe, maybe not. Depends on who it is." Li Qiye replied: "Your dao lord worried about this so he climbed up the peak, trying to prevent potential destruction. As I have said, fate brought me here so what should happen will and what shouldn't won't due to my presence."

"That's great to hear..." Suoweng felt much better. He didn't know what awaited later on but he trusted Li Qiye.

"So what is this ancestral source?" He relaxed and became curious again: "Did he really leave his legacy at that place?"

So many ancestors and powerful beings in West King were searching for the "ancestral source". They all wanted the emperor's legacy.

"Hmm..." Li Qiye fell into contemplation, remembering a few things.

He eventually stared at Suoweng and smiled: "You're interested in that place?"

"Saying no would definitely be a lie but I worry more about Divine Black, not any potential gains." Suoweng let out a hollow laugh.

Chapter 3336: Immortal Emperor Zhan

"The ancestral source isn't meant for the world to see. Those who come there will only be seeking death." Li Qiye revealed.

"Then why did Immortal Emperor Zhan talk about waiting there?" Suoweng was startled for a moment before asking.

"Not waiting for you." Li Qiye put on an implicative smile.

Suoweng didn't expect this response. Now that he thought about it, there was a problem with the common interpretation of this line.

I'll be waiting at the ancestral source. The first impression of this line was that the emperor was speaking to future descendants.

And that maybe in the ancient era, the emperor had left behind a legacy and treasury for the fateful ones.

Now, Suoweng thought about it again. Maybe the line wasn't meant for everyone currently.

But if it was meant for a specific crowd, then who? Suoweng thought about it for a bit before looking at Li Qiye who still had a smile on, gazing at the horizon and seemingly lost in remembrance.

"Hmm, what is Immortal Emperor Zhan trying to do? Is there a deeper meaning?" Suoweng murmured.

The emperor was a brilliant existence - one who followed the past and heralded the future. The emperor's radiance shone the ancient era and reached Eight Desolaces.

The legends still remained after so many years. There have been other wondrous beings - great emperors and peerless saints. However, only a few were remembered in the present.

Immortal Emperor Zhan was one of them. As the last emperor of the Nine Worlds Epoch, this emperor completely dominated that era despite the numerous geniuses and top masters, never tasting defeat.

Eventually, she no longer needed to fight. Just one word was enough to take down gods and devils. She eventually became a peerless legend. [1]

The most shocking thing was during the days of darkness when evil entities fell from above. She showed up and proved his might. Everyone still heard about that battle until now.

Other dao lords showed up later, such as the Duck's Egg Buyer, Pureyang Dao Lord, Blessed Dao Lord, and many others. Nonetheless, she still remained at the top in the river of time. [2]

So what kind of sign was this? Why did she leave behind this mantra?

Was this to tell the world of her legacy? Or another meaning?

The other ancestors and sovereigns thought that same thing as Suoweng. They wanted to find the "ancestral source".

Li Qiye didn't comment on this. He smiled and told Suoweng: "Who do you think the great emperor was? Is the world worthy of her remembrance?"

Suoweng actually agreed. The emperor dominated for so long and was extremely peerless. Why would she leave behind anything for inferior beings? She probably didn't even care for those in her era, let alone the distant generations in the future. [3]

They were simply daydreaming and hoping for that particular outcome out of greed.

"That does make sense." The surprised Suoweng answered.

"She's only aiming at one person for a bet. Nonetheless, the ancestral source should have something incredible there." Li Qiye looked out the window and said, focusing his gaze.

He was certain that she had left behind something there, just definitely not treasures or her legacy.

"So what is it?" Suoweng was deeply curious. The one capable of fighting against the darkness should definitely leave something great behind.

This was why all the ancestors wanted to find the ancestral source so badly. It could be an invincible artifact or an item capable of granting immortality.

"Who knows? It's not what those fools are thinking of though, no artifacts or treasures." Li Qiye replied.

"Mmm..." Suoweng smiled wryly since he shared the same thought as "those fools".

Li Qiye stared out the window. He didn't need to think about what the emperor left behind since he would find out soon enough.

However, since so much time had passed, he nearly forgot about some people and things in the past. They were resurfacing right now.

"Oh, Young Master, which peak do you wish to enter?" Suoweng regained his wits and smiled.

He naturally wanted Li Qiye to join South Conch but asking directly would be awkward.

Other disciples would love to join South Conch. They would be too excited to sleep after finding out the good news since an entry meant a bright future.

Alas, Suoweng thought that it would be his greatest honor to have Li Qiye join his peak.

"I'll be staying here." Li Qiye waved his hand: "All the same to me, no need to move again, too troublesome."

"Very well." Suoweng was slightly disappointed but didn't dare to press the issue.

"Divine Black is tiny, it's really all the same wherever I stay." Li Qiye looked at the sect master and said: "Plus, if I were to go to your peak, I'm afraid you won't be able to eat and sleep well."

"Please don't say that, Young Master. I would be ecstatic to have you there." Suoweng immediately replied.

"Is that so? Will you be ecstatic when I bring that divine sword away?" Li Qiye had a smile that wasn't a smile on his face.

"..." Suoweng became speechless, not knowing how to respond for a while.

"Excuse my stupor, if you really wish to take that sword, go for it. It doesn't belong to me anyway, it belongs to the sect and you're a disciple here." He regained his wits and said.

Of course, he would be lying if he were to say that it didn't hurt him. After all, it was the sect's strongest weapon.

Alas, there was nothing he could do because Li Qiye had the sword seal after climbing up the steps.

He had fused with it, meaning that he had total control over the sword. The seal allowed him to bypass any cultivation limitation. Thus, he could still use it despite being an Iron Skin cultivator.

"See, you won't be able to sleep well for a long time." Li Qiye laughed and didn't express his intent on taking the sword.

"Young Master, the truth is that I truly want to control that sword. However, South Conch Forefather left it behind and didn't state who is allowed to use it. Thus, we should leave it up to fate." Suoweng admitted with an awkward expression.

"How far have you gotten?" Li Qiye asked.

"I've been trying after reaching the sacred level but it is far stronger than an ordinary dao lord weapon. With my current abilities, I can only release one slash. I won't have the strength to even hold it afterward." Suoweng smiled wryly.

It was considered a patrimony weapon, far stronger than an ordinary dao lord weapon.

The latter was under the classification of high-level heaven. Those at the myriad-form real could use them.

Chapter 3337: Patrimony Weapon

This wasn't the case for patrimony weapons.

Normally, any weapon created by a dao lord would be called a dao lord weapon. The method, type, and materials didn't matter.

The requirements were far more stringent for patrimony weapons. The three things listed above had to be done just right. The weapon also had to be as strong as its creator.

A dao lord weapon could represent thirty to forty percent of its creator's power. A patrimony weapon had to be at one hundred percent.

Under normal circumstances, anyone weaker than the myriad-form realm wouldn't be able to use a heaven weapon.

For Ping Suoweng, it wouldn't be hard for him to control a dao lord weapon. The same couldn't be said for a patrimony weapon.

The latter had an unimaginable power, enough to kill all foes. Suoweng has been trying to learn this sword ever since he made it to the sacred level.

He spent plenty of time and effort yet the best he could do was just one move. He would be completely drained afterward due to its immense power.

Nonetheless, he still wanted to keep on learning. Divine Black would never lose if he could master it regardless of the perilous situations.

"One move? That's not bad." Li Qiye smiled.

"Young Master, you can control it now. It'll be extremely effective when the time comes." Suoweng put on a serious expression.

"Right." Li Qiye casually replied. In reality, he could still control this sword without the sword seal. Not a single weapon existed in this world that he couldn't use.

"You should come to South Conch Peak to be familiar with it." Suoweng eventually made up his mind.

Li Qiye was clearly connected by fate with this sword. It was extremely important for Divine Black's safety when the time comes.

"Can you actually handle it?" Li Qiye asked while staring at the old man.

"Fate decides, not me. And you're a disciple of Divine Black anyway." Suoweng sighed and responded.

Divine Black needed someone who could reverse the tides. He cared more about the sect than his personal wishes.

"When the world knows that the ancestral peak here could lead to the ancestral source, they'll surround us. Thus, having a capable user of this sword is of paramount importance, another ace card." he added.

"So I'll be used as cannon fodder." Li Qiye chuckled.

"Hmm, sure, I'm a little selfish here but with great power comes great responsibility, right?" Suoweng felt a little bad. An ordinary disciple shouldn't have to worry about these things.

"Indeed." Li Qiye nodded in agreement before adding: "There are so many idiots here but with you as the sect master, Divine Black is still salvageable."

Suoweng let out a forced smile. He didn't know if the guy was praising or criticizing Divine Black.

"Don't worry, it's not hard for me to control this sword. And, it might be a patrimony sword that's a little bit better than scrap metal, but not by much. I'm not interested in it. The most I'll do is just play with it for a little bit. I won't take it away from Divine Black so feel free to keep on learning. It'll be more useful in your possession in the future." Li Qiye nonchalantly said.

Suoweng felt so much better after this conversation and left even though Li Qiye didn't wish to go to South Conch.

The disciples in Jade Bird noticed their sect master leaving by himself. They assumed that Li Qiye would be going to South Conch for sure.

"Why is he still staying in Jade Bird?" They quietly discussed among themselves.

Even a fool knew which to pick between Jade Bird and South Conch. That's why Li Qiye's choice came as a surprise.

The next move from Li Qiye confused them even more. He went to the library and picked another manual - Chaos Mantra.

"He's a Bronze Tendon now." More started gossiping.

Normally, no one would talk about someone reaching the Bronze Tendon realm. There were thousands of disciples stronger than Li Qiye.

However, he was the son of miracles and performed insane feats despite being an Iron Skin. Thus, his cultivation improvement was a big deal.

Some started wondering when he would reach the Silver Carapace realm. The disciples here enjoyed talking about him right now. Even the protectors and elders chatted on this topic.

This annoyed Zhan Hu to no end. Recently, he had just become an enlightened being, the third youngest to do so behind Gong Qianyue and Huang Ning. He would be considered a genius anywhere in West King.

Thus, people should be talking about him, not Li Qiye and his Bronze Tendon realm.

The previous humiliation of being stomped by Li Qiye destroyed his reputation. He tried his best to breakthrough afterward in order to regain his pride.

He wanted to use power to solidify his status as a genius, to become the well-respected First Brother again. Unfortunately, his wish wasn't granted.

"Li! I swear, only one of us will exist one day!" He gritted his teeth; his eyes flashed fiercely.

Another thing people were talking about was the Chaos Mantra since Li Qiye picked it. Everyone became curious instead of mocking him.

They have seen what he did with Tortoise Fist. The children from Liu Village and Lu Daowei all accomplished it as well, proving the technique's might.

A while ago, some elders started looking over Tortoise Fist again. They found that there was more to it than meet the eye. Chaos Mantra became the next thing under scrutiny.

Chapter 3338: Chaos Mantra

Though many elders noticed something odd about Tortoise Fist, they couldn't get through the essential gap.

It was separated by a thin layer, almost like watching dancers behind a silk curtain in the imperial court. They could see the faint figures, not the actual appearance.

The elders were helpless but still couldn't throw away their pride and ask him for guidance.

Ultimately, Tortoise Fist was still only an entry-level martial art. They had no reason to go ask a junior about it.

Nonetheless, this changed their impression of him since he learned something they couldn't.

Therefore, Chaos Mantra became the next focal point. This was one of the seven common mantras - as simple as can be.

No one in Divine Black wanted to train with it with the exception of Li Qiye.

Moreover, they were surprised to find that he was on his third law despite only being a Bronze Tendon cultivator. This was indeed irregular.

Virtually everyone waited until Silver Carapace before picking a second mantra so Li Qiye's action was inscrutable.

"Why another one? One of the seven too." The chief elder meticulously thought about it to no avail.

No one considered Li Qiye to be stupid at this point. They just didn't get his logic.

In reality, not to mention the elders and protectors, even a dao lord might not be able to derive anything from these mantras. The seven pertained to the very source of the grand dao. They needed to be at a primal height in order to see clearly.

Li Qiye hasn't left his place after several days and focused on cultivating.

Deriving this new mantra engulfed him in chaos. This gestated his body. The myriad creations also harmonized with him, giving him plenty of life force.

This cultivation session was akin to him walking in the three thousand worlds, gazing at the heavens and earth, drowning in the mortal coil, and entering the origin...

This was a true dao enlightenment session, the right path for cultivation. Alas, people later on simplified this method and weakened their own comprehension.

The current Li Qiye was in the Bronze Tendon realm. His body looked tough like rocks; his bones and tendons seemingly made from bronze - powerful and enduring.

A clear difference existed between the Iron Skin and Bronze Tendon realm. To put it simply, a mortal using a weapon made from regular iron would have a hard time piercing through an Iron Skin cultivator. Bronze Tendon took the physical toughness to the next level on top of improving tenacity.

For example, an Iron Skin wouldn't be able to grow a crushed hand back. On the other hand, a Bronze Tendon could do so. This, in turn, improved their vitality enough to also strengthen the true fate while providing better protection.

However, Li Qiye's cultivation was different from the others.

Gong Qianyue knew this quite well since she witnessed his sessions. He became engulfed in life force born from the chaos.

She felt as if his body was the heaven and earth, the grand momentum, the original source...

She had never seen these phenomena in anyone else, not even herself. When she was a Bronze Tendon, she wasn't different from other cultivators. It's just that she had a faster cultivation speed and purer chaos true energy.

On the other hand, Li Qiye's current cultivation exuded an immense aura. She felt as if his Bronze Tendon cultivation was already better than her samadhi realm.

"Young Master, do these phenomena have anything to do with training the three mantras at once?" She became curious and spoke her mind.

"That's one way to put it, but it's not the main reason. Dao cultivation isn't only about obtaining remarkable powers. It's to cultivate the self. Once the self reaches great attainment, those powers will come." Li Qiye nodded. Once the self reaches great attainment, those powers will come." She murmured this last line and something seemed to be flashing in her mind. Unfortunately, it was still covered in a thin veil. She couldn't grasp it despite being aware of its existence.

He only smiled and didn't teach her. This level required her to realize herself. Teaching her about it wouldn't be as effective. She would only be able to repeat and imitate, not a true comprehension.

Meanwhile, many disciples in Divine Black have begun going outside to train. They were divided into groups led by leaders.

These trips improved their knowledge and gave them opportunities to train. Their destinations were still under the jurisdiction of Divine Black, hence the low level of danger.

The leaders consisted of second-generation disciples and weren't especially strong.

Today, trouble came knocking on Li Qiye's door and interrupted his cultivation.

The messenger, Lu Daowei, struggled for breath as he reported: "Young Master, something bad happened. The disciples from your village have been captured."

"Who?" Li Qiye's eyes narrowed.

"People from Three Truths! I think their lives might be in danger!" Daowei was panicking.

"They dare to cause trouble in our territory?" Gong Qianyue became surprised.

"This happened at Falcon Stream." Daowei elaborated: "I was collecting alchemy materials not far from there and saw a distress signal from Junior Uncle Liu. I immediately ran back... Hmm, Senior Brother Wang, First Brother Zhan Hu, and First Brother Huang Ning were going there too."

"That's right at the common border. This might be problematic." Qianyue became serious.

"Let's take a look then." Li Qiye calmly stood up.

"I'll take you there." Qianyue summoned a floating ship.

Daowei was envious while staring at the flashing ship. He knew that only someone like the young master would have Gong Qianyue serving him. Others weren't qualified in the slightest.

Li Qiye boarded with Daowei right behind him. Qianyue waved her hand and the ship shot forward like an arrow, speeding for Falcon Stream. Daowei was naturally impressed by this speed.

"So what's going on?" Qianyue asked since she worried about the children.

"I'm not sure about the details, it seems that Junior uncle Liu's group found a valuable medicine. A divisional leader from Three Truths saw this and stopped them so they started fighting." Daowei revealed what he knew.

It turned out that Liu Fuyou was leading the children down the sect for a training session. They arrived at Falcon Stream by the border of Divine Black.

This place was dangerous but produced plenty of medicines. The group found one that was particularly precious. Who would have thought that a group from Three Truth also appeared and tried to stop them from leaving?

The group couldn't deal with their opponents and asked for help. The nearby groups came running. Daowei was told to return to the sect for more reinforcement.

"We have a pact with them, it's been peaceful for a while now." Qianyue said.

"I don't get it either." Daowei responded.

Three Truths was another big sect in the northern West King, a human sect created by Three Truths Dao Lord.

They had a certain prejudice against demons and coincidentally enough, their neighbor was a demon sect.

Conflicts were common between the two. Several decades ago, a large fight broke out with heavy casualties. The two sides negotiated for a peace pact.

That's why this skirmish surprised Qianyue and Daowei.

Chapter 3339: Going Too Far

No mortals could ever survive in Falcon Stream due to the beasts and miasma found here.

Nonetheless, cultivators from Divine Black or their subsidiaries still visited. It was Liu Fuyou's last stop in this session.

He knew that it was a great place for the children to train. They were fortunate enough to not meet any dangerous creatures and found plenty of valuable medicines.

The most exciting part was when they saw a 500,000-year-old spirit blood ginseng. Using it as medicine could strengthen one's constitution, cure injuries, and prolong life.

The children were still fortifying their foundation. This ginseng would be able to add more vitality to their core, allowing their cultivation to improve greatly in the future. Fuyou picked the root and planned to refine them for the children later.

Alas, their excitement was cut short.

Two middle-aged men and their disciples stopped them from leaving.

"We found this blood ginseng first, you're stealing from us." They surrounded Fuyou's group.

The two men led a dozen or so disciples, clearly looking like elites. They brimmed with vitality and energy, far stronger than the children from Liu.

Their uniform was a daoist robe, unique in the color scheme - three colors alternating together.

In fact, anyone in this region would recognize them as disciples from Three Truths Sect.

Their progenitor used to be a daoist who hated evil and slain numerous demons. His sect inherited his style, going even more extreme. Thus, they had no love for Divine Black.

A ceasefire only existed between the two sects several decades ago.

Fuyou found their aggression surprising. Falcon Stream was the border. They were standing on Divine Black's side right now.

He also recognized these two men. They were division leaders of Three Truths, two brothers - Shu Jinqiao and Shu Youyou. They had some fame because they were in the samadhi realm.

"Dao Brother, watch your words. We found this ginseng first." Fuyou didn't accept it despite feeling some dread.

The blood ginseng was precious so he didn't wish to give it up.

"No, I found this root first and went to call the seniors here. Your group came in the middle and stole it like a bunch of thieves." A First Brother from Three Truths asserted.

He definitely was a gifted cultivator among the young generation. His name was Chen Chen, the first disciple of the chief protector in Three Truths. The sect considered him an important seed to nurture.

The Liu children were furious since they clearly found the ginseng first. They started arguing and unfriendly words resulted in drawn weapons.

The Shu Brothers didn't try to stop their juniors at all. In fact, they seemed eager to fight.

Fuyou realized that this could go south and immediately sent a distress signal.

The first to come was Huang Jie since he was very close. Other disciples from Thousand Demons and Furious Tiger came running as well, including Huang Ning and Zhan Hu.

Several hundred members of Divine Black eventually showed up in Falcon Stream. They certainly had the number advantage.

However, this might not be the case for actual fighting potential. The other side had two Samadhi cultivators.

Huang Jie was an enlightened being, the same as Fuyou who had reached this level recently. This was the case for Huang Ning and Zhan Hu as well.

Thus, they were still losing despite outnumbering their opponents.

Because the training this time was still in their territory, Divine Black didn't send out any powerful cultivator. The strongest were only at the enlightened being realm.

"Are you forgetting about our pact? Is this a declaration of war?!" Huang Jie shouted as his group was being pushed back.

The older Shu Jinqiao smiled with a tinge of aggression: "Of course not. It's just that this blood ginseng belongs to our sect. Moreover, your bunch tried to steal it and will need to apologize."

"Bullshit!" Fuyou erupted towards the false narrative: "This is our sect's territory, don't push it!"

"Liu Fuyou, the jurisdiction of this place is up for debate, our two sects will decide at the next conference. However, we'll definitely take this ginseng with us today. Try to stop us and see what'll happen." Shu Youyou joined in.

"We found this ginseng first, you can't take it away!" A child from Liu shouted.

"We can and we will just because we're stronger than you. Reason belongs to whoever has the bigger fist." Chen Chen snorted and stared at his opponents with contempt.

The members of Divine Black naturally didn't like this.

"The rightful owner of the ginseng is up for debate but as for the apology? You'll need to complain to the higher-ups." Huang Ning said seriously.

"We'll definitely not apologize unless you have proof to show that Falcon Stream belongs to your sect." Zhan Hu nodded.

"Fine, we'll just take the ginseng then. Oh, our sect will definitely tell your sect master about this too." The two brothers exchanged glances before Shu Jinqiao spoke.

"No!" Huang Jie took the initiative: "I patrol the borders and know the territories full well. This place belongs to Divine Black, every tree and blade of grass here belongs to us, the same with this blood ginseng. Don't even think about it."

The two brothers' expression turned cold after hearing this.

Huang Ning and Zhan Hu briefly glanced at each other. Huang Ning quietly said: "Junior Uncle Huang, let's take one step back and give them the ginseng for now before coming up with a plan."

"The situation is unfavorable for us, plus, there's no need to escalate the conflict between the sects." Zhan Hu agreed.

Everyone from Divine Black stared at these two. Sure, they were definitely weaker right now. However, handing the ginseng over would be too humiliating. Three Truths' members were at fault and showed nothing but blatant contempt for them right now.

"We can settle this by force if you want. Just know that your side started this so Divine Black is the one breaking the pact, not us." Shu Youyou snorted.

"Baseless nonsense!" Fuyou shouted with fiery eyes. Three Truths was being ridiculous this time.

During the last war, both sides suffered heavy losses. Divine Black's top genius, Su Xu, also died in battle.

Despite the peace agreement, Liu Fuyou has never forgotten about this since they were extremely close.

Chapter 3340: Partial

"Shu! Enough of your bullshit! You're here to antagonize and break the pact while trying to play coy!" Fuyou was furious at the two brothers.

Many in Divine Black shared the same sentiment. This was not just a coincidence. The experts from Three Truths appeared in their territory and still had the audacity to be so aggressive?

"Fellow Daoist Liu, that is not our intention. Our sect has always obeyed the pact, can't you see that we've stopped fighting? If we didn't care about it, would you all be alive right now?" Shu Youyou smiled and shook his head.

The other side became exasperated. It was hard to argue against a stronger party. Just these brothers could suppress all of them. Thus, reasons and logic didn't matter as much.

"However, your sect might not be sincerely upholding the pact." Jinqiao put on a fake smile and said: "We have stopped attacking and showed our goodwill, what about you? Gathering so many people here on top of not wanting to give us the ginseng, that which belongs to us. This can only be construed as aggression."

"This ginseng was found by us, how does it belong to you?!" Fuyou had a hot temper so he exploded while pointing at Jinqiao.

"It's inside our territory, so it's ours." Jinqiao retorted, still with a smile, albeit colder.

"You!" Fuyou's expression became unsightly.

"It's not too late to hand it over." Youyou sneered with a murderous flash in his eyes.

"Did you hear that?" Chen Chen raised his hand and surrounded the children from Liu again. They were the weakest and would make good hostages.

"If you don't hand it over, don't blame us for using force since peaceful measures have failed. You pick a bloody battle, not us." Chen Chen added.

"The audacity!" Huang Jie was furious as well since this was clearly their territory.

"Fellow Daoist Huang Jie, let the young ones deal with their problem. If you want to warm up, the two of us will be more than happy to entertain you." The two brothers snorted.

The four seniors on Divine Black's side frowned. They definitely couldn't beat these two brothers due to the cultivation gap.

To be perfectly blunt, Shu Youyou alone could beat the four of them. This put the four in a terrible position, completely helpless against the two "bullies".

"Let's hand over the blood ginseng, there's no lack of firewood as long as the verdant mountain is still around." Zhan Hu told the other three.

"We'll withdraw for now and get payback later." Huang Ning mused for a moment and agreed.

Huang Jie and Liu Fuyou exchanged glances. They understood why this was the prudent choice but being robbed like this was so frustrating.

Of course, Huang Ning and Zhan Hu didn't lose anything by handing the ginseng over right now. It didn't belong to them anyway.

"I'm losing my patience. Give it here or we won't show any mercy. Your sect will have to be picking up your corpses then." Shu Jinqiao didn't hold back.

"It'll be your corpses." A cold voice came from above.

Everyone looked up and saw a flying ship with three people standing on deck - Li Qiye, Gong Qianyue, and Lu Daowei.

"It's Senior Sister Qianyue!" The disciples of Divine Black cheered. Some turned red from excitement while clenching their fist. Their sect had plenty of experts; Three Truths couldn't bully them.

They have been holding back for too long because they were weaker than their opponents. Now, Gong Qianyue has arrived to be their backer.

The ones from Three Truths stared at Qianyue. The two brothers put on a serious expression.

Her fame wasn't limited to Divine Black. She was well-known as a genius in all of northern West King. Not to mention, she was the youngest genius in the samadhi realm.

Even the aggressive Chen Chen earlier staggered backward after seeing her.

"You think you can do as you please here?" She glared at them and spoke strongly.

"Miss Gong, we have no ill-wills but your sect stole our medicine, that's why we must retrieve it. We'll drop the other matters." Shu Jinqiao eventually spoke up.

"Since when does Falcon Stream belong to Three Truths?" Her eyes gleamed coldly.

"If you don't believe me, feel free to take it up to our sect, we'll definitely give you a proper..." Shu Youyou calmly joined in.

"Enough blabbering. Kill them and go home, I need my daily nap." Li Qiye lazily interrupted him.

Everyone from Three Truths was paying attention to Gong Qianyue. No one noticed Li Qiye until his comment just now.

The ones from Divine Black had nothing to say since they were familiar with Li Qiye's style. Zhan Hu and Huang Ning sneered, wanting to see the Shu Brothers teach Li Qiye a lesson.

"Impudent fool! Shut your mouth when the seniors are talking!" Chen Chen immediately shouted. In his eyes, Li Qiye was only an ordinary disciple of Divine Black. At best, the guy was Qianyue's servant. Why would he give a damn about such a minor character?

"Kill him." Li Qiye casually commanded.

"Don't do it!" Both Zhan Hu and Huang Ning became startled.

"Why not?" Qianyue glared at the two.

"We need to take into consideration the peace treaty between our sects, don't kill or it'll lead to war." The two looked at each other and Zhan Hu spoke up.

"War it is then, go." Li Qiye waved his sleeve.

"This pertains to the survival of the sect, it is not up to you. Stop being so reckless!" Huang Ning shouted.

"Back off." Qianyue told the two.

Huang Ning and Zhan Hu had no choice but to back off. They stood to the side while glaring at Li Qiye.

The Shu Brothers smiled, enjoying this internal conflict in Divine Black.

"I have a bad habit of being very partial to my own people. You dare to try and take their item? That's courting death. Kill all of these eyesores." Li Qiye turned his sight towards the opponents.

They naturally became livid after being shown such disdain.