

Emperor 3431

[Chapter 3431: Another Meeting](#)

Li Qiye ignored the argument and kept on going on the path.

“Please stop.” The disciple hurriedly gave chase.

Some cultivators nearby have been alarmed and started staring. They saw that the duo didn’t listen and became annoyed. The ones near the center had an expression of displeasure.

The latter consisted of nobles and top prodigies. Being able to sit in the front was a symbol of status. It made them feel superior to others.

Now, these two average-looking guys wanted to go to the front too? They naturally didn’t like this, akin to two beggars suddenly entering a grand palace.

“Which sect are they from? So improper.” One cultivator quietly said.

“Kick him out, that guard is too nice. People who can’t read the situation need a lesson.” Another snorted.

Li Qiye ignored the event and the feast. He was only here to find an item so he continued forward.

This made it look like he was walking towards the main pavilion where the maiden resided.

“Hmph, he must be a fan of the maiden, running here to see her appearance or just to get a word in?” One spectator scowled.

“So what if he can see her? Just a nobody who doesn’t know his place, he thinks he’ll be able to earn her grace that easily?” An expert snorted.

“Please stop or I’ll have to offend!” The disciple from Skyhigh shouted.

Li Qiye still didn’t give a damn, the same with the annoyed Qing Shi.

Meanwhile, the prince had received a message from another disciple of his country. He frowned and stared in Li Qiye’s direction.

“Let them come over.” He begrudgingly gave the order, waving his hand.

The messenger acknowledged the command, albeit unhappy in the same manner. He gestured to allow them over.

From start to finish, Li Qiye didn’t bother looking at anyone. His eyes were focused ahead. On the other hand, Qing Shi seemed eager to get even with Skylight Country.

The trio who were busy with discussing the dao stopped because of the message earlier. The maiden looked up and stared in that direction.

“Today is a great day, we need to enjoy ourselves to the fullest.” The first prince smiled.

However, the maiden still caught a glimpse of Li Qiye’s back before he disappeared into another corner.

'It's him!' She became startled without seeing his face. 'It really is.' She regained her wits and was certain of who it was.

"Right, it's a celebration for the maiden." The godchild laughed as well.

Other cultivators nearby became curious. Why were these two saying this? Was the maiden about to announce something?

Unfortunately, the maiden turned a deaf ear towards them since she was fixated on Li Qiye.

"Excuse me." She said before disappearing from sight, leaving behind the stunned crowd.

The prince and the godchild exchanged glances, not understanding her sudden departure.

Li Qiye paid no attention to the small matter earlier. He glanced at Qing Shi and asked: "You have something against Skylight?"

Qing Shi laughed and had a strange expression, not wanting to elaborate.

The two of them walked through half of the park. Li Qiye eventually stopped before a stone, the same with Qing Shi.

Qing Shi has been paying attention the entire time. Li Qiye didn't look at any other stones, not even the special ones. His pace didn't slow down in the slightest. So why this one?

Just a moment later after they started staring at the stone, Li Qiye suddenly turned around. Qing Shi did the same.

They saw the maiden gliding closer at a fast speed. Though she was giving chase, she still looked elegant and beautiful. Her hair fluttered to the wind in a picturesque manner.

"Dragon-phoenix Maiden." Qing Shi naturally recognized her and didn't know why she followed them.

She finally saw Li Qiye's face and became emotional despite being prepared for this. This was too much to take.

She had witnessed many magnificent scenes and met numerous big shots. Alas, this wasn't enough to prepare her for this.

She took a deep breath and tidied her outfit before putting on a solemn expression. She got on her knees and bowed: "Ye Lingyao greets you, Your Excellency. Please forgive me for now knowing that you were here..."

This was the only right way to show respect to the man standing before her.

This wasn't their first meeting. They have met previously back in Liu Village. She just didn't know his identity at that point.

Qing Shi's mouth became agape. He was shaken as well. The chicken soup restaurant clearly indicated that Li Qiye was an important figure. He just didn't have a good idea.

He knew who Ye Lingyao was and that she was from an ancient clan, being blessed by a forefather.

Her status at Dragon-phoenix Valley was at high as can be. She didn't need to bow to any senior there yet she chose to do so before Li Qiye.

Who could this guy be then? Qing Shi's vast knowledge let him down this time around.

"Stand up, and call me Young Master." Li Qiye waved his hand and nonchalantly said.

"Yes, Young Master." She stood up and remained respectful: "I was blind back then and didn't know who you were, Young Master. Please for-"

"Ignorance is not a crime in this case. Relax now." Li Qiye interrupted her.

She heaved a sigh of relief. In the previous meeting, she actually didn't like his arrogance. It's just that her blood told her to not do anything foolish.

After returning, she meticulously read the scrolls. She even went to see the portrait hidden in her clan and became shocked to the core. She shuddered with cold sweat, realizing that she could have died. In fact, both her sect and clan could have suffered as well.

She no longer dared to search for more information about Li Qiye because she had heard that he didn't like people being noisy about him. Inaction became a prudent choice. That's why meeting him again in the stone park left her astounded and frightened.

[Chapter 3432: Foolish](#)

"It's impressive that your clan's old man is still alive." Li Qiye glanced at her and smiled.

"It is thanks to your blessing, Young Master." Ye Lingyao took a deep breath, realizing that Li Qiye cared about the previous ties with her forefather. At the very least, he wouldn't make it difficult for juniors like them.

"It has nothing to do with me. There is an adage about this - evil people live a long life. The more bad deeds, the more they can go on." Li Qiye shook his head.

She smiled at the joke - a smile as beautiful as a blossoming flower. However, this was disrespectful towards the forefather so she immediately stopped.

"Some live long only to have regrets while others have a short yet brilliant and colorful life." Li Qiye became sentimental and gazed towards the horizon.

Ye Lingyao nodded, having heard something similar from the forefather before. She couldn't truly understand this type of mood but still sympathized.

"The forefather also said that if the Dragon-phoenix Matriarch were still around, he might have made a different choice." Lingyao added.

The matriarch started the valley and was an extremely powerful Heavenly Sovereign. She lived for a long time but eventually faltered.

"Creating the valley is an amazing achievement, her legacy will remain." Li Qiye smiled.

Lingyao had no comment. The valley and her clan had extremely deep ties because the matriarch was a member of her clan.

She used to be one of the strongest ancestors there but eventually left to form her own lineage.

According to the rumors, she had both support and opposition for this move. However, she still had a good relationship with the forefather. He fully supported her choice back then.

Her death was quite a blow to the forefather. He then entered his dormant state and stopped appearing.

Li Qiye recalled the distant past once more, nearly having forgotten them.

“Would you like to meet our forefather, Young Master?” Lingyao asked Li Qiye, not daring to take charge in this matter.

“I don’t want to disturb him. If he’s sealed, let him be.” Li Qiye shook his head.

“I heard that he’s about to come into being.” Lingyao answered right away.

“So you have reported this matter?” Li Qiye looked at her.

She turned red and admitted: “I wasn’t sure back then and did tell some people. The forefather should know by this point.”

“Leave it up to fate then.” Li Qiye said. So many old friends were gone due to the passage of time. Meeting one of them again wouldn’t be a bad feeling.

Lingyao became happy after hearing this.

Li Qiye didn’t say anything else and shifted his focus towards the stone in front. It looked like an egg but was one-third taller than a mature person. The surface looked coarse, seemingly the scars from years and years of weathering.

The character, “foolish”, was written on it - large enough to take up an entire side. It was expertly written with red ink, extremely eye-catching. It seemed to be making fun of something or someone.

Any spectator standing in front of the stone would feel as if they were the target of this word.

Li Qiye didn’t mind and stood there with a faint smile. Qing Shi also stared at this stone.

He had heard about it before since it was quite famous in Ancestral City. The Golem Ancestor himself wrote this word down for some unknown reason. It seemed out of place given his status.

Thus, this actually increased the level of curiosity regarding this stone in history. Everyone wanted to know why he did this but none found anything.

“Over there, I see the maiden.” An expert shouted from the distance and more came closer.

It didn’t take long before the place became crowded. This displeased Ye Lingyao since she didn’t want Li Qiye to become angry.

She glanced at him and he seemed fine, still completely focused on the stone and aloof to all else. This made her feel much better.

Her forefather had told her about the grave consequences of Li Qiye's rage. He had massacred sects and races before, trampling over their bones.

The ones present were awfully excited to be so close to her, especially the young suitors. They became enamored while staring at her face.

"Miss Ye, it's good that you're still here. We were thinking about how to congratulate you." The prince and the godchild arrived and moved past the crowd.

Ye Lingyao nodded to them and didn't say anything else.

The duo noticed Li Qiye and Qing Shi as well, finding this quite strange. They initially thought that Lingyao had an urgent matter, not that she recognized Li Qiye.

They analyzed the guy and found that he was only a Silver Carapace cultivator, nothing more. Why did this nobody know Ye Lingyao?

"Miss Ye, who is this gentleman?" The godchild didn't really care about Li Qiye, thinking that it was only a coincidental meeting.

Lingyao opened her mouth but stopped, not daring to answer without Li Qiye's permission.

"A friend." Li Qiye nonchalantly said while still looking at the stone.

Those nearby found this unthinkable due to Li Qiye's averageness. How could he claim to be the maiden's friend? He simply thought too highly of himself.

"Hmm, he should look at a mirror first." One spectator murmured.

"True, even the first prince and Firmaments Godchild aren't as haughty as him." Another commented, annoyed that Li Qiye didn't bother looking at them.

"Yes, a friend." Lingyao nodded, following Li Qiye while feeling nervous.

She knew that she wasn't qualified to be his friend. They were countless generations apart. This was a supreme honor for her.

Others shut up after her acknowledgment but still felt annoyed and jealous.

"I see, I see. Nice to meet you." The prince smiled and said.

"Miss Ye, we've talked about it a while ago. Since today is your birthday and we're all here, how about a celebration?" All of his attention was on her, wanting to make her happy.

"It's the maiden's birthday?" Everyone became surprised.

[Chapter 3433: Stoneheart Empyreal Pill](#)

No one knew about her birthday outside of the prince and the godchild. It seemed that they came prepared.

"I had no idea." One youth lamented.

"I didn't prepare anything." Another smacked his forehead with regrets. If he knew about this, he would have done everything to prepare a unique and priceless birthday gift for the maiden.

The sentiment permeated the crowd, especially the geniuses. A good gift might be enough to win her grace on top of their status and influence.

Their mind ran amok with thoughts of how to prepare a gift in the shortest time for her.

"What a coincidence. Should I prepare a first-meeting gift for you too?" Li Qiye smiled at her.[1]

"Well..." She didn't know what to say. Today was indeed her birthday but she would never ask for a present from Li Qiye.

Just meeting him was the best possible present. Nothing in this world could be more precious. This was a defining moment in her life, the luckiest day. She couldn't ask for more.

Some stared at Li Qiye with contempt after hearing him.

"He thinks he can give an acceptable gift to the maiden? Hmph." One quietly said.

Very few could actually present a worthy gift to the maiden because she had seen plenty of treasures given her status.

Giving her something ordinary would only invite embarrassment. She might become displeased as well. That's the reason why everyone was trying their best to come up with something special. Otherwise, it would be better not to give anything. Thus, they thought that Li Qiye was overestimating his abilities.

On the contrary, Qing Shi became very curious because he saw Li Qiye in action before. The guy casually gave a priceless hatchet to Shi Wawa. In his opinion, the maiden's gift was going to be something incredible.

"I was in a rush and didn't bring a present. However, I successfully asked Elder Shi for a pill to be your present." The prince took the initiative before Li Qiye.

He opened a medicinal box. A medicinal fragrance made everyone comfortable as if they were being purified.

"Stoneheart Emyreal Pill." Someone recognized the type and became startled.

"Is that what it is? The divine medicine of the Shi." Many have heard of its fame.

This pill could double one's cultivation speed for a period, improve one's physical constitution, remove impurities, and consolidate. This could be considered a panacea.

The Shi had very few of these pills. Even a big shot from there might not have one.

"Rumor has it that they produce five or so every generation. I wonder if that's true." One spectator said.

"This pill can't be bought with money." A knowledgeable cultivator added: "It has been centuries since one was up for auction. It sold for an insane price after a fierce competition by great characters and sects."

Others had a hard time obtaining one yet the prince did it. This was indicative of Skylight's power.

"That's a country with two dao lords for you." People started praising.

"His Highness is going all out too, I don't think anyone else can give away something so precious." Another envious soul added.

After all, this pill could fetch a crazy amount. Using it as a gift was something else.

The prince was feeling complacent after hearing the reactions. Very few were aware of the maiden's birthday but he kept it to heart. Now, the maiden might be moved enough to start liking him.

He was fully aware of the pill's value. He spent plenty of effort and materials on top of exhausting his connections for it. He was confident that no one else could top him.

"For this joyous day, I brought a specialty from Firmaments." The godchild didn't want to lose and also took out a box.

He opened it and released a blinding light. The spectators had a hard time keeping their eyes open.

It contained a necklace made from pearls connected by a string. Each pearl was unique in terms of color and effect.

One of them exuded cold energy that was actually beneficial for health. Another one had a gentle glow with a defensive affinity. One more was resplendent and capable of subduing evil...

Someone counted and found that there were twelve pearls.

"This necklace was made from the pearls found in Algid Pond, unique to our sect. It is a small token of my appreciation for you, please don't laugh." The daochild said.

"Pearls from Algid Pond?!" One expert nearby blurted out.

"You know your stuff, Fellow Daoist." The godchild naturally enjoyed this development.

"Algid is a divine pond in Firmaments Gate. There is a unique clam there that produces one pearl every fifty thousand years. Each pearl is different. For example, one came out and froze a radius of ten thousand miles. Another caused the water to boil. Then there's one that exuded dao lights..." This expert stared at the necklace and elaborated on the history.

Everyone got a clear idea of how precious the necklace was after this. Moreover, these pearls were extremely useful as well.

Just creating this necklace required 600,000 years. It was definitely a top treasure from Firmaments. Thus, this gift from the godchild was impressive indeed.

The pill and the necklace stopped the crowd from bothering to try. Initially, they thought about gifts that could impress her.

Now, it became exceedingly difficult to beat these first two treasures. The ones present didn't have the means nor the audacity to do so. Therefore, they exchanged glances and gave up.

Any gift they could muster would be inferior to these two. That would be inviting public humiliation.

[Chapter 3434: What To Give?](#)

By this point, even those who had a present ready refrained from giving them to the maiden. Precious and excellent they may be, they still couldn't compare to the pill and the necklace.

The crowd quietly watched the trio; most prodigies who had a crush on her felt terrible. Unfortunately, they paled when compared to the godchild and the first prince.

One must admit that these two were exceptional, whether it be their cultivation and comprehension. This was before talking about their background and bloodline.

The rest had no chance of competing against these two. One of them was likely to win the maiden's hand.

Ye Lingyao wasn't affected by these two gifts. She shifted her attention towards Li Qiye.

"What type of gift do you want?" Li Qiye smiled. His tone resembled that of a rich senior asking a child, as casual as can be.

However, she understood its gravity because Li Qiye was an existence capable of satisfying all of her desires.

Only a few things were out of his grasp in this world. They didn't include top treasures and invincible weapons.

Lingyao understood how precious this opportunity was. Anyone else would pick an artifact they truly wanted. Alas, she didn't want to be greedy.

Others didn't feel the same way as her. Many stared coldly at Li Qiye with disdain.

"What kind of gift can he muster? He'll only embarrass himself when comparing it with the stoneheart pill and pearl necklace." Another quietly commented.

"Right? A gift from a poor brat like him will only dirty her hand." A youth nearby added.

These young ones were utterly defeated by the prince and the godchild. Thus, they took out their vexation on Li Qiye.

Ye Lingyao took a deep breath then spoke in a hushed voice: "Meeting Young Master is already the biggest gift. I am more than satisfied."

"I haven't done anything to deserve these precious gifts but I do appreciate the sentiment." She then turned towards the other two and refused their presents.

"But..." The first prince panicked.

"Your goodwill is more than enough." Lingyao refused their gifts in a resolute manner.

The prince and the godchild have no choice but to begrudgingly keep their gifts.

Everyone heaved a sigh of relief because this showed that Lingyao wasn't moved. They still had a chance then.

“Interesting, little girl.” Li Qiye smiled and said: “okay, I won’t force you then.”

Having said that, he casually plucked a wildflower on the grass below. “Here, this flower will be your birthday gift.” He patted it clean before giving it to her.

The crowd was rightfully shaken after seeing this. A wildflower as a present for the maiden? Could there be a cheaper present?

“Ridiculous, what is he trying to do with a wildflower?” One person glared at Li Qiye.

“This is insulting to the maiden.” Another fan of her became indignant.

The necklace and pill from the two geniuses failed to stir her. Now, this guy wanted to give her a wildflower? Some thought that he was purposely insulting her.

“It’s fine not to give anything if you didn’t prepare one, don’t embarrass yourself by doing this.” The frustrated godchild glared at Li Qiye.

“Bah! He’s too poor to afford a good present. Apologize and stop ruining her birthday.” The others chimed in.

It didn’t take long before more criticisms were directed towards Li Qiye. However, her next action stunned everyone.

She didn’t hate it at all and ignored the criticism. She accepted it with both hands and happily said: “Thank you, Young Master. Words can’t express my joy for receiving a present from you, this must be the blessing of three lifetimes.”

These words came from the heart. The actual gift didn’t matter. Even a wildflower from Li Qiye was priceless.

She gently pinned on her head and revealed a kingdom-toppling smile.

“I’ll keep this flower for the rest of my life.” She bowed towards him, satisfied.

“Smart and wise.” Li Qiye nodded approvingly.

Meanwhile, the crowd including the two top geniuses was still stunned for two reasons - the ridiculous present and how beautiful she was right now.

The all-too-common wildflower didn’t look out of place on her hair. On the contrary, she looked even more spirited like the goddess of a forest.

Moreover, they were amazed that she actually accepted his gift because she had refused the precious pill and necklace. These two things would have sold for an insane price. Unfortunately, they lost to a worthless wildflower. The latter was enough to make her smile in this manner.

People started staring at Li Qiye in disbelief; their eyes filled with scorn and jealousy. If gazes could kill, Li Qiye would have died a hundred times over.

They didn’t get it. Why was this nobody lucky enough to earn her grace? He certainly wasn’t qualified.

[Chapter 3435: Jealousy](#)

Some even thought about dealing with Li Qiye. They believed that he wasn't worthy of being close to the maiden.

The geniuses took a closer look at Li Qiye. Sure enough, no one would give this guy a second glance on the street. Moreover, his cultivation was insignificant. Any random person in this crowd would be stronger than him.

Confusion struck them hard. Why would the maiden like him given the circumstances?

"This makes zero sense. His ancestors must be blessing him from beyond the grave." Another bitterly said.

They tried their best to see some clues from him to no avail.

"May I ask for your name, Fellow Daoist? Where are you from?" The first prince of Skylight cupped his fist towards Li Qiye.

His tone was appropriate for the occasion, seemingly wanting to befriend Li Qiye while figuring out the guy's identity. He was curious regarding why Li Qiye earned the grace of the maiden.

Li Qiye only glanced at him and didn't answer.

"I am a prince of Skylight. It would be my pleasure to be your friend." The prince sincerely said. It was hard to reject someone with his attitude.

The crowd appreciated his attitude. He has made a great impression on everyone.

He was known to be eagerly seeking men of worth and ability. This seemed to be true since he was trying to befriend an unknown cultivator. Few were as magnanimous as him.

On the contrary, Li Qiye's attitude earned him the opposite from the crowd.

"Hmph, so arrogant, does he really think he's a big shot?" A good friend of the prince snorted and said: "He's lucky to be noticed by the prince yet he is still acting like this?"

"He doesn't know the immensity of heaven and earth. It's his fortune to befriend His Highness." Another jealous spectator blatantly said.

"Skylight is always willing to make friends with everyone around the world. Would you like to visit it?" The prince smiled.

"What's so good about it?" Qing Shi acted as if he didn't give a damn about this country. Perhaps there was an existing feud. He went on: "Do you think everyone wants to suck up to Skylight? No, my Young Master doesn't care about it, it's just a third-rate country at best."

He didn't hold back with the insults. The prince's expression became unsightly.

He was trying his best to be friendly yet this guy insulted his country. The contempt couldn't be greater.

"Such impudence!" One young spectator shouted at Qing Shi.

"Our Lightbearer sect is the first to not let anyone insult Skylight!" Another shouted.

This wasn't only about attacking Li Qiye and Qing Shi. They wanted to use this opportunity to climb up Skylight's branch.

Thus, the expression of the crowd became quite unfriendly. The person who could resolve this was the maiden.

However, she didn't dare to take charge in Li Qiye's presence.

"Okay, stop buzzing. This place is meant for enjoying the stones." Li Qiye waved his hand without looking at them.

"Yes, this is a place of enjoyment, gentlemen, control yourselves." The maiden finally spoke. She was afraid that these people were dumb enough to provoke Li Qiye. The consequence would be unimaginable.

The shouting crowd had no choice but to quiet down after her comment.

"Fellow Daoist, you can appreciate these stones?" The godchild glared at Li Qiye, clearly not considering him a serious opponent.

Li Qiye ignored him and focused on the stone named Foolish.

"You're trying to understand Foolish?" The first prince chuckled.

"Why not?" Li Qiye nonchalantly replied.

"I don't think it's possible." The prince shook his head: "So many sages have tried in history but all failed."

"An idiot looking at Foolish, a perfect match." The godchild sneered. So what if he made fun of this guy in public? What was he going to do?

"You speak as if you can understand it, Godchild." Ye Lingyao immediately retorted.

The godchild turned red with hatred. Of course, this hatred was somehow directed towards Li Qiye, not Lingyao.

The others felt the same way since she was blatantly protective of Li Qiye.

"Let's compete then? You two can't figure out this stone given your talents." Qing Shi decided to fan the flames and smiled.

It was difficult to retort to this insult because Foolish was most likely the hardest stone to comprehend in the park.

Golem Ancestor left many stones behind but this was the only one he wrote on. That's why many speculated that it was special in some way, hence its historical popularity.

No one here would dare to try, not even the prince and the godchild.

"No need to comprehend it, just bearing it is good enough, let's see who can last longer." A disciple from Ancestral City suggested.

“That sounds better.” The godchild was determined to get even with Li Qiye. He smiled coldly and said: “Do you dare to compete with me on who can last the longest before Foolish?”

“Are you challenging me?” Li Qiye finally glanced at the godchild.

“That’s right, yes or no? I’m up for any bet.” The godchild said arrogantly, wanting to embarrass Li Qiye in front of the maiden at all costs.

“Sounds fun, count me in.” The prince laughed and raised the box containing the stoneheart pill: “Fellow Daoist, if you win, this pill will be yours.”

“Whoa, that’s a big bet.” The crowd clamored.

“I’ll bet this treasure too.” The godchild also offered his necklace.

“And if I were to lose?” Li Qiye smiled.

“My demand is rather fair, Fellow Daoist. I just want you to disappear from the northern West King after losing.”

[Chapter 3436: Comprehending Foolish](#)

A Stoneheart Empyrean Pill just to get Li Qiye out of the northern region - people found this bet astonishing from the prince.

“His Highness is so decisive.” One expert praised.

“He’s merciful too. I don’t think many can do the same as he is. He’s living up to being the first prince of Skylight.” A genius added.

The prince’s image and status once again soared after this move of his.

“I’ll follow your lead then.” The godchild said before looking at Li Qiye: “If you win, these two treasures are yours. Lose and you will need to leave, never to return again.”

The godchild initially had his own demand, a harsher one at that. However, since the first prince took the initiative with a rather forgiven one in the grand scheme of things, the godchild couldn’t mention his demand or he would seem small-minded in the process. In that case, he would lose to the prince in terms of style.

“What do you think, Fellow Daoist?” The prince stared at Li Qiye. His expression wasn’t overbearing but his sharp eyes indicated that there was no room for Li Qiye to refuse.

The truth was that this pill was quite precious even for the prince. However, it was acceptable for him to risk it for the chance of Li Qiye disappearing.

It was obvious that the maiden treated Li Qiye in a special manner and thought highly of him. Therefore, Li Qiye was his biggest rival. Moreover, this grand and bold gambit might actually impress her.

All eyes were on Li Qiye. If he were to refuse, he would suffer jeers and perhaps even condemnation from the crowd.

“Why not?” Li Qiye smiled.

“Good, then it’s decided. If you lose, immediately get the hell out of Ancestral City!” The godchild shouted.

“Say that once you beat me.” Li Qiye nonchalantly said.

Some viewed his response and attitude as arrogance and pride.

“Hmph, does he think he can actually win?” One genius snorted.

“The prince and the godchild have already won, how can a Silver Carapace cultivator compete against them?” A peer nearby agreed.

In fact, virtually everyone here thought that the outcome was obvious. Li Qiye’s cultivation was too low compared to the other two. He was simply courting death for daring to compete.

“How should we begin?” The prince asked.

“I’ll be nice and let you two go first. Otherwise, you would give up right away after seeing my attempt.” Li Qiye smiled.

“Ridiculous, you can’t possibly think that you can comprehend that stone.” The godchild became dissatisfied.

In reality, the godchild and the prince had no confidence in grasping this stone, only that they would be able to last longer than Li Qiye.

“Correct, and it won’t take any effort.” Li Qiye added.

People exchanged glances and naturally thought that Li Qiye was blustering.

“Ignorant fool.” A genius snorted and continued: “So many great heroes have come here to learn about Foolish. None succeeded yet a junior like him is making this claim? So shameless.”

“Just wait a little bit and he’ll embarrass himself. Can’t brag anymore then.” Another gloated.

Not a single soul believed in Li Qiye because it was impossible.

“Good, good. Then we won’t decline. I can’t wait to see how you’ll figure it out.” The prince couldn’t help but laugh.

“Start this.” The godchild sneered and stood next to the prince to face Foolish.

“Start!” Qing Shi shouted, seemingly wanting to cause more chaos.

The two immediately opened their divine intents that rushed towards the stone, not wanting to miss a single detail.

The word “foolish” seemed to be coming back alive in retaliation and slammed onto them. It wasn’t a physical attack, only one filled with ridicules.

It was a mysterious type of mental offense in the suppressive category, akin to a senior calling a junior an incurable fool, losing all hope and expectation.

One needed a firm dao heart to withstand this type of attack along with patience and perseverance.

Everyone watched with bated breath during the duo's attempt.

"Is this stone really that hard?" A first-timer was skeptical while looking at the duo's serious expression.

"You can try and be bedridden for a while if you dare." A genius who had attempted this before egged him on.

"Really? We'll see about that." Another young one didn't believe it, akin to a newborn calf unafraid of a tiger.

More tagged along and released their divine intents towards the stone.

"Ahh!" One with shallow cultivation couldn't withstand the mental attack. He staggered backward, pale. His chest heaved up and down and his legs gave in. He sat on his butt and couldn't stay calm.

The others lost in succession and suffered the same damage to their dao heart. This would take a while for them to recover.

Meanwhile, the prince and the godchild were still holding on because they were strong and had powerful merit laws.

Nonetheless, it still felt unbearable after a while. They had beads of sweat running down their forehead. The mental attack was affecting their dao heart.

"Incredible." Many praised since these two managed to last so long.

"I think they're definitely among the top ten in the northern region in terms of perseverance." Other geniuses admired them.

"Yes, it's twice as long as my previous attempt." A strong genius noticed the time.

"Bam! Bam! Bam!" The prince finally lost it and staggered backward, recalling his divine intents. His sweat wetted his clothes.

"It's too strong." He concluded.

A while later, the godchild also lost and faltered just like the prince. "This is my limit." He said.

"You can be among the top five among the young generation with that." The prince said.

"No way, I only got lucky." The godchild shook his head and said humbly. He clearly had a big advantage due to his inborn dao physique.

"Few can compare to these two, really." One commenter praised.

[Chapter 3437: How It's Done](#)

"Unfortunately, I only saw some clues, that's it." The prince stared at the stone and said.

"Well, you've done a good job already, Your Highness. No one before you has been able to do it." A young genius consoled him.

The others nodded in agreement since this was indeed the case. Even the generational elders of Ancestral City came to take a look but none found success.

This was the only stone in the park with remnant characters from Golem Ancestor. Thus, most believed that it might contain his strongest merit law, weapon, or that the stone itself was a treasure.

However, the mental attack was too much to take. Just withstanding it was an impressive feat.

For example, the duo just now did an amazing job. Even some of the previous generation would lose to them.

“Your turn.” The prince told Li Qiye with an unfriendly tone. He was confident Li Qiye wouldn’t be able to do it. The question was how long would he last?

“It’s not too late to give up.” Someone nearby snorted.

“He lost already.” Another genius said with disdain: “As some have said, fewer than five among the young generation of the northern region can last this long.”

“Just give up and save some time.” They started shouting.

“What’s the hurry?” Qing Shi sneered at them: “Your loss is certain the moment our Young Master starts.”

“Bold words but let’s see him back it up by comprehending Foolish.” A crowd member immediately retorted.

Meanwhile, Ye Lingyao stood near Li Qiye without speaking. She knew that the outcome was obvious regardless of the process. He was omnipotent in her eyes.

Though all the elders of the city have failed, she knew that this stone wouldn’t be able to trouble Li Qiye at all.

It didn’t matter who wrote on the stone or the secrets within. This wasn’t a difficult task for Li Qiye in the slightest.

“Just a stone, only a bunch of fools wouldn’t be able to understand it.” Li Qiye chuckled and shook his head.

“You!” The godchild and some of the young experts glared at Li Qiye for the implication.

“Fellow Daoist, no point in you arguing right now, it doesn’t do anything.” The first prince said.

“Just show us what you can do.” Another expert jeered.

“Maybe in his dream, even Heavenly Sovereigns can’t do it, how can a Silver Carapace? Who here actually thinks this?” One prodigy scowled.

The crowd nodded in agreement. An unknown junior like Li Qiye had no chance given the historical precedence.

“Can you get started already? I doubt you’ll last a minute.” Another doubter added.

“Hmph, we’ve been waiting.” The godchild snorted.

Li Qiye smiled and finally walked towards the stone, placing his palm on it. He patted it, feeling the coarse surface.

“What is he doing? That’s how he’ll comprehend it?” One spectator immediately said.

“Impossible. The stone has been blessed by Golem Ancestor before. A Heavenly Sovereign once tried to attack it to no avail. Another tried to move it, same result. External force can’t do anything, it has to be through the mental channel.” A golem genius sneered.

“Forget about using force, no one can do it.” The first prince shook his head.

Li Qiye ignored them and continued touching the stone. Qing Shi and Lingyao watched attentively, not missing a beat. She knew that he would be able to do it and was only curious about the process.

“Stop trying to drag this out, it’s pointless.” The godchild said.

“Yes, you can’t delay this forever. Hurry up and save everyone’s time.” Everyone else started criticizing Li Qiye.

He simply ignored them and continued focusing on the stone: “Still the same style after so many years. Alas, the idiots won’t understand.”

He then bit his finger and pressed the blood against the stone.

“What?” People exchanged glances.

“A blood rite for a master ceremony? Is he okay? That’s common in the folktales but not in reality.” One expert started laughing.

Very few treasures accepted a master through a blood ceremony. This was only common in the tales back in the mortal world, not in the cultivation world.

“Nothing in life is this easy, what an idiot.” Others burst out laughing as well.

“Okay, just accept defeat, you’re making a fool out of yourself.” The godchild considered Li Qiye a fool by this point.

“Pop!” However, the character “Foolish” suddenly changed and turned into a duck.

“Boom!” The duck produced a stone egg before the crowd could regain their wits. It was around the size of a fist with a bright radiance. This light seemed to be from the deepest crevice of the azure and contained the most mysterious grand dao.

There was a crack on the egg, a common result after it fell on the ground at first. This wasn’t the case here. The crack seemed to be innate, a part of the egg during its inception.

The appearance of the egg shut the crowd up. This wasn’t only due to Foolish Stone producing an egg but also because the blood ceremony worked.

No one thought about it before in history. Many tried their strongest techniques or did their best withstand the mental attack. Alas, these peerless methods still failed.

Now, Li Qiye simply used his blood to obtain this stone egg. No one would believe this development.

“Is this really happening...?” One genius couldn’t accept how easy it was.

How could this be? The stone left behind by Golem Ancestor should have been peerless and difficult to obtain.

Unfortunately, it was really that simple and silly. Just one drop of blood would have been enough for someone to claim this treasure.

[Chapter 3438: Stomp](#)

This was the world of cultivators, not a legend from the mortal realm or a story to trick little kids. Alas, the blood-master ceremony truly happened before them.

“Is this real?” One person rubbed their eyes.

The unfathomable stone was considered to be untouchable due to its peerless seal. Today, it was beaten by a single drop of blood. No outsiders would ever believe in this story.

Qing Shi and Ye Lingyao were astounded while witnessing this legend in the making.

The godchild and prince’s mouth was open big enough to fit in a duck egg. They used everything earlier from mantras to merit laws but couldn’t comprehend the stone. It felt as if they had just swallowed a fly.

“Foolish...” People stared at the character on the stone again. This word seemed to be laughing at all of them along with those who have attempted in the past.

“Why, why would Golem Ancestor do this?” Everyone became confused, especially the golems.

Golem Ancestor was considered one of the greatest dao lords in the history of Eight Desolaces. If there was a top ten list, his title would be written there.

A being like him was considered supreme by others, deserving of being revered by all. No one would expect him to leave behind a stone like this.

Was he teasing the future descendants or simply making fun of them? All in all, the crowd felt strange after this revelation and was left speechless.

“He toyed with us, right?” Qing Shi murmured. He has always respected Golem Ancestor but this did catch him off guard.

“Fools.” Li Qiye smiled and shook his head. He grabbed the stone egg and concentrated on the crack for a bit.

He then put the egg away and stared at his opponents: “You lost.”

The duo opened their mouth but the words didn’t come out. They initially wanted to humiliate Li Qiye and chase him out of the north since he was a big threat. They didn’t expect to lose in this manner.

“Hmph, he just got lucky like a dog swallowing a fly.” One member of the audience scowled.

“Yes, or a blind cat finding a dead mouse.” Another prodigy added.

They have tried to figure out the stone and failed. Now, since the solution was actually so easy, they thought that their intelligence was being put down.

“You’ve won, we have nothing to say.” The duo took a deep breath and finally gritted their teeth, handing over the necklace and the pill.

They had no choice in this matter. The big bet was due to their absolute confidence. Now, they had to begrudgingly pay up or it would ruin their image before the maiden.

They could indeed afford to do so but this was a huge blow. The two treasures were immensely precious.

“He’s so lucky.” The older experts stared enviously at the two items.

“Pop!” Li Qiye suddenly tossed the necklace and the pill down the ground before stomping on them. “Crack.”

“What are you doing?!” Both the prince and the godchild shouted.

“Just a bunch of useless crap that will take up space in my pocket, why keep them?” Li Qiye said to the astonishment of the crowd.

No need to say more about the value of these two treasures. What Li Qiye did just now was enough to drive people crazy. Even Firmaments Gate needed another 600,000 years before producing another necklace.

“Is, is he insane?! They’re exceedingly rare!” One youth blurted out shouting.

“The pill! Can someone be any more wasteful!?” Another genius dreamed about getting the stoneheart pill so this made him scream.

The cultivators here felt physical pain after seeing this.

“You could have given it to me if you didn’t want it!” One young guy shouted: “They might be crap to you but they’re priceless to me! Don’t you know anything about charity?!”

More started lamenting the unfortunate event just now.

Li Qiye answered by adding more force to his stomp, completely crushing the two treasures.

“Mommy...” The crushing noises were unbearable. This was worse than if Li Qiye were stomping on them.

They began glaring at him for his ridiculous action just now. He could have given it or sold it to them at a cheap price. The heaven should be smiting him for this act.

Qing Shi was no stranger to Li Qiye’s style but was also surprised by it. The only calm spectator was Ye Lingyao.

She knew that these two were indeed nothing to Li Qiye, no different from scraps. In fact, she thought that perhaps even dao lord weapons were meaningless in his eyes.

The prince and the godchild had a terrible expression after witnessing this. Li Qiye blatantly humiliated and insulted them by doing so in public.

They considered those two treasures as valuable gifts meant for Lingyao's birthday. On the other hand, he considered them as trash.

Unfortunately, being angry didn't solve anything. Those two items belonged to him so he could do whatever he wanted.

[Chapter 3439: Feathersword Noble](#)

Li Qiye wanted to leave after finishing this task.

"Rumble!" The ground suddenly shook; loud blasts detonated as if an army was coming.

"What's going on?" The crowd became startled and some stared towards the entrance.

They noticed banners flying right outside. A powerful army was lining up over there.

"Yin Yang Gate! Why are they blocking the entrance?" One spectator shouted.

"Why are they here?" Confusion struck the crowd.

"What can make them mobilize?" People exchanged glances since this happened without any warning.

Everyone knew about their strength, definitely among the top two in the north. They were far stronger than Skylight and their forefather was a dreadful existence.

However, this was still Ancestral City, the territory of the golems. This seemed a little arrogant, to say the least.

"This Yin Yang Gate is out of line." One golem became annoyed.

This city had special significance to the golems. This was especially true for the park. Now, an army was blocking its entrance.

"Well, which sect is stronger than them right now?" One neutral party whispered.

"Maybe they have the consent of Ancestral City? Don't forget, they have a marriage agreement." One youth added.

This was indeed the case. The saintess of Ancestral City and Bai Jianchan had an engagement since their youth. Perhaps the city gave them permission already.

"This still doesn't answer why they're here." Another became afraid.

One could hear loud and rushed footsteps. Someone was running for his life, clearly being pursued - a young golem with a stone hatchet above his head.

It exuded a mighty divinity, ready to split the sky apart. It poured down dao laws protecting the youth.

Alas, he was still heavily wounded and bloodied as if he had experienced a fierce battle earlier.

He clearly panicked but this all disappeared the moment he saw Li Qiye.

“Save me, Young Master!” He ran towards Li Qiye.

He was none other than Shi Wawa. He fainted right in front of Li Qiye due to his wounds. The only reason he lasted this long was due to his unyielding tenacity.

Li Qiye’s eyes turned cold after seeing the wounds. Qing Shi and Ye Lingyao hurriedly gave him spirit medicines and treated him.

Next came the noises of the pursuers, around a hundred or so. The leader was a young man in full armors decorated with feathers, looking gallant and dignified. His murderous intent blatantly oozed out.

His men behind him appeared battle-hardened, clearly ready to kill.

“Feathersword Noble of Yin Yang.” Many became surprised to see the leader.

“Over here.” The youth saw Shi Wawa and shouted.

His group immediately rushed over.

“Oh, everyone’s here too.” He slowed down after seeing the rest of the crowd.

“Long time no see, Noble.” Some came over to greet him.

He cordially responded, having recognized the geniuses here due to his considerable social prowess.

Moreover, some took pride in just being his acquaintances.

“Maiden, Your Highness, Godchild. Long time no see.” Feathersword Noble cupped his fist and slightly bowed towards these three: “Our young lord sends his regards.”

“No need to be so polite.” The godchild and the first prince greeted him back.

The young lord, in this case, was Bai Jianchan, the number one genius of the north.

Feathersword was the first brother of the outer branch in Yin Yang. He was talented on top of being good at socializing. Moreover, Bai Jianchan had helped him with cultivation before.

He was considered Jianchan’s in-name disciple so he was quite popular among the young generation.

He stared at Shi Wawa at this time. The latter has recovered but still unconscious.

“I apologize for bothering everyone. I’m under the order of Senior Uncle Wu to chase after a criminal.” He addressed the crowd.

“Wu Zhongtian?” The crowd exchanged glances.

Wu Zhongtian was the first prince of Wu. He joined Yin Yang due to his talents and became a capable follower of Bai Jianchan - quite a prestigious position.

“That kid?” Someone pointed at Shi Wawa.

“Yes, I need to bring him back for interrogation.” Feathersword waved, ordering his men to come forward.

“What’s the crime?” Li Qiye smiled.

“The treacherous villain killed Senior Uncle Wu’s brother in order to steal a treasure, a crime punishable by death.” Feathersword uttered.

The crowd started staring at Shi Wawa and Li Qiye.

“Birds of a feather flock together, they’re all bad.” Someone loudly shouted, trying to ruin Li Qiye’s image in the maiden’s eyes.

Li Qiye didn’t seem to mind and smirked. Qing Shi and Lingyao became afraid. The latter could smell the stench of blood already.

“Nonsense.” Qing Shi said: “This stone hatchet belonged to our young master. He obtained it from the Stoneshell Beetle King, so it’s not your sect’s treasure. Don’t ruin your reputation as the number one sect in the northern West King but maybe it’s too late.”

“Impudent!” A man behind Feathersword roared.

“Watch your mouth or we’ll teach you a lesson.” Feathersword glared at Qing Shi in response.

He then turned towards Li Qiye and said: “So all of you are together. Perfect, less effort on my part then. I’ll capture all of you and take you back to Yin Yang.”

“You best present some evidence on your claim. Otherwise, it’s not too late to apologize to the young master.” The maiden got involved.

She wasn’t worried about Li Qiye but if this continued, Yin Yang Gate would be massacred.

Feathersword didn’t dare to offend the maiden. He cupped his fist and said: “Maiden, I’m speaking the truth. This person really killed Senior Uncle Wu’s younger brother, he deserves death...”

Lingyao frowned and stopped talking. It looked like some people were courting death, no point in stopping them.

“These greedy and immoral people, they need to be severely punished!” A member of the crowd wanted to see Li Qiye dead.

“True, villains like him shouldn’t leave this place alive.” Others chimed in.

[Chapter 3440: One Slash](#)

The majority clamored, deliberately trying to frame and insult Li Qiye. They wanted to ruin the maiden’s image of him by labeling him as a heinous villain.

They didn’t let him have a chance to defend himself because this was the best opportunity. As for the prince and the godchild, they had a sneer on their face. This was the best development and didn’t take any effort on their part.

Alas, the smile on Li Qiye’s face didn’t dissipate, only becoming more apparent in the process to his allies’ horror.

“The easy way is surrendering. The hard way won’t be as pretty.” Feathersword Noble threatened. [1]

“Why are you so confident?” Li Qiye chuckled.

“Surrender and there’s a chance for a trial at our sect. On the other hand, if I have to use force, I’m afraid you’ll become a lost soul due to my blade.” Feathersword said with a cold, murderous glare.

The guy dared to question his power so he was determined to teach Li Qiye a lesson regardless of his compliance.

“Wow, I’m so impressed.” Qing Shi sarcastically said: “Do you actually think your sect is number one? It’s just because of a living forefather, nothing else is special.”

“Fool! How dare you comment on our forefather?!” Feathersword shouted; his expression darkened.

“Why can’t I? It’s just Zen Yang Heavenly Sovereign.” Qing Shi was annoyed and continued: “Not an invincible dao lord or anything. Can’t force people to shut up.”

“Shh!” Others became startled. Some started gesturing for him to shut up then sighed.

“Remember, never do this.” Everyone became afraid.

Yin Yang Gate had an extremely frightening forefather - Zen Yang Heavenly Sovereign. He had lived for numerous years and even taught a dao lord before.

That’s why Qing Shi was doing something forbidden by speaking the forefather’s title when he wasn’t qualified.

“Slap him!” Feathersword ordered his men.

“Hmph!” An expert behind him reached forward. The slap had enough power to crush someone’s head and end their life.

“Pluff!” Unfortunately, it didn’t connect with Qing Shi’s face. A bright glint flashed then blood splashed everywhere.

“Ahh!” The expert lost his arm.

People saw Qing Shi holding a glowing sword now with a smile on his face. The expert quickly retreated, pale.

Qing Shi didn’t show any mercy and crippled the assailant.

“This sword is more than enough to cut off your dog heads.” Qing Shi smiled and declared.

“Clank! Clank! Clank!” The experts behind Feathersword unsheathed their weapons and prepared for battle.

“You deserve death for injuring a member of Yin Yang!” Feathersword shouted.

“Your sect is nothing in our Young Master’s eyes. You will die today.” Qing Shi didn’t seem to mind.

“Well said, and I concur completely. None of them will leave this place alive today.” Li Qiye clapped and laughed.

This comment naturally startled the crowd.

“This brat must have eaten a tiger’s heart to be so courageous, daring to go against Yin Yang.” One expert murmured.

“He’s suicidal, that’s all. Nothing good will come from opposing Yin Yang.” A genius snorted.

All in all, most wanted to see Li Qiye die to Yin Yang Gate. Everyone in the north knew that opposing this sect was a foolish endeavor.

A good result would be death. A bad result meant dragging their sect and clan down with them - a total massacre.

“First of all, you might not be able to take us on. Secondly, we have an entire army waiting outside the park. Even if you can take care of us, you still won’t be able to leave this place.” Feathersword retorted.

This wasn’t an empty threat. They nearly had ten thousand elites waiting outside. Who would dare to face this great force?

Some spectators had a gloating smile after hearing this.

“Yes, there’s no chance for the brat.” One person eagerly watched with both hands crossed in front of his chest.

“I’m so scared.” Qing Shi patted his chest before laughing: “Wow, your army is so powerful and amazing. Unfortunately, that’s nothing compared to our Young Master. Your entire sect can come here and they’ll be nothing more than headless chickens.”

Qing Shi seemed to have animosity towards Yin Yang Gate so he purposely antagonized them.

“I will capture and flay you in public for a hundred days as punishment for what you have said so far.” Feathersword’s expression became extremely ugly as he shouted.

“You don’t know the immensity of heaven and earth. You’ll die without knowing how.” Ye Lingyao suddenly jumped in.

People naturally didn’t expect this, the same for the haughty Feathersword. True to his attitude, he was indeed confident since he was a prized disciple of Yin Yang Gate.

However, this wasn’t the case when dealing with the maiden since she was on the same level as his young lord.

“Miss Ye, please don’t get involved in this muddy water.” The first prince of Skylight hurriedly persuaded: “It’s better to have one fewer problem.”

Most became jealous because Ye Lingyao was backing Li Qiye.

“Maiden, I respect you and the valley but this is our business...” Feathersword took a deep breath and said seriously.

“No need for this nonsense. Survive and feel free to talk afterward.” She said.

“Very well.” Li Qiye smiled and told Qing Shi: “Kill all of them, I’m sure you’re more than willing.”

“It’s not a bad idea.” Qing Shi raised his sword and said: “So, come one at a time or all together? Doesn’t matter to me since my sword will feast either way.”

Qing Shi clearly looked down on his opponents as if they were helpless fish on the chopping board. His opponents naturally didn’t take this in stride.

“Brat, you’re asking for it!” The man who had lost his arm earlier shouted furiously: “It’s your funeral then, you’ll regret becoming our enemy!”

“Yawn, are you done yet? Make your move already.” Qing Shi picked his ear and looked extremely carefree.

The experts from Yin Yang were livid because they were still important characters in their sect. Now, a junior dared to look down on them?

“Kill him!” Nearly a hundred experts roared and made their move.

They used the yin and yang affinities as they activated their weapons. Their powerful auras intimidated the crowd.

“Come!” Qing Shi seemed happy to go into battle. He raised his sword and lotus flowers brimming with life suddenly blossomed. They had enough force to make space explode.

“Clank! Clank! Clank!” The swords from the Yin Yang members were cut down.

“Ahhh!” Heads and blood were flung into the air.

Qing Shi killed all of them with a single slash.