

Emperor 3471

[Chapter 3471: Drystone Courtyard Gone](#)

Meanwhile, everyone outside Fire Domain waited for Li Qiye, curious about the content inside the inferno.

“He’s out, I see him!” An excited spectator shouted.

All eyes were on Li Qiye who had just left the inferno. They carefully looked at him from top to bottom but didn’t notice anything special. His expression - a stoic look - didn’t divulge any hint either.

“What did he see and get in there?” One wondered. The harvest in that inferno should manifest in some emotions.

“What was in there?!” Someone finally shouted at him.

After all, even Skylight Dao Lord wanted to go in. There must be a rare and precious artifact within that inferno.

However, Li Qiye ignored them and continued heading towards the peak with the dao portal.

“Shit, this is so unfair. He already got the treasure in the inferno and now he wants that imperial treasury too? What about us?” Jealousy permeated the crowd.

In their mind, the imperial treasury should far exceed the content of the inferno. Now, Li Qiye was being too greedy, or so they thought.

“The legacy of the phoenix is all his, that’s already an incredible fortune. If he can get the treasury all for himself too, nothing can top that.” One ancestor said with envy.

Just think about it, Yin Yang Gate and the other two countries wanted to share the treasury. This was already enviable enough. Li Qiye, on the other hand, was going to monopolize the entire thing.

“I wish someone would rob him after.” Someone couldn’t help but say.

Hearts started beating faster because the thin paper had been penetrated. Everyone had this thought; they just didn’t want to express it. They exchanged glances, overwhelmed with greed.

Fire Domain was one thing but if Li Qiye were to leave... The majority of the crowd had their own nefarious plans right now.

“Buzz.” Li Qiye made it up the peak and disappeared into the portal.

“Damn that bloodline.” Someone gritted their teeth and said. They also wanted to come into the domain for that treasury but this was impossible.

By this point, many experts and ancestors had quietly left the scene. The ones left behind eventually realized the thinning crowd.

“They all left? Don’t want to take a look at all?” One clueless spectator said.

“What’s the point?” A friend glared at him and signaled for them to leave.

It didn't take long before only around ten percent of the mass still lingered behind.

"Why are they leaving?" The innocent Shi Wawa asked curiously.

"Because this is Fire Domain." Pearlstone Saintess naturally understood the reason why.

Li Qiye was the king here because he could control the domain's power due to his bloodline. Thus, trying to rob him here was suicidal.

The best example was the coalition army earlier. No one wanted to repeat this mistake.

They left early in order to come up with plans to ambush him in a different location. It would be extremely easy without the power of the phoenix aiding him.

"Idiots." She murmured and shook her head.

Those scheming against Li Qiye was as dumb as can be. Their death would not be pretty.

The area through the portal wasn't a treasury. No golden and silver mountains, no supreme imperial weapons and merit laws either.

Li Qiye saw a vast land with an ancestral vein brimming with life force. This place seemed to be the source of life in the north.

It's just people didn't know about the story and secret behind the dao portal. It has been too long; very few were privy to this fact.

He crossed the vein to enter a secret location. His pace seemed relaxed.

However, when he got there, he found that nothing existed in this place.

"Drystone Courtyard." He said with a hushed tone.

He was back in an old place, one of the most dangerous areas in the nine worlds - Drystone.

Alas, the only thing left was a bottomless abyss. It seemed as if the entire courtyard had fallen down and became swallowed.

Even back in the Nine Worlds Epoch, only a selected few knew about its existence. Thus, its disappearance might not be known by others.

Li Qiye focused his gaze towards the bottom of the abyss. Upon closer inspection, he found that the abyss wasn't caused by the ground collapsing.

Something had drilled down there and dragged the entire courtyard down this hole. This was an unlikely guess.

Remember, as one of the twelve burial grounds, this place was immensely dangerous. Even Immortal Emperors couldn't take it down; the villainous heaven itself turned a blind eye.

Now, some unknown force had dragged it away. Was there someone capable of doing this? No, absolutely not!

Alas, this was indeed the case. This abyss seemed to be leading to hell itself. No one could ever explain this event, not even Li Qiye.

“How strange, this isn’t your style. What happened?” Li Qiye murmured while looking at the sky.

No one answered him; perhaps no one had the answer. Only the villainous heaven knew what happened here.

Li Qiye became silent because this was unprecedented. Such a thing never occurred even in the legends or any older epoch. Otherwise, the lords of the burial grounds wouldn’t have lasted so long.

He eventually crouched down and touched the abyss’ fringe; his brows slightly furrowed.

Though millions of years have passed, he still sensed a few things. He decided to jump down the abyss without any hesitation, disappearing from sight.

[Chapter 3472: Immortal Assailant Emperor](#)

No one knew what was at the bottom of the abyss or if one could climb out of it after entering.

Li Qiye still jumped in without any hesitation. His body rapidly descended and disappeared from sight, seemingly swallowed by the abyss.

After a long while, he finally appeared again, climbing out of the abyss. He sat down next to the cliff with a calm expression, albeit with a slight frown: “How strange.”

In actuality, he didn’t find anything under there. No danger or anything special.

“What is it?” He pinched some soil off the top and then scattered them through the gaps between his fingers. The remnant aura here eluded him.

Very few things in this world could actually escape his analysis. This was one of them.

In history and all the epochs, this type of power didn’t exist. Putting aside its actual strength, it was perfectly unique.

Another similar power with the same uniqueness belonged to the villainous heaven. Today, there was another type. This made Li Qiye ponder.

“I’m sure you have the answer.” His eyes pierced across the myriad worlds to reach the deep azure.

Of course, there was no response. This was to be expected. The opposite would make the whole thing more bizarre.

Li Qiye clapped his hands then stared at the abyss with a sigh: “How unbelievable.”

This news would cause an earthquake in the previous epoch. All inhabitants would shudder in fear from this unbelievable event. Li Qiye himself had a hard time imagining what happened.

He has been here plenty of times before, possessing a far better understanding than others.

“Drystone Courtyard is no more.” Li Qiye said sentimentally then left.

In reality, the twelve burial grounds were gone in the new epoch anyway.

Li Qiye crossed through numerous dimensions to reach the source of the ancestral vein. It didn't use to be this easy getting through the place but everything had changed with time.

A lake of incredible essences existed in this place - the embodiment of worldly fortunes. Alas, it was withered right now, just a hollowed depression.

Nonetheless, there were still runic lines around it. This has been the case for millions and millions of years. The destruction of the eras didn't matter; epoch might have turned to ashes without affecting these runes.

However, this was only in outward appearance. Those who have been here before would find that they were different after using their heavenly gaze.

The runes have lost their divinity or to be more specific, they no longer had life.

This was akin to a metamorphosis. The living entities in the runes have left, leaving behind the shells on the ground.

"Breaking out to be an immortal or to fight against the immortals?" Li Qiye started thinking about certain things worthy of remembrance from the past. A smile appeared on his face.

He took a deep breath and focused up. His eyes fell onto the lake.

This place was the source of Stone Medicine, the center of the three grand veins containing fundamental essences and fortunes.

Another difference he noticed was a stone pillar right on top of the lake. It wasn't that impressive in size but the runes carved on it could clearly be seen. They were completely different from the ones in the lake.

The latter was formed in a natural manner - the accumulation of worldly fortunes. As for the ones on the runes, they were domineering and supreme - the culmination from the grand dao all over the places.

The pillar seemingly reached the deepest location of the earth and became one with it. This allowed it to connect with the ancestral veins.

Due to the empowerment gained from the veins, the runes on the pillar continued moving and changing. They engulfed one particular item on top of the pillar, obscuring it in the process.

A meticulous observer would note that the runes weren't protecting this item. It was a suppression.

Li Qiye's eyes narrowed as he intended on bypassing the runes to see the thing inside.

"Boom!" The runes of the lake gradually lit up and started a supreme symphony capable of piercing through time and space, from Eight Desolaces all the way to Nine Worlds.

"Rumble!" Their lights shot to the sky. In the next second, these runes woke up again, brimming with life.

A figure appeared in this boundless radiance. She seemed to be from the ancient era, ethereal and illusory. Others would mistake her to be from their previous dream.

Li Qiye quietly watched the figure. The figure itself was faint already and the light made it harder to see. However, one could tell that this was a woman.

The figure alone could suppress the firmaments. Other masters and invincible experts weren't worth mentioning before her terrifying aura. The gods needed to prostrate and the devil would tremble beneath her feet.

She was Immortal Assailant Emperor, the last Immortal Emperor of the nine worlds, perhaps the most brilliant of them all. [1]

The two exchanged glances; this fleeting moment seemingly lasted millions of years.

Within the dao runes and the lake were laughter, competitions, and heart-to-heart conversations, some scolding as well. The past would always remain the same.

"I left something behind." Her voice was both pleasant and dignified. Li Qiye found it awfully enjoyable.

"I don't know what it is but I'm sure you can come up with a conclusion. Otherwise, this world is finished, the same for you." She added.

"Yes, I know." Li Qiye stared at the suppressed item on top of the pillar and nodded.

A brief silence ensued.

"Congratulations, that day has come for you." He broke the silence first and was happy for her.

She didn't respond, only continuing to stare at him.

[Chapter 3473: Unknown Item](#)

Time came to a halt; words weren't necessary because one glance was enough for them to understand each other.

"It's not over between us!" Her pleasant voice echoed, seemingly becoming a part of space.

Once it dispersed, the light and her figure also disappeared from sight. The runes became lifeless once more.

"Indeed." He sighed and smiled wryly.

He focused his attention on the stone pillar and the item again. It wasn't moving and didn't emit any special aura.

The world has always talked about the emperor's treasury and legacy. They thought it would contain countless treasures, peerless merit laws, and invincible weapons...

None of that was here. She only left one thing - an item that she couldn't understand. Plus, it was meant for only one person - Li Qiye.

She knew that if she couldn't come up with an answer, the dark crow was the only one left who could do so.

Now, in the case of Li Qiye failing as well, only the villainous heaven would be left. However, it wasn't part of this world.

"Hmm..." Li Qiye murmured while looking at the item.

It wasn't a treasure at all. Nothing good would come of it, only a terrible nightmare to all of Eight Desolaces. That's why the emperor took a painstaking effort to suppress it here.

He then thought about the weakened dao runes all over the ground. They weren't exactly useless just yet. Even a dao lord couldn't do anything in this place without thinking twice.

He took out a stone egg obtained from the park. It became magnificent after his carving and had an unfathomable mystery within.

He let it roll towards the dao runes. Something magical happened during the roll; it actually absorbed all the dao runes on its path.

Nothing was damaged; all the runes were absorbed in their complete version. It was as if this wasn't an absorption but a mere relocation.

The egg circled around the lake numerous times in order to grab all the dao runes. The ground became glossy and smooth just like a mirror with the runes gone.

This was the reason why he obtained the stone egg then took the time to carve it. He needed it to move everything here.

The egg eventually finished its task and Li Qiye put it away. He then walked to the front of the stone pillar.

The invincible runes on it were embedded by Immortal Assailant Emperor. The pillar pierced into the ground and was connected to the ancestral vein.

A dao lord had no chance of moving the pillar. It has become one with heaven and earth. This power allowed it to suppress the item left here.

He took a deep breath and tossed the egg at the stone. It latched onto the surface and started rolling up.

The same thing happened - the egg absorbing all the runes during the roll. Only Li Qiye could come up with this ingenious method of moving the runes without damaging them. The pillar eventually had the same smooth surface just like the ground.

With the runes gone, the suppression disappeared as well. The item on top of the pillar finally showed its true form.

It was around the size of a thumb, perhaps a bit bigger. There was a layer of ash. In terms of appearance, it resembled a tree root that has been burnt before. As for texture, it was soft like a severed part of a tentacle.

No one would take a second look at this thing if it was randomly left on the ground. It didn't look valuable nor harmful, only a burnt tree root. However, Li Qiye knew how special it was.

“Cut down...” Li Qiye understood which power did this.

Trying to sense it was useless. It had no aura. Derivation didn't work either to analyze its materials. This was something unprecedented in this world.

Nonetheless, he knew that it was dangerous because there seemed to be a bit of life in it. Perhaps this wasn't the right classification either. This wasn't the same “life” found in this world.

He knew that it was growing at a slow pace, virtually indiscernible. An expert could keep an eye out the entire time without noticing the minute change.

He waited until it grew another inch. “Boom!” Everything quaked during this moment.

That's right, all of Eight Desolaces quaked once including the isolated and hidden realms.

The world felt so feeble. All inhabitants noticed this quake.

“What's going on?!” Even the ancient existences woke up in fear.

Something seemingly pierced Eight Desolaces and left a huge wound. However, all eight regions felt perfectly fine. No damage actually occurred.

Only the top masters sensed this horrifying power and no longer thought that they were invincible in this era. This made them turn pale.

“Hmph.” Li Qiye scowled and made his move with the egg - a direct suppression.

“Boom!” The thing couldn't react in time before getting smashed by the egg.

Instead of crushing it, the egg immediately sucked it inside just like the dao runes earlier.

[Chapter 3474: Target Of Greed](#)

Within the stone egg was an apex grand dao connected to the celestials and three thousand worlds. Time and space embraced them; all powers within worked to suppress the thing.

Li Qiye specially crafted this prison with the help of worldly dao runes and the emperor's suppression. This completely stopped the thing from moving.

He no longer sensed anything from it; it seemed inanimate like a piece of metal. One would be hard-pressed to imagine that it was capable of piercing through Eight Desolaces earlier. They would assume that it was a strange illusion.

He started contemplating. It became clear how Drystone Courtyard disappeared now and what power dragged it away.

The question was - what existence or what form possessed this power?

He has never seen it before; it didn't exist in the records. In history, as long as something existed, there would be clues scattered about, especially in the legends or folktales. This wasn't the case here.

He thought that it was certainly new. However, this was impossible. Reaching a power of this magnitude required time and accumulation - an arduous process. It couldn't have appeared out of nowhere like this.

"How interesting." Li Qiye became awfully curious, not because of the looming threat. He simply wanted to find out more.

"Seems like I've spent all of my time on the villainous heaven and missed out on other details." He stroked his chin, realizing his carelessness.

His main focus and vision were on the ultimate expedition. This made him neglect other matters. Perhaps this existence has been there all along, just slumbering in an unknown corner.

It simply didn't want others to know; this didn't mean that it didn't exist.

"This will be very amusing." Li Qiye looked up at the sky again: "The party in the future won't be boring at all. More guests will be coming." Li Qiye's eyes became profound.

"Well, I welcome it, the more the merrier." He grinned and stared at the thing in the stone. His next objective was to analyze it without missing any information.

This required breaking it down completely. He was no stranger to this and had plenty of experience. Nothing could ever hide from his dissection and examination.

"This will be fun." He had a smile that would scare those in the know as he was leaving.

He had smiled like this back during the Ancient Ming Era. What came next was a butcher with blood-stained hands.

"Crack! Crack!" The area behind him started cracking before collapsing altogether. Only a hole was left.

He then left Fire Domain. There wasn't anyone here - a stark contrast to the lively scene not long ago. Even Shi Wawa and Pearlstone Saintess were gone.

He chuckled and continued forward after taking a look around.

Everyone had moved to the stone forest. In theory, now that the treasure hunt was over, everyone should be leaving. On the contrary, they decided to wait outside.

The powers there far exceeded imagination, even more so than before. Numerous ancestors were here now.

A while ago, the ancestors that came were relatively young or just elders. The more powerful ones chose to hide in the shadows because this land still belonged to Ancestral City.

Now, they lost their patience and showed up in public. The reason was very simple - Li Qiye had obtained both the imperial treasury and the legacy of the phoenix.

No one would miss this opportunity to grab both in the case of success. Just one was enough to drive people insane from greed, taking a sect to the next level in no time at all. They might be able to exert total domination afterward.

That's why it was worth the risk even if it meant offending Ancestral City.

Numerous groups waited outside including large armies from Yin Yang, Skylight, and Firmaments. More ancestors have shown up.

They lost 100,000 men or so in Fire Domain but this didn't matter. They were still able to muster mighty armies in just a short time. People couldn't help but be amazed. This was why they were the top dogs right now.

All eyes were on the entrance, quietly waiting for the target to appear.

Of course, not all wanted to rob Li Qiye. Some knew their place and that they wouldn't be able to compete with the rest. Thus, they were only here to watch.

"I can smell the stench of blood already." One expert murmured.

It was obvious that taking Li Qiye down wasn't the end to this. The successful party would become the next target.

Thus, this place would turn into hell soon enough. Numerous cultivators would fall as a result.

That's why some have already prepared an escape plan. The moment they grabbed the treasury or the legacy, they would instantly retreat with haste.

A few ancestors chose to hide their background just in case they were successful. Otherwise, others would come for their sects soon enough.

Others wanted to hide for a long time afterward in order to fully understand the spoils before showing up again.

The area seemed quiet from people scheming and being on guard with each other. Many actually wielded weapons already, ready to deliver a fatal blow.

"He's out!" A furor started with Li Qiye's appearance by the entrance.

All eyes were on him, hot enough to shoot out rays and illuminate the place. They all wanted to know what he got from the imperial treasury.

Time came to a halt; the greedy spectators clenched their weapons tighter.

Of course, no one dared to be the first to make a move lest they wanted to be public enemy number one. This resulted in a deadlock.

[Chapter 3475: Attacked By All](#)

The stillness became unbearably eerie. They stared at Li Qiye as if wanting to eat him alive.

"How lively." He didn't mind at all and smiled at the mass.

Many shuddered after seeing this smile. Li Qiye was only a Silver Carapace yet he had such a calm bearing before the powerful crowd. It was as if he was looking down on inferior beings.

Nothing happened yet. It was unwise being the first to make a move instead of waiting for a better opportunity. It would be best to watch the impatient groups massacre themselves first.

Unfortunately, everyone harbored this thought so stagnation continued.

“What did the emperor leave behind?” One spectator got bored and shouted at Li Qiye.

Everyone naturally listened attentively, waiting to hear an answer. Their eyes became redder and greedier like a pack of hungry wolves.

The emperor was considered one of the most brilliant Immortal Emperors, the last of their kind. Her treasury encompassed all the treasures of the nine worlds, perhaps the largest one in history. Their greed seemed justified after putting things into perspective.

“The treasury?” Li Qiye smiled after seeing their expression.

Each word of his right now stirred the crowd. So even though he purposely spoke slowly to tease them, they still remained patient.

“There’s nothing in there, only scrap metals.” He concluded.

No one believed him despite this actually being the case. They exchanged glances of doubts.

They saw him entering the dao portal and he certainly got the treasury. Plus, the emperor should have left something behind.

“Hmph, who are you trying to trick?” One older expert snorted: “The emperor possessed the greatest treasury in the world. No one will believe your nonsense.”

Others nodded in agreement because his answer was too illogical.

“Up to you, I don’t care either way.” Li Qiye waved his hand dismissively.

“That treasury has items belonging to everyone in the nine worlds. It should be given back to the descendants. Everyone should have a share.” Another old cultivator said.

Robbing Li Qiye would be improper since some of them were from righteous sects. How could they attack a junior without the right justification? It would ruin their sect’s reputation.

That’s why they needed the right excuse regardless of how forced it was.

“True, true.” The crowd applauded and agreed. Another expert from a big sect said: “The treasures of the world belong to the wise and capable, not you alone.”

“Yes, it’s for all to share. Take it out now.” One ancestor fanned the fire.

“Don’t make the mistake of monopolizing it out of greed.”

The crowd loudly shouted, forcing him to hand the treasury over before taking action.

“You all look like crowns right now, a bunch of ruffians trying to act all dignified. How shameful for the righteous sects to stoop down to this level.” Li Qiye was amused.

A few of the shouters earlier turned red but most didn’t care.

“Hand it over or everyone will attack!” An impatient crowd member shouted.

“That’s right, don’t think about leaving with it.” Another guy pointed his weapon at Li Qiye, ready to attack.

“I see. Fine, I’ll deliver all of you to the next life.” Li Qiye had a smirk on.

Normally, a Silver Carapace was no threat at all but Li Qiye managed to deter some of them. They shuddered after recalling how he massacred multiple armies not long ago. The brutal carnage still haunted them so his words carried plenty of weight.

No one wanted to be the first to try since death might be the result.

“Foolish and cowardly.” Li Qiye shook his head.

This disdain still wasn’t enough to force anyone to attack him. They all wanted to wait for someone else to go first.

“Boom!” An old man interrupted the stalemate and landed in front of Skylight’s army.

“Prepare the formation!” He shouted.

“Rumble!” The high-morale soldiers moved to the right position, raising their weapons and shield.

They were just watching earlier until this man came. Now, they were ready for battle.

“The national teacher of Skylight.” The vanguards of the crowd retreated after seeing him.

“He’s actually here.” Most felt dread after seeing the old man.

He was a fierce character in charge of Skylight, having conquered the nearby territories. His hands were stained with blood.

“Clank!” Next, a divine sword landed and pinned on the ground, causing a loud blast.

It looked just like a peak due to its size. People who looked up saw another old man; his robe fluttered to the wind. He seemed to be an unsheathed sword due to a sharp, rampaging aura.

“Firmaments Sect Master.” A few recognized him.

The dead godchild was his direct disciple. He embarked on the path of the sword, having killed many opponents and gaining notoriety during his youth.

[Chapter 3476: Killing Each Other](#)

The colossal sword seemed capable of splitting the world into two. This momentum was enough to frighten the spectators.

“Clank! Clank! Clank!” The spectating disciples from Firmaments unsheathed their sword and let their aura roam free. The area became engulfed by terrible sword energies.

Both Skylight and Firmaments have brought their top leaders to deal with Li Qiye.

“Is it happening? What should we do?” Those harboring nefarious intents wondered about the correct course of action.

These two sects have made it clear that they wouldn’t let this go. The others naturally wouldn’t either.

“Keep watching, maybe?” An ancestor pondered.

Most still didn’t know how much force the two sects have brought, especially the number of ancestors. Thus, hesitation arose since they didn’t wish to provoke nor oppose these behemoths.

Alas, the temptation of the treasury was just too much. Some considered the risk to be acceptable.

“Li Qiye, you have shown your cruelty by murdering 100,000 good men, nothing less of death should be the punishment. Blood for blood is the norm but we’re nothing less than reasonable. Surrender and a fair trial shall be granted.” The national teacher spoke as if he was on the side of righteousness.

Only new, naive cultivators would take him seriously, thinking that he was being merciful despite having an army killed by Li Qiye. This was the style of a big country?

“It’s a cat crying over a dead mouse.” The older cultivators were too experienced for this. One snorted and said: “They just want to capture and bring him back to keep the treasury and legacy. He made it sound so flowery.”

The naive ones immediately reacted and understood the situation. “Older ginger is hotter indeed.” This comment was aimed towards the older cultivators and the national teacher.

This high-ranking official didn’t bring up the treasury at all, only that Li Qiye was a heinous villain while still wanting to give him a fair trial.

This was killing two birds with one stone - earning admiration and the treasures.

“All feel nothing but rage and indignation for what you have done, murderer. Nonetheless, righteous sects like ours won’t execute you right away. We’ll give you a chance to defend yourself and state your case. Surrender and you might survive.” Firmaments Sect Master said seriously.

He had the same tone as the national teacher. The two were clearly working together for three things - the imperial treasury, the legacy of the phoenix, and even the phoenix bloodline.

Their justification trumped the ones earlier who talked about their right to the treasury. It was harder to refute since they took the moral high ground.

“I see.” Li Qiye chuckled and casually responded: “I’m a heinous villain so I don’t need to defend myself or a trial, definitely not repenting either. Don’t spew bullshit about justice, just say that you want the treasury and the phoenix’s legacy, it’s right here. Come, they’ll be yours if you’re capable enough.”

His words were even more moving than his opponents’.

“So there are treasures!” Some members of the crowd shouted excitedly.

“That’s right, phoenix true feathers, phoenix grand dao, phoenix eggs, which ones do you want?” Li Qiye leisurely said.

“See, I knew it! That area was really the nest of a phoenix containing its legacies.” A furor broke out among the crowd.

Eyes turned red once more. Any of the aforementioned treasures was priceless.

The national teacher and Firmaments Sect Master’s eyes flashed with a terrible glint as well.

Though they were powerful and held important positions, they had never seen these phoenix treasures, let alone possessing some. That’s why they were about to go crazy.

“Rumble!” They raised their hands and the two armies immediately rushed towards Li Qiye and surrounded him.

“A trial requires the presence of everyone else, Skylight and Firmaments alone can’t give a fair trial!” Someone immediately protested.

“He’s right, your two sects alone can’t be in charge of this. Other powers should have a say.” One ancestor stepped up.

Some of them got in the way of the two armies, whether on purpose or not. They weren’t on Li Qiye’s side, it’s just that once he was captured, trying to seize the treasures then would be next to impossible.

Li Qiye watched with a smile on his face, ready to see a fight between these sects.

“Move aside or face the consequences.” Firmaments Sect Master’s eyes turned cold.

“Logic and reason trump all.” One disciple from a big sect shouted: “Since you have been talking about a fair trial, you should follow your words. Let everyone have a say on Li Qiye.”

“I agree, that’s the only way for the trial to be just.” Others chimed in, wanting to stop the two behemoths.

In their opinion, Li Qiye was completely helpless against these two armies and the rest of them. He had no chance of escaping the blockade.

“Kill them!” The national master of Skylight was fierce and decided to attack without wasting words.

“Kill!” Both Skylight and Firmaments began attacking the crowd.

“Ahhh!” Laments of battle echoed across the field. The two armies were elite and quickly caught the crowd off guard. Numerous cultivators were massacred.

“Enough!” A few ancestors became enraged and channeled their energy. Explosions detonated as the earth trembled.

These ancestors were capable enough to resist the two armies. Thus, the fights became contested and bloodied even though they still didn’t have the treasury yet.

“Greedy trash.” Li Qiye shook his head and smiled.

No one paid attention to him right now due to the raging battle.

[Chapter 3477: Ancestral City’s Army](#)

Heaven fell and the earth suffered from this battle; the celestials lost their shine. A storm of blood and corpses rained down the area. Heads rolled on the ground like pumpkins.

The ancestors from the other side didn't relent against the experts of the two behemoths. They were willing to fight to the death.

This wasn't only because of Li Qiye and the treasures. It also pertained to dominion over the north.

Currently, Yin Yang, Skylight, and Firmaments were undoubtedly the strongest sects. Many others had conflicts or even small-scaled wars with them previously. This usually ended with the three being the victor.

Today, the other powers have gathered together - quite a rare occurrence. Thus, this became a catalyst to an all-out battle due to past animosity.

They were preoccupied and forgot about Li Qiye. Thus, this left room for the cultivators who only wanted to spectate at the start. They had an opening to seize the treasury from Li Qiye.

"Rumble!" Loud blasts suddenly came from the horizon. A flood of steel suddenly emerged from the distance, enough to shock everyone including the busy combatants.

They looked up and saw billowing dust emanating from a great army with unstoppable momentum. There might be a million troops or so.

It consisted of golem giants; some had a bright pulse around their body. Another was a mixed-blood with a head seemingly made out of jade...

The mighty army affected the land itself, not just the battlefield. Their vitality surged like a primordial flood, capable of engulfing the world.

This naturally frightened the hell out of everyone. Their legs shuddered from just feeling the army's momentum and aura.

The combatants on the battlefield stopped their deathmatch and backed off right away.

"Golems from Ancestral City." Some turned pale at this sight. Everyone finally got a good look at the power of Ancestral City and the golems.

"So powerful." Others took a deep breath.

They finally realized that this was the stone forest belonging to Ancestral City. Gathering and fighting here meant not giving the golems any face.

"They're stronger than expected." Even the elite cultivators became nervous.

This army could completely crush everyone right now. The armies of the three behemoths couldn't come close to stopping it.

Skylight and Firmaments' members became afraid, realizing that a direct confrontation was foolish.

Ancestral City had two dao lords before and kept a low-profile compared to the prominent Yin Yang Gate.

This often misled people on its power, thinking that it was inferior to Yin Yang Gate or even Skylight. This certainly didn't look like it was the case right now.

"Neigh-" A war-horse neighed with an impressive presence. A cavalry led the way for this army.

"Pearlstone Saintess!" People recognized the leader.

She looked both kingdom-toppling and heroic, not inferior to any general. The duality of femininity and masculinity made her irresistibly enchanting.

Everyone held their breath as she led the army of the golems to battle.

"Ancestral City is not a place to settle your personal feuds nor is it a ground for killing." She glared at the outsiders and coldly uttered: "All armies, immediately leave the city's limits!"

She was as direct as can be, leaving no room for questioning.

Everyone exchanged glances first before staring at Li Qiye. The duck was already cooked so they didn't want to miss the feast. Alas, it was abundantly clear that this army from Ancestral was unstoppable.

"This brutal butcher slaughtered 100,000 men from our three sects." The national teacher of Skylight pointed at Li Qiye and said: "Let us bring him and we'll leave right away, we'll apologize in the future."

"The young master is our esteemed guest. Don't even think about it while being in our territory." The saintess refused right away.

Her firm response and strong attitude naturally surprised the crowd.

"Saintess, our sects are in-laws. We should stand together when dealing with enemies and ridding the world of evil." An ancestor finally showed up from Yin Yang's camp.

He carried more weight than most due to his position at Yin Yang Gate.

"Elder Jun." The saintess replied: "Since you have brought this up, I'll formally announce that the marriage pact between Yin Yang and Ancestral is now annulled."

"What?!" Everyone clamored after hearing this, thinking that they have misheard.

"How sudden, this doesn't make any sense." Confusion struck the mass. Even the ancestor from Yin Yang became stunned.

A formal marriage pact between two sects was a big deal, especially this particular one. Making the wrong moves here might result in deep animosity and long-lasting wars.

This was unwise because a war between two behemoths was calamitous.

"What's going on? A disagreement shouldn't be enough to tear the pact." A knowledgeable ancestor in the audience wondered.

He knew that in the past, Ancestral City had two separate factions on this matter. The objectors said that their sect didn't need to resort to a marriage alliance to consolidate their status.

As for the supporters, they wanted a powerful bloodline. Two bloodlines together could give birth to something even more incredible.

Initially, this alliance was a failure. Alas, Pearlstone Saintess' ancestors from her own clan pushed for it hard enough. That's why her decision today shocked everyone.

"Saintess, is this your decision or Ancestral's? It's not a matter you can decide on your own." The Yin Yang ancestor asked.

If she was being impulsive right now, Yin Yang Gate could still forget this.

"Both." She said decisively. Her unfriendly tone meant that Ancestral City wanted to separate themselves from Yin Yang Gate. This wasn't just a simple annulment.

"I need to see Elder Shi." The ancestor demanded.

"No need." An ancient voice answered him: "This is the end to the marriage agreement. Young Lord Bai can come and we'll give him an appropriate answer."

"Ancestor Lu." Others cried out. He was another influential ancestor from Ancestral.

[Chapter 3478: Pact Annulled](#)

Ancestor Lu might not be the most powerful in Ancestral City but he was quite influential. Thus, his direct denial of the marriage pact took the crowd like a storm.

Earlier, the saintess' comment could be considered the hotheaded temperament of a woman. It would only lead to minor disharmony between the two sects. After all, a junior had no say in something so important.

Now, it became more than just empty talk when it came from Ancestor Lu. This meant a complete disregard for face. Any friendly relationship between the two sects was finished from this point onward.

This happened too quickly for the crowd to react. It was especially hard for Yin Yang Gate because Ancestral City showed no signs of it previously.

"What is Ancestral doing? Maybe the non-supporters have taken charge?" Many ancestors quietly discussed this matter. They have heard about the two sides previously.

Perhaps Ancestor Lu's faction has taken charge and made this decision.

"Elder Lu, this is a matter of utmost importance. Please think about it first." The ancestor from Yin Yang said.

This ancestor was confused because he had met Ancestor Shi just several days ago. Elder Shi was a supporter of this marriage alliance and he was still in charge.

Moreover, he hasn't heard of any political changes in Ancestral Recently. Elder Shi and his faction shouldn't have lost authority.

Therefore, why the sudden change of mind? He couldn't come up with a reason.

“This is a unanimous decision of Ancestral City after considerable deliberation.” Elder Lu answered with a solemn expression: “We are no longer friends, let alone allies.”

This stirred the crowd more than the previous statement. Breaking the marriage pact was one thing because not all ancestors there supported this. The other faction had plenty of support.

But now, the latter sentence was much harsher and carried more gravity.

Previously, the two sects were still friends for many eras despite not having a marriage alliance. What was Ancestral City up to now?

“A declaration of war in the future?” One neutral ancestor took a deep breath.

“Not necessarily.” His wise friend whispered: “I just think they want to sever all ties with Yin Yang.”

Many felt this way when the saintess revealed her stance. Elder Lu’s confirmation made them confident in this speculation.

“But why? What would make Ancestral City turn from Yin Yang Gate? Such an extreme decision?” One listener wondered.

Ancestral City kept to itself but still maintained a cordial relationship with the major powers in the north. This change of attitude could include Skylight and Firmaments as well.

“Elder Lu, I want to see Elder Shi.” The ancestor from Yin Yang demanded. The marriage alliance was one thing but this was one step short from embarking on a path of no return.

“You may see him whenever. He’s right in the city.” Ancestor Lu spoke with a calm demeanor - a sign of absolute confidence in their choice.

“Okay, leave if you have no business here.” Pearlstone Saintess then told the rest.

A hush fell over the scene. Many glanced over at Li Qiye - the target of their mobilization. They naturally didn’t want to leave without the imperial treasury.

“What about Li Qiye?” A hidden crowd member asked.

“The young master is our city’s esteemed guest.” Pearlstone responded.

“Esteemed guest? This is clearly the case of a wine-lover’s heart not being in the cup. You only want to monopolize his imperial treasury.” Another hidden speaker said. [1]

The crowd traveled far just for Li Qiye. Now, they were annoyed that Ancestral City would take him away.

“Just be straight about wanting the treasury, don’t act so righteous.” Someone else added.

They might not dare to fight Ancestral City’s army but also didn’t want to give up so easily.

“No one can accept this.” Another purposely instigated.

The ancestor from Yin Yang cleared his throat and declared: “Li Qiye is a heinous murderer. Our three sects wish to try him along with the rest of the world.”

“That’s right, Ancestral City can’t keep him.” Skylight National Teacher added.

“I agree.” Firmaments Sect Master said.

All three behemoths were on the same side now, clearly having reached an agreement.

Yin Yang Gate, in particular, was more pressed to not let Ancestral City have the imperial treasury after this conflict.

Ancestral was already strong enough. If they were to get the treasury, it wouldn’t be long until they became unstoppable in the north.

Thus, the situation became quite interesting. The other side had just fought a bloody battle over the treasury. Now, they decided to team up to capture Li Qiye again.

The other sects realized that the behemoths were using them but they didn’t mind at this point. It would be all over if Li Qiye were to leave with Ancestral. Both the imperial treasury and the phoenix’s legacies would be gone.

“We support Yin Yang Gate. Li Qiye’s trial should be open to the public. Ancestral City can’t just take him away.” An ancestor from a big power said.

“Right, this has to be the way to go, a public trial.” Others chimed in.

They had no chance to fight against Ancestral City alone. However, all of them combined could do so since Ancestral City might not risk offending everyone else.

“What if I want to go with Ancestral City?” Li Qiye smiled.

“No.” An ancestor immediately shouted: “This is no longer up to you.”

“We demand justice for the death of our disciple!” The Yin Yang ancestor shouted.

[Chapter 3479: Threats](#)

The Yin Yang ancestor only wanted to find a reason to stop Ancestral City from taking Li Qiye.

That development would be as bad as it could get for them. Ancestral would become superior afterward. No other sect in the north could take Ancestral, not even them.

“He must stay behind to pay for his crimes.” The national teacher from Skylight shouted.

“Ancestral can’t just take a murderer away.” Everyone used this reason to stand alongside Yin Yang. They thought that they had the perfect excuse - trialing a murderer instead of focusing on the treasury.

“Ancestral shouldn’t cover up for him. That’s going against justice and the rest of the world.” Another ancestor used this opportunity to accuse Ancestral.

“Yes, protecting him is akin to opposing everyone else, that’s not acceptable in the north.” The crowd became agitated and assumed the role of justice.

Loud complaints echoed across the field in order to stop Ancestral from bringing Li Qiye away.

“So what? Today, those who oppose the young master will become our enemies.” Shi Qingjian looked straight at the crowd and declared.

She spoke with confidence and determination. Everyone felt as if her words were knives pricking their heart. They took a deep breath to calm down.

She raised her hand and the army of Ancestral immediately prepared battle formations. Their battle intent could sweep through Eight Desolaces, rendering others breathless.

“No mercy for those who stand in our way.” She became domineering, ready to kill.

The scene became quiet right away. The shouters earlier closed their mouth and exchanged glances.

Though they were vocal with their complaints earlier, no one wanted to make a move after seeing the army of Ancestral. It would be foolish to be the vanguards and cannon fodders right now. Who would be dumb enough to rush forward first and die?

They needed to wait for the three behemoths on their side to make a move first.

“Miss Shi, are you adamant in opposing us?” The Yin Yang ancestor’s expression darkened.

“Don’t make me repeat myself.” Shi Qingjian replied.

It became abundantly clear that Ancestral City was firmly on Li Qiye’s side. It didn’t matter who they would antagonize in the process.

“This is the will of Ancestral City or yours?” Firmaments Sect Master asked.

“Qingjian is in charge of Ancestral now. Her decision is the sect’s decision.” Ancestor Lu revealed.

The crowd became astounded, especially the members of Yin Yang Gate. This was way too early for her to be in charge.

Sure, she was a brilliant genius not inferior to Skylight Princess. However, Ancestral City had plenty of powerful ancestors.

In terms of seniority and cultivation, it simply wasn’t her turn. Moreover, the city didn’t have any intention of doing so any time soon. Why did this happen overnight?

This made it tougher for Yin Yang Gate as well. If other ancestors were in charge, perhaps the two sects could still reconcile. With her in charge, not even an opportunity would arise.

By this point, everyone understood that the marriage annulment was her decision because she was in charge now.

“Miss Shi, why do you want to be our enemies? Ancestral has a great army but so do we, and they’re here now.” The ancestor from Yin Yang said.

“If Ancestral won’t back down, Skylight will stand with Yin Yang. Our army will come as well.” Skylight National Teacher added.

Firmaments Sect Master hesitated for a bit before speaking: "Everyone needs to work together for the sake of justice. Firmaments does not wish to fight but in order to destroy the villain named Li Qiye and avenge our fallen disciples, we will mobilize our army."

These two powers have chosen Yin Yang's side. However, Firmaments Sect Master spoke with some leeway and more finesse.

After all, Firmaments came from Ancestral City and it mainly consisted of golems. Thus, it was ridiculous for it to attack Ancestral City. The rest of their race would spurn them for doing so.

Therefore, he focused on Li Qiye and the vengeance aspect. It became more understandable and reasonable. They didn't wish to fight and disrespect Ancestral but had no other choice.

No one could criticize a sect for wanting to avenge their disciples.

Of course, this sect master had an even more sinister plan outside of the treasures and legacies. In the case of an actual war, the fall of Ancestral City meant that the golems would lose their leader.

At that point, they could take that spot instead and replace Ancestral City. They would have supremacy over the golems for generations to come. This was worth any risk and effort.

"I agree to help Yin Yang Gate for the sake of justice." Another ancestor took the opportunity to join: "My sect's army will come whenever."

"Everyone is responsible for slaying evil. Count our clan in." The first elder of a clan said.

"That's right, we won't just sit idly by." The rest of the crowd seemed eager to help.

They were ready to surround and attack Ancestral City at this point. This was a considerable threat because this alliance was mighty. Ancestral City might actually fall against the rest of the north.

"Ancestral, rethink this, are you ready to fight against the coalition of justice?" The Yin Yang ancestor threatened.

Everyone stared at Qingjian because her next move could decide the fate of Ancestral City.

"Miss Shi, hand over Li Qiye, and no trouble will come to your sect." Firmaments Sect Master persuaded.

"My answer is, come, bring as many men as you like." She didn't relent in the slightest.

[Chapter 3480: Awakened Forefather](#)

Facing the rest of the world was a serious matter even for the strongest ancestors. However, a junior like Shi Qingjian still made this decision in a domineering and fearless manner.

"Then wait for the destruction of your sect. The myriad heroes of the world will come and siege Ancestral City. Nothing will be left here but ashes..." One crowd member bellowed.

However, he couldn't finish due to a massive detonation. The ground trembled violently in the north.

A majestic power rushed up from underground with a boundless life force towards all eight directions. Everyone could sense a colossal being awakening. The turning of this lord's body could crush the realms.

A mountain not far from the city suddenly shifted. The trees and terrains nearby were destroyed in the process. Debris and dust covered the sky while boulders rolled chaotically.

After everything settled, they saw a golem with half of his body still buried underground.

“Rumble!” More earthquakes happened as he slowly climbed up. Once he got on his feet, he stood among the clouds.

“Boom!” His terrible power shocked the firmaments and the cosmo before smashing back down onto the north. All the clouds in the region were swept away.

Other slumbering existences woke up as a result - in the depths of Yin Yang Gate, in the ancestral hall of Skylight, and the mountain of Firmaments...

These big shots in the north had a serious expression, even the invincible Heavenly Sovereigns. Those actually aware of his identity exercised extreme prudence.

Back in Ancestral City in an old restaurant, an old man sitting by the counter also opened his eyes once before dozing off again.

“Hmph.” The golem’s scowl sent the world into a state of chaos. He opened his eyes and gazed at the crowd outside of the stone forest. They looked like two blinding suns sending rays down on the mass.

The majority couldn’t withstand the pressure from the great being. The weaker cultivators dropped to their knees or butt since they were scared out of their minds. The gaze, in particular, affected even the toughest ones.

“I’ve, I’ve never said anything about destroying Ancestral!” A few lost their courage and expressed their innocence.

Their fear was warranted since they felt like ants before this gigantic golem.

“A pseudo-atavistic forefather...” An ancestor murmured in fear. The ones near him became shaken after hearing this.

These forefathers were immensely mighty. The realm of Heavenly Sovereign was only the starting point for them.

Even a fool could tell how powerful he was judging by his aura and divinity.

The reason for his awakening was obvious - people were threatening Ancestral City.

“The Su Clan has no intention of disrespecting Ancestral City!” Very few people could stand straight right now, let alone looking straight at the forefather.

“Myriad Mountain Sect will leave right now.” Other sects started changing their stance.

“We’ll leave right now.”

“Us too...”

Just this forefather alone could annihilate the coalition army, no need for Ancestral City to actually do anything. Number no longer mattered here.

Sects started retreating without uttering any more nonsense. They fled and disappeared into the horizon.

The forefather only glared at them for a bit before closing his eyes, returning into hibernation.

The top-ranking members of Skylight, Firmaments, and Yin Yang weren't fully intimidated. They only had a pale expression and relative dread.

They knew that the coalition army was only a useless mob against a golem forefather. It was impossible for them to take Li Qiye away now.

Just one palm strike from him could flatten their side. If they wanted to fight Ancestral, they needed their ancient ancestors to come as well. Any less would be suicidal.

Some of them thought about the takeover from Pearlstone Saintess. Perhaps she had garnered the support of a forefather. That's the only possibility.

"Do we need a send-off party?" Shi Qingjian glared at the ancestor from Yin Yang Gate.

The coalition had no choice because they weren't qualified to handle the situation any longer. Reinforcement was necessary, especially their ancient ancestors.

"Let's go." They left the city limits in dejection, no longer possessing the same morale as before.

The ones who shouted the loudest earlier about capturing Li Qiye for the sake of justice were the first to flee. The great coalition army scattered like birds and beasts in the blink of an eye.

This was a wake-up call to the city's true power.

Some neutral spectators looked up at the forefather. He no longer had the same oppressive aura during his slumber state. However, they still felt a great sense of reverence, especially the golems.

The latter had an innate respect for these great beings. Thus, they started bowing and worshipping the forefather.

On the other hand, Li Qiye only gave him a glance.

"Young Master, I thought you were dead for sure, it's good that the saintess brought reinforcement." Shi Wawa ran over and excitedly told him.

Shi Qingjian jumped down from her war-horse and walked to Li Qiye's front. She bowed her head and said: "Welcome back to the city, Young Master. We are ready for your orders."