

Emperor 3691

Chapter 3691: Shocked

The stench of blood assaulted the nose along with a chilling sensation. Li Xiangquan and Zhang Yunzhi have been reduced to two corpses in no time at all.

Various thoughts popped up in people's mind. The five heroes of Duality have lost two members just now but most importantly, they were the sons of influential big shots in Vajra - the Grand Commander and the Grand Chancellor. A storm was definitely brewing on the horizon.

"How will Vajra react?" One expert wondered.

Executing the two youths in public meant challenging Vajra's authority - a direct insult.

The court might mobilize an army to destroy Li Qiye.

"Vajra is one thing but the two clans won't let this go." Another cultivator shook his head.

These two ancient clans have been around the holy ground for millions of years. The roots were deep, the same with their resources. They would definitely do everything in their power to avenge their successor.

"It won't be easy for him." One expert stared at Li Qiye.

Li Qiye's Sword Point was wondrously profound and powerful. However, these two clans had ancestors lucky enough to survive the eras.

If they were to go all out, Li Qiye alone couldn't contend against the two clans. Not to mention an individual, few powers had this ability.

Plus, Sword Point might not be enough to deal with the ancient ancestors from the clans. His death might be inevitable.

At the same time, some expert swordsmen didn't care about this. Their mind was fixated on Sword Point, wanting nothing more than to learn it after seeing Li Qiye's mighty display.

"Learning Sword Point means becoming invincible." The students from Duality felt an insatiable itch.

Though the death of two heroes truly shocked them, they became increasingly impatient and wanted to return to Comprehension Peak as soon as possible in order to learn the technique.

In their opinion, they had a higher chance of learning this technique than outsiders. This was because they were students from Duality; the fate connection was automatically higher.

"This guy might cause a bloody storm in the holy ground. So devilish." One ancestor concluded while looking at the nonchalant Li Qiye.

The ancestors couldn't see through a junior like Li Qiye, something quite perplexing for them.

It wasn't only because of Sword Point. Everything good in the world seemed to fall into his lap. Moreover, his attitude was quite strange and shouldn't be found in someone his age.

For example, he was perfectly fine despite antagonizing two behemoths. This could be attributed to confidence or ignorance. For the first case, how could a woodcutter from a desolate region oppose the Li and Zhang? Moreover, Vajra was there as well.

“Okay? Anyone else wants to take a look or try to rob me?” Li Qiye put away the saber and smiled tenderly at the crowd.

The spectators exchanged glances; no one dared to open their mouth.

The treasures were tempting but they preferred to live. Zhang Yunzhi and Li Xiangquan were prime examples. Moreover, Sword Point was unfathomable. They would never make a move before having a solution for this move.

“No one? What a shame?” Li Qiye patted the dust off his robe before leaving.

Everyone on the street made way for him, whether it be the young geniuses or the ancestors. He got a bit far before Yang Ling calmed down and gave chase.

She was shaken due to the death of the two heroes from Duality. As a student, she had seen them in action before. Their power left a deep impression on her.

But now, her young master killed them so easily with his shabby saber. Once she caught up, she took a deep breath and asked: “Young Master, about Sword Point...”

She found it hard to continue because she abandoned Sword Point for Duality Master’s technique.

Of course, she didn’t regret choosing something from the great founder. Nonetheless, watching Li Qiye in action left her amazed.

Unfortunately, though he used it three times, she still didn’t understand the move at all.

“What’s the mystery behind it? Why does everything, offense and defense, are useless before it? It seems able to bypass all techniques.” She carefully picked her words. Intuition told her this about Sword Point.

“You’re not too dumb, at least you saw something. However, this isn’t bypassing.” Li Qiye smiled.

“Then what is it?” She inquired.

“Everyone misunderstands the technique. It should have been named something more obvious. For example, Sword Displacement or Spatio-Temporal Sword Shift. That’ll give people some clues.”

“I see...” She then recalled the fight while contemplating. After a while, she became surprised and asked: “So it focuses on spatial and temporal manipulation?”

“Close enough.” Li Qiye responded.

“I still don’t understand, how can that action result in spatial displacement? There wasn’t any fluctuation or power capable of doing so.” She shook her head.

Li Qiye’s thrust didn’t create anything strong enough to have this effect.

“There lies the profundity of the move.” Li Qiye chuckled: “If it’s that simple, people would have figured it out long ago. In fact, it represents Sword Emperor’s supreme dao. He concentrated his dao on this move, it’s an outline of sorts.”

Chapter 3692: Return

The news of the duo’s death caused quite a stir in Buddha Emperor Division then the rest of the holy ground.

“A rising storm, who will get pulled in?” One expert wondered.

Many talked about the issue in private, not daring to be too blatant in order to avoid needless trouble. After all, the Li and Zhang must be furious. They might try to vent by punishing others.

The ones most affected were the youths, especially students from Duality. Most were in disbelief for a long time after hearing the news, trembling with cold sweat.

The two belonged to the most brilliant group, albeit not the strongest. They also came from prestigious clans. All the students knew what they were capable of. Only a few were actually stronger than them. But now, they worked together yet still died to Li Qiye.

Prior to this, they thought nothing of Li Qiye. The only thing impressive about him was his unbridled tongue and undeserved confidence.

Some actually thought about teaching him a lesson so that he would stop insulting the academy. A junior like him shouldn’t be allowed to act in this manner.

Now, these students thought that it was a blessing that they didn’t go provoke him. Otherwise, they might be buried underground just like Li Xiangquan and Zhang Yunzhi.

On the other hand, many rushed towards Comprehension Peak again in order to take a look at Sword Point.

Normally, the place was relatively crowded already. Today, it was packed. Not even one drop of water can trickle through. Even some teachers came.

“This is Sword Point, the technique that defeated the two heroes.” One student said: “They couldn’t do a thing, as helpless as fish on a chopping board.”

“Are you exaggerating?” Another who didn’t witness the fight remained skeptical.

“I’m not exaggerating. In fact, I don’t think your imagination or my retelling are doing it justice.” The first student continued: “I’m not the only one who watched. Li Qiye used Sword Point only during the three exchanges. Zhang Yunzhi and Li Xiangquan employed their best offense and defensive abilities only to fail. Even the great treasure, Omni Carapace, was instantly broken...” The student meticulously repeated the sequences to his peers.

Students who were there nodded as confirmation. The others carefully listened and took a deep breath once the story was over. They exchanged glances.

“Sword Point is real and can be understood. We just didn’t do it right.” A powerful youth concluded.

Now, because of Li Qiye, everyone was going crazy again trying to learn Sword Point. Alas, the result was the same as before.

The teachers among them were exceedingly mighty and talented. They didn't fare any better compared to the students.

"I don't know about this." A gifted student wavered after putting in so much effort.

On the other hand, a few teachers began to see a thing or two after listening to students recalling the battle.

"We're not at that level. This isn't a sword technique but rather, Sword Emperor's dao." An ancestor-level teacher elaborated: "Sword Emperor has to be the teacher in order for us to learn. Otherwise, in order to use it, the performer must be at the peak of the sword dao, maybe not as great as Sword Emperor but has to be at least a supreme."

His peers agreed with this assessment. The problem became - how did Li Qiye learn it?

"The brat is too devilish, he must have many hidden secrets." Another teacher smiled wryly.

The teachers knew their limit and gave up. Meanwhile, most students didn't feel the same way and continued studying the legacy.

On the day after the battle, a great cavalry soared through the sky in the formation of a dragon. The clouds and winds dispersed along its path.

A militaristic aura overwhelmed the region. The leader was an old man with impressive divinity. He rode a fierce beast while adorned in full armor. His weapon of choice was a sky halberd, seemingly able to cut the celestials and split the earth. Lightning arced within his eyes in a frightening manner.

"Rumble!" The group traveled in an unstoppable manner. Anyone who blocked their path would be swiftly dealt with. Their destination was the capital within Buddha Emperor Division.

"The Grand Commander is back!" The return of the Grand Commander shocked both Buddha Emperor and Metropolis Division.

He was the leader of the generals in Vajra, the clan master of the Li, and Li Xiangquan's father.

"Isn't he supervising the border?" One official became startled.

There have been skirmishes at the border so the Grand Commander personally went there for a quick victory. Thus, his sudden return came as a surprise.

"His son is dead, you think he would just sit there?" Another said.

The commander has returned in a grand manner. Everyone understood that it must have something to do with revenge.

Not long after, golden brilliance engulfed the sky of Metropolis. The presence of the dao manifested as if an immortal was arriving.

“Creak!” Numerous carriages could be seen with flying banners blotting out the sky. This fanfare could only be seen by an emperor patrolling his domain.

The unaware would think that this was the king of Vajra. However, upon looking at the symbol on the banners, the answer became obvious.

“The Grand Chancellor is back too.” A cultivator at the capital shouted.

The officials in Vajra became alarmed after seeing this since the Grand Chancellor spent the majority of his time presiding at the ancient court.

Vajra was currently in charge of the holy ground but the capital at Buddha Emperor Division didn’t belong to it.

The actual main branch of Vajra was located at Archaic Sun. As the leader of the officials, the Grand Chancellor usually presided at the court in Archaic Sun.

Now, he was coming to the capital but most importantly, in such a flashy fashion. He immediately came to see the king of Vajra first.

Rumor has it that he asked the king to give permission for him to kill Li Qiye, taking the guy’s head as an offering to his late son.

The truth remained unknown. Nonetheless, evidence pointed towards the two big shots wanting revenge.

“The Li and the Zhang are more than enough but if Vajra joins, Li Qiye will not have a grave. His clan might be brought down too.” One expert commented.

Chapter 3693: Bronze Statue

The return of the Grand Commander and Grand Chancellor stirred up the dynasty. The two have always been scheming against each other but now, many speculated that they were going to team up in order to deal with Li Qiye.

“Young Master, my, my father wishes for me to return.” Yang Ling received a summon from her clan during the turmoil.

“Go back then.” Li Qiye smiled and nodded.

“I’m afraid... that something might happen. The messenger said that my father’s expression wasn’t so good.” She looked nervous since the messenger secretly told her about the situation.

She was there by Li Qiye’s side during the killing. There was a chance that the Li and the Zhang would target her as well.

Her father was a noble and this title was hereditary. The clan wasn’t under the jurisdiction of the two big shots either. Alas, the Li and the Zhang were just too influential in Vajra.

If they wanted to cause trouble, it would be quite unfavorable for the Yang.

“A time of chaos.” Li Qiye chuckled.

“What, what if those two clans want to capture me?” She hesitated for a bit before asking. She certainly stood no chance against those two behemoths.

“Don’t worry, I’m here. You’re in no danger since I can handle anything.” Li Qiye answered: “It’s good if they want to do something, there will be a fun show.” He revealed a smirk at this point.

She felt much better after hearing this since she trusted that he would keep his word.

“Then I’ll take a trip back.” She took a deep breath and bowed.

He nodded and gave permission. She went to pack up her stuff before returning to say goodbye once more time then left with her clan members.

Both Metropolis, Buddha Emperor Division, and especially the capital, were busy with the incoming storm. Some didn’t want to get involved in this mess.

On the other hand, Li Qiye didn’t give a damn and continued to cultivate.

Someone visited not long after Yang Ling’s departure. The first thing one would notice about the guest was his shiny bald head and colorful kasaya.

Who else could it be but Untethered Monk?

“Amitabha.” The monk bowed deeply towards Li Qiye and said: “How should I address you, Sir?” He took a glance at the bronze ring on Li Qiye’s finger.

“You tell me.” Li Qiye accepted the gesture and remained sitting.

“Well, I’m no longer part of the Buddhist doctrine. I am a merchant now.” The monk smiled while acting prudence. He rarely needed to act in this manner.

This ring was a big deal. If he was still a part of Heavenly Dragon Temple, then he would be subjected to certain restrictions and rules. This wasn’t the case since he was now the chief manager of Wish Ward.

“Forget it, it’s fine. You may call me Young Master. Although you might not be in a Buddhist sect, your heart is still with Buddhism.” Li Qiye said.

“Thank you, Young Master.” The monk bowed again.

Li Qiye was right. He had left Heavenly Dragon Temple and some considered him a traitor. Nonetheless, he still cared deeply about the temple since he was born there.

“What is it?” Li Qiye asked.

“Young Master, I heard you came to Wish Ward to look for precious metals. Our auction house coincidentally has some top types right now, some found by us, others on consignment. Would you like to take a look?”

“Your information network isn’t bad.” Li Qiye smiled.

The monk was clearly here to curry favor.

“You’re too kind, Young Master. The metals are in our treasury, shall we go?” The monk smiled.

“Alright.” Li Qiye wasn’t in a rush to find the metals but if the monk actually had something good, it would be fine.

In reality, he had no lack of precious metals if he actually needed them.

“After you, Young Master. It is an honor to have you here in Wish Ward.” The monk smiled brightly and gestured for Li Qiye to walk in front. He then showed Li Qiye the way to the treasury.

Wish Ward stood for two different things. The first was the overall market available to everyone in the form of a city. It was large enough to be comparable to other great powers.

The second referred to the actual store named Wish Ward, a subdivision within the area. It also had a large auction house.

Branches like these scattered across the holy ground and even Righteous Sect. One could find them back in the southern kingdoms as well.

The one here was the main branch, situated at the center of the city. Because of its presence, the city continued to grow, on the verge of becoming as large as Metropolis or Buddha Emperor Division.

The entrance, surprisingly, didn’t look grand and splendid. It was a normal wooden gate, quite old judging by the tint of the wood. Nonetheless, it had an elegant appeal to it.

The power and resources of Wish Ward only came into full view after entering. Inside was a great courtyard with lakes and mountains. This was a separate dimension, allowing the store to look like a great sect with boundless territories.

It didn’t stink of money at all like another auction house. The beautiful scenery comforted the spectators.

Li Qiye stopped after arriving and stared at a large bronze statue. Albeit, there was a unique distinction - it resembled more of an art piece built in a medley fashion than a regular statue.

The entire thing wasn’t in one piece but rather countless parts assembled together. The fit was perfect.

It looked natural as well, seemingly not made by men but already had this form from its inception. The great entity stood there and stared at the horizon as if it was the ruler of the world.

Since it has been here for so long, vines and weeds covered the bottom. However, the lack of rust was surprising. It still had a bronze glow, ready to last for another eternity.

Untethered Monk stopped and waited for Li Qiye, staring and appreciating the statue as well.

“Young Master, did you gain anything?” The monk asked after Li Qiye averted his gaze.

Numerous people have stared at this statue but few could do so for long. Moreover, Li Qiye was special as well. The monk couldn’t miss this opportunity to ask.

“Gain? No. I do know of its origin though.” Li Qiye smiled.

“You’re aware of its origin? Does that mean you can control it?” The monk became ecstatic.

“You know quite a bit.” Li Qiye glanced at the monk.

“It’s nothing, I’ve only heard from the seniors from the auction house. This status is apparently quite old. An ancestor from Wish Ward excavated from a great sect. The founder of this sect took it from a secret area. Many seniors have checked it out to no avail. It’s definitely not just a statue though.” The monk smiled wryly.

“Indeed.” Li Qiye smiled.

Chapter 3694: Wish Ward’s Items

“What is it?” The monk stared at Feiyun with his bright eyes.

“A weapon.” Li Qiye glanced at him before revealing.

“I see...” The monk had expected this answer but was still shaken. This gigantic statue turned out to be a weapon?

“What kind is it?” He took a deep breath and asked with a solemn expression.

“The level of this weapon depends on the user.” Li Qiye chuckled in response.

The monk was a top master so he immediately understood the grade of this statue. This answer exceeded his and the ancestors’ expectation.

“Young Master, may I ask how does one control it?” The monk took advantage of this rare opportunity and asked for guidance: “Our ancestors have tried everything, from dao methods to ancient arts, and still failed.”

They naturally knew that it wasn’t a simple statue or a work of art. This must have been something incredible but they couldn’t invoke anything out of it.

They had no choice but to give up, thinking that it might not be an actual treasure. This continued on in the long history of Wish Ward.

However, intuition told the monk that Li Qiye definitely knew the secrets behind this statue and even a method to control it.

There was no reason for this belief, only mere intuition. Others would find this illogical and ridiculous, not the monk.

“Ancient arts? How old are these ancient arts?” Li Qiye asked.

“At least from the Nine Worlds Epoch.” The monk contemplated and said: “A few were created by the great emperors.”

The previous epoch was so long ago. It became a part of legends now. Only a few arts and techniques have been passed down to the present.

Wish Ward had enough resources and a strong foundation, granting them access to these old arts and methods.

“Nine Worlds?” Li Qiye shook his head in response: “This statue appeared in an epoch way before that.”

“Way before? How old is it then?” The monk gasped and said.

The nine worlds were part of the past. In reality, the majority of cultivators had no idea about its existence.

“Beyond your imagination.” Li Qiye told the truth.

“I see. But I suppose that’s not enough to trouble you, Young Master.” The monk calmed down and flattered.

“Monk, don’t play games with me.” Li Qiye glanced at the monk and said.

“Amitabha, I do not dare to do so.” The monk placed his palms together in a dignified manner, trying to act wise but this didn’t work due to his appearance.

“It’s true, I can control it.” Li Qiye smiled and moved on.

The monk was shaken after hearing the confirmation despite his prior intuition. Just imagine, the great Wish Ward couldn’t understand this statue yet Li Qiye could do so in no time at all.

Perhaps Li Qiye was similar to an immortal. Regular people had no chance of gauging him.

“Young Master? How do we do it?” The monk caught up and asked.

Li Qiye chuckled and didn’t answer, continuing his stroll through the courtyard.

The monk was smart enough to drop the issue. If Li Qiye didn’t wish to tell him, no need to pursue this for further humiliation.

“Not bad at all.” Li Qiye eventually commented: “There are many hidden ace cards buried here, a treasury too.”

“Just a few things to take care of the thieves, haha.” The monk smiled.

“Let us see your metals now.” Li Qiye ordered.

“Please follow me, Young Master.” The monk led the way.

Wish Ward had too many stores and buildings. It was no different from a labyrinth; people could easily get lost on the first visit.

He brought Li Qiye to a secret room inside a mansion. They then traveled through numerous portals and doors, each guarded by powerful cultivators.

Perhaps the entrances would take people to a different treasury. Thus, mighty ancestors kept an eye out.

The truth was that as the biggest store in West King, the foundation here exceeded virtually all powers. It wouldn’t be an exaggeration to say that the treasury of Vajra was truly inferior in comparison.

The presence of wealth demanded vigilance. Outsiders weren’t qualified to enter but the monk was a special exception.

Nonetheless, despite being the current chief manager, the monk alone couldn't make a decision on something so important.

He required the keys from several ancestors before entering the last treasury.

"Our best divine metals are in here, some belong to us while others are on consignment. Please take a look." He said.

The lack of light in this particular storage was made up by the scintillating rays exuded from various metals.

Each ore had its own cabinet protected by seals. An intruder wouldn't be able to take them right away.

Li Qiye came to the closest one. It had a fire ore around the size of a fist yet wielded the intensity of a sun. The flames oozing from it could incinerate the firmaments. Fortunately, it was sealed inside.

"Purified solar onyx." Li Qiye smiled and said. This was a rare divine metal reserved for supremes and dao lords.

"It's on consignment from a sect. They want to trade it for longevity pills at the supreme level." Untethered Monk said.

Supremes were extremely powerful since they stood at the apex of the Heavenly Sovereign realm. Once these beings were old, it became quite hard to replenish their vitality.

Moreover, they have used plenty of longevity pills before so this type of medicine became less effective.

Thus, a bottle of pills capable of prolonging their life was immensely expensive.

Li Qiye didn't say anything else. The monk could tell that he wasn't interested and introduced him to something else: "How about this one? Our eighth-generation chief manager bought it from an ancient sect. It has been here for a long time."

This particular ore looked like snow. They felt a chilling presence from it before getting close.

Chapter 3695: Immovable Steel

People couldn't help shivering after getting close enough and feeling its bone-biting chill. It wasn't a pleasant sensation.

Tiny snowflakes still leaked out of the seal. Even the cabinet in the shape of a pillar was frozen due to its power. The thing was extraordinary regardless of its origin.

"The name is Glacier Lord Meteor. We've been wanting to create a cold-affinity treasure with it but haven't found the right dao bone. It's not for sale currently." The monk introduced.

"It's a good one, perfect for that affinity of a weapon. The result will be tremendous." Li Qiye nodded: "For example, the dao bone of an ice dragon. That will put it at the top of this affinity."

The monk was happy to hear the praise. However, Li Qiye was obviously not interested either.

"How about this one over here?" The monk introduced another one.

The thing looked like a large piece of jade rather than metal, around the size of a thick screen. The outer layer was red with white rays coursing around it.

It became a duality of red and white. The red looked like a surging river while the white resembled a frozen lake.

“Red-white aqua metal.” Li Qiye nodded after seeing this large piece.

“You’re so knowledgeable, only needing one glance.” The monk said with admiration.

Though it looked like jade, it was indeed a piece of metal - also rare and precious. Few had the privilege of seeing it before. It contained both the soft and hard affinity, making it a great material for crafting. Big shots would love to use it for crafting their own treasure.

“It’s on consignment as well. This one has high purity.” The monk commented.

“It’s nice.” Li Qiye only smiled.

The monk wasn’t one to dwell on a disinterested customer so the two moved on. He introduced another dozen or so.

Each was the finest grade of metals; some were unheard of and never seen before even by the top experts. These ones belonged to Wish Ward, even purchased from customers or excavated from their mines.

In fact, just some of the ores alone were too expensive for Vajra to handle.

Unfortunately, Li Qiye only glanced briefly without caring too much.

“This particular one, we don’t know its name.” The monk looked a little embarrassed while introducing the next.

It looked like a broken section of a pillar and had numerous mottled spots, seemingly the scars after being cut by sharp objects and weapons.

It was black from top to bottom, a bit similar to the onyx earlier but lacking the bright glow and a metallic hymn. The broken surface was uneven as well, looking quite ugly. Someone must have struggled before finally breaking it down.

“It has been around for a long time. A guest pawned it here several generations ago in exchange for a sky-high sum.” The monk went on.

“Your store accepted the exchange, impressive insight.” Li Qiye said.

“You’re too kind, Young Master.” The monk chuckled. This was a place of business. They naturally thought that it was special in some way.

“The guest said that this is their clan’s heirloom. A very long time ago, their ancestor took this down from a divine mountain. It is something capable of connecting with the sources of heaven and earth...” The monk elaborated.

“Don’t believe in all legends.” Li Qiye said.

“Right.” The monk agreed: “Putting the story aside, it is quite magical. We don’t know what it is and or what it consists of.”

“Your side agreed because it’s extremely tough.” Li Qiye said.

“Amazing. Yes, both sides had no idea of the item’s origin or its name. Nonetheless, its strangely tough. We tried numerous weapons but only managed to scratch the surface barely. We then used a mighty weapon and took off a small corner.”

“Mighty weapon” here must have been something heaven-defying.

“I want this one.” Li Qiye said after hearing the introduction.

“This one?” The monk wasn’t too surprised because Li Qiye was clearly interested from the start.

The monk immediately removed the seal and took the metal. He handed it to Li Qiye and laughed: “This isn’t enough to show our respect to you but please, take it.”

Li Qiye accepted without replying.

This metal clearly had immense value. Moreover, the ward paid a large sum for it back then, aware of its worth. This could fetch an exorbitant sum on the market yet the monk gave it to Li Qiye without batting an eye.

Of course, not just anyone was worthy of their generosity.

“Could you tell me its name, Young Master?” The monk became curious afterward.

“This is immovable steel, extremely rare and not part of this world. It’s hard to see it in this epoch or the previous. Calling it something capable of connecting with heaven is an exaggeration but it does have a similar effect.”

“Immovable steel.” This was the monk’s first time hearing this name. He thought that it was suitable given its characteristics.

“Are you looking for anything else, Young Master? We still had more metals.” The monk said.

“No need, if I keep on looking, I’m afraid your store will be crying for a long time.” Li Qiye glanced around before refusing.

“Please, Young Master.” The monk replied: “The metals here are considered precious for regular people like us but they’re nothing more than scrap metals in your eyes. Offering them to you is our honor.”

It sounded like flattery but was simply the truth. Ordinary materials weren’t worthy of Li Qiye’s time. Wish Ward should feel flattered and honored since it had items capable of entering his eyes.

The duo left the secret treasury. A member of Wish Ward immediately reported something to the monk.

“A guest wishes to see you.” The monk told Li Qiye.

The moment he finished speaking, someone hurriedly rushed closer to them.

Chapter 3696: Courting Death

The visitor was none other than the crown prince of Vajra. He had a worried expression and spoke right away: "Young Master, things have soured. Marquis Yang and Miss Yang were captured." [1]

"Captured? Is it Vajra?" Li Qiye slightly furrowed his brows.

"No." The prince was afraid of a misunderstanding and answered right away: "It's the Grand Commander and Grand Chancellor. The Li and Zhang."

"Amitabha. Is this the wish of His Majesty?" Untethered Monk placed his palms together.

"Of course not." The prince shook his head: "The Grand Chancellor and Grand Commander came to the palace but Father has been busy with pill refinement. They didn't get to see him."

He paused for a bit before continuing: "Those two clans acted on their own accord and captured Marquis Yang."

"Pill refinement again?" The monk smiled with a changed expression: "Hmm, the Li and Zhang are crossing the line by capturing a noble with a title bestowed by the court while having no permission."

"Well..." The prince smiled wryly before revealing: "My younger sister was there."

"Elaborate." Li Qiye said, not looking worried.

"The Zhang summoned Marquis Yang..." The prince then recalled the events in detail.

So it turned out that after a failed audience with the king, the Grand Chancellor and Grand Commander summoned Yang Ling's father.

The latter had a clear idea of what happened in Wish Ward. Though his daughter was with Li Qiye, he knew that she had nothing to do with their death. Li Qiye was the sole culprit.

Plus, given his status and a lack of a serious crime on top of not being questioned by the current king, these two clans couldn't do a thing to him.

Unfortunately, he misread the situation. The Grand Commander and Grand Chancellor disagreed with his justification and detained him.

Both of them thought that Yang Ling couldn't absolve her responsibility from being involved with their son's death. Thus, they demanded for her to be buried as well.

Of course, the second princess of Vajra was also present during this exchange.

The group thought that given their status and influence in Vajra, burying this little girl wasn't a big deal. Moreover, they had the support of the second princess who could represent the royal clan to a certain extent.

Marquis Yang naturally refused so a fight broke out. His guards weren't a match so the father-daughter duo became prisoners.

The crown prince had a capable information network. He immediately left after hearing the message in order to tell Li Qiye.

"Bury together? I see." Li Qiye smiled coldly.

“Amitabha.” The monk closed his eyes and placed his palms together. Li Qiye was obviously referring to the two clans when he said “bury together”, not Yang Ling.

“What will you do, Young Master?” The prince nervously asked.

Despite being the crown prince, he wasn’t that popular. Both the Grand Chancellor and the Grand Commander wouldn’t show him any face since they secretly supported the third prince.

Furthermore, they were blinded with rage right now. It was impossible to reason with fathers who have just lost their sons.

“What else can I do? Either they release her or I’ll annihilate their clan.” Li Qiye flatly responded.

“Annihilate their clan...” The prince became startled. Few dared to utter these words.

The Zhang and Li had deep roots in Vajra after working for generations. Not to mention a single cultivator, even an entire sect could touch them.

“Amitabha, Merciful Buddha...” The monk began chanting as if he was trying to appease some spirits and cross the dead over to the other side.

Information traveled fast in the capital city and Metropolis. Everyone found out right away in a short time.

The Grand Chancellor and Grand Commander suddenly captured Marquis Yang and his daughter. This was a big deal.

Marquis Yang didn’t have the same authority and his clan was weaker as well. However, he still had a hereditary title bestowed by the royal clan.

Now, this detainment naturally caused quite a stir across the court. Other officials and nobles debated heavily on this subject.

This was also the case for other cultivators and powers outside of Vajra.

“The Grand Commander and Grand Chancellor are out of line.” One official murmured: “How could they do this without His Majesty’s permission?”

“Well, His Majesty hasn’t been involved in administration unlike the Grand Commander and Grand Chancellor. There are only a few men who can deter them.” One general answered.

Most agreed with this. The current king only cared about eternal life instead of being a good ruler. He spent his time looking for a longevity method or craft more pills.

As for the ancestors of Vajra, they remained reclusive. That’s why the Grand Commander and Grand Chancellor feared no one in the court, perhaps only the Minister of War and national teacher.

“This alliance is forged on something more than just benefits, vengeance.” One official said: “It’s unstoppable if the ancestors from the royal clan don’t come out.”

Until now, each clan had control over one main branch - civil and military. The two sides have always competed with each other but now, the death of their son started a temporary alliance.

Moreover, they had the support of the second princess as well. This was enough to do anything in Vajra.

"I can't believe the princess is involved too. What's going to happen?" Another became worried.

This might be more than just an act of vengeance. At the moment, the position of crown prince has been decided. Without anything unexpected, the current crown prince would inherit the throne.

However, the third prince actually had more support than the crown prince. He had toiled at the border and had numerous meritorious contributions. His prestige far exceeded his older brother's.

The Li and the Zhang had a good relationship with him. Most believed that they would offer him their support.

Now, some believed that this move of theirs was meant to be a catalyst. When His Majesty came out of isolated cultivation, he would pursue this matter.

At that point, they would team up and make it difficult for him while demanding a different successor. This was their chance to test His Majesty and the royal clan's bottom line.

Another clue for this speculation lies in the princess. She was close with the third prince so the fact that she took charge in this matter was worthy of rumination.

That's also the reason why the crown prince was in a hurry to let Li Qiye know. He also felt something amiss.

"An eye for an eye, the murderer of my son shall be buried with him." The Zhang and the Li made an announcement at the same time.

"Traitors who scheme against Vajra deserve death." The second princess joined in as well.

The storm has finally started in Metropolis with these announcements.

"You have two hours to release them unharmed. Otherwise, I shall annihilate both of your mansions." This message came next as a response.

Chapter 3697: Incoming Battle

The response shocked everyone; all eyes stared towards the direction of the voice.

"Li Qiye!" Some recognized the speaker. The entire Metropolis clamored afterward.

"The main character is here, this will be fun." Numerous cultivators paid attention to the development.

"He's not trying to avoid the storm?" Most found this astonishing, especially the officials and generals of Vajra.

Prior to this, these men believed that this alliance would lead to a monumental change in Vajra.

They didn't think that Li Qiye played an important role and that he was only being used as an excuse. They cared more about the alliance being able to change the current king or the crown prince.

However, their speculation was interrupted by Li Qiye's answer.

"Destroy the two clans? That's a domineering claim." One expert said.

"Ignorant brat, they'll exterminate his clan for this." One official snorted and disagreed.

These two factions represented authority and power in Vajra. If Li Qiye actually tried to attack them, Vajra wouldn't sit still. The army would naturally get involved.

"Is this a declaration of war towards Vajra?" A young cultivator said: "He must be tired of living, wanting to provoke Vajra."

Everyone knew that the two clans were a crucial part of Vajra. Who would dare to do this?

"He's Li Qiye, the son of miracles and the heaven's favorite. There's nothing he's afraid of and remember, he kept his word each time." An expert said.

"We'll see." An older master remained calm.

Li Qiye's provocation seemed to have worked. Both the Li and the Zhang sent out another message: "The burial ceremony will commence in two hours at Black Robe Alley. No mercy to anyone who tries to stop it."

They were decisive and resolute. Anyone could feel the bloodthirst from the words. Once again, this spread across Metropolis at a rapid rate.

"Isn't that too early?" People couldn't believe it. They thought that this storm would last for a while but the climax was coming in just two hours.

"They would look weak if they didn't respond to Li Qiye's aggressive comment right away." Someone understood right away.

"Killing Li Qiye is of utmost priority. The ones from the Yang are just baits or an excuse." One official said: "Their real plan is for later. This is to re-establish their prestige and also to test the water."

"How is Li Qiye going to get through this? His cultivation is just too weak, other means can't possibly be enough." An expert wondered.

"Just wait and see, he's as devilish as can be." Most just wanted to watch a fun show.

"Come, let's get there first, there might be a great battle ahead." Numerous cultivators ran towards Black Robe Alley.

The crowd wasn't limited to experts from the capital and Metropolis. Even those from the other divisions joined in.

The capital had two parts, a lower city and an upper city. The latter was named Buddha Emperor City, the place for the royal clan and officials.

It was a floating city with bright Buddhist lights. It seemed as if a great Buddha had blessed the city, allowing it to float forever. It was home to the royal clan and some officials.

Rumor has it that during the holy ground's foundation, Buddha Dao Lord stood in this place to look at the heroes of the world. Dhyana and Vajra Dao Lord also did the same. Today, Vajra was in charge so the dynasty also took roots at the capital.

Beneath was another great city, commonly referred to as the capital. It consisted of citizens and various powers. The majority of officials and generals were here as well.

Outside of that were thousands and thousands of other cities. They were part of Metropolis Division.

Black Robe Alley was a famous place with a high concentration of officials down in the lower city. One would find a first-rank civic official or a general in virtually every ten houses here.

The most important mansions belonged to the Grand Chancellor and Grand Commander. They always had the same owners since the start of Vajra.

These mansions were given to them by the royal court. However, the Zhang and the Li have been there for so long. Therefore, some referred to them as the Li and Zhang residence.

Of course, their ancestral ground wasn't actually here. Their real home was somewhere else in Metropolis.

Most interestingly, these two mansions were facing each other and looked quite similar in architecture.

Some said that this was done on purpose by the royal clan in order to foster competition and maintain a balance of power.

A few believed that these mansions were more than that. They could serve as a defensive line once combined together into a formation. When under siege, this formation would be a mighty line of defense to protect the floating city.

Whether true or not, this section of the street was the most prestigious in Black Robe Alley.

By this point, there was a big crowd waiting for the show.

"Creak-" The thick and heavy gate of the Grand Commander's mansion slowly opened.

Two lines of golden armored troops marched out. Their lights chased away the clouds. Their weapon of choice was the spear.

"The Li's Golden Regiment." Some spectators shouted.

The regiment consisted of fifty thousand elites. Its name alone instilled fear into the listeners. It once followed the Grand Commander onto the battlefield and had plenty of notable victories.

Today, the Li was using this famous regiment - a testament to how serious they were.

"Just to deal with Li Qiye?" The officials wondered after seeing this.

The entire regiment had a grand momentum. This seemed like the prelude to a great change in Vajra.

Chapter 3698: Trouble At Black Robe Alley

The Golden Regiment marched onto the eastern side, rendering the area impregnable. All the streets were under watch; those without permission couldn't enter.

If the regiment was in charge of the east, then the west must be the Zhang's responsibility.

Sure enough, the mansion of the Grand Chancellor opened soon after. Two groups began marching out.

They wore tight, black robes instead of armor. Each member was an expert with no emotion on their face and a billowing vitality.

It felt as if two black dragons were climbing out of the abyss. People could faintly hear the roars of the dragons.

"This is the Grand Chancellor's personal force, Abyss Dragon Regiment." A spectator shouted its name.

The Zhang and the Li were ancient clans. Just because they worked for Vajra didn't mean that they didn't have their own forces.

The two regiments began working together to guard Black Robe Alley. Not even a drop of water could get through without permission from the Grand Chancellor or Grand Commander.

Bloodthirst permeated the streets. Numerous experts were lying in ambush. They were the pillars of the two clans.

They chased away the spectators and outsiders. The latter naturally didn't appreciate this but there was nothing they could do.

First, Black Robe Alley wasn't exactly a public location. Moreover, the two regiments would have no problem forcing them away.

Some uttered a few words of grievance but still chose to obey. It wasn't worth provoking the big shots over wanting to watch the fun show.

The streets became quiet as a result. One could only hear the sounds of breathing.

Meanwhile, the two factions have erected a ceremonial altar for the dead. The hour was approaching.

"This is quite rare." One spectator watched from a distance.

After all, to sacrifice two nobles in the capital was unheard of, borderline rebellious.

"The Li and the Zhang have the power to do so, anyone else would have been killed by Vajra by now." Someone from the last generation said.

Most agreed with this statement. After all, wanting to bury a noble and his daughter? Only the royal clan would be able to do something like this.

"They can do whatever they want, even changing the direction of Vajra." An outsider added.

These words were rather taboo and better left unsaid, especially for the officials.

Alas, this made the crowd contemplate. The Grand Chancellor and the Grand Commander might be doing something - wanting to pick the younger prince as a successor instead. This alliance and the current circumstances allowed them to do so.

The second princess finally appeared. She stood in front of the altar with a murderous glare.

"It's the second princess." The spectators paid careful attention.

Both the Grand Commander and Grand Chancellor have not shown their face so the princess was in charge.

People actually wondered if she was representing the royal clan in this event.

"Vajra is supporting their action? Or just giving implicit approval?" Someone murmured.

"No, they wanted to see the king but couldn't. Vajra didn't express its stance yet, this is the princess' personal view." Another close to the court said.

"She's very close to the third prince and has always been supporting him." One more joined in.

Strangely enough, despite being siblings, she wasn't close to the crown prince at all - the opposite of her relationship with the third prince.

"Something will change..." Those who supported the crown prince became dejected.

If the Grand Chancellor and Grand Commander wanted the third prince to be the next king, maybe this would actually happen with just a little support from the royal clan.

"The hour draws near, bring the criminals here." The princess checked the time before ordering.

Yang Ling and her father were taken closer to the altar. They were sealed and immobilized. Their clothes and appearance looked fine; it seemed that they weren't tortured.

"Take them up." She ordered. The disciples below pushed the two up the altar.

"I want to see His Majesty! This is unlawful, Your Highness!" Yang Ling's father shouted.

The princess ignored the comment.

"It's time." People looked up at the sky then at the street. Li Qiye was nowhere to be found.

"Is he coming?" This became the main question.

"Him alone against two top clans? That's suicidal. He probably fled already." One youth said.

"You know nothing about Li Qiye then, he's a force to be reckoned with and wouldn't run away before the battle. He faced 100,000 men alone back in Myriad Beast Mountains and maintained a calm expression from start to finish. Since he made a statement, he'll definitely go all-out against them." An older cultivator disagreed.

"What is he going to do?" Most couldn't fathom how one man was going to take on the Li and the Zhang.

The current forces right now weren't the clans' full strength. Nonetheless, it was tough enough. Not even an ancestor from a great sect could take down these mansions right now.

"From what I've seen so far, there's nothing Li Qiye can't do." A cultivator who was there for all of Li Qiye's exploits said.

The majority haven't seen Li Qiye in action. "Is he really that devilish? How can a conqueror like him touch the two clans? How ludicrous." One skeptical soul said.

"Just wait and see." Nonetheless, the skeptical crowd still wanted to see a miracle.

"He's here!" A crowd member shouted after seeing a person standing by the western side.

This youth didn't have a carriage or an auspicious beast, merely sauntering forward.

"That's Li Qiye?" One spectator became disappointed because his image of Li Qiye was completely different.

The ordinary-looking guy didn't look like he could decimate the mansions.

"Li Qiye!" The second princess gritted her teeth, not bothering to hide her hatred for him. Not long ago, she was forced to strip in public but worst of all, he killed her lover - Zhang Yunzhi.

"Young Master!" Yang Ling was ecstatic to see him. She had full confidence that he would come and save her.

Her father also stared at the young man. He thought that Li Qiye would look quite impressive. This was far from the case.

Chapter 3699: One Against All

All eyes were on Li Qiye after his appearance. He glanced at the sky and said: "The hour is almost over, it's not too late to release them."

"And if we don't?" The princess strongly responded.

"Blood and viscera will feel these streets then." Li Qiye smilingly answered.

Those capable of listening became frozen as if they could see the scene of carnage already and smell the terrible stench.

"As fierce as always." One expert commented. Others gave him a thumbs-up for always maintaining this image.

After all, the two clans could do whatever they wanted in Vajra. This was doubly so after they teamed up. That's why Li Qiye looked so courageous to the crowd.

"You must be daydreaming if you think you can trample this place alone. I shall add your head to the ceremony as an offering to the dead..." The princess glared murderously.

"I've heard that plenty of time before. People are right about one thing - big breasts, small brains. This phrase is perfect to describe you." Li Qiye waved his hand and interrupted.

Some listeners couldn't help laughing but eventually restrained themselves. The princess was adored by the royal clan so they knew better. Nonetheless, waves of laughter were still audible.

Some also stared at her breasts, whether on purpose or otherwise. They agreed that they weren't small. Those who have actually seen her naked back then started fantasizing.

She turned red with embarrassment and trembled with rage.

"Li, I swear I'll cut you to pieces today!" She gnashed her teeth with a twisted expression on her pretty face, seemingly wanting to eat his flesh and drink his blood.

"Let's get started. I want to see what the two famed big shots have up their sleeve." Li Qiye glanced at the two mansions.

Even a fool could see that he didn't give a damn about his opponents. This relaxed attitude looked quite domineering, causing the spectators to gasp.

The two regiments took note of this and were furious. They might not be the strongest groups in Vajra but were still famous for their battle prowess. They have killed countless on the battlefield before.

Thus, Li Qiye's disdainful attitude was directed towards them as well.

"Men!" A general on the west side from Abyss Dragon Regiment shouted.

"To formation!" The troops roared and marched forward in an orderly fashion. Their voices loudly echoed in everyone's ears.

The soldiers to the west were brimming with powerful and bloodthirsty auras.

"They're quite strong." One spectator admitted.

Don't think that the Grand Chancellor and his men were useless for being civic officials. The former was mighty, not inferior to any clan master. The members of the Zhang weren't weak either, not limited to bookworms. Some honed their crafts on the arduous battlefield.

"Li Qiye, take out your weapon! You're not leaving this street alive today. This is what you deserve for killing a member of our clan! We shall have vengeance!" The general of the regiment shouted.

"Well spoken but we'll see who'll die soon." Li Qiye clapped and smiled.

The crowd watched with great anticipation, paying extra attention to the saber hanging by his waist.

"Sword Point again?" One of them wondered.

"I want to see him use it again. I've been trying to learn it recently and finally felt something. Maybe just one more time..." One Duality student's eyes lit up.

"Sword Point!!!" Some yelled at him.

"I want to see him do something else, it'll be boring to see Sword Point again." An expert disagreed.

After all, not everyone could learn Sword Point. Some have given up since learning the technique was impossible. They would rather see his other ace cards.

“You’re right, I heard he got treasures from the hug mouse. It would be nice to see them.” One cultivator said, looking quite hopeful.

They wouldn’t mind seeing some top treasures from the mouse during this battle.

“Don’t worry, the weapon is here.” A newcomer interrupted the rowdy crowd.

The sky suddenly turned dark as something gigantic appeared on the western entrance.

People looked over and saw a large statue appearing out of nowhere. Once they got a better look, they found that a monk was carrying it with one hand.

It looked heavy but the monk had no problem doing so, looking quite relaxed.

“Untethered Monk...” They were surprised to see him. He seemed to be aiding Li Qiye.

“Untethered Monk is on Li Qiye’s side? Since when?” One spectator said.

The general of Abyss Dragon became startled, the same with the Grand Commander and Grand Chancellor who were still in their respective mansion.

The monk was a businessman with a carefree attitude, not paying attention to trivial courtesies. This didn’t change the fact that his power was not inferior to the four grandmasters. If he were to join the battle, no one in the two factions would be able to stop him.

“Untethered Monk...” The general staggered backward...

“Relax, relax.” The monk smiled and cupped his fist: “I’m not here to fight, just putting this weapon down. Young Master Li is eager for an exercise so I’m just a deliverer this time. I hope he’ll find it suitable.”

Having said that, he dropped the statue in front of Li Qiye. “Boom!” The street caved down a bit - a testament to its weight.

“Young Master? Is this weapon okay?” The monk placed his palms together and smiled.

“That statue is a weapon?” One spectator asked, bewildered.

“Why not?” An expert said: “It’s pretty unstoppable if he can lift it, enough to smash half of the street.”

“Wait a minute, this looks like the statue from Wish Ward? Isn’t it meant for decoration only?” An older cultivator recognized the statue’s origin.

Those who have participated in the auction at Wish Ward have seen it plenty of time.

Chapter 3700: Unique Weapon

Most were stunned while looking at the massive bronze statue. How would one use it as a weapon? Lift and smash it at the regiment?

This wasn’t a bad idea due to the weight of the statue. However, this would still greatly limit the user’s movement and actual abilities since it was too cumbersome.

Attention fell on Li Qiye. Would he actually use it?

Li Qiye chuckled and glanced at the monk.

“Young Master, try and see if you would like it. If not, forget about it.” The monk put on a forced smile.

The spectators didn’t know the underlying story. They thought that Untethered Monk was Li Qiye’s backer.

After all, people would think twice if Li Qiye had his support. This applied to the two powerful clans as well.

Only Li Qiye and the monk actually knew what was going on. The latter wanted to know the mysteries of the statue. How would one use it as a weapon?

This question has been haunting him. The ancestors of Wish Ward have failed to understand the statue. His only hope was Li Qiye.

He couldn’t directly ask Li Qiye to divulge the method to them. They gave him a precious metal but to ask for the solution would turn the whole thing into an unsavory exchange of benefits.

Thus, the monk took advantage of this opportunity in a tactful manner.

Li Qiye understood the monk’s intent. The guy wanted to know but couldn’t ask or negotiate.

“Fine, then watch carefully. I won’t repeat the instruction.” Li Qiye smiled and shook his head.

“Amitabha, thank you, Young Master.” The monk bowed with a dignified expression, feeling immensely grateful. Li Qiye had no obligation to tell them the method. They wouldn’t dare to demand it from him either.

Meanwhile, the spectators didn’t understand the bow. It looked as if it was an honor to support Li Qiye right now. The whole thing seemed ridiculous.

The monk then smiled towards the soldiers of the regiment and said: “I have no business here since I’m just an errand boy. Feel free to continue, gentlemen.”

Having said that, he waved his sleeve coolly and floated into the air, leaving the battlefield.

The soldiers and generals heaved a sigh of relief, the same with the Grand Commander, Grand Chancellor, and the ancestors from the two clans.

The direct involvement of the monk would ruin their plan. Their two clans together still weren’t a match for him unless they could invite their ancestors from the ancestral ground. However, these older ancestors wouldn’t come out without an existential crisis.

Li Qiye smiled at the soldiers and said: “My merciful self will let you all start first so at least there’ll be a chance.”

The soldiers became livid and red from the blatant disdain. They weren’t used to this treatment due to their reputation at the holy ground.

“Vanguards, assume your position! The blood of the enemy shall bolster our prestige!” The general of the regiment shouted.

“The blood of the enemy shall bolster our prestige!” The soldier’s roar echoed and caused the listeners to tremble.

The leading soldiers raised their shield and spear. The shields acted as a bronze wall in front of them. The spears then inched forward from the opening, revealing the shimmering tips that could pierce through any foe.

“Activate the formation!” The vanguards roared and released their vitality.

Chaos true energy empowered the leading formation. The runes lit up and they became connected as one without a single gap for the enemy to take advantage of.

“Forward!” A deafening horn accompanied the order.

“Kill him!” The vanguards rushed forward, resulting in loud explosions. Both the ground and the buildings nearby quaked violently.

“Boom!” The first line turned into a triangular drill with an all-piercing tip. It surged forward with a frightening momentum, akin to an unstoppable mountain of steel. Even the largest mountain range stood no chance of slowing it down.

“Pretty decent, a formation from the Zhang is naturally good.” One expert standing far away praised.

The Zhang might be in charge of the civic officials but after seeing this regiment, everyone knew that they were capable in terms of military strategy as well - not necessarily inferior to the military Li Clan.

“Rumble!” The drill made it to Li Qiye in no time at all.

The spectators held their breath. Li Qiye looked tiny compared to the massive drill. His tiny and feeble frame could be crushed in the blink of an eye.

In this crucial second, Li Qiye raised his right hand and started chanting: “Venerable waves and jade spirits...” [1]

His arm became resplendent with dao runes emerging. The characters that he spoke manifested and attached themselves to his arm. One could hear sizzles as if someone was branding his arm with a branding iron.

The right arm of the statue also lit up. “Clank! Clank! Clank!” Pieces from this section automatically peeled off and flew towards his direction before latching onto his right arm.

Strangely enough, the pieces were extremely large but they were reduced to the perfect size before the attachment.

All of this happened in the blink of an eye. Only the strong masters saw the whole process clearly.

Meanwhile, Untethered Monk in the distance opened his eyes as wide as possible. He memorized all of Li Qiye’s actions and words.

The pieces covered his arm and became a single piece as if it was cast in this manner in the first place.

“Poof!” It immediately shot out a blue flame with impressive offensive potential.

“Break!” Li Qiye directly punched the incoming drill afterward.

“Boom!” The world seemed to be shattering from the explosion. Time came to a halt.

“Crack!” The spectators saw his bronze hand crushing the drill tip. The formation crumbled afterward then the spears and shields.

“Ahh!” The first wave of soldiers got sent up into the air before exploding. Bones and pieces fell down on the pavement, issuing loud noises. A rain of blood started as well.

The vanguards were helpless before Li Qiye’s punch. Numerous soldiers bellowed in agony before being pulverized in the air.