

Emperor 3541

Chapter 3541: Vedas Vajra

Was the pot taken away by the invaders or by the plateau? No one had an answer to this.

Li Qiye focused his eyes, seemingly piercing through time back to this event.

“What’s the intent?” He murmured.

After his observation, he found that the plateau wasn’t fully destroyed. After all, it was massive and the broken area was only one part of it. For example, perhaps this core location was still perfectly fine.

Thus, in reality, perhaps the plateau was still around. After all, Di Shi, the Buddhist Lord, Nihility Temple, Nalanda Temple... None stuck around.

“Di Shi, this is an all-out attempt?” Li Qiye said.

He stood there quietly. The unique burial grounds of the Nine Worlds have lost two members - Drystone Courtyard and Buddhist Funeral Plateau.

However, the two cases were different. Drystone Courtyard was suddenly dragged away without any warning.

In this case, Di Shi made his move, resulting in a destructive event. This force had immense power since they also had the Myriad Thoughts Pot. There must have been a great battle here. It was hard to tell whether the plateau was still around or not.

His eyes eventually flashed during the observation. He came to a particular void zone. This was a scar on the sky that has lasted for millions of years.

It was special, unlike the other cracks. The others poured down Buddhist serum while this one had the presence of death energy.

This gray affinity didn’t belong to this world. It should be from a world of death. He touched it and smoke came out of his hand.

This was a power capable of corroding the flesh of top cultivation masters. They would be reduced to skeletons in no time at all.

He dragged some out and didn’t mind the corrosive nature.

“Hmm...” He found it to be very familiar and started peering through the crack for a long time.

“What a method.” Li Qiye sneered and said: “The fox has shown its tail, just wait. Instead of picking the right path, you choose to antagonize me. How suicidal.”

This sneer of his was awfully cold, capable of freezing the ages. The gods and devils would be trembling while prostrating.

His expression became normal again. No one could read his thoughts right now.

He moved on to check the other cracks, taking his time. One particular hole made him stop because of the surging light within.

However, the hole was too deep. Even a heavenly gaze couldn't see the bottom as if this was an entrance to hell.

He turned towards another location with a corpse. This corpse was bent with a large golden chain coiled around the shoulder. The man was trying to pull something up when he was alive.

The other end of the chain was inside the peculiar hole. Li Qiye activated his gaze and saw that it was tied to a large temple.

This person tried everything possible to pull the temple out of the hole. Unfortunately, his efforts were unrewarded.

He wore a gilded kasaya and was a Vajra. This was millions and millions of years ago yet his posture remained the same. It seemed that even death couldn't stop him from trying to pull the temple out.

Around him were flowers. They were still as fresh as ever as if they had been brought here yesterday. Thus, this meant that across the long years, many have come to pay their respect.

"Vedas." Li Qiye frowned again. [1]

This person could be considered an old acquaintance. He used to be a heinous villain before repenting and joining Buddhism.

Li Qiye had killed his entire race; Vedas was the sole survivor. He didn't expect to see the guy here today. He sighed after seeing Vedas' heroic and commendable attempt.

"Nothing will change the fact that you have committed heinous crimes. Your attempt to be good does not cancel out your evil." Li Qiye stared at the corpse and said: "However, you stayed true to your words and became a devout Buddhist with a heart wanting to be good."

"Buzz." Li Qiye gently waved his hand and light illuminated the corpse.

"Boom!" Buddhist radiance suddenly erupted from the corpse. It became gigantic and seemingly came back to life.

"Clank! Clank! Clank!" It grasped the chain tightly and started moving forward. Each step left behind a deep footprint as the temple was being slowly pulled up.

The chains on the shoulder could crush the corpse to pieces from the pressure. Nonetheless, it still didn't give up.

"Boom!" The temple was finally dragged out. The corpse then sat on the ground and became normal again.

"Amitabha." The corpse placed its palms together and chanted one last time before closing its eyes.

"Buzz." it turned into Buddhist particles and scattered to the wind. Its obsession was finally gone.

People would think that this was just an illusion if it wasn't for the temple next to the hole.

Earlier, the corpse still had obsessive intent left so Li Qiye decided to give it some power. The intent woke up and was strong enough to fulfill its desire and mission. Thus, it dispersed along with the Vajra's body.

From now on, the heinous villain and the devout Buddhist were no more.

"Ashes to ashes, dust to dust." Li Qiye said softly.

This was also the case for the area. It was no longer the holy land of Buddhism nor the dreadful burial ground. The future descendants would no longer know the stories of Buddhist Funeral Plateau.

Chapter 3542: Merchant

Few people managed to get out of the abandoned land, let alone crossing through the entire thing.

Thus, the sheer scale of this area eluded regular people. However, this just didn't apply to Li Qiye.

Of course, he didn't travel so far to find a treasure or to have an adventure. The goal was to find an answer to certain questions.

He had a good idea after seeing the broken world. Though it didn't solve all the mysteries, it was good enough. Thus, his next target became the southern region of West King.

If one could actually travel through the abandoned land, they would make it to the southern border.

Of course, only dao lords and a few supreme ancestors were capable of this.

The outer region of the abandoned land consisted of sand and heat. People's mouth became dry and they couldn't help licking their lips.

The sun was cruel in this desolate desert. The birds and fish all hid from the scorching temperature. One could occasionally see some vegetation like a leaf or two but they were already on the verge of withering.

One person eventually appeared, walking through the sand with a leisure expression. Though his robe has been dirtied and the wind made his hair orderly, he still sauntered forward.

The traveler was none other than Li Qiye who has made it to the other side of West King. The perilous journey didn't affect him at all.

Of course, he could have traveled through with one spatial leap but he chose against it. He did a full scout of the abandoned land instead.

He eventually climbed on top of an exceedingly high sand dune. He saw a broken wall with a tent on top. Inside was actually a vendor's stand.

A little merchant was arranging his merchandise and ready to yell for customers. This was indeed a confusing matter.

There was definitely no one close within a ten thousand miles radius. One would be hard-pressed to see another living soul once every thousand years here. In the case of a traveler, they would be flying in the air across this desert.

Not to mention his own survival, how could he get any customer here?

“Customer, you’re so early. Please, come in and rest for a bit.” The merchant saw Li Qiye and waved at him with a smile.

Abnormality usually was a sign of trouble. Anyone would be cautious towards this merchant under these circumstances. Li Qiye was an exception.

He casually walked into the tent and sat down on a stool. The cruel sun was finally blocked so this was a refreshing feeling.

The merchant scooped a ladle full of cool water from a jar nearby and handed it to Li Qiye. He said: “This weather is unbearable, please, have a drink to quench your thirst.”

No one would dare to drink this water out of suspicion but Li Qiye grabbed the ladle and drank the entire thing in no time at all.

“Nice and cold.” Li Qiye laughed and returned the ladle.

“Another then.” The merchant got another scoop for Li Qiye.

The latter still fearlessly drank the whole thing before belching with satisfaction. He then lazily stretched after chasing the heat away.

“Do you want one more, Customer?” The merchant remained enthusiastic.

Keep in mind that water could be considered priceless in a desert. However, this merchant didn’t seem to mind at all.

“I’m full.” Li Qiye smiled and finally took a look at the merchant.

The merchant was tall and sturdy. It wouldn’t be an exaggeration to say that he looked a bit unsavory with a fierce-looking face and an exposed chest despite wearing a black robe; his beard was unkempt and resembled a hedgehog’s quills.

Thus, he looked more like a meat butcher instead of a merchant, looking greasy and hotheaded.

“Where are you from, Customer?” He revealed a smile towards Li Qiye, one resembling the smile of a butcher before slaughtering his prey.

“From where I should.” Li Qiye didn’t mind at all.

“Where are you going, Customer?” He seemed to be friendly but this didn’t change the innate creepiness in his smile.

“Where I should be.” Li Qiye replied, not showing any prejudice towards the merchant’s brutish appearance.

“Sigh, it’s not easy to traverse this devilish place. It’s even more amazing when you’re walking.” It was as if the merchant hadn’t seen a living person in a long time.

He didn’t try to advertise his merchandise and took advantage of this rare opportunity to chat.

“It’s not too bad, the difficulty lies in one’s dao heart, not the sand and the heat.” Li Qiye responded.

“Well said.” The merchant clapped approvingly and laughed: “You sound like a scholar, the opposite of an uncouth person like me. I can’t be as eloquent.”

“Really now? So why is an uncouth person such as yourself here in this place where even the birds don’t want to shit? It’s not easy making a living here.”

“Not easy? I’m starving to death.” The merchant spat on the ground: “Not a single customer year-round so I can’t even afford a cooked meal.”

“Eat raw then.” Li Qiye said. [1]

“Amitabha, you’re funny, Customer. I am a proper person who never kills.” The merchant placed his palms together.

His appearance would indicate that he was anything but proper. Moreover, he wanted to sound like a wise monk yet due to his expression, it looked as if he was a demon disguising as a monk, on the verge of opening his bloody mouth.

Li Qiye only chuckled in response.

“Sigh, it’s hard being in the city nowadays, city folks are vicious and greedy. If I’m not careful, I’ll be a meal in someone’s stomach. I might be starving here but at least I’ll survive.” The merchant complained.

Chapter 3543: Strange Fella

The fierce merchant looking like a butcher had a pained expression as if he was a little girl that got bullied recently.

Li Qiye ignored him and looked outside: “The scenery is especially nice.”

This statement was certainly incongruous due to the harsh environment. The sun here could drive people crazy.

“Right, peaceful and good for the soul, nothing to worry about.” Strangely enough, the merchant agreed and nodded repeatedly.

Who knows if the two of them actually thought that this perilous place was beautiful? A third party would certainly think that they were crazy.

“The scenery inside is even better.” Li Qiye said, completely aloof of the situation.

“Right, Buddhist serum gushing everywhere just like a heavenly kingdom.” The merchant touched his sparse hair and said with a touch of yearning: “It’s a shame that I was born in the wrong era, unable to see the prosperous kingdom. Amitabha, how enviable.”

“True, you could have been a wise monk just by putting on a kasaya given your bald head. Then you can go up the altar and start chanting mantras to save all living beings.” Li Qiye said.

“Customer, I consider this an insult.” The merchant placed his palms together and said: “Even if I have the jieba on my forehead, I’ll still be a terrible monk that eats meat and drinks, not a wise one at all.”

“So what if you drink and eat meat?” Li Qiye stared at the horizon and said: “Even a heinous villain can become a Vajra.”

“Amitabha. Put down the blade and become a Buddha.” The monk chanted while lowering his head.

“Unfortunately, I don’t believe in that at all.” Li Qiye responded: “Those who deserve death should die, repentance and striving for good aren’t enough.”

“Customer, who do you think deserves death then?” The merchant actually put on a dignified expression - a clear contrast to his brutish one prior.

“Whoever I deem so.” Li Qiye replied.

“Isn’t that tyrannical?” The merchant pondered for a bit: “Perhaps only the high heaven can judge, it’s not our responsibility.”

“The high heaven is the high heaven, nothing to do with me. I will kill whoever I believe deserves to die, the high heaven included.” Li Qiye said.

The merchant became startled. Those who understood the underlying meaning of this phrase would feel the same way and considered this as sacrilegious.

The merchant didn’t refute the statement and carefully pondered.

“I can’t say I understand. I’m just a vulgar merchant.” He eventually shook his head and said helplessly.

“Vulgar or not, I know that you’re a cautious and prepared person, no?” Li Qiye smirked, seemingly implicating something.

“Ah...” The merchant said: “No way, there’s no point in being cautious at this tiny shop, nothing is worth a single coin here.”

Li Qiye didn’t bother responding but the merchant maintained a distance from him. He seemed to be thirsty and drank more water.

“Do you think there are ghosts to the south?” Li Qiye suddenly changed the topic.

The merchant paused for a bit before swallowing the water. He got his fill then wiped his mouth with his sleeve after a loud belch. “I’ve never seen ghosts before but the south is indeed a little strange. Some unknown creatures have crawled out.”

“So you have done some research?” Li Qiye stared straight at him.

“Nothing grand like that.” The merchant waved his hand and humbly said: “I’m just trying to stay alive, that’s more than enough for me.”

“But the sages of Buddha Holy Ground might not share the same thought.” Li Qiye suddenly brought this up.

The merchant’s expression became frozen. He eventually shook his head and sighed: “Future descendants can’t understand the goals of the sages. Speculations are merely in vain.”

Li Qiye chuckled and dropped the topic.

“Customer, you’re heading south?” The merchant asked.

“Indeed.” Li Qiye looked in that direction. It seemed as if he was already looking at it.

“It’s not that easy to get there. May I ask for what reason?” The merchant said.

“To end a few things.” Li Qiye casually responded.

The two remained vague as if there was no need for words. Their manners and expressions said it all.

“What about you?” Li Qiye glanced at the merchant.

“Just trying to make some money for food. It’s not that easy nowadays. Start early and come home late at night, afraid of meeting ill-intended people on the way. I’ll lose everything if I’m not careful.” The merchant said.

“There are many transactions.” Li Qiye smiled and said: “For the high heaven, the nine heavens and ten earths are nothing more than merchandise on the counter.”

“Someone as brutish like me can’t understand what you’re trying to say.” The merchant smiled wryly.

“Fine, since you have prepared a stand, take out a few items. I’ll see if I want them.” Li Qiye said.

“Oh, I almost forgot.” The merchant slapped his head and said: “Look, I’m so absent-minded now, it’s been a long time since I had a conversation with someone.”

He didn’t have that many things, only enough to fill a cloth bag. He placed them on the stand in a careless manner, virtually just tossing them up there.

“How about this bronze thurible?” He held up the thurible. It was exquisitely made with some viridity on the edges, looking a bit old.

“I found it from the Buddhist land. The moment I dug it up, golden spring and sacred lotus materialized. The smell of incense permeated along with Buddhist mantras. I’m confident that it is a priceless treasure. There are rumors about the abandoned land having things from the previous epoch, I’m sure this is one of them.” The merchant swore.

“This is indeed from that previous era but it’s not a treasure, just a regular thurible.” Li Qiye took one glance and said.

“Then look at this one, supreme Buddhist beads from the western paradise.” The merchant immediately picked something else.

The beads were carved from wood. Each had the image of a Buddha with different expressions. They had the smell of sandalwood, seemingly being stored in a shrine for many years.

“I found it from the capital city, the heirloom of a great clan. It originated from Heavenly Dragon Temple. It was blessed by high monks for millions of years, capable of eliminating evil...” The merchant bragged about the Buddhist beads.

“It’s fake, just an imitation.” Li Qiye said dismissively.

“Imitation... really?” The monk became startled: “Damn that bastard, actually tricking me with a fake?! You messed with the wrong person. I’ll flay you... I’ll flay you good...”

The merchant shouted, looking to be in pain and resembling a meat butcher ready to kill someone in a maddening rage.

However, he cursed for a bit before choosing another item. He put on a smile befitting that of a merchant again.

He held a stone and introduced it to Li Qiye: “Customer, please look at this stone. It should be a meteor with a big origin. Back in the old era during the great disaster, the sky suddenly turned dark...”

Chapter 3544: Shabby Bronze Ring

The merchant enthusiastically introduced the meteoric stone in his hand, saying that it was unique in the world.

Those not in the know would actually believe him; their heart would start beating faster.

Unfortunately, Li Qiye’s attention was on another item placed in the corner of the tent along with other old and broken items.

“What about that thing?” Li Qiye picked it up and asked the merchant.

It was a simple ring made of bronze with only one engraving - the character, “Buddha”. This type of writing was from an older era and wouldn’t be recognized by most.

It no longer had a metallic shine due to its age and a lack of polishing. It appeared worthless and it wouldn’t be an exaggeration to say that no one would pick it up after coming across it on the street.

The merchant became tense after seeing this. His eyes shifted a bit as he laughed: “Customer, that’s only a crappy ring not worth anything, that’s why I didn’t present it to you. You should take a look at something else.”

Li Qiye casually put it on his finger and it just happened to be a perfect fit. It seemed to be specifically made for Li Qiye, quite pleasant to look at. The ring became a part of him.

A glimmer flashed in the merchant’s eyes. He put on a forced smile and said: “Are you sure you don’t want to try something else? A broken ring like that doesn’t suit your image.”

“No, I’m more than happy with it since it suits me. No need to pick anything else.” Li Qiye smiled.

“Customer, you’re a man of high status.” The merchant’s expression became bitter: “Wearing this ring is beneath you, please, how about this prized bracelet? It can encompass and store anything in existence. The core is made from Crimson Divine Stone and was refined using a supreme spatial art...”

He took out a bracelet with a blinding light, immediately illuminating the tent. Even a fool could tell that this was a priceless treasure, countless levels above the broken ring.

The ring looked shabbier in comparison. The two weren’t on the same plane of value.

“Customer, what do you think? Since our meeting is fateful, I’ll sell the bracelet to you at a big discount, okay? It is suitable for your status, unlike that broken ring.” The merchant praised the bracelet.

“It’s not bad, definitely capable of taking in a realm.” Li Qiye glanced at it and said.

“Right, take the bracelet and forget about the ring.” The merchant laughed and tried to exchange the two.

“Nah.” Li Qiye immediately refused: “The ring is crappy but I believe it is connected with me by fate so I want it. I don’t care for other treasures.”

The merchant’s expression became worse and worse.

Anyone else would think that Li Qiye was crazy for picking the ring over the bracelet. Even a blind person knew which to pick so Li Qiye’s choice was inscrutable.

“How much for this ring?” Li Qiye smirked.

“Well...” The merchant rubbed his palms together, looking a bit awkward as if he didn’t know how to price it.

“You don’t want to sell it?” Li Qiye’s half-smile scared the merchant.

“Of course I do!” The merchant closed his eyes and gritted his teeth: “But keep in mind that this ring is my family’s heirloom. My mother passed it down to me and wanted me to give it to my future wife. It’s just that I still haven’t found one yet despite my old age. If I were to lose the ring, Mother would destroy me...”

He complained while wearing a sad expression as if he was telling the truth.

“Name the price.” Li Qiye pushed on.

“The ring itself is nothing but it has special significance.” The merchant didn’t know what the price should be.

“In my opinion, it’s not worth a single coin.” Li Qiye said: “But since you came all this way here to set up a stand, I’ll be nice enough to give you one.” He then tossed a coin towards the merchant.

The merchant instinctively caught the coin and then stared at it, bewildered. He became speechless, unable to express his emotions and thoughts.

“Fine, fine, even one coin is still money, at least I didn’t lose everything.” The merchant had no choice but to accept his fate. He carefully put away the coin as if it was an exorbitant sum.

Li Qiye smiled and ignored what had just transpired and the pain inflicted.

“Customer, do you want to look at anything else? My treasures are from places all over the world, they’re magical yet fairly priced.” The merchant introduced other treasures.

“Not good enough.” Li Qiye glanced at them and lacked interest.

“Sigh, it’s not easy doing small business recently. It’s too hot here too, just selling one or two items is enough to thank the heaven. It’s impossible to take care of a family like this...” The merchant couldn’t do anything else and gave up. He started complaining and let everything out.

“Just give up if you can’t do it, stop complaining.” Li Qiye stabbed him instead of consoling.

“I want to do that too, Customer.” The merchant said: “But that’s easier said than done. I have the old and young to take care of, they’re all crying for food so I can’t just quit...”

The merchant took advantage of having someone to speak with and complained his heart out regarding his family situation.

“Then let me take care of your wife and kids.” Li Qiye smilingly joked.

Anyone would become furious after hearing this disrespectful comment and might go even as far as taking out their weapon.

However, the merchant seemed fine. He heartily laughed and said: “That’s a good idea, really a good idea. Then Customer, you can take care of my whole family then. I hope you’ll be able to deal with the messes...”

These two strangers were saying some ridiculous things. The merchant actually handed his whole family over to Li Qiye who simply chuckled at the idea.

“It’s getting dark and it’ll be dangerous. Customer, you should move on. Have another drink first for the journey so you won’t be thirsty.” The merchant looked up at the sky before handing another ladle filled with water.

Li Qiye drank the whole thing and left without saying another word.

“Watch out for the jackals and wolves, especially the ones who wear yellow robes.” The merchant shouted as he was leaving. [1]

Li Qiye didn’t answer and walked across the desert. If he were to look back, he would find that there was nothing near the broken wall. The tent and the merchant were nowhere to be found.

Others would think that they have just met a ghost or that it was only a dream. However, Li Qiye still had that bronze ring on his finger. Moreover, he didn’t look back once, not caring at all about the meeting.

Chapter 3545: Another Strange Person

The abandoned land separated West King. In reality, the south was far larger than the north, far stronger as well.

For millions of years, the south gave birth to plenty of talents. Its power and resources exceeded its northern counterpart.

One must bring up Buddha Holy Ground first when talking about the south. It was the strongest lineage there with the vastest territory. Some research said that they owned one-third of the south, perhaps even more.

During its golden age, it most likely possessed two-third of the south. From this, one could easily gauge its might.

According to some count, it had four dao lords, three thousand kingdoms, and eight thousand sects.

There was a popular phrase in the south regarding the sect's size - just one wrong step and one can find themselves in Buddha Holy Ground.

Li Qiye strolled forward without ever looking back. The dry and hot climate had no effect on him. He eventually made it out of the abandoned land and found a scene of green.

Rolling hills and a billowing presence of life. People couldn't help but take a deep breath after being in the desert for so long. The air filled with moisture made them greedily breathe in several more times. It became a contrast between a verdant land and a hellish inferno.

The mountains and forests ahead belonged to Buddha Holy Ground. From now on, the land was under their jurisdiction stretching from north to south.

Li Qiye looked ahead and decided his path. He didn't care about the three thousand kingdoms and eight thousand sects of this behemoth. It was nothing more than a path to him.

After making it out of the lush forest, he found a straight road leading to a city.

A carriage was waiting, made from regular timber instead of any extravagant material. It looked sturdy and practical.

It was pulled by just one horse. It was relaxed, eating grass to the side of the street right now, seemingly waiting for something.

An old man sat on the front. His clothes weren't expensive but carefully chosen and meticulously threaded - clearly done by a master.

He closed his eyes to rest while still holding the reins. He also seemed to be waiting for someone.

The place was rather quiet outside of chewing noises from the horse. Occasionally, one could hear the roars of beasts and birds chirping from the distance. This painted a tranquil scene.

However, it was strange to see a carriage waiting in this remote region. There was no other road through the forest.

After Li Qiye got close, the old man immediately opened his eyes and stared at Li Qiye.

His appearance was actually quite impressive, clearly not one used to manual labor. Just his natural expression alone exuded a dignified authority. He seemed to have enjoyed a high status for a long period. This eventually accumulated in a special aura.

Nonetheless, for some reason, the outfit and position of a carriage driver also fitted him perfectly. It was as if he was born for this position.

He didn't pay much attention to Li Qiye but upon noticing the bronze ring, his brows furrowed.

“Customer, do you need a carriage?” He straightened his back and asked Li Qiye. His voice was slightly excited.

“Sure.” Li Qiye answered with a half-smile.

The old man immediately prepared by pulling back the horse. His actions were skilled, clearly experienced as if he had done so a million times. This was surprising due to his dignified appearance.

“Where are you going, Customer?” The old man put on the reins and asked Li Qiye.

“No rush, take your time.” Li Qiye posed with his hands behind his back, gazing towards the south in a calm manner.

The old man slowed down with preparing the horse. Time suddenly came to a still.

Li Qiye didn't move an inch while the old man worked without making a single sound, seemingly afraid of disturbing Li Qiye.

This strange moment lasted for a while before the old man patted the horse. He smiled and told Li Qiye: “Customer, the horses are ready, we may go whenever.”

Li Qiye turned around and climbed up the carriage, not feeling awkward in the lightest. He sat down without looking at the old man once.

Meanwhile, the old man also sat in the driver's position. He tidied his hat and held a horsewhip, looking just like a veteran.

“Where to, Customer?” The old man spoke.

“Go south, to the end of the path.” Li Qiye said.

This destination was vague, causing people to feel like a monk trying to find his hair.

The old man didn't ask twice and agreed: “So be it, southward. Please sit tight, Customer.”

“Boom!” He smacked the whip on the horse without wasting any movement. It neighed and started pulling the carriage.

The carriage traveled at a fair speed without any jolting or bumping. This was comfortable akin to riding on a cloud.

Li Qiye slept inside the carriage without worrying in the slightest. On the other hand, the old man couldn't help stealing glances at Li Qiye.

The guy was really sleeping without being on guard as if there was no point in doing so. This surprised the old man.

There were two possibilities - either a brat that was leaving home the first time or a true master not needing to exercise prudence.

He didn't say anything and glanced at the bronze ring on Li Qiye's finger. His eyes moved slightly afterward.

Anyone else would not care about this ring due to its conspicuous nature. However, he really wanted to take it off for a careful look. He simply refrained due to certain qualms.

Reason eventually won and stopped him from doing so. Though he was curious, he didn't ask Li Qiye anything.

He looked forward and focused his mind on controlling the carriage. This was his responsibility and duty.

After a long time, Li Qiye woke up and asked: "Are we there?"

"Customer, not yet but almost." The old man smiled.

Li Qiye rubbed his eyes and said: "Someone told me before we started that the road is full of jackals and wolves. Be careful now."

The old man responded: "This place is Buddha Holy Ground and it's bright out. If there happen to be jackals and wolves, they'll be chanting Buddhist scriptures."

Chapter 3546: Buddha Holy Ground

"Is that true?" Li Qiye became interested and smiled.

"Yes." The old man said: "Buddha Holy Ground is prosperous and peaceful. It flourishes and people don't even need to close their doors at night. There are no bandits and thieves."

"I see." Li Qiye said.

"Vajra Dynasty is in charge of the sacred ground. This has been the case for millions of years, ruled by generations of wise sages and Vajra Dao Lord. This is nothing short of a golden age..." The old man took his time explaining the current situation of the holy ground for Li Qiye. He clearly had a high evaluation of the dynasty. Of course, he was also telling the truth.

Buddha Holy Ground was a special entity - a lineage that has lasted for eras and was different from the others.

Though the land was considered to be under Buddha Holy Ground's jurisdiction, it actually had very few disciples. The only power truly belonging to this lineage was Sacred mountain. Its location remained unknown.

The three thousand kingdoms and eight thousand sects all believed in Buddhism. Their merit laws and ancestors were most likely from Buddha Holy Ground so they could be considered side branches. They would also always listen to the holy ground's command.

But overall, this was only a general outline and the title of the area. The actual lineage in charge, Sacred Mountain, didn't meddle in mundane matters nor cared about authority.

Because of this, the other powers still needed a ruler in order to govern the vast territories. This ruler needed to represent the entire holy ground.

In this generation, the one in charge was the Vajra Dynasty. It didn't use to be called this in the past. Its previous name was Archaic Sun Kingdom or Archaic Sun Dynasty. This title eventually changed after Vajra Dao Lord. The connection added more prestige to their dynasty.

The current king was capable and magnificent. His reign allowed the powers in the holy ground to have peace and prosperity.

“From what I know, the Vajra Dynasty doesn’t have much to do with Vajra Dao Lord.” Li Qiye smiled and said.

“No, no, that’s an unfair statement.” The old man responded: “There is a deep connection between them. The dao lord used to be the prince of Vajra and joined Sacred Mountain later for training. After becoming a dao lord, he also returned to rule Vajra for a bit and left many treasures there...”

He laid out a comprehensive history of Vajra for Li Qiye. His facts were true, albeit not without bias.

The dao lord was indeed from the dynasty but he wasn’t a prince, only a bastard child from a side branch. He had no status to speak of during his youth.

However, his talents were peerless, allowing him to join Sacred Mountain and accomplishing great things.

Due to this, the dynasty known as Archaic Sun naturally wanted to elevate his background so they bestowed him the title of a prince.

He never represented the kingdom while ruling the holy ground either, only himself. Nonetheless, the kingdom decided to change its name to Vajra. This successfully raised their position in the region.

The dao lord didn’t oppose this. He actually remembered his roots and even taught at the dynasty before. This truly benefited them and laid a strong foundation for the future.

The old man continued to teach Li Qiye about this history. In his words, the dynasty and the dao lord were virtually the same - both are orthodox branches of the holy ground.

This was a forceful explanation since technically, the dao lord was from Sacred Mountain. Nonetheless, Li Qiye didn’t say anything.

“The dynasty has done an amazing job ruling the holy ground, definitely a top contributor among all the powers.” The old man praised.

“True.” Li Qiye chuckled.

Of course, the old man was right because the dynasty has reigned several times in the past. This time, their reign has lasted for a while until the present. Plus, the holy ground definitely prospered.

A while later, the old man glanced at Li Qiye’s ring, whether on purpose or otherwise. He asked: “Where did you come from, Customer?”

“The abandoned land.” Li Qiye said flatly.

“You’re funny, Customer.” The old man shook his head and said: “That’s an ominous location with no inhabitants.”

“It’s fine if you don’t believe me.” Li Qiye nonchalantly said.

“Of course not, I only found it strange and didn’t mean to question you, my apology.” The old man smoothed things over.

“Your ring seems unique, is it an heirloom?” Finally, he couldn’t help but ask.

“This crappy ring? It’s not an heirloom. I found it along the way, probably doesn’t worth anything.” Li Qiye smirked and stared at the old man.

“Haha...” The old man laughed and dropped the issue.

Li Qiye didn’t pursue this and closed his eyes to rest. He didn’t bother to ask the old man about his background and status.

“Customer, have you heard of Sacred Mountain?” A long journey consisted of boredom so the old man occasionally chatted.

There were plenty of powers in Buddha Holy Ground. However, there was only one capable of determining its path - Sacred Mountain. It served as the core and the soul of this region.

Buddha Dao Lord reached the dao at Sacred Mountain and started the holy ground. Later on, Vajra and Dhyana Dao Lord did the same.

All four dao lords were from Sacred Mountain, more or less. Thus, the mountain was everything to the region. The holy ground wouldn’t exist without the mountain.

That’s why everyone here knew Sacred Mountain. Though few disciples from there could be seen, the place remained prestigious.

“And if I haven’t?” Li Qiye said.

“Are you a visitor, Customer? Everyone in the holy ground knows about Sacred Mountain. Only outsiders haven’t heard of it.” The old man became surprised.

“Oh?” Li Qiye asked the old man: “Looks like you know Sacred Mountain very well, have you been there?”

The old man smiled and shook his head: “Of course not, I’m only a driver, not qualified to enter Sacred Mountain. I’m only repeating what I’ve heard before. Plus, you have a special aura, a dragon among men, so I thought that you might be from there.”

These words didn’t come out easily. He called Li Qiye a dragon among men despite his ordinary appearance, probably needing to abandon his principles in order to say so.

Chapter 3547: Bizarre Conversation

“I don’t know where Sacred Mountain is.” Li Qiye looked outside and smiled.

The old man continued controlling the horse with a strange expression.

After a while, Li Qiye sparked up another conversation: “Do you like driving or would you rather do something else?”

“Well...” The old man pondered before answering: “I’m just a driver who hasn’t tried anything else, so I can’t answer your question, Customer.”

“Driving requires skill and finesse.” Li Qiye smiled: “The path isn’t always flat and danger-free. Not dealing with the problems well might result in being in a beast’s stomach.”

“Makes sense.” The old man nodded: “Fortunately, my old bones are still tough and this whip is usable. Ordinary beasts can’t get close to me. My trust horse is smart enough to stay away from their lairs too.”

“Boom!” The old man raised his whip and smacked it perfectly on the horse’s back. The latter raised its speed right away. The process was smooth as if these two were perfect partners who could read each other’s mind.

“I see.” Li Qiye nodded: “The terrains will be tough as well with perilous peaks and precipices. It’s better to be careful.”

“Rest assured, Customer, I’ve been driving my entire life and know every small and big road across the holy ground. I’ll exercise caution when crossing those places. As long as you’re sitting on my carriage, you don’t need to worry about a thing. I’ll get you to your destination unscathed.” The old man said with absolute certainty.

Li Qiye smiled and didn’t say anything.

“Customer, may I ask why you’re heading south?” The old man continued the conversation.

“Chopping some firewood.” Li Qiye answered with a natural expression.

The old man didn’t expect this response and shook his head: “You’re joking, Customer. You’re going to travel millions of miles from north to south just for some firewood?”

Everyone would naturally consider this answer a joke. Who would travel across the holy ground just to chop some wood?

“It’s fine if you don’t believe me.” Li Qiye didn’t bother debating.

The old man remained silent. It was still unbelievable if Li Qiye were telling the truth. Moreover, the position Li Qiye started at had a forest. There was no lack of firewood there so the whole thing felt like a surreal dream.

He didn’t bother questioning anymore because Li Qiye looked like he was being serious.

“Everyone says that you need the right tool for the occasion. You need a good hatchet in order to not waste the long journey and I just happen to have a good one. I’ll let you borrow it.” The old man took out a hatchet and handed it back into the carriage.

The hatchet was wrapped several times by a thick cloth. The old man seemed to treasure it and didn’t use it regularly.

“Alright.” Li Qiye accepted the hatchet and smiled: “How convenient, I don’t have to waste time looking for one now.”

“Perfect.” The old man nodded enthusiastically as if being of use made him happy.

The carriage sped at full speed but the two didn't feel any swaying or rocking.

After a while, it finally stopped. The old man shouted at Li Qiye: "Customer, this is as south as I can go. The path ahead is perilous and my carriage won't make it. This is as far as I can take you."

"That's fine." Li Qiye woke up and stretched, climbing down the carriage.

The wilderness stood before him with majestic peaks and foggy valleys. Fierce birds hovered above while vicious beasts roamed the ground. Their roars could be heard as a warning for intruders.

Li Qiye glanced at the place before tossing a bag of money at the old man.

"Customer, it's too much." The latter caught it and said.

"Consider it a tip." Li Qiye smiled.

"Thank you, Customer. The path ahead is not easy, please be careful." The old man bowed his head.

"Indeed. Well, one can get out of a treacherous mountain path but it's harder to escape the treachery of men." Li Qiye said.

"Your words are always wise and profound. I lack education and can't understand." The old man smiled and shook his head.

"Perhaps." Li Qiye turned back to him and said: "Kneel and pay respects to me now and I'll spare you in the future."

The old man stared at Li Qiye, perplexed. The guy didn't seem to be kidding at all and still wore a natural expression.

"You're funny, Customer." He let out a wry smile.

"How unfortunate, you have missed the opportunity." Li Qiye stopped caring and embarked on his path.

The old man stared intensely at Li Qiye's back. An extremely sharp flash could be seen deep in his eyes. His hands trembled ever so slightly but he held back, deciding against being reckless.

Though he calmly stood there, a million thoughts have just passed in his head. Most of them consisted of killing moves.

When Li Qiye turned around was the best opportunity for him to deliver a fatal blow. He had plenty of methods to do so in a split second.

Alas, he restrained himself; reason told him not to do it. Why? It was because Li Qiye was completely defenseless with numerous openings.

This made him confused about Li Qiye's identity. Along the way, he tried numerous times and failed to grasp the guy. All in all, judging by Li Qiye's conduct, he didn't consider the guy a real threat.

However, his intuition told him that this guy was dangerous. The conflicting feelings resulted in hesitation. He kept on watching Li Qiye until the guy disappeared into the mountain ridge.

From start to finish, Li Qiye walked slowly as if he didn't know what was going on. Death knocked on his door several times and he had no idea.

He finally withdrew his gaze and murmured: "So courageous, I want to know who you are."

He reflected on the circumstances and didn't come up with anything new. This happened too quickly and without warning.

"What does he want to do?" He wondered.

This was outside of his expectation. The same applied to the strongest characters and ancestors in Buddha Holy Ground. They didn't receive a single message or information about this.

He stared in a different direction; his eyes flashed coldly with murderous intent: "Will everything change soon?"

He then thought that it was impossible. It would be too sudden and no one in the holy ground could accept it.

"No, a junior can't change anything." He turned back towards the mountain ridge and concluded.

If a supreme genius had appeared, then he could understand. However, this ordinary brat had no cultivation to speak of. It made zero sense to him.

Nonetheless, he chose against following Li Qiye because that would be unwise. He knew that Li Qiye might be weak but he should have people backing him up.

Chapter 3548: Temple In The Wilderness

Rolling hills and deep forests, peaks covered by dogs - this made people feel as if they were entering a mysterious world.

It consisted of towering trees, bottomless lakes, and dark valleys that could lead someone to another dimension. There was no lack of powerful birds and beasts either of the chaos primal level.

Bubbles appeared on the surface of a pond. "Splash." A young, hornless dragon got out of the water and lay by the shore, lazily enjoying the sunlight.

"Screech!" A screech tore apart the clouds as a massive bird flew by. Its wings caused gales to destroy the trees below.

"Raaa!" A primal roar came before a massive beast. Its shadow engulfed the land.

As this great beast slowly walked out from a valley, the smaller creatures within a hundred miles radius started running away. The ones too weak or slow to do so became paralyzed on the ground, completely suppressed by its monstrous aura.

The area had too many monsters including high heaven-level ones. They definitely reigned the region.

Nonetheless, Li Qiye walked through leisurely while using the borrowed hatchet to cut the vines and briars.

The beasts saw him from a distance and got far away even though he didn't exude an aura. Their beastly instinct told them that Li Qiye was the real slumbering monster.

Of course, a few powerful yet blind ones roared and tried to stop his path. The result was obvious - Li Qiye easily chased them away. None of them affected his trajectory in the slightest.

He crossed through numerous mountains and valleys before reaching a particular peak.

It wasn't that large or majestic. In reality, it looked rather obscured compared to its brethren. Nonetheless, Li Qiye chose it as his resting place.

The pinnacle had enough trees for ample shade. Various vines and briars filled the area. Beyond them were red tiles and walls. It turned out that there was a building in this place.

However, it looked decrepit with broken sections in the walls. Nature has taken over inside.

"This is it." Some memories and familiar figures popped up in Li Qiye's mind, prompting an emotional fluctuation.

"Not too bad, I can still stay here." He said softly after looking at the condition inside.

He started to clean up with the hatchet given to him by the driver. It was extraordinary and sharp; he had no difficulties clearing the vines and thorns.

He ended up clearing the entire peak. Eventually, one could finally see a temple on top.

In the past, it must have been far larger but now, only this section was left. There were still Buddha statues in the center. The walls had Buddhist diagrams depicting different things. Unfortunately, most were broken by now.

After all, the rains and winds across the years could break down the toughest structure.

He heaved a sigh of relief, satisfied with his job while looking at the temple. Though it wasn't as majestic as before, it was still more than enough for Li Qiye.

He picked up a plaque on the ground with ancient characters. Few in the modern era could read them.

He swept away the leaves and dust, revealing two characters - Archaic Buddhist. He quietly murmured the words: "Archaic Buddhist Temple." [1]

He stared at the characters for a bit before hanging the plaque up again. He then entered the shrine and stood in front of a wall painting. The damage rendered the content inscrutable. Nonetheless, Li Qiye still stared at it since he still remembered everything in his mind so it didn't matter.

After a while, he sighed and said: "Another fateful connection ends in this generation."

Just like that, he decided to stay at this temple. He actually lived like a woodchopper, true to his words.

He spent each day personally chopping firewood in the morning then burning them into charcoal at night.

Time passed by just like that. If anyone were to see him, they would assume that he was just another woodchopper.

This lasted for a while and no one knew his intent. He also raised a wild boar and a dog since it was convenient.

The wild boar had sparse hair. One of its fangs was broken, seemingly damaged from fighting with another animal. The dog had an ashen yellow fur, skinny and feeble as if it had starved for a long time.

Li Qiye named one Lil' Black and the other Lil' Yellow. He didn't put a lot of thought into this.

Lil' Black didn't do much outside of eating the roots around the temple or dug up the soil. However, Li Qiye made use of this and planted seeds for some vegetables.

As for Lil' Yellow, it was sickly and only lay in front of the entrance the entire day, too lazy to even open its eyes.

Occasionally, Lil' Black came to bother it and it would finally lift its head to bark once or twice.

Of course, it would sometimes follow Li Qiye when he went out to chop woods in order to hunt some small animals.

The man, boar, and dog lived in this manner. This uncomfortable life was actually quite peaceful.

More time passed and he harvested the vegetables with no intention of leaving. He didn't work all day and spent some time relaxing.

Nature was kind to him - the mountain breezes and water from the springs. The roars of beasts served as melodies.

The only thing he made sure to do each day was to stare at the wall painting and chant.

If someone were here to listen, they wouldn't be able to understand him anyway. The chants were too profound and ancient. The words were unheard of in the present day. He didn't miss a single day regardless of the circumstances.

On one morning, an old man visited the temple. He wore an ordinary robe; his back was slightly bent and his complexion aged. He occasionally coughed as well.

Nonetheless, he had no trouble traversing the harsh terrain. The beasts didn't dare to approach him either, seemingly afraid.

He stopped for a bit at the base before climbing up out of curiosity for the temple.

Chapter 3549: Old Man

The dilapidated temple was surrounded by trees, looking quite tranquil. To the front was an old plaque with two characters.

"Archaic Buddhist?" The old man took his time reading the characters. It took a while before he said with uncertainty.

His pace quickened as he wanted to see which master was staying here. However, he stopped before reaching the entrance because there was a dog laying on its stomach there.

It had nothing but skin and bones, looking weak and dispirited from a long-term illness. He wouldn't have spotted without getting this close.

Many would assume that it was already dead since it didn't move at all. No sign of breathing either.

Nonetheless, the old man stopped because the dog still gave him a sense of danger. He had walked across the world before. Very few things in the southern region of West King could make him shudder in this manner.

"Hmm..." His eyes narrowed as light exuded from his forehead while gazing at the dog.

It was still lying there, unmoving. It probably didn't notice the old man.

Noises from another direction attracted the old man's attention. In another corner outside of the entrance, he saw a boar resting beneath the shade. It was round and chubby with patches of hair, looking funny and adorable.

Next to it was a vegetable garden. Calling it a garden might be an exaggeration due to its simplicity.

The boar looked lazy and bored while sunbathing. It occasionally ate from a stem growing out of the soil.

The old man instantly took one step back and prepared his defense. Meeting that dog was startling enough. Now, the boar took it to the next level.

Both of these things were here? It was too much of a coincidence.

"Gao! Gao!" The dog suddenly barked, seemingly unhappy because the old man reacted more to the boar.

This wasn't the case. It was only a matter of timing since the boar came after.

The old man channeled his mantras and gathered his energy, ready for a tough fight.

Meanwhile, the boar chewed the stalk and raised its head at the dog, looking rather arrogant.

"Can these two be from the legends..." The old man shuddered again.

His thoughts were interrupted by chants coming from the temple. It wasn't loud but had a calming and pleasant effect.

The dog heard it and closed its eyes again, going back to sleep without caring for the old man. This was the case for the boar too. It continued chewing on the stalk, looking as bored as can be.

The old man became afraid again. He recognized these two creatures and found it unfathomable that they would become docile after hearing the chant.

In this split second, a thousand decisions appeared in his mind. He eventually took a deep breath and tidied his clothes. He checked his walking posture and removed any sign of arrogance before walking towards the temple.

This temple was clearly timeworn. He took note of the statues and wall paintings. Their meanings eluded him despite his rich knowledge.

He followed the direction of the chants and made it inside a hall. He saw a young man sitting and facing the wall.

The guy seemed to be sleeping, lacking the seriousness when chanting. He resembled someone who was spewing rubbish more.

This surprised the old man. In the beginning, he thought that it would be a supreme master, not an ordinary youth.

He couldn't help gauging the youth, looking at him up and down. His appearance was as ordinary as can be, the same with his cultivation. Southern West King had as many cultivators like him as the number of hair on an ox.

He started questioning himself. Did he misjudge?

He wasn't trying to judge a book by its cover. However, all signs pointed otherwise. He had met plenty of people before and was always right in his assessment.

He stopped thinking about this and focused on the wall painting. It was too old and was damaged. One couldn't see the content anymore, only the faint outline of what seems to be a woman. It was impossible to tell if she was a beauty or not.

She seemed to be floating, perhaps descending from the nine heavens. All in all, one could imagine many things due to the vagueness of the painting.

He stopped and glanced at the youth again. The guy was still chanting while closing his eyes, similar to sleep talking. He resembled a student sleeping in class and was spouting nonsense.

At first, he was only curious about the chant due to its effect on the two animals. However, after actually listening, he found the content to be complex and boundlessly profound.

He immediately realized that this wasn't nonsense but rather, the highest-level mantra. He took a deep breath and focused all of his mind on listening.

He had seen plenty of merit laws and manuals before from dao lords and emperors, even the scriptures of the ancient past...

He wouldn't dare to claim himself as a peerless genius in history. However, he knew how amazing his talent was. It allowed him to understand numerous top merit laws after reading them once.

Alas, he didn't grasp ten to twenty percent of the content. The chant exceeded anything he had heard before. He felt as if he was falling into an ocean of the dao, immediately losing his way.

In fact, he was doing an incredible job to keep his sanity and wits while listening to the chant.

The unprecedented experience of floating in this dao ocean shook him to the core. He gained immense benefits from this brief session. Calling it an immortal scripture wasn't out of line.

Of course, this required the listener to be able to comprehend the content. As he understood one or two lines during the dao search, lightning bolts coursed through his mind and illuminated his grand dao.

They chased away the fog and let him see truths. He became ecstatic and couldn't help stomping his foot.

He had no idea that the youth had stopped chanting. It took him a while before he woke up from meditation.

He looked around and noticed that the youth's eyes were open. He was still staring at the painting, not at the intruder. It was as if there was a supreme beauty there commanding his attention.

By this point, the old man realized that this youth was actually a hidden master. He wasn't wrong this time.

The youth eventually glanced at the old man and shook his head: "Attempting to reach that girl's domain with your meager abilities? Know your limits."

The old man didn't become angry after hearing the contemptuous comment, only frozen in place. He became emotional and afraid. The youth only needed one glance to know everything about him.

"You're fortunate to be alive. And the dao deficiencies can be repaired as well." Li Qiye added.

"Immortal, please teach me." The old man immediately got on his knees and said respectfully.

If an outsider were here, they would be stunned to see someone as prestigious as the old man kneeling right now.

Chapter 3550: Old Servant

"I am in need of a servant, are you willing?" Li Qiye glanced at the prostrating man.

"I agree." The old man respectfully said without thinking twice. He had dominated his entire life but he was completely convinced and ready to submit to this supreme existence today.

"Rise." Li Qiye nodded.

"How should I address you, Immortal?" The old man stood up and said softly.

"Call me Young Master and I shall call you Attendant." Li Qiye responded.

"Yes, Young Master." The old man agreed with haste. From now on, his previous prestige no longer mattered. He shall be known as Attendant.

Just like that, the old temple in the wilderness had another person living there.

Of course, his arrival didn't add to the liveliness of the place. He was old and rarely spoke. Nonetheless, each word that came out of his mouth was of value.

Life continued on in a rather boring manner. Li Qiye still continued to chop wood and burn them down into charcoal.

The old man found this puzzling but never asked Li Qiye.

As for the boar and dog, they simply ignored him, treating him as air. He didn't seem to mind either.

Today, the temple welcomed its third person. The moment the gate was open, there was a girl lying there.

Upon closer inspection, she was around fifteen or sixteen. She wore an expensive dress embroidered with flowers. It was tattered now with numerous stitches and patches.

Dirt and grass covered her face. Her hair used to be bound but after crossing the forest, it was just a mess with leaves on top. She looked like a fugitive who ran here and didn't know the way.

She had some bloody marks too, nothing serious. They seemed to be from sharp thorns and branches.

Her lips were pale and her yellow complexion indicated a lack of nutrition. She seemed to be abandoned and had to cross the wilderness.

She had a small bundle wrapped in cloth consisting of damaged clothes, nothing valuable. However, she was still hugging the cloth bundle before fainting. It seemed to be extremely important to her.

The boar was sitting next to her and letting out small groans. Once Li Qiye opened the door, it immediately shouted at Li Qiye before pushing its head into the girl. Its intention was clear.

Meanwhile, the dog nearby looked up and stared at the boar with disdain.

"Since when are you so nice?" Li Qiye glanced at the girl and the boar before chuckling.

The dog then opened its mouth to reveal its fang, seemingly wanting to eat the girl.

The boar naturally didn't like this and roared back. It was nice to the girl but not to the dog - ready to go all-out.

"Enough." Li Qiye waved his hand.

The two animals played nice in Li Qiye's presence. Lil' Black came closer and pushed its head on Li Qiye's leg, clearly begging for help.

"You want me to save her?" Li Qiye smiled.

Lil' Black nodded repeatedly with its eyes wide open, trying to garner some sympathy.

"A vicious beast trying to do good, I see." Li Qiye shook his head.

By this point, the old attendant came out and noticed the girl. He checked her appearance, bones, then veins before exclaiming: "Foredoomed Star!"

The old man immediately knew that this girl had a terrible fate - one destined for destruction.

"It's nothing like that, just born in the wrong period." Li Qiye smiled and shook his head.

"I see..." The old man said with astonishment.

"Others mistake this for something unsalvageable. However, there's no lack of splendid steeds, just not enough Bo Le." Li Qiye continued: "It's just a matter of fate and the right meetings." [1]

The old man thought that only Li Qiye would say something like this given the circumstances.

“Bring her in and wake her up.” Li Qiye ordered.

The old man immediately obeyed. Lil’ Black looked excited and ran into the temple. As for Lil’ Yellow, it still stared at the boar with contempt while laying on the ground. It occasionally revealed its fangs. Perhaps the girl was nothing more than food in its eyes.

The girl woke up after getting help from the attendant. She slowly sat up while Lil’ Black roared quietly in excitement.

“Ahh!” She saw the boar and bellowed with fear, immediately retreating while tightly clutching her cloth bundle.

“Don’t worry, it wouldn’t have dragged you back here if it wanted to eat you. You would be nothing more than bones in that case.” A leisure voice consoled her.

It was none other than Li Qiye who was sitting nearby with the attendant next to him.

The frightened girl couldn’t help moving closer towards Li Qiye.

“Okay, go outside.” Li Qiye waved his hand at the boar. It grumbled twice before leaving the hall.

The girl found this astonishing - a wild boar actually listening to a man’s order.

She heaved a sigh of relief, still slightly afraid. She felt a little better after looking around and realizing that this was a temple.

After all, she carelessly entered this area. It was truly dreadful with beasts everywhere. She remembered seeing the white fangs of a beast before fainting.

“Where, where is this place?” She stared at Li Qiye and the old attendant with fear in her eyes.

“A safe place.” Li Qiye answered.

The girl lowered her head, not daring to speak. She didn’t know what to say either due to her current state of mind.

“What’s your name?” Li Qiye inquired.

The old man became surprised once more. This was rare because Li Qiye rarely showed interest in anything.

“Fan, Fan Bai.” She hesitated before revealing her name. She was still lost, not knowing what to do.

“I see that you have cultivated a little bit.” Li Qiye continued.

“Yes, just, just a little bit.” She said softly, still not daring to meet his eyes. Her expression was one of sadness.

“Still want to learn?”

“Yes!” She blurted out without hesitation before realizing that she was being impetuous. She took one step back while gripping the cloth bundle. She thought that she was asking too much. Just being alive was already good enough.

Alas, deep inside, she still didn’t want to give up on cultivation. It was a matter of inability.

She had a hard time filling her stomach while wandering about in a desperate plight. The one or two lines of mantra didn’t come easily. She tried to understand them to no avail.

Whenever she had time, she still tried to comprehend them despite the cold winds and empty stomach.

“Why do you wish to cultivate?” Li Qiye smiled.

The girl opened her mouth but no words came out. She lowered her head, not daring to respond.

“Tell the young master, perhaps he can help you.” The old attendant cheered her on. He knew that meeting Li Qiye was the greatest fortune in her life. Missing this could fill someone with lifelong regrets.