

Emperor 3781

### **Chapter 3781: World Crossing**

Golden Cicada's expression remained neutral. He closed his eyes with an image of a Buddha still heaving above him.

His temperament was a stark contrast to his age. He seemed rather enlightened compared to many peers.

"I still have one more move that I wish to use against you. Let's try again if you don't mind." He placed his palms together.

The crowd didn't expect him to make this request.

"Another move?" The scion's eyes flashed brightly, instantly realizing something. Stars seemed to be floating deep within.

"Very well, I have been a fan of World Crossing for a long time, it is an honor to see it today." He laughed and said.

"World Crossing?!" The crowd clamored.

"We'll really get to see World Crossing?" An expert asked.

"I think so." An older cultivator said: "Golden Cicada has cultivated it before, this move has to be it."

"Right, there's nothing else stronger than World Crossing." Others speculated.

One big shot became excited and added: "This is a must-watch battle, Evil Devourer Seven Chapters versus World Crossing."

Just a moment ago, people were okay with the monk conceding. Now, they wanted to see his World Crossing.

World Crossing and Buddha's Six Paths were both top techniques. The former was created by Dhyana Dao Lord while the other Buddha Dao Lord.

The main difference was that World Crossing was derived from the Buddhization chapter of the Four Truths - a supreme heavenly scripture.

Thus, in history, the majority believed that World Crossing was superior to Buddha's Six Paths. After all, it came from one of the nine scriptures and should be immensely profound.

Some had the opposite opinion. Because Buddha Dao Lord was the founder of the holy ground, they thought that albeit brilliant, Dhyana Dao Lord's cultivation should still be weaker.

Nonetheless, it was widely accepted that his Buddhist attainment surpassed his predecessor.

Therefore, some thought that the six paths focused on attacking while World Crossing focused on Buddhism.

Later on, another school of thought believed that it was silly to determine the stronger one between the two. A merit law's effectiveness relied on the user. A mighty master could make any merit law look good.

Thus, the crowd wasn't excited because they thought that World Crossing was superior to Buddha's Six Paths. More importantly, this land belonged to Heavenly Dragon Temple. No other place in the world was more fitting to use a Buddhist art such as World Crossing.

"We'll see the competition again in this generation." One ancestor became impatient.

Both of the opposing merit laws were derivatives of a heavenly scripture. In a sense, this was akin to a competition between the two chapters.

Righteous Sect and Buddha Holy Ground always had conflicts in history. Alas, it was rare to see these two merit laws in battle due to the difficulty in learning them.

Those from Righteous thought that the seven chapters were superior. Those from the holy ground naturally cheered for World Crossing. Today was another great opportunity to test the two merit laws.

Not to mention those from the holy ground, disciples from Righteous or other sects became excited as well.

"World Crossing will win, it's absolutely stronger." One member of the holy ground said.

"No, our seven chapters are definitely stronger. Golden Cicada Buddhist Child has the home-court advantage right now, World Crossing can be used to its limit." Someone from Righteous was unhappy.

"Hmph, are you forgetting that the scion's cultivation is higher than Golden Cicada Buddhist Child's? That's why even if the scion wins, it doesn't mean that the seven chapters are stronger." Another from the holy ground chimed in.

In just a short time, verbal battles with saliva flying everywhere started while the two actual combatants had yet to begin.

They weren't affected by the conversations while standing face to face in the air.

"Due to my shallow cultivation, I can't even exert ten percent of World Crossing. Please don't laugh." Golden Cicada solemnly said.

"I haven't finished training the seven chapters either, I'm sure I'm not any better than you so I won't be laughing." The scion responded.

The crowd thought that these two were lucky to fight each other in battle. Finding the right opponent could be difficult at times.

"Let's begin." Golden Cicada placed his palms together, looking like a wise monk.

"Buzz." His Buddhist radiance intensified once more but this time, it was different from the previous.

The light seemed rather gentle with flickering flames. They were as pleasant as a gentle spring breeze.

"Clank! Clank! Clank!" Buddhist bells suddenly sounded, sounding ancient yet natural.

They came from the various temples in the region and had a soothing element.

The spectators stared at the temples near the border. There were millions of them yet they all emitted the bells in unison.

The sounds harmonized into strong currents, eventually culminating in an ocean of bells engulfing the entire holy ground. The listeners' mental state found an unprecedented peace.

The bells were ringing on their own accord without needing monks to strike them.

In this split second, Golden Cicada has used World Crossing. The bells seemed to be sentient and answered his call.

All existences stopped to listen to the peaceful bells. In fact, those in battle suddenly sheathed their swords. Their bloodthirst subsided, replaced by tranquility.

They thought that there was no reason to fight. Some wanted to go back home; others wanted to join Buddhism.

The powerful ancestors became shaken and reacted. They knew that World Crossing was starting to convert them. They hurriedly protected their mind in order to not be affected by the bells.

The scion narrowed his eyes then nodded approvingly. He then focused on stopping the bells from attacking his mind.

The top experts knew that World Crossing was formless. The monk didn't need to directly attack with techniques to defeat his foes. The weaker-minded enemies would actually surrender.

Winning without fighting - this was the best strategy. World Crossing meant wanting to convert all living beings.

### **Chapter 3782: Boundless Buddhist Art**

The ancient and peaceful bell tolls turned the world into a paradise.

Alas, the more-capable cultivators were scared out of their mind, not wanting to drown in this peace.

This was the power of conversion. For the experts here, they would be without physical injuries even during a forceful conversion. Alas, it would have negative effects on their mind, going as far as weakening their dao heart in the future.

The bell tolls were only the beginning. As they permeated the land, Buddhist light spanned for ten million miles.

Various rays floated in the air like threads and bathed everyone with motherly warmth. This feeling was nothing short of pure happiness and true satisfaction. They slowly closed their eyes to enjoy this unprecedented moment.

Numerous cultivators became immersed in the light, losing awareness of their current situation.

As for the powerful ancestors and high elders, they maintained their wits but were still shaken.

"Time to leave!" Many fled to a safe distance while taking their juniors with them.

After leaving the radius of the light, they finally relaxed to watch the fight.

“That was close.” One ancestor had cold sweat all over. Powerful beings like them had a hard time dealing with this affinity.

Most importantly, World Crossing hasn’t fully activated yet.

“What’s going on?” The juniors taken away were confused by the change of scenery and looked around.

“World Crossing is truly powerful. No wonder why Dhyana Dao Lord never needed to fight in the legends. All of his foes submitted wherever he went.” An ancestor said.

A junior like Golden Cicada using World Crossing was so effective already. What about the dao lord himself? The legends might be true.

With the influx of the light and bell tolls, diagrams appeared above the temples in the region.

Heavenly Dragon Temple wasn’t a single architecture, just another name for Heavenly Dragon Division. It consisted of around 88,000 temples or so and all of them were activated with diagrams and runic characters.

This was truly a magnificent and shocking spectacle. These images and characters turned the area into a Buddhist Kingdom, no longer recognizable compared to before.

The majestic Buddhist affinity could be felt in this great kingdom. The conversion force grew stronger.

The weaker cultivators within the radius started prostrating in the direction of Golden Cicada.

“Amitabha.” An image of a supreme Buddha appeared in the kingdom along with a chant.

The stars seemed to be rotating around this being; the vast cosmos flowed next to him. He exceeded everything in size, capable of grasping the world in his palm.

The chant released a higher concentration of light. Many cultivators were immediately turned into pious followers by this great Buddhist Lord.

“Merciful Buddha.” They prostrated on the ground with tears streaming down their cheeks.

The conversion affinity was solely focused on Righteous Scion. Nonetheless, the remnant waves still affected those nearby. These waves had limited power but they were still caught and converted.

Those who managed to get away stared at the prostrating mass in astonishment. Golden Cicada could have converted all of them without any difficulty.

“So strong...” A young cultivator turned pale.

“World Crossing is from a heavenly scripture, its power far exceeds a regular dao lord merit law.” One ancestor solemnly said: “Moreover, Golden Cicada Buddhist Child is using it while in Heavenly Dragon Temple, the best possible location for it.”

This merit law had no offensive technique or movement. In fact, the foes would feel happiness and joy - a type of killing without spilling blood.

“Buzz.” Buddhist light appeared around the scion after the emergence of the holy kingdom.

In any other situation, this could be construed as a positive experience - that the scion was learning a top Buddhist art.

This wasn't the case right now. It meant that the conversion was occurring within him. If he couldn't handle this force, he would lose and become the Buddhist Child's loyal follower.

“Activate!” He roared and channeled his grand dao again. Dao laws started flowing along with endless chaos true energy inside his body in an attempt to crush the spreading Buddhist light.

“Pop! Pop! Pop!” His grand dao power seemed to be pushing the light back.

Alas, each time he destroyed it, the light would appear again with greater intensity and brightness. It became obvious that his grand dao was of no use.

“Damn, even the mighty scion can't stop World Crossing.” A big shot from the last generation took a deep breath.

“Break!” The scion roared and his dao foundation lit up before releasing a black maelstrom.

“Zzz...” Buzzes could be heard wherever it went as it absorbed the Buddhist light like a whale.

Both the light and the conversion affinity eventually disappeared from sight.

“Intent Devourer of the seven chapters!” A spectator shouted after seeing this.

### **Chapter 3783: Dao Decapitation**

Intent Devourer was a magical merit law. At the highest level, it was believed to be able to devour intents. For example, battle intent, sword intent, murderous intent...

The conversion power seen here from the Buddhist light could be considered a type of intent instead of an attack.

Thus, the scion chose Intent Devourer to deal with it instead of Force Devourer.

The black maelstrom grew in size as it repeatedly absorbed the inextinguishable light. The latter kept on reappearing and surged towards the black maelstrom like a flood.

Nonetheless, the light of the Buddhist kingdom gradually dimmed down. Nonetheless, it possessed plenty of Buddhist affinities.

Though the maelstrom was incredible, it would still need more time to fully devour the Buddhist light.

In this second, the scion's grand dao released deafening blasts as he took it to the next level. He wanted to use Intent Devourer to its limit.

“Activate!” His grand dao laws were derived to the highest profundity. All of its mysteries fully manifested.

“Boom!” The black maelstrom assumed its largest form, as big as the sun itself.

The spectators saw it crazily devouring the Buddhist affinity. Its true target was the kingdom.

The image of the Buddhist Lord started flickering and became more ethereal than before, on the verge of collapsing.

“Wow...” The spectators gasped at this sight.

If this image were to be suppressed, it meant a defeat for World Crossing to the seven chapters.

“Our World Crossing can’t beat Righteous Sect’s Evil Devourer?” Some members became worried. This would be a great blow to their sect.

“Not yet, just wait.” One ancestor patiently watched.

Nonetheless, if this absorbing process continued, World Crossing’s defeat was inevitable.

“Convert!” Golden Cicada Buddhist Child didn’t stand idly by and began forming mudra and chanting.

The image of the Buddhist Lord also performed the same mudra. Its palms became blinding as if a new world was being created in there - a world protected by Buddhas.

It was filled with Buddhist affinity and faith. The light then spread to the actual world.

“Buzz.” Something unbelievable happened next. The black maelstrom suddenly became bright.

This maelstrom resembled a black hole capable of devouring all lights. But now, bright rays were coming out - a sign of conversion.

A moment later, the black maelstrom became a shimmering Buddhist Maelstrom.

“Suppress!” The scion roared. More chaos true energy and dao hymns materialized with great destruction.

Alas, this dao power couldn’t revert the conversion because the maelstrom had taken in considerable Buddhist affinity prior.

This overabundance worked against his grand dao and cultivation power now.

“Zzz...” His body started being invaded by the light once more. It seemed to be turning him into an avatar of Buddhism. His robe became golden, akin to a bronze statue.

“I can’t believe it!” The crowd was shocked to see this reversal.

They all thought that Golden Cicada was on the verge of losing. But now, it seemed that the scion would have a hard time stopping the conversion.

“Righteous Scion was too careless earlier with the absorption, that’s actually helping him now. The absorbed affinity is converting him from within.” One ancestor explained.

This gave the holy ground’s members hope so they cheered loudly. World Crossing still had a chance of victory.

As the light around the scion intensified, his body seemed to be turning into a statue. The conversion looked to be inevitable at this point.

“Dao Decapitation!” In this crucial moment, the scion shouted and released his twelve palaces and true fate.

A supreme grand dao floated around his true fate and released primordial energy. The true fate then burst with a force capable of creating an entirely new universe.

After his shout, the supreme grand dao left his true fate and crossed through space, instantly appearing before the image of the Buddhist Lord.

This was a slash consisting of using the true fate as a sword, capable of severing the nine firmaments, ending the reincarnation cycle, and forever changing history.

“Seal!” Golden Cicada’s expression soured as he retaliated with another mudra.

The image duplicated his action and created a seal capable of separating heaven and earth in order to stop the slash.

Alas, this was proven to be futile.

“Whoosh!” The true fate slash started from the head and moved to the bottom, separating the image into two halves.

In this split second, people felt that Golden Cicada’s connection to the land was severed, akin to a sky-blotting tree losing all of its roots. He immediately lost the empowerment of the temples.

“Pop!” The Buddhist image disintegrated and the particles scattered with the wind.

With that, the Buddhist light and affinity receded like the tides. The conversion process on the scion also disappeared from sight.

“Ugh...” Golden Cicada Buddhist Child staggered backward, leaving deep footprints on the ground.

He couldn’t handle the chaotic flow of his vitality and energy so he spat out a mouthful of blood. Nonetheless, he remained standing.

“I have lost.” He sighed and placed his palms together.

A hush fell over the crowd due to his surrender. Golden Cicada Buddhist Child and World Crossing have lost.

This blow was too much for the holy ground’s members. They felt suffocated as a result.

### **Chapter 3784: To The Target**

Various emotions filled the heart of the holy ground’s members. Golden Cicada Buddhist Child thoroughly showed his worth and abilities.

Though he lost, he gained honor in the process instead of criticism. His power was as clear as day. Not to mention the young generation, even some powerful ancestors felt inferior.

Alas, he still lost in the end because the scion was insanely strong.

"I enjoyed the battle, World Crossing is unique indeed, truly worthy of admiration." The scion happily smiled in great spirits.

This compliment showed ample respect to both Golden Cicada and World Crossing. He mentioned nothing about the seven chapters being stronger.

"You're unbeatable, I merely took advantage of the land." Golden Cicada reflected.

"Don't be humble now, World Crossing is peerless. The problem is your cultivation. If we were in the same realm, I wouldn't have fared so well even if you didn't have the empowerment of the land."

His frankness earned him some respect as well, even from those who didn't like him. He was both capable and straightforward.

His attitude during the challenge to the holy ground was overbearing but all in all, it matched his power.

"Amitabha, I'll be leaving now." Golden Cicada chanted before smiling: "Gonna go home and make some beef stew."

He salivated just thinking about the dish and had to wipe it off his mouth. He waved his sleeve and left coolly.

The audience exchanged glances after seeing his departure. Earlier, he became a star due to his holiness despite his age, looking just like an enlightened monk.

Now, he returned to his original form - a happy-go-lucky monk with a love for food, not caring about worldly conventions.

This was akin to a divine emperor falling off his throne, becoming a beggar later on. The stark contrast caught the crowd off guard again.

Some realized that the monk has always been the same. He didn't change in the slightest; only their perception of him had.

"The untethered freedom." One ancestor commented: "That's the favorite disciple of the Monk of Wisdom, the successor of Heavenly Dragon Temple. His future will be glorious."

The scion didn't linger around after the departure of his foe. He stared towards the direction of Minor Sacred Mountain and laughed: "What an interesting trip so far, I hope the battle with Fairy Dugu will be just as outstanding."

With that, he got back on his chariot and continued on his trip.

"He's going towards Minor Sacred Mountain now." Everyone knew his goal - the destination where Dugu Lan was waiting.

"This will be the final battle, no one else can stop him." One expert said.

The group started thinking and sure enough, they couldn't come up with another cultivator capable of stopping the scion.



Hu Ben and Golden Cicada have lost. The latter was rather impressive but still came up short. There was no other genius in the holy ground outside of Dugu Lan.

“What about Phantom Sacred Child?” Someone thought about the pride of the Divine Ghost Division.

“Phantom is strong but I don’t think he’s above Golden Cicada Buddhist Child in his empowered state. That’s not enough to stop Righteous Scion.” An expert mused.

“I heard he tried to borrow an invincible weapon, I wonder if he got it or not.” One youth wondered.

“He did but it isn’t enough. He should team up with Fairy Dugu instead. That’s the only way to have any hope.” Someone knowledgeable from the previous generation nodded.

“Will Fairy Dugu keep up with the scion?” Another questioned to which no one had a response.

Of course, they hoped that she would win or at least tie. However, judging by the circumstances, Righteous Scion was absolutely untouchable among the young generation. Dugu Lan was no exception.

This was a particularly cruel truth for the young members of the holy ground. Their land had waves of talents and hidden experts. Unfortunately, none could stand up to the scion - something quite unbearable and embarrassing.

“I think Fairy Dugu can do it. A teacher told me that she has managed to learn a supreme sword dao by herself.” An alumnus from Duality revealed: “It’s an ancient sword dao rumored to be connected to a peerless existence in history.”

“A peerless existence?” One cultivator remained skeptical: “No matter how peerless this existence is, the merit laws and sword dao stemming from this person can’t compare to a heavenly scripture.”

“Hard to say. Remember, the seven chapters are only a derivation, not actual techniques from the scripture.” The alumnus said: “Moreover, this peerless existence has no equal, the supreme sword dao left behind might actually be able to suppress a heavenly scripture.”

“Are you being serious right now?” A cultivator nearby said: “Such a being would overshadow all dao lords, how come I haven’t heard of someone like this?”

The alumnus’ mouth opened, wanting to speak. However, his expression suddenly changed after thinking about something and refrained.

“Regardless, this battle is inevitable. I just hope that Fairy Dugu can guard Minor Sacred Mountain.” A genius concluded.

“I just hope it won’t be an ugly defeat.” Another youth murmured: “If Fairy Dugu can last long enough, it won’t be as bad.”

These comments were terrible for morale. Alas, they had to face reality. The scion has repeatedly proved his might.

The proud geniuses of the holy ground lost their arrogance and could only swallow their indignation. There was no chance of defeating the scion. A good loss would be an honor - a true display of skill.

This was their expectation and hope for Fairy Dugu, that her battle would be more brilliant than Golden Cicada's.

They didn't have that much hope in her being able to defend Minor Sacred Mountain.

By this point, it became abundantly clear that she was the last stand. Thus, no one stopped the scion as he entered Metropolis Division.

### **Chapter 3785: Shocking Development**

Righteous Scion's trip across Metropolis was rather peaceful. Both the young and old didn't say a word. No one dared to challenge him.

The fight with Golden Cicada Buddhist Child solidified his unbeatable status. Challenging him now required immense courage and power.

Metropolis was extremely close to the capital and Minor Sacred Mountain. However, he wasn't in a rush to see Dugu Lan that early.

He took his time and leisurely visited the famous sceneries again. It didn't look like he was in enemy territory at all. Though he was constantly under watch, this didn't deter his saunter in the slightest.

The spectators were annoyed once more but once again, they had to endure this displeasure. They hoped for this challenge to end already so that he would leave. Otherwise, his presence at the holy ground would continue to torment them.

Today, something changed starting with a deafening boom. The entire holy ground suddenly quaked.

"What was that?" Numerous experts became frightened.

The quaking didn't last long but still made everyone nervous due to the current sensitive circumstances. They immediately thought about the scion, thinking that he was sabotaging something.

However, those closest stared at him and he certainly didn't do anything. He himself was surprised during the quakes.

"Buzz." During their astonishment, Buddhist rays all over the holy ground shot to the sky. However, they suddenly fell back down a while later.

Everyone felt that the power of the holy ground was shrinking. Their own power was leaving too along with the land's power.

This sensation scared the hell out of cultivators. As members of the holy ground, their merit laws and dao foundation were built upon the land.

Thus, if the land's foundation suddenly collapsed, their cultivation would suffer immense setbacks. The worst-case scenario would be dropping in realms.

"Wha-what? Is the dao source weakening?" Even the slumbering top masters woke up in horror.

If the holy ground's dao source was indeed deteriorating, it would affect numerous kingdoms and cultivators. Even the mortals would have a tough time.

The frightened cultivators felt as if they had been disconnected from the holy ground. Of course, they weren't mighty enough to control the power of the land but since they were born here, they could feel the grand dao power in the soil.

This power stemmed from the source of the holy ground. Alas, this aura and presence were no longer felt. The connection has been severed.

"Impossible!" A top master who had just woken up from his slumber became startled: "Buddha Holy Ground has been prosperous all this time, the foundation is still strong, what is going on?"

The present days couldn't compare to the golden age but after millions and millions of years of accumulation, the holy ground still had plenty of resources. There was no sign of decline, hence everyone's astonishment and fear.

"Boom!" Another loud bang suddenly detonated and Buddhist rays soared to the sky once more in an endless manner. People immediately felt the dao power of the land again stemming from underground.

"The Buddhist affinity is back!" Cultivators became joyous right away. The fear earlier was just too much.

"How fortunate." Even the awakened big shots heaved a sigh of relief.

They have experienced plenty of things and traveled across Eight Desolaces. Nonetheless, the disappearance of the holy ground's dao power still frightened them.

Normally, a phenomenon like this would only occur during the destruction of the source and foundation. In this case, there were no external enemies invading, hence the confusion. Nonetheless, it was finally over.

"Did something happen to Sacred Mountain?" This became the next question.

Sacred Mountain served as the core of the holy ground. Thus, in order to destroy the holy ground, one must take down Sacred Mountain first. That's why everyone thought about Sacred Mountain right away. Maybe something big happened there.

Alas, most had no idea where it was. Only a chosen few could climb up the mountain to verify. The former had no choice but to wait for an official announcement.

In spite of the confusion, at least everything was fine now - or so they thought. Another loud boom occurred. This time, on top of Minor Sacred Mountain.

This caught everyone off guard. When they looked up the peak, they saw one of the statues protecting the holy palace suddenly collapsed.

"What the hell?!" Those at the capital city who could witness it in person were bewildered.

"That's Dhyana Dao Lord's statue, why did it fall down?" The big shots in Vajra were stricken with fear.

These four statues had a special significance in the holy ground, representing authority. Now, one had fallen without warning.

Most who heard this information couldn't believe it.

“No way, the four statues have been around for so long, it can’t just fall down for no reason.” Denial was the main theme even for those who saw it.

Nonetheless, this was reality. The news of this event spread across the holy ground and caused a furor.

“We need to take a look now!” Cultivators ran for Minor Sacred Mountains, even the big shots.

Minor Sacred Mountain has always been protected by the power of the dao lords. The pinnacle was extremely difficult to reach so no one could have taken down the statue.

Once they made it to the base, they saw something unbelievable.

### **Chapter 3786: Grievous Crime**

Numerous experts gathered beneath Minor Sacred Mountain; their jaw nearly dropped to the ground.

They saw something massive being carried down the steps. What else could it be but the statue of Dhyana Dao Lord? The two culprits? Li Qiye and Xu Cuimei.

The statue still emitted the aura of a dao lord but this didn’t stop the two from carrying it down.

It represented the highest authority and prestige in the holy ground, hence everyone’s astonishment and indignation.

After a while, the crowd regained their wits. One person asked: “How, how did they get up there?”

The difficulty in reaching the pinnacle was common knowledge. Numerous top masters have tried and couldn’t break through the pressure instilled by the dao lord auras.

On the other hand, Li Qiye and Xu Cuimei did even more than that. This simply didn’t make sense.

“It might be earlier when our holy ground lost its power. The force protecting Minor Sacred Mountain probably disappeared as well so they took advantage of it.” A big shot pondered for a bit before answering.

“That sounds about right.” Others agreed with this explanation.

A while ago, everyone paid attention to the scion only instead of Li Qiye. Thus, they thought that the duo took advantage of the blackout to climb up the peak.

“Why are they moving Dhyana Dao Lord’s statue? What’s their goal?” A youth took a deep breath.

This statue was an object of worship. To be disrespectful was sacrilegious and becoming public enemy number one. This was a crime worthy of full clan extermination.

Moreover, Li Qiye served as the current saber messenger of Vajra. This added betrayal to his list of offenses. Worst of all, he was working with a disciple from Righteous Sect - Xu Cuimei. What else could this be but colluding with the enemy?

“This is too much, traitorous and blasphemous. There’s no excuse for this.” One youth shouted.

“Right, a crime worthy of clan extermination.” Another chimed in.

The youths of the holy ground have been vexed because of the scion's pressure. Now, they had a target to vent - Li Qiye.

They couldn't do a damn thing to the scion but Li Qiye was a different story. Furthermore, they were fully justified in doing so to rid the holy ground of a traitor.

"He deserves death, we can't let this go!" Another youth bellowed.

As for the big shots from the previous generation, they remained cautious. After all, Li Qiye was still the saber messenger. They weren't the ones in charge, not qualified to brand him as a traitor or to punish him for his action. This was Vajra Dynasty's responsibility.

To make a mistake here could lead to serious consequences. Li Qiye had immense status in Vajra.

The only one among the crowd who had a different opinion was Wei Qianqing. She was astonished just like the rest, albeit for a different reason since she witnessed the entire thing.

She knew that these two didn't utilize the downtime of the holy ground at all. In fact, they had already made it up before the sudden disappearance of the Buddhist affinity.

They started carrying the statue down Minor Sacred Mountain before others got here. She was the only one privy to this detail, hence her bewilderment and speechlessness.

Fewer than few could successfully make this arduous journey yet Li Qiye brought someone else with him. He pushed down the statue without any resistance as well.

The duo brought the statue down to the base. Li Qiye put it down and patted his palms.

The spectators finally noticed how large the statue was. Everyone had to raise their head to get a good look.

"Li, what are you doing?! How dare you take the statue away and disrespect the ancestors?!" One bold youth shouted at Li Qiye.

"This is more than that, he's colluding with the enemy to steal the ancestral statue, a crime worthy of death." An expert who hated Li Qiye added.

"Death? He needs to be flayed for days and have his clan exterminated." Others started chiming in.

The crowd nearby furiously criticized him but he didn't give a damn. He stretched lazily and glanced at them before smiling: "So many here to play. If you want to kill me, come then, show me what you can do."

He exerted his dominance and showed his disdain towards them without trying to defend himself.

Wei Qianqing smiled wryly after hearing this, not knowing what to say. She initially wanted to speak on his behalf but he had just offended everyone.

Given this situation, even if she were to say anything, their saliva would drown her out anyway.

His response silenced the crowd for a bit. He was being too direct so it caught them off guard. They expected him to at least have an excuse.

“We’re all busy people.” Li Qiye continued amidst the silence: “I don’t have time so just attack me. Your intent doesn’t matter, just come so we can end this fast.”

The crowd exchanged glances. Everyone knew that he was weak, only an Enlightened Being or so. Anyone here could actually defeat him.

Nonetheless, his previous battle exploits still deterred them so no one wanted to take the risk.

“Rumble!” A cavalry arrived in a boisterous manner and interrupted their rumination.

### **Chapter 3787: Menacing**

The cavalry instantly surrounded the area and created an impregnable iron wall. Their formation was impeccable; their movement immaculate.

The training necessary to have such great teamwork impressed the crowd. However, a murderous atmosphere took over. The soldiers’ spears gleamed brightly in a chill-inducing fashion.

The tips clearly have tasted blood numerous times in battles. This cavalry looked like the bringer of death.

“War Camp.” Everyone understood that this group was part of War Camp. Just these elites could absolutely take down another army.

“The third prince.” Someone else murmured after seeing the commander.

The third prince rode in front and had full armor on, looking gallant and heroic just like an experienced general.

Both his appearance and aura were impressive, always garnering a good first impression from others. On the other hand, the crown prince seemed lacking in comparison.

This was the reason why he had numerous supporters in Vajra. They thought that a talent like him would have a bright future, able to lead Vajra to greatness.

“Li Qiye, do you know what you have done?!” The group surrounded Li Qiye and the prince shouted.

The crowd thought that Vajra Dynasty was finally taking action. Was the prince representing Vajra?

“You wish to play?” Li Qiye chuckled.

“Taking the ancestral statue and colluding with the enemy, one crime after another, all are unforgivable! Your clan shall be exterminated!” The prince coldly uttered.

Some found this surprising. One of them murmured: “The third prince is in charge of Vajra now? Do the ancestors support him?”

In terms of status, Li Qiye was above the third prince. The latter should never do something like this without the support from Ancestral Temple.

“Do you think you are qualified to carry out the punishment?” Li Qiye smiled.

The prince turned red. A royal member like him has always been held in high regard. Moreover, his prestige was considerable since he had the court's support.

Nonetheless, Li Qiye was indeed above him right now. This was truly frustrating.

"Ah, he still doesn't have dominion yet." The spectating experts understood right away.

It seemed that Li Qiye was indeed a traitor. However, the prince lacked the authority to question and accuse Li Qiye.

"Since you're Vajra's saber messenger, the dynasty needs to maintain order by punishing you. I shall take up this responsibility!" The prince roared, wanting to find a perfect reason to eliminate Li Qiye for the sake of his future.

Li Qiye had done something unforgivable and unsalvageable. Those who back him up would be dragged down too. Thus, the prince didn't want to miss this godsend opportunity.

"Okay, okay, you alone or the entire cavalry?" Li Qiye tapped the saber hanging by his waist, looking very amused.

The soldiers' expression froze after seeing this. The third prince ordered them to come but ultimately, they still needed to obey Vajra before any single person.

Without Ancestral Temple's permission, they couldn't do anything to Li Qiye regardless of his heinous conduct. This was the privilege of being the saber messenger.

The third prince looked embarrassed. He alone had no confidence in capturing Li Qiye and knew that the cavalry might not listen to his order.

"Li, how do you still have the audacity to keep that saber? You have betrayed us all, the reputation of Vajra is tainted because of you!" The prince bellowed: "If you have any hint of dignity and self-respect left, relinquish your status as the saber messenger and take us on!"

His only option was to taunt Li Qiye so that the guy would actively remove his status. That's the only thing holding him back.

"You make it sound as if I care about this position. Very well, no more." Li Qiye smirked and casually tossed the saber onto the ground.

His choice astounded the spectators. Being the saber messenger in Vajra was a big deal. Even the king needed to treat him with respect.

Anyone would cherish this status yet Li Qiye gave it up without a second thought.

They exchanged glances, thinking that the whole thing was confusing. This Li Qiye was amazing, to be able to treat authority like trash.

The prince himself became frozen since he had zero confidence in his psychological taunt earlier. Nonetheless, he still needed to try.

It was obvious that only a fool would fall for his trick. Alas, Li Qiye actually jumped right into the pit. He had no idea that it would be so easy.

After a while, he regained his wits and became ecstatic. It would be too easy to deal with Li Qiye now.

“Li, you have thrown away the saber and are no longer the saber messen...” The prince shouted.

“Just a crappy blade to chop wood, not worth a single coin.” Li Qiye interrupted, causing the crowd to have a wry smile on their face.

“No, absolutely not!” A newcomer suddenly arrived and hurriedly stopped their conversation.

“Young Master, you are the embodiment of nobility and prestige.” The person picked up the saber and hung it back on Li Qiye’s waist: “Please don’t be angry over this trivial matter. You’ll always be the saber messenger of Vajra no matter what.”

“National Teacher?” The crowd became startled again.

The newcomer was none other than Ye Mingshi serving as the imperial teacher.

Just his appearance alone was surprising since he rarely showed himself without official business.

“National Teacher.” The prince didn’t appreciate his nearly-fulfilled plan being ruined. Nonetheless, he didn’t dare to become angry: “He chose to abandon this status on his own accord. Moreover, a disrespectful traitor like him doesn’t deserve to be the messenger.”

“Third Prince! Heed the decree of the king!” Ye Mingshi spoke loudly with a serious expression.

### **Chapter 3788: Royal Competition**

Ye Mingshi had an imperial decree in his hand. It pulsed in a dazzling manner with the totems of Vajra Dynasty. A regal aura manifested and suppressed the area.

Everyone understood that this decree was real. This regal aura required the seal of the dynasty.

Many got on their knees. Even the top experts and ancestors slightly bowed to show their respect.

The majority of the kneelers came from Metropolis. After all, this division had the highest number of nobles and officials. Their clans might not have any current members in the court but the dynasty still greatly affected them.

The members of the other divisions didn’t need to work for Vajra. Nonetheless, Vajra was still the current ruler of the holy ground with the permission of Sacred Mountain.

Thus, some ancestors didn’t need to give Vajra any face but they chose to be respectful to Sacred Mountain.

As for the cavalry, they immediately prostrated and started shouting: “Long live the king!”

“Third Prince of Vajra, you have mobilized the army without permission. Withdraw right now. Your punishment will be house arrest for three years.” Ye Mingshi loudly read the content.

“What?!” The decree shocked both the prince and the listeners.

No one expected Archaic Sun King to write this decree.



“This is insanity, the third prince is only trying to protect Vajra’s reputation.” One youth quietly whispered, vexed.

The young ones didn’t dare to voice their disagreement but they felt that this decree was incorrect.

“Archaic Sun King must be senile.” An older expert said quietly: “Li Qiye deserves death for his crime so far while the prince is trying to restore order to Vajra. Why would he protect Li Qiye and remove the prince?”

As the saber messenger, what Li Qiye had done thus far could negatively impact Vajra’s authority or even cause a serious disaster. Numerous other powers coveted Vajra’s position. This would be their chance to make a move.

Any king would know the right path to take - punishing Li Qiye to protect Vajra’s sovereignty.

In this case, Archaic Sun King did the exact opposite. This didn’t win him any love from the crowd, especially the young members of the noble clans.

“How idiotic, who would want to work for such an incapable ruler?” A big shot from the last generation criticized the king.

Many felt the same way, that the king couldn’t tell right from wrong. This would ruin Vajra’s long-running foundation.

“His incompetence isn’t a recent thing.” One ancestor said: “It’s actually a miracle that Vajra hasn’t declined or fallen under his leadership.”

The experts nearby agreed with this assessment. Ever since his coronation, most thought that he was incapable and only cared about everlasting life, neglecting his official duties.

The critics had no idea how someone like him managed to become the king when Vajra had numerous talents.

Strangely enough, the dynasty showed no sign of decline while being under this foolish king’s rule. This could be considered a miracle.

The third prince’s expression became as ugly as can be after hearing the decree. Being under house arrest for three years meant the end of his future.

Three years weren’t long for cultivators but for his situation? Anything could happen in three years. For example - the death of Archaic Sun King and the crown prince would take over.

“National Teacher, there must be a mistake.” The prince became agitated.

“Your Highness, an imperial edict is never mistaken.” Ye Mingshi flatly responded.

Though Ye Mingshi wasn’t from Vajra, he still had immense influence in the court. This was due to his own power and the trust of the king.

The prince had to resist: “National Teacher, Li Qiye is a lawless villain and an obvious traitor. He failed to carry out the duty of a saber messenger and ruined the dynasty’s reputation in the process. What I’m trying to do is to rid Vajra of this stain. From all angles, the one who should be punished is Li Qiye, not

me. I have nothing but loyalty for Vajra and have shown it on the battlefield, risking my life to contribute!”

He was quite heated towards the end because this could be the end of his imperial ambition. He had to do everything possible to prevent this.

“That’s right!” Other youths from noble clans chimed in to show their support. They have always wanted him to be the next king for Vajra’s sake.

“His Highness has nothing but meritorious contributions on the battlefield, he shouldn’t be treated this way. Treacherous conspirators must have whispered poison into His Majesty’s ears. People like this deserve death!” Another young expert shouted.

“Exactly, get rid of the sycophants!” The crowd got riled up again: “Kill them and prove the prince’s innocence!”

By this point, even the members from the other divisions spoke up for the third prince. He always had a good relationship with other influential cultivators. Thus, their support came due to personal benefits on top of an amicable relationship with the prince.

“The prince has the people’s heart.” An older expert nodded approvingly.

In recent years, everyone was aware of the prince attempting to build a powerful faction. This was a successful endeavor and absolutely crucial if he wanted to defeat the crown prince. Overcoming the traditional successive rule was far from easy.

In fact, the crown prince was also watching from far away with a frown.

“Your Highness, it looks like the third prince is out of favor. His Majesty has confined him for three years, clearly forbidding him from competing with you. The throne is definitely yours now.” An old follower behind him said.

As the crown prince’s servant, he naturally became excited since his status would rise as well.

“That’s not the case.” The crown prince shook his head: “This is Younger Brother being favored.”

“How can that be?” The servant didn’t understand: “After three years, you might be sitting on the throne already, Your Highness.”

“Mind your words. His Majesty is a true dragon and will be able to live for thousands of years more without a problem.” The crown prince responded: “When a storm is present, it’s best if one can stay outside, that’s the best situation.”

His frown grew more intense after saying this. The servant vaguely got the point.

The crown prince was worried because he thought that a period of three years was both short and long, depending on the circumstances. This house arrest might actually be a good thing.

If the king was thinking for the third prince’s sake with this choice, it meant that he wasn’t as valued and that his position was awfully precarious.

Alas, he didn’t have many cards up his sleeve in the court. Li Qiye was his only ace.

The problem was - Li Qiye was too unfathomable. He couldn't control this card. Once played, he had no idea what would happen.

Thus, he had a different opinion compared to his little brother. The latter thought that his future would be ruined so the guy was doing everything possible to prevent this.

Meanwhile, the third prince found more confidence after seeing the support of the young cultivators present.

### **Chapter 3789: Desperate**

The third prince stepped forward, still looking imposing. This was the temperament of someone who had experienced numerous battlefields.

"National Teacher, if eliminating villains and traitors is a crime, then I am guilty. Someone like him deserves to be persecuted by all members of the holy ground. To have this shameless vermin in our dynasty is disgraceful, let alone leaving him to be our saber messenger." The prince said with righteousness and powerful rhetoric: "I am a member of the royal clan so I have the responsibility to protect justice and order for the dynasty. I don't care if I have to sacrifice my life in exchange for the lights to return to Vajra..."

The speech meant to arouse the crowd. Each word was spoken with conviction and oomph as if he was the guardian of Vajra, ready to sacrifice his life to maintain order and justice.

The youths heard his devotion to righteousness and became emotional, having nothing but admiration for him.

"The third prince is an essential pillar of the dynasty." One youth said loudly: "The dynasty is lucky to have someone like him."

"Buddha Holy Ground requires this type of wise ruler. We must protect him and prosecute the actual criminal, Li Qiye!" Another young expert shouted.

"Protect the prince for the sake of justice, kill Li Qiye to eliminate evil!"

"Protect the prince for the sake of justice, kill Li Qiye to eliminate evil!"

A furor erupted in no time at all. This was indicative of the prince's popularity in the holy ground. Many sects and powers have chosen to support him.

Ultimately, he wasn't the rightful heir to the throne in terms of seniority. Thus, if they could actually get him there, they would be remembered for their contribution. They would then become notable clans like the Li and Zhang.

Moreover, he was a capable talent as well and should be able to lead Vajra towards prosperity.

The third prince maintained a nonchalant expression but was actually celebrating inside.

"Your Highness, conduct yourself with dignity. It is not too late to follow me back to the palace for your detention." Ye Mingshi was unmoved.

Alas, the prince saw the passionate crowd and thought that this was his only chance.

“National Teacher, I will follow you back but not now. Wait until I kill Li Qiye. I will bear all the responsibilities alone if Father wants an answer. We cannot allow someone like him to exist in Vajra.” The prince powerfully asserted.

“The prince is innocent! Li Qiye deserves death!” His supporters cried out again.

“Fine, you will bear the consequences of your action.” Ye Mingshi glanced at him and said.

He took several steps backward and commanded: “War Camp, withdraw!”

The prince wanted to go all the way against Li Qiye but this wasn’t the case for the cavalry. This legion had absolute loyalty towards Vajra and the king.

Some generals and even commanders in the legion supported the third prince along with the soldiers. However, above all else, they would still obey the king.

War Camp was a cornerstone of the dynasty while Archaic Sun was the current king. If they didn’t follow the king’s order, it would be quite detrimental to Vajra’s authority.

Therefore, the group that had fully surrounded Li Qiye quietly retreated to the side. They wanted to support the third prince but this would be going against the king - a crime worthy of clan extermination.

Only the third prince was left, standing face to face against Li Qiye.

“Death cannot deter me from fighting for Vajra!” The prince proclaimed in a heroic manner. He looked as if he was facing a great army all alone - truly a romantic picture.

“A hero of Vajra.” Many youths gave him a thumbs-up after seeing this.

“Idiot, you don’t even realize that your old geezer tried to save you. I’ll lend you a hand since you want to die.” Li Qiye chuckled after seeing this.

“How dare you disrespect Father? I will cut you to pieces!” The prince shouted.

The crowd exchanged glances and smiled wryly. Though Li Qiye was the saber messenger of Vajra, calling the Archaic Sun King “old geezer” was too disrespectful to both the king and the dynasty.

“Seems like you don’t realize that it’ll take zero effort for me to kill you.” Li Qiye said.

The spectators watched in silence, already smelling a stench of blood in the air after the nonchalant comment.

They disliked Li Qiye for his arrogance but still admitted that he was capable. After all, he had killed Zhang Yunzhi and Li Xiangquan before.

The prince was versed in military strategy and his cultivation was decent as well. However, it wasn’t easy to gauge him against the five heroes of Duality.

Those who were close to him thought that he was on the same level or even stronger than the five.

However, the majority thought the opposite. After all, he spent his time worrying about politics and war, not cultivation. That’s why they didn’t have high hopes for him in this one-on-one fight and thought that it would be a heroic sacrifice.

The third prince turned red after being shown such disdain by Li Qiye. He bellowed: "Li, I will take you down for Vajra's sake even if it's the last thing I do!"

"One or two moves, that's all it'll take." Li Qiye smiled.

The prince's complexion turned redder since he was humiliated by Li Qiye's contempt.

No one else refuted Li Qiye because he had always kept his words.

"And if I join?" A cold voice sounded - strong and penetrating.

Everyone looked back and saw an armored youth strutting confidently closer.

"Hu Ben of Vajra." Others were surprised to see him.

"Yes, Vajra needs him right now to uphold justice." One young expert raised his voice, clearly trying to mock the national teacher.

Under these circumstances, the teacher rather sided with a traitor rather than the third prince. This was akin to aiding evil instead of justice. Now, Hu Ben came and finally did the right thing.

Ye Mingshi ignored this comment and seemed to be deep in thought.

"Hu Ben is another pillar of Vajra." Discussions sprung up among the spectators.

"Right, he was the first one to fight Righteous Scion to protect the holy ground's prestige. He's not afraid of authority today either and is willing to take the risk, how rare." One youth said with admiration.

"Li Qiye is just a shameless scum in comparison, hmph." Another snorted: "When the holy ground requires help, he doesn't stand up against the scion. In fact, he's colluding with them to steal our resources."

### **Chapter 3790: Who's The Hero?**

Hu Ben's support for the third prince earned him adulation and respect. They thought that he was a crucial pillar of the holy ground.

This was understandable due to his fight against the scion. He led the vanguard and took charge when no one else did.

Though he lost, it was an honorable defeat and actually heightened his status. Today, his choice might offend Archaic Sun King - something potentially detrimental to his own wellbeing. Nonetheless, he did so without any hesitation while thinking of the bigger picture.

Conversely, Li Qiye didn't do anything to oppose the scion nor lend an inch of his strength for the holy ground. Worst of all, he conspired with Xu Cuimei, a disciple from Righteous, to steal Dhyana Dao Lord's statue.

The experts here reviled him for his conduct and didn't hide their distaste.

Of course, Li Qiye ignored their comments and showed zero emotion on his face.

He glanced at Hu Ben and smiled: "Come together. Two or three moves if I'm feeling nice, just one if otherwise."

"What, one move?!" The crowd clamored in response.

"Li, you're too arrogant! Who do you think you are? The ultimate cultivator in history?" Another couldn't help but shout.

"Too much bravado." Someone else said.

Everyone knew that Li Qiye's methods were out of this world but needing just one move to defeat his two foes was still hard to believe.

Just the third prince alone - sure, definitely possible. On the other hand, to do so against Hu Ben seemed rather implausible because they had seen Hu Ben in action back at Smoke-fire Fortress.

"Does he think he is Righteous Scion? This is way over the top." One youth snorted.

"Even the scion might not be able to beat Hu Ben with just one move. Everyone saw that previous battle, right?" Another chimed in.

Meanwhile, Hu Ben had an ugly expression - a usual occurrence for those tasting Li Qiye's contempt.

"I see." He laughed from being too angry and said: "Everyone says our holy ground is full of hidden masters, well, I can't wait to see the true dragons and white tigers today. Which will be able to defeat me so fast?"

He had fought against the top dog of the young generation and gained insight into his own abilities.

Thus, not to mention one move, Li Qiye wouldn't be able to defeat him within three.

"Hu Ben, teach this arrogant fool a lesson, don't let a wretch like him live in the holy ground." A fan shouted.

"That's right, this scum deserves a thousand deaths. Kill him and maintain order." Others started joining in.

Some of these youths were furious and wanted to chop Li Qiye into mincemeat.

On the other hand, Xu Cuimei stood aside with a calm expression. She shook her head, thinking that these speakers were idiots.

Wei Qianqing felt worried for Li Qiye. This happened because of her and now he was against the entire dynasty. She thought that this might end with Li Qiye's death, and it would be a gruesome one.

"Looks like quite a few of you want me to die." Li Qiye smiled amusingly and beckoned the aggressive crowd: "Come now, show me your determination and ability."

He had no issue with challenging the entire holy ground in a haughty and carefree manner.

The crowd exchanged glances. No one really wanted to step up to face Li Qiye. Of course, they had no problem running their mouth enthusiastically but to actually step on the stage?

Li Qiye had insane schemes and methods. Moreover, the holy ground had other talents such as Hu Ben. It wasn't their turn to worry anyway.

"Pah! It is disgraceful for Vajra to have a degenerate like him as part of the court." One of them said with disdain.

These cultivators knew perfectly what to say to match the situation. But to tell them to fight to the death over justice? That's impossible since their personal benefits haven't been negatively impacted. This was Vajra's personal issue; they didn't need to risk their lives.

"So this is what people mean when they say the holy ground is full of hidden dragons and crouching tigers. They forgot to add one last part, turtles hiding in their shell." Li Qiye laughed and said: "No wonder why Righteous Scion looks down on you bunch, capable tongues yet shaky hands."

The crowd glared angrily at Li Qiye with fire in their eyes, wanting to incinerate him into ashes. Of course, the glares were fully ineffective.

"If you wish to challenge all the heroes in the holy ground, I will work together with Brother Hu Ben to see your wondrous techniques, yes?" A cold voice uttered.

This newcomer came with auspicious energy and a flashing figure. He looked to be an ethereal spirit without physical form.

"Phantom Sacred Child!" Everyone recognized this youth.

Now, the other side looked quite impressive with the third prince, Hu Ben, and Phantom.

"Hmph, even Phantom Sacred Child has lost his patience because of this Li's arrogance. He needs to be taught a lesson." One member of Divine Ghost Division scowled.

"Phantom Sacred Child is known for his friendly temperament and patience, he's only doing this because Li Qiye is unbearable." A young genius remarked.

Some experts started wondering. Phantom was nowhere to be found against the scion yet he showed up to fight Li Qiye?

Nonetheless, the older ones expected this. Li Qiye's arrogance was one thing but Phantom always had a good relationship with the third prince. The latter seemed to be the main reason for his appearance.

"So Divine Ghost Division has chosen Third Brother." The crown prince sighed while watching from a distance.

He tried to befriend Phantom several times in order to build a relationship with Divine Ghost Division. However, Phantom remained cordial but unmoved.

There have been rumors of them supporting the third prince but they have never expressed their stance.

In the key moment today where the third prince was branded as an offender, Phantom still came to support him. This made everything apparent.

"The three of us against you, how about it?" Hu Ben spoke.

“Till death!” The third prince added, not wanting Li Qiye to leave this place alive.