

Emperor 3571

Chapter 3571: On The Dao Heart

The relationship with the beasts was one thing but Teacher Du was equally perplexed regarding Li Qiye's attitude and bearing.

When he faced certain temptations, he chose a different choice from the rest. He was still a Violet Marquis cultivator and should know the importance of joining a large sect for better merit laws. Becoming the first disciple of one meant soaring to the sky.

Those from a humble beginning would certainly trade the fruits for this chance. It would be countless times better compared to staying here as a woodchopper. Thus, people should have focused on this more than the beasts' issue.

In retrospection, his moral character was worthy of admiration - a true man of virtue sticking to his path.

Teacher Du couldn't help admiring the guy and even thought about recruiting him into Duality. Of course, this had nothing to do with Li Qiye's ability to grab the magical gem fruits nor his friendship with the beasts.

This wasn't for any personal benefit, he simply appreciated the guy's choice.

Everyone knew that they lived in a cruel dog-eat-dog world. It was rare to see someone going against the mold.

"I can't believe Young Noble Li and the beasts here are actually neighbors." Yang Ling said to one of her friends.

He told them this before but they dismissed it, thinking that he was just exaggerating. This was no longer the case.

"It has to be his characters. Anyone else growing up here might not be loved in the same way." She thought about it and added: "It's extraordinary that he didn't trade the treasures of the beasts for his own gains."

She wholeheartedly admired him for his choice because she wouldn't have been able to do so.

"Characters? More like idiocy." Zhang Changyu became jealous and snorted: "I think there's something wrong with his brains. An early death is inevitable for someone like him."

"Nonsense!" Yang Ling became infuriated and glared at him: "Don't put someone down because you can't do the same thing. It paints an unsavory picture of yourself."

Zhang Changyu was furious too but didn't dare to argue with Yang Ling. He shut his mouth and directed this anger towards Li Qiye.

"I'm not quite sure, I think it was indeed foolish for him to not join a sect by trading the fruits." An older student said: "It was a godsend opportunity, it's hard to rise without one. The disparity between a first disciple and a woodchopper is obvious. Moreover, that would give him more room to become an

incredible existence who can perform wondrous tasks. That's why, in my opinion, his choice was narrow-minded."

"Not necessarily." Teacher Du shook his head: "Missing the chance to join a big sect might not be a loss. There are fortunes decided by the unknowns. Perhaps a bigger opportunity awaits him."

The students exchanged glances. Some agreed while others didn't feel the same way.

The latter thought that these "fortunes" were too intangible. Direct benefits such as joining a big sect were far better.

"That may be the case but what he did to Zhui Xueyun was too much. That's definitely a looming disaster." Another student said.

"There is no perfect strategy that covers all bases. Cultivation is throwing away the fear of death. If one always thinks about the pros and cons, it'll lead to stagnation. They might as well stay a mortal." Teacher Du put on a dignified expression and elaborated: "On the other hand, Young Noble Li didn't care about the benefits nor was he afraid of a stronger foe. This should be the mindset of a cultivator. It'll allow you to go further."

The students contemplated after hearing this.

Teacher Du stared at his students and went on: "Numerous sects and cultivators have existed in history, the same with invincible merit laws and peerless geniuses. However, very few actually reached the apex to illuminate the realms. Do you think those who became dao lords did it because they had top talents and the best merit laws?" His eyes became profound after saying this.

"Then what about your group? Duality Academy has numerous top merit laws that you all can access. Ask yourself, would you be able to surpass those before you and become a dao lord?" He asked.

The students didn't answer. Their talents weren't inferior to the others; hence their entry to the academy. Moreover, the academy was the number one in the south. In fact, it might be one of the best in all of Eight Desolaces with regards to merit laws and manuals.

Would they be able to reach the apex given the favorable circumstances? They didn't dare to answer.

The biggest aspiration of some was to become a heavenly Sovereign. The realm of invincibility was too far to reach.

"Normally, the most important thing to become a dao lord is actually the dao heart." Teacher Du finally concluded.

Some students have heard this before from the other teachers or the seniors back in their own clan. However, they thought that it was too intangible.

"Teacher, what is a dao heart?" One female student asked.

He slowly explained: "People have different definitions but in my opinion, Young Noble Li not caring about benefits nor fearing the strong is a type of dao heart."

He looked at the group and continued: "You might think what he did was truly stupid. However, could you have done the same thing? Your talents and cultivation might be higher but I'm afraid there's a chance that he'll accomplish more in the future."

Many students didn't buy this. They had prestigious backgrounds and incredible talents on top of using high-ranking merit laws. How could a woodchopper surpass them?

"This Li Qiye hasn't cultivated anything worthwhile, he's nothing more than a woodchopper in Myriad Beast Mountains. How strong can he become?" One student objected.

"Supreme merit laws mean nothing. Don't forget the phrase left by our progenitor - the dao comes naturally." Teacher Du responded.

The students trembled with pride. Their progenitor was a renowned figure - Duality Master.

They heard about his exploits and stories at a young age. He was not a dao lord yet was still greater than one.

No one dared to refute Teacher Du. In history, Duality had a unique position so his teachings were respected.

In fact, even the dao lords wouldn't dare to question him, let alone these juniors.

"Boom!" A loud explosion destroyed the peace. The ground shook violently and a beam rushed to the sky.

"What's that over there?" The students stared in that direction.

"That's the beam we saw the other night, right?" One of them said.

Chapter 3572: Buddhist Treasure Emerging

The beam illuminated the mountains and alerted both the cultivators and the beasts.

Numerous experts from the great powers rushed towards the base of the beam. This was their initial goal in the first place.

It was just that once they got here, the beam was nowhere to be found. Now, the opportunity has resurfaced.

The cultivators rode the winds forward including Teacher Du's group and others from the academy.

"It's over there." Teacher Du's eyes were fixated in that direction.

They looked up and saw numerous beams shooting through the sky. A flood of cultivators was also heading there.

"Fellow Daoist He, do you know what's ahead?" Teacher Du noticed a familiar person crossing through the air and started a conversation.

"Fellow Daoist Du." The expert stopped and answered: "A supreme treasure of the Buddhist affinity has emerged, I'm not too sure. This is just information from my senior brother. I'm going ahead now." He then continued onward.

Everyone who heard about this Buddhist treasure competed to be the first there.

“A supreme Buddhist treasure?” Teacher Du’s eyes slightly shifted. To be addressed as such meant that this artifact must be quite amazing. This was because there were plenty of Buddhist treasures in the holy ground.

The students behind him had a look of anticipation after hearing this. For cultivators of this realm, possessing a treasure like this had significant meaning.

“Teacher, let us hurry and get there?” They couldn’t wait to take a look at this so-called supreme Buddhist treasure. Of course, obtaining it would be even better.

The academy was a relatively special existence in the holy ground. It didn’t forbid students from cultivating Buddhism nor did it actively spread this doctrine. All in all, the academy allowed the students to do as they please. All arts and dao were accepted.

Thus, the students didn’t particularly want Buddhist treasures and merit laws. Nonetheless, they wouldn’t refuse one of this level either.

“You want to give it a shot?” Teacher Du glanced at them and said: “Not to mention the experts from all over the world, you can’t even outcompete your seniors.”

Excitement turned into wry smiles for the students upon hearing this. The group was the youngest right now in the academy and also the weakest.

They naturally couldn’t compete against the seniors who have trained there for several years or even decades.

“We just want to broaden our horizon, nothing else.” One student awkwardly answered.

They naturally understood their limits. Thus, their goal here was for sightseeing and increasing their knowledge.

“Follow right behind me and don’t cause trouble. The ferocious beasts are one thing but people are vicious too. Don’t blame me for not warning you first.” Teacher Du said. He was experienced enough to know the perils of the world, unlike these young birds.

“Yes!!” The students cheered after getting permission from their teacher.

Teacher Du sighed and brought the group towards the source of the beam.

During their trip, they saw numerous cultivators soaring above them without hiding anything. Mighty auras engulfed the air like torrential storms.

Of course, these brazen men were clearly powerful and had strong backgrounds. That’s why they could travel in this manner.

They also heard loud explosions from cavalries grinding the air. Murderous intent and battle-hardened presence could be easily sensed. They felt their scalp tingling as a result.

“The border guards are here too.” One student became startled: “Does that mean His Majesty has ordered the troops to come for the treasure?”

The political landscape was complicated at the holy ground. Though the Vajra Dynasty was in charge, there were many countries and sects not under its jurisdiction. That's why some didn't like the dynasty extending their armies throughout the region. This army guarding the border was one of them.

"It's too complex for you all to understand right now, it's best not to comment." Teacher Du nonchalantly said.

Though this wasn't a warning, the students kept their mouth shut on this topic.

Of course, Duality Academy didn't need to look up to Vajra Dynasty. However, most students were from Metropolis Division, meaning that they were nobles.

Their seniors and ancestors have worked for Vajra so it was better to refrain from talking about it. They were aware of the ongoing political competition.

The light had disappeared before they made it there. This didn't affect much because too many people were heading to that area.

Once they got close, they saw people on the peaks and trees. Armies also floated in the air...

The place was completely packed like a busy street. Tens of thousands of cultivators were present.

However, they were greeted by an unpleasant stench of blood as well. Its thickness made people want to vomit. The streams nearby no longer had clear water, only blood, flesh, and viscera.

The group didn't get close and chose to stay on top of a peak to judge the situation.

In reality, many students from Duality got here before them and camped on this peak. They were older and stronger than Yang Ling's group and had teachers with them as well.

"What's the situation?" One student asked after finishing the climb.

An older student shook his head: "No one can get into that valley."

Yang Ling and the others followed his gaze. They saw a valley with abandoned temples inside. Not a single one was intact. They were as broken as can be; some only had walls left.

This location meant for Buddhists has gone unnoticed in this mountain range for some time.

"How come I've never seen this place before?" Teacher Du was surprised.

"It was sealed by a top Buddhist technique." Another teacher explained: "I just don't know who broke a hole through the seal. Take a look."

Teacher Du saw one peak on top of the valley with a broken hole. Runes were still floating around there.

Chapter 3573: Golden Egg

The cultivators outside were completely attracted by something within the valley.

The large area only had one entrance. The other entrances have been sealed by a mighty force. This entry point was the broken hole on the peak with a flight of steps leading down.

To the right and left of this path were numerous Buddhist statues. They have been here for who knows how many years and were covered in moss.

The temples inside had irreparable damages outside of a few. For example, the largest one could barely be recognized. However, one hall within remained intact.

Because certain sections were broken, those waiting outside could see inside the hall.

They saw shelves made from precious sandalwood containing treasures and scriptures. These things still had a luster after so many years.

The scrolls, in particular, were magical. When the breeze blew the pages over, an ocean of runes would emerge along with wondrous hymns.

These phenomena made it obvious that they were top scriptures. Even the high monks of Heavenly Dragon Temple would be tempted.

The treasures also had incredible pulses, seemingly opening up portals that can lead others to salvation.

However, the thing commanding the most attention was a stone platform in the center. It was made from individual blocks that were quite coarse. However, once placed together in this manner, it looked natural instead of simple.

An egg was on top of this platform, around the size of a bowl. The shell was golden, seemingly cast from gold.

The shell wasn't glossy and smooth. It had many bumps, a sign of struggle during its inception. Strange runes covered the thing, chaotic yet naturally formed. Some could view the runes as the true shell of this egg.

It was also absorbing Buddhist light from the treasures and scriptures on the shelves. No light could escape from this golden egg.

The absorption process would make the runes flash and slightly move. Then next came the hymns of thousands and thousands of Buddhas blessing this egg.

All of this made its value apparent. People couldn't help but salivate while staring at it.

"What is this egg?" Both the early and latecomers had no idea. Even the knowledgeable ancestors have never heard nor seen such an egg.

"Teacher, do you know what that egg is?" A student from Duality asked.

Teacher Du and the others glanced at each other. The teacher in question shook his head: "I have never seen it. There aren't any records relating to it either."

"What beast is that lying on the platform?" Yang Ling's friend noticed a chaos primal beast.

In the beginning, the group fully focused on the egg and didn't notice the beast.

It looked like a hornless dragon with some differences. Its scales had a blue glow and were covered in mysterious diagrams. They looked like paintings of landscape.

The beast wore a crown with feminine characteristics. The creature was clearly a female.

It occasionally opened its mouth to suck in and release chaos energy. It seemed to be gestating the egg.

“That’s a world draconic king in the myths. It’s stronger than the dichromatic ape.” Teacher Du said seriously.

“Stronger than the ape?” Yang Ling blurted out: “The ape is a high-level heaven beast already...”

“It’s a high-level heaven king, hence its name.” Another teacher said: “High-level heaven isn’t the strongest rank. There are kings, emperors, and gods...”

The students took a deep breath after learning about this. The ape earlier was already strong enough. This draconic creature was even stronger?

“So that’s the draconic king’s egg?” A female student wondered.

An older teacher stared intensely at the egg before concluding: “No, I was fortunate enough to see a world draconic king’s eggs during my youth. They don’t look like this one.”

“This egg must be something else. The draconic king is willingly trying to incubate it, it must be another high-level heaven emperor. Maybe the god level.” One more teacher said.

“A god-level egg? I’ve never seen one before.” The older teacher said: “That’s a chaos primal beast capable of fighting against dao lords. There aren’t that many in all of history.”

“Not just that, this egg might have deep ties with Buddhism.” Teacher Du added after seeing how the egg captured Buddhist lights.

“Hard to say, if this is the case, it’ll cause a disaster.” The older teacher looked up and said: “I wonder if those old geezers will be able to restrain themselves.”

The students didn’t notice anything, unlike the powerful teachers. The latter noticed numerous ancestors hiding above in the clouds. They had various reasons for not showing up.

“Rumble!” Meanwhile, fierce battles waged outside the valley entrance.

An army of powerful cultivators was fighting against chaos primal beasts in order to break through the entrance.

The primal beasts also had numerous groups led by heaven-level beasts. Some among them were actually at the high level. They seemed to be patrolling and protecting this valley. Judging by the current situation, they weren’t here at the start and only came recently.

The powerful cultivators were currently fighting against lion-like creatures. Heavy casualties occurred.

“That’s the border army, right?” A student became surprised.

Unfortunately, this mighty army was on the verge of being routed.

“Raa!” The crazed lion king roared furiously and opened its mouth, swallowing a thousand troops in the blink of an eye.

“Boom!” It sent the commander flying with one smash. Its victim vomited blood continuously.

The commander couldn’t escape before being surrounded by another horde of beasts and was torn to pieces.

Chapter 3574: Working Together For The Egg

The frontier army was reduced to dust in no time at all. Not a single soldier survived the hordes of beasts. Their commander suffered the same fate.

“Ahhh!” Several more groups were attacked in no time at all. They didn’t even make it near the entrance before being surrounded by beasts. More than a thousand cultivators were killed.

These groups came from the big powers and had ancestors at the sacred level. This was still far from enough.

The students from Duality finally realized the reason for the carnage and the stench of blood earlier.

“They’re so strong...” All cultivators shuddered in horror after seeing the massacre.

The groups earlier were nothing short of impressive, especially the frontier guards. They were battle-hardened but didn’t last long.

“Who can actually get in there?” One student murmured.

“Isn’t First Senior Sister here?” Another said.

“You’re right, maybe she can give it a shot.” The first became excited and looked around.

They were talking about the academy’s top genius, Dugu Lan. She might be the strongest there as well, at least among the student body.

“It’s useless.” A teacher who got here early shook his head and said: “Student Lan managed to escape the beasts but still couldn’t get through the powerful defense inside.”

“She couldn’t?” The students shuddered. If Dugu Lan couldn’t, no other students had a chance. Even the teachers would find it impossible.

“Xiao Lan failed?” Teacher Du was surprised and stared at the valley: “What kind of defense is in there?”

“Do you see those steps? The statues to the left and right are just too strong. Student Lan was repelled by them.” The teacher pointed forward.

All eyes turned towards the entrance with the steps leading down the cliff. Numerous statues there were covered in moss.

Prior to this, the students assumed that they were mere decorations. This was no longer the case.

“Maybe the headmaster can do it.” A teacher said: “No one else but those on his level can obtain this golden divine egg.”

“Is the headmaster here too?” Some students blurted out.

The teachers exchanged glances and didn't answer. However, judging by their expression, the students thought that the headmaster might actually be here.

"Maybe we'll be lucky enough to see the headmaster's might." Some became excited.

The current headmaster of Duality was Five-colored Sacred Sovereign, one of the four grandmasters of Buddha Holy Ground. He became a Heavenly Sovereign at a young age and was among the top experts of the south.

His involvement here would naturally shock the entire region.

"With enough time, the other grandmasters might come too." One teacher glanced at the sky and said seriously.

The students took a deep breath after hearing this. The four grandmasters were four giants pushing up the sky here. It was hard to find others at this level.

Moreover, they were elusive too and rarely showed up. Their presence meant that something big was happening.

According to the teacher just now, this place warranted the appearance of more than just one.

"Fellow officials, it's time to work together." One old man suddenly declared: "No one can enter alone."

His voice wasn't particularly loud but everyone could hear him. They all stared in his direction.

He wore an official robe and had an impressive stature. His expression was fierce and powerful; he looked more like a general than a court official.

"Senior Defender Shang from the Ministry of War, a general under Minister Sima." An expert immediately recognized him and became startled.

He didn't come alone and had a valiant group behind him consisting of incredible experts with strong bloodthirst.

"Sir Shang is a brutal figure who flattened numerous problems for Minister Sima." Others shuddered.

The Minister of War was notorious in the holy ground, known for his ruthless and decisive measures. He flattened many obstacles for Vajra. The legions of Vajra became stronger now than at any time in the past.

He was gifted in the military arts. Numerous powers wanted to join him in order to create something great.

Sir Shang was one of his generals. This meant that either the Ministry of War or the dynasty itself desired this golden egg.

In reality, no one ruled forever. This was an accepted fact in the holy ground. Vajra was in charge for now but not in perpetuity. This golden egg had deep ties with Buddhism. It could strengthen their authority and sovereignty so it was crucial

The seniors and elders exchanged glances after hearing him. Some powers didn't care enough to give him face but this wasn't the case for both who were from the noble clans. They were from the dynasty, more or less.

"You're right, Sir." An old man wearing an embroidered robe said: "These beasts are just too strong. We have no chance without the help of a grandmaster. It's better to work together."

"The Marquis of South Peak." Eyes turned towards him.

He was granted a noble title by the court along with hereditary territories, meaning that his son would inherit both the title and his land. He was an important official in the frontier. A thousand experts behind him made his power obvious.

"Who will the egg belong to if we get it?" One person asked.

Everyone wanted this supreme Buddhist treasure for themselves. How would they split it?

"This egg belongs to the virtuous." Sir Sheng said: "Who in this land is more virtuous than His Majesty? Thus, when we get it, we'll offer it as a tribute." Sir Shang said with a serious tone.

People exchanged glances after hearing this.

"I don't know if his cultivation has improved but his sycophantic ability certainly has." One high elder snorted and spoke among his group.

The powerful ancestors felt the same way but didn't comment on this.

Vajra was currently in charge but it wasn't an iron-clad reign. The ancestors from the five divisions of Buddha Emperor Plateau didn't think much of it. They naturally wouldn't offer the egg to the king.

The conversation came to a lull until a Buddhist chant could be heard: "Amitabha."

Chapter 3575: Entry Attempt

People stared ahead and saw a monk standing by the entrance to the valley.

His kasaya was stained with oil. His expression wasn't dignified like a monk's should be.

"Golden Cicada Buddhist Child!" Everyone knew who this monk was - the genius of Heavenly Dragon Temple and the beloved disciple of Wisdom Sacred Monk.

Unfortunately, his gluttony nature actually overshadowed his cultivation and Buddhist attainment. Everyone in this region knew about this.

"Since when did he get there?" No one saw him a while ago since they were focusing on the conversation between Sir Shang and South Peak Marquis.

"He actually made it through the beasts?" The crowd became surprised.

Tens of thousands of beasts were patrolling right outside of the valley. Not even water could get through.

Numerous cultivators have tried only to fail. Most became food for the beasts. Thus, the monk's success took everyone by surprise.

"Golden Cicada lives up to his fame, he must have some heaven-defying abilities." An ancestor couldn't help but praise.

"This young monk is qualified to fight Student Lan." One teacher nodded approvingly.

"He's that strong?" Some students didn't believe it.

Though people knew that he was a top genius and an enlightened monk, most didn't have a good grasp of his actual power. They only focused on his gluttonous image.

"How can the disciple of Wisdom Sacred Monk be weak?" Teacher Du said.

This was indeed the case. Wisdom Sacred Monk was on the same level as Five-colored Sacred Sovereign. There was no way that the monk would be weak. It was rather understandable that he would be able to contest against Dugu Lan.

Meanwhile, Golden Cicada had a serious expression while standing at the entrance, with zero sign of complacency.

"Amitabha, merciful Buddha." He placed his palms together and respectfully said before taking the first step onto the stairs.

"Buzz." The step beneath lit up upon contact. A Buddhist light emerged and illuminated the rest of the steps along with the dozens of statues.

The spectators could see that the statues weren't actually moving. However, there were illusions of them opening their eyes and lowering their head to look at the monk.

"It's happening, let's see how capable this young monk is." One teacher said with eagerness in his voice.

"Buzz." Golden Cicada started glowing as well. His oily kasaya had Buddhist runes on the surface. The movement of the runes opened a scripture; this activation created a barrier.

"Amitabha." He walked forward with reverence onto the valley.

"Halt!" All the statues roared at the same time, akin to great Buddhas taking down evil. The listeners were scared out of their mind, feeling suppressed from the pressure.

They simply roared and chanted to stop the monk instead of directly attacking him.

"Rumble!" Waves of Buddhist chants smashed him without any mercy.

However, the kasaya's runes served as an ocean of power. They built a wall around him to stop the sonic attack. Alas, he was still trembling inside. Everyone could tell that he was experiencing painful blows.

As he took more steps, the roars became increasingly stronger. "Boom!" One could see cracks among the thick runic barrier.

"Clank! Clank! Clank!" He took out his Buddhist bowl and started hitting it.

With each hit, the bowl shot out bright lights. Within the lights were sacred Buddhas. They started roaring in the same manner. The various sonic waves started smashing each other.

“Rumble!” The remnant forces caused the entire valley to quake.

Weaker cultivators couldn’t handle the roar and had to run away. Most were pale as a result.

These sonic waves weren’t aimed at them yet were still unbearable. On the other hand, Golden Cicada was facing the full brunt. Most people in his shoes would have been reduced to blood.

“He’s not letting his master down.” An ancestor wasn’t stingy with his praise.

The students of Duality got a new perspective on his power. No wonder why their teacher said that he could fight against their senior sister.

Golden Cicada made it to the half-point mark. His kasaya was visibly drenched with sweat. The two sides didn’t use any technique from start to finish. However, this competition was extremely dangerous. Just one mistake would result in death.

The struggling monk seemed to be faltering by this point.

“It’s over, the young monk still can’t do it.” A teacher with eyes as bright as torches concluded.

“Boom!” He didn’t make it to the two-third mark before losing to the statues. In the next second, he used a peerless speed to retreat.

Unfortunately, he was still half a beat too late. A terrible wave struck him and sent him flying backward while vomiting blood.

Nonetheless, he used the momentum to make it back to the entrance. He didn’t bother wiping the blood off his mouth before disappearing from sight. The beasts couldn’t make it to him in time.

“Failure.” Many cultivators shook their head after seeing the wounded monk.

Of course, some heaved a sigh of relief because the monk wasn’t able to get the golden egg.

“Looks like we’ll have to work together. Eliminate the beasts first then think of a way to get in the valley. Otherwise, don’t even think about the golden egg.” Senior Defender Shang reminded everyone.

Though some didn’t want to work together with Vajra, the guy actually made sense. Working alone wasn’t viable.

“I agree. Just the beasts alone are insurmountable when alone.” South Peak Marquis supported.

Chapter 3576: Inquiry

Most agreed with the marquis regarding the difficulties of getting through these beasts. They didn’t have the means to sneak past them like Golden Cicada Buddhist Child.

“If only Young Noble Li is here, he’ll be able to go there without losing a hair regardless of how many beasts there are.” Yang Ling couldn’t help thinking about Li Qiye and murmured.

Though she was quiet, the senior defender had sharp ears. He immediately turned around and asked her: "Who is Young Noble Li? What is his ability?"

Yang Ling didn't expect anyone else to hear her. She had to answer: "Young Noble Li is a woodchopper in Myriad Beast Mountains. He lives peacefully together with all the chaos primal beasts here."

Sir Shang didn't care much after hearing that the guy was only a woodchopper. That's not useful to him at all.

"Just a woodchopper." He said.

"This woodchopper is devilish though." Someone who has seen Li Qiye before spoke out: "Even a dichromatic ape was friendly towards him and gave him its prized magical gem fruits. It's unfathomable."

"Dichromatic ape?" Sir Shang immediately changed his tune and asked this cultivator: "Really now?"

"It's true, why would we be lying?" This cultivator became annoyed and said: "I'm not the only one who saw it, others who are here did too. He asked the ape to give him fruits and it did."

The listeners were startled since they didn't see it in person. The dichromatic ape was famous as a ferocious beast in this region. No one could get close to its magical gem tree.

"It's a high-level heaven chaos primal beast, no one can control it." Both Sir Shang and the marquis didn't believe it.

"The Nightwalker Tribe knows this best." The one being doubted turned towards the Nightwalkers.

Zhui Xueyun and the elders were present and didn't appreciate being in the spotlight. Xueyun scowled and turned away. This was utterly humiliating and he didn't want to bring it up again.

"That woodchopper can order the beasts here?" Sir Shang directly asked the elders.

Xueyun would have acted out if the guy asking wasn't a big shot.

"The brat is strange indeed. He can live together with the chaos beasts, or at least the dichromatic ape." An elder didn't want to antagonize Vajra.

This confirmed the event so both Sir Shang and South Peak Marquis exchanged glances.

In reality, this couldn't be fabricated since many saw it with their own eyes. It left a deep impression on them.

"Maybe if we let this Li Qiye come here, he'll be able to talk to them and enter the valley." One older expert suggested.

"Hmph, so what? It's not that easy since even Golden Cicada Buddhist Child couldn't make it through the steps, let alone a woodchopper." Xueyun finally spoke up.

"Don't be so sure. Young Noble Li grew up here and knows the place like the back of his hand, maybe he'll know another path into the valley or the beasts will lead him inside. Isn't there a world draconic king there? There must be other paths." Yang Ling defended Li Qiye.

“Hmph. Still only a woodchopper.” To which Xueyun only snorted.

“Where is he staying?” Sir Shang has made up his mind and asked Yang Ling.

“An old temple in...” Yang Ling instinctively answered before realizing that this could cause trouble for Li Qiye. She immediately stopped.

“Where is the exact location?” Sir Shang’s eyes narrowed, looking quite fierce.

“Senior Defender, mind your words. We’re students of Duality, not subjects of the dynasty. We have no obligation to answer your questions.” Teacher Du stepped forward.

This served as a warning to Sir Shang and as a reminder to his students.

Those nearby became excited after seeing a potential conflict between Duality and Vajra.

Vajra was the sun in the current generation. However, Duality has been around for so many years, witnessing one dao lord after another. This was a testament to its power. It had no need to suck up to Vajra so a teacher there could speak to a senior defender in this manner.

“Fellow Daoist Du, you can’t put it that way.” Sir Shang was a fierce general who had killed plenty of people. He strongly responded: “This pertains to the foundation of the holy ground, which is why its current leader, Vajra Dynasty, is being involved. The golden egg can’t fall into evil hands. Everyone should work together and share the responsibility with His Majesty.”

“Sure, that’s true for the officials of Vajra, not the members of Duality.” Teacher Du didn’t give him any face and responded: “That’s why you need to stop interrogating our students.”

He was as clear as can be, not allowing the senior defender to question Yang Ling.

“Duality Academy is quite imperious now.” One spectator commented.

Many powers weren’t under the jurisdiction of Vajra but they still gave it some face, at least on the surface. Duality wasn’t one of them.

“Don’t forget how Duality was built.” An older expert said: “Duality Master creating the academy back then actually affected the foundation of Buddha Holy Ground. The academy was nothing in the past but it still maintained an unyielding attitude. This isn’t something new.”

“Everything belongs to the king, do you dare to not listen...” Sir Shang’s eyes turned cold.

He was part of the Ministry of War so his stance was naturally on the side of the dynasty. He also had the belief that Buddha Holy Ground belonged to Vajra.

“Senior Defender, I don’t agree.” An old teacher immediately shouted back: “Have you forgotten about Sacred Mountain? The holy ground is led by Sacred Mountains and the supreme. The king doesn’t possess everything!”

Sir Shang’s expression changed, realizing that he had carelessly misspoken.

Vajra was current in charge but it was only because Sacred Mountain didn't want to directly rule the holy ground. The real master of this region was Sacred Mountain and its supreme. Though the latter hasn't shown up in a long time, he was still the apex existence here.

The strongest in the south weren't the four grandmasters but the two supremes. One of them was the master of Sacred Mountain.

The holy ground started with Sacred Mountain. The source of Buddhism was also there. Vajra was only a manager of sorts. Sir Shang has overstepped his bounds with the previous comment.

"Ahem." South Peak Marquis tried to mediate the situation: "Focus on the issue at hand right now which is how to obtain the golden egg by working together. If anyone has a good idea, feel free to say it. For example, that woodchopper mentioned earlier might be one."

No one else brought up the issue again after this divergence.

"Who's the first to understand the grand dao, no one else but me..." Suddenly, an ode could be heard from a distance.

Chapter 3577: Join Our Academy

The ode attracted everyone's attention. They saw a young man meandering over.

He dressed in a simple manner without any decoration. A woodcutter was hanging by his waist, a carrying pole on his shoulder. He had a natural and free expression as he sang a strange song.

"Young Noble Li! Over here!" Yang Ling called out for him.

Li Qiye stopped and stared at her: "What is it?"

"It's nothing. This place is very lively with everyone gathered. You should come with us." She winked at him with good intention.

She thought that Sir Shang might be scheming, wanting to use Li Qiye. Thus, if he were with the academy, at least Sir Shang wouldn't dare to do whatever he wanted.

"That's Li Qiye?" Sir Shang wasn't impressed by Li Qiye since he really looked like an ordinary woodchopper. A cultivator at the Violet Marquis realm was insignificant in his eyes.

The marquis and the others also stared at Li Qiye. They found it hard to believe that this woodchopper could co-exist peacefully with the chaos primal beasts here.

"Yes." Someone else told Sir Shang: "He really got some magical gem fruits from the ape. Even a high monk from Heavenly Dragon Temple and the Nightwalkers couldn't do it yet he had no problem."

He then gave a brief recollection of what happened during that event.

"That's nothing short of a miracle." Both the senior defender and the marquis remained skeptical.

"Sir, it's absolutely true, thousands of people saw it. Those from the Nightwalker Tribe even experienced this." The cultivator swore.

As for Duality, the students who weren't there became very curious. They believed it because Yang Ling's group had no reasons to lie.

Unfortunately, Li Qiye seemingly didn't see Yang Ling winking repeatedly. He shook his head and smiled: "If there's nothing, I need to bring some firewood home, can't be delayed."

Yang Ling stomped exasperatingly on the ground since Li Qiye didn't notice danger was approaching. She said with an urgent tone: "Just come over here, I'll explain later."

"No need, gathering wood is more important." Li Qiye shook his head and refused.

Yang Ling felt the urge to beat someone since Li Qiye couldn't tell good from bad. She wondered if he was dumb beyond cure.

"Princess, just let him die if he wants to so badly." Zhang Changyu would be more than happy to see Li Qiye die.

"It's none of your business!" The anxious Yang Ling glared at him.

Zhang Changyu never dared to go against Yang Ling so he kept his mouth shut. The anger once again was diverted towards Li Qiye.

Teacher Du decided to descend to the ground, landing in front of Li Qiye.

"We meet again, Young Noble Li." He didn't put on an act at all, looking as friendly as can be.

"What is it?" Li Qiye seemed disinterested in the amicable teacher.

Anyone else wouldn't like this. After all, Teacher Du was a man of status, around the same level as an elder from a big sect. He was well-respected by the students in Duality as well, the geniuses included.

Teacher Du didn't seem to mind and smiled: "Young Noble Li, Duality Academy always has love and appreciation for talents such as yourself. Would you like to join our academy to advance your studies?"

The students from Duality were surprised first then the rest of the crowd.

Though Duality had its door open for everyone in the world, the entry requirements were severely stringent.

The students either had an incredible background, strong talents, or something brilliant about them. One-in-a-billion wouldn't be an exaggeration.

An invitation like this was very rare. Only others asked to join Duality, never the other way around.

"Hmph, Duality is quite calculating. They're inviting him in order to monopolize the fruits." An elder calmed down and sneered.

"Right?" Other experts clapped their thigh in full agreement, thinking that they knew Duality's goal. They started sneering at the academy.

Teacher Du turned a deaf ear to this and only focused on Li Qiye: "What do you think, Young Noble?"

Li Qiye also ignored the others and stared at the teacher. He smiled and shook his head: “No point in going to Duality to learn more, it’s more comfortable chopping woods here. Nonetheless, I will remember your goodwill.”

The refusal was certainly unexpected for the students. It took immense effort for them to join, needing to surpass numerous trials. Now, Li Qiye was turning down this great opportunity.

“This is a mistake!” Yang Ling performed her trademark foot stomp again and hurriedly told him: “You should know that joining our academy is far better than staying here. It’ll guarantee you a great future.”

She implicated that the senior defender wouldn’t be able to do anything to him if he were to join their academy.

Vajra might be strong but it wouldn’t directly confront Duality nor would it do anything to a student there in public.

“I prefer my current life.” Li Qiye waved his hand and smiled.

“Idiot, I’m trying to save you...” She murmured, vexed.

“Just let him fend for himself.” Other students snorted since their teacher was refused. They had a terrible impression of someone so unambitious.

“If you ever change your mind, our door is always open for you. We truly appreciate talented people and will not let you down if you visit us.” Teacher Du stared at him and said.

He then paused and glanced over at the marquis and senior defender, whether on purpose or not, then said: “Of course, if you have any problem, you’re welcome to come to find us. You know where we are.” With that, he floated back to the peak.

“Brother Du, this brat is worthy of your effort?” A different teacher asked him.

“Yes.” Teacher Du’s eyes were profound as he stared at Li Qiye: “I’ve never seen someone with that type of personality and character before. Just that alone is worthy of joining our academy. His talents don’t matter.”

“What do you mean?” An older teacher joined in.

“Unmoved by external temptations.” Teacher Du responded seriously.

Chapter 3578: Competition

An elder from a big sect descended to talk to Li Qiye right after Teacher Du.

“Young friend, are you interested in learning peerless merit laws?” The elder smiled at Li Qiye: “Here at Shifting Cloud, we have an Eight-step Zen Search technique. It would allow you to fly freely in the air, do you want to take a look?”

He then took out a scroll. Clouds emanating from it, seemingly wanting to lift Li Qiye up.

“Eight-step Zen Search?” Li Qiye smiled while looking at the scroll.

“As long as you’re willing to join Shifting Cloud and be my newest disciple, you can start learning it right away. Plus, you can learn even more in the future. You’ll have the clouds hidden in your sleeves and will gain numerous abilities...”

“The merit laws of Shifting Cloud aren’t that strong.” Another ancestor appeared in front of Li Qiye.

He took out a treasure bottle and opened it. It seemed to be capable of swallowing heaven and earth. He said: “This is the All-encompassing Bottle of our sect, the Night Court. If you are willing to become our royal clan’s first disciple, I’ll give you this bottle along with our top techniques.”

“Hmph, your Night Court isn’t strong enough.” A sect master floated down in front of Li Qiye and said: “Young Friend, join me as my first disciple. You’ll be in charge of three thousand martial brothers and sisters, a territory consisting of eight thousand miles as well...”

“Young Friend, join our clan and I’ll let you have my daughter’s hand in marriage...”

Numerous sects and kingdoms tried to recruit Li Qiye in no time at all. They understood his value after hearing the story with the dichromatic ape.

His mediocre cultivation and talents didn’t matter, the same with him being a woodchopper. Just his access to those magical gem fruits alone was priceless.

These ancestors and sect masters didn’t mind giving him good stuff in the beginning in order to bait him into their sect. Future promises could change later on. Nothing was more important than getting him in the door right now.

“Unfortunately, I’m not interested in any of your things.” Li Qiye waved his hand and said: “Merit laws and the role of First Disciple? I would rather be free as a woodchopper. As for treasures? They can’t match my woodcutter.” He patted the hatchet hanging by his waist.

“...” Everyone became speechless. They stared at him as if he was an abomination and thought that they had misheard.

The conditions and promises were incredible. He could have become the first disciple of a big sect or the chief of a royal clan. Others dreamed about being in his position, especially those from lowly backgrounds. Hard work alone wasn’t enough to achieve these things.

Alas, Li Qiye refused all of this. They thought that only a fool would do so but Li Qiye didn’t look like a fool.

“Are you sure? I guarantee that you’ll be a marquis if you join me in the future.” One ancestor asked for confirmation.

“Absolutely, I am free to do what I want here as opposed to being a first disciple or successor.” Li Qiye chuckled.

The ancestor had nothing else to say, thinking that Li Qiye was just an unambitious fella.

“See?” Teacher Du told his peers since they were watching as well.

The teachers found this quite strange. This was their first time meeting a weird fella like Li Qiye.

“He’s interesting, no wonder why you tried to recruit him, Brother Du.” One teacher replied.

“I’m interested too.” An older teacher smiled: “If he joins our academy, I’ll want him. You’ll have some competition.”

The students found this astonishing. Though they had prestigious backgrounds, they would have salivated at the offers prior. Some of them wanted to run up to Li Qiye and slapped him, telling him to just accept the deal!

Others wanted to split his head open to take a look inside, to see if there was something wrong with him. That’s the only explanation.

“So idiotic, giving up godsend opportunities.” One of them said bitterly.

“Imagine wanting to be a woodchopper instead of a first disciple.” Another was jealous.

“An idiot like him will be nothing more than a dreamless woodchopper. There’s no fixing rotten wood.” Zhang Changyu coldly uttered with disdain. Of course, he felt great jealousy inside and wished that he was in Li Qiye’s shoes.

“No one is truly free in this world.” Senior Defender Shang and South Peak Marquis finally joined.

“You are a citizen of Vajra and must obey.” Sir Shang glared at Li Qiye.

“What’s Vajra?” Li Qiye acted as if he had never heard of the dynasty.

“Such impudence!” Another official yelled right away: “Ignorant brat, questioning the dynasty’s authority is punishable by death!”

“Clank!” He unsheathed his sword and bright gleams shot out.

“Sir Sheng, watch your dog from overextending its paws.” Teacher Du spoke up: “Act with propriety and know that Vajra is not above Sacred Mountain. Not everyone who lives in the holy ground is a citizen of Vajra, the same with the territories here.”

All eyes turned towards Sir Sheng after hearing this. In reality and to a certain extent, the five divisions were actually equal. The other four in Buddha Emperor Plateau had no need to give Vajra any face.

“He’s right.” Another sect master spoke up: “Are you saying that you can command us and that we must obey?”

“Sir Sheng, you can’t represent Vajra, not even Minister Sima would dare to do so.” One more added: “Only Sacred Mountain has jurisdiction over Buddha Holy Ground.”

Chapter 3579: Refusal

Careless words from the senior defender were met swiftly with rebuttals from dissatisfied sects and kingdoms.

Of course, they had a reason to speak up right now. In recent generations, Vajra has been growing stronger and more prosperous on top of stretching its authority.

In the last few years, Vajra carried out expeditions and unified many sects. This caused plenty of war and backlashes.

The other four divisions naturally didn't appreciate this since Vajra was coming close to infringing on their interests.

Moreover, the dynasty was only acting as a surrogate for Sacred Mountain to deal with administration. It wasn't qualified to unite the holy ground. Nonetheless, its ambition to overstep its boundary was as clear as day.

Sir Shang spent his entire life working for Vajra. In his mind, Vajra was the ruler of Buddha Holy Ground.

He was smarter than to actually express this thought since it would lead to attacks from all sides.

No disciple from Sacred Mountain has shown up for a while, the same with a successor and the supreme. No one knew if the supreme was still around.

Nonetheless, Sacred Mountain was still the lord of the region. Its reputation and prestige didn't diminish in the slightest. After all, the supreme there was a being comparable to a dao lord.

The four divisions would never agree for Vajra to replace Sacred Mountain. However, Sir Shang's words implied so, hence the instant backlash.

Not to mention a senior defender like him, even the current king of Vajra couldn't utter this treacherous sentence towards Sacred Mountain. The rest of the region would go against them.

For millions of years now, the governing power required the permission of Sacred Mountain. In this particular case, Vajra. Therefore, it was trying to bite the hand that feeds it.

"Ah, gentlemen, Sir Shang didn't mean it like that. He only wanted our little friend here to contribute, that's all." South Peak Marquis had no choice but to mediate again.

He knew to tread carefully lest they wanted to suffer the wrath of everyone here. It was a shame that he was on the same boat as this senior defender. In his head, he cursed the guy for being an idiot.

Sir Shang's expression wasn't pretty to look at. He couldn't say anything right now under these unfavorable circumstances. In fact, if this escalated, Vajra would be the first to eliminate him.

Meanwhile, Li Qiye had an idle expression, seemingly enjoying the development.

Eventually, Sir Shang coughed and told him: "I am a senior defender of Vajra. Today, I wish to ask you to contribute to the dynasty."

Earlier, he acted as if Li Qiye was doing something punishable by not following his order. Now, his tone suddenly shifted into something softer.

"This Vajra Dynasty or whatever has nothing to do with me." Li Qiye replied.

"You!" The senior defender had commanded 100,000 troops before on the battlefield. People cowered after hearing his name. Not to mention a lowly woodchopper, even top experts would keep their mouth shut in front of him.

Now, the former actually insulted the dynasty as well. Normally, he would have killed the transgressor already but the current situation didn't permit it.

Every sect present wanted to recruit Li Qiye. This was especially true for Duality Academy.

He, unfortunately, didn't have anything to hold over Li Qiye. The guy wasn't from Archaic Sun nor was he an official for Vajra.

"Young friend." The marquis joined in with a smile: "Sir Shang has no ill wills towards you. He only wants to give you a chance to make something of yourself. If you're interested, we can recommend you for a spot in the court, at least the fifth rank. This is enough to rule a region with plenty of treasures and beauties..."

"If you have no more fart to let out, stop wasting my time. I'm very busy with unfinished wood to chop." Li Qiye said.

"Fool!" Sir Shang trembled from rage for a while before finally uttering.

The experts in the other sect laughed. They felt quite good watching the senior defender not being able to do a thing to Li Qiye after his haughty act earlier.

"The brat is very funny." Even the teachers from Duality became amused.

Meanwhile, the students still found Li Qiye's choice to be inscrutable. They have thought about becoming officials for Vajra in the future, perhaps a role like the senior defender.

"Where are you going to start gathering more?" The marquis remained friendly and asked, wanting to get closer to Li Qiye.

"Over there." Li Qiye pointed at the valley and smiled: "There are old trees that have grown quite big, it's time to chop them down."

Everyone became astonished. There were indeed some trees in that valley. The problem was - that place was a forbidden zone right now.

"Know your limits." Zhui Xueyun who has been quiet finally snorted: "Do you know the seal around this valley? A woodchopper like you can't enter."

Li Qiye didn't mind at all, treating the guy as air. This made Xueyun feel as if he had just missed a punch in an awkward manner.

"You can enter the valley, Young Friend?" The marquis stared at Li Qiye in disbelief. The others felt the same way.

"Why not?" Li Qiye answered: "You can't?"

"Well, yes." The marquis replied: "There is a power blocking us."

"Really? I don't notice it." Li Qiye shrugged.

"So there's a shortcut?" The crowd became excited after seeing Li Qiye's nonchalant answer. They took it as confidence.

“Hmph, no way, the beasts might spare him but he can’t make it past the steps.” Zhang Changyu snorted.

“Remember, Young Noble Li grew up here, he might know another way.” Yang Ling gave him the side-eye.

Both the teachers and the students were paying full attention at this point.

“How do you get in?” Sir Shang’s eyes lit up as he shouted.

Ears seemed to be growing as everyone tried to listen to Li Qiye, wanting to know the alternative entrance.

Chapter 3580: How To Enter The Valley?

Li Qiye solely had everyone’s attention. Some even inched closer in order to listen to his response, not wanting to miss a single word.

After all, knowing this other entry meant potentially grabbing the golden divine egg and changing their future trajectory.

“By walking, of course. How else can it be, crawling?” Li Qiye smiled at the marquis.

“...” The listeners became speechless with black lines on their forehead. They exchanged glances with each other; some glared angrily at Li Qiye with fury in their eyes.

They felt that Li Qiye, a lowly woodchopper, was playing with them.

“...” The marquis thought that he would be able to get the right answer from Li Qiye, not expecting such an answer.

“You!” The hot-headed senior defender was livid while shouting: “Brat, you must be tired of living to mess around with us!” He was already furious about this matter so this naturally didn’t help.

Li Qiye smiled at him and said: “So you have a problem with my response and prefer to crawl?”

“Sir Shang, Young Noble Li isn’t wrong. Of course one would have to walk to enter that valley but if you choose to crawl, I’m sure nobody will say anything out of respect for your choice.” Up on his peak, Teacher Du clapped and laughed, clearly adding oil to the fire.

Unfortunately, the senior defender couldn’t do anything to him outside of wearing an ugly expression. The guy snorted and waved his sleeve angrily.

The marquis took a deep breath to calm down. He asked seriously: “You can really just walk in, Young Friend?”

“Of course, no need to perform a full kowtow rite or anything.” Li Qiye nonchalantly responded.

“Impossible!” Many among the crowd blurted.

There were numerous chaos primal beasts guarding outside the valley. Many experts and elders have been killed.

As for Golden Cicada Buddhist Child, he managed to get through the beasts but not the defense inside. Both his cultivation and Buddhist attainment were impressive but not enough to deal with the sonic waves from the statues.

Now a woodchopper said he could go there? How could anyone believe this? Moreover, they could see that he was only a Violet Marquis.

Such a cultivator could be found everywhere in Buddha Holy Ground. Even if a miracle were to happen for someone to successfully enter the valley, it definitely wouldn't be him.

"He's just boasting." The students didn't believe it after seeing the failed attempts and bloody aftermaths earlier.

"Absolutely impossible." Zhang Changyu said: "Even if the beasts let him in, just one roar from the statues is enough to turn him into blood."

"I agree." The majority had this belief.

However, Yang Ling trusted him and said: "He'll definitely have a method after growing up here."

"It's useless, the only thing that matters is strength here. If one can rely on methods and schemes to win, there's no need to cultivate." Zhang Changyu snorted.

"So will you bow and accept defeat if he can actually do it?" Yang Ling taunted.

Zhang Changyu didn't answer because he would never bow to Li Qiye after the guy killed his mount and humiliated him.

Meanwhile, the teachers talked among themselves.

The older teacher said: "What do you think? He doesn't look like he's boasting."

"Hmm..." Some teachers thought that Li Qiye was a talent worthy of development. However, they remained skeptical and were being polite by not expressing this.

"It's difficult, nothing short of a miracle." Another teacher said.

"Just watch, judging by his appearance, he's not lying nor bragging. Plus, given his characters, he shouldn't do something like that." Teacher Du said.

The teachers stopped talking and waited for the result.

"Anyone can brag, I'm afraid you won't be able to back it up a while later." Zhui Xueyun snorted, only to be ignored again. He gritted his teeth angrily.

The other experts didn't think that Li Qiye could do so either. Even the ancestors had no solution to this problem.

"You really can go in? Will you do it right now?" The marquis started losing his patience.

"Sounds like you want to make a bet with me." Li Qiye said.

"Hmm, I'll do it, what will you bet?" The marquis hesitated for a moment before making up his mind.

“You’re at least more interesting than the fool next to you.” Li Qiye chuckled.

“Brat, you want to die?!” Sir Shang gripped the hilt of his blade and roared.

Li Qiye had insulted him several times just now, fully testing his patience. He wanted to cut the guy down.

The marquis hurriedly stopped him and laughed: “Sir Shang is a general used to the battlefield. He has a straightforward personality and doesn’t hold back, please excuse him.”

The marquis was smooth and slick, aware of how to please people. He grasped his opportunity and said: “Alright, let’s have some fun. Don’t worry, I won’t make it hard for you if you can’t go in, I just need a favor or two. But in the case of success, I’ll give you one million stones.”

“Not interested in that.” Li Qiye smiled at him: “You just need to bark like a pekingese after I win. It’s not a bad choice considering your personality.” [1]

“Hey!” The marquis’ expression changed. He would rather lose the stones than bark like a dog.

“Forget it if you don’t want to.” Li Qiye said.

“No, I’ll bark if you can go in.” The marquis found value in Li Qiye’s friendship with the beasts and actually agreed.

“Not bad.” Li Qiye nodded, thinking that this marquis was flexible enough to be successful.

“And this sir over here, do you want to bet too?” Li Qiye smiled at Sir Shang.

The latter snorted and turned his head away, not paying attention to Li Qiye.

“And you? Oh, don’t forget what I said last time.” Li Qiye glanced over at Zhui Xueyun.

The youth turned red and scowled, not wanting to bet against Li Qiye. The last loss was already humiliating enough.

“Anyone else?” Li Qiye turned towards the crowd.

They exchanged glances. Men of status like them naturally didn’t want to bark like a dog.

“Seems like all of you can’t match up to this pretty boy.” Li Qiye tapped on the marquis’ shoulder.

The marquis became awkward. He was quite old already yet Li Qiye called him a “pretty boy”.