

Emperor 3451

[Chapter 3451: Can't Enter](#)

The ones in front of the entrance were packed like sardines. Some didn't give up and continued to enter. They eventually found it futile.

"What the hell is this place? There's no way to make it through." One of them lamented.

"The treasury might be in there but no one can get to it, all we can do is salivate." Another expert stared at the brilliance coming from deeper within.

"Maybe we can't, that doesn't mean others can't. I saw the crown prince of Skylight leading his cavalry in there, the same with Wu ZHongtian and Firmaments Godchild. They still haven't come out so there's a chance they have made it to Fire Domain."

"That's true." An older expert added: "People have been trying to understand this place for eras now. It is said that the stone forest is a derivation method, it's just that we're not strong enough to understand it. The bigger sects and their ancestors have more experience, perhaps they have come up with a working plan."

"Then we have no hope of getting that treasury." One disappointed soul said.

"Clank! Clank! Clank!" Their conversation was cut short.

They looked up and saw thousands of swords gathering in the sky, looking like a heavenly waterfall.

"Firmaments Sword Formation!" The dejected crowd became excited again.

They saw the godchild and several ancestors riding their sword with an ugly expression.

"Looks like Firmaments Gate failed too." One guy whispered, afraid of being overheard.

Everyone could see that they lasted for a while. Nonetheless, the outcome remained the same. They made one mistake and were forced out, putting their hard work to waste.

That's why their expression was justified. They followed the best method calculated by their sect to the teeth. There was just one mistake as far as they knew that took them out of the running.

"One more time?" The godchild and the ancestors debated. They have already spent plenty of effort and time with that first attempt.

Meanwhile, the spectators heaved a sigh of relief while looking at the sword formation.

At the very least, there was still a sliver of hope yet. The powerful sect and this mighty formation didn't do any better than them.

"Why is this place so strange, it's just like an endless maze." One cultivator had tried dozens of times by this point.

"I've heard that way back then, this place might be part of an ancestral vein, the one day, the dao became chaotic and a reverse flow destroyed the vein and the spatial area nearby, resulting in this stone forest..." An erudite cultivator talked about its origin.

He went on for a bit and captivated the listeners.

“Boom!” A loud explosion detonated and another cavalry emerged outside the entrance. Some members were on the ground.

“Skylight Dragon Cavalry!” People recognized the group because the commander was the famous first prince of Skylight.

He looked to be in a sorry state at the moment, just no injury. He shouted and ordered his men to regroup and set up camps.

The side of Firmaments also felt better to see their failure, the same with the spectators.

“How far did you get, Godchild?” The first prince spoke first and broke the deadlock.

“Not even close to Fire Domain.” The godchild smiled wryly with a tinge of embarrassment while telling the truth.

“We didn’t fare any better.” The prince shook his head: “We barely saw the domain in the distance but that’s it. The next step took us out.”

The prince and the cavalry perfectly moved in unison, almost as if they were one. Unfortunately, the calculation was still incorrect.

“Maybe our derivations and calculations aren’t complete.” The prince expressed his opinion.

The godchild exchanged glances with his ancestors after hearing this.

People could see that these two groups should work together. However, that would be bad news for everyone else.

“Buzz.” Chaos true energy interrupted their conversations along with the yin and yang.

A group emerged from the chaos, led by an awe-inspiring youth.

“Wu Zhongtian.” The crowd knew who it was.

“They messed up too.” Another whispered.

Those who came out before celebrated internally. They worried about Yin Yang Gate the most.

It was powerful enough already. With the addition of this treasury, it would be akin to a tiger with wings. No one in the north would be able to stop them then.

After the dust settled, everyone returned to the starting line.

“Brother Wu, what’s the situation?” The first prince’s relationship with Wu Zhongtian was good enough to ask.

“We couldn’t enter the domain but the treasury is definitely in there.” Wu Zhongtian revealed.

The crowd clamored as a result.

“The deepest part of the stone forest, no one will be able to get it then.” Some couldn’t accept this.

Meanwhile, the young geniuses glanced at each other. In reality, they didn't contribute much to this effort.

The powerful ancestors from their sect carefully calculated the paths for the trip. Alas, errors seemed to be there.

In order to enter the domain, these ancestors might need to come in person. However, the situation in the north was delicate enough to prevent this.

"What about Ancestral City? Did they make it there?" Zhongtian asked.

This power didn't react at all to the appearance of the treasury. This was their territory yet no ancestors from there made a move.

Because of this, the great powers had a harder time getting their mighty ancestors to come.

If these existences were to enter Ancestral for the sake of a treasury, it might prompt the pseudo-atavistic golem ancestors to wake up. No one wanted this development.

On the other hand, it was fine for these geniuses to try. The ancestors from Ancestral would turn a blind eye to the competition of the young ones.

Wu Zhongtian and the others had no idea what Ancestral was doing. The treasury was right there. How could they not want it?

[Chapter 3452: To Stone Forest](#)

The three behemoths have failed their first attempt to the relief of the crowd. Everyone started back again on square one.

At this point, Wu Zhongtian, Skylight First Prince, and Firmaments Godchild decided whether to team up.

The atmosphere became tense during this discussion. Everyone became worried because these three sects might actually do it. In that case, no other power would get anything from the treasury.

"Hey, I heard there's a map for the forest circulating." A map appeared all of a sudden, and not just one either.

In the beginning, some people tried to hide it only to realize that there were a number of them available. Eventually, nearly everyone in the forest got their hand on one.

"There's a map for this?" Some disappeared at first because their experience let them know the always-transforming nature of this place. A map was useless since it couldn't change as well.

They quickly found this to not be the case.

"It's not a regular map, there are clear methods dictating when to enter and the correct steps." An elder carefully studied it and said.

Several big shots got their hand on one and became startled. There were several methods and routes listed in a meticulous manner. They seemed to be taking into account the changes of the stones.

“This is a type of calculation.” The trio of geniuses became astonished, the same with the ancestors from their sect.

“It’s meticulous, it can account for the changes within a single day and night. Who did this?” An ancestor from Yin Yang murmured.

The source of the map remained unknown. Nonetheless, the ancestors were surprised to see such an accurate calculation. Even Yin Yang Gate didn’t possess a method of this level.

The trio checked their maps and found them identical. The big shots shuddered, wondering about the heaven-defying being capable of understanding the stone forest.

Just how powerful was this person? They became curious and tried to investigate the source. Unfortunately, nothing came of it.

“Let’s go!” Some lost their patience and began entering the forest in order to get to the treasury first.

They rushed to the entrance like a flood. Sure enough, following the map allowed them to get deeper in there.

The three big powers became increasingly amazed at the map’s accuracy. Each step was perfectly calculated.

They saw the magnificent scenes and treasures again. Some saw the golden pagoda on top of the peak, the valley filled with auspicious energy, and the jade deers playing around in the thicket looking just like forest spirits...

This place had plenty of special herbs and trees along with mysterious treasures. The entire place itself could be considered a treasury already. Unfortunately, one could only stare.

Some lost to their greed and tried to reach for the treasures. The scene before them suddenly changed and they were sent back to the entrance. All their effort became wasted.

Others took note of this but they still didn’t give up. They kept on experimenting to find a way to seize the treasures. Only a few succeeded.

For example, an ancestor performed his own calculation on a flower at the base of a peak. Finally, he let caution to the wind and shouted: “Just have to try!”

He used his power to derive the coordinates of the shifted dimensions and performed flawless movements through space.

“Pop!” Sure enough, he got the right coordinates and successfully entered the peak to take the flower.

“An ancestor from Starshifter Gate got a strange flower!” This news spread across the area.

“The treasures here are real, not illusions.” This was confirmed.

“Should we try to?” More and more became eager to try.

Most understood that the imperial treasury was out of reach. It was more realistic going for other treasures.

Alas, reality was cruel. The regular cultivators had no chance in gaining anything. Only the mighty ancestors could barely derive the right sets of coordinates to enter the shifted dimensions.

As for the three top powers, they had zero interest in other treasures. Their goal was deeper into the forest.

The map let them travel freely and it didn't take long before they reached Fire Domain.

The heat was unbearable even from a distance. They saw a dead land before them.

"Fire Domain." They instantly knew the area right away.

Fire Domain was well-known even though people haven't gotten there. The ground was scorched; the peaks and mountains were still there, just incinerated from top to bottom. Mud and soil had a black color. The least-affected places had a yellow shade.

Upon closer inspection, one could still feel indiscernible heatwaves ravaging the place.

However, the most catching thing about this place was deeper inside. There seemed to be a torch burning there. Its flame was strong enough to reach the azure, wanting to burn a hole through it.

This flame was insane; the heat waves emanating from it seemed like storms. They took the shape of dragons and burned everything nearby and all intruders.

This was the only flame left in Fire Domain, located in the deepest region. This was perhaps the source of the high temperature found here.

The spectators in the distance became frightened by the draconic heat waves.

[Chapter 3453: Fire Domain](#)

These flames didn't seem keen on having intruders either. They were ready to incinerate anything that got close.

Who knows how these fiery storms were formed, especially the torch deeper in there. They thought that a giant had left a torch there. The scorching heat deterred others from getting close.

"Look, over there!" A hawk-eyed observer noticed a pillar of light coming from a mountain there.

Many locked their gaze onto it and saw that it was coming from a dao platform, looking ancient from an old era.

The style was completely different from the rest of Fire Domain. Perhaps it landed down one day.

The platform had a portal with rotating lights. Crossing it would take one to a different world.

"Fire Domain shouldn't have something like that, it must be the entrance to the emperor's treasury." An ancestor knew what it was right away.

"Are you telling me that the treasury takes up an entire dimension?" Some started fantasizing.

Some weren't surprised by this in the slightest. The emperor's achievements far exceeded the imagination.

Nonetheless, a few thought that this was exaggerated and disagreed: "There should be a limit to this, how can it fill up the whole thing?"

"Why not? Immortal Assailant Emperor is the last of the epoch and should have the greatest treasury. According to the legends, the emperor went to the sky and plucked the stars then down to the nine hells for the boundless dark oceans. How can a tiny place contain all of these treasures? The emperor most likely refined an entire dimension for this sake." An old historian speculated.

"This last emperor might really have everything from that epoch." Another elder said with a serious expression.

Of course, these big shots have been coveting this treasury for so long. They have heard of the legends pertaining to this emperor previously.

"Really..." The crowd salivated from imagining the wealth accumulated over one epoch.

Just getting 1/10th, no, 1/100th of it would be enough to make one richer than a great kingdom.

"What are we waiting for?!" People rushed towards the portal.

They entered the domain and felt the scorching heat waves hitting them, turning them into barbecued chickens.

This sudden influx was horrifying, instantly cooking them from outside to inside.

"Activate!" One channeled their merit law and created a frost barrier. Unfortunately, this was akin to adding salt to the ocean.

The flames here weren't that visible but one could still see the spatial warping due to the temperature, similar to a person being poured molten metal all over.

"Ah!" The first waves of cultivators couldn't handle the heat and melted down like rubber. Their bodies dripped down into piles before melting down completely. Only dispersing smoke was left, not even ashes. The others couldn't back off in time and suffered the same fate.

All of this happened in the blink of an eye and horrified the ones standing right by the order. Some panicked and pulled their legs back just in time.

Nonetheless, a few masters didn't believe in this and used their powerful treasures.

"Buzz." Dao laws hovered around them as a defensive measure.

"Zzz..." This successfully stopped the temperature, allowing them to delve deeper.

Unfortunately, they greatly underestimated the power of the domain and came to find that the heat was several times higher. Their treasures started to break down as well.

"No, run!" They shouted in horror and tried to run as fast as possible. It was too late. Smoke started appearing in the air again.

Only the strongest among them managed to run out of the domain in time.

"Shit, that was close." He heaved a sigh of relief.

“Pop!” Alas, all the muscles and tendons in his body have been melted and he popped like an air bubble. Everything inside poured out in a liquid form.

The ones nearby screamed and ran away.

“That’s horrifying.” They exchanged glances of fear.

“We really can’t go in?” They thought that this was impossible. A few had strong treasures but still weren’t enough.

“What’s causing this heat for millions of years? Is it from the deepest location?” An expert stared at the only flame.

Some stared at the trio of geniuses. Their armies were also present.

The trio had a solemn expression at this point.

“We can’t enter nor get that flame.” Skylight First Prince spoke first.

“I heard Skylight Dao Lord went here before.” An ancestor nearby asked: “Do you know more about this, Your Highness?”

The prince pondered for a bit before responding: “It’s true, the forefather made it to the final area and collected part of the flame.”

This was astonishing yet not. This dao lord was extremely powerful; this was within his abilities.

“This place is the home of a phoenix.” An old voice sounded: “Skylight Dao Lord came seeking the phoenix’s nest, not to collect some flames. It’s just that he eventually failed.”

People looked over and saw an old man whose face was covered by a veiled hat. The rest of his group had the same mysterious appearance.

“They’re from Divine Stone Ridge.” Someone quietly whispered.

Many cultivators cupped their fist to greet them. The golems actually bowed.

This was the strongest golem lineage outside of Ancestral City. However, they always kept a low profile.

Rumor has it that they possessed a great vein. This was the source of their power.

[Chapter 3454: Divine Stone Ridge](#)

Few disciples from the ridge ever roamed the world, hence the surprise to see these experts around.

“Elder Shi.” Wu Zhongtian showed respect towards the old man by bowing and cupping his fist.

The latter responded with a slight nod.

An ancestor found the prior comment very interesting and asked respectfully: “Elder Shi, Fire Domain is truly the home of a phoenix?”

The old man stared deeper into the domain; his eyes moved slightly. "According to the legend, there was indeed a phoenix there. It roamed across the realms and eventually settled in an ancestral vein. It gathered sacred woods and an ultimate immortal spark in order to have rebirth..."

"A phoenix rebirth..." People took a deep breath.

"They really exist?" People were skeptical because divine beasts belonged in myths such as phoenixes and true dragons. Some dragon types might be called true dragons but they weren't the same thing.

No one has seen a true divine beast before so they didn't believe in this rebirth story. The old man didn't elaborate either.

People shifted their attention towards the first prince again. This country should have more records regarding Fire Domain due to its founder.

The prince didn't say anything while slightly raising his brows. The records were there, just not the reason why their patriarch came here.

"Let me give it a shot." An ancestor from Yin Yang took one step forward and used his treasure for protection.

It poured down dao laws that coiled around him, culminating in an armor issuing dragon and tiger roars. This blessed him with a bestial power.

"So strong!" The spectators gasped in awe.

He took one step forward and entered Fire Domain, soaring through the sky like a dragon. It didn't take long before he got near the peak with the dao platform due to his speed.

Thick steam suddenly built up around him. His strength and treasure still couldn't last for long before the heat.

"Shit!" He roared and flew backward with haste. He managed to get out but there were blisters all over, causing him to scream in pain. His peers applied ointments on the spot and stabilized his wounds.

The crowd took a deep breath. Even a mighty Yin Yang ancestor couldn't handle this heat. Others had zero chance.

"What should we do?" The trio of geniuses found this unsolvable.

Everyone spent so much effort and time to get here, only to be blocked by Fire Domain. They could only stare and sigh at the imperial treasury.

"People from Divine Stone Ridge are going." A spectator quietly said.

The old men from there entered the domain. They weren't fast and chose an indirect path, unlike the others.

The latter wanted to pick the shortest path for flying. These old men walked several steps west then east; one would mistake them for drunkards.

“Why are they okay?” The spectators didn’t understand why this group managed to stay in the domain for so long without being melted.

“Are they not afraid of the heat? How strange, a special treasure, maybe?” They discussed the event.

After walking for a while, the old men stared at the dao platform and shook their head.

They stopped at the foot and dug out a burnt branch around a hundred feet tall. An immortal hymn came after it emerged from the ground, sounding like a phoenix screeching.

“The mythical phoenix roost tree?” Everyone became startled.

While everyone was still surprised, the group decided to leave the domain.

“The treasury of the emperor is meant for the fateful ones. It is not us.” One of them left behind this cryptic line before leaving.

People stared at them, perplexed. They clearly made it inside but chose against entering the portal for the treasury.

“That branch alone is more than enough.” Someone murmured.

One smart cultivator entered the domain and copied the zigzag pattern seen earlier. However, he only remembered the first part and started feeling the heat later on.

“There are shortcuts here.” The crowd came to this realization and entered unharmed.

One made it to a hill and dug the ground to find many precious fire jewels.

Others also excavated the ground. The place became lively with varying results - either finding nothing or huge gains.

Alas, they only remembered a short path so they were limited to the treasures there. Nonetheless, this was still enough for them to dig the entire day.

On the other hand, the big three had no interest in these treasures. They mobilized their armies and formation for the imperial treasury only.

“What about building a bridge?” An extremely pleasant voice sounded as they were stuck.

A phoenix carriage emerged on the horizon, looking as noble as can be. It was embedded with royal jades and had a phoenix emblem. Four jade birds pulled it forward.

A woman in a phoenix dress sat on it, looking beautiful, elegant, and dignified. People couldn’t help lowering their head in her presence, unable to look straight ahead.

“Skylight Princess.” Many recognized her.

“Sister.” The first prince came over to see her right away.

“Your Highness.” Others bowed towards her.

She commanded everyone’s attention the moment she got here - the jewel of Skylight, one of the north’s three beauties, and Bai Jianchan’s fiancée.

Both she and Ancestral City's Pearlstone Saintess were betrothed to Bai Jianchan. However, she was more popular.

She had cultivation achievements as well, being one of the strongest geniuses. Not only was she loved in her country, but Yin Yang Gate also adored her.

Wu Zhongtian hurriedly came over as well to greet her.

"I'm here to offer my assistance." The princess said: "I have obtained a dao lord treasure in order to make it through this arduous place."

The crowd became shaken. It seemed that they must obtain this treasury at all cost.

[Chapter 3455: Skylight Princess](#)

"The princess always impresses with her moves. She's really highly-valued by both Skylight and Yin Yang." One spectator quietly said.

Just think about it, the first prince couldn't bring a dao lord treasure here unlike her. He was the successor of the country yet it seemed that his status was actually inferior.

Firmaments Godchild became surprised as well. This didn't bode well for his sect because it showed her determination.

The treasury could be considered in her pocket right now with the dao lord treasure. Plus, she was from Skylight and would be marrying into Yin Yang. Wu Zhongtian would fully support her.

It became an alliance between Skylight and Yin Yang. The one knocked out would be Firmaments along with the rest.

They didn't need Firmaments at this point; that would just be one more mouth to share the pie with.

"I alone can't accomplish much, I hope everyone will help so that we can cross the domain and share the treasure." The princess stared at the crowd and said slowly. Her eyes especially focused on Wu Zhongtian and the godchild.

The big shots from the previous generation approved of her method. She had the best chance out of anyone because of her dao lord treasure.

However, she had no intent on monopolizing the treasury. Instead, she chose to win the support of Wu Zhongtian and the godchild. The moment they agreed, her status would be established to a certain extent.

"Looks like she'll be queen in the future." One ancestor commented with his peers: "That is if Young Lord Bai can become a dao lord."

"Yes, Pearlstone Saintess probably can't compete against her, at least not in terms of popularity." A golem became worried.

Yin Yang was already the strongest sect in the north. Now, with these marriage alliances, it would become more monstrous. The other powers actually hoped for the failure of these engagements.

The two women, on paper, would have the same status. However, this would no longer be the case if Bai Jianchan were to become a dao lord. There would be a competition for the official queen status.

Everyone knew that Wu Zhongtian was Bai Jianchan's right-hand man. He could become the first general in the future.

Thus, the princess was clearly currying favor with him. Zhongtian was here for the treasury and any success would increase his status in Yin Yang. Thus, he would keep her kindness in mind.

In the case of competition for the queen spot in the future, he would definitely pick the princess over the saintess.

That's why the golem ancestors from various sects became worried after seeing this.

"Thank you, Your Highness. We will do all we can." Wu Zhongtian smiled and bowed towards her. His attitude was different from the courtesy shown before, almost like a follower.

"I'll keep your kindness to heart, Princess." The godchild also bowed towards her.

"You're too polite, gentlemen. Jianchan will be coming out soon, let us do our best to pave his path." The princess spoke freely and impressively - the style of a future queen.

People thought that this was because she was groomed from an imperial household in the first place. Her style and method far exceeded regular cultivators.

Even the godchild wanted to be on her good side. He might be a good candidate for a general later on.

"Young Lord Bai is coming out soon?" The godchild, Zhou Tianhao, became surprised.

"Yes." The princess nodded and said: "Baichan has reached the sacred level so he's consolidating his cultivation at the moment. He'll definitely come here afterward to meet the heroes of the world."

The listeners took a deep breath. One of them said: "That's so heaven-defying, to be at the sacred level at such a young age. Is he the youngest one currently?"

"He had entered the level long ago but just didn't announce it." An older expert said: "The future generation will surpass us. So many try for a lifetime and still wouldn't be able to do it. This shows how promising his future is."

The crowd started whispering about this matter. Some were shaken by this fact. The majority of ancestors here couldn't get to this level. The ones that did obtain it during old age. Thus, this was indicative of Bai Jianchan's brilliant future.

"Young Lord Bai has a chance to become a dao lord in this generation." One golem expert said with admiration.

"Not just a chance, it won't be none other than him." An old expert disagreed: "He'll definitely reign over the world then."

People finally understood why both Ancestral City and Skylight chose to betroth their golden daughter to him.

“I’ll personally visit the young lord after he comes out.” The godchild happily said.

“He’ll definitely love a visit from a prodigy such as yourself. He had praised your dao avatar numerous times before.” She smiled and nodded, trying to recruit another talent.

The godchild naturally enjoyed the praise, especially when it came from Bai Jianchan. This was still an honor for a famous genius like him.

The princess then turned her eyes towards the domain and told the rest: “It’s not easy crossing through this place. I need to prepare a formation with the help of everyone by clearing a space. I apologize for the incoming hardship.”

“It’s no big deal, leave it to us. I can’t wait to see your supreme formation.” The godchild was in a great mood.

She was renowned for being an expert at formation. Thus, most wanted to see what she got.

The trio of geniuses followed her instructions and readied a large field for the formations.

“Alright, please back off.” They chased away those nearby and the treasure-seekers.

These cultivators didn’t appreciate this since some were still busy hunting for treasures in Fire Domain.

“Fire Domain doesn’t belong to you! On what ground is this demand!?” One expert voiced their indignation.

“Based on this.” An expert from Firmaments snorted and tapped his sword.

The furious crowd didn’t dare to say anything. It was unwise to antagonize these behemoths especially when an alliance has been formed. They wouldn’t be able to handle this big problem then.

[Chapter 3456: Fierce Confrontation](#)

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The multitude felt indignation due to the overbearing treatment from Firmaments and Skylight. Alas, the disparity in power left them speechless.

The princess came over and cupped her fist while slightly bowing: “Gentlemen, I will need your assistance to make it through this perilous domain. The formations required a large area so please understand. Come visit Skylight in the future and we’ll make it up to you.”

Her attitude was fitting and sincere, enough to appease the angry mass.

“It’s fine, it’s fine, Your Highness. We’ll just back off.” One of them returned the gesture and said excitedly.

Most would never have the chance to speak to a character of her level in their life. Moreover, she could become the queen in the future.

Plus, they weren’t here for the imperial treasury anyway, so doing her a favor was just fine. This might be an opportunity for them to climb up the branch of Skylight or even Yin Yang Gate.

She easily won them over since they thought that she was reasonable and amiable. No one else was better suited to be queen.

Of course, the big shots were still annoyed but offending these sects was a dumb decision. They would have no place to stay in the north in the future.

Only a group of three ignored this and continued walking towards Fire Domain.

“Leave if you don’t have any business here.” Disciples from Firmaments immediately stopped them.

“Why?” The one leading asked.

“Hmph, you again.” Firmaments Godchild recognized the three and uttered coldly. The first prince took note of this too.

“That’s Li Qiye, adored by Dragon-phoenix Maiden, right?” One person murmured.

Li Qiye paid no attention to them. His eyes were focused on the torch deeper into Fire Domain.

Being ignored by him irritated them. He has been treating them with nothing but contempt, at least in their opinion.

Now, they had great armies here and the ultimate alliance. This guy still dared to act haughty in front of them?

“Our three sects are conducting official business, scam to the side if you’re not involved!” The godchild raised his voice, unable to restrain his anger.

He wanted to erupt several times during the previous meeting. Alas, the maiden’s presence deterred him from doing so.

She wasn’t here now so there was no need for him to hold back against Li Qiye. He was already nice and calm enough by not immediately smashing the guy into a pulp.

“Wow, what an amazing alliance.” Qing Shi snorted and answered in Li Qiye’s stead: “Since when does Fire Domain belong to you and not Ancestral City?”

The annoyed big shots earlier became interested as happy spectators. They didn’t want to mess with Yin Yang but wouldn’t mind others causing trouble.

Of course, the ones who had a good impression of Skylight Princess felt that Li Qiye’s group was picking the wrong time and not appreciating her goodwill. Thus, though they were chased away just now, they still picked her side.

There was another group - the young experts who had a crush on the maiden. They naturally viewed Li Qiye as a thorn so his death would be perfect here.

“Don’t try to stir the pot and switch white to black.” The first prince’s expression darkened as he answered: “I will allow you to leave now, otherwise...”

“Otherwise, what?” Li Qiye finally stopped looking at the domain and lazily said.

"You're Li Qiye?" Wu Zhongtian joined the fray before the prince could answer. He stared at Li Qiye as if the guy was an insect.

"Yes." Li Qiye smiled and nodded, giving back the same looks of disdain.

"You killed my brother and disciple, a crime worthy of death." Wu Zhongtian's eyes became as sharp as blades. A terrible aura emanated from him.

"No idea who you're talking about." Li Qiye shook his head.

"The audacity!" The spectators, especially those close to Yin Yang, immediately spoke out: "You dare to speak to Young Noble Wu in this manner?"

"So many dogs are barking today." Li Qiye waved his hand, interrupting the criticism and making them turn red.

"Young Master, he's talking about that Wu Prince and Feathersword guy." Qing Shi smiled and reminded Li Qiye.

"Oh, those two idiots, looks like their seniors aren't much better. I see where they got it from now." Li Qiye suddenly recalled and laughed.

"Haha..." Those who didn't dare to go against Yin Yang chuckled after hearing this. They secretly gave him a thumbs-up.

"Ignorant fool, you deserve to be hacked to pieces!" The experts standing next to Wu Zhongtian glared at him.

"You're courting death. Let's see what you can do to back up such arrogance. Who will come and save you today?" Zhongtian's eyes flashed murderously.

"Clank!" A sword intent engulfed the area even though he didn't have a sword on him. He must kill Li Qiye for his numerous transgressions. No, after a long torture. He wanted to hear Li Qiye's screams echo across the land.

"Brother Wu, no need to use a butcher's blade to kill a chicken. Let us deal with him." The initially-scholarly first prince stepped up, also ready to kill.

He wanted to kill Li Qiye long ago but did a good job hiding it. The guy made him lose face in front of the maiden - simply unforgivable.

[Chapter 3457: Arrogant](#)

"That's my line. The young master doesn't need to take action against an insignificant junior, I alone am enough." Qing Shi smiled and said before stepping forward.

His haughty tone left people confused for a bit. However, some have seen the exchange between him and Wu Zhongtian back in Ancestral already.

They thought that Qing Shi learned this attitude from his master, not giving a damn about anyone.

"So dumb, daring to provoke His Highness. He's not long for this world." One spectator commented.

“The maiden isn’t here so be smart and surrender. No one can save you.” The godchild stared at Qing Shi, aware that he was quite powerful after dealing with a force back in the stone forest.

The maiden had left Ancestral so the godchild and the prince considered this the best opportunity. They no longer needed to hold back against Li Qiye.

Many among the crowd were jealous of Li Qiye. They wanted to see him taken down a notch and eliminated.

“You’re so blind.” Qing Shi snorted in response: “Only people like you would think that the young master requires the maiden’s protection. She actually saved your dog lives back then yet you have no idea.”

The geniuses have never experienced such disdain before, being called blind in public. Their expression naturally soured; their rage blinded them from thinking about the situation.

“You’re done.” Murderous glints flashed from the godchild’s eyes, pricking everyone’s vision. “You choose hell instead of heaven. Can only blame yourself...”

“There’s a limit to acting cool.” Qing Shi interrupted him and smiled: “Anyone can spout tough words and that’s all you can do.”

The godchild’s expression became unsightly.

Li Qiye chuckled and ordered: “Teach them a lesson.” With that, he picked up some soil from the ground and meticulously calculated.

“Did you hear that? I have to teach you a lesson now.” Qing Shi laughed, looking like a fox exploiting the tiger’s might.

“We’ll see who’s the one boasting.” The first prince retorted.

“Your Highness, teach this ignorant brat a lesson on how to act properly.” The crowd started cheering.

“Very well, I will teach you in your master’s stead.” The godchild sternly said.

“With your meager abilities? The two of you need to come together to save me time.” Qing Shi leisurely responded.

“You two, go see what he can do.” The princess on her chariot spoke.

“I will keep an eye out, Fellow Daoists.” Wu Zhongtian smiled; his murderous eyes fixated on Li Qiye. He was ready to take Li Qiye’s head and offer it to his fallen brother.

“Finally, we’ll all get to see what the first prince of Skylight and the successor of Firmaments can do.”

The other two exchanged glances. The first prince moved to pincer Qing Shi, stopping his escape path.

Though they sounded confident, they exercised prudence because Qing Shi was powerful.

“Crush his mouth so that he’ll know how to act.” One expert nearby scowled.

“That’s right, beat the servant first then the master, they won’t run their mouth from now on.” The majority of the crowd seemed to be on the prince’s side. They have forgotten about how they were chased out of Fire Domain earlier.

Qing Shi remained calm despite being surrounded by two powerful foes. The crowd naturally didn’t appreciate his carelessness. The duo themselves were livid as well.

“Die!” The godchild spread his palm to deliver a crushing strike; swords started hymning.

His fingers turned into five divine swords with rampaging sword energy. They created an inescapable net around Qing Shi.

“Clank! Clank!” The energy in the sword domain started descending down on Qing Shi with enough force to crush everything. He alone was able to create a small sword formation with his palm.

The first prince also made his move at the exact moment. He unleashed a dual punch, releasing two soaring dragons. They coiled together and surged forward like a beam. Their claws could easily tear anything to pieces.

A combination of sword and draconic technique - immensely mighty. This impressed the crowd. Many experts here thought that they wouldn’t be able to stop the moves coming from two sides.

“Not bad.” Qing Shi chuckled and casually swung his sword.

“Clank!” Its hymn swept through the area with stability in mind. Sword images the size of mountains became the ultimate cosmic force.

[Chapter 3458: Butterfly Dance](#)

Qing Shi’s casual swing contained billowing sword intent and considerable power.

He created a sword dao with a slight movement on top of a special sword rhythm. This ability display astounded the crowd.

“Clank!” He swept through the incoming sword formation uncontested. Fiery sparks splattered as the godchild was forced back.

“Boom! Boom!” It stopped the incoming dragons as well despite their awe-inspiring and dreadful strength. The prince staggered several steps backward as a result of the shockwave.

“My turn!” Qing Shi roared after a successful defense and pointed his sword at the sky. It illuminated the four directions.

A terrible sword brilliance manifested and created numerous divine swords. They were more than enough to turn someone into a sieve. This terrible technique naturally instilled chills into the spectators.

“So strong, who the hell is he?” Others took a deep breath.

“It’s just an ordinary technique, Blossoming Steel Flower.” An ancestor analyzed the move: “It’s not a special one or anything.”

The power of the move made others think that it was a peerless sword technique. However, the ancestors could see that it was just a common move. Many sword users have trained with it before; the result was just different.

“Let’s go!” The prince and the godchild roared again, undeterred by the powerful sword technique.

The godchild also summoned numerous divine swords for another formation, aiming straight at Qing Shi without showing any mercy.

The prince showed zero weakness, unleashing a four-beast technique. A true dragon soared to the sky along with a phoenix; the white tiger and black tortoise crushed the ground and the grand dao.

“Rumble!” Qing Shi alone fought against the two geniuses, causing the sky to turn dark. Fiery sparks scattered down like bright, beautiful flowers.

This seemed to be an even match; neither side felt like an underdog.

“Someone this strong can’t be a nameless junior.” People speculated after seeing Qing Shi’s sword mastery. He became more spirited as the fight went on.

Sure, they weren’t going all out but being able to fight two geniuses at the same time was indicative of his abilities. Most of the crowd would have died already.

It became apparent that he was far stronger than the prince and the godchild.

“No wonder why he was so arrogant. He can back it up.” One spectator said, changing his mind about Qing Shi’s previous attitude.

Arrogance came accepted when it was warranted.

“Sir, why are you hiding your sect’s merit laws? Looks like you don’t want to divulge your background.” The princess who has been watching the entire time spoke.

The listeners caught on. In reality, the weaker cultivators didn’t have an idea. They just found his techniques to be impressive.

On the other hand, the princess might be stronger than many ancestors present despite her young age. Thus, she noticed the clues right away.

“That’s why he kept on using the common moves and sword techniques.” A few ancestors have realized this as well.

“He’s not using his actual moves?” Some cultivators took a deep breath.

The guy was already strong enough right now. The prince and the godchild would be finished if he were to use his real techniques.

“I’ll use whatever I want.” Qing Shi laughed and didn’t respond.

“Hmph, we’ll see how long you can keep this up.” Wu Zhongtian scowled and made his move right away.

A saber slash cut through the air, instantly separating everything. This fatal cut aimed straight for Qing Shi’s neck. The speed and the suddenness made it impossible to dodge.

“Seven-fold Edge!” A big shot from the last generation stated the technique’s name.

Qing Shi performed a movement step in order to dodge the blade inches from his neck. He crossed through one dimension after another like a dancing butterfly, an eagle, and a dragon. The transformations of the steps made the spectators dizzy. They couldn’t tell where he was after a while.

However, Zhongtian’s slash didn’t stop there. It immediately split into seven slashes and continued pursuing Qing Shi. These slashes could kill the gods and devils. Each had a bloodthirsty aura.

The peerless and agile movements of Qing Shi weren’t enough to evade the slashes. Dismemberment seemed inevitable.

“He’s done!” One expert shouted.

Qing Shi thrust his sword seven times in response, causing the stars to fall and stabilizing the cosmo. The grand momentum of this technique contained incredible profundity. The seven slashes were stopped right away by the falling celestial lights.

“Clank!” Qing Shi staggered backward after the successful parry.

“Cosmic Shifter.” Wu Zhongtian recognized the technique and stopped attacking. He stared intensely at Qing Shi.

“Isn’t this a supreme sword art of the golems?” An older master became startled.

“An art of Ancestral, to be exact.” An ancestor added: “It originated from Ancestral City and was passed down to the golems. Many golem sects have this technique.”

Wu Zhongtian’s involvement forced Qing Shi to use a real technique.

“Not just that, Butterfly Dance as well.” The princess stared at Qing Shi and said: “Incredible mastery.”

Her vision was powerful enough to recognize the movement technique as well.

“Butterfly Dance?!” Those in the know took a deep breath, such as the ancestors.

“What about it, Ancestor?” A junior asked curiously.

“That’s a secret move from Ancestral, this one isn’t passed down to outsiders. Few can cultivate it.” The ancestor explained.

The crowd became shaken as a result and stared at Qing Shi. This meant that Qing Shi was clearly from Ancestral City.

Ancestral was comparable to Yin Yang and Skylight, the behemoth of this land. If Qing Shi was a disciple there and hanging around with Li Qiye...

[Chapter 3459: Who Is Qing Shi?](#)

Qing Shi had a calm expression despite being the center of attention.

“I thought Ancestral and Yin Yang have a marriage pact? Why would a disciple from Ancestral fight against Yin Yang right now?” Someone quietly said.

Most had this question in their mind. In theory, these disciples of these two sects shouldn't have any conflict. Even by chance, it would only be a minor squabble.

In this case, they could see clear animosity from Qing Shi. He purposely wanted to antagonize Yin Yang.

Moreover, he was too powerful to be a regular disciple from Ancestral and should have high status there. This made people wonder.

The big shots, in particular, thought that this marriage didn't seem to be going that well.

"Perhaps the problems are bigger than we thought." A few knowledgeable ancestors talked among themselves.

"Who is he in Ancestral City?" People speculated regarding the top geniuses of Ancestral, wanting to pair Qing Shi with one.

The princess stared at Qing Shi and calmly said: "I know that there are only a few disciples in Ancestral that have trained Cosmic Shifter to this level. As for Butterfly Dance, even rarer, only the dragons and phoenixes. Now, to master them? Only one person as far as I know."

Wu Zhongtian's expression became serious as well; his eyes profound.

"If I'm not mistaken, you're Pearlstone Saintess." She finally concluded, seemingly not surprised.

"What?! Pearlstone Saintess?" Everyone stared at Qing Shi in disbelief.

"How, how can that guy be the saintess?" A youth blurted out.

The older big shots and ancestors took it more seriously. They were aware of the serious implication if the princess was proven correct. It might lead to a break between Yin Yang and Ancestral.

The first prince of Skylight and Firmaments Godchild became startled as well. This "Qing Shi" and the saintess were as different as can be.

However, they thought that this was plausible because who else among the young generation could take on the two of them together? Who else could have mastered these skills?

"I don't believe it." The answer seemed obvious yet doubters still remained because Pearlstone Saintess was one of the three beauties of the north. This Qing Shi in front of them looked as ordinary as can be.

"People always praise Skylight Princess' vision and insight, looks like I have experienced that today." Qing Shi smiled, unperturbed.

"You're too kind, Sister Shi." The princess slightly bowed like a noble daughter. People couldn't help liking her.

"Buzz." Qing Shi became resplendent and flowers rained down - a visual phenomenon akin to a fairy arriving. Lotus also bloomed beneath her feet, resulting in an ocean of flowers.

A sweet fragrance tantalized the mind as Qing Shi changed into a supreme beauty.

She was tall and thin, about a whole head taller than Skylight Princess. Her jet black hair looked like a waterfall. Her figure resembled the perfect jade sculpture. Her long legs accentuated her tall frame, causing people to look up. Nonetheless, this didn't diminish her grace and charm.

Her oval face had perfect lines and natural curves. All in all, her features were beyond compare. There was no doubt that her beauty was superior to Skylight Princess.

"So beautiful." People stared in bewilderment. They were in awe after seeing Skylight Princess but the saintess took it to the next level.

Her identity became clear at this point since people recognized her - Pearlstone Saintess. They didn't dare to loudly state her title lest she would be bothered.

Qing Shi was indeed the saintess. She used a heaven-defying method to change into an ordinary man.

"She lives up to her fame." One spectator said.

Some would actually be saying that the saintess was the number one of the three if Skylight Princess wasn't present. Nonetheless, her presence made a comparison possible.

The godchild and the first prince exchanged glances after seeing this.

"Bai Jianchan has two of the three beauties, so lucky." A spectator mumbled loud enough for only him to hear.

The engagements were well-known and caused plenty of envy and jealousy. Of course, they didn't dare to express this.

"Young Lord Bai is a dragon among men." One fan said with admiration.

Meanwhile, Shi Wawa was slack-jawed. The guy he has been staying with turned out to be a peerless beauty, a princess of Ancestral City.

"This shrouding technique is incredible." A few ancestors focused on something else. Some of them used their heavenly gaze prior but still didn't notice anything.

The only one not caring about this situation was Li Qiye. The commotion didn't disturb him. Of course, he saw through it from the very beginning.

"You've seen through my disguise, Princess." Pearlstone Saintess revealed an enchanting smile. Her full name was Shi Qingjian.

"I didn't see through it, Sister Shi. It was only a guess that turned out to be right." The princess shook her head. She was aware of the merit laws from the big sects in the north. This made it possible for her to guess saintess' true identity.

[Chapter 3460: Hogging](#)

The atmosphere changed after the saintess' identity was revealed. Everyone including her three opponents became frozen.

Some stared at her then secretly shot a glance towards Li Qiye. She seemed to be with Li Qiye all the time despite the engagement with Bai Jianchan. The whole thing felt a little strange.

“What do we say to this?” Someone murmured. This pertained to two powerful sects so they didn’t dare to run their mouth.

After all, they could end up offending both sects and that wouldn’t end well. This was doubly true for Yin Yang Gate.

On the contrary, Skylight Princess felt more at ease than before as if she had expected this.

“Greetings, Saintess.” Wu Zhongtian cupped his fist towards Pearlstone.

The godchild and the first prince also did the same, albeit with an awkward expression.

The two sides couldn’t fight anymore. Zhongtian was Baichan’s right-hand man so he couldn’t quite fight his boss’ fiancée.

As for the other two, the situation didn’t allow so, not to mention that they might have lost anyway.

They had ancestors as their backing right now but this was the territory of Ancestral. They were the ones truly in charge.

“Sister Shi, since you’re here, why don’t we work together for the treasury?” The princess ignored the quarrel earlier and extended an invitation.

People thought that she was being awfully magnanimous. Competition between them was inevitable in the future yet the princess still invited the saintess? Many thought that they wouldn’t be as generous.

“No, the young master will decide.” The saintess smiled and shook her head.

Her attitude shocked the crowd. Earlier, she was under disguise when walking around with Li Qiye. Everything changed the moment she revealed her identity. Nonetheless, their relationship seemed to be real.

If the saintess had some type of relationship with another man, this would reflect badly on both her and Ancestral. However, she didn’t seem to mind at all and even went as far as still calling Li Qiye “young master”, ready to obey his orders.

The godchild and the first prince naturally didn’t like this comment so they scowled.

First, the guy had Dragon-phoenix Maiden as his backer. Now, Pearlstone Saintess too? This brat had special luck with women, seemingly able to win their favor wherever he went.

Wu Zhongtian’s glare at Li Qiye intensified, the same with his murderous intent. A while ago, it was a matter of personal vendetta. Now, it became more than that. This guy would be a threat for Bai Jianchan so he must be eliminated.

On the other hand, the princess stared at Li Qiye; her eyes shifted slightly. She tilted her head, seemingly pondering.

“Why does the saintess think so highly of him? You see anything?” The jealous followers of the maiden couldn’t restrain their emotions.

“Right, what’s attractive about him?” Another who didn’t like Li Qiye said.

The saintess could actually be considered the number one beauty of the famous trio yet she still treated Li Qiye in a special manner.

“Okay, maybe he’s capable and powerful, he still can’t compare to Bai Jianchan.” One more added, confused.

In their opinion, Li Qiye might actually be a genius hiding his abilities. Nonetheless, nothing about him could ever top Bai Jianchan - the true heaven’s favorite in the north.

“That’s fine.” The princess also extended an invitation towards Li Qiye with a smile: “If your friend wishes to tag along, we can go together and give him a part of the treasury as well.”

The listeners couldn’t believe it and became more impressed with her style.

“An amazing woman like her deserves someone like Young Lord Bai.” One expert commented.

Anyone else would have used this opportunity to criticize Pearlstone Saintess for having a questionable relationship with another man. This was the best way to ruin her opponent’s reputation.

The princess didn’t do that at all and even showed kindness towards Li Qiye.

Pearlstone Saintess only smiled and stood quietly for Li Qiye to answer.

Li Qiye released the soil in his hand and patted his palms together. He stood up and stretched before answering: “You all are overthinking about this treasure matter.”

The prince’s group snorted after hearing this.

“You have another idea, Young Noble?” The princess remained calm. This style of hers naturally made others want to follow her.

“No idea, it’s just that this treasury is out of your reach. Return from whence you came since it’s getting late. Go take a bath then sleep.” Li Qiye looked comfortable after stretching and lazily said.

His response was considered arrogant and impolite.

“Ridiculous.” Others became indignant for the princess since she had won them over.

“So ungrateful and blind.” One snorted.

The young geniuses found this even more acceptable. The godchild retorted with a stern glare: “Li, what are you trying to say? Her Highness is being generous yet you want to monopolize the treasure? Know your place.”

“So what?” Li Qiye shook his head: “The treasury isn’t meant for your group, just forget about it and leave.”

“Hmph, you need to think about whether you have the abilities to take the treasury first. You alone have no chance of obtaining it, stop dreaming.” The first prince joined in.

“That’s right, know your place.” Some of the audience shouted.

By this point, the alliance of Yin Yang, Skylight, and Firmaments was firmly in charge. Not to mention monopolizing the treasury, just getting a share was difficult.

“Is that so?” Li Qiye had a half-smile as he stared at the two.