

Emperor 3551

### Chapter 3551: Fan Bai

"I want to change my fate." The girl bit her lips and held her sleeves tightly. She looked up at Li Qiye and eventually spoke with hesitation.

It was quite sad since she was a little girl wandering in destitute. Her life was as thin as a piece of paper.

"Why?" Li Qiye smiled.

The girl still had some fear, not daring to look at Li Qiye for long. She quietly answered: "I just wish to stay alive with some dignity."

Her voice was as feeble as a candle in the wind on the verge of extinguishing. However, she was determined to keep it going even with just one spark left.

"It's possible. Do you really want to cultivate?" Li Qiye nodded.

"Yes!" She said without any hesitation this time.

"Very well. Go wash your face. We'll start tomorrow." Li Qiye waved his hand.

"Rea-really?" She couldn't believe her own ears.

After numerous misfortunes, she became an evil portent in everyone's eyes. They chased her away and she didn't have a place to stay.

She didn't dare to come into the city because once spotted, others would jeer or even thrash her.

Because of this, she had to sleep outside in the wild, lacking food and shelter. Nonetheless, this was still better than being in the city. At least she didn't have to face continuous disdain and bullying.

She desired a place she could call her own despite knowing how impossible this was. No one in the world would ever take her in or let her have her own place.

Thus, the concept of home became foreign to her. Alas, the desire for this still existed in the deepest crevices of her mind.

Since she had no place to go, cultivation became impossible. No one would ever teach her until now.

Li Qiye took her in and even agreed to teach her. She thought that this was just a dream. She secretly pinched her thigh and the pain told her otherwise.

"I'm a man of my words." Li Qiye replied.

The girl paused but still decided to tell the truth: "Everyone calls me the Foredoomed Star that, that will kill everyone around me... that'll happen to you too if you take me in."

She had a hard time dealing with this cruel reality. It has happened several times before so she couldn't hide it in order to not hurt a good person.

Li Qiye disagreed and smiled: "Cultivation is about going against the heaven, rebelling against it. Who cares about this Foredoomed Star? If you're afraid of such a thing, then there's no point talking about cultivation."

Even the old attendant nodded approvingly after hearing this.

"But, but I will really cause your death. Many have died already." She revealed her traumatic past.

"If such a thing can kill me, I wouldn't be sitting here right now. Go wash your face." Li Qiye shook his head.

She couldn't believe it. People had always run away from her out of disgust. Some even banished her yet Li Qiye didn't mind.

"I..." This moved her to tears. She tried to speak but nothing came out.

"Call me Young Master." Li Qiye said.

She secretly wiped away the tears in her eyes and took a deep breath. She bowed and said: "Yes, Young Master."

The old servant then took her away and prepared a place for her to stay.

Once she appeared again before Li Qiye, she had finished bathing and had a refreshing aura. Her hair was still messy since she had cut it herself. Nonetheless, it looked cute and delicate when draping down.

Her skin was tan from being out in the sun too long but this didn't diminish her good features. Her eyes were round and tall. Her emotion could easily be seen through them, especially fear.

"Young Master." She bowed, not knowing what to say while standing before Li Qiye.

"Have a good rest tonight, we start tomorrow." Li Qiye got straight to the point.

The girl started absorbing the events today. She realized that this was her new reality now. All the unhappiness in the past seemed so distant, at least for now. She had a home right now and a great opportunity to cultivate.

Thus, she woke up very early the next day, waiting for Li Qiye. She cherished this once-in-ten-thousand-years chance.

"Let's get started." Li Qiye smiled and took her to an open spot up the peak. He taught her a few chants to start.

These lines were very simple. The girl wasn't supremely talented or anything but she carefully memorized the words.

In the past, she did everything she could with the cultivation lines she found, repeating them multiple times. She had a heart yearning for learning so she absorbed everything he taught her.

The old attendant stood there since Li Qiye didn't explicitly forbid him. He also carefully listened to the chants.

After she finished memorizing one line, he taught her a simple movement. Nonetheless, it would take several times before she could copy the move due to her average talents.

Strangely enough, Li Qiye had plenty of patience this time and repeated the move for her. Afterward, he said: "The lines and the movement happen in unison so study them together. Take your time."

"I will try my best." She nodded with determination.

Li Qiye didn't say anything else and went to chant in front of the wall painting.

She was freed from any distraction and earnestly trained.

At first, the old attendant found the lines to be very simple, the same with the movement. This could be considered an elementary mantra for new learners.

However, the latter part attracted his attention. When he combined both the lines and the movement, he immediately noticed the innate profundity.

He was a true genius, unlike Fan Bai, so he was capable of learning top merit laws in no time at all. Combining the lines and the movement opened a new world for him. Each breath he took during this process was immensely useful.

It felt as if he was learning from a sacred scripture. It was up to the learner to see how many pages they could open.

Li Qiye didn't teach her anything else beyond this. She never asked either and repeated the training without finding it boring.

She stopped to rest and drink water whenever she was fatigued and thirsty. She persevered like this for days after days.

Eventually, her movement was flawless and she could easily recite the lines.

### **Chapter 3552: Buddha Bowing**

As days went by, the girl knew the chants by heart, enough to recite it backward. Nonetheless, she still meticulously analyzed each word while incorporating it into her movement.

Though the attempts were identical, each gave her a unique feeling. This meant that she had incremental improvements in a gradual manner.

She cherished the opportunity so she was the first to wake up and the last one to sleep. Though Li Qiye didn't teach her anything new, not an ounce of grievance could be found in her. Her entire mind and soul were hellbent on learning this lesson.

The old man frequently watched her training. This was quite beneficial for her too because her talents and knowledge were far inferior in comparison. He gave her indirect guidance or answered a few questions.

He knew full well that there were no standards nor rules for this type of cultivation. If he were to instill his own comprehension and knowledge into her, that would actually slow her down. Thus, he minimized his involvement as much as possible.

Nonetheless, he resembled a teacher more than Li Qiye. The latter virtually ignored the girl after the first session. He had only checked on her once or twice during his leisure hours then corrected certain things.

Other cultivators would find this teaching method ridiculous. The old man found this surprising but didn't ask too much.

After all, Li Qiye had higher cultivation attainments. If he were to teach the girl anything, that would be akin to displaying his slight skills before an expert.

One day, Li Qiye saw this and didn't stop it. He approvingly nodded instead: "Correct, you're a passable teacher."

"I have a question too, the girl isn't limited to techniques and variations." The old man smiled wryly.

"That's why her height will be greater than yours in the future." Li Qiye smiled and said: "A few people just need one move in their entire life to be invincible. There's no need to worry about techniques. Just worry about the essences of the dao along with a tough dao heart."

The old man accepted this criticism since it came from Li Qiye. He carefully digested the meanings behind them.

"You, how many invincible techniques do you have?" Li Qiye looked at the old man and spread his palm.

"Thank you for your guidance, Young Master." The old man took a deep breath and said.

He had learned plenty of merit laws and imperial techniques. However, only a few moves served as the foundation of his domination.

"You won't be able to catch up to her with regard to this particular move." Li Qiye smiled.

"May I ask for its name?" The old man became curious. Due to his erudite knowledge, he could recognize merit laws' origin and source after seeing them for the first time.

This wasn't the case for this particular move. He had no idea where it came from.

"Buddha Bowing. I crafted it specifically for her. As long as her dao heart is firm enough, she'll reach the next height."

"Buddha Bowing..." The old man was shaken by both the name of the technique along with Li Qiye's action.

How could the guy create a move suitable for the girl in just one night? He definitely couldn't do so.

He stopped speaking and stood to the side.

"Go fetch a few things here." Li Qiye took out and handed a list to the old man.

The old man took a look and saw precious and rare materials. Of course, it wasn't for someone like him to obtain them.

"Young Master, is this to change the girl's fate?" The old man became startled.

“She has to do that herself. How can a tree grow and blot out the sky without experiencing enough storm and rain? I am simply laying a foundation for her.” Li Qiye smiled.

The old man agreed and bowed, leaving to carry out his task. He only needed several days to gather them despite their rarity.

Li Qiye immediately got started with preparing a supreme formation. He easily sealed space along with the other affinities - reincarnation cycle, yin and yang, karma...

The old man was in awe while watching this. The guy did it with such mastery while needing zero effort.

Li Qiye also had a cauldron with boiling medicinal water inside. It had a strange aroma.

He glanced at the girl and asked: “This will be awfully painful. Can you handle it?”

“I can.” The girl didn’t know what Li Qiye wanted to do but she had full trust in him.

“Good.” He immediately tossed her into the boiling cauldron.

She was startled while flying through the air. However, next came the heat trying to boil her.

“Focus, recite the chants!” She heard Li Qiye’s voice deep in her mind. She immediately recited the chants in order to stop the scorching water.

“Accept rather than reject, let the medicinal water seep into your body!” Li Qiye roared again.

She followed his instruction and the scalding heat came along. This pain was unbearable, causing her to scream. She gritted her teeth to stop.

In this split second, Li Qiye grasped the stars and turned their lights into needles, throwing them towards the girl afterward.

They struck her important meridians, turning her into a hedgehog. Unfortunately, the pain of the starry needles piercing was ten times worse than the scalding water. She screamed once before trying her best to stop.

Next, Li Qiye used the five elements, karma, and the yin and yang to press down on her, seemingly wanting to crush her apart.

She bellowed in pain but still gritted her teeth and persevered. The old man was happy for her.

After all, how many people in this world had the honor of having Li Qiye personally changing their fate?

This wasn’t a direct change but it would lay a boundless foundation for her. The future was limitless depending on her dao heart. The pain might be unbearable but surpassing this meant a lifetime of benefits.

With Li Qiye’s continuous refinements, the medicinal liquid in the cauldron gradually disappeared. On the other hand, a murderous energy manifested within the girl, becoming denser.

The refinement technique from Li Qiye was marvelous and effortless. Profundity just came naturally.

The old man became more and more impressed. He had seen top alchemists at work before, the best of the generation.

Unfortunately, they looked like new students compared to Li Qiye, as coarse as can be.

“This is fine.” Li Qiye eventually recalled his technique after finishing.

Meanwhile, the girl was still sitting in the cauldron in a state of zen. She had never felt this comfortable before, akin to her shackles being broken. She felt as if she could go anywhere now.

Suddenly, black clouds engulfed the sky along with thunder. A heavenly tribulation seemed to be descending.

The old man had a serious expression, realizing the significance behind this. Li Qiye, on the other hand, only glanced at it.

Ultimately, the tribulation didn't come down.

### **Chapter 3553: Five Divisions**

Just like that, peaceful days joined the three people, one dog, and one boar at the temple deep in the wilderness.

Li Qiye did his thing - chopping and burning firewood then chanted in front of the wall painting.

Fan Bai turned out to be the most diligent, always training hard after being taught “Buddha Bowing”.

She repeated the training ten thousand times a day with full focus and not a moment of relaxation.

The old attendant understood right away why Li Qiye chose this girl. As long as she kept this up, she would be able to fly up the nine firmaments. Li Qiye was right, she would be able to exceed him.

Unfortunately, the peace was quickly broken tonight. The hills were quiet and the beasts had entered a deep slumber.

However, a powerful force emanated across the entire region. The old man noticed it right away and appeared before the gate.

Both Lil' Black and Lil' Yellow also got up and stared in the same direction.

“Boom!” Once the ripples reached a certain level, a beam shot straight at the sky and illuminated the area, adding a snow-white hue. The beasts became alarmed right away and rushed out of their lair. Others hid deeper within.

The old man's brows furrowed as a result. Meanwhile, Lil' Yellow barked a few times before going back to sleep.

Lil' Black did the same thing. It returned to its garden and grumbled a few times before dozing off.

“Looks like a bit of trouble.” The old man stopped looking.

“No big deal.” A nonchalant voice answered him.

The attendant was startled and would have unsheathed his blade if he didn't recognize Li Qiye's voice. The guy was standing next to him and he had no idea when.

He smiled wryly as a result. In all of the south, only three to five people could approach him undetected. This would allow them to have the upper hand, perhaps assassinating him in a few moves.

There's always a higher mountain and a better man - he was aware of this phrase but Li Qiye made it so apparent.

"Go to bed early, it looks like we'll have a fun show soon." Li Qiye smilingly said but the old man became afraid.

There was something different about his tone. The old man knew that it wouldn't be a "fun show". Those blind enough to cause trouble would find their blood flowing on the ground.

He didn't care too much though since if they wanted to court death, that's their own issue. Only a few more bones in the mountains.

Others also took note of the commotion from the wilderness, especially Buddha Emperor Plateau that was the nearest here. The powers there became alarmed.

The plateau was an auspicious ground with massive territories consisting of one-third of the holy ground, perhaps even vaster. It was heavily contested as well.

Eighty to ninety percent of the strongest clans and sects were located here. Thus, it had the most authority and wealth.

There were more than a hundred grand cities or so, each spanned for ten million miles. Some were built on peaks connected by wondrous bridges, others inside the valleys...

One would be sure that this area was the most magical and prosperous in the southern West King. It also had five main divisions virtually capable of representing the entire holy ground. All five were naturally alarmed from this divine light.

In Duality Academy, the powerful teachers woke up. The students also got out of their bed and climbed up the nearest peak for a better vantage point.

"Where's that place?" A young student pointed at the illumination.

"Myriad Beast Mountains." An older one recognized that direction and said: "Yes, that's definitely it. It's deep in there."

"That's the most dangerous area of the plateau, right? Chaos primal beasts reign that area." The students have all heard of it.

"More than that, a teacher told me that there are high-level heaven beasts, even the kings." One of them said.

"Yes, there are several kings there, even Heavenly Sovereigns want to stay away from them." An older one added.

“That place is large and the majority of high-level heaven beast kings are sleeping, it’s hard to meet one.” Someone who has been there before said: “It requires luck to meet one, or at least that’s what a teacher told me.”

The students from the academy all talked about this event.

Duality Academy was the largest and strongest learning institution in all of southern West King. It belonged to the division named Metropolis. [1]

It was the largest of the five and had a vague definition. Anything not belonging to the other four divisions would be considered a part of Metropolis Division. The capital included the nobles and dynasties of Buddha Emperor Plateau along with other sects.

Its main representative was the academy. Whenever there was a big change in the holy ground, especially the changing of a dynasty, the academy would speak for Metropolis. It had produced plenty of renowned geniuses across the generations.

In Divine Ghost Division, numerous sects became startled as well. They all stared towards Myriad Beast Mountains. The spectating ancestors had a serious expression.

Divine Ghost was among the strongest of the divisions, made up of numerous races. However, the majority belonged to two races - Blood and Ghost. Despite the diverse demographic, these two races maintained solidarity through bonds and power. The entire division always rallied together to deal against intruders.

“A high-level beast king moving?” One expert speculated.

“No, there’s no dreadful beast aura. It might be a treasure.” An ancestor shook his head.

“We should go take a look.” The expert responded.

“Let the juniors scout, it’s a good opportunity for training.” The ancestor ordered.

“Yes.” The expert agreed and went to carry out the order.

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On the other hand, the strongest division, Heavenly Dragon, didn’t have a big reaction.

This region had countless temples and monks. Very few monks bothered to come out to take a look at the light.

“Amitabha.” They simply chanted and stopped paying attention.

Heavenly Dragon Division was often called Heavenly Dragon Temple instead. They were decisively the strongest force in the holy ground, consisting of 88,000 temples and 800,000 high monks. No other powers could stand against them.

Remember, all four dao lords of Buddha Holy Ground had a Buddhist background. Thus, the dao of Buddhism permeated across the land.



There was a popular phrase - one can see a temple every eight steps. This might be an exaggeration but it showed the popularity of Buddhism.

Moreover, Heavenly Dragon Temple has always supported Sacred Mountain. It could be considered a part of Sacred Mountain.

#### **Chapter 3554: Entering Myriad Beast Mountains**

Those in Buddha Emperor Division located at the plateau also started moving in the shadows. It was located in the center of Buddha Emperor Plateau, serving as the central division out of the five.

This floating city was one of the largest in the holy ground. Currently, Vajra Dynasty was in charge of this division.

According to the rumors, this division was created by Buddha Dao Lord. Thus, it became the core of the holy ground.

Though Sacred Mountain was the real supreme entity, it was too illusory. No one had an idea of its true location. Moreover, it never directly imposed its dominion, not even during the era of Buddha Dao Lord.

Thus, Buddha Emperor Division was in charge of administration and management. Therefore, its ruler also had authority over the rest of the holy ground while representing Sacred Mountain.

Of course, those capable of becoming the ruler of this dynasty were also qualified to reign, whether it be their power or intelligence.

In the past, Vajra Dynasty's capital was far away from Buddha Emperor Division. This changed after they took over so they moved their capital here.

Today, the officials of the dynasty became alarmed after seeing the light. There has been a lull for a long time so the commotion made them contemplate.

"Is this a sign of the next era?" A few ambitious people had this thought.

After all, Vajra Dynasty has ruled for a very long time now. Many thought that it was time to abdicate.

If this were to happen, many among the five divisions would be eyeing the throne. Of course, it wasn't that easy to take over Buddha Emperor. Whoever did it would need the support of the other four divisions then the approval from Sacred Mountain.

Nonetheless, Vajra has ruled for several generations and people have grown impatient. Just a gust of implication was enough to tempt them.

Of course, the majority of officials didn't share this thought. One general gazed towards the mountain range and said: "If a ferocious beast is coming, that's my time to make a name for myself."

The holy ground always enjoyed peace, both internal and external. So many generals and experts hoped for something to happen so that they could finally be of use.

All in all, it didn't take long before many sent troops towards the mountain range.

The calmest of the five divisions turned out to be Mortal King Division. It didn't react at all.

This division had the lowest population and land. However, it was perhaps the most dangerous with inaccessible strongholds and traps.

A sect one said that at the plateau, it was better to provoke Heavenly Dragon Temple rather than Mortal King Division.

The former was strong but it consisted of kind, merciful monks. They would most likely spare their opponents.

On the other hand, the members of Mortal King might actually eradicate a sect once furious.

This division was a special entity even back during Buddha Dao Lord's era. It was added into the holy ground's territory but still remained neutral and didn't join Buddhism.

Some other inhabitants and races also refrained from joining Buddhism. Alas, they were still affected by it, more or less. This wasn't the case for Mortal King.

Moreover, this division had no interest in ruling the holy ground either despite being quite formidable.

They always remained nonchalant regardless of whatever happened in the holy ground, akin to the water in a well.

Thus, the five divisions in the plateau had different reactions to the changes in Myriad Beast Mountains.

The nobles and powerful cultivators from Divine Ghost and Buddha Emperor rushed towards the mountain range for an adventure.

The students from Duality took note of this and became agitated. The stronger ones also wanted to go there and train.

The academy finally relented and allowed them to do so. However, it did note that they were responsible for their own lives.

"Yes, we're coming!" The spirited students heard the approval from the academy and immediately formed groups.

They jumped on their mounts and rushed towards Myriad Beast.

"You all, follow me. We'll train there." A teacher thought that this was a good opportunity and picked his favorite students for a trip.

In just a short time, the desolate mountain range had numerous visitors. They caused the place to be chaotic and loud.

The ones who stood out the most were naturally the students from Duality. The nobles from the capital and the experts from Divine Ghost needed to act properly due to their status. Thus, they kept it low-key.

This wasn't the case for the students. They were young and vigorous on top of having permission from the academy. They rushed there with loud fanfare for the sake of training.

Numerous groups flew straight into Myriad Beast Mountains. Even their mounts were excited and caused loud rumbles and quakes.

They looked like feral children who didn't have any education and did whatever they wanted here.

"Watch me!" One student saw a pack of earth wolves. His group consisting of eight students immediately surrounded the pack and started killing them. The wolves roared and tried to flee.

These beasts were only at the intermediate yellow level, not worth that much. It's just that these students were eager to have some fun and didn't care at all.

"Hey, look over there, so many ghost vines, let's get them." Another saw alchemy ingredients growing beneath a cliff. A dozen or so students rushed there right away.

These groups were clearly here to have fun.

Of course, a few prideful students with a prestigious background didn't hang with this loud crowd. They only took a quick glance around before delving deeper into the mountain range.

Some of them weren't here for treasures and chaos primal beasts. They were only curious and came to sightseeing or to train. This particular group normally had a noble upbringing.

In the sky, a group of five flew by and landed on a tree. They wanted to have a better look at the scenery.

"Raa!" They saw a massive ox crazily running, crushing the peaks and rivers.

"That one is strong." A female student in this group was surprised.

"Rumble!" Behind this great ox were another thousand of its ilk. Their rampage flattened everything along the way in an unstoppable manner.

"Those are barbaric bulls on the move, don't get too close. They will all attack us if we anger the ox king." An older student warned.

"So how strong is that king?" The female student asked since this was her first time seeing one.

"Junior Sister Ling, it's stronger than Teacher Qi." The older one smiled.

The female student stuck out her tongue in a cute manner and didn't dare to get close.

### **Chapter 3555: Woodchopper**

This group of students crossed through another peak and saw black clouds with thunderous explosions not far from there.

"Members of the ghost race?" The female student known as Junior Brother Ling became curious since she saw figures in the black clouds.

"Oh, fellow students from the Black Cloud Tribe." One of them was also from the ghost race and immediately came over to ask: "Where are you guys going?"

However, the experts inside the clouds ignored them. A younger one glared at them with an arrogant expression. This group then moved towards the valley ahead.

"Hmph, so rude." One student snorted after seeing the contempt.

After all, the students in the academy were all proud; most were geniuses from Metropolis Division. No weakling could enter this prestigious academy.

“Black Cloud Ghosts are famous recently, it’s understandable that they’re arrogant.” An older student aware of this development said.

“Rumble!” As they were talking about this particular tribe, loud explosions came from the valley ahead. Black clouds proliferated along with lightning bolts.

‘I think they’re hunting chaos primal beasts.’ One student scouted ahead and shouted.

“Come, let’s take a look and see what amazing beast they’ve found.” The others were awfully curious and rushed forward.

Meanwhile, layers of black clouds engulfed the valley. The shrouded figures inside them sent down thick lightning bolts.

“What beast is in there? They’re actually using a grand formation.” A ghost student found this surprising.

“Raa!” A massive shadow leaped out of the valley and easily smashed through the sealing formation.

“Boom!” The creature resembled a draconic beast with a serpent body and steel scales. It had wings and three heads. The jaws had red scales.

This chaos primal beast shocked all the spectators nearby.

“Which primal beast is this? It’s huge!” A young student bellowed.

“Shit! It’s a three-headed winged serpent!” A male student was scared out of his mind.

“Poof!” The students were stunned along with the experts from the Black Cloud Tribe. The serpent completely caught them off guard and opened its mouth, spewing out an inferno of lava instantly drowning the valley.

“Ahhh!” The experts from Black Cloud Tribe couldn’t stop the waves in time and were reduced to ashes.

“Wow, it’s so strong. That is at least an earth-level chaos primal beast.” The students from the academy became aghast.

The serpent suddenly looked over towards the students’ direction. They felt as if they had just fallen into a pit of ice and immediately shuddered.

“Run!” One student regained his wits and immediately fled.

“Shit, run!” The others followed suit.

“Raaa!” The serpent immediately gave chase with incredible speed. One student looked back and saw it drawing closer.

“We have to split up, maybe it’ll distract its three heads!” An older student shouted.

“We’re going this way!” Another shouted and ran with one group.

It didn't take long before the rest scattered in different directions.

"Screech!" The sky suddenly turned dark. A gigantic bird emerged and started rushing for them as well.

They were scared out of their mind, being chased by a ferocious serpent and fierce bird.

"Get on the ground and use the terrain! It's too easy being a target up there!" An experienced student shouted and jumped back into the forest.

The others realized it and commanded their mounts to run for cover.

"Let's go this way!" The girl named Xiao Ling was lucky enough to run away from the bird. She and her two female friends made it to a peak.

Meanwhile, they could hear loud explosions and cries from their friends. They were scared out of their mind and looked for a place to hide.

Once everything quieted down, they finally went out.

"What, what should we do?" They were lost after running away. They only came to sightseeing and didn't have a map after the group was split. This made them anxious.

Any other place would have been fine since they were strong. However, this was Myriad Beast Mountain. An earth-level beast like that serpent earlier would have been too much.

"Let's go, maybe we can follow the creek to the entrance." Xiao Ling didn't have a good idea but still came up with something.

Her two friends were okay with this and followed Ling. Unfortunately, the creek had twists and turns before disappearing into the ground. They lost their direction afterward like headless flies. The roars of beasts continued to frighten them.

"Hey, I think I heard someone." Xiao Ling suddenly stopped after crossing several more peaks and told her friends.

"Really? Other students?" The two girls started focusing.

"Who's the first to understand the grand dao, no one else but me..." They could hear a song from a distance. They exchanged glances - it wasn't their fellow students.

"At least there's people, maybe they're from other sects? We just need to leave this place and we'll be safe." Xiao Ling said and followed the direction of the void. Her friends were right behind her.

They finally saw someone - a youth carrying firewood while singing with a leisure expression. Next to him was a yellow dog, skinny down to the bones from being hungry all year long.

The youth wore a shabby robe and looked ordinary. He had a hatchet wrapped in cloth hanging by his waist.

Anyone's first impression of him was that he was only a regular woodchopper.

The three girls became disappointed. They thought they would be able to meet other cultivators, not a woodchopper.

“Hey, is this still Myriad Beast Mountains? Or is this outside?” One girl shouted.

The youth only glanced at them and proceeded with his task.

“We’re asking you!” The other friend became irritated since they were ignored and raised her voice.

The youth still ignored them.

Xiao Ling, on the other hand, spoke respectfully: “Young Noble, may I ask where this place is?”

“Myriad Beast Mountains.” The youth responded with a lazy tone.

“Hmph, so pretentious.” The other two murmured. If this was any other day, they would have taught this rude mortal a lesson.

However, they were surprised to find someone like him here.

“Young Noble, may I ask why you’re here?” Xiao Ling asked.

### **Chapter 3556: Strange Feelings**

The three girls couldn’t understand how a mortal woodchopper was here in Myriad Beast Mountains.

“Here, obviously.” The youth answered as if it was obvious without looking at the girls.

“Here?” They were astounded. This was their first time knowing that the mountain range had mortal inhabitants.

It was renowned as a land of perils in Buddha Emperor Plateau with plenty of vicious birds and beasts. The high-level chaos primal beasts also occasionally showed up.

Not to mention ordinary cultivators, even Heavenly Sovereigns didn’t want to stay here for long.

“Wait, are you a cultivator?” One friend stared at Li Qiye.

The other two did the same thing. They didn’t pay enough attention earlier and thought that he was a mortal.

“I’ve cultivated for a few days.” The youth responded.

After careful observation, they found that he was indeed a cultivator, just not an expert.

“A Violet Marquis at best.” A friend whispered to Xiao Ling.

The three exchanged glances. A Violet Marquis being able to stay around these parts? How strange.

“Maybe he grew up here and got used to it?” The third friend said.

“What should we do?” Xiao Ling asked them.

The two thought about it. They were lost right now and continuing aimlessly might make them stuck deeper in the mountain range.

They stared at Xiao Ling, signaling for her to decide.

“Let’s find a place to stay first.” Xiao Ling suggested and the two agreed.

Thus, they decided to follow the young woodchopper. Strangely enough, their mounts didn’t listen to them and kept a considerable distance from him.

Alas, they didn’t actually notice this and kept moving.

“Young, Young Noble, we’re separated from our friends and are lost right now. Ma-may we stay at your place for one night?” Xiao Ling had a hard time asking for a favor.

Since she was a student at Duality Academy, she had a good background and rarely spoke humbly to anyone.

The youth glanced at her, prompting her to immediately add: “We’ll definitely reward you.”

“As you please.” The youth responded.

The three were happy to hear this and hurried up.

“May I ask for your name, Young Noble?” The silence along the trip bothered her so Xiao Ling asked.

“Li Qiye.” Li Qiye casually responded.

Of course, the three haven’t heard of Li Qiye’s name before. They assumed that he was just an ordinary person.

“Why are you chopping wood? Aren’t you a cultivator?” One friend found this strange.

From her perspective, cultivators were far nobler than ordinary humans, even new ones. Someone like Li Qiye could do anything and it would still be better than this.

“For charcoal.” Li Qiye replied.

This made them even more confused. The third raised her voice out of astonishment: “You’re selling charcoal for money? How foolish. You’re a cultivator, why would you do something so lowly for money? You can make much more doing other things.”

The other two girls nodded in agreement. They weren’t looking down on Li Qiye. It’s just that gathering wood was something reserved for lowly mortals.

Li Qiye only smiled in response, not minding the comment.

“If you just want to get by, there are other things you can do outside, better than selling charcoal.” The other girl scowled since Li Qiye didn’t agree.

“There’s no future in doing so. I think you’re better off finding another job at the capital. For example, a patrol.” The first one said.

Li Qiye still didn’t state his opinion.

The three continued to talk about Li Qiye’s bad decision. Meanwhile, Lil’ Yellow glared at them as if it was looking at a group of clowns.

They just didn't notice the dog's expression, believing that it was only an old dog not worth paying attention to.

Lil' Yellow then stared at the mounts in the distance and revealed its teeth then licked its lips, putting on a strange grin.

The three mounts were scared out of their mind; their legs started shaking. They wanted to tell their masters to leave this place as soon as possible.

This was the most dangerous location since they could become the dog's food at any moment. Unfortunately, they didn't know how to speak. Plus, they were too afraid to do anything in the first place after being threatened by Lil' Yellow.

"Are you not afraid of the beasts here?" Xiao Ling was curious because Li Qiye showed no sign of caution as he walked through the forest.

That serpent earlier scared the soul of them. They didn't dare to stay in this region alone.

"I'm used to it, there's nothing to be afraid of." Li Qiye chuckled.

"But there are some ferocious ones here, especially the chaos primal ones. Earlier just now, we got chased by a three-headed winged serpent, that's why we got separated from the group." One of them responded.

The other nodded: "Earth-level chaos primal beasts are too scary and strong, it'll definitely eat you if it sees you."

"You just need to stay here longer. Do your neighbors want to eat you?" Li Qiye said.

"Uh..." The girls had no response.

"You're saying that you consider those beasts your neighbors? No, they're violent and will definitely eat people who provoke them." One girl raised her voice.

Lil' Yellow thought that these girls were too silly. Who eats who? Li Qiye would be the one eating all the chaos primal beasts here.

They would be thanking the heaven if Li Qiye didn't seek them out to eat, let alone trying to eat him.

"Haven't seen them try to eat me." Li Qiye smiled.

"It's better to be careful." Xiao Ling kindly warned: "My teacher said that most chaos primal beasts don't have intelligence, only beastly instincts. You might consider them neighbors but they might not feel the same way."

Lil' Yellow glanced at her. No beast here would dare to consider him a neighbor. Their legs trembled instantly at his sight.

"It's fine, I have my hatchet right here." Li Qiye tapped the weapon hanging by his waist.

"What can that thing do outside of chopping wood? It can't hurt the primal beasts at all, you need a treasure." One girl thought little of the weapon.



“It’s not bad.” Li Qiye said.

The three thought that Li Qiye was too naive. First, he thought that beasts could actually be his neighbors. One day, he would become food for one for sure.

Along the way, they didn’t notice how quiet the path was, not even a single growl could be heard from the beasts. This was the opposite during their run prior.

The beasts and birds have already fled in fear wherever Li Qiye went. They didn’t dare to whimper, let alone roar.

### **Chapter 3557: Inscrutable**

The three followed Li Qiye back to the old temple.

“There’s a temple here?” One girl stared at the temple from a distance before entering.

“Are there monks here?” The other also looked around.

After entering, the three found that it was empty without any monk around.

In the beginning, they were glad to see this because they thought that there would be monks inside.

The location was Buddha Holy Ground so there should be monks in charge of the temples. In addition, all temples were branches of Heavenly Dragon Temple.

This wasn’t the case here. The temple here had a different architectural style not found in the modern era.

They actually didn’t look for this detail in the beginning. It was just that the disparity was striking since they have entered many temples before.

They saw a girl younger than them cultivating inside. She was none other than Fan Bai who was repeating the same movement. They naturally found this strange but didn’t say anything.

After returning, Li Qiye told the old attendant: “Prepare a place for them.” He stopped paying attention to three girls afterward.

“Yes, Young Master.” The old man said before looking at the three: “Please follow me.”

“There are only you three living here?” One girl became curious as they followed him.

“Yes.” The old attendant responded.

“But this is Myriad Beast Mountains, are you not afraid of being attacked and eaten by primal beasts?” The other said.

The three thought that he was an ordinary servant, nothing more.

“The animals here are harmless and nice.” The old man smiled, not bothering to reveal the truth.

“Harmless and nice?” One of them said: “How? We met a three-headed winged serpent that immediately attacked us. We would be inside its stomach if we were a little late in reacting, not nice at all.”

They were still afraid while recalling the event.

“I see.” The old man shook his head and said: “Young Master said so. The beasts here don’t attack people.”

The three girls exchanged glances. Could these creatures really consider Li Qiye’s group as neighbors?

“We’ve separated from our friends. If they come here, please help them too.” Xiao Ling remembered something else.

“You will have to ask the young master. I do not dare to make a decision on this matter.” The old man said.

“The temple is so big, I’m sure there’s no problem taking in more people.” One friend noticed the available rooms.

The old man didn’t reply.

“We’ll definitely thank you handsomely. We’re from Duality Academy and will not freeload.” Xiao Ling said.

“Duality Academy? I see.” The old man smiled.

“You know about it?” The three girls assumed that Li Qiye’s group didn’t know anything about the outside world.

“Yes, I’ve been there during my youth.” The old man said.

“What about your young master? Why is he staying here?” The girls were curious about this young master and old servant.

“Only the young master knows.” The old man prepared the rooms then said: “There are many beasts outside at night, please be careful and don’t go out.” He left afterward.

“The servant is strange just like his master.” One girl concluded. All three thought that there was something weird about the old man too.

“I wonder how our fellow students are doing.” Xiao Ling became worried.

“Don’t worry, so many from our academy came, I’m sure they’ve met others or a group with a teacher.” Another consoled her.

This sounded plausible so Xiao Ling felt a little better. Tonight, the three of them stay in the temple.

“Are you making charcoal now?” They saw Li Qiye burning the wood collected during the day.

Li Qiye might not be strong but was still a cultivator. Why would he do something so mundane?

“Yes.” Li Qiye said briefly, still focusing on his task.

“I don’t think you can feed yourself by doing this, charcoal is only worth a few coins. You should leave and find another job outside.” One girl said without any intention of offending or looking down on him.

Li Qiye only smiled without breaking his focus.

The three girls were virtually nobles so they thought little of his work. They watched for a bit before losing their interest and leaving.

The old man found this amusing and shook his head, thinking that these three girls weren't meant for it since they lacked vision.

A discerning spectator would immediately notice Li Qiye's fire control and realize that he was an extraordinary master.

Unfortunately, the three female students had decent cultivation, just not high enough to see that Li Qiye was utilizing a supreme alchemy art.

"Why is your young master playing around like this? He's still a cultivator." One of them came closer to the old man and murmured: "We can see that he's a Violet Marquis. He should be working outside."

"The young master is mysterious and beyond my ability to speculate." The old man said.

"What's mysterious about this? It's just burning wood for charcoal to make a few coins. Come to the capital, we'll find you something else to do, a hundred times, no, a thousand times better than this." One girl said.

"Yes, come to the capital and I'll find something for you to do." Xiao Ling agreed, thinking that Li Qiye was being irrational and unambitious by staying here.

"Perfect, Xiao Ling will definitely find a great job. You should try to persuade your young master." The third one nodded.

"He has his own plan." The old man chuckled.

"Do you want to stay here for the rest of your life?" The first girl said: "There's no one here, completely separated from the world. There are dangers everywhere, living in the capital is way better."

The three tried to be kind and wanted to give Li Qiye a job at the capital in order to repay him for letting them stay. Moreover, given their status, that job would be more than sufficient. Li Qiye's group would be able to live quite well.

The old man smiled and stopped responding.

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On the second day, the girls were the last ones up. Li Qiye was already gone.

They saw Fan Bai training in the courtyard. Since they had nothing else to do, they decided to watch her.

However, they eventually grew bored because she was doing the same thing over and over.

"Are you cultivating?" One girl asked when Fan Bai was taking a break.

"Yes, the young master taught me." Fan Bai seemed to be scared of the girls.

"He only taught you this one move? You're working so hard yet you only know this?" Xiao Ling found this hard to believe.

They saw how hard Fan Bai was working yesterday. She was up early today too. In their opinion, this wasn't worth her commendable effort. It was unfair to her.

"Yes." Fan Bai nodded.

"Your young master is being ridiculous. This one move can't be considered cultivation." Another girl commented.

### **Chapter 3558: Everyone Has Their Own Method**

"He really didn't teach you anything else?" The third girl became dissatisfied.

Fan Bai didn't reply because she was already very satisfied. She memorized everything Li Qiye taught her and would continue learning them no matter what.

"How about this? I'll teach you a few things." Xiao Ling had this idea: "In my opinion, you're wasting your time and effort learning just one move."

"That's a good idea." The other girls agreed.

"I will teach you a merit law." Xiao Ling enthusiastically said.

"Thank you, Big Sis, but there is no need. The young master said that one move is all I need." Fan Bai shook her head.

"No, your young master is wrong. How can just one move be enough?" Xiao Ling's friend immediately interjected: "Any random merit law from our academy is better than this move of his."

"Maybe your young master only knows one move, that's the only logical explanation." The other added.

"Our Duality Academy is the strongest in Buddha Holy Ground. This merit law is also left behind by a Heavenly Sovereign and is certainly stronger than your young master's move. This is worthy of your effort." Xiao Ling said.

"I know Duality." Fan Bai stared at them and still refused: "I trust my young master."

She had heard of this academy during her vagrant stage. However, she still chose to listen to Li Qiye instead.

"This is foolish." One girl couldn't help murmuring.

The choice was obvious for anyone, even a fool. Xiao Ling was willing to teach her a powerful merit law for free. How could she still refuse?

The old attendant has been watching this. The girls didn't know that Fan Bai's future would have been ruined by taking the offer.

Fortunately, she was firm enough and remembered Li Qiye's words, remaining untempted. Others couldn't have done the same thing.

"Ladies, please don't disturb her training." He walked over and said with a smile.

The three had no choice but to back off. As students of Duality, they understood that it was extremely rude for them to interrupt someone's training.

"You should talk to your young master. Don't just teach her one thing." One friend remained indignant for Fan Bai.

"Right, look at how hard she's working. Hmph, if he has nothing to teach, we can give her a merit law. It's suitable for anyone in the world and is countless times stronger than that." The other jumped in.

"The young master certainly has a profound reason for doing this." The old man smiled.

"What profound reason?" Even Xiao Ling herself expressed annoyance: "Your young master isn't a supreme or peerless existence. There's no profundity nor mystery in this."

She didn't like talking negatively about Li Qiye since he had helped them. However, she felt that the old man was trying too hard to be mysterious.

"Right, if your young master is capable of this, he wouldn't be a woodchopper right now." Another girl said.

The old man could only reply with a smile. The three of them had no idea that a great fortune was there in front of them. Alas, they completely abandoned it.

Thus, their future would not be comparable to Fan Bai despite their noble upbringing. Fan Bai would illuminate Eight Desolaces while the best they could do was becoming queens.

Of course, the old man didn't try to help them. After all, everyone was responsible for grasping their fortune.

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The three girls were bored while staying in the temple. They wanted to leave but were afraid of getting lost. All they could do was release a signal and continue waiting.

Fortunately, friends actually saw their signal on the same day and came seeking them. The dispersed group eventually gathered along with other students of the academy.

They were lucky to survive after scattering around the mountain range. Not one was killed or eaten.

They talked about how frightening the encounter with the serpent was and that it would go down as an exciting story to be told.

"Classmate Ling, I caught a divine fish too." A male student was ecstatic to see Xiao Ling. He bragged: "We ran to a pond and worked together to capture it."

Having said that, he took out a chest containing water from the pond with a fire-colored fish with long feelers. It had yellow scales as if they were gilded.

"A gilded five-colored loach. Its blood is very precious, you're quite lucky." An older student said with admiration: "Rumor has it that it is a side branch of a seven-colored draconic loach. It doesn't have a true dragon bloodline like the latter but its blood is immensely nutritious."

“Valuable indeed.” The students nearby were in awe.

The first student was happy and told Xiao Ling: “Classmate Ling, I’ll give it to you.” His eyes exuded admiration.

Everyone could tell that he was interested in her. All eyes were on the two of them. After all, Xiao Ling was a noble and had plenty of suitors.

“Thank you, Classmate Zhang Yu, but I do not dare to accept such a precious gift. Please keep and use it yourself.” Xiao Ling politely refused.

The male student had no choice but to put the fish away, dejected.

The crisis earlier didn’t diminish everyone’s enthusiasm. Most talked about the next location. Some thought that they should bring more powerful students and teachers to tag along. Others had enough and wanted to go back to the academy...

“So rowdy, what’s going on here?” A lazy voice interrupted the crowd gathered outside the temple.

Many students quieted down and looked over. They saw a youth with firewood and a yellow dog.

Who else could it be but Li Qiye returning from his trip?

The majority didn’t give a damn after seeing Li Qiye’s limited cultivation.

“Young Noble Li, our friends found us.” Xiao Ling happily told Li Qiye. It was a blessing that a dozen of them survived the encounter with the serpent.

“That’s fine but don’t be loud and disturb the peace.” Li Qiye responded.

Xiao Ling didn’t expect this but thought that it made sense. This was Li Qiye’s place.

“You’re right, Young Noble.” She nodded.

“Hmph, Myriad Beast Mountains isn’t your place.” The student named Zhang Yu who wanted to please Xiao Ling didn’t like Li Qiye’s haughty attitude towards her. He immediately stepped forward.

“Is that so?” Li Qiye lazily glanced at him.

His attitude didn’t win him any love from the members of Duality. They stared coldly at him, thinking that he was thinking too highly of himself.

They could be considered dragons and phoenixes. Few were chosen by Duality, definitely not ordinary mortals.

Li Qiye belonged to the second group, just an unknown junior. How dare he treat them with contempt?

“Brat, watch your words.” An older student said seriously: “If anything gets broken here, we’ll be sure to pay for the damages. Just take back your arrogant tone.”

### **Chapter 3559: Roasting**

Another student added: “Just a broken temple. We can smash it down and still shouldn’t pay more than a few coins!”

Other students thought so too. The majority came from nobility and powerful clans. This temple was worth nothing in their eyes, the same with someone like Li Qiye. His cultivation was nothing more than child's play.

To put it bluntly, it was his honor to have them visit his humble abode - a blessing from the ancestors.

"Smash the temple?" Li Qiye couldn't help but smile while looking at the guy.

"And what if we do?" Zhang Yu loudly said. Even the watersplitter beast beneath him routed and raised its claws, ready to show its might.

He was annoyed with Li Qiye early and now, he was ready to show it after seeing the support of his peers.

He gazed down at Li Qiye while sitting on top of his beast: "Tell me, how much is this temple worth? I will personally break it right now then pay you."

He came from a rich family and performed well at the academy. He might not be superior compared to his peers but as for a nobody like Li Qiye from the mortal world? He naturally didn't give a damn.

Xiao Ling's group of three didn't like this negative development. However, they were in a tough position since Li Qiye's attitude enraged their friends.

Li Qiye put down the timber pieces on his shoulders. The students sneered after seeing this. What was this mortal going to do to them?

"Attendant, I am hungry. Go make food with that beast." Li Qiye pointed at the watersplitter beast before sitting down beneath a big tree.

"You think you're qualified to say something like that? My mount is a treasure beast..." Zhang Yu snorted right away and laughed.

"He doesn't know his limit. The watersplitter beast has immense strength. Just one stomp is enough to crush them to a pulp yet they want to kill it?" One student sneered.

"Let him come, Zhang Yu, let's see if he has the ability to do so." Another laughed.

Zhang Yu stared at the old attendant and said: "Come if you're not afraid of death. Don't blame me if my mount crushes you..."

Even the mount started roaring haughtily. The students thought that Li Qiye and his old servant were suicidal.

However, the old man didn't mind at all. He spread his palm before Zhang Yu could finish speaking, knocking the youth off his mouth.

"Ooo-" His saber pierced the beast's heart before Zhang Yu could get up. It didn't have a chance to resist.

Everything happened so quickly before anyone could react. The old man then dragged the beast away, leaving a long bloody trail on the ground.

“Young Master, how should I cook it?” He asked.

“Roast it, I’m in the mood for that.” Li Qiye answered while enjoying the shade.

Zhang Yu regained his wits and was furious. He spent a large sum to buy this mount but these two wanted to eat it now?

“Little animal, I’ll make mincemeat out of you!” He roared and unsheathed his divine sword.

“Clank!” A murderous energy pulsed from the blade.

“Enough!” Xiao Ling saw that Zhang Yu actually wanted to kill Li Qiye so she shouted: “This ends here. We are guests in this place!”

“But he killed my mount!” Zhang Yu didn’t accept the mediation and still glared at Li Qiye.

“I’ll just get you another. It’s inappropriate for us to be so loud at someone else’s home.” Xiao Ling spoke while staring at Li Qiye.

“That’s it?” Zhang Yu still wanted to put an end to Li Qiye.

“You’re dissatisfied? I’ll get you a golden-eyed watersplitter beast then.” Xiao Ling glared at the youth.

“That’s not what I meant, you don’t have to be the one...” Zhang Yu became soft after seeing her aggressive eyes.

“Forget about it if Princess Ling is giving you a better mount.” A female friend told him.

“I guess so.” Zhang Yu had no choice but to swallow this anger.

“Princess Ling is too nice.” An older student shook his head. He thought that this wouldn’t have ended here if it was his mount being killed.

“This is her way of repaying him for letting her stay the night.” Another nodded and said.

As they were talking among themselves, an aroma of roasted meat permeated the area.

The old attendant had prepared the beast and placed its entire head on a roasting rack. The thing became golden with tantalizing fatty drips.

People couldn’t help looking at the big chunk of meat. Some even salivated. They have all forgotten that this used to be Zhang Yu’s mount.

Fat and oil let out pleasant pops. The old man was certainly a first-rate cook. After he added the spices, the aroma became unbearable. Zhang Yu himself forgot about his mount and started salivating.

“That smells wonderful.” One student said while gulping loudly: “This feels like we’ve been starving for days.”

The others felt their stomach rumbling after hearing this. Alas, no one dared to say anything.

The dog and boar ran over too after smelling the aroma. They circled around the meat and growled, ready to eat.



“Amitabha.” A Buddhist chant came out of nowhere.

People suddenly saw a young monk standing before the meat as well. He looked around fifteen years of age and wore a kasaya. He was handsome and exuded spirituality as if he was gestated by ten great mountains or that he was a source of Buddhism.

However, upon careful examination, his kasaya was dirty and stained with oil, especially in the chest area. The place was shiny - this made people think that the monk has been sneaking in meat and wiping it on his kasaya.

He held a Buddhist bowl with a golden radiance, brimming with Buddhist affinity. It was clearly a great treasure.

“Amitabha.” He bowed towards the old man and placed his palms together: “Sir, will you be benevolent for a karmic deed, I haven’t eaten in three days...”

He then raised his bowl forward to ask for a piece of meat.

“Scram.” The old man uttered coldly without looking at him.

He awkwardly pulled his bowl back while still fixated on the meat. He swallowed his saliva and continued begging: “Sir, I, I just need a tiny piece...”

The old man still ignored him.

“He’s... he’s Golden Cicada Buddhist Child...” The students saw him and became startled.

“You’re right, from Golden Dragon Temple.” Others recognized him.

“Buddhist Child.” The students bowed towards him regardless of how proud they were.

“Don’t be so polite now.” The young monk bowed towards them back to return the gesture. However, his eyes were still on the meat.

### **Chapter 3560: Seven-colored Draconic Loach**

“Golden Cicada Buddhist Child...” The prideful students stared at him with respect.

He was the most talented monk in Heavenly Dragon, the most blessed and also the youngest - a direct disciple of the Sacred Monk of Wisdom, one of the four grandmasters.

Even the top geniuses in Duality couldn’t stop him. In reality, very few members of the young generation could match him.

In fact, some believed that he could eventually surpass his master and reach the height of Boundless Supreme. He would be able to enter Sacred Mountain and become the leader there.

Of course, these were just speculations and rumors. Nonetheless, they served as a measuring stick to the Buddhist child’s heaven-defying talents.

Heavenly Dragon Temple has been focusing on grooming him as well, most likely waiting for him to take over the role of the sacred monk.

“Young Master, it is done now. Which part do you want first?” The old man placed the roasted meat in front of Li Qiye and grinded his knives together.

The students from Duality still salivated, the same as Zhang Yu. The only difference was that he was also glaring at Li Qiye with total hatred.

“Which tastes the best?” Li Qiye glanced at it.

“The eyes.” The monk shouted before the old attendant. Everyone could hear him swallow his saliva several times.

“Our young monk here is right, the eyes are good.” The attendant pierced the knife and took it out for Li Qiye: “Please try, Young Master.”

Li Qiye accepted it and took a bite before throwing it back onto the plate. He shook his head: “Not very good.”

“I must be a bad cook.” The old man said.

“No, you did a fine job. The fire was perfect. It’s just that the meat is too rough.” Li Qiye shook his head.

“How ludicrous!” A student immediately voiced his annoyance at Li Qiye’s perceived bravado. He was still in love with that meat.

Meanwhile, the two animals were still circling and growling but they didn’t dare to eat without Li Qiye’s permission.

“Let them eat this.” Li Qiye smiled and told the attendant.

The latter immediately swung his blade and separated the chunk into two halves before throwing it to Lil’ Black and Lil’ Yellow.

The two happily barked before chewing on the meat to the envy of the crowd.

“Amitabha, black benefactor, I am here for a chance to perform a good deed, will you let me have a leg?” Golden Cicada showed no sign of reservation, unlike the students. He stretched his bowl towards Lil’ Black.

The boar immediately growled to show his ownership, not bothering to listen to the monk.

“Amitabha, yellow benefactor, I haven’t eaten in three days and three nights, let me have one piece?” The monk turned towards the dog.

“Gao! Gao! Gao!” The dog rudely shouted and put on a fierce appearance, scaring the monk back.

“Amitabha, no need to be so mean, just say no.” The monk consoled himself.

The students found this hilarious but didn’t dare to laugh. The monk’s gluttony was even more well-known than his cultivation prowess. He traveled seeking good food and didn’t shy away from meat and wine.

“Fine, don’t eat alone, let the young monk have a leg.” Li Qiye told the two animals.

The two had no choice but to agree while glaring at the monk.

“Amitabha, thank you!” The monk jubilated before running over, tearing off a leg and another piece from the dog and boar’s portion. His bowl became as filled as can be.

The two animals ran away afterward in order to stop him from taking more.

He didn’t care for appearances and sat down on the ground, taking one bite after another. His mouth was covered in oil while making loud sounds.

“It’s good, it’s good!” He praised while eating.

“This little monk... I suppose I’m not that bad of a cook. It is your fortune to be able to eat my cooking.” The old man happily said.

“You’re completely right, Sir. Amitabha.” His mouth was filled with meat so his words were unclear.

The students were starving too but to compete against two animals for meat? They couldn’t stoop down to that level. That would be awfully embarrassing.

“Young Master, do you want anything else?” The old man asked after the failure with the meat.

“Don’t we have a fish in the jar right now? Go make me some soup.” Li Qiye ordered casually.

“Yes.” The old man went to a jar in the courtyard and opened it.

Initially, the students didn’t care about a bowl of soup. However, this all changed once the old man opened the lid.

A seven-colored beam shot to the sky akin to the coming of a treasure.

“What’s that?” Everyone looked over, attracted by the emerging beam.

“Splash!” The old man grabbed a five-pound fish from the jar - the source of the brilliance. It resembled a rainbow blinding everyone. This seven-colored fish had long feelers just like the whiskers of a dragon.

“Seven-colored draconic loach! The ancestor of a gilded five-colored loach!” The monk became startled after seeing this.

“That’s what it is?!” The students’ eyes turned agape as a result.

“Really? It has to be another fish that just looks similar.” Zhang Yu refused to believe it.

This was understandable. He and several other friends tried their very best and managed to catch the gilded five-colored loach. This was extremely precious so he was proud to present it to Princess Ling as a present. That’s why there was no way Li Qiye could have one in a jar.

“Amitabha, believers of Buddhism do not lie. This is a seven-colored draconic loach, a fish rumored to have the bloodline of a true dragon.” The monk placed his palms together and salivated while looking at the fish.

The crowd was astonished while looking at this incredible treasure.

“How, how do you have this fish?” Xiao Ling couldn’t help but ask.

“This crappy fish? I found it in a stream the last time I went to gather firewood.” Li Qiye responded.

“Found it in a stream... How...” Her friend said in disbelief.

The other students felt the same way. How could this Li Qiye fella be so lucky?

“I’m here every day, is it that strange to find some food?” Li Qiye commented.

“Young Master, I’ll go gather some other ingredients to go along with this fish, it’ll be delicious.” The old man had already killed the fish while the students stood there in a daze. He plucked something resembling cabbage and put it in a pot then the fish.

“What... that’s dreamsoul sage, a supreme alchemy material.” The monk stared intensely at the pot.

People suddenly realized that there were many plants looking like it around the temple.

“That’s a legendary medicine famous for its nutritious value, right?” A student from an alchemy clan suddenly salivated while looking at the garden filled with precious materials.

“How, how do you have so many expensive herbs?” Xiao Ling had no idea what they were despite staying here last night.

“Oh, they’re all over the mountain so I planted them for meals.” Li Qiye said.