Emperor 3421

Chapter 3421: The Shi

There was a plaque hung up high by the entrance with one ancient character, "Shi". It has been there for so many years, seemingly stained by the alchemy smoke.

"The Shi." Li Qiye smiled then glanced at the clan in the mountain range.

"The Shi is the biggest alchemy clan of the golems, the oldest too." Qing Shi became respectful unlike the nonchalant Li Qiye: "They're actually older than Ancestral City. According to the rumors, they were there during the Nine Worlds Epoch."

"You know quite a bit about them too." Li Qiye smiled.

"The Shi is our pride, all golems know about them." Qing Shi replied right away.

"How much golem bloodline do you actually have?" Li Qiye usually asked.

Qing Shi didn't wish to address this matter and shut up. Alas, it didn't really matter since Li Qiye knew anyway.

Meanwhile, famous people arrived at the entrance. They immediately changed their expression into humility and reverence.

"People from all over the world will need alchemy and pills eventually." Qing Shi commented.

"So this clan's alchemy is the best among the golems?" Li Qiye smiled.

"Yes, absolutely. It's famous and peerless in all of Eight Desolaces. After all, the ancestor of the Shi was taught by the supreme true immortal." Qing Shi nodded.

This clan was dated back to the previous epoch. According to the legends, one ancestor of the Shi was a nobody and planted medicines for subsistence. Moreover, the guy had average talents.

Later on, he was taught the dao of alchemy by a true immortal. This allowed him to become the alchemy emperor. Future generations sang songs about him - Stonewalker Alchemy Emperor.

Because of this, the Shi became influential and everlasting. In fact, they helped everyone during the great calamity and earned praises from the Bodhisattva. This made their clan eternally renowned.

Therefore, regardless of the location, this clan was always brought up in a positive light.

Their fame also resulted in an endless wave of people coming for medicines and pills.

"A true immortal?" Li Qiye shook his head and smiled again. Another story about a true immortal.

"It's true." Qing Shi perceived Li Qiye's smile as skepticism and continued: "There are many records about the emperor meeting a true immortal. His average talents became incredible, capable of understanding things overnight. Moreover, the immortal even gave him immortal grass and an alchemy cauldron. This helped him on his path towards the dao of alchemy."

This particular tale seemed heavily reinforced by many historical records.

"Stonewalker Alchemy Emperor, it's a good title, how nostalgic." Li Qiye restrained from laughing and shook his head again.

Qing Shi found this very strange. Not to mention the plateau, everyone in the northern region always spoke with a hint of respect about the Shi. The Bodhisattva praised the clan. In fact, even their enemies couldn't refute their golden reputation.

Alas, Li Qiye didn't give a damn at all as if the Shi was nothing in his eyes.

"Do you have grievances with the Shi, Young Master?" Qing Shi quietly said, not wanting others to hear.

"No, but there is no true immortal. The tale is falsely propagated by future generations." Li Qiye smiled.

"How do you know this, Young Master?" Qing Shi became interested and asked: "The Shi has so many records about the immortal. Plus, the previous epoch was so long, long ago. Most records have disappeared, there might have been a true immortal back then. We don't know for sure."

"Have you ever seen a whale in a pond?" Li Qiye asked.

"Hmm, no?" Qing Shi was surprised.

"So say, even if a pond can somehow have a whale, how is it going to survive? It'll need to feed on the other fish, of course. So will there be any fish left in that pond?" Li Qiye continued.

"No." Qing Shi answered.

"So if this world has a true immortal, there will be no future descendants or whatever, only ashes." Li Qiye finished.

Qing Shi couldn't quite refute this logic since it made sense.

"Maybe the true immortal is from above, not here." Qing Shi brought another point up.

"Why would a whale purposely come to a tiny pond? Is there anything worthwhile in one? It would only do so with one particular goal in mind." Li Qiye replied.

"What goal?" Qing Shi asked.

"To eat everything in the pond. Also, this means that the food outside has run out so it has no choice but to pick this pond." Li Qiye answered.

Qing Shi stood there in a daze. For most people, a true immortal was a magnificent and supreme existence. Now, Li Qiye made one sound like the devil - quite a stark contrast.

"Are you sure you're talking about a true immortal instead of a devil or fiend, Young Master?" Qing Shi quietly said.

"Is there a difference? Only the title." Li Qiye said: "Look, dao lords reach the top by stepping on many bones. They fight against the rest of the world and massacre millions. Are they considered spurned murderers or heroes?"

Qing Shi had no response once again. One could certainly view the dao lords as butchers since a conquest was necessary to reach the peak. Their hands were stained with blood.

"That's why the story is false." Li Qiye went on.

"Who did the Shi ancestor meet then?" Qing Shi asked.

"Just a person who taught him alchemy." Li Qiye smiled. More ancient memories surfaced in his mind. This was so long ago that he had forgotten about them.

For example, the honest and simple youth in the past...

Qing Shi thought that the records couldn't be verified. However, the alchemy dao of the Shi was definitely number one in the world. Their contribution was not to be questioned either.

"The existence of a true immortal, in this case, doesn't affect the clan's prestige." Li Qiye stared at the dazed youth and said: "An alchemy emperor is not self-proclaimed. Only those at the actual level could gain this title. This is the case in the previous epoch as well. Moreover, the clan's contribution for eras will not be erased over this issue."

Li Qiye then stared at the clan and murmured to himself: "Brat, you've done well to not let me down."

Qing Shi didn't hear the last line since the first part kept him occupied for a while. A while later, he looked at Li Qiye and saw the guy's expression.

In this split second, he saw flashes of vicissitude in Li Qiye's eyes. It was as if Li Qiye had experienced countless years and was even older than the Shi.

Chapter 3422: That Stone Tablet

"Creak." The noise of a carriage grinding on the stone path could be heard. A group of royal soldiers arrived at the entrance of the Shi.

The group had several hundred powerful elites. They crowded around a carriage with dragon and phoenix carvings, looking quite luxurious with bright embedded gems. Auspicious clouds hovered above along with an impressive momentum deterring others from getting close.

"The royal guards of Skylight." Other visitors stopped and watched the incoming group.

"Who is it?" Discussions sprung up.

"Maybe their princess?" All eyes were on the carriage.

The royal guard finally stopped in front of the gate.

Skylight was the strongest country in the northern West King, famous alongside Yin Yang Gate. Their royal ancestor was extremely talented and mighty.

Despite the power of this country, the troops still showed respect by getting off their horses.

A youth came down from the carriage. He wore a four-clawed dragon robe. His eyes were fierce and his steps powerful. An awe-inspiring aura circled around him. It was obvious that he was part of the nobility.

"The First Prince of Skylight." Many recognized him.

This prestigious prince didn't dare to put on an act as he moved towards the stone steps. The disciples of the Shi Clan came over to greet him.

"The reason for my visit today is to request a pill from your clan." The prince said politely and also prepared a gift.

This was the proper way for a prince to act - both noble and generous. It was hard not to like him.

The disciples from the Shi immediately let him in.

Many became surprised, not about the fact that the prince was granted entry but rather, what pill did he want?

"A pill for the royal ancestor, maybe?" People quietly talked among themselves in order to not cause trouble.

"I didn't expect for the first prince to come himself." Another expert found this surprising.

"He's not the only one. I heard the city is quite lively recently. Even Dragon-phoenix Maiden is here, the same with the godchild of Firmaments." A knowledgeable cultivator revealed.

"You're talking about the maiden, famous alongside Pearlstone Saintess and Skylight Princess?" Another immediately asked.

Many didn't care about the godchild, only the maiden. After all, she was one of the three top beauties in the northern region.

"Who else can it be?" The initial speaker glanced at the guy as if he was stupid.

"All these big shots are here, is something about to happen?" One soul became curious.

However, those privy to this information chose against divulging it.

Li Qiye had no interest in the gossip. He smiled and continued onward.

Qing Shi gave chase and smiled: "There's a place where that might interest you, Young Master."

Li Qiye stopped and Qing Shi was smart enough to not waste time: "The ancestral tablet left behind by our Golem Ancestor, how about it?"

"Why not?" Li Qiye let the guy lead the way.

The two of them made numerous turns and twists before reaching this tablet. It was located in a large field covered with stones and rocks. It lacked any decoration and exquisite carvings. It looked simple yet stately.

Unfortunately, it seemed relatively abandoned. Weeds were growing from the cracks between the rocks. No one was here today with the exception of Qing Shi and Li Qiye.

The tablet was erected in the middle, large and majestic. It had numerous words and ancient runes, virtually impossible to understand from the distance.

Normally, such a tablet should be revered by all. In this case, once someone got a closer look at the runes, they would find them quite strange. They looked like the scribbles of a child, drawing worms and such...

All in all, they could be described with one word - ugly, extremely ugly.

A new cultivator could do a better job drawing these runes. Thus, carving them on a tablet was ridiculous and invited jeers.

Of course, no one would dare to laugh after hearing about the originator of these runes.

"This is personally written by our Golem Ancestor." Qing Shi said with respect: "Unfortunately, no one has been able to understand their meanings."

So it turned out that the runes were left behind by Golem Ancestor. However, the tablet was created by his disciple. It remained unknown which of the two wanted to create this tablet.

One particular rumor stated that either way, they must have purposely left this secret for future descendants.

As for what this secret actually was, no one really had an answer. Some speculation included a peerless merit law. This went on to say that even the disciple of Golem Ancestor didn't have it. It was meant for the fateful one capable of understanding the runes. Thus, the disciple left this tablet here so that everyone in the world could take a look.

Another described it as a treasure map. Golem Ancestor hid his treasury somewhere unbeknownst to all. The clues were hidden in the runes. A supreme weapon was another possibility.

All in all, regardless of the actual content, the tablet definitely contained a top-secret. Ancestral City confirmed this.

Back in the old eras during its early days, many came to take a look. The field was filled with thousands of spectators and geniuses.

This liveliness lasted for generations. Alas, no one figured out anything from these runes.

To put it bluntly, the lines resembled the silly drawings of a child and weren't worth a single coin. No one dared to say this because it came from Golem Ancestor.

The place eventually became deserted. Only the golems kept on continuing here; some still trying to figure it out, others to show their respect. As more time passed, even the golems gave up due to a lack of yield after millions of years.

"This tablet has a heaven-shaking secret, are you interested in taking a look, Young Master? Maybe you'll be the first to figure it out given your abilities." Qing Shi said.

"You're the one who wants to figure it out." Li Qiye looked at him.

Qing Shi coughed awkwardly and admitted: "I was very interested in this during my youth and did ample research, reading old manuals and different perspectives. I didn't get anything out of it though."

He was confident in his abilities and talents on top of possessing rich knowledge. Alas, he didn't fare better than those before him. Fortunately, no one else did better and he found solace in this.

"What's the point? It's worthless, not worth a fart." Li Qiye glanced at the tablet and smiled.

Chapter 3423: Chicken Soup

"Many have come to understand it including brilliant Heavenly Sovereigns..." Qing Shi was surprised to hear Li Qiye.

"Dog fart, that's all." Li Qiye continued: "The future descendants aren't that much better, so foolish."

Qing Shi didn't expect this response before no one else would dare to say this.

"Golem Ancestor let this behind." He lowered his voice, afraid of others listening. After all, Golem Ancestor had a supreme status in their race. Other golems would try to fight Li Qiye after hearing this.

"So what? Do you think your Golem Ancestor's fart smells good?" Li Qiye said.

"Uh..." Qing Shi couldn't say anything. The comment was logical despite the vulgarity.

"So what is the meaning of this tablet?" He asked.

"Only to trick fools like you." Li Qiye smiled: "You think there's a peerless merit law there?"

In history, most assumed that this tablet contained something amazing because Golem Ancestor was indeed the one who wrote the runes. Why would he bother to trick others?

"Really? There's nothing there?" Qing Shi remained skeptical.

"Go ask Golem Ancestor." Li Qiye shook his head: "This isn't really a bad thing. The night is long so to have something different like this adds color to the world." He turned and left after ending it with this.

Qing Shi didn't quite understand but noticed that Li Qiye was far ahead and gave chase.

Li Qiye entered the street again, seemingly very familiar with the place.

"You've been here before?" This surprised Qing Shi. It looked as if the guy had been here a thousand times before and could find his way around blindfolded.

"No, first time." Li Qiye said.

Others wouldn't believe him at all due to his familiarity with the complex streets and alleys. However, Qing Shi trusted him because Li Qiye had no reason to lie.

After following Li Qiye for a while, he himself became lost. He never knew that Ancestral City had a place like this. The trip seemed to be taking him to a new world.

Finally, Li Qiye stopped before a small alley. Qing Shi stopped as well and saw an old restaurant. The pillars and tiles had a thick layer of dust.

An old plaque was hung in a crooked manner above the entrance, on the verge of falling down. The wind would make it creak. "Chicken soup" was written on it.

The writer put a lot of effort into writing these characters. Unfortunately, it wasn't masterfully done when judging strictly in a calligraphic manner. They weren't exceptional nor powerful.

Nonetheless, it looked like a new learner trying their best to write. This made the ancient restaurant stand out in an interesting manner.

Li Qiye smirked after seeing the plaque then entered. Qing Shi didn't understand why Li Qiye came here, to have some chicken soup?

He has been here long enough to know the city very well, especially the peculiar areas. This restaurant wasn't one of them. Of course, he didn't know every single restaurant here due to the sheer number.

He saw five small tables or so. The top was black and smooth, perhaps from too much oil and cleaning across the years.

To the corner was the front counter. The owner could rest here on a slow day.

Only a statue was there now. Well, it was too coarse to be called a statue. "Boulder" was the better word.

It had the shape of a muscular man. The carver seemed to be lazy during the creation process, only adding a few things before giving up.

It wasn't possible to tell the sex of the statue. It must have been here for a long time because it had the same aging looks as the tables - a glossy black.

There was a backroom as well, hidden behind a curtain. However, there were boiling noises coming from there. An amazing fragrance of chicken soup oozed out. People couldn't help salivating.

There seemed to be a kitchen back there specialized in chicken soup.

Qing Shi didn't know how Li Qiye was aware of this place despite it being his first time in Ancestral City.

"Boss." Li Qiye sat down and shouted.

Qing Shi sat down again, not really liking it due to the layer of fat and oil on the seat. The sanitation of this place could use some work.

He had never eaten at such a shabby place before, especially not chicken soups consumed by mortals. Nonetheless, it was fine after he sat down. It wasn't too bad outside of this layer.

At this time, an old man pushed up the curtain and walked out of the backroom.

He wore a simple robe and kept it clean unlike the rest of the restaurant. It looked a bit old with patches here and there. However, it was white due to being washed so many times.

His hands were clean as well. No dirt could be seen in his fingertips. It had plenty of calluses.

The contrast between his cleanliness and the shop made people think of a lotus flower growing in the mud.

This wasn't a perfect analogy but people certainly got this impression.

The old man only glanced at Qing Shi for a second and stopped on Li Qiye. His eyes suddenly became profound like the flow of time flashing by. Qing Shi didn't notice this.

"Customer, would you like a bowl of chicken soup?" The old man bowed and put a smile on his wrinkly face, looking very friendly: "A new batch is done, hot and delicious. How about two bowls?"

"Sure." Qing Shi blurted out because of the tempting fragrance earlier. He found it strange that he was interested in the food of mortals.

"No, I only want duck soup." Li Qiye said.

"?" Qing Shi didn't expect this. He quietly reminded Li Qiye: "This place is for chicken soup, I don't think they have duck soup."

Li Qiye didn't seem to care.

"I'm sorry to say that we only have chicken soup here." The old man smiled and said: "Would you like to try? We have been doing this for eight generations, the broth is incredible with a rich aftertaste."

Qing Shi salivated again, still confused about his sudden voracious appetite.

"No, I only want a soup made from a three-year-old duck simmered over a weak fire using a tile pot and stone water." Li Qiye repeated.

Chapter 3424: Duck Soup Only

Qing Shi felt that Li Qiye was being out of line. The old man had a restaurant specialized in chicken soup. Why would Li Qiye demand duck soup made in such a strange manner? How utterly ridiculous.

"Customer, just try our chicken soup. It has been passed down for generations and the taste won't let you down." The old man laughed.

Li Qiye grabbed a pair of bamboo chopsticks and stared at the old man: "Duck soup only."

Qing Shi was at a loss for words. Was Li Qiye only here to cause trouble?

"How about we go to another restaurant?" Qing Shi kindly suggested, feeling bad for the owner.

The old man didn't become angry and repeated: "Customer, we really don't have duck soup here, just try our chicken soup once, the broth will..."

"I don't want chicken soup, duck only. Hurry up and bring me a bowl." Li Qiye suddenly placed the chopsticks on the table again.

The old man looked down and noticed the natural manner of the placement. They suddenly became a unique diagram, ready to leap up.

His expression changed as he staggered backward and became frozen. He hurriedly took a deep breath and composed himself. He then picked up the chopsticks and placed them back into the container. He bowed and smiled: "Okay, duck soup it is, coming right up."

"Three-year-old duck, gentle fire, tile pot, and stone water." Li Qiye reminded.

'For sure, I'll get it done right away." The jovial old man returned to the kitchen.

The sudden change in attitude took Qing Shi off guard. He didn't know why the owner changed his mind.

This was clearly a place for chicken soup yet Li Qiye came asking for duck soup - clearly the plot of a troublemaker.

Of course, Qing Shi didn't notice the diagram earlier since the old men took them away with haste.

"Young Master, why do you want some duck soup so bad?" Qing Shi asked while the kitchen sounded busy.

The circumstances showed that Li Qiye came with a purpose, albeit a confusing one.

Li Qiye only smiled and closed his eyes, seemingly resting. Qing Shi had no choice but to think about it himself with a focus on the old man and the restaurant.

A restaurant like this was common in Ancestral City. After all, the city has been around for millions of years. A generational place like this wasn't out of place.

The issue was, what was in this place that warranted Li Qiye's attention and time? It would be reasonable if Li Qiye came for the chicken soup of this place. However, he wanted duck soup. This issue remained inscrutable for Qing Shi.

They were the only guests currently present in this restaurant. This particular alley was rather crowded with plenty of people coming and going.

Qing Shi watched them walking by but no one came in despite the incredible aroma coming from the kitchen. It was as if they couldn't see the restaurant at all - truly a bizarre feeling.

He shuddered, thinking that they might have entered a haunted restaurant only visible to them.

He didn't believe in ghosts but just the thought still frightened him. He couldn't help staring at Li Qiye.

Unfortunately, the guy didn't look worried at all. His eyes were still shut.

After a while, a stronger aroma came. Qing Shi immediately knew that it was duck-based since it was different from the prior one. He couldn't quite pinpoint the fine details. Nonetheless, he gulped several times because of overflowing saliva.

He thought that it was strange for a chicken soup place to be so good at making duck soup as well. The aroma was definitely on the same level.

"Here, here." The old man brought out a pot of hot soup and laughed: "As fresh as can be, made exactly as you ordered, Customer. Please try." He then poured two bowls for the customers.

Qing Shi couldn't hold back and immediately drank the bowl without caring about his image. The aroma was simply irresistible.

He drank several bowls in the blink of an eye and looked up to see that Li Qiye was taking his time with elegant sips.

This embarrassed Qing Shi so he also slowed down.

Meanwhile, the old man stood to the side with a smile. Of course, his focus was on Li Qiye, not Qing Shi. It seemed that Li Qiye's enjoyment was the highest praise for his cooking skills.

"May I have another?" Qing Shi had no idea how many bowls he had drunk and still wanted more despite his belly being filled.

This was definitely the best duck soup he had ever drunk in his life. No, the best dish he ever had the pleasure of tasting.

In the past, he had tried countless exotic delicacies. Alas, the dragon liver and phoenix bladder paled in comparison.

He actually needed to slow down because Li Qiye was taking his time. Meanwhile, the old man patiently watched with a smile.

"Customer, what do you think about this soup?" He finally asked after Li Qiye was nearly finished.

"Not bad. You made chicken soup your whole life but your duck soup is good too." Li Qiye said.

"Haha, thank you. I had no choice but to do my best to fulfill your request." The old man laughed.

"This duck isn't bad either. In the past, I knew this dead duck that lived for a long time. It's very skinny and its bones are probably tough, but I'm sure it'll make an amazing duck soup too." Li Qiye smiled.

Qing Shi had no idea what the hell Li Qiye was talking about.

"Haha, Sir, I don't know which duck you're referring to." The old man smiled wryly.

"Understandable since you haven't actually seen the real thing." Li Qiye smiled: "I've been wanting to catch it since the older the duck, the better the broth, right?"

"I don't know much about this." The old man responded.

"It's okay, I won't make it difficult for you." Li Qiye shook his head: "Telling you to find a living dead duck is too tough given the circumstances. The duck soup today was perfectly fine."

"Yes, thank you for your benevolence. I'm truly blessed." The old man heaved a sigh of relief.

Meanwhile, Qing Shi's confusion only grew.

Chapter 3425: Satisfied?

Li Qiye belched after drinking his soup and sat there lazily.

Qing Shi felt so comfortable as well and lay back on his chair, rubbing his stomach. He felt bad because he drank at least two-thirds of the soup. He didn't say anything because the conversation seemed to be between these two.

He knew that the old man was treating Li Qiye, not him who got lucky enough to ride Li Qiye's coattails. He remained curious about Li Qiye's intention.

"Are you satisfied now, Customer?" The old man put the pot and bowls away before enthusiastically smiling.

"Mmm, sure." Li Qiye stretched, looking like a young master.

"Is there anything else you want? Just say the words." The old man continued.

"You can satisfy all my demands?" Li Qiye opened his eyes and stared at the old man with a smirk on his face.

The old man shuddered, realizing that his pleasantry might have been overly exaggerated. After all, the person sitting before him was a big deal. Other historical lords, supreme overlords, and dao lords were insignificant compared to him.

"Ah... this little one will do his best. It's a shame that I don't have much here, just a bunch of broken bricks and tiles." The old man responded.

"Mmm, sometimes those are valuable too." Li Qiye stared at the old man.

The latter became afraid because he didn't know why Li Qiye was here. Someone like Li Qiye would definitely want something incredible. Very few things were worthy of his attention and time. Dao lord weapons and artifacts weren't on this list.

"You're playing with me, Customer. My broken items can't enter your sight." The old man became awkward.

"Don't be so sure now since you have what you should have. For example, if I want something like lightning, where should I go to get it?"

"Lightning?" The old man was startled for a moment before realizing what Li Qiye was referring to. He tumbled backward on instinct.

Qing Shi has been watching and took note of this. He might not know what exactly "lighting" was referring to but it was definitely a big deal to the old man.

"Ah, Sir, I'm afraid you'll be disappointed by returning empty-handed. We don't have anything like that here and even if we did, we can't hide it from you anyway." The old man responded.

"This restaurant doesn't have it but that's not the case for this place." Li Qiye smirked while pointing at his head: "Tell me, where should I go?"

The old man had a sullen expression after hearing this, being put in a tough situation. He eventually said: "Customer, this will put me in a tough situation. I'm very old and have forgotten about many things. Even if I knew before, this might no longer be the case."

He knew that lying wasn't possible in front of Li Qiye. Plus, the consequences would be unimaginable. People have tried in the past and suffered his wrath.

"Is that so?" Li Qiye stroked his chin with a half-smile.

"Sir, nothing in the world can hide from your eyes. If you don't know about it, my senile self can't either." The old man said.

"Stop calling me Sir, I'm only eighteen." Li Qiye said.

"Yes, of course, my mistake." The old man apologized with haste.

"Forget it, I'm just messing with you." Li Qiye laughed: "If I wanted it, I wouldn't be waiting till now nor asking you."

"Of course." The old man nodded and heaved a sigh of relief, aware of Li Qiye's previous exploits.

"Well, I still want to stew that old duck though." Li Qiye added.

The old man only smiled and didn't respond. He still didn't know why Li Qiye came.

"You're aware that something flew here?" Li Qiye changed the topic.

"Yes, it landed in the stone forest." The old man honestly said. But this matter was insignificant. It shouldn't be the reason why Li Qiye was here.

Qing Shi's ears seemingly became larger. He didn't understand the first part but the stone forest was definitely within his scope. He quietly listened without interrupting.

"Mmm, I know. I won't waste any more time, I just need one stone. There should have been one or two left behind." Li Qiye nodded.

The old man pondered about it before giving in: "I personally know about one in Ancestral City. However, I never paid much attention so I can't be sure where it is exactly."

"Still the same as before." Li Qiye smiled and shook his head.

"However, if you really want that stone, customer, I'm afraid that it has cracked by now. My information is limited." The old man softly added.

"That's not surprising, there's a reason why the present is what it is." Li Qiye smiled and stared outside: "Why is the world like this right now? And the current golems."

"A choice." The old man answered. He naturally knew how the golems used to be back in the previous epoch. Now, their population had dwindled, no longer as prosperous as before.

Golem Ancestor made this bold choice after experiencing the great disaster. Many golems followed him on this unprecedented path.

"A choice that affects the fate of an entire race." Li Qiye replied.

"What's your view on it?" The old man had to ask.

"None. I'm not a golem and I didn't make them do it. I'm no more than a passerby." Li Qiye shook his head.

"So if one day when humans are facing a similar choice, what will you pick for them?" The old man eventually asked.

"You've misunderstood something. I won't make a choice for the human because they'll be the ones to do it. I only make decisions for myself, no one else." Li Qiye answered: "But there are exceptions. For example, I don't mind choosing to eliminate a race or two."

The old man laughed awkwardly. Those in the know would be shivering with fear.

This had happened before in the distant years. There was once an amazing race that reigned over all others for eras. Eventually, he put an end to them, completely eliminating them from the river of time.

Now, very few knew about this story. The old man was one of them.

"Your grand achievements are unreachable for regular people like us." The old man said.

"Don't flatter me about this matter. It's nothing more than a butcher whose hands are stained with blood, it's no secret. It's just that people don't dare to express this view." Li Qiye waved his hand.

The old man chuckled and agreed. In reality, plenty of golems have been killed by him too.

Chapter 3426: Questions

The air became a bit awkward after Li Qiye's self-critique. For millions of years, people had a different perspective on Li Qiye.

Some considered him the savior, others thought that he was the dark hand behind the curtain, some also thought that he was a butcher...

The old man didn't expect to be lucky enough to witness this mythical character. Only two outcomes would be the result of such a meeting - either extreme fortune or untold misfortune.

It seemed that he wasn't part of the latter today.

"It is an honor to have you visiting our humble abode, a blessing accumulated from three lifetimes." The old man bowed towards Li Qiye to show respect.

"I'm only here to drink duck soup. It's a shame that I couldn't get the real old one." Li Qiye smiled.

The old man chuckled, naturally aware of Li Qiye's joke. If he actually wanted it, he wouldn't be sitting here right now.

"I've never expected you to show up again, Customer." The old man said with reverence.

The words came from the heart because Li Qiye has been gone for too long. He disappeared during the previous epoch. Some said that he came to a different world, one that was far stronger. Others believed that he had ascended and became a true immortal. A few said that he died to the heavenly execution...

Only those who knew him thought that he was definitely alive, just not in this world.

The most shocking thing was his ability to return to the nine worlds. Now, the old man was lucky enough to see him. His life wasn't wasted after witnessing this miracle.

In history, many characters have left without returning. For example, the emperors and dao lords. None could travel freely like this existence, leaving and returning, then repeating this unbelievable process.

"It's an unlucky life. Struggling to reach the top only to fall back down, half-death. There's no choice but to try again." Li Qiye smiled.

"You're the only one who can even climb it." The old man praised.

Li Qiye's comment sounded as if he lived a tough and unsuccessful life. Alas, the old man knew that the mountain here was accessible only to the Dark Crow. The other top supremes might not be eligible to embark on this path.

"Such praises make me feel as if I'm walking on air." Li Qiye joked.

"This little one has a few questions. May I ask you about them?" The old man didn't want to waste this opportunity. He didn't want treasures and miracles either, only some answers.

Li Qiye glanced at him and waved his hand.

Qing Shi didn't know what they wanted to talk about but Li Qiye's intention was clear - for him to leave. Though he really wanted to stay despite being confused, he didn't dare to go against Li Qiye and left the restaurant.

"Your golem race has a few talents." Li Qiye said.

The old man glanced towards the door and said: "To earn your good graces is her fortune, a lifetime of benefits."

"It's nothing like that, just a coincidence." Li Qiye smiled.

Of course, the old man didn't think so. Those able to stay near Li Qiye all enjoyed a great fortune. He has heard plenty of legends like this. For example, the ancestor of the Shi. That's why he thought that Qing Shi was very lucky to follow Li Qiye.

"Ask your questions. I might not be able to answer though." Li Qiye said.

The old man took a deep breath and carefully took his time. Getting an answer from Li Qiye would be extremely beneficial. They could seek this for a lifetime and get nothing out of it.

"Are the great disasters real? When is the next one coming?" He asked.

"A bit crafty, that's multiple questions in one." Li Qiye smiled and turned towards the statue behind the counter: "Why are you living in this manner? For the golems or yourself?"

The old man sighed and said: "I'm doing my best so that I don't let myself down and have peace of mind."

"A noble goal. The world needs sages like you." Li Qiye tapped his thigh and laughed.

"Thank you, Sir." The old man bowed without feeling conceited.

Li Qiye stared outside and didn't answer. The old man stood with both hands straight down, waiting patiently.

"They're real, one hundred percent." Li Qiye answered after a while.

The old man became startled despite mentally preparing himself long ago. This answer confirmed it.

Previously, whenever he got the same answer, he would still question it because they were speculations or just hearsay. Now, he got one from the most credible source.

It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that Li Qiye's answer was equal to a mantra from the high heaven, as accurate as could be.

He took a deep breath and needed a little bit to calm down.

"From a certain angle, your race chose the right choice. This is not a bad idea for avoidance, worthy of further research." Li Qiye added.

"So there is still hope in the future?" The old man became happy.

"None." Li Qiye replied with absolute certainty.

"None...?" The old man was shaken.

"Well, as I said, this is a decent idea when dealing with a lower level of disaster. When the real thing comes, nothing will be effective. A toppled nest will not have any whole egg." Li Qiye smiled.

"In older epochs were majestic and brilliant beings. Some races could be considered heaven's favorites and divine at birth, but none of them were lucky enough to escape. One person might be able to fend for themselves but there's no chance for an entire race." Li Qiye added.

There was no questioning Li Qiye's authority on this topic since he had gone further than anyone. Other emperors and dao lords were just taking the first step.

"There's no chance for you either." Li Qiye finished with this in a nonchalant tone.

The old man smiled wryly and nodded: "I know, I've lived long enough anyway. Any extra day is good enough, no point in regretting."

"Satisfaction is happiness, at least you'll be able to face death with peace. Death itself isn't that scary. One could consider it a beautiful ending where people can close their eyes and rest." Li Qiye replied.

"Your experiences are out of reach for us, as unimaginable as can be." The old man could sympathize: "When will it come?"

"You're asking the wrong person." Li Qiye shook his head: "I can't give you an answer. You need to be asking him." He pointed towards the sky.

The old man looked up and chuckled.

"But, maybe you'll live long enough to see that day." Li Qiye joked: "But you should hope for the opposite and die in a peaceful manner. Everyone eventually dies anyway."

Chapter 3427: A Storm At Ancestral City

Qing Shi patiently waited outside, aware that the old man wasn't a restaurant owner at all but rather a hidden master.

He knew Ancestral City like the palm of his hand yet he had no info on this master. He was certain that this old man was extremely powerful, just not entirely sure on the ceiling. Perhaps the ancestors he met in his sect weren't as strong.

This confused him even more. How could his sect not know anything about this master when he was located in this city?

He became awfully curious about the old man's background. Why did he choose Ancestral City as his base? He racked his brains and couldn't come up with a particular character.

He looked up at the plaque again to carefully look at the words while pondering. He then memorized the location of this restaurant.

At the same time, he also cared about the ongoing conversation between those two. However, he obediently stayed outside.

During his previous listen, he didn't understand the majority of the content. Nonetheless, he still memorized each word.

Eventually, Li Qiye and the old man came out of the place. The latter looked rather subservient just like a servant.

"Let's go." Li Qiye ordered casually and moved on.

"Serve the young master well. It is your responsibility, do not make a mistake." The old man said sternly as Qing Shi was leaving.

Qing Shi was caught off guard. After all, he had no relationship with the old man but the latter gave an order as if he was a senior. This was truly strange.

"Okay." Qing Shi still responded as if he couldn't resist the old man's command.

Once he regained his wits, Li Qiye was already far away. He hurriedly caught up then looked back at the restaurant.

He only saw the long alley. The old man and the restaurant were no longer there. He rubbed his eyes in disbelief and looked again.

The somber alley was still there, just not the restaurant. It felt as if he had just met a ghost.

"Young Master, that place isn't there anymore." Qing Shi told Li Qiye, startled.

Li Qiye only smiled and continued forward.

"Where are we going now?" Qing Shi dropped the issue.

"The stone park." Li Qiye said.

Qing Shi became interested right away after hearing this.

In recent days, Ancestral City became very lively with more visitors. Of course, as the largest city in the plateau, the place was always packed with people from all over the world - merchants, travelers, dao seekers...

However, many big shots have arrived recently including the slumbering ancestors and high elders. They appeared all of a sudden without warning. The natives started feeling that something was amiss.

Next, people from Divine Stone Ridge, Firmaments Gate, Skylight Country, and Ying Yang Gate started showing up.

The top geniuses also came one after another. Among them was the first prince of Skylight. He immediately went to the Shi right after. This caused quite a stir.

Some said that he was asking for a longevity pill because his country's heaven-defying ancestor wanted to come out. This ancestor has been sealed for many years so he required a powerful pill in order to return.

Another said that the prince came for personal reasons - that he wanted the right pill to break through to the next realm. This would make him one of the strongest geniuses in the northern region.

The godchild of Firmaments was present as well. Everyone knew about his arrival because visual phenomena filled the sky.

The myriad dao became resplendent and served as a golden passage in a magnificent manner.

Initially, people thought that it was a big shot from Firmaments. They later found out that it was the godchild of that sect.

People became surprised after finding out due to the type of phenomena. One commented: "He has successfully trained the arts of Firmaments?"

The person from Divine Stone Ridge garnered a similar level of attention.

"The ridge is normally reclusive so why is a big shot from there here? Something big must be happening." Discussions sprung up.

"I heard a treasury is emerging." They asked around and eventually found some useful clues.

"Really?" Excitement naturally came next.

"All the old geezers from the big sects are here, how can it be fake?" One cultivator uttered coldly.

The skeptics nearby became emotional. Yes, a treasury would indeed make these big shots come out.

"Where in Ancestral City?" One of their eyes lit up.

Unfortunately, he didn't get a response. Even those aware of this answer kept their mouth shut.

Nonetheless, most decided to follow the big shots when the time was right. These big shots certainly knew the location of the treasury.

"Did you guys know that Dragon-phoenix Maiden is coming too?" Another shocking news reverberated across the area.

"She's coming, really?" The younger ones were ecstatic. They immediately asked around for more information.

"You're late, she's already here." One cultivator revealed.

"One of the three beauties of the northern West King..." This news traveled across Ancestral.

She was famous for having perfect features on top of an impeccably noble bloodline. This made it hard for people to chase after her.

"Both Skylight Princess and Pearlstone Saintess are engaged, the only one available is the maiden."

"Yes, maybe there's a chance." Some started fantasizing.

"In your dream." One guy shook his head and sneered: "Dragon-phoenix Valley refused a marriage pact with Yin Yang Gate back then. You have no chance in hell."

All in all, the younger ones looked forward to actually seeing the maiden.

Chapter 3428: Dragon-phoenix Maiden

The arrival of these geniuses caused quite a stir for the youths at Ancestral City. This was doubly true for the maiden.

The young ones asked all over for more information about her since she was the ideal lover in their dream.

The three beauties were renowned in the northern region but two were engaged. Only the maiden was a potential partner.

"By this time tomorrow, Dragon-phoenix Maiden, Skylight First Prince, and Firmaments Godchild will be gathering at the stone park to discuss the dao with everyone in the world." This news came today.

"Really?!" Many excited souls immediately asked for confirmation.

"Yes, all three of them will definitely be there. It's a serious event." A knowledgeable cultivator answered.

"We might not be able to have a dao discussion with them but just seeing the maiden makes this trip totally worth it." Everyone became wild after hearing this. The young ones started rushing towards the park.

"Is this our chance?" The more talented ones became spirited.

The maiden was more than just a beauty. Her talents and cultivation were superior to Skyhigh First Prince and Firmaments Godchild.

Thus, this dao discussion was a rare opportunity, something all the top youths wanted. Just this one session might be equivalent to training alone for ten years.

"I was told that the first prince is in charge of the event. He invited the other two. This isn't a sparring match since that's not in good taste. It's all about learning the mysteries of the park." An insider revealed.

"That's more like it. The mysteries of the park have been elusive despite people spending their whole life searching." Many nodded in agreement.

People started gathering at the park. The majority still focused on seeing the maiden for the first time to see if the rumors were true. The rest consisted of geniuses and experts wanting to improve their cultivation after participating in this event.

The park became crowded in no time at all. Normally, many would come to this place, especially the golems. They wouldn't miss this destination after coming to Ancestral.

It was built by Ancestral Golem. Many of the rocks here were personally chosen by him.

According to the legends, he traveled around Eight Desolaces and chose strange stones of various properties. Later on, these stones were used to build this park by his disciple. Future descendants were allowed to check them out.

However, the stones weren't only for show. They contained profound mysteries such as peerless merit laws, treasures, and some were innately divine...

The park was available for anyone, even the non-golems. As long as they could understand the stones, the content would be theirs.

This was another reason why people praised Golem Ancestor for his generosity and benevolence.

The mysteries here drew people from extremely far away. Some golems didn't mind traveling ten million miles.

Today, the presence of the three top geniuses made the park even more attractive.

When people arrived, they couldn't help praising this area for its ability to produce talents. The park consisted of a main garden built in an exquisite manner. Each pavilion and building here were magnificent.

Decorations such as the water pavilions and mounds were perfectly placed. People would forget their way home after visiting. Special stones were embedded everywhere, looking quite magical.

"These stones really contain secrets?" A first-timer stood in front of a bright golden stone and curiously asked.

The stone was as big as a human and had a golden glow. Some yellow grains were still on the surface so it looked like a recently-excavated ore from a mine.

"How can it be fake? We won't talk about long ago but just a thousand years ago, an elder from our Ancestral City figured out one stone. It cracked, revealing an old artifact inside." A disciple from the city said.

"Yes, okay, you know the godchild in the event this time, right? What about how his sect was established?" A history buff said: "According to the records, the patriarch of Firmaments came here seeking the dao. He also figured out one stone and obtained a scripture containing a top merit law - Firmaments Art."

"I see, so that famous art came from here." The experts nearby were amazed.

"The patriarch from Firmaments isn't the only one who had benefited from the park." The golem from the city took pride in this.

After all, only the great Golem Ancestor would be generous enough to share his own legacy and treasures with the rest of the world.

"We should give it a shot!" Another first-timer became excited.

"Feel free to try, we don't want to waste our time. Yes, this place has many mysteries but only the top geniuses in each generation are eligible, no, the greatest ones. Dragon-phoenix Maiden or the first prince might have a shot. Us? Forget it." An experienced cultivator shook his head and smiled.

"Yes, countless have tried in history but few actually gained anything." The others smiled.

Most of them have tried before to no avail. Some of the first-timers didn't buy this. They sat next to the stones and released their divine intents for comprehension's sake.

However, after half a day, they still couldn't figure out anything. Most eventually gave up after realizing the futility.

No one made fun of them either because very few in history have been able to do it.

"Perhaps only someone like Young Lord Bai can comprehend these stones." A spectator commented and earned many nods in the process. Bai Jianchan was the most likely to do so in the current generation.

The first prince prepared the banquet at a waterside pavilion surrounded by mountains and gurgling streams with reflections all around. The mountains had plenty of embedded stones, looking just like a stone forest.

There were no seating arrangements but the visitors were smart enough to find the right spot to sit down based on cultivation level.

The powerful and talented cultivators sat near the center. The ones closest to the main trio were the best of the best.

There was a clear separation of class but no one uttered any grievance.

Chapter 3429: Gathering Of Heroes

However, the maiden still hasn't arrived. The disciples from Skylight have been busy preparing a feast for everyone else, ranging from fruits to rare delicacies. This allowed everyone to relax and feel like they were home.

The first prince invited other famous people besides Firmaments Godchild and Dragon-phoenix Maiden.

However, even the uninvited guests were treated well. It seemed like the prince was a good and generous host.

The event hasn't formally opened but people were sitting down. The atmosphere became very lively.

"The first prince has arrived." An announcer at the entrance shouted and all eyes looked towards the door.

A youth with a dragon robe walked in with powerful momentum. He looked quite impressive, clearly part of the nobility.

He was none other than Skylight First Prince. The guests immediately stood up to greet him.

"Your Highness, it has been a while. Your cultivation soared once more." An acquaintance came over with a big smile.

Those who didn't know him took advantage of this opportunity to build a relationship, hoping to climb up the ladder.

Skylight was one of the largest countries in the north, a lineage with two dao lords. Very few could match it in strength. One could compare it to Ancestral City.

As the successor of Skylight, the first prince had plenty of authority and a great future ahead of him.

Being friends with him was absolutely an honor on top of gaining immense benefits. In fact, just one meeting could end up being a defining moment in someone's life, especially the unknown members in the audience.

Despite his status, the prince seemed cordial and amiable. He didn't mind the crowd of people coming to greet him - quite a charismatic showing.

His attitude earned him more love and praise from the rest.

"Skylight will prosper even more because of the virtuous first prince. The sky's the limit." One youth commented after meeting him.

"You're right, he's talented and powerful on top of being wise enough to recruit followers. These are the traits of a capable ruler. Skylight will only rise from now on with this peerless king." More praises came nonstop.

Many here thought that he would be able to take his country to the next height. His influence among the young generation increased as a result.

"Friends, it is an honor to have you here despite the long travel." The prince thanked them first before sitting down, earning loud applause.

"Firmaments Godchild has arrived." The announcer outside shouted again.

Auspicious clouds emerged above along with beautiful phenomena shrouding the air. People couldn't help but gasp in awe.

A young man appeared within the bright lights and walked into the hall. He wore a blue armor resembling the sky reflecting magical images.

He possessed a cold and majestic aura resembling an unsurpassable mountain. His steps didn't make noise but people could still feel his immensity, almost resembling an earthquake. He instilled great pressure with each step.

"Godchild." Many guests also came to greet him.

He wasn't as amicable as the prince but he still nodded as a greeting.

"An inborn dao physique on top of a golem physique, he's indeed the heaven's favorite." One praised.

At first glance, most would think that he was wearing a blue armor. This wasn't actually the case. It was his physique and advantage. He had the powerful bloodline of the golems on top of an inborn dao talent.

Thus, his physical form was especially mighty, the same with his vitality. This allowed him to control weapons above his realm.

Firmaments Gate didn't have a dao lord but during its golden age, it had no lack of Heavenly Sovereigns. It reigned over the north for a period, even pressuring Yin Yang Gate. Thus, this sect remained influential in the region.

Everyone thought that the godchild also had plenty of potential due to his innate advantages and his role as the successor of Firmaments.

"That inborn dao physique is incredible." Most could sense the torrential vitality brimming from him.

"Your physique is definitely the best among us." The first prince walked over and laughed to greet him.

The godchild had the right to be prideful and arrogant because of his advantages. However, he acted humbly before the first prince.

He shook his head in response: "I'm no match for Your Highness. Your Regal Draconic Secret is brilliant and unbeatable, I still can't forget it since the previous meeting."

"Regal Draconic Secret?" The listeners were moved.

This art was famous as one of the strongest techniques of Skylight. It was passed down to males only.

"You're too kind, Godchild." The prince shook his head as well: "I've only learned the very surface of it, far inferior compared to your Firmaments Art. You have reached grand completion with it so I can't take you on anymore."

"No, I've only reached the elementary level. The art is too profound and I'm far from mastering it." The godchild smiled.

The crowd was stirred again after hearing this.

"So he really mastered the Firmaments Art." People quietly discussed among themselves.

This art was created by their patriarch, a Heavenly Sovereign. It originated from Golem Ancestor and was quite heaven-defying. It was considered as part of the orthodox branch of the golems.

The godchild was so young yet he had mastered it. One could only imagine how powerful he was. Moreover, this in combination with his dao physique could make him stronger than the first prince.

The two of them sat down and chatted. Those nearby listened; some even occasionally chimed in.

"Dragon-phoenix Maiden has arrived!" The announcer shouted again.

Everyone's head turned around so fast after hearing this. Some even impatiently stood up including the first prince and the godchild.

A supreme beauty in a green dress walked into the hall. All eyes were on her. Spirit energies hovered around her as if she was an elf in the forest.

Her hair draped down on her shoulders like waterfalls. They gently fluttered to the wind. Only one phoenix pin served as decoration, looking like an animated phoenix ready to soar. Her eyes were bright as if all the spirit energy in this world were gathered there.

The middle of her eyebrows had a red dot just like a ruby. It flashed with a mysterious and magical light.

<u>Chapter 3430: The Moon Surrounded By Stars</u>

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The maiden's arrival firmly stole everyone's attention.

"Maiden." The youths came to greet her. Some even started introducing themselves without prompt.

Those who knew her beforehand tried to start a conversation in order to create a good impression.

"Maiden, I am the young lord of Three-sword. I had the fortune of meeting you back in phoenix shoal." One prodigy came closer and said. [1]

Since he had met her before, he felt that he was a crane standing among a flock of chickens, feeling quite complacent.

"Miss Ye, I am the young lord of Unicorn Mountain. Father is a close friend with the valley lord, they play chess quite often." Another genius went over. [2]

They started with their sect's or seniors' connection in order to talk with her.

It became a contest of displaying their abilities and background, hoping to show her their best side.

She nodded while casually responding with a natural expression with a hint of indifference. Each of her gestures and movements contained nobility and charm - more than enough to swoon the young ones.

A few of them - weak with a humble background - felt inferior and quietly watched from a distance, completely mesmerized by her beauty.

"The maiden lives up to her fame." One of them said.

"Yes, she's a golden jewel that is unreachable by all." Another said. Though he has always fantasized about this, a harsh reality still struck her. A supreme beauty like her was far above their station.

To elaborate on her excellence, she was rumored to have four great bloodlines of the demon race. Moreover, one of them was the legendary phoenix bloodline.

Firmaments Godchild also had a good bloodline of the golems and an inborn dao physique. However, he paled in comparison.

In fact, even Bai Jianchan thought that he couldn't match up to this bloodline. Very few in history had it.

In the north, everyone knew that she might be the future successor of Dragon-phoenix Valley.

However, only certain big shots were aware that she also came from an ancient clan. This particular clan was lucky enough to still have a living forefather strong enough to threaten all of Eight Desolaces.

She was a direct descendant of this forefather. Some believed that she was blessed by him right after her birth.

In recent years, numerous powers came to the valley to ask for a marriage agreement. All were rejected. Yin Yang Gate also attempted this and the result was still the same.

Both Firmaments Godchild and Skylight First Prince came over to greet the maiden.

"Long time no see, Miss Ye." They politely said.

The proud godchild took his arrogance down a notch before her and said: "Three years flew by and you're even more beautiful than before, enough to make others go crazy."

"Not just that, your cultivation left us behind in the dust now." The prince laughed.

These two were outstanding compared to the rest so no one else could talk right now. The other suitors had no choice but to smile wryly and back off.

"Thank you, Godchild and First Prince." Her voice sounded heavenly; people could never get tired of it.

The maiden followed the two to the main pavilion and sat down, having fully proven her well-deserved reputation.

"Your Highness, your Regal Draconic Art has reached the high level, truly impressive." She glanced at the prince and said.

"Thank you, but it's nothing compared to the godchild's mastery in the Firmament Art." The prince humbly answered.

"Our minor arts are nothing compared to your divine gaze." The godchild shook his head.

"There are no minor arts on the path towards the dao." She disagreed: "Any merit law can reach ultimate profundity. It depends on the user, not the arts themselves."

"Truly enlightening, Miss Ye." Many experts agreed with this.

The feast then began without needing an order from the prince. The main trio began talking about the dao.

Their conversations actually heralded visual phenomena in the area. Meanwhile, the listeners were as attentive as can be.

Some were confused; others nodded or even blurted out words of agreement. A few even commented and asked questions.

As the event was reaching its climax, a small problem occurred. Two uninvited intruders were stopped by the disciples of Skylight.

The event took place at the stone park, an area open to everyone. However, these two wanted to visit the park and were stopped.

There existed an unspoken qualification for the event. The famous and powerful prodigies sat to the front while the unknown ones needed to be in the back, far away from the trio.

The addition of two more participants shouldn't have mattered. Nonetheless, they weren't allowed entry.

One looked average while the other could be considered scholarly. People immediately knew that they weren't from a big sect at all. That's why they were immediately dismissed.

"Since when is the park not available for view?" The scholarly youth glared at those stopping him.

It was none other than Li Qiye and Qing Shi. They weren't here for the event; Li Qiye simply needed to take something here. The event simply took place along the way.

"Our prince and others are having a dao discussion here today. I'm sorry for any inconvenience and please, find a seat in the back." The disciple from Skylight was rather polite.

"Who says we want to participate in your event?" Qing Shi was angry while Li Qiye seemed fine.

The disciple slightly frowned. All cultivators in the north would give their country some face. The attitude of this youth was rather provocative.

"If you're not here for the event, please take the long way around. I apologize again." The disciple became less friendly with his tone.

"Why should we?" Qing Shi retorted: "The park was created by the great Golem Ancestor. Anyone could enter freely. Ancestral City itself doesn't stop anyone from doing so, since when is it your turn for your country to make decisions here?"

The disciple had no response. The park indeed belonged to Ancestral City. They didn't have any authority to stop people from entering. It's just that others usually gave them enough face.