

Emperor 3391

[Chapter 3391: Massacre](#)

All eyes were on Lu Yiling after hearing the promise of three moves. He was a famous expert right now in the northern West King.

In fact, even in all of West King, finding someone capable of defeating him this quickly was as hard as finding an autumn leaf.

They exchanged glances, wondering if Li Qiye could actually do so. This would require a monstrous power.

“Is it possible? They have similar weapons.” A skeptic quietly said.

These weapons should be close in strength. That’s why Li Qiye shouldn’t be able to defeat Lu Yiling within three moves. It was illogical enough to not be part of a legendary tale.

“Only a Heavenly Sovereign can, anyone weaker would find it prohibitive.” An elder mused for a bit before concluding.

“Very well, three moves then.” Yiling agreed without any hesitation: “I have zero regrets if I were to die within three moves, that would show just how mighty my opponent is.”

“Go.” Li Qiye didn’t bother using a defensive stance with his sword. He stood there with a hundred openings visible to the experts here.

It looked as if he was underestimating his enemy - a potentially fatal mistake against a genius like Lu Yiling.

The crowd wondered if Li Qiye was simply too strong or if it was just his arrogant style.

“He’s too careless.” An experienced expert thought that Li Qiye was being too haughty.

They all knew that the right strike could take down Li Qiye due to all the openings.

Alas, Lu Yiling didn’t think so. His eyes became as bright as two suns. Rays shot straight towards Li Qiye. What he found was perfection. The openings and holes were anything but. Their abundance took it to the other extreme, resulting in a flawless defense.

“Boom!” Yiling released his vitality and chaos true energy. His grand dao power surged like an endless flood.

“Rumble!” This power swept through the area and froze the crowd. The weak dropped to the ground.

“Clank!” He didn’t hold anything back and put it all on the line. There was only one chance.

The three swords began to rotate and affected the temporal-spatial affinities. Space seemingly turned into a liquid and followed the rotation.

Some spectators became dizzy from this phenomenon and also fell to the ground.

“Boom!” After the swords reached their rotational limit, they erupted with power and began pulling the power of the yin and yang. Spatial distance no longer mattered. The beams coming from the three swords could sever everything.

It was as if a dao lord was performing this move in person, enough to crush Eight Desolaces and the reincarnation cycle.

The move was actually aiming at the golden dragon above, not Li Qiye.

Yiling’s goal became clear. He wanted to destroy this dragon in order to save the sect master on top of buying time for the rest to escape.

As long as the golden dragon was around, his peers wouldn’t be able to run. His ultimate slash was for the others, not himself.

“Goo!” He shouted at the three daoists.

The latter wanted to help him, aware of his perilous situation. Alas, they had no other choice but to try and run with the army.

“Now!” They shouted in unison and were prepared a while ago.

“Boom!” Three grand formations emerged - an elephant, bird, and pagoda formation. They encompassed the daoists and the great army.

The bird flew to the sky; the elephant ran with full speed, the pagoda dashed towards the horizon...

They turned their group into three individual formations. This was the fastest and safest way to flee.

Unfortunately, Li Qiye made his move at the same second by casually waving his patrimony sword like a peacock spreading its tail.

The leisure swing created a majestic mountain range surrounding the sect. Nothing could ever climb above these peaks. It even severed the concept of time. The past and the future were no longer affecting the area.

It sealed everything. The gods and devils, the unbeatable dao lords - they still wouldn’t be able to beat this sealing technique. It successfully blocked Yiling’s ultimate slash and saved the dragon.

“Activate!” Yiling was caught off guard but still reacted right away. Beams as red as blood shot out from his three swords.

“Rumble!” They started attacking Li Qiye’s patrimony sword but couldn’t break its seal.

“Boom!” The golden dragon finally took action with a claw strike engulfing the world.

The area became infinitely smaller so the army who was far away by the horizon was caught by the dragon claw.

“No!” Yiling bellowed but he couldn’t help because all of his power was focused on attacking Li Qiye’s sword.

The claw came down and crushed everything.

“Ahhh!” The bird, elephant, and pagoda formations disintegrated.

“Pop!” Blood splashed everywhere.

The army became vulnerable after the destruction of the formations so they fell victim to the claw.

“Boom!” Not a single soul was lucky enough to survive. Rain of blood descended; the sanguine mist wouldn't disperse.

[Chapter 3392: One Fatal Slash](#)

Only ashes remained of the great army to the astonishment of the spectators. Even the most battle-hardened cultivator got cold sweat all over.

The army didn't have a single weak combatant since it consisted of the elites from Three Truths. It could definitely contend against anyone in the northern West King. Unfortunately, not a single soul survived.

“Ugh...” Some members of Divine Black and the crowd vomited, unable to handle the stench of blood in the air. Thinking about how many people have just been killed churned their stomach.

A few turned pale and couldn't get up from being mentally drained. Their legs still trembled.

“No!” Three Truths Sect Master shouted during the aftermath: “No... this can't be...”

It seemed as if his soul had left his body. Only despair remained.

His sect was built upon the effort of the wise sages and years of accumulations. The elites in the army have been groomed and given countless resources. All of this was gone now because he misread his enemy's power on top of wanting personal gains. He had just buried his sect, becoming an eternal sinner.

“No...No...” Tears streamed out as he lamented. It was just too late.

“Divine Black completely reigns this region now.” The spectators calmed down next and one elder murmured.

This army served as the pillars of Three Truths. Its end meant a total collapse. It wouldn't take long before this sect faces declination and inevitable destruction.

Moreover, Divine Black had plenty of room to grow now without a powerful enemy. This would be the development in the next several thousand years.

Lu Yiling was pale. He couldn't save the army since he couldn't break through Li Qiye's sword technique. His abilities and power were useless. He gave it everything he had to no avail.

“Time to end this.” Li Qiye smiled and swung his sword again.

The slash lacked a peerless style, an overwhelming suppression, and a murderous will. However, it still cut down the myriad dao and everything else in the world despite being a single flash.

This flash seemed to have existed before the start of time. It pierced through the primordial chaos in an unstoppable manner.

Lu Yiling and everyone else became afraid. He could see death already during the flash.

“Run!” Three Truths Sect Master felt the ominous signs and shouted.

Unfortunately, it wasn't up to Yiling. He couldn't run after Li Qiye swung the sword. Escaping was impossible regardless of one's speed and abilities.

The slash had severed time and space. One could be a billion miles away and it would still cut them down.

“Activate!” Yiling had no choice but to fight to the end. He poured all of his vitality and even true blood into his three patrimony swords.

“Clank!” They became red as if covered in blood. They then released a crimson flame incinerating the air, refining the myriad dao, and changing the yin and yang.

It utilized its strongest and most terrifying power. This flame contained the myriad dao within; they gathered together to form an untouchable supreme grand dao along with the image of a dao lord.

People quivered in response to this dao lord aura. So many became suppressed, paralyzed on the ground.

“A move from a dao lord!” This was indeed the strength of a dao lord - enough to sink all of Divine Black.

This was Lu Yiling's ultimate strike. He traded his lifespan and vitality in order to muster enough power to use it. His hair turned white as snow right afterward as he rapidly aged. If he were lucky enough to survive, he would need to spend the rest of his short life as a cripple.

“Clank!” A clear sword hymn could be heard through the explosions in spite of its relative quietness. The flash of a sword cut through the supreme dao of this dao lord in an unstoppable manner.

Time came to a halt for a short moment. The aura and sword flash disappeared. Everyone saw Lu Yiling falling backward clearly due to the temporal stagnation.

They then noticed a tiny wound around his throat. After a while came the beads of blood streaming down.

This tiny wound was the most fatal blow since the slash earlier had cut off his true fate and life.

“Well-deserved...” He knew that this was his last moment as his life passed away. He died without regrets and with his eyes closed.

“Bam!” He fell and smashed into the ground. Blood eventually stained the area.

A great genius of the sword had just fallen today. His invincible sword dao couldn't save him against Li Qiye's slash as if it was pre-determined.

[Chapter 3393: Want To Run?](#)

Lu Yiling's blood spread out like a blooming flower. Everyone saw the whole thing and felt suffocated.

The entire region knew how strong he was. Now, he was killed by a single slash.

They became emotional; some pitied his lamentable fate. Others became stricken with fear.

His final attack was monstrous, to say the least, but it still wasn't enough. Li Qiye's sword flash rendered all opposition futile.

"There's one fewer genius in this world now." A spectator wrung his wrist then said.

Lu Yiling from now on would be remembered as a heroic man. His previous enemies had a newfound respect for him.

A while later, once the crowd calmed down, they stared at Li Qiye with nothing but admiration and fear in their eyes. Most lowered their head, no longer daring to look at him in the eyes.

He simply stood there without exuding any aura. He didn't look different from a regular disciple of Divine Black.

Alas, this leisure style of his seemed invincible in the eyes of others. No one dared to cause trouble in front of him any longer.

At the same time, the members of Divine Black were on their knees - thousands of them.

The scene fell into silence due to the permeating fear.

"No, no..." Only one person was speaking - the sect master of Three Truths.

He couldn't move beneath the claw of the golden dragon. Alas, he preferred to be dead right now after seeing Lu Yiling's outcome. Pain and despair took over.

He taught Lu Yiling ever since the youth joined Three Truths. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that he alone brought Yiling to the current height.

Their relationship could be described as master-teacher or even father-son. He always had nothing but pride in Yiling.

Today, their army has been destroyed. Lu Yiling's death also extinguished all hope for Three Truths. This was too much for him to take.

People only stared at him, not having the same sympathy as they did for Yiling.

The winner takes all - this was too common in the world of cultivation. Moreover, he led his army to attack Divine Black. If they were to win, then Divine Black would be the one suffering right now.

Therefore, he brought this upon himself and couldn't blame anyone.

"Still think about leaving?" Li Qiye suddenly spoke.

The crowd followed his gaze and saw the saber master trying to hide among the crowd. He became frozen and didn't dare to move.

They realized that there were two survivors now - Three Truths Sect Master and Xu Nan.

Xu Nan was naturally scared out of his mind. It took everything for him to remain standing instead of kneeling.

He eventually took a deep breath and managed to subdue his fear. He smiled wryly and said: "Well... there's nothing left to do here, Young Noble Li's cultivation is matchless. This lowly one doesn't dare to stay here as an eyesore."

Many exchanged glances after listening. Xu Nan was considered a big shot in the northern West King. He was also a guest cultivator in Yin Yang Gate - something quite prestigious.

Alas, he spoke as humbly as possible right now, going as far as possible by referring to himself as "this lowly one".

Nonetheless, no one would make fun of him for this. They might not have the courage to even face Li Qiye and might already be prostrating and begging for forgiveness.

"Did you forget what I said? No one is leaving this place alive." Li Qiye smiled.

Xu Nan's complexion turned gray; his hands started shaking. He tried his best to not lose his cool.

Similar to the sect master earlier, the crowd didn't sympathize with him. He went along with the invasion so he deserved this.

"I really have no ill wills towards you, Young Noble." Xu Nan's smile was more unsightly than if he were crying right now. He continued: "It's just a bad coincidence, that's all. My fault for..."

"Make your move. I'll give you one chance." Li Qiye interrupted him.

Xu Nan's legs started shaking. He didn't have the courage to attack.

He along with everyone else knew the obvious outcome. He would be killed just like Lu Yiling.

"Young Noble Li, what's the point of killing one more person?" He tried his best to speak clearly: "I've already admitted defeat. Having one more friend is better than another enemy. Plus, I am with Yin Yang Gate. We might be able to help you in the future." He chose his words delicately in order to survive.

This naturally served as a threat too, reminding Li Qiye that he had ties with Yin Yang Gate. They wouldn't let this go unpunished.

This sect was known to be the strongest in the northern region. One needed to think twice before opposing them. This applied to every sect, not just an individual.

"Never heard of it. Stop wasting time, make your move before I finish you." Li Qiye chuckled.

Xu Nan grimaced, realizing that an escape wasn't possible. Alas, he still had enough pride that prevented him from getting on his knees.

"Must you go this far, Young Noble?" Xu Nan maintained his composure and stared directly at Li Qiye.

"In the case of victory, would you have spared a regular disciple from Divine Black asking for it?" Li Qiye smiled.

Xu Nan didn't respond. The crowd didn't say anything either.

A complete massacre wasn't unheard of after defeat. Three Truths wouldn't have spared a single disciple after achieving victory.

[Chapter 3394: Kill](#)

The saber master displayed fear despite being the focus of attention. He truly wanted to start begging because this was human nature during a perilous crossroad.

However, he was famous and held a prestigious position. His status and personal pride prevented him from doing so.

He eventually chose to unsheath his saber, albeit slowly and without confidence.

“Clank!” The blade and the sheath scraped on each other and released a long sound. During this process, he felt his time and life passing away in an ephemeral manner.

“I have no choice but to risk it all since you have pushed me to the edge, Young Noble.” The saber master did everything he could to enunciate clearly and without any shakiness.

His hands grasping the hilt naturally trembled, hence the need for him to clench tighter.

All eyes were on him. Of course, the spectators knew that it didn’t matter whether he fought or not. Struggling wouldn’t change anything. Nonetheless, no one would just sit idly by before death without attempting to resist.

“Go for it.” Li Qiye leisurely said.

“Die!” The saber master roared as loud as humanly possible in order to chase away his fear while letting out his rage. The roar chased the clouds away, revealing a blue sky.

“Clank!” The saber slash poured down like a river of stars and immediately permeated across the area. It had an effect chilling enough to reach the bones. This pain resembled having a knife scraping on one’s bones.

This was Xu Nan’s apex attack, quite formidable. Most would sigh in awe after seeing it. He was mighty indeed, hence his position at Yin Yang Gate.

Li Qiye also made his move in the next second, casually thrusting forward and aiming for the master’s neck.

This move of his seemed weaker compared to the ferocious slash, whether it be in terms of profundity and momentum.

However, the flash also stopped everything again. The saber master’s gigantic slash and the river of stars pouring down disappeared.

Xu Nan’s eyes suddenly widened; muffled noises came from his mouth as if he was trying to scream but nothing would come out.

One drop of blood seeped out of his throat, looking gorgeous like a ruby reflecting the sunlight.

“Clank!” His saber fell to the ground. “Bam!” He was next, causing dust to scatter everywhere.

Blood finally streamed out of the wound after the dust settled. His eyes were still wide open since he didn’t accept this death.

Everyone became nervous despite expecting this result. A hush fell upon the scene since Xu Nan couldn't stop a single sword thrust from Li Qiye.

He had ample time to use his strongest slash but this wasn't enough. Then who else could actually stop Li Qiye? Definitely not anyone here. They would die just like ants before Li Qiye.

The atmosphere took a while to loosen. The only survivor was Three Truths Sect Master who was still stuck beneath the golden dragon. This cultivator was renowned and prestigious with few peers in the region. He was ashen by this point, having lost all hope. The only desire he had left was dying - this was obvious to all spectators.

Death was salvation. Surviving like this meant reliving the nightmares over and over again, truly a torturous fate.

Ping Suoweng himself sighed emotionally after seeing the teary old man. They have been enemies for so long and fought numerous times. Through this, they gained a deep understanding of each other.

Of course, he wouldn't beseech Li Qiye on the guy's behalf because he knew that his sect wouldn't have been shown mercy.

"Kill me so I can go keep them company." Three Truths Sect Master murmured. There was no way for him to make up for his mistakes. He could only accompany the rest of his sect down in the Yellow River now.

"As you wish." Li Qiye smiled and waved his hand.

"Pop!" The golden dragon stomped down and reduced the sect master to a bloody mist scattering to the wind. A sect master had just ended without a grave - a rather sad fate.

Meanwhile, the audience had a hard time taking in the events today.

Three Truths came prepared and lived up to their power, determined to take down Divine Black. Many thought that they would have succeeded too. No one expected Li Qiye to handle the problems alone and massacred the enemies. The whole thing seemed like a legend.

"Young Master, you're forever invincible!" The members of Divine Black regained their wits and immediately showed their respect by getting on their knees.

Their chants echoed across the area. Many had tears streaming down as they bowed. They were ready to die earlier but Li Qiye managed to save them.

"Even the return of their patriarch or dao lord won't be more than this." One spectator said.

Some realized that Li Qiye's status in Divine Black has become comparable to the sect's founder and South Conch Dao Lord.

Li Qiye only glanced briefly at them before returning to his room. The rest maintained their pose for a long time before standing up.

"The sun's back." One of them happily shouted.

“We’re still alive!” The anxiety was finally gone since nothing was left of their enemies. They would never forget about today.

“These territories will need to be redrawn soon.” Meanwhile, a spectator concluded with a sigh.

They were sure that more areas would be under the jurisdiction of Divine Black. They needed to prepare for it.

“Watch what you’re saying.” His friend said, still afraid of Li Qiye’s power.

[Chapter 3395: Retaliation?](#)

A celebration came to Divine Black after the battle. The members knew that Three Truths was no longer a threat, at least in this generation. Three Truths should be the one trembling with fear right now.

However, not all were celebrating. The experts began to consolidate their troops and battalions, especially the elders and protectors.

Some younger disciples were confused because the war was over. Nonetheless, the stronger ones realized that they needed to be in their peak state, always ready to mobilize.

Meanwhile, the neighbors of Divine Black were on guard. They kept a keen eye on its movement while feeling as if they were walking on thin ice.

The military drills of the sect didn’t help this issue either. These neighbors thought that something bad was coming during these sensitive times.

The previous battle ended with Three Truths’ main army decimated. They lost five daoists out of the seven including the genius Lu Yiling.

Thus, they lost their elites and have become a headless snake. Three Truths wouldn’t be able to muster up a fight.

If Divine Black were to attack right now, Three Truths would definitely turn to ashes.

None would criticize Divine Black for wanting to attack. After all, Three Truths took the initiative; this was justified retaliation.

However, the end of Three Truths would herald supremacy for its foe. The entire region would be an item in Divine Black’s pocket.

Without a powerful foe to hold them back, an expansion might be the next goal. The borders and immediate neighbors were the most likely targets.

That’s why the smaller sects nearby became nervous, afraid that the flames of war might come for them next. They had two choices in the future - either becoming tributes or risking destruction.

Li Qiye didn’t care for any of this. No one in the sect came to bother him either.

Most stayed far away from his peak. Those crossing by would try to keep their pace as quiet as possible, not wanting to disturb his peace. Some even bowed whenever they got close.

Today, Ping Suoweng came for an audience. After seeing Li Qiye, he got on his knees for a full ceremony.

The sect master of Divine Black was acting like a regular disciple before Li Qiye.

The latter lazily lay in his chair like always with Gong Qianyue serving him some tea.

Ping Suoweng expressed his gratitude since Li Qiye saved Divine Black, and that they would never forget about this.

Li Qiye was currently a member of Divine Black but Suoweng knew that he wouldn't stay around much longer. This visit was only a touch of fate.

"You're not here only to thank me, right?" Li Qiye chuckled.

Suoweng's expression became awkward. He hesitated for a bit before speaking: "Young Master, Three Truths have crossed the line and our disciples are furious. They can't forget about this transgression..."

"Stop walking in circles. You want to attack Three Truths, just say that." Li Qiye interrupted him with a hand wave.

Suoweng's face turned slightly red. He coughed and said: "It's not that we're trying to kick a horse while it's down. The disciples just think that this is a godsend opportunity."

"Sure." Li Qiye nodded: "Mobilize and take them down. All of their territories will belong to Divine Black. This region is yours."

"I, I haven't thought about that." Suoweng's expression seemed unnatural.

In reality, both he and the elders harbored such ideas. This was rather understandable.

Three Truths was at its weakest while Divine Black's morale was at an all-time high. Why would they wait now?

As for the territories afterward? That could be debated after the victory.

"This determines the course of Divine Black and its future. It is your responsibility along with the others', talk to them about it, not me." Li Qiye shook his head: "I am only passing by and simply decided to fight once. You all are the ones to take charge of Divine Black, don't worry about me."

Suoweng understood, realizing Li Qiye's intention. The guy had done enough for Divine Black anyway.

"I'm worrying about the ancestral peak." He eventually brought another issue up.

In reality, he had already made up his mind about the retaliation and future territory issues. However, the matter of the ancestral peak still plagued him.

Once this secret became known, Divine Black would become everyone's enemy. At that point, not to mention attacking Three Truths, they might have a hard time defending their sect.

That's why they were preparing for war. This wasn't for the sake of attacking Three Truths but only to be ready for the worst. More powerful sects might be coming. For example, Yin Yang Gate.

Yin Yang Gate might be far away to the south but if it truly wanted to, it could still create a high-level portal to mobilize quickly.

Suoweng worried about this possibility the most. Everything would be fine as long as Li Qiye was around. However, how could a shallow pond hold a true dragon?

“Forget about the ancestral peak, it’ll be concluded in two days.” Li Qiye said.

Suoweng didn’t expect this but at least everything should be fine now. He became excited and asked for confirmation: “Really?”

Li Qiye didn’t answer.

He took a deep breath and bowed, feeling far better than before: “Thank you, Young Master.”

“It’s time for me to leave.” Li Qiye accepted the gesture and brought up something else.

Suoweng expected this, just not this early. He stood there at a loss for words.

[Chapter 3396: Departure](#)

“Young Master, may I ask where you are heading to?” Ping Suoweng eventually regained his wits and asked.

He believed that a master like Li Qiye could travel wherever he wanted. It was a shame that Divine Black was just too small for him to stick around just a bit longer.

“Stone Plateau.” Li Qiye stared at the horizon with a profound gaze. He paused for a bit before adding: “Certain things and fateful connections should end.” [1]

Suoweng sighed after having his speculation confirmed. He guessed that Li Qiye wasn’t actually a young cultivator. The guy had many shocking secrets unbeknown to others.

This was the same reason why he showed up in Divine Black. Perhaps he was somehow connected to them. It’s just that no one had a clear idea as to what.

Thus, the fateful connection between him and Divine Black had ended, hence his departure. Of course, he didn’t dare to pry about this connection or Li Qiye’s secrets.

“Stone Plateau, the world of the golems.” Suoweng only dared to comment on this part.

“Yes, it is their ancestral ground.” Certain memories resurfaced for Li Qiye. He had forgotten about some people and things due to the length of time.

“Golems are no longer the same as before. The world has changed.” He sighed and said.

“They became uncommunicative after Golem Ancestor, hellbent on finding the path to atavism.” Ping Suoweng knew a bit about this history.

In the distant past of the Nine Worlds Epoch, the golems were extremely powerful and prestigious. Alas, the great disaster changed the world and the grand dao.

Later on, an extremely heaven-defying existence appeared and came to be known as Golem Ancestor.

He opened a new path for their race, allowing them to have a method to reach atavism.

Because of this, their race started becoming distant from the rest everywhere in Eight Desolaces. Everyone knew that they were still around but it was different from their prosperous era.

“Yes.” Li Qiye understood the underlying reasons and nodded: “Well, the world should enjoy peace in a sense. Being silent is not necessarily a bad thing and the opposite applies. Too much rowdiness can herald a disaster.”

“I’m not quite sure I understand. Are you saying that prosperity can be a source of disaster?” Suoweng hesitated, thinking that he misunderstood Li Qiye’s point.

“Prosperity is usually viewed from a shallow perspective by most. A few things aren’t clear within a generation or two. And being reclusive doesn’t mean declination either, it’s just a changing of attitude and method to survive in this world, one with safety and the future in mind.” Li Qiye stared at Suoweng and answered.

“I see.” Suoweng pondered quietly and agreed.

As a sect master, he was aware of many things. After the golems’ period of isolation, it became hard to see golems in Eight Desolaces. It seemed that their population was dwindling even at their ancestral ground.

Because of this, the race’s influence decreased. For a very long period, no one exceptional came from there.

On the other hand, some speculated that the golems simply chose to change their ways. Their population and influence might have decreased but not their actual overall power.

This particular theory was neutral; it didn’t have a lot of support nor disagreement. Suoweng trusted this theory more now that Li Qiye had said it.

“Go.” Li Qiye waved his hand and told the sect master.

“Will you visit again?” Suoweng hesitated for a bit before asking. He naturally wanted to see Li Qiye here again for a multitude of reasons. The sect had boundless potential with him around.

“Leave it up to fate.” Li Qiye nonchalantly said.

“Let us prepare a departure ceremony worthy of you, Young Master.” Suoweng asked for permission. He had done so much for the sect so this was justified.

“No need.” Li Qiye wasn’t interested.

Suoweng didn’t dare to act on his own accord without permission. He got on his knees and started bowing again to show his gratitude: “You have saved Divine Black for sure destruction. You are our benefactor and if you ever need us in the future, just say the words and we’ll jump into a boiling cauldron without a second thought...”

He spoke from the heart with true sincerity. Li Qiye nodded and accepted the gesture.

Suoweng performed a full kowtow ceremony before quietly leaving. He was a bit disappointed as he gazed at the forces of Divine Black. He needed to think more about its future. Every step must be the right one.

“You’re leaving, Young Master?” Gong Qianyue poured a cup of tea for him, feeling a bit sad.

Though their time together was short, he gave her plenty of benefits for a brighter future. By this point, she truly viewed him as her young master and would like to stay with him.

“Do you have any plans?” Li Qiye nodded and asked.

She thought about it before answering: “I wish to train in isolation. But, I also wish to go along and serve you, Young Master.”

This was a tough choice. She wanted to focus on cultivation in order to reach a greater height but it wouldn’t be bad to follow him either.

“It’s a good plan. I’m only a passerby, like a lonely goose on the horizon that comes and goes so you can’t travel with me. You have good talents and a firm dao heart, thus an isolated training session will be very beneficial. Reaching the peak is a possibility.” He encouraged her.

“I understand.” She said softly: “I wonder how far I’ll go on the long path.”

“Silly girl, keep the main goal in mind while shouldering the burden. With great effort and diligence, you’ll be able to obtain what you want. Your goal might change as well. Everyone at different levels in their life has a different aspiration since they see different things. Just continue forward and the future is full of potential, whether it be the realm of a Heavenly Sovereign or a dao lord.” Li Qiye taught her.

“Thank you for your teachings, Young Master. I’ll continue forward without losing my aim.” She bowed towards him and said with gratitude.

“I’m sure you’ll exceed my expectation.” He nodded.

“Will we be able to meet again?” She stared at him and asked, feeling quite sad.

“If it meant to be.” Li Qiye stroked her hair and said: “The horizon, the clouds above, the apex. Everything is possible up there.”

“I understand.” She nodded.

[Chapter 3397: Crossing Through Space](#)

Something happened to the ancestral peak of Divine Black two days after the battle.

“Boom!” Rays emanated from the top; the source resembled a rising sun.

“What’s going on?” The Divine Black members became startled and focused their attention there.

An inscrutable divinity also emerged from within the radiance.

“What is that?” Discussions sprung across the sect.

“A treasure, perhaps?” One quietly speculated.

“Not necessarily, maybe it’s the spirit of our patriarch.” His peer replied.

“I think that’s likely.” Many agreed with this because the ancestral peak was sealed all these years. The spirit of their patriarch returning to meet the descendants became a likely explanation.

However, a few elders and peak lords didn’t think so since they knew about the portal. They had uncertain speculations the moment they saw the radiance.

Unfortunately, no one could climb up there to see the actual event and had to watch from below.

Ping Suoweng had the best guess out of anyone since Li Qiye already told him about it. He watched the waves of light with bated breath.

“Buzz.” The radiance finally made it all the way out and floated above the peak.

When people got a clearer look, they realized that it was an altar full of power. It had numerous dao laws surrounding it in the shape of iron chains.

These laws were still moving in a particular order, seemingly brimming with life. The altar began spinning with the law, creating a magical rhythm. The rotation encompassed the reincarnation cycle along with the yin and yang. Watching this made people feel dizzy.

“Boom!” It instantly poured out a frightening power before the unsuspecting spectators. It surpassed the myriad realms and suppressed the firmaments. An ancient yet matchless imperial aura swept through Eight Desolaces.

“So powerful!” Numerous disciples got down on their knees from the pressure.

“Immortal Emperor Zhan!” Suoweng took a deep breath and understood the owner of the aura.

“Boom!” The altar suddenly broke through space and disappeared. The imperial weakened, allowing the kneeling disciples to stand up.

“What the hell was that?” No one could trace the speed of the altar earlier. Why did it come out of their ancestral peak then leave so quickly?

As for the peak lords and elders, they let out a sigh of relief. This was an amazing development for their sect.

Meanwhile, as the altar crossed through space, numerous mantras were activated. The imperial aura seemingly served as the fuel for the altar while the mantras acted like wings controlling its direction.

It shot out brilliant lights and sparks along the way, illuminating a vast area.

“An imperial aura?!” The top supremes in the northern region took note of this.

Numerous eyes in the ancient sects started opening. These eyes contained the vicissitudes of time.

“Immortal Emperor Zhang?” They knew what the thing shooting through space was right away.

“Finally, the treasure is opening soon!” One voice came from an ancestral ground of a certain sect.

“The treasury of Immortal Emperor Zhan.” One ancestor of an ancient kingdom had nothing but excitement in his eyes.

These beings who have been slumbering for millions of years finally woke up to trace the altar.

“Boom!” Finally, the altar pierced through the final dimension and disappeared from sight.

“Stone Plateau?” These beings have calculated the destination in just a short time.

The news of this began to spread to various sects. “Immortal Emperor Zhan’s treasury will open in Stone Plateau!”

“Order scouts there right now, also, whatever they find will be classified information.” One sect master ordered his best elites to start.

“So we finally know where it is now.” A royal lord personally headed for Stone Plateau.

The altar caused some of the strongest beings in the northern region to wake up.

In a towering peak, what seems to be a large boulder suddenly had a pair of eyes opening. The muddled eyes became bright as they gazed towards the landing spot of the altar.

“Immortal Emperor Zhan’s treasury? Not what I seek. Nonetheless, the ancestral vein of the Golem Race can’t fall to outsiders.” The thing murmured before closing its eyes to look like a regular boulder again.

Afterward, many ancient sects experienced visual phenomena containing an order.

One kingdom had an incredible atmosphere. There existed an area with numerous temples leading to the sky. It seemed to be a place to offer tributes for a supreme ruler.

Deep inside the most secretive hall was a coffin. The lid finally opened and a faint dragon roar could be heard.

“This isn’t a normal treasury. It pertains to an old secret.” An old voice came from the coffin.

The big shots of this kingdom became alarmed right away and immediately traveled to the temple.

“Forefather!” The members of this group all had white hair. They kneeled with respect.

“This might affect the future of the world. I must come out. You all will be the vanguards.” The voice spoke again.

The group became shaken once more. Their kingdom had faced existential crises before but this being never came out. This new development must be extremely pivotal.

“Yes, Forefather.” These big shots immediately carried out the order. Scouts began entering the plateau in order to find more information on this altar.

Clouds suddenly emerged on a sect as old as can be. Inside the clouds was an old palace. A sleeping existence also woke up. His illuminating eyes could see the mysteries of the ages.

"I see." This existence wasn't startled after noticing the treasury of the emperor: "A blessing or a disaster? How many people actually know about the legend behind Immortal Emperor Zhan?" A glint of worry flashed in his eyes.

He had lived long enough to know certain secrets purposely hidden from the rest.

[Chapter 3398: A Long Journey](#)

Li Qiye also planned to leave right after the altar. He didn't bother anyone else so only Gong Qianyue and Ping Suoweng knew about it.

Suoweng initially wanted to commence a grand farewell ceremony but Li Qiye didn't give permission.

Gong Qianyue didn't cry at all but her eyes were red. Perhaps she cried during the previous night.

"Silly girl, keep trying. There will be a spot for you up there." Li Qiye smiled and gave her a hug after seeing her sad appearance.

She hugged tightly and didn't want to let go. Eventually, she let go and nodded: "I won't let you down, Young Master." Tears finally wetted the corner of her eyes.

Ping Suoweng also got on his knees and bowed, representing Divine Black to show its gratitude and to bid him goodbye.

Li Qiye nodded and left without looking back at the two. This wasn't because he was emotionless or had a heart of stone but rather, he has experienced these departures too many times before. Thus, he no longer wanted to think about them or look back after each one.

Suoweng stopped following his figure once he disappeared into the horizon. However, Gong Qianyue kept on looking.

Suoweng sighed after seeing this. His disciple was excellent and no geniuses could get into her sight in the past.

"We're not in the same world as the young master." He quietly told her.

Though he was at the Grand Dao Sacred Physique realm and a big shot in northern West King, he knew of the gap between them.

They were nothing more than ants crawling on the ground versus a true immortal above the nine firmaments. The ants couldn't get through the distance and could only look up at him.

"I know. Young Master stands at the apex so I need to try harder. Maybe I'll be able to get there and see its scenery." Gong Qianyue took a deep breath while clenching her fists.

"You'll definitely be able to do it." Suoweng was happy to see her spirit increasing. He had a high evaluation of her since her dao heart and talents both exceeded his.

Maybe she couldn't become a dao lord later but would still definitely be a top character such as a mighty Heavenly Sovereign. Thus, the future of Divine Black relied on her.

"Young Master, who is he, really?" She eventually murmured.

Li Qiye seemed like a puzzle that couldn't be solved by anyone, always hidden behind secrets.

"The immortal, the one in the legend." Suoweng pondered for a bit and decided to tell her with a cautious expression.

"The immortal written in our records?" She became shocked despite being mentally prepared for any answer.

"It's a possibility." Suoweng remained prudent: "This might be the touch of fate he brought up before. Unfortunately, we're inferior to our patriarch..." He sighed with disappointment.

Their sect had ancient records depicting their patriarch being taught by an immortal. From then on, it obtained a great fortune and followed the immortal to great paradises...

Everyone in Divine Black memorized these tales. Thus, Suoweng had thought about it very carefully. There was a chance of Li Qiye being the immortal in the tales.

He naturally didn't dare to ask Li Qiye or tell others about it with the exception of Qianyue. Perhaps this connection was the reason why Li Qiye showed up and decided to save Divine Black.

"We've let our ancestors down." He eventually concluded.

There was such an amazing opportunity before them yet they couldn't grasp it - truly shameful. It showed that they didn't have what it takes to earn the immortal's grace, unlike their patriarch. This was extremely important for Divine Black's prosperity, a chance to let them reach their golden age for the second time.

"An immortal? Either way, he's still our Young Master." Qianyue said. He would always be the young master in her mind - a man who had everything in his grasp and acted with complete confidence and leisureliness.

"Don't tell anyone about this. No one." Suoweng said with a solemn expression.

This matter would stir the entire world and it might have negative effects for Li Qiye.

"I understand." Qianyue would never tell this secret to anyone.

"You will shoulder Divine Black in the future." He stared at her and said.

Though they lost this opportunity, Qianyue did the best out of anyone and clearly got on Li Qiye's good side. He taught her quite a bit so given her innate talents and this fateful connection, she would definitely reach the top and bring prosperity to Divine Black.

She didn't say anything and stared in his direction.

"Let's go back." Suoweng sighed and went back first.

She remained there for a long time. "Young Master." She eventually whispered before leaving.

After returning, she immediately underwent isolated cultivation without caring about anyone else.

The others in Divine Black didn't know that Li Qiye was gone until a long time later.

Li Qiye's destination was Stone Plateau. He took his time like always during these journeys.

Despite being a Bronze Tendon cultivator, his speed far exceeded the rest. It was easy for him to cross through space.

Nonetheless, he wanted to feel the world. There had been monumental changes in the Nine Worlds, now the Eight Desolaces.

If it weren't for the indelible marks from the Nine Worlds, no one would recognize it. The outlines and geography have all changed.

Li Qiye began deriving the profundities of this land along the way, becoming one with the dao. In this process, he broke through to the next realm - Silver Carapace.

This allowed him to start a new merit law and a mantra. He casually picked one mantra up from Divine Black before leaving - Divinization.

This was naturally one of the seven original mantras. Of course, this version no longer had its original form. This wasn't hard for Li Qiye to change since he could derive a perfect version from it.

What was special about the Divinization Mantra? With a single thought, one could become a god. This was its highest profundity.

Unfortunately, very few have been able to reach this step. That's why most didn't give a damn about it and labeled it as being ordinary and worthless.

[Chapter 3399: Stone Plateau](#)

Li Qiye eventually arrived at Stone Plateau. This wasn't the name of a specific place but rather, just a broad territory. Some said that it encompassed one-third of northern West King.

Peaks and mountains were everywhere. Strangely enough, one could say that the peaks here were different from other places. They were actually just extremely large rocks.

After many years, mud and vegetation eventually grew on top of these rocks. This made it easy for others to mistake them for peaks and mountains.

There was another possibility - these big rocks might have been living beings, or at least they used to be a very long time ago.

These beings were called golems. They could take on this form and were still considered alive. Those capable of taking on these gigantic forms meant that they were extremely powerful before the transformation.

Outsiders might find this strange and terrifying. However, the scholars learning about this race understood that this was atavism - the final pursuit of the golems.

Plenty of records and legends existed for this race. Unfortunately, the majority has disappeared because of time. It became hard to differentiate actual history from mere legends as well.

One record stated back the golems didn't look like this back in the Nine Worlds Epoch. Back then, they were born as rocks but could still move. Some were able to gain flesh just like humans. Their atavism also existed back then, albeit different from modern times.

According to the rumors, the old atavism also turned a golem into stone or jade. However, they would still be a moving creature.

Today, atavism meant turning into an actual rock, becoming a part of the world. The previous being would cease to exist and move on to a different, unknown destination.

Pseudo-atavism was also a thing. These existences were magical. Strangely enough, the requirements for reaching this state were actually harder than atavism, necessitating powerful cultivation.

They would also turn themselves into a rock, statue, or even a mountain. However, one day, they would be able to wake up and live again.

Many wanted to understand this process. Why? Because the strongest master would eventually die one day regardless of their sealing method for prolongment.

Moreover, these sealing methods required a heavy price in terms of resources. The stronger the cultivator, the more resources were used.

On the other hand, golems could prolong their life infinitely with pseudo-atavism. One might say that this could be considered an everlasting life.

Of course, most disagreed. They would say that actual atavism was closer to everlasting life.

One important historical figure gave an answer to these questions. He was known as the Golem Ancestor.

He said that no one could obtain true immortality. Life and death were inseparable.

Atavism was only a return to the source, a way to reach a better destination. Many descendants gave up on atavism because of his comment.

What was the point of becoming a lifeless rock? So what if they could exist until the end of time?

Many golems stopped trying to reach atavism. They would rather keep their flesh body and die from old age after experiencing the joys of life. There would be no regrets.

Nonetheless, some golems also chose atavism instead. Perhaps this was an instinct or just out of curiosity for reaching the source. Most who have done so became rocks and sank to the ground, disappearing forever.

All in all, Golem Ancestor changed the direction of his race. They took a different path compared to their ancestors back in the previous epoch.

No one knew where he came from or his cultivation origin, only that modern atavism became widespread because of him.

During the period known as Mid-chaos, he appeared and became a brilliant dao lord on the same level as Sun-ender Dao Lord, Space Dragon Emperor, and Azure Ancestor. [1]

After he became a dao lord, many golems followed him and learned how to cultivate.

Keep in mind that Eight Desolaces were engulfed in chaos during this period. Numerous mortals and cultivators died for no reason.

Golem Ancestor emerged as a leading figure and created a home for the golems. They eventually reached their golden age during this era while other races were suffering.

That's why his people loved him and began to copy him, embarking on the path towards pseudo and true atavism.

As this went on, the golems became uncommunicative and isolated. Few people could see them in other places. The entire race changed because of him.

No one knew where he came from or who he was, only that he was a golem, of course.

However, he had a particular appetite for chicken soup. Moreover, he also called himself "Black Duck".
[2]

Of course, no one dared to call him "Black Duck", especially during the golden age of the golems.

People eventually forgot about this name altogether, only remembering him as "Golem Ancestor".

All in all, the actual name and background of Golem Ancestor became one of the biggest mysteries of Eight Desolaces.

"Black Duck." Li Qiye smiled after stepping into this land, recalling this name.

He got on top of a mountain to have a better look at the place, sensing the flow and changes in the area.

"Golem Ancestor, huh? Quite amazing and capable, taking charge of an entire race all alone." Li Qiye became sentimental. He actually knew of Golem Ancestor's origin and the secrets behind all of this.

"Blue seas where once were mulberry fields. You can make an entire race reach atavism and it still isn't enough to change anything. It's not a bad strategy though. Can't save others so worry about oneself first." Li Qiye chuckled and shook his head.

[Chapter 3400: Young Golem](#)

Li Qiye focused on the grand scheme of things, even the stars above.

There were many solitary peaks in the plateau instead of gathering in one place like a mountain range. One was barren while another might be filled with trees, gurgling streams, and wondrous waterfalls...

They left behind various tales. Most were believed to be golems at the two atavism stages.

The true atavism would turn the golem into a rock sinking into the ground. This entity would then gain the blessing of heaven and earth and become gigantic, eventually emerging as a peak or mountain.

Of course, some refuted this phenomenon. They said that these mountains and peaks were simply created with uncanny workmanship and weren't actually golems.

All in all, the plateau was filled with mysteries and questions. Li Qiye was staring at one of them, a spectacle named Stonewind Canyon.

It was one of the largest creations in this area, also the largest puzzle. This canyon stretched across the entire plateau. Its source and end were both unclear.

The only consensus here was its incredible, immeasurable size. It was as if some powerful force split the plateau in half, resulting in the canyon. The area below was its own world with lakes and internal valleys, plains and mountain ranges...

Ultimately, people didn't know how this area was formed.

One speculation stated that it wasn't there back in the Nine Worlds Epoch. Because of this, some believed that it was created during the great disaster where heavenly corpses rained down from above. One of them smashed into the ground and left behind Stonewind Canyon.

Others disagreed. This group asserted that the canyon used to be an old and magical great vein. Unfortunately, the destruction of the nine worlds tore apart the vein. Its power erupted and created a new landscape.

Another popular belief hypothesized that there used to be an evil land here, sealed. The power of this evil land was stimulated by the overwhelming destruction, creating the canyon. This land could still be here, unaware by all.

Verifying these claims wasn't possible and didn't truly matter because the canyon was there. Moreover, every once in a while, some astonishing events would happen here.

"Stonewind Canyon." Li Qiye sighed while looking at this dragon-like canyon, seemingly an indelible wound left from the great destruction: "What actually happened here?"

He then entered the canyon. The inside wasn't as barren as one would expect given the tales about this place.

In reality, it was vibrant and brimming with life, consisting of oases and interesting ruins. Even farms and villages could be seen. It looked like life has taken over this area in recent eras.

However, as one delved deeper into the place, they would find something different. The villages in the inner regions have fallen. A few were completely desolate with only statues or rocks left behind. Some were half-buried in the ground.

It was apparent that these villages used to be the abodes of golems. The lack of people meant that the villagers have chosen the path of atavism. They turned into rocks and statues; some fully completed the process and disappeared from the world.

Of course, a decent number of villages still had inhabitants. The villagers were slowly turning into stone; a few body parts here and there. They would only come out to find food but normally, they cultivated the path of atavism.

Very few were actually prosperous with golems. This was a sign of the popularity of atavism.

As a result, the canyon had thousands of villages yet still looked abandoned. In reality, one could treat this place as a miniature study of the entire plateau.

The home of the golems in Eight Desolaces lacked people and prosperity due to their race's chosen path.

After careful observation, the only thing that every village had was a stone pillar, no exception.

Li Qiye naturally caught this as he strolled through them.

"Golems." Li Qiye started recalling how amazing this race used to be. It had plenty of Immortal Emperors along with magnificent kingdoms and sects.

Today, they were disappearing from the world. Eventually, one would be hard-pressed to find a single one.

This didn't mean that this race was heading towards extinction. On the contrary, this was a different path for the sake of survival by hiding from the current situation.

Of course, outsiders couldn't judge whether atavism was correct or not. The golems themselves chose this path because they thought that it would lead to the best outcome.

Li Qiye continued onward and saw a gurgling creek. At the bottom were many stones gathered here. They must have flown down from upstream. These stones have been washed by the gentle current for millions of years.

He sat down patiently to look at the creek. There was another - a youth standing in the water and choosing stones.

In terms of human age, this golem youth looked around twelve or so, standing as high as an adult's waist.

He had a rather-round figure not because he was fat but rather because he was transforming into stone. There were no sharp edges and corners, only smooth lines.

This was the case for his arms and legs as well. They were round and fingerless. To be precise, the youth was made from six circular rocks placed together. This resulted in a funny yet cute appearance.

Despite his appearance, he was rather agile and fast as he looked for stones.

He eventually noticed Li Qiye sitting on the shore with his round and black eyes.

"You're an outsider." He tilted his head and became curious.

"Yes. What's your name?" Li Qiye smiled.

"Shi Wawa." He stared at Li Qiye, a rare guest in these parts. [1]

"Where are the others?" Li Qiye noticed that he had put many stones into his pouch regardless of their quality.

"I'm the only one left in the village." He wasn't afraid of strangers and innocently smiled.

A smiling golem at this stage looked strange enough to surprise first-time spectators.

Li Qiye found this to be quite common. Many villages were like this.

“I’m busy right now.” Wawa continued looking for more stones.