

Emperor 3681

Chapter 3681: Just A Puppet

The swift takedown still left the crowd in a daze. People couldn't react before the student was laying in a pool of his own blood.

Most thought that Li Qiye was being arrogant earlier by proclaiming the student's inability to stop even one move from him. Alas, he proved himself in the blink of an eye and dispelled all doubts.

The student himself had no idea how he lost so fast. He was proud of his defense consisting of the fiery shield and armor.

In fact, someone at one realm higher shouldn't have been able to break through with one move, let alone Li Qiye who was weaker.

He attacked with haste in order to catch Li Qiye off guard and deliver a fatal blow. He never expected to lose in this manner. According to his calculation, the worst possible outcome was Li Qiye being able to dodge his move.

Unfortunately, Li Qiye's single move crushed his confidence and bones. Only despair and confusion were left.

Li Qiye still stood in the same pose and position. It was as if he didn't move at all and still managed to defeat this student.

Some gasped in astonishment, not because of his supreme power but because of his devilishness. Conventional wisdom and common sense didn't work with him.

"Ahh!" Once the student regained his wits, he felt waves of agonizing pain. He would be squirming on the ground if he could move.

"You've lost, should I deliver you from this suffering now?" Li Qiye smiled at the student.

The groaning student became frightened. Even insects wanted to live for as long as possible, let alone him.

"Senior Brother Li, save me!" He no longer gave a damn and shouted since death was near.

"Senior Brother Li?" The crowd became confused.

"No one will be able to save you today." Li Qiye chuckled.

"Senior Brother Li!!! Senior Brother Li!!!!!" The student bellowed, each time louder than the previous.

"Enough, no point in killing him. Fellow Daoist Li, stop here." A loud voice answered.

Everyone followed the direction of the voice and saw a youth standing near - one of the five heroes of Duality, Cold-eyed Lightning Sword Li Xiangquan.

Most naturally recognized him since he was quite famous in Metropolis for being an exceptional genius.

"Li Xiangquan's here." Another murmured.

Some among the crowd, especially the older folks, immediately understood the situation.

“Just a lackey.” A big shot commented.

This crippled student was clearly under the order of Li Xiangquan. This was a trap aimed at Li Qiye from the start.

A few youths thought that it was a good thing that they didn't join. They would have been acting as pawns for Li Xiangquan.

“The animosity was already there.” A student from Duality didn't find this surprising because these two had prior conflicts back at the academy.

“Stop? As if you're in charge here.” Li Qiye glanced at Li Xiangquan and smiled, not giving the guy any face in public.

Putting his power and talents aside, just his clan alone demanded respect in Metropolis. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that eighty percent of the generals in Vajra had ties to his clan. His father was the Grand Commander in charge of the military.

The clan has been rooted in the holy ground for millions of years with great influence. Now, Li Qiye didn't give a damn about him nor his clan.

“Li Qiye, the holy ground is filled with crouching tigers and hidden dragons. There is always a taller peak. Just one wrong step and you'll regret it.” Li Xiangquan uttered coldly. This was a blatant threat towards Li Qiye.

Others exchanged glances. These words sounded overbearing but it was indeed true. Few dared to oppose the Li, not even a country or a sect. Li Qiye, on the other hand, was alone.

“You finished? I'll start then.” Li Qiye yawned, looking quite bored.

“You!” Xiangquan turned red. He thought that his threat should have warranted a reaction - at least some hesitation. Unfortunately, Li Qiye didn't give him the satisfaction.

“Senior Brother, save me!” The student shouted. [1]

Li Xiangquan was stuck in a predicament. The student was his lackey so he couldn't abandon the guy in front of everyone. Otherwise, who would want to work for him later on?

“Li Qiye, if you don't let him go, you'll antagonize Duality Academy, Vajra Dynasty, and my Li Clan...” He took a deep breath and said, instantly dragging several great powers into this mess.

If Li Qiye were to refuse, he would be taking a public stance against these great powers.

“Crack!” Li Qiye stomped down and pulverized the student's head before Li Xiangquan could finish speaking.

The student didn't have the chance to scream or beg for help.

The street became silent. All eyes were on Li Xiangquan. This was a direct slap against both him and his clan - an unforgivable provocation.

His expression became unsightly; his eyes flashed with murderous intent.

“You deserve death.” He eventually said, fully expressing his animosity. Many shuddered after hearing the grim tone.

“That’s right, he deserves death! We ought to mince him to pieces!” A newcomer joined the fray.

People saw a youth in silver armor walking over with a spear propped on his shoulder. He looked bloodthirsty like a general stepping onto the battlefield.

“Stallion Silver Spear, Zhang Yunzhi.” The crowd recognized him, another of the five heroes of Duality.

Everyone could see that he was restraining himself from instantly attacking Li Qiye. Someone else with less self-control would have pounced towards the enemy.

Chapter 3682: All Involved Parties Are Here

Zhang Yunzhi’s appearance was surprising to the crowd, not his aggression.

They understood why he wanted to kill Li Qiye. The previous event was just too humiliating, being forced to strip in public. That was definitely the most disgraceful moment in his life. That’s why he wanted nothing more than to cut Li Qiye to pieces. This hatred ran bone-deep.

Thus, some members of the crowd were ready to watch the show, ready to gloat on the losing side.

“Oh? Aren’t you the classmate with the stripping fetish?” Li Qiye smirked in response to the aggressive glare.

Some couldn’t help but burst out in laughter since they had a first-hand experience with it. They thought that this was unsuitable and had to stop, resulting in an awkward expression.

“You!” Zhang Yunzhi turned red with rage and embarrassment; his teeth chattered loudly. At this bone, “bone-deep” wasn’t enough to describe his enmity. He would pay any price to have revenge.

“Li! I swear that I will cut you to pieces today or I’ll cease to be a human!” He bellowed.

Everyone could hear the rage embedded in his voice and chattering teeth.

“I’m waiting.” Li Qiye casually waved his hand.

“You’re not leaving this place today. It doesn’t matter who your backer is, no one can save you.” Li Xiangquan chillingly added.

His feud with Li Qiye was far from being as serious as Zhang Yunzhi’s. Nonetheless, he clearly wanted to kill Li Qiye.

“The Li and the Zhang are working together?” Some were surprised at this unlikely alliance.

“It’s just temporary to deal with Li Qiye.” An older cultivator replied.

Zhang Yunzhi and Li Xiangquan were both students of Duality and part of the five heroes. They grew up in Metropolis and have known each other since their youth. However, they were certainly not friends.

They didn’t have notable conflicts back at the academy but certainly disagreed on many issues.

After all, their two clans have been competing all this time. Both were ancient clans of the holy ground and have served Vajra for generations.

The Zhang had considerable influence over the civil court while the Li had the military under control. To a certain extent, these two clans could decide the direction of Vajra.

Though they both worked for Vajra, they never stopped competing for political influence. This was the same case for their young generation.

Today, this became a rare moment since they considered Li Qiye a thorn on their side. Thus, it became imperative to work together and take his dog head.

"I've heard this so many times yet I'm still standing here while nothing is left of them but bones." Li Qiye lazily said.

"You can drop that idea today." Zhang Yunzhi threatened: "It doesn't matter how many ace cards you have up your sleeves, you're not leaving this place."

"Your head is mine!" Li Xiangquan showed his determination.

This new alliance caused the crowd to ponder.

"Li Qiye is in trouble this time." A youth gloated and laughed: "He definitely has a chance of leaving this place but it won't be easy for him afterward after offending both the Li and the Zhang. This is akin to offending the dynasty. He'll need to live with his tail tucked between his legs or like a fleeing rat. He'll have to hide forever in his shell."

"The brat is really playing with fire this time." An older expert nodded in agreement.

These comments were reasonable. The two clans were as strong as individual countries and sects. Their influence could be seen all over the holy ground, not just limited to Vajra.

"We'll see about that." Someone disagreed: "He had killed so many people with his trickeries before back in the mountain range. Isn't he still perfectly fine right now?"

"That's true." Others voiced their agreement. Li Qiye had plenty of enemies for what he had done yet he was still alive right now.

"Just watch, we'll find out soon enough." A member of the last generation remained patient.

At this point, the duo had a hard time holding back from attacking Li Qiye.

"Let's get started." Li Qiye smiled at his foes and said: "One at a time or together?"

They naturally didn't appreciate the disdain shown. As for the crowd, some were surprised; the students from Duality became offended.

Li Xiangquan and Zhang Yunzhi were two of the top students at the academy. So, to a certain extent, they represented the power of the student body.

That's why if Li Qiye looked down on these two, he was looking down on all students from Duality.

“This Li Qiye is too arrogant, does he not see how powerful the two seniors are?” One student angrily said: “How is he going to take on both of them at the same time?!”

“Let him try, he’ll find that he’s messing with the wrong people soon enough.” Another student snorted: “He must think that he’s invincible.”

“Senior Brother Li, teach him a lesson!” Because of this, certain students started shouting.

“Senior Brother Zhang, cut off his dog head and show everyone our academy’s prestige!”

The neutral spectators didn’t have such a strong reaction. They only frowned after hearing his challenge.

“Can he do this? There’s a big realm difference. Zhang Yunzhi and Li Xiangquan should be in the myriad-form realm. Li Qiye should be an Enlightened Being. Hell, even if he’s in the samadhi realm, he still has no chance.” An older expert analyzed.

“I still believe in Li Qiye. The things happening around him are too strange, he might have a heaven-defying means to change the tides.” An elder shook his head.

One big shot pondered for a bit before replying: “Well, he has a chance if it’s one-on-one. But in this scenario? Those kids are no slouches. They’re the future successor of their clan.”

Everyone started debating with different opinions. Most thought that Li Qiye was overestimating himself by suggesting a one-on-two scenario.

Zhang Yunzhi and Li Xiangquan were famous prodigies; their fame wasn’t empty.

“Do you really think you can defeat the two of us?” Zhang Yunzhi’s eyes were fierce.

“Obviously.” Li Qiye stretched and said: “Forget it, just come together to save time.”

Chapter 3683: Just One Move

“Since you’re courting death, we’ll help you accomplish your goal.” Li Xiangquan uttered coldly.

They had no need to employ false courtesy or make excuses. Both stepped forward at the same time.

If it was someone else weaker than them, they wouldn’t have chosen to work together. A victory then would still ruin their reputation.

However, Li Qiye had infuriated them. Thus, they didn’t mind a gloriless victory.

“I hope the two senior brothers will let him have his wish.” Many students from Duality snorted.

The duo slowly walked towards Li Qiye with murderous intent. They clearly had no intention of holding back. If they could kill him with one move, they wouldn’t plan to use a second one.

Li Qiye lazily stretched, not looking like someone who’s about to fight two geniuses at all. This seemed like just another stroll to him.

“How do you want to die? A swift one or an agonizing one?” Zhang Yunzhi taunted after the two surrounded him.

This wasn't a real question since he would take the time to torture Li Qiye after defeating him. His twisted grimace said it all - clearly fantasizing about the future malicious acts.

"You have a rich imagination. Be realistic now." Li Qiye shook his head.

"Is that so?" Li Xiangquan sneered. He thought that when the two of them were together, no one else in the young generation could take them on. In fact, he was confident going against Dugu Lan like this.

"You really think we can't beat you?" He glared at Li Qiye.

"One move is enough." Li Qiye smiled.

"One move?!" The crowd found this astonishing.

"He's joking, right? That's impossible." Even those who would bet their money on Li Qiye were skeptical.

"Yes, one move is not enough." An elder shook his head: "These two aren't ordinary cultivators given their clan's resources. Their treasures should be amazing. Not to mention their peers, not many from the previous generation can take them down that quickly."

"Does he think that he's a supreme?" One student laughed: "He doesn't know the immensity of heaven and earth."

Li Xiangquan and Zhang Yunzhi found this hilarious, thinking that they have misheard.

"Hahaha, you'll defeat us with one move?" Zhang Yunzhi laughed boisterously.

"Hmm, maybe one move is a bit unfair, too cruel in sending you two to the pit of despair. I'm always a merciful person even to my opponents. I will allow you to struggle a bit." Li Qiye calmly added.

The crowd smiled wryly in response. Li Qiye has only made his debut recently but he was far from being a merciful person. Someone who killed 100,000 had nothing to do with the word, "mercy".

"Three moves." Li Qiye raised three fingers and said: "The first two moves are free, do whatever you want with your treasures and merit laws. The third move will send you two on your next journey."

"Li, do you think we're fish on a chopping board for you to do whatever you want?!" Li Xiangquan shouted back.

"No, you're no different from dead men in my eyes." Li Qiye revealed a soft smile.

"You!" Xiangquan trembled with rage.

Zhang Yunzhi felt the same way but he took a deep breath and told his ally: "Brother Li, no need to argue with him. Let's use action instead."

Li Xiangquan agreed with this and calmed down. He stared intensely at Li Qiye and said: "I suppose killing you is letting you off too easily. This won't end quickly." He had the urge to torture Li Qiye as well. He made up his mind to do so.

"Boom!" He released his vitality and chaos true energy. Zhang Yunzhi also did the same. His vitality exploded, resulting in waves.

The two of them were ready to subdue Li Qiye then torture him afterward.

“Rumble!” Their released energy swept through the area, capable of pushing the world away.

One could hear lighting crackles around Li Xiangquan. He focused his eyes and turned them into two endless oceans of lighting bolts.

They started escaping from his eyes and floated around him. Once enough accumulated, they rushed to the sky like a reversed waterfall.

He suddenly became gigantic with an ocean of lightning bolts above him, turning him into a thunder god.

“Myriad-form Sanctity. He might not be the very best but still a dragon among men, worthy of being the successor of the Li.” Many started praising him.

“Cold-eyed Lightning Sword, true to his title.” Others thought of his title after seeing the ocean of lightning bolts.

“He doesn’t have any inborn talent but there’s still something special about him. His eyes have the lightning affinity at birth, that’s quite rare.” Someone who was familiar with him said.

“Clank! Clank! Clank!” Zhang Yunzhi’s silver armor started having more sections and plates added in a loud manner.

His actual physique became massive as well. Because of his armor, he looked like a silver wall separating the realm - uncrossable and indestructible.

Just one step of his could destroy mountains and rivers along with his foes. His divinity was intimidating, not inferior to Li Xiangquan in the slightest - whether it be his aura or momentum.

The two seemed evenly matched after assuming their peak state.

Chapter 3684: Young Geniuses

“Clank!” Li Xiangquan in his empowered state summoned a long sword and immediately unsheathed the blade.

Everyone saw a bright flash subsequently. It was as if he was unsheathing a bundle of lightning bolts instead of a sword. Their arcs flowed chaotically, ready to penetrate.

His eyes became cold and imperious, making him look like an untouchable Heavenly Sovereign.

Other students from Duality couldn’t help but become overwhelmed with admiration.

“Worthy of being one of the five heroes.” Some felt proud to be in the same academy as him.

“Boom!” At the same time, a silver spear pierced the sky and resembled a galaxy filled with great momentum and battle spirit. Zhang Yunzhi looked like a god of war descending to the mortal realm, capable of fighting all the demons and devils.

“What an impressive presence, only Senior Brother Zhang has something like this.” One student from Duality said with admiration.

Though he wasn't riding a stallion right now, he still had the same oppressive pressure akin to that of an attacking rider. He could sweep through all the battlefields in Eight Desolaces, uncontested.

"Duality Academy has so many talents." One expert had to praise Zhang Yunzhi and Li Xiangquan.

The two were actually already accomplished and relatively older before joining the academy due to their prestigious background.

This actually showed the charm of Duality. Only a lineage like this could recruit talents from all over the world regardless of the long distance.

The students referred to the top peers as the five heroes of Duality. This could be construed as bombastic and arrogant. Nonetheless, these titles were widely accepted by the experts and sects in the holy ground.

This was both due to the academy's history and the abilities of the five heroes themselves.

"Li Qiye, are you prepared?" Zhang Yunzhi looked down at Li Qiye, looking intimidating and dominating.

"This is it? How boring. I guess I need to hold back so that you two can survive to the third move." Li Qiye casually said.

The two's anger reignited again after hearing this.

"This brat still thinks the two aren't powerful enough?" A spectator murmured.

"They are definitely strong enough to kill him with one move. He won't be able to brag for much longer." One Duality student snorted.

Some agreed with this because in their empowered state, Zhang Yunzhi and Li Xiangquan looked unbeatable.

On the other hand, Li Qiye had no aura and energy fluctuations to speak of. The guy shouldn't be able to last one move.

They actually thought that the duo was wasting their time preparing so hard. Just one finger should be enough to crush him.

The duo exchanged glances. Li Xiangquan then threatened: "You shall have your death wish now!"

He then took out a diagram. It became larger and engulfed the area. An ancient and majestic capital emerged from the diagram.

It included officials. One was old and wore a golden robe. Others were young and handsome with qilin-engraved robes. Another civic official had a runic cloak...

All in all, these officials lined up inside the palace. They varied in appearance and age; only one thing was similar - their holy aura. This seemed to be the court of a god or an immortal.

The spectators became startled right away.

"What diagram is this?" A few became surprised.

“It’s a diagram named Hundred Officials.” An expert from Vajra elaborated: “A great treasure given to the Li by the court. It was created by one hundred mighty civic officials from Vajra, encompassing their powers.”

In Vajra, the civic officials weren’t weak scholars. In reality, the higher-ranking ones were just as powerful as elders or even ancestors from the sects.

A hundred of them worked together to create this gift for the Li? Only this clan had enough prestige and status for this great honor.

Li Xiangquan seemed to be the leader of these officials while being engulfed by this visual phenomenon. He was below one man but above all else. [1]

Zhang Yunzhi didn’t want to fall behind and took out a treasure in the shape of a steel halberd.

“Activate!” A visual phenomenon of a great cavalry arriving emerged. A million troops appeared behind him, possessing great bloodthirst and battle experience.

He stood in front, looking like a divine commander ready to lead them to battle and conquer all enemies. Just one hand wave of his could take down a country.

“What treasure is this?” Many shuddered after feeling the ferocious aura of this treasure.

“Cavalry Halberd, a treasure Vajra used quite often back then for battles. After taking over, expeditions didn’t happen as often so they gave it to the Zhang as a reward for their contribution.” An old expert explained.

Everyone saw the stark contrast between the two geniuses. Li Xiangquan was in charge of the civic officials while Zhang Yunzhi led a great army.

“Isn’t this the opposite?” Someone said: “They swapped roles.”

Many actually shared this thought. Li Xiangquan was from a military clan with plenty of generals. His father was the current Grand Commander.

As for Zhang Yunzhi, he came from a civic clan with deep roots in the capital. His father was the Grand Chancellor, in charge of the court’s officials.

The two successors seemed to have swapped roles. Li Xiangquan looked like a perfect official while Zhang Yunzhi had the bearing of a general.

“The son of the Grand Commander wants to work for the court and the son of the Grand Chancellor wants to be a general. How bizarre.” Another commenter expressed.

“Maybe the clans also want this.” One elder speculated with a serious expression: “The Li wants to extend their reach, the same with the Zhang.”

People couldn’t disagree with this logic. Both the clans have been sticking to their respective domain for a long time. Perhaps starting from this generation, they wanted to expand their influence.

“Li Qiye, are you ready? Otherwise, we’ll start first.” Li Xiangquan uttered coldly.

They certainly hated Li Qiye but since they were from prestigious clans, they couldn't attack without warning in an official duel.

Chapter 3685: Sword Point

"Take out your weapon!" Li Xiangquan glared at Li Qiye with lightning bolts flashing in his eyes. No one would dare to question the might of this lightning god.

All eyes turned towards Li Qiye who had performed numerous miracles before. They wanted to see what he could do against these two mighty foes.

Was there a treasure that could turn the tides to his favor?

"What treasure does he have? Didn't the hug mouse like him? Maybe whatever that thing is, it'll be enough to decide this battle." One commenter quietly noted.

The eyes on him became hotter with anticipation. They wanted to see the mouse's gift.

"An amazing treasure might not be usable right now since it takes time to train and get used to it." An older expert shook his head. Nonetheless, the crowd's enthusiasm didn't diminish.

Li Qiye smiled and said: "I'm used to this thing, let's use it." He tapped on the blade hanging by his waist then took it out.

The thing didn't emit any saber energy or terrible gales. It looked like a regular saber, not precious in the slightest.

"Didn't he use this for chopping wood?" Someone who was there at the mountain range couldn't help asking.

"Chopping wood?" Many became surprised. They assumed that he would be taking out an amazing artifact, not a daily tool like this.

"Yes, I saw him chopping with it back at Myriad Beast." The first speaker said with confidence.

In fact, people believed him right away. This saber didn't look special at all. Using it for chopping wood wasn't surprising.

"Isn't this too much? He's really looking down on his foes." One cultivator murmured.

"He's just tired of living." A student from Duality who was a fan of the duo scowled.

Zhang Yunzhi and Li Xiangquan's expression soured. Li Qiye didn't take out a treasure and only used this regular blade to fight them? This was blatant contempt.

"You want to use that thing against our artifacts?!" Zhang Yunzhi shouted.

"More than sufficient." Li Qiye shrugged.

Yunzhi became livid after hearing this response.

"We'll see about that. Let's get started then." If gazes could kill, Li Xiangquan's current gaze would cut Li Qiye to pieces.

“Sure.” Li Qiye casually pointed his saber at the duo.

“Is this a technique?” The crowd was stunned.

It was one thing to use this saber. Now, he didn’t bother putting up a real stance. This seemed more like a joke to him than a duel.

“Wait a minute... that’s Sword Point.” A Duality student regained his wits and noticed something peculiar.

“You’re right.” His friend took a closer look and confirmed.

“The sword technique left behind by Sword Emperor at your academy?” Other experts nearby joined the conversation.

“Yes, that’s the stance.” An expert who has visited Duality before said with certainty.

Many have seen “Sword Point” before and tried to comprehend it by copying the stance. Unfortunately, they could only imitate the external act, nothing more.

Li Qiye just made this duel a lot more interesting to the spectators.

“So he knows how to use it?” Discussions sprung up.

“No way.” The first reaction was one of denial.

“I haven’t heard of someone truly understanding this technique in history. Maybe only the top sovereigns or skillful swordsmen. A junior like him hasn’t embarked on the sword dao path, let alone trying to understand it.”

“Yes, this move is the essence of the sword dao. Only the wise sword users who spent their whole life learning have a chance.” One expert said.

The top cultivators here have researched this move. They knew that one needed to have high attainment in this dao before attempting to learn it. Li Qiye didn’t fulfill this requirement.

“Using a wood-chopping saber to perform a sword technique? There’s something wrong with his head.” Someone laughed.

It was incoherent and nonsensical to use a crappy saber for the sake of performing a profound sword technique.

“I’ll eat a rock if he can use it.” One Duality student taunted.

“Too bad you won’t have the chance.” The friends nearby burst out in laughter.

They thought that Li Qiye only wanted to copy the stance and had no idea what he was doing.

“Stop bluffing.” Zhang Yunzhi and Li Xiangquan didn’t believe it either.

“Let’s go!” They shouted in unison.

“Rumble!” The battle intent of the great army gathered on Zhang Yunzhi as he shouted: “Break!” He thrust his spear downward. It encompassed not only his power but also the force of the great army.

Explosions accompanied the path of the spear. It looked like a silver galaxy was descending. Countless sharp rays wanted to devour Li Qiye.

Li Xiangquan roared as well. The officials behind him also roared and blessed him with their powers. Numerous runes fused with his ocean of lighting.

“Clank!” He thrust his sword forward with a speed faster than lightning. Time seemed to be coming to a halt.

Even the most agile cultivator would be one step slower than this sword thrust. It had both speed and blessings of the officials. Their wills focused at the tip, allowing it to break through both heaven and earth. Nothing could stop its sharpness.

He aimed straight for Li Qiye’s throat. It was impossible to dodge - the crowd thought.

Meanwhile, Li Qiye still had the same pose against the incoming attacks.

“Dodge it!” A cultivator instinctively shouted, not wanting to see the guy die.

Li Qiye seemed to be lost due to the speed of the sword thrust. He must have been afraid or just couldn’t react fast enough. That’s why he looked frozen in the spectators’ eyes.

Chapter 3686: Imperceptible Sword Technique

The sword and spear pierced through Li Qiye’s body and crucified him on the spot.

“It’s over.” Some spectators became dazed at this sight.

Virtually everyone assumed that Li Qiye still had, more or less, a heaven-defying method. He would be able to struggle against the two for a while. Some thought that he would actually win.

They didn’t expect to see him die in this manner.

“Isn’t this too tiger-head and snake-tail? This is how it ends?” Another murmured, astounded.[1]

Due to Li Qiye’s unbridled attitude prior, they thought that he would do something shocking. Now, he couldn’t resist for a second.

“What a joke, he wasted our time. I would have left long ago instead of waiting.” One expert complained at the ending.

“Bragging is useless, only skills matter.” A Duality student snorted: “I thought he would be able to do something impressive but the guy is just a paper tiger. Now, he threw his life away in a disgraceful manner.”

The crowd became awfully disappointed. Some shook their head while other started cursing.

In fact, though they were happy at their victory, they felt a tinge of disappointment. Li Qiye died too fast; this result was rather favorable for the guy.

Unfortunately, they suddenly realized something. Though their weapon pieced Li Qiye’s throat and body, they didn’t feel the contact at all.

“Wait, they didn’t kill Li Qiye, they didn’t even touch him at all!” An elder from a big sect noticed something amiss.

“Right! No blood at all, they didn’t touch him!” Another older expert saw it clearly.

Everyone else started taking a look. Sure, the sword and the spear clearly pierced his body but not even a drop of blood spilled. Moreover, Li Qiye still maintained the same pose.

“What’s going on? Is this an illusion?” One expert said.

“No, he’s really standing there, it’s not an illusion.” A powerful ancestor shook his head.

The duo became surprised. At this moment, they thought that it was only an image of Li Qiye; the true body must have escaped. They activated their heavenly gaze only to find that Li Qiye was actually there.

“My turn.” Li Qiye lazily smiled.

This seemed to confirm that Li Qiye was the real thing. It wasn’t an illusion or a fake image. It looked quite bizarre because Li Qiye had no reaction despite being penetrated by the sword and spear.

Zhang Yunzhi and Li Xiangquan reacted quickly by recalling their weapon for a defensive attempt.

Alas, it was too late since Li Qiye was making his move - he casually pushed the saber forward without needing any force.

“Break!” Li Xiangquan crazily roared. The sword in his hand released lightning serpents before slashing towards Li Qiye’s saber.

Zhang Yunzhi roared as well, swinging his spear to create a defensive silver wall.

This simply didn’t matter. The torrential lightning bolts and the tough wall couldn’t stop the saber from inching forward.

This was a bizarre scene. The saber cut through space and time. It seemed to be targeting Li Xiangquan and Zhang Yunzhi’s next move, not their present self.

In the next moment, the two somehow exposed their weak spots to Li Qiye’s saber. The casual thrust managed to strike them in the left chest area.

“Pluff!” Zhang Yunzhi’s armor didn’t matter, the same for Li Xiangquan’s lightning barrier.

The saber ignored all defenses and retaliation, able to bypass them to hit the targets. It felt as if it came from a different spatio-temporal dimension.

Li Qiye pulled his saber back as blood gushed out of his foes’ gaping chest. The wound was startling. The two looked as if they were struck by lightning as they staggered backward.

Meanwhile, the crowd became stupefied. They saw Li Qiye’s action clearly - he simply raised his saber and gently pushed it forward.

Stopping this attack was as simple as can be, even for a fool, let alone Zhang Yunzhi and Li Xiangquan who were completely prepared.

The obviousness and simplicity of the thrust made it even more perplexing. People had no idea how Li Qiye managed to connect.

“What sorcery is this?” A junior asked.

This question popped up in everyone’s mind. The ancestors themselves couldn’t come up with an explanation after seeing this.

“Sorcery? This is the mysteries of the sword dao.” However, a capable master glared at this junior and revealed.

People then found out that this pertained to the dao of Sword Emperor. Unfortunately, they didn’t understand it in the slightest.

“I don’t notice anything, looks like I’ve wasted decades learning the sword dao.” An expert swordsman smiled wryly.

They understood that it wasn’t a coincidence. Li Qiye had figured out the sword dao left behind by Sword Emperor.

“Hmm, this dao...” An enlightened big shot said: “I didn’t see it that clearly but the thrust exceeded time and space. Not sure if this was actually the case, it just gave that sensation. It would explain why Li Qiye wasn’t damaged by the attacks. So the profundity of this technique is beyond the stance.”

He wasn’t absolutely certain but at the very least, he noticed the subtle hints, unlike the others.

“The whole thing is bizarre, using a woodchopping saber for a supreme sword technique.” Another spectator added.

“He really understood Sword Point...” Meanwhile, the students of Duality couldn’t believe it.

Some have spent years looking at it but they made zero progress. A while ago, they even made fun of him for copying the stance in order to look cool. Now, he clearly proved them wrong.

“Sword Point...” Yang Ling herself was stunned. Li Qiye had offered to teach her Sword Point before but she chose the merit law left behind by Duality Master instead.

The other students became uncomfortable. Their effort was in vain while Li Qiye only needed to look at it once before learning it.

Chapter 3687: Omni Carapace

Because of the historical precedence, some students thought that it was impossible to actually learn the technique.

Today, Li Qiye performed the imperceptible technique before the crowd.

“I don’t think there’s a weirder method, using a saber for a sword technique.” One expert murmured, feeling a bit lost.

The technique itself was strange enough along with the resulting phenomena. Not to mention ordinary experts, even the top swordsmen present had no idea.

“The next move will pierce your right chest.” Li Qiye swung his saber smoothly to get rid of the blood drop.

The crowd no longer had any taunt or jeer to throw at him. They thought that he was overestimating himself going against the two geniuses with that saber. Now, his weapon no longer mattered, whether it be this average blade or an ultimate sword.

Just his words alone froze them in their tracks, making it harder to breathe. They didn't think that he was arrogant for bringing up the three moves earlier after the first exchange. Their attitude and belief completely shifted as a result.

Zhang Yunzhi and Li Xiangquan felt the same way. At first, they thought that he was blatantly insulting them by allowing them to struggle until three moves. Now, trepidation and fear showed up in their mind.

Fear! This was a new emotion to them. They thought that death was still far away. No one dared to kill them in the first place.

Alas, they suddenly felt a shadow looming over them, perhaps that of a death god. Though they have rubbed ointment on the wound, pain jolted them after hearing his words.

“Next move, start.” Li Qiye smiled and coolly waved his saber before pointing at the two.

No one dared to look down on his stance right now as they watched with bated breath. The duo had a serious expression as well.

“A new technique, perhaps?” The spectators suddenly became excited, ready for the next grand display from Li Qiye.

“Maybe the supreme art from Duality Master? He saw all the top merit laws at the peak back then.” One student suggested.

“Yes, you're right, he did look through them.” Another recalled what happened that day. People actually made fun of him too for saying that he understood Duality Master's legacy.

Perhaps he was really telling the truth but they refused to believe him.

“No, I hope he does Sword Point again.” A swordsman said. Other sword dao users hoped for the same thing, especially the ancestors who have spent too long on this path. They wanted to see some clues for comprehension.

Previously, the two looked bloodthirsty due to their confidence. Now, this momentum was no longer there.

They stared at each other and finally came up with another new plan.

“Activate!” Zhang Yunzhi summoned a treasure and put it on.

This was an iron robe seemingly created from a tornado. Explosions detonated after he put it on. A terrible storm suddenly manifested and ravaged the nearby area. He became the son of the storm, capable of wielding this destructive power.

The crowd hurriedly retreated in order to not get pulled in.

“Omni Carapace, the renowned treasure of the Zhang.” An expert recognized the artifact.

It was a magical defensive tool. While using it, no one would be able to get close. Any attacker would be blown flying by the tornado regardless of the angle of approach, hence its name.

Li Xiangquan took out a bottle and slightly tilted it, releasing a monstrous tsunami. The blue water drowned out the sky along with its user. He then disappeared into this ocean. No one could see the end of this ocean or his position.

“Tidecaller Bottle.” An elder saw: “This is the real power of a big clan. These juniors have such powerful treasures in their possession. In any other sect, only the elders would have them.”

Tidecaller was created by a powerful Heavenly Sovereign. Most youths had no chance of wielding an artifact of this level. This was a showing of the Li’s resources.

“A defensive and an evasive one.” The spectators exchanged glances after seeing this.

This time, the duo abandoned offense and focused on defense. They clearly lost confidence after that last attempt and chose the safest route.

“They’re afraid.” One expert could read their mind.

“No, this is just a different strategy.” One student who was a fan of the two immediately barked back. Alas, his words lacked confidence.

“We’re ready for your attack.” Li Xiangquan’s voice echoed from the ocean.

This was indeed a high-level method. One would find it difficult to find him in this ocean, let alone attacking the right position.

Attention shifted back to Li Qiye. Everyone awaited his next move.

Li Xiangquan had an ocean as a separating force. Zhang Yunzhi’s style was more direct; his robe could stop all offenses within a thousand-mile radius.

“Can one move take down the carapace and the bottle?” A cultivator asked.

“These two treasures are very impressive.” An aware expert answered: “They came from mighty Heavenly Sovereigns. This won’t be easy.”

“Don’t be so sure.” A peer replied: “This is Li Qiye we’re talking about. Others can’t but he’s an exception.”

No one could refute this after personally witnessing the devilish nature of Li Qiye during this duel.

Chapter 3688: One Sword Move

Li Qiye commanded the attention of all the spectators.

Meanwhile, Li Xiangquan and Zhang Yunzhi were ready with their strongest defense. One was a ravaging tornado while the other was a boundless ocean separating the realms.

“Try this.” Li Qiye casually smiled and raised his saber again.

The crowd was filled with anticipation and excitement, especially the swordsmen. Their eyes were wide open, not wanting to miss the smallest detail.

He then gently pushed the saber forward.

“Sword Point again!” A spectator shouted. This would be their second time seeing Sword Emperor’s peerless technique.

“Right...” The expert swordsmen’s eyes started bulging forward, wanting to memorize his action. They wanted to understand the mysteries of this technique.

In the holy ground or even all of the southern West King, most have heard of Sword Point and knew the stance and pose.

Alas, how many actually understood it? That’s why the sword users here didn’t want to miss an actual display of the technique. This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

If they tried their hardest observing Li Qiye, they might be able to successfully learn this technique as well.

They meticulously stared at the moving saber. Suddenly, something flashed in their mind.

They felt a separation process in the trajectory of the thrust. Time flowed by the blink of an eye before reversing in the other direction - a million years into the future then a million years back.

This messed with their mind. Both the expert swordsmen and the ancestors felt as if they were trapped in a chaotic dimension, not knowing where they were.

“Ah! Ahh!” They heard two screams and regained their wits, realizing that Li Qiye’s saber had pierced through the duo’s right chest.

Once Li Qiye pulled back, blood gushed out of the two holes. Li Xiangquan and Zhang Yunzhi fell from the sky and smashed into the ground. Their robe was stained red.

The spectators couldn’t react in time. They were still focusing on the slow movement of the blade but it somehow made it past the tornado and the boundless ocean.

The ferocious winds and the million miles of water didn’t matter at all. Defenses simply didn’t exist before Sword Point. Perhaps they were present in their current dimension but not in the others.

The majority of spectators simply couldn’t grasp the technique’s profundity. Some ancestors versed in the sword dao noticed a thing or two. The rest was still shrouded in fog.

“A spatio-temporal bypass?” One ancestor became emotional as if he had just grasped something new.

“I think so, the technique and movement don’t matter. The dimensional leap does.” Another elder who has studied the sword for more than a millennium agreed.

“Can this move alone make someone invincible?” One youth said in a daze.

The dazed spectators felt their heart beating faster. First, Li Xiangquan and Zhang Yunzhi pulled out their strongest offensive technique. Sword Point easily defeated this. Now, it effortlessly broke through their defenses as well.

Li Qiye didn't use any other merit law or technique. Sword Point was all he needed.

This made people wonder - could this move alone be all one need to run rampant across Eight Desolaces? They started fantasizing about the possibilities.

"That's why Sword Emperor stands out among the dao lords." Someone commented: "Maybe it is really that strong, that's why he left it to the academy."

"It's powerful beyond our imagination." Another expert added: "No wonder why so few managed to learn it in history. Something at this level is definitely inscrutable."

Groups talked among themselves; jealousy and envy could be seen since Li Qiye had attained something incredible.

"You know, I spent half a year, day and night, racking my brains out over each small detail and movement and got nothing from it, not even a tinge of power. Li Qiye only stared at it once and immediately understood it, it's so unfair. The heaven is so cruel to me." A Duality student looked up at the sky and expressed indignation.

"That's nothing. I started at the academy when I was eight and went there to take a look every day for thirty years, got nothing from it too." An older student said.

"Stop comparing yourself to Li Qiye. He's the heaven's favorite and gets everything he wants. No one else is on the same level as him, just blame this on inequality." One more student smiled wryly.

Other experts didn't feel the same blow as the students. It was because the latter group spent so much time on Comprehension Peak and got nothing in return, unlike Li Qiye.

By this point, Li Xiangquan and Zhang Yunzhi have finally gotten up. They sealed their wound and added ointment.

They were completely pale; their knees trembled. This wound wasn't serious or life-threatening. Alas, it scared the hell out of them.

Li Qiye used the same move and still managed to break both their offense and defense. Their confidence and pride have been shattered. They felt helpless and weak, unable to resist this powerful opponent.

"The right chest." One spectator noted the wounds. Li Qiye kept his words and did just that.

Chapter 3689: Horrified

Li Xiangquan and Zhang Yunzhi felt as if they were seeing a ghost. Nothing was stranger than the events today.

Li Qiye's cultivation was far inferior compared to them. They knew that Li Qiye had heaven-defying methods and insane luck. However, this shouldn't be enough to make up the gap.

Their cultivation was several realms higher than him. Moreover, they had powerful treasures and weapons as well.

That should have been more than enough to deal with Li Qiye or even kill him. Alas, reality showed that he only needed two moves to break them down.

Fear began to overwhelm them, causing their knees to buckle.

“One last move. Your lives are mine.” Li Qiye smiled and pointed his saber at the paled duo.

Li Qiye’s casual stance and smile looked like that of a grim reaper now. Those who laughed at him before were shuddering with fear.

They felt as if the saber was pointing at their heart and could easily pierce through it. A chill coursed down their spine.

Worst of all, dodging was impossible. This meant that their lives were in his grasp.

“The last move....” One cultivator said.

The tone of Li Qiye’s voice was nonchalant as well, lacking any pressure and threat. Nonetheless, the listeners still became frozen. A hush took over the area since no one doubted his ability at this point.

Everyone thought that he would be able to do so. Li Xiangquan and Zhang Yunzhi’s struggle was futile.

“That’s why he said they were dead men from the start.” One expert murmured, realizing that Li Qiye was telling the truth.

The duo’s clenched fists were shaking. A while ago, such a comment would make them livid and murderous. Now, the only thing left was fear.

They instinctively stared at his saber and felt a prick in their heart. The piercing was inevitable. The shadow of death has engulfed them.

“Buzz!” They immediately turned and fled towards the horizon.

They didn’t dare to participate in the last move and chose to run instead. This surprised some people at first but then again, it was understandable.

Even insects wanted to live, let alone nobles like them who were used to luxury.

Unfortunately, it was improper for clan members like them to run. Some would rather die in battle than flee.

The latter meant never being able to raise their head again on top of shaming their clan. In this case, they were the successor of their respective clan, representing its honor and glory. This made the situation even worse.

Nonetheless, the crowd remained silent. They wouldn’t have fared any better against someone as devilish as Li Qiye. Perhaps they would have run after the first move as well.

“Leaving so soon?” They didn’t make it far before someone appeared before them.

People saw that it was none other than Li Qiye. He somehow caught up to them.

The two immediately stopped and staggered backward, afraid of being too close.

“I said three moves to take your lives, so it’ll happen.” Li Qiye smiled while playing with his saber.

“Brother Li, we sincerely accept our defeat. You’re a great man so please, show benevolence and excuse our transgression.” Zhang Yunzhi cupped his fist.

“We’re inferior to a talent like you, please don’t stoop down to our level.” Li Xiangquan did the same.

The two accepted their defeat but everyone knew that they were begging for mercy without being overly blatant.

It was already difficult enough to accept defeat given their status.

“But I’m a man of my words.” Li Qiye replied.

The two staggered backward again after hearing this.

“Brother Li, it’s pointless killing me, please show mercy.” Li Xiangquan gritted his teeth and finally begged.

“Please spare us.” Zhang Yunzhi hurriedly added.

The crowd stared at Li Qiye to see if he would actually spare the two. After all, a few would choose against escalating the issue.

“Would I have the chance to beg if I had lost?” Li Qiye smiled and said.

The duo had no response, the same with the crowd. Everyone knew the answer right away.

These two would have not shown mercy to Li Qiye regardless of his begging. They would have subjected him to a fate worse than death.

“Bro-brother Li, it’s not like that.” Zhang Yunzhi had a forced smile that was uglier than if he were crying: “We won’t let you be empty-handed. You can name any condition as long as you drop this problem.”

“We will do our best to satisfy your demands.” Li Xiangquan jumped in.

They only wanted to survive; pride no longer mattered. A borrowed life was still better than death.

The crowd thought that this was a tempting offer because the Li and the Zhang were rich, definitely two fat lambs.

“I don’t want anything but your heads.” Li Qiye remained unmoved.

The duo turned red after hearing this.

“Li, don’t push it!” Li Xiangquan roared furiously.

They gave up and begged in public. This was humiliating enough since they threw away their reputation and glory.

Now, this guy still won’t spare them? Embarrassment and shame swiftly turned to rage.

Chapter 3690: Trapped Dogs Will Bite

“Stop messing around. If I say three moves, it’ll be three moves.” Li Qiye ignored their rage and said flatly.

Li Xiangquan and Zhang Yunzhi had no words to say despite their anger.

“Brother Li, take one step back.” Li Xiangquan took a deep breath to calm down: “This was my fault so my clan is more than willing to befriend you. Our feud is not to the level of life and death. It’s better to have a friend than an enemy.”

“In the holy ground, you’ll be a tiger with wings with the support of our clans.” Zhang Yunzhi hurriedly added.

The two were as flexible and subservient as can be for survival’s sake.

“I don’t need friends.” Li Qiye nonchalantly said.

The crowd exchanged glances. The comment was emotionless and arrogant but it felt fine coming from Li Qiye.

Another direct refusal made it worse for the duo. They have repeatedly begged for mercy to no avail, only gaining further humiliation in the process.

“Li Qiye! You won’t be haughty for long! Kill me today and you won’t have anywhere to go in the holy ground even if you run to the end of the world. My clan will hunt you down and take your head!” Zhang Yunzhi saw that begging was of no use and started threatening him.

“Who says I’ll be running? You think too highly of yourself and of your clan.” Li Qiye smiled.

“You won’t live for much longer after me. Our great army and members will make sure that you won’t have a grave. Our clan takes care of business!” Li Xiangquan joined in with a serious tone.

These threats would work on others because the Li and the Zhang were indeed influential at the holy ground. Moreover, they weren’t empty threats because these two clans would actually dish out vengeance. Sects and countries might go down as a result.

The crowd wondered if Li Qiye would be deterred.

“It’s useless. Threats don’t work on him or he wouldn’t be Li Qiye.” An expert who understood Li Qiye shook his head.

“Point taken. Now get ready for the next move, stop wasting time.” Li Qiye waved his hand at the two as if he was swatting a fly.

“See, that’s Li Qiye for you.” The expert murmured.

“Li, don’t be ridiculous, you don’t want to be torn apart by our clan member-!” Zhang Yunzhi roared. Who knows if this came from rage or fear?

“I’ll be waiting.” Li Qiye smiled and pointed his saber at the duo.

Zhang Yunzhi stopped shouting right away. The duo felt nothing but fear while looking at the saber. Their eyes narrowed - this saber was scarier than a grim reaper's scythe.

If they could change their decision, they wouldn't choose to provoke him. Alas, there was no other choice.

"Screw it!" Zhang Yunzhi roared and released his vitality. He started burning his true blood, resulting in loud explosions. Terrible silver rays emanated from him.

"Raa!" A dragon roar could be heard as he became one with his spear: "Soaring Dragon!"

He turned into a massive dragon and occupied the airspace. It soared forward to deliver a slash with its ferocious claws.

He chose to use his strongest technique while burning his true blood, hoping that this would be enough to reverse the situation.

"Die!" Li Xiangquan shouted.

"Clank!" He pointed his sword at the sky and summoned an ocean of lightning swords. He also burned his true blood without holding back. The blood manifested into violent flames.

Loud metallic ringings echoed continuously as the lightning swords fused together to form a bloody sword.

A vertical slash came next - enough to separate the myriad realms and destroy the soul.

Their last-ditch effort was quite impressive - a silver dragon attack and a vertical slash.

The crowd took a deep breath due to the power of their attack along with their choice to burn their true blood. Nonetheless, this might be their only way out of this fatal predicament.

On the other hand, Li Qiye didn't bat an eye and still pressed his saber forward.

"Sword Point for the third time!" People were too familiar with this move now. They could imagine it with their eyes closed.

The saber tip immediately jumped out of the spatial constraints. It looked like an ordinary thrust yet the spectators were horrified.

Everything came to a halt right away. The dragon stopped roaring and the bloody sword no longer had vibrating hymns. They were sealed and couldn't move an inch.

Once time and space started flowing again, the dragon and sword disappeared. Two thuds could be heard from corpses falling onto the ground.

Zhang Yunzhi and Li Xiangquan have lost their lives due to a deadly wound on their forehead. Blood was still gushing out.

They tried to escape with their true fate at the last second but the saber managed to destroy their true fate as well.

The spectators shuddered in astonishment. Li Qiye had declared that he would kill them after three moves. Sword Point allowed him to do so.

They stared at the cold corpses in silence, recalling how they ridiculed him prior for this declaration.