

Emperor 3621

Chapter 3621: I'll Use This Hammer

"No need, I have something better." Li Qiye smiled and quietly told her.

He walked forward and glanced at the crowd before stopping on Liu Jinsong.

"Ahem..." He coughed and waved his hand: "All of you are right, I don't have anything good to take out."

"Then I'll lend you some, I got a few earth-level weapons, see if it's suitable." One guy offered.

"Hahaha, he can't pick it up or actually use it, it'll be no different than scrap metals." The crowd laughed right away.

"True." The first person laughed as well: "Let me ask our friends here then and see if they have lower-level weapons, like a black one, how about it?"

"I don't know, I've never used a black-level weapon before, it might not be suitable." Li Qiye had a half-smile.

"You're making it difficult for us." The guy responded: "We have a lot of weapons but a yellow-level one might not be available. It's too weak."

"I'll go down to a store by the base and buy him one." Another snorted.

The unfriendly group continued laughing and taunting Li Qiye.

"If you can't even use a black-level weapon, it's best to accept your defeat and lower your head to Junior Brother Liu, I'm sure he'll spare you. Otherwise, your head will be rolling on the ground." A senior brother actually had good intentions, unlike the rest.

"That would be too boring, don't you remember how he bragged earlier? We want to see his amazing abilities and incredible weapons to make mincemeat out of Senior Brother Liu." Another student shook his head.

"Brat, pick a weapon already. Your life is mine." Liu Jinsong coldly uttered.

There were mixed emotions among the entire student body - disdain, contempt, pity...

"He's finished." One student said while staring at Li Qiye.

"He asked for it since he was dumb enough to provoke Senior Brother Liu." A friend commented.

Teacher Du didn't say anything. The one courting death here was actually Liu Jinsong.

However, this was a fight between students. A teacher like him wouldn't interfere. Jinsong can only blame himself for being weak. This was a rule at the academy as long as both sides agreed.

"Fine, I guess I'll have to try this iron hammer." Li Qiye started walking towards the anvil.

"What did he just say?" People thought that they misheard him until they saw him moving.

"Is this a joke? Using that hammer as his weapon?" One person immediately said.

“Brat, you don’t know what this hammer is.” Another said.

He wasn’t here when the students tried to pick up the hammer. Because of this, they thought that this was due to ignorance.

“It’s not an ordinary hammer. Only dao lords and sovereigns used it for weapon refinement, you can’t lift it.” The student went on.

“Just let him experience it for himself, that’s how he’ll learn about the immensity of heaven and earth.” One more sneered.

“You’re dreaming, no students in Duality can do it, let alone a woodchopper like you.” An upperclassman snorted.

“Then this shows how useless the students of Duality are.” Li Qiye suddenly changed his tone.

He offended virtually everyone present. Their expression became ugly.

After all, the students here were considered exceptional versus others at the same age. Being called “useless” wasn’t appreciated.

“I’ve had enough. Even if Senior Brother Liu decides to spare you, I’ll still kill you.” Another student lost his cool.

“That’s right, insulting Duality Academy is unforgivable!” Another shouted.

Teacher Du smiled wryly and shook his head. He still chose to watch on the sideline.

“I can’t spare you now after your ridiculous comment. This has nothing to do with my personal wish, it is about the reputation of Duality now. Death to those who insult Duality!” Liu Jinsong threatened and earned himself a favorable impression.

“Remember, don’t kill him so fast, teach him a lesson about the fate of those who insult Duality.” One student shouted.

Li Qiye smiled and grabbed the wooden hilt of the hammer. The students saw this but didn’t take him seriously.

“You can do it, Young Master!” Only Yang Ling cheered for him while clenching her fists.

“It is really heavy, looks like this won’t be easy.” Li Qiye smiled.

“It’s whatever, I still won’t show mercy whether you have a weapon or not. First, I will cut off your hands. Go ahead and make your move.” Liu Jinsong pointed his Kingslayer at Li Qiye.

“You better prepare your defense or you’ll be finished soon.” Li Qiye glanced at him.

“You!” Jinsong trembled with rage.

“Still won’t accept his mistake. Senior Brother, cut off his hands and break his legs.” Another student said loudly.

“Alright, let’s see how long you can keep this up.” Jinsong shouted and activated his merit law.

“Rumble!” He became resplendent. A wall of runes formed before him, separating the realms.

People couldn’t help but look up, feeling immense pressure.

“30,000-mile Blockade.” They were surprised to see him use a powerful merit law right away: “The brat has zero chance.”

“Well, at least he got to see a top merit law before death.” Another commented.

“Brat, I will make mincemeat of you today in order to quell my anger...” Liu Jinsong said with hatred.

“I’m afraid you won’t have the chance.” Li Qiye smiled and raised his hand.

“Clank!” The hammer that has been stuck was actually lifted from the anvil.

This came without warning because Li Qiye didn’t channel his energy nor use a merit law. In fact, it seemed as if he didn’t need to use any strength. It was just a casual raise of the hand.

All the students became slack-jawed. Some of them have tried everything to no avail. Even Lin Hao failed. Their most talented and strongest - Dugu Lan - couldn’t do it either. But now, Li Qiye made it look like a regular hammer, not heavy in the slightest.

Chapter 3622: Toss

Minds were empty from the sheer shock. No words could describe the scene before them.

Even Li Qiye’s supporter, Yang Ling, found this unbelievable. She thought that if he were lucky enough to be somehow connected by fate with the hammer, he would still need to use all of his strength to lift.

She imagined that his muscles would be bulging; his face would be red with sweat dripping down. This wasn’t the case since the hammer felt so light in his hand. The disparity between reality and her imagination left her speechless.

The one best prepared was Teacher Du. He thought that this was expected. Nonetheless, Li Qiye just made it look too effortless. This exceeded his expectation.

The mysterious hammer was brought back from above by Duality Master. Even the dao lords back then didn’t lift it with such ease.

“I’m about to start.” Li Qiye smiled and glanced at the hammer in his hand. He even tossed it up once and caught it as if it was a stone.

“!!!” Jinsong regained his wits and staggered one step backward.

“Go!” Li Qiye roared and threw the hammer towards Jinsong.

“Activate!” Jinsong released his energy to strengthen the wall. Samadhi flames erupted around him; he seemed to be entering a state of frenzy. The wall became ablaze.

“Boom!” Whatever wall, Kingslayer Sword, Unsurpassable Shield, and Fiery Aegis were useless. Everything crumbled after clear cracking sounds.

The hammer instantly struck Liu Jinsong next, sending him flying. He vomited blood while his bones shattered.

“Boom!” He eventually smashed a nearby peak, resulting in a huge hole. Blood and flesh splattered everywhere. His

The proud youth and his treasures stood no chance against the hammer toss. This defeat rendered the crowd speechless.

Just a while ago, they made fun of Li Qiye due to his cultivation and thought that Liu Jinsong could easily defeat him. They certainly didn’t expect the opposite.

They deemed his comments to be arrogant and ignorant. It turned out that he was just telling the truth.

Their face became hot and red; this was no different from being slapped.

“Whoosh!” Li Qiye raised his hand and the hammer immediately flew back into his grasp.

“This is fate.” Teacher Du sentimentally said.

Of course, he knew that this might not have anything to do with fate. The only thing that mattered right now was Li Qiye’s presence at the academy. The latter was the lucky one.

“It’s not bad.” Li Qiye playfully tossed it up again and said.

The students had nothing to say. They couldn’t even lift the hammer while Li Qiye had complete freedom.

“Teacher was right about fate?” One student wondered.

They became annoyed because Li Qiye was the weakest one here. Alas, this person who they had disdain for turned out to be the chosen one. This wasn’t a good feeling.

“Oh well, nothing we can do then if it’s fate.” One guy consoled himself.

“See, Young Master, I told you to give it a shot at the start!” Yang Ling nearly jumped up from excitement.

Li Qiye chuckled. There was no need to try; he knew full well whether he could do it or not.

“So I’m about to refine some stuff here. Any objection?” Li Qiye smiled at the students.

They exchanged glances before looking at the hammer in Li Qiye’s hand. Keeping their mouth shut was the right choice.

“Good, then I’ll add myself to the list for this master cauldron.” Li Qiye spoke as if he was a reasonable person following the rule.

“Young Master, which weapon are you refining?” Teacher Du became interested.

“Haven’t put too much thought into it, I’ll just get the materials here.” Li Qiye looked down at the ground before glancing at the students. He said: “Are you guys leaving or waiting for the boom?”

The students stared at him in confusion.

“Boom!” He suddenly swung the hammer down, smashing the ground.

The entire peak suffered the full brunt. Even the academy itself violently quaked.

Some students fell and rolled on the ground; others actually got blown off the peak.

“Crack! Crack!” Cracks emanated on the top half of Myriad Cauldron Peak.

This was a shocking development. One of the nine main peaks of Duality was being destroyed by Li Qiye.

“Young Master, may I ask what you’re doing?” Teacher Du himself became lost.

“Nothing, just gathering some materials. The dao lords and sovereigns left remnant materials and wastes behind, I don’t have anything right now so I’ll be using them.” Li Qiye smiled.

“Using wastes to refine a weapon?” Those who were still up on the pinnacle found this astonishing.

All blacksmiths chose the best possible materials for crafting regardless of the price. That’s why Li Qiye’s decision once again shocked everyone.

“Okay, put the scraps here in order, I’ll come back and refine when I have time.” Li Qiye casually tossed the hammer back onto the anvil.

The old servant appeared next to Li Qiye just like a phantom. No one knew how or when he came.

“I will take care of it.” He bowed.

Li Qiye smiled and left, leaving behind the astounded spectators.

“So this is an actual thing?” One student couldn’t believe it.

One of them eventually came over and tried to pick up the hammer. It didn’t move at all. Others followed suit and the same thing happened.

“Yeah, it has to be fate.” The last attempter concluded.

Chapter 3623: Old Man

The news of Li Qiye’s achievement traveled across Duality.

Numerous speculations arose along with indignation and jealousy. The majority assumed that it had to do with “fate”. Otherwise, someone with Li Qiye’s power couldn’t lift the hammer. Fate was the only plausible explanation.

“Hmph, a flower stuck in a pile of manure.” A student said with indignation: “It’s one thing for First Sister or Senior Brother Lin to have this fateful connection, but a woodchopper with no cultivation to speak of? It’s so unfair for him to have this type of luck.”

“Fate is indefinite, it wouldn’t be called fate if there were guidelines about it.” Another smiled wryly.

“So what? He can only pick up the hammer, not like he’ll create an invincible weapon.” One bitter soul stated.

“Right.” Many friends agreed with this: “This doesn’t mean that he’ll be able to craft an ultimate weapon. There are the material requirement and flame control, a powerful cultivation too.”

“Power is more important than anything else.” An upperclassman said with a serious expression: “The best materials and tools with the master cauldron still aren’t enough if the blacksmith is weak. Blacksmithing is a profound art, fate can’t make up for the other deficiencies.”

“I think Li Qiye doesn’t know anything about blacksmithing.” An expert blacksmith shook his head: “He wanted to use the remnant materials, it just doesn’t make any sense. They were left behind by the top masters, meaning that they were nothing more than useless impurities.”

He paused for a bit before continuing: “Plus, it’s not just one session either. Therefore, the materials are mixed and random, not to mention that the masters’ flames were different too. It’s impossible to harmonize the leftovers, this is just a fool’s daydream.”

The ones nearby nodded and agreed with this persuasive logic. His reasoning was sound and carefully thought out in accordance with the rules of blacksmithing.

“Haha, just wait and see then.” One student looked eager to gloat as if he could see the day of Li Qiye’s failure already.

The majority of students agreed that using the dregs to create a weapon was impossible.

Li Qiye paid zero attention to the clamors outside. The old servant also only did his duty without asking, gathering the waste materials on top of the peak.

He thought that it was strange indeed but assumed that this wasn’t a whimsical idea. Li Qiye must have had a plan.

At his age, he knew when to speak and when to not worry about unimportant matters.

A few days later, a guest came to the temple to see Li Qiye. Fan Bai immediately reported this to Li Qiye.

The guest was an old man wearing a simple robe without any decoration. It was exceptionally clean.

Of course, a meticulous observer would find that the seams and lines of this robe were sewn perfectly.

His complexion was gray but still looked quite spirited and brimming with life, akin to an eighteen-year-old. He hid his aura yet still had the aura and style of a master - always in control.

The first impression people would get was that he was missing something - perhaps a special deer to ride on. He simply looked like an immortal.

When he walked in the temple and saw the old servant, he bowed his head deeply as a greeting.

The old servant shook his head, not bothering to respond. The old man stopped and looked over at Li Qiye who was sitting on his chair, looking drowsy and lazy. He didn’t bother to look at the old man.

The old man has heard the teachers talk about Li Qiye but to see the guy in person was a different story.

After all, he was just too ordinary. This word actually failed to describe how common he looked. The guy could be found on any street in the holy ground.

Of course, the old man knew better than to be arrogant right now. Why would the old servant be respectful and follow an average man?

He noticed the bronze ring worn by Li Qiye and started thinking. Numerous possibilities popped up in his head; he just didn't know which one was correct.

All of this shouldn't have occurred on this guy, at least when taking his appearance into account. He knew that there were more than meets the eyes and that he didn't have all the answers.

Nonetheless, he was experienced and decisive. He took a deep breath and prostrated to show the utmost reverence.

"How should I properly address you, Sir?" He asked.

A third party would be shocked to see this prestigious old man kneeling before Li Qiye.

He was feeling very nervous. The bronze ring alone had immense significance but he knew that there were other more important factors.

"Young Master is fine." Li Qiye casually said.

"I was ignorant and didn't know about your arrival, hence the lack of reception." The old man stood up and said.

"It's best not to bother with those boring customs. If I wanted a treatment like that, I wouldn't have come to Duality." Li Qiye waved his hand.

"I understand." The old man nodded respectfully. During the nod, he couldn't help staring at the ring.

"Want this ring?" Li Qiye chuckled.

"Of course not, I'm only curious, Young Master. This ring..." He had an awkward expression, not knowing what to say next.

Others wouldn't give the ring a second glance. However, those in the know took it very seriously. It was strange that he didn't receive any information on how Li Qiye got it.

He didn't think that Li Qiye was unworthy either. Maybe this was how it should be. Nonetheless, curiosity still got the best of him because the ring could affect many things.

"I bought it from a broken down shop, just playing around since it was cheap." Li Qiye said.

The old man smiled wryly; this "cheap" ring could give orders to the world. Li Qiye made it sound as if it wasn't worth a single coin.

In reality, Li Qiye actually did think so. He only wanted to mess around with people.

"Regardless of how you obtained it, Young Master, your words are my orders and I shall obey, doing everything I can." The old man said.

Chapter 3624: Just Some Random Stuff

“You’re far smarter than that idiot who tried to test me.” Li Qiye smiled at the old man.

The old man had a forced smile, not knowing who this “idiot” was. Nonetheless, he realized that this idiot would have some bad luck soon enough.

He had zero doubt about this. Not to mention other factors, just the old servant alone guaranteed it.

“Young Master, do you require my service during your stay at Duality?” He took a deep breath and asked.

A character like Li Qiye wouldn’t come to their academy for no reason. That’s why he was quite nervous, afraid of a large-scale plan. Duality might not be able to handle it.

“Just taking a look since Duality Master is a legendary figure worthy of my time.” Li Qiye chuckled.

The old man heaved a sigh of relief. At the very least, Li Qiye didn’t harbor any malice or it would be a big headache.

“I heard that you plan to refine a weapon here? May I be of use?” The old man sincerely said.

“Since you asked, I do need a few things. Crafting is a long process, I’ll need some items for the later stages.” Li Qiye smiled.

“The academy will do everything we can. What do you need, Young Master?” The old man enthusiastically said.

“Just one dao bone, fully intact, at least at the high heaven god level or higher. It needs to be perfect too. Something better than the god level is preferred.” Li Qiye casually answered. [1]

“A god-level dao bone...” The old man blurted out in shock.

For Duality, a king-level dao bone was still obtainable, albeit with relative difficulties.

As for an emperor one? A complete one could be quite challenging.

A god-level dao bone? This wouldn’t be simple at all. At the very least, the academy didn’t have one right now in its treasury.

Even if they had enough resources to buy one, no one in the south had one right now. Money couldn’t buy it.

Plus, someone in possession of one wouldn’t want to sell it in the first place. As for something higher than the god level? He didn’t dare to think about it.

Who knows if one even existed in all of Eight Desolaces? If it did, it would be in the possession of a supreme overlord.

“Well, this is not easy.” The old man didn’t expect Li Qiye to want something so ridiculous. He was being too confident earlier.

He has seen plenty of treasures before in his life but not a dao bone above the god level.

"It's rare indeed, then find me some true blood first." Li Qiye chuckled.

"What kind of true blood are you looking for, Young Master?" The old man inquired.

"Hmm..." Li Qiye stroked his chin and said: "The dao lord level at the minimum. I'm also okay with ancient emperors' blood. Just one jar should do."

"..." The old man became speechless at this request.

The true blood of both dao lord and ancient emperors were priceless. It was enough to change the future of a sect for generations.

Worst of all, Li Qiye made it sound as if he was being reserved already, asking for just one jar.

Normally, no dao lord or emperor would leave so much blood behind. Cultivators considered their true blood extremely vital. A full jar was akin to taking all of their true blood. No one would do this.

"I, I don't think I can fulfill this request." The old man had no choice but to give up. He realized that he had overestimated himself along with the academy.

"If that's the case, I don't think your academy can even produce a few metals for me." Li Qiye laughed after hearing this.

"I..." The old man hesitated, not daring to be so bold after hearing the first two requests.

"We do have metals and ores in our treasury but I don't know what you're looking for, Young Master. I can make a list and you can read it over to see if we have what you need." The old man replied, not wanting to lose more face.

"Forget it, I won't make it difficult for you." Li Qiye said: "I can find it myself so that you won't be muttering under your breath about how I'm extorting your academy."

"I would never dare to do such a thing! Absolutely not!" The old man suddenly got cold sweat.

"Southern West King is large, it should have some items." Li Qiye said.

"Right, Young Master. As for dao bone, I know the best one is in Heavenly Dragon Temple, at least as far as outsiders know. It is a complete dao bone of the emperor level. Very well hidden though."

"The old monk treasures it and won't give it away. No one knows where it is." The old servant joined in.

"Yes, Senior." The old man nodded: "That's the best dao bone I'm aware of, the most complete one too."

This particular dao bone had a frightening background but few have seen it including the monks at Heavenly Dragon Temple.

"Just an emperor-level dao bone, that seems excessive." Li Qiye shook his head.

The old man didn't know what to say. Virtually everyone would consider it a paramount artifact.

"I actually know a little about this." The old servant added: "This dao bone is only a ruse. In reality, the temple is hiding a god-level dao bone, very few are aware of this secret."

He then glanced at the old man and said: "You probably didn't want to divulge this."

"I, I just didn't know about it, really." The old man had an awkward expression.

He actually did but given his position, it was improper for him to tell Li Qiye. This was a great secret of Heavenly Dragon Temple. Nonetheless, he brought up the emperor-level one to start the conversation. He knew that the old servant would know about it and tell Li Qiye.

Of course, Li Qiye and the old servant didn't bother to call out the old man's little scheme. He heaved a sigh of relief afterward.

"A god-level dao bone, I see. Now that's more interesting." Li Qiye said.

The old man smiled wryly. The old monk would be livid at him after finding this out.

"Any idea on the true blood?" Li Qiye smirked at the old man.

He felt his scalp tingling, feeling like Li Qiye was using him like a sword. Those old men would come for him with everything they got later on.

"True blood..." He smiled wryly and had to tell the truth: "There's a jar in Myriad Blood Sect, I don't know if they have used it before but in theory, it should still be there."

Chapter 3625: Frightening Requests

"Oh? What kind of true blood?" Li Qiye became interested.

"I'm not so sure." The old man mused: "From several accounts, this true blood is too old to be traced, definitely from the age of the emperors. I believe it consists of the blood from several Blood Ancestors."

Myriad Blood was the largest sect in the Divine Ghost Division. It was extremely powerful and consisted of ghosts and blood members. Only a few were humans, demons, and other races...

"Not good enough." Li Qiye shook his head.

"Finding a better jar than that one in West King might be difficult." The old servant added: "Only Myriad Blood, or maybe Righteous Sect. They had some before but have used virtually all of it. As for Wild East, I'm not sure."

"Wild East? There's a possibility." Li Qiye smiled.

"Wild East Eight Kingdoms are definitely the oldest locations." The old man added: "There are no lineages in West King, no, all of Eight Desolaces, that are older than those found in Wild East. However, they don't deal with outsiders so we have limited knowledge about them. The most unfathomable one is Ancient Kingdom of Immortals. Its resources should be wondrous, that's where I would look, Young Master."

"Ancient Kingdom of Immortals..." The old man became startled: "I don't think that's a good choice, definitely not."

A big shot like him still became alarmed after hearing about this kingdom.

Wild East was located to the south of West King. Some said it consisted of eight kingdoms but others disagreed. The latter stated that it was only a general title, there weren't actually eight kingdoms.

The only thing for certain was that this region was extremely old. It has been around since the epoch of the great emperors.

Alas, outsiders had limited knowledge about them, only that they were notoriously powerful.

For example, Worldly Immortal from the Ancient Kingdom of Immortals was a dreadful existence. In history, even dao lords chose to stay away.

He had never seen the legendary Worldly Immortal before but this didn't matter. All-things Dao Lord and Righteous Dao Lord still gave way before this great being. All-things was the most decorated dao lord of True Immortal Sect. As for Righteous, he was obviously the founder of Righteous Sect. That's why he thought that even Li Qiye shouldn't provoke that kingdom.

The old servant only smiled since he had more information at his disposal.

"There should be a better place." Li Qiye chuckled.

"May I ask where you're thinking of?" The old man couldn't come up with a different place.

"A forbidden zone." Li Qiye stared towards the horizon.

"Life Forbidden Zone!" Both the old men didn't expect this answer. [1]

"Yes, that one." Li Qiye had a look of rumination.

"I don't think that's possible because even dao lords have failed there." The old man regained his wits and said.

His astonishment was understandable. Anyone else in Eight Desolaces would have reacted the same way.

Some dao lords have died in the forbidden zone before. It was a suicidal endeavor outside of very few masters.

"Dao lords are dao lords, I am me." Li Qiye simply answered.

The old man was shaken. He carefully thought about this phrase and realized his mistake of underestimating Li Qiye.

"My apology for the needless words." He bowed deeply towards Li Qiye.

"It's fine." Li Qiye waved his hand and said: "I will think about this since there's no rush. I'll use the cauldron when the time is right."

"I understand." The old man replied: "I will bring the list of metals in Duality to see if you can use any."

"That's fine." Li Qiye said.

The old man had something else on his mind and stared at Li Qiye, albeit with hesitation.

"Anything else?" Li Qiye asked.

“Young Master, do you want to go to Buddha Emperor Division? To Vajra Dynasty.” The old man eventually said.

“Why? You have a suggestion?” Li Qiye said.

“It’s not something we can interfere or influence. It’s just that according to the rules, you should still take a trip there. It’s the will of the people.” The old man added.

“I haven’t thought about this, it’s just a game, nothing more.” Li Qiye didn’t think much of it.

The old man thought that this was of pivotal importance for any sect in the holy ground, the opposite of Li Qiye.

Alas, the guy was just playing around. This was a little frustrating.

“I will take my leave then.” He didn’t dare to speak on this topic and bowed towards Li Qiye.

He also bowed towards the old servant and had to ask: “Senior, you have been missing in these recent years...”

“I went to the border.” The old servant responded.

“Senior, did you...” The old man knew the servant’s personality. This answer confirmed a few rumors.

“He can’t mess with the girl to the south.” Li Qiye answered instead.

These words detonated thunderously in the old man’s mind. His mind was shaken.

Girl to the south... He immediately thought about the mysteries and connected the dots.

He certainly still had questions about the whole thing. However, Li Qiye’s comment carried unimaginable weight.

His complexion became pale. He took a deep breath and bowed one last time before being escorted out by the old servant.

“I have embarrassed you.” The old man bowed again, looking quite awkward after losing his cool earlier. The significance of the things behind this was too much for him to take.

His legs were trembling and couldn’t move earlier. It was a good thing that the old servant helped him out.

“It’s not embarrassing. The height of the heaven is beyond your imagination. Being able to kneel before the young master is an honor unavailable to most.” The old servant said.

“Thank you for your guidance, Senior.” The old man said. Even someone like the old servant still wanted to follow Li Qiye, let alone someone like him.

In fact, this meeting alone might be the luckiest event of his life. Others didn’t have this privilege.

“Duality will be fine, at least.” The old servant said: “You’re smart, unlike some others. They want to plan and scheme, unaware of the giant they’re facing.”

“What do you mean, Senior?” The old man wasn’t too sure.

“Don’t worry about it, just watch the fun, you have done enough. The fools will be eradicated soon enough.” The old servant waved his hand.

“I see, changes will be coming.” The old man understood the implication right away.

Chapter 3626: Dog And Boar

After the old man left, Li Qiye stared at the old servant and smiled: “Looks like you’re quite caring.”

“This is the fate you’ve mentioned, Young Master.” The old servant smiled, knowing that Li Qiye wouldn’t blame him for his action earlier. The playful tone made it obvious.

He indeed put in a bit of effort or he could have ignored the whole thing. Alas, at his level, he had understood many things and became different from the past. This had more to it than just “fate”.

Li Qiye chuckled and stared towards the horizon: “A god-level dao bone is actually usable. If I don’t have anything else, I’ll pick it.”

“Precious it might be but if you want it, obtaining it won’t be difficult. Just say the words.” The old servant replied.

“We’re men of culture and not hard to reason with. Just fighting and killing, how trite. It’ll ruin the atmosphere too, let’s just go ask them to see if we can borrow it.” Li Qiye said.

The old servant smiled. No one would ever lend out a god-level dao bone - a priceless treasure. Plus, there was no getting it back either, akin to throwing a meat bun at a dog.

Nonetheless, if Heavenly Dragon Temple was smart, it would know better than to refuse Li Qiye. The result would be the same regardless of its choice.

“Young Master, do you remember that little monk?” He suggested: “He’s clever with a sharp tongue, more articulate and smooth than anyone. He’s the best messenger to deal with the old monks.”

“The gluttonous one? Sounds like we need to prepare a good barbecue.” Li Qiye chuckled.

“It’s not a bad deal.” The old man became amused.

The two of them weren’t in a rush and didn’t bother to go gather the meat. However, a divine bull still appeared in the courtyard not long after. It was killed by a fatal bite located on its neck.

“What a coincidence, right when we want to roast some meat.” The old servant noticed the corpse.

It was obvious that this was a mount. It was muscular and looked quite cool; it still had a bright glow after death.

This was indeed a good choice of meat for a barbecue. Nonetheless, it seemed a little extravagant to use a divine bull.

“Who did this?” Li Qiye glanced at Lil’ Yellow and Lil’ Black.

One of them must have snuck out during the two’s conversation and killed someone’s mount.

Lil’ Yellow resting by the entrance lifted its head to stare at Lil’ Black enjoying the shade.

Lil' Black snored loudly as if it had no idea what was going on. Lil' Yellow copied the boar and also played dead, ignoring Li Qiye.

Li Qiye was amused; he naturally knew which one did it after seeing their reaction.

The dog and the boar certainly didn't like each other. Alas, they had to get along when being around Li Qiye. The former was outwardly aggressive but the latter didn't always play nice either and was actually the most dangerous one.

It looked lazy and harmless; this made others think that it only knew how to eat and sleep. The truth was that it had more devious thoughts than anyone else. Just one wrong move and one would be devoured by it right away.

To elaborate, Lil' Yellow always showed its teeth when it didn't like someone or was on the verge of attacking.

This wasn't the case for Lil' Black. It might secretly sneak behind its enemy and deliver the fatal blow. When the dog could react, he would find himself already being food inside its stomach.

As for the corpse of the bull; the intent was obvious. It's just that both the dog and boar didn't want to admit it.

"What do you think, Young Master?" The old servant smiled wryly. It was a good thing that Li Qiye was stronger than these two monsters. Otherwise, they would cause a huge mess or even destroy Duality.

"What else can we do? We're going to roast it." Li Qiye smiled: "Unfortunately, this type of beef isn't worthy of even being the appetizer."

"I'll take care of it." The old servant took the bull to the kitchen.

Li Qiye's response was quite beneficial for the two so they immediately growled and barked.

He was right. The two monsters have dominated Myriad Beast Mountains and did whatever they wanted.

Their food used to be mighty beasts. As for this bull? They wouldn't even look at it twice back in the mountain range, unfitting to be served as an appetizer.

Unfortunately, they needed to play nice at Duality and worked with what was available. This was akin to someone used to delicacies needing to eat coarse grains alone.

"Not playing dead anymore?" He glanced at them.

The two immediately had a guilty conscience and lowered their head.

Sure enough, the victims came knocking before the old man could finish cooking the beef.

"Li Qiye! Come out here!" A dozen students or so entered the temple, looking furious.

"Got business with me?" Li Qiye calmly asked the aggressive crowd.

The leaders were both men and women; they brought their friends here with aggression on their mind.

This commotion alerted the other students.

“You killed my mount!” One male student gritted his teeth. He just now saw the bull being roasted on a rack by the old servant. His eyes spewed fire of anger.

“That bull over there?” Li Qiye didn’t bother defending himself: “I’ve been craving beef recently, that’s why. Do you want compensation? Name the price.”

“I want your dog life!” The male student was livid. He spent a lot of effort and several months taming this mount.

Alas, he was blinded by rage and didn’t know that he had lost a heaven-sent opportunity.

“That’s a tough request.” Li Qiye waved his hand.

“Hmph, your life is still not enough!” A student in the back said.

“My cloudchaser freckle is missing too, it has to be you!” One female student pointed at Li Qiye.

“My cloudrider stallion is also gone, I know it’s you!” Another male student shouted.

“Surrender, thief, or I, Huang Qibing, will force you to submit!” The first student roared.

The crowd heard them and started talking.

“This brat is ridiculous. He actually ate the classmates’ mounts.” One of them murmured.

“He’s just an uneducated brat from the mountains, he thinks this is still Myriad Beast Mountains and that he can just grab whatever beasts he wants. A barbarian like him shouldn’t stay here, hmph!” Another snorted.

A total of four mounts were missing. The divine bull was being roasted right now but the other three were nowhere to be found. Li Qiye naturally knew where they were.

He glanced at the dog and boar again. Lil’ Black turned away and played dumb. Lil’ Yellow looked to the left and right, acting as if it didn’t understand.

“There’s nothing I can do about them being missing.” Li Qiye said: “But I am a reasonable person. Tell me about your missing mounts and I’ll tell someone else to get you another.”

“Hmph, you can’t handle it, my cloudchaser freckle is a special species. My clan bought it at a sky-high price.” The female student coldly said.

Chapter 3627: Cold-eyed Lightning Sword

“My cloudrider stallion has a noble bloodline, it’s priceless, you can’t repay this!”

“My divine bull is an ultimate beast, your life is not worth one hair from it!!!” Huang Qibing roared.

They got the urge to kill Li Qiye in order to avenge their lost mounts.

“Wow, excuse me then, I didn’t know they were so precious, looks like this will be difficult.” Li Qiye smiled.

“Difficult? You have no chance of making up for this loss.” The female student said: “Speak, what did you do to my freckle? Tell the truth and we might give you a swift death.”

Only the divine bull was accounted for. They didn’t know if Li Qiye had eaten their mounts yet. Just thinking about this possibility made them tremble with rage.

On the other hand, Li Qiye knew that these mounts were food inside the dog and boar’s stomach.

“I don’t know where they are. As I said, I will compensate.” Li Qiye waved his hand.

“With what? Just hand our mounts over or pay with your life.” Huang Qibing’s eyes flashed coldly.

“Really now?” Li Qiye smiled.

“Just your life alone is a great deal for you.” One student said: “Our mounts are expensive; your life is only worth a few coins.”

“The brat provoked so many noble students, they’re from Vajra. Their seniors are all generals with numerous soldiers.” One spectator said.

“This lesson will be good for him, he needs to take it down a notch at the academy. He’s too lawless; it’s time for him to abide by the academy’s rules.” Another has been unhappy with Li Qiye’s attitude.

Huang Qibing’s group walked closer to Li Qiye, wearing aggression on their sleeves.

“Li, will you do it or do we have to force you?” One student threatened.

“What should I do?” Li Qiye still had a calm expression.

“It’s simple, kneel and admit your crimes then cripples your hands and legs, hand over everything you have. We might spare you then.” Huang Qibing said.

“We’re being merciful here instead of just cutting off your head and hanging it at the base of the mountain.” The owner of the stallion added.

They fully surrounded Li Qiye who didn’t seem to mind. However, Lil’ Yellow slowly got up and growled, ready to lunge forward.

“Stop!” A resounding roar interrupted this key moment, instilling both dread and shock into the crowd.

They immediately turned around and saw an approaching youth.

He wore a robe made from expensive silver brocade. Agility seemed to be his essence. Just one flash and he was already standing before the main parties.

He was handsome with fair skin; his fingers were long and slender, looking scholarly like an intellectual instead of a cultivator.

However, upon closer inspection, one would find that there were lightning bolts flashing deeper in his eyes. They felt murderous and cold. This youth would show zero hesitation when it was time to kill.

“Cold-eyed Lighting Sword!” One spectator roared.

“Li Xiangquan is here, I wonder if he’s aiming at Li Qiye.” An upperclassman wondered.

Many students were in awe, especially the females. One of them said: “Senior Brother Li is becoming more and more handsome. In terms of style and temperament alone, he’s definitely number one among the five heroes.”

Contrary to his appearance, Li Xiangquan was born in a military clan. His father was the current Grand Commander of Vajra, in charge of millions and millions of troops. The majority of legions in the dynasty were under his command.

Moreover, more than half of the current generals in Vajra used to be under his banner and had worked for him.

Thus, the clan was influential in the court. Some said that they had half of the authority and could determine the fate of Vajra and the direction of the holy ground.

The Li was a great ancient clan before joining Vajra. It had plenty of Heavenly Sovereigns. It aided Vajra and played a great role in the founding of this dynasty. Thus, it was richly rewarded with resources and land.

Like father, like son - Li Xiangquan was quite impressive as well. He might not be as brilliant as Dugu Lan but still became listed among the five heroes.

He had no lack of fans and admirers in Duality. Moreover, because of his clan’s influence, he had no lack of henchmen as well.

For those seeing him the first time, they wouldn’t believe that he had followed his father on the battlefield since youth and had meritorious contributions at the frontier.

“Senior Brother Li.” Huang Qibing’s group stopped and cupped their fist to greet him.

They were close to Li Xiangquan; their seniors were working for the Grand Commander as well.

“What is going on?” He asked.

“Senior Brother Li, this Li Qiye stole our mounts. Stealing is a serious offense at the academy so we want to carry out the punishment.” One friend hurriedly answered.

“This might be a misunderstanding.” Xiangquan frowned.

“It’s definitely not, look over there, Junior Brother Huang’s divine bull is being roasted right now.” The female student pointed at the old servant who was still turning the rack.

The bull has been covered in oil and roasted to a golden color. People couldn’t help salivating.

“Hmm, there might be more to this.” Li Xiangquan pondered.

“The senior brother is being too nice.” One listener said: “Why is he standing up for Li Qiye? Anyone else wouldn’t be so benevolent.”

“I’m surprised he’s not here to cause trouble.” An upperclassman smirked.

“What do you mean? He got something against Li Qiye?” A new student standing nearby became curious.

“You’ve only joined recently. Liu Jinsong is Li Xiangquan’s hound, understand now?” Another student answered.

The new student understood right away. Liu Jinsong was crushed to a pulp by Li Qiye. It was surprising to see the master, Xiangquan, not doing anything about it.

“Regardless of what happened, I will pay for the damage.” Xiangquan said.

“But...” One victim didn’t want to accept this.

“Go to my house and pick any mount you want.” Xiangquan repeated with a firm tone.

“I got it.” What else could this student do? He accepted the deal then glared at Li Qiye.

“Brat, looks like it’s your lucky day with Senior Brother Li helping you. You can keep your lowly life now.” Huang Qibing coldly said.

Li Qiye still wore a lazy smile, not caring about the insult.

Meanwhile, Lil’ Yellow sat back down. Huang Qibing’s group had no idea that Li Xiangquan had inadvertently saved them just now. Otherwise, they would be inside Lil’ Yellow’s stomach.

Chapter 3628: Consequence Of Gluttony

Cold-eyed Lightning Sword has agreed to compensate Huang Qibing’s group for their lost mount. The latter had no choice but to agree.

He then cupped his fist towards Li Qiye and smilingly said: “Young Noble Li, I feel bad that I haven’t gotten the chance to welcome you to the academy. There is a student gathering coming up soon, will you grace us with your presence?”

Some students exchanged glances after seeing this clear attempt at recruitment. Someone like Li Xiangquan didn’t make friends so easily since few were qualified.

This was still the case in the academy. Thus, a few students took pride in being his associates. Now, since he tried to befriend Li Qiye, it showed that Li Qiye had value.

“No need.” Li Qiye refused right away.

“It is just a small gathering to welcome you, please reconsider.” Xiangquan didn’t give up.

“Not interested.” Li Qiye said before going back inside.

“Brat, don’t refuse face when given or fail to appreciate kindness.” A student in the back immediately felt indignation for Li Xiangquan. He shouted: “It is your honor to be invited by the senior brother, don’t choose the hard way...”

Xiangquan raised his hand and stopped this student from escalating the issue. The latter had to swallow his words.

The spectators started thinking about the implications.

“This Li Qiye is quite inconsiderate and arrogant, who does he think he is to not show Senior Brother Li any face?” One of them murmured.

“Because that’s who Li Qiye is. He even refused an invitation from Teacher Du. Who do you think has more weight, Teacher Du or Senior Brother Li?” Someone who had visited Myriad Beast Mountains replied.

The first speaker immediately shut his mouth after hearing this.

“He has offended too many people in Duality.” Another started: “How is he going to stay here?”

Most listeners felt that his response to Senior Brother Li was quite insulting. Very few dared to do so in Duality.

“Let’s go.” Li Xiangquan ordered and the indignant group left with him.

As they followed him, one of them said: “Senior Brother, that Li guy didn’t show you any respect. Your benevolence might be viewed as a weakness by others. You should teach him a lesson so others know that your prestige is unquestionable.”

“Right, that guy went too far.” Another chimed in.

“Don’t bring this up again.” Li Xiangquan waved his hand and stopped speaking. However, a lightning bolt flashed deep in his eyes.

The others naturally dropped the issue.

Back in the temple, the old servant has finished roasting the bull. The beef had a tantalizing fragrance along with a golden glow. The texture seemed to be both soft and crunchy. The glow made others salivate uncontrollably.

“Amitabha.” Suddenly, they heard a Buddhist chant.

“Looks like it is a fortuitous day for food.” Golden Cicada popped out of nowhere just like a phantom. A cowardly soul would have been frightened by his sudden appearance.

His eyes fixated on the glistening meat were as bright as two suns. He seemed eager to come for a bite.

“You seem hungry, want some meat?” Li Qiye was sitting on his master chair and leisurely said.

“I do!” The monk placed his palms together while saliva dripped out of his mouth: “Benefactor, we are truly connected by fate, let’s continue on this path?”

“Just eat if you want to eat.” Li Qiye revealed a friendly smile.

“Really?” The monk thought that he had misheard. What a generous guy!

“Of course.” Li Qiye replied: “The meat in front of you isn’t fake, it’s not paper nor an illusion.”

“True.” The monk scratched his bald head and smelled the meaty fragrance. The meat was definitely real.

“Then why are you hesitating?” Li Qiye smirked.

“Amitabha, thank you for your generosity. May the great Buddha protect you...” The monk placed his palms together and bowed.

He then threw caution to the wind, unable to resist the temptation, and rushed forward. He picked up the entire bull and started taking one bite after another.

“How’s the taste?” Li Qiye asked with a gentle expression, seemingly glad. This was the face of a hunter successfully catching his prey.

“Delicious, it’s crisp yet juicy, simply incredible, Amitabha.” Golden Cicada mumbled with his mouth filled with meat; his hands covered in grease and fat. He occasionally wiped them on his kasaya.

One finally understood while his kasaya had an oily appearance. He didn’t care about this great Buddhist treasure in the slightest.

The old servant shook his head after seeing this, speechless.

“Little Monk, I heard that your temple has plenty of treasures.” Li Qiye spoke.

“Treasures? There are quite a few.” The monk kept on eating and replied without looking at Li Qiye: “After all, our ancestors have gathered them for millions of years. Bodhisattva Cauldron, Myriad Buddha Diagram, Golden Dao Lotus... yeah, there are all types.” He forgot how to be discreet while chewing on the meat.

“Hmm, I’ve heard of them before.” Li Qiye went on: “But I’m more interested in dao bones recently, not Buddhist treasures.”

“Dao bones?” The monk swallowed a big portion and quickly responded: “We have a high-level emperor dao bone, it’s not bad, the dao rhythm is present as if the beast itself is still alive...”

“I’m not interested in that one, what about the god-level dao bone?” Li Qiye interrupted him.

“Our god-level dao bone...” The monk spoke without thinking but actually stopped this time. He became frozen - his teeth were on the meat held by both hands.

“Ahem, Amitabha, I don’t know anything about a god-level dao bone, never heard of it being around either.” He dropped the meat and placed his palms together.

“Is that so?” Li Qiye smirked and stared at him.

The monk became nervous after lying. He responded: “Amitabha, monks do not lie, I’ve never seen a god-level dao bone in Heavenly Dragon Temple. This is the absolute truth.”

“Sure, you’ve never seen it, this doesn’t disprove its existence.” Li Qiye said.

“Well...” The monk hesitated and smiled wryly: “I don’t know much about this, Benefactor. You’ll have to ask my master.”

“For me to take a trip to Heavenly Dragon Temple myself over this dao bone? I’m afraid that it won’t be so simple then, I might destroy your temple.” Li Qiye chuckled.

“Amitabha.” The monk closed his eyes, not refuting Li Qiye’s claim.

“That’s why, Little Monk, I’m telling you now that I want this god-level bone. Two options, you will bring it to me or I’ll go and take it myself.” Li Qiye said.

“I... I can’t make a decision regarding something so important.” The poor monk looked helpless.

Chapter 3629: Impossible To Discern

“Go back and tell the old monks, let them talk it out.” Li Qiye said.

“Uh...” Golden Cicada found himself stuck in a precarious situation, feeling like he was a fish eating the bait. Should he swallow or let go?

Unfortunately, it was no longer up to him the moment he took the first bite. He couldn’t come up with a response because a god-level dao bone was peerless. Their temple might be the only power in all of West King with one.

If he were to go back and steal the bone, his master might break his legs.

“I, I really want to help you, Benefactor, but I think the seniors won’t agree.” He eventually said with an awkward smile.

“The old monks won’t agree?” Li Qiye’s smile became wider: “Then go back and kill all of them. You’ll be in charge then, isn’t it so simple?”

“Amitabha, Amitabha, you’re funny, Benefactor.” The monk’s expression darkened.

“I’m not joking.” Li Qiye went on: “What choice would you make if I want to destroy your temple?”

“I naturally will fight alongside the temple, I was born as part of Heavenly Dragon and will die in the same manner.” The monk put on a serious expression.

“Now this is an interesting topic, how long has your temple been around?” Li Qiye casually asked - a stark contrast to the current grim topic.

“10,000,000,000 years and up since we’re founded by Buddha Dao Lord.” The monk answered.

“Then ponder this.” Li Qiye smiled: “Your temple has been built on the effort and blood of countless sages, accumulation from one era to another. Now, there are two paths before you. First, to either keep your grand words and die with the temple. Second, be loyal to me and kill those old monks then hand the dao bone over. The latter is naturally treacherous and unforgivable, you’ll be branded as a traitor. But in exchange, you’ll save your temple and avoid the sages’ effort from going to waste in just one day.”

Li Qiye seemed to be pondering the subtleties before smiling: “Little monk, which is the better choice? To be heroic and die with your temple or to live in infamy, saving the temple?”

“...” The monk couldn’t come up with a response right away.

“There are several Buddhist phrases on this. If I don’t enter hell, who will? Abandon the self for others; cut your own meat and feed the hawk. Your body might be tainted with meat and wine but your heart still has Buddha. It is up to you whether you can live up to your Buddhist teachings.” Li Qiye added.

“Sacrifice yourself or live on to protect the temple, which is better for Buddhism? Your personal reputation or the ageless temple? Which side is heavier?” Li Qiye concluded.

“Amitabha.” The monk placed his palms together; his brows furrowed.

“This interesting choice will follow you to the end of the path. Once you get there, you’ll find that you’ll face similar choices.” Li Qiye stared at him.

The monk remained quiet for a long time before solemnly answered: “Benefactor, Heavenly Dragon Temple has lasted for millions of years. We’re not a random lineage that can crumble so easily.”

“I’m just messing with you about the choices. However, the truth is that in my eyes, Heavenly Dragon Temple is indeed just another random lineage. 80,000 Buddhas are nothing more than statues, it’s not difficult for me to destroy your temple.” Li Qiye said, borrowing a phrase from Duality Master.

The monk’s expression soured. Back then, Duality Master said this phrase and casually waved his hand. Next, a 10,000-mile-radius lost all Buddhist affinity. Not only did his temple give up but so did the rest of the holy ground.

This was also a choice. It wasn’t identical to Li Qiye’s options earlier but fundamentally similar.

The holy ground chose to concede and let Duality Academy emerge. What if they had chosen to fight Duality Master? The result could have been total annihilation on their part.

“Amitabha.” The monk had a kind personality and didn’t become angry. Nonetheless, he strongly retorted: “Our temple might be small and weak in your eyes but we’ll put up a good fight when forced to.”

“Little monk, you think too highly of your temple.” The old servant spoke since Li Qiye didn’t answer: “Your ancient Buddhas in the coffins have endured well, but that’s it. They’ll be dying soon from a lack of lifespan. Even if they can climb out of the coffins, they still have zero chance against my young master.”

“Senior, how do you know this?!” The monk became startled and shouted.

Few actually knew about their surviving ancient Buddhas. He only found out after being appointed as the successor of the temple.

“It’s no secret.” The old servant said: “When Ruleless Monk came to knock on the coffins, your temple chose to not stop him. This was a choice.”

The young monk was shaken because this event was extremely secretive. Only certain members of the temple and Pacifist Heavenly Sovereign were privy to this information. Now, this old man knew about it too.

The aforementioned monk had several titles - Ruleless monk, Ruleless Supreme, Buddha Heavenly Sovereign, or Ruleless Daoist.

The inhabitants of the holy ground usually addressed him as “the supreme”. He was one of the two supremes of the south. The other was Righteous Supreme.

He had various statuses and titles but one thing was unanimous - that he was the true ruler of Buddha Holy Ground. This was because he was the sect master of Sacred Mountain.

This sovereign was once a monk and a daoist. Either way, he had one rule and that was to be ruleless - completely unrestrained and untethered.

He was extremely powerful and protected the border alone during the dark invasion. This earned him quite a reputation through all of Eight Desolaces.

Thus, his power was the reason why he was the highest ruler of the holy ground, more so than the fact that he was Sacred Mountain’s sect master.

He stood shoulder-to-shoulder with dao lords. One would be hard-pressed to find someone as strong as him in the current generation. That’s why no sect could affect Sacred Mountain’s supremacy despite its hands-off nature.

Whether it be Vajra currently in charge of administration or the resourceful Heavenly Dragon Temple or the mighty Divine Ghost Division, none of them dared to challenge Sacred Mountain.

In fact, some believed that if Sacred Mountain wanted to change the current sect in charge of the holy ground, the supreme only needed to say one word. Vajra wouldn’t be able to resist this order.

As for Heavenly Dragon Temple, it has been following Sacred Mountain ever since the foundation of the holy ground. It spread Buddhism and built temples. One could say Heavenly Dragon was the representative of Sacred Mountain, not Vajra.

In the past, Buddha Supreme visited Heavenly Dragon Temple and entered its deepest area. He knocked on the coffins, wanting to see the ancient Buddhas.

Remember, these Buddhas didn’t have long to live. Every day was precious. Alas, the temple still didn’t try to stop him. This story served as another testament to the supreme’s power and also the old servant’s might for being aware of it.

Golden Cicada stood in silence for a while.

“I won’t be using any status to force you or people will say that I’m a senior bullying a junior.” Li Qiye smiled and shook his head: “Just go back and tell the old monks that I want this god-level dao bone. If they refuse, I’ll have to take a trip to the temple. Of course, I hope that it won’t get to that point.”

The young monk felt suffocated after hearing this.

Chapter 3630: Evil Portent

Golden Cicada Buddhist Child eventually started walking out of the temple. Of course, he finished the meat until there was nothing but bones. He seemed to be saying that since he had bit the bait, might as well finish the whole thing.

“It’s better to be a satisfied ghost than a hungry one.” He rubbed his bulging stomach before leaving.

Though Li Qiye's request robbed him of air, he didn't mistreat himself at all and got the entire divine bull for himself.

"It's nice to be able to enjoy food." Li Qiye smiled after seeing his appearance.

The monk turned back and placed his palms together to bid Li Qiye goodbye then left.

"This little one has a great Buddhist nature." The old servant assessed.

"There is still a limit." Li Qiye said: "Those before him had reached a level too high for anyone from the holy ground to surpass. This is for certain."

The old man agreed. The holy ground had produced plenty of geniuses including four dao lords.

Golden Cicada might be attuned with Buddhism but he had no chance of surpassing the sages before him, definitely not supreme existences like Buddha Dao Lord and Dhyana Dao Lord.

A bit later, loud noises came from outside and disturbed Li Qiye. He saw Yang Ling pulling Fan Bai inside.

They were gasping for air. Yang Ling's face was red and filled with indignation. Fan Bai kept her head lowered, not wanting to see anyone. She looked sad and clearly lacked confidence among other complex emotions.

"What is it?" Li Qiye asked.

"They crossed the line! Hmph, not even sparing a little girl!" Yang Ling dangerously said.

Li Qiye stared at Fan Bai who still kept her head lowered while touching her sleeves. Tears filled her eyes but she didn't want them to stream down her cheeks.

Li Qiye knew what happened right away.

It was rowdy outside by this point. One student shouted: "Li, bring her out, you can't hide her forever!"

"Zhang Changyu's group is looking for trouble!" The furious Yang Ling wanted to rush out.

"It's fine." Li Qiye smiled and went out with the two girls.

"Young Master..." Fan Bai was afraid and didn't know how to face the situation. She got the urge to run away and find a place with no one around, never meeting a stranger again.

"Don't worry." He stroked her hair and said: "I'll be there for you even when the sky falls down. Certain things are inevitable and you need to face them in order to change your fate. Forget about others and what they say, you'll be the one in charge of you."

"I..." She remained teary. Ever since she gained awareness, she was considered an evil portent by everyone. People always pointed at her; some hated and even chased her away.

"Raise your head and arch your chest." Li Qiye stared at her and said seriously: "The moment you walk through this door, you will never turn back and think about the past. From now on, you're Fan Bai, a future god standing at the apex!"

These words resembled absolute judgment. It made her tremble; she eventually calmed down and clenched her fists. She raised her head and arched her chest to assume a confident pose.

“Let’s go.” He grabbed her hand and gave her more courage.

There were many students crowding the temple. A dozen or so stood in front of the gate. The ones in the distance were gossiping.

“Is it true?” One student came after hearing the news.

“Yes, the legendary Foredoomed Star. She’s actually here in our academy.” Another friend nodded.

“It’ll be a misfortune to have her around, she shouldn’t stay here.” A different student said with scorn.

“She’s just a young girl, it’s not that serious. Foredoomed Star? It’s just a series of coincidences.” One friend disagreed.

“Right, our academy has been around for millions of years, successfully surpassing all calamities. This so-called legend won’t matter.” Another said dismissively.

So it turned out that Yang Ling wanted to take Fan Bai on a tour of Duality so that the latter would get used to it. Moreover, Yang Ling thought that just staying and training in the temple all the time would make Fan Bai sick.

Unfortunately, during their trip, a few older students read the signs and recognized her as the legendary Foredoomed Star.

This tale was well-known in the southern West King. Misfortunes occurred right after Fan Bai’s birth. Her parents died soon after and her clan suffered a disaster.

A couple adopted her but they also died; their sect fell as well. Next came a powerful cultivator. This person didn’t last for more than a few days, having exploded to death.

The enemies of his sect came a bit later and massacred everyone. Fan Bai was the sole survivor.

Thus, anyone who helped her had a terrible outcome. She was the only one who came out alive each time.

Thus, she became known as an unlucky star. Her stories spread like wildfires and people stopped helping her.

In fact, many cities and sect territories didn’t allow her in. They would instantly banish her on sight.

She became a wanderer hated by all. Children would throw stones at her - this was a regular occurrence.

She eventually focused on finding abandoned places and became afraid of people. She started to change after meeting Li Qiye; he showed her a new possibility.

By this point, numerous students have arrived after hearing the news. Some wanted to chase this symbol of misfortune away from Duality.

Yan Jingxuan and Zhang Changyu advocated for kicking her out and garnered plenty of support. The group ran here to the temple afterward.

“Li, hand the unlucky star over now or you’ll be provoking the academy.” Zhang Changyu shouted. He came to seek retribution for the previous humiliation. This was a godsend opportunity for him.

“This is too much.” One female student thought that chasing away a little girl was too much.

“No. On one hand, our academy will be just fine and one unlucky star won’t do anything. This might not be the case for the students. We’re just regular people, can we really avoid something nefarious haunting us?” Her male friend retorted.

The group exchanged glances. Sure, Duality probably wouldn’t fall but this might not be the case for the students. Death was a possibility.

The legends were quite scary after being spread for so long. The students became slightly afraid.

“It’s better to be safe than.” A student changed his mind: “If something unfortunate were to happen, we’ll be throwing our lives away, the same with our clan and sect.”

No one had a response this time.