

Emperor 3831

### Chapter 3831: The Black Water

As the two girls chatted with the old servant, Li Qiye had his eyes closed, seemingly asleep. The girls didn't dare to bother Li Qiye despite being overwhelmed with curiosity.

He eventually opened his eyes after a while.

"What were you doing, Young Master?" Yang Ling asked. She naturally didn't think that he was sleeping while standing.

"I was listening." He smiled.

"Listen to what? The tides?" Yang Ling stared at the black ocean.

"No, to the screams." He replied.

She was creeped out by this response and took one step backward while staring at the ocean: "Don't scare me, Young Master, I don't hear any screaming."

Nonetheless, she started focusing but still didn't hear anything outside of the winds and waves.

"You're being serious?" She regained her wits and asked. There was no reason for Li Qiye to lie to her.

"You can't hear them." The old man said and stopped her from trying again: "Your cultivation isn't enough so don't bother."

She took a deep breath after the confirmation.

The old man gazed deeper into the ocean and elaborated: "Don't be surprised. Numerous experts have died there including supremes and dao lords. The powerful souls are still lingering, whispering and wailing..."

Both Fan Bai and Yang Ling became afraid.

"Well, what are you hearing right now, Senior?" Yang Ling inquired.

"My mind is calm so I don't hear anything currently. But when I was in there, I heard something I shouldn't have." The old man revealed with a solemn expression.

"What do you mean?" Fan Bai asked.

The old man fell into rumination. He was a survivor of this ocean and never told people about his unforgettable experience.

"The voice of a dao lord." He sighed and spoke after a while.

"A dao lord? Which one?" Yang Ling was surprised.

"Scarlet Moon Dao Lord." Li Qiye answered instead.

Yang Ling took a deep breath. This title had a special significance in the present day.

“Senior Sister Xiaoyue’s ancestor with a tragic end.” Yang Ling murmured. There were rumors regarding the fate of this dao lord but she didn’t know about the little details.

“Right here in Black Tides. Losing and dying as a result.” Li Qiye said flatly.

The nonchalant comment still took her like a storm. Just think about it, an invincible dao lord actually losing and dying? Those who witnessed it in person would certainly be traumatized for life.

“How did it go down?” Yang Ling calmed down and asked.

The old man shook his head and refrained from speaking. The future descendants didn’t have a clear idea of this dao lord’s untimely demise.

“Fortunes and creations were stolen.” Li Qiye said vaguely.

Yang Ling was trembling as she stared at the ocean - the grave of a dao lord.

“Young Master, you can hear the last words of the doalord?” She eventually asked.

“No, and I’m not trying to either.” He shook his head.

“Then what are you listening to?” She inquired.

“The sounds of Black Tides.” He revealed.

“What do you mean?” She only heard the winds and waves splashing onto the shore.

“The moanings of something on its last legs.” He smirked.

She had spent enough time with him to, more or less, understand what each smile implied. However, this one was indecipherable. Was he making fun of it? Or something else entirely? Nonetheless, she could feel a murderous intent from him.

“Black Tides will die? I thought that it is very scary.” Yang Ling found this hard to believe.

The seven forbidden zones were the most terrifying areas in Eight Desolaces. One of them was about to go down?

“There are various reasons but death is inevitable.” He said.

“I can’t believe this thing is alive.” She said.

“What do you think this is?” He nodded his head towards the waves below.

“Just ocean water.” She responded: “What else can it be?”

“Blood.” He answered succinctly.

This time, even the old man became startled, let alone the two girls.

“This is blood?” The old man took a deep breath.

“No-no way...” Yang Ling stared at the massive tides in disbelief. Alas, she believed him, unlike her words.

The old man didn't dare to think about this because the hidden answer behind this would be horrifying. What happened here? Whose blood was it?

This exceeded the two girls' imagination. Something's blood made up this boundless ocean?

"It'll end soon." Li Qiye smiled coldly.

This expression of his signaled to the rest that something serious was about to happen.

They stared quietly while standing on this floating platform meant for observation. It was large enough to accommodate a thousand people or so.

There were other cultivators watching as well. The first-timers felt the same astonishment.

However, a group of soldiers came and drove them away. They had the same uniform made of expensive material. It was obvious that they were from a great clan.

"Gentlemen, sorry for the inconvenience but this place is closing soon." The leader told the spectators.

His polite words didn't mean that he was weak. The members of his troops all had a fierce aura.

That's why the listeners knew that there was no room for negotiation. They needed to listen in spite of his polite tone.

### **Chapter 3832: The Biandu**

Some spectators naturally became annoyed at the unexpected interruption. The outsiders were particularly vexed because they had traveled so far to get to Black Wood. Moreover, no one weak would be able to make this journey.

Thus, these prideful cultivators didn't want to acquiesce without a fight.

Nonetheless, the locals immediately saw the insignia on the soldiers and played nice.

"What is the Biandu doing?" One of them asked. [1]

The leader explained: "Our clan isn't trying to be unreasonable here, it's just that our young lord wishes to watch the tides for his dao session. In order to be absolutely safe, we have no choice but to do this. Please excuse us and we'll make it up to you in the future, Fellow Daoists."

"Your young lord is out of his isolated cultivation?" The locals were surprised.

The leader nodded: "Yes, he felt a resonance with Black Tides so he wants to observe the water."

With that, many started leaving for two reasons. One, they were intimidated by the Biandu's power. Second, they respected this young lord. Plus, this clan's attitude wasn't bad either.

Biandu was a prestigious clan in this region. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that they were at the top.

From Black Wood City to the shores, the scattered villages to the mountains and forests - these places were under the Biandu's jurisdiction.

Thus, the locals were rather apprehensive when dealing with this clan. As for the outsiders, one guy was bold enough to protest: "I don't see your name written on this platform, why are you kicking us out?"

The leader didn't become angry but his tone became colder: "Once again, our clan apologizes for this offense. Our young lord wants to watch the tides for the greater good and here, we are also responsible for maintaining the peace. This is official business."

He was stern enough to let the outsiders know that this decision was final.

"Let's go." The outsiders were annoyed but have heard about this clan before. This wasn't their home court so it was best to avoid a direct confrontation.

The majority just complained and mumbled before leaving.

"The Biandu, hmm, the famous clan that has served the dao lords for generations?" Yang Ling was listening.

"Yes." The old man nodded: "The one and only Biandu in the holy ground. They're the lords of this region."

"I see." She murmured: "They're quite prestigious then, being affiliated with the dao lords."

Though Black Wood Cliff was far removed from the core of the holy ground, the Biandu was still quite famous. Yang Ling, who has never visited Black Wood, still heard of them before.

This clan was ancient, older than most clans and even Vajra Dynasty.

Rumor has it that their progenitor used to be a top general under Buddha Dao Lord. He had commendable services during battles across Eight Desolaces.

During the dao lord's expedition against Black Tides, this progenitor also showed his worth. Afterward, he and his followers occupied Black Wood Cliff to watch over the black ocean. From then on, the Biandu Clan became the leader of the region.

"Serving the dao lords for generations is a bit much to describe the circumstances." The old man smiled: "But yes, whenever the dao lords attacked Black Tides, the Biandu always served as the vanguard. They know Black Tides very well."

Thus, due to their contribution, even Vajra had no jurisdiction over them despite being the current representative of Sacred Mountain. They could refuse any direct order from Vajra. Only Sacred Mountain in all of the holy ground could command them.

By this point, the experts from this clan made it to Li Qiye's group. The leader cupped his fist and sternly said: "Ladies and gentlemen, please come back another day. Our young lord will be watching the tides for a dao session."

Those who refused the polite request have been forcefully removed. The Biandu was strong enough to do so because of their rich history and roots in the land.

Yang Ling frowned slightly. She wasn't afraid because Li Qiye was around. As long as he gave the command, she would oppose them too.

“Let’s go.” Li Qiye smiled and left. The group hurriedly followed him.

“Thank you for your cooperation.” The leader expressed his gratitude as the group was leaving.

“I heard that Senior Sister Wei Qianqing’s legion is right here. So who is actually in charge?” Yang Ling asked after they got far enough away.

“Vajra’s legion is only here to keep an eye out for Black Tides. It doesn’t interfere with Black Wood Cliff.” The old man said.

Yang Ling understood right away since she was familiar with the court and politics. Vajra might have troops here but the Biandu was still in charge of everything.

Of course, Vajra coveted this position for several reasons. Unfortunately, the Biandu was just too prestigious and had an unshakable foundation at Black Wood Cliff.

Most importantly, they focused on one mission - protecting the cliff. Thus, Vajra had no reason to oppose them.

The group headed for the main city after leaving the observation platform. Black Wood City wasn’t inferior to the great cities found in Buddha Emperor Plateau.

The walls reached the clouds; one could feel a wondrous militaristic aura from a distance.

Inside were countless pavilions and buildings along with large streets. The area was lively with a high population. At night time, the lamps brightly lit the street, creating a never-rest city. People and carriages packed the area.

Its prosperity seemed out of place since this was located at the border. A visitor would start wondering if they had gotten lost somehow.

One could see cultivators from all over the world too, even the rare barbarians from the east.

These men rarely showed themselves in Buddha Emperor Plateau but came here quite often. Some came for business, others wanted to broaden their horizon.

“I can’t believe how bustling it is.” Yang Ling was amazed after entering. She assumed that it would just be a small town by the border.

“Black Wood Cliff City spans for ten million miles, reaching the eastern kingdoms as well. The only problem here is Black Tides but it doesn’t come too often. That’s why the citizens enjoy peace and prosperity. Biandu has done a commendable job governing the city.” The old man explained.

### **Chapter 3833: Saber And Heart**

The group picked an inn near the coastline as their temporary abode. Yang Ling and Fan Bai busily went to set up the rooms. Only the old man stayed behind with Li Qiye.

The latter sat by the window to stare at the ocean in silence. The old man did the same.

“You have something to say?” A while later, Li Qiye stopped looking and asked.

“Young Master, you came specifically for Black Tides?” The old man chose his words carefully.

Ever since the beginning of his arrival in the south, Li Qiye's goal had nothing to do with the holy ground or Sacred Mountain. Not something as insignificant as Vajra Dynasty either.

He had his focus set on Black Tides. Others simply didn't know and assumed that he had other plans.

"Correct." Li Qiye looked out the window again; his eyes became quite profound.

What existence would aim for Black Tides directly in this manner? The old man had a hard time gauging Li Qiye's actual potential.

"You'll leave the holy ground soon too?" He then glanced at the ring wrapped around Li Qiye's finger.

Regardless of Li Qiye's status at the holy ground, he was still only a passerby. Nothing in Eight Desolaces or any other place or people would be able to hold him back.

"Can't stop worrying about the land?" Li Qiye chuckled.

"Yes, I mean, I can be considered as half a member of the holy ground. What about you, Young Master? Do you worry about anything?" He smiled and asked.

Li Qiye didn't answer right away. He seemed to be focusing on understanding the recent eras. A while later, he quietly sighed and said: "Worries? I can't remember."

This nonchalant answer had special significance when coming from Li Qiye. The experienced old man could speculate the information contained within.

As Li Qiye said these few words, each second seemed to be lasting an eternity. His eyes seemed to be looking at millions of years in the past or millions of years in the future. The long trek of time blurred everything.

"Time changes too many things." Li Qiye eventually added.

"But it doesn't change your goal, which is why you're here." The old man said sincerely.

"That's the dao heart." Li Qiye replied.

The old man nodded, aware that Li Qiye's immovable dao heart was special.

"What is it that you want to say?" Li Qiye said.

The old man took a deep breath and mustered his courage to ask: "I wish to follow you, Young Master."

He became anxious after revealing his thoughts. He was a top master who had dominated before. The four grandmasters and supreme geniuses were nothing in his eyes. His title alone instilled fear into the listeners.

Alas, the battle-hardened man became nervous, akin to a junior waiting for his senior's guidance.

"I can see why since the dao is so long." Li Qiye said.

"Yes, the world is larger than my imagination. That's why I wish to be your follower and gain more knowledge." The old man nodded.

“That won’t change anything. There are benefits, sure, when following me. But, you would lose your original pursuit.”

“My original pursuit?” The old man murmured.

“When you started your dao journey, I’m sure your blood was boiling with excitement. Alas, the arduous path weathered and grind down everything you had. What did you want at the start?” Li Qiye elaborated.

The old man seemed to be in a daze. It took a while before he solemnly answered: “My heart goes where my saber points, always cutting a path forward.”

“Indeed, that is your original pursuit. Would you still have it if you follow me?” Li Qiye asked: “I’m afraid that when you truly reflect on this, you won’t be sleeping well that night.”

A tempest emerged in the old man’s mind as he fell into remembrance regarding his past. He used to be so confident, believing that he could do anything as long as he wielded his saber.

This confidence allowed him to tread fearlessly forward, always keeping his head up without fear. Because of this, he became a renowned saber god.

Unfortunately, time wore him down and he began forgetting many things. His heart became filled with callus; his hot blood turned cold. Nothing was new and exciting anymore.

Li Qiye’s comment served as a reminder, breaking some of the calluses. The hot blood started flowing once more, allowing him to turn back time as if he was eighteen again.

“I will go where my saber points.” He emphasized; his eyes became bright and his aura surged once more.

“Thank you for correcting my mistake, Young Master.” He took a deep breath and bowed towards Li Qiye.

Back in Myriad Beasts Mountain, Li Qiye’s guidance improved his cultivation. Now, he remembered his original pursuit again, no longer being lost in the river of time. Thus, his fate was changed because he found himself once more.

“Remember, living beings like us have emotions and desires.” Li Qiye sighed: “But as time passes, we forget about these things, even ourselves. One day, we might become the things we hate the most.”

He paused for a bit then stared at the old man to conclude: “In history, numerous brilliant and invincible beings inadvertently lost sight of themselves. It starts with losing our humanity then our pursuit. What we desire so much loses its meaning and color and we become mere husks.”

The old man understood enough to follow the train of thoughts: “Because of this, some become angry at themselves, others stop moving forward, more fall into indulgence.”

He paused for a bit before finishing: “And then there are those who fall into the darkness.”

“Yes, let’s try to avoid that now, shall we?” Li Qiye said.

The old man sighed. Without this conversation today, perhaps he would eventually be lost on this eternal path and change completely. He would forget who he used to be.

“My dao heart is unstable.” He shuddered.

“It’s hard to criticize anyone for this. The path towards the grand dao is just too long, not all can make it to the end.” Li Qiye put it simply yet described numerous historical events.

### **Chapter 3834: Black Tides’ Changes**

The bright city’s excitement continued until midnight when silence began to rear its head. Darkness and dew took over the bustling streets.

The ocean outside was even calmer; only the crashing of the waves could be heard. Alas, something had changed in secrecy.

The sleeping Li Qiye suddenly sat up and moved over to the window, looking out at the ocean. His omniscient eyes saw things others couldn’t; his lips curled into a smile.

In reality, no one understood Black Tides more than him even though this was his first visit.

“Heightened vigilance, I see. Too bad it won’t change anything.” He murmured to himself.

No one paid attention to the ocean at night since it has always been the same for eras. This wasn’t the case tonight.

The problem was - even invincible characters had a hard time seeing the end of this ocean due to the black water.

The dao lords would see nothing but a dark expanse at the end of this ocean, unable to see five fingers in front of them.

That place seemed to be the source of darkness. All lights were absorbed there, unable to escape. Outside of the dao lords who made it to this place, no one else had a clue regarding the truth of this place.

Under the shroud of darkness tonight, a blood-red ray shot out from the depth of the ocean.

Of course, this area was extremely far from Black Wood Cliff. Mortals and cultivators didn’t notice at all.

The only exception was Li Qiye. After the first, more red rays came subsequently, slowly illuminating the ocean. They eventually spread to the surface and became visible to regular cultivators.

Some chose to stroll the coastline during the night and noticed this phenomenon. They paid it no mind at first until it became increasingly conspicuous, shining through the fog.

“Do you see that?” One spectator pointed at the ocean.

Others looked over and their astonishment grew proportionally with the red hue.

“Hmm, I’ve never heard of something like this happening before.” A local cultivator became startled.



Ever since they gained cognition, they found this ocean to always be black. This sudden change naturally surprised them.

As the red became thicker, a quiet buzz was heard clearly by everyone. The first wave of rays finally pierced through the clouds and painted the sky red.

There seemed to be a red sun rising from the ocean. Half of it could be seen now above the water.

“Do you see that?!” The spectators were horrified.

“Something’s off about Black Tides! We need to take a look now!” One expert shouted.

The juniors immediately left to wake their seniors up. The latter also did the same for their juniors. All in all, no one wanted to miss this spectacle.

A few big shots from the Biandu woke up as well.

Upon closer inspection, the sphere resembled a bloody round moon more than a sun, at least in terms of appearance. It’s because a moon wouldn’t have the scorching red rays. Thus, it should be considered a blood sun.

Eventually, the water looked like blood from the red illumination. This made it creepier than before.

The black back then was astonishing but not too frightening. This sanguine presence took it to the next level. People felt as if they could smell the stench of blood while looking at the thick liquid.

By this point, the entire group has woken up. Yang Ling and Fan Bai were afraid while the old man had a solemn expression.

“An ocean of blood?” Yang Ling gasped.

All three thought about Li Qiye’s comment before. People thought that there was a dark stone in this ocean, turning the water black. But, Li Qiye talked about the water being blood instead. His claim seemed rather accurate at this point.

“What the hell is happening?” The locals have never seen anything like this before.

“Yes, I never saw this during my 6,000 years.” An old cultivator murmured.

“Is this a sign of the water receding?” The big shots in the Biandu Clan became anxious.

Their clan has been next to Black Tides for eras and knew more about this place than most. Alas, this phenomenon still scared them.

“No, this isn’t a sign.” One old ancestor revealed: “I remember the previous tide recession, I was only ten then but it’s as clear as if it was just yesterday. This didn’t happen.”

“Yes, this isn’t in the records either.” A different ancestor agreed.

The other experts exchanged glances after hearing this.

“Then what is happening with Black Tides?” One of them took a deep breath. Even their clan couldn’t come up with an explanation.

As everyone was confused about the development, a loud blast came from the depth of the ocean. The floating sun instantly released a terrible power with a corrosive nature. Nothing could resist its might.

Fortunately, Black Wood was far enough from the end of the ocean to not be affected. Nonetheless, a tsunami took form, revealing the ocean's seafloor. Numerous shadows started moving in the next second.

Due to the great distance, the powerful ancestors at the cliff couldn't see them very well.

Alas, these shadows released frightening auras, akin to imprisoned devil kings in hell being released, ready to enter the mortal world.

"Rumble!" Their powers resulted in continuous detonations.

### **Chapter 3835: Dao Lords' Suppression**

The coming of the devil kings horrified the spectators. Some of these beings were unreasonably mighty, superior to the gods above the nine firmaments.

All living beings were mere ants. This was the case for supreme-level characters as well. Their auras permeated across the massive ocean.

Just a few remnant strands making it this far to the cliff were too much for people to take. Their legs trembled as they turned pale.

The ancestors thought that they would be nothing more than insects. The horde of devils would instantly obliterate them.

This was the case for the upper echelon of the Biandu as well. As guardians of the region for eras, there were times when the ocean gave them certain benefits such as treasures. However, this event was unprecedented. There was nothing similar in their historical scrolls.

One ancestor thought that maybe they knew nothing about Black Tides besides the bare minimum.

"Is the world about to turn into hell?" Another ancestor shuddered.

If this horde were to reach the holy ground, the consequence would be unimaginable.

"Amitabha." A chant suddenly came from the depth as well.

It echoed and suppressed everything. Even those back in Black Wood could hear it.

"Boom!" A massive Buddhist palm descended from the black sky and swept away the clouds. Its radiance illuminated the entire holy ground.

A swastika was engraved in the palm. This seal was the source of the light and its targets were the devil kings.

"Buddha Dao Lord!" Everyone thought of this dao lord right away after seeing the palm.

"Clank!" An ebony sword slash quelled the chaos and severed the six dao. The surging ocean was subdued by this slash since it contained an indomitable will.

Righteousness will always prevail! This slash was the embodiment of this dao lord's intent.

"Righteous Dao Lord!" A few big shots shouted.

People still sensed the dao lord's intent despite being so far away. They started kneeling with haste.

A finger appeared next, giving birth to a lotus flower. Another Buddhist chant sounded to bring peace to the ages. Its light could enlighten all living beings and chase the darkness away. It attempted to convert the devil kings at the bottom of the ocean.

This process encompassed serenity and gentleness. The crowd was soothed as well; their mind became stronger.

"Dhyana Dao Lord!" Everyone recognized the user of this technique.

They didn't have time to calm down because a vajra manifested for an onslaught. The ocean bed had cracks everywhere. Numerous devils were reduced to dust.

All were insects before the devils. Well, they were worms before this wondrous vajra. The destruction spanned across the entire southern West King.

No one thought they had a chance of surviving when facing this vajra.

"Vajra Dao Lord!" They shouted. This was too obvious.

The techniques of these dao lords began ravaging the ocean's depth to the crowd's astonishment.

The blood sun seemed to be furious and gathered its power. The water of the ocean was lifted up and blotted out the sky, acting like a barrier. This concealed the scene and no one could see any more.

Occasionally, certain beams and rays would shoot out of the barrier. The spectators could sense the apocalyptic attacks happening there.

"The dao lords are still with us in this world?" One young cultivator asked.

"Of course not." A senior shook his head: "These are only techniques left behind to suppress Black Tides."

"This might be the reason for the wise sages' expeditions." One ancestor said: "They left behind these ace cards in the depth so that this ocean would be suppressed for eras. It's meant for our protection."

The spectators became emotional. They could see the struggle and love from their ancestors.

Prior to this, the goals of the expeditions weren't clear. Now, the dao lords simply wanted to protect the descendants.

"Rumble!" Eventually, the surging water returned to the ocean floor. The surface rippled and splashed violently for quite a bit before calming down.

Black Tides looked the same as before. The waves and fog were there; the red sun was no longer in sight along with the devil kings and the dao lords' techniques.

Of course, people knew that they weren't just seeing a mirage or an illusion. All of this really happened.

## Chapter 3836: Incoming Disaster

The phenomenon at Black Tides came and went without warning, forever leaving an impression on the crowd. Some were completely immersed in the experience while others were worried, especially the big shots from the last generation.

“The tidal recession is coming early?” One expert wondered.

In the past, most would dismiss this statement as being ridiculous. It hasn’t been that long since the previous event.

Alas, after tonight, everything seemed possible with this black ocean. This worried the older characters.

Some had personally experienced these attacks before. Just one mistake or misstep would result in an unimaginable disaster.

“Who will be able to stop it this time?” A big shot murmured.

The first name that came up in their mind was Buddha Supreme. Unfortunately, the supreme hasn’t shown himself since the last event. Perhaps only a few had the privilege of seeing him in person.

“Is Buddha Supreme still around?” One ancestor asked.

Due to his disappearance, some thought that he had retired in Sacred Mountain. Others thought that he was dead due to his old age or injuries succumbed during the battles at Black Tides.

Thus, it was difficult to find another capable of shouldering this responsibility.

Nonetheless, some remained optimistic. One said: “This might not be bad because the recession gives plenty of opportunities. If we find a top fortune, our life will change forever.”

“True, I’ll go and take a look, there’ll be good stuff there for sure.” AN expert agreed.

The neutral parties had different views regarding this event. Alas, the Biandu had nothing but pessimism.

Their ancestors convened for a conference lasting the entire night.

“Anyone has an opinion on this?” One of them started.

The others exchanged glances. No one had a definite conclusion.

“A tidal recession is absolutely coming, it’s inevitable.” An erudite historian among them replied.

“Remember, General Wei has brought this up as well.” A different ancestor said.

General Wei here was none other than Wei Qianqing. She had brought up this issue with them but they didn’t believe her due to their own knowledge of Black Tides.

“What should we do in preparation?” Another asked.

The group immediately thought about Buddha Supreme and Sacred Mountain. Though their clan has been in charge of Black Wood Cliff for millions of years, they were still under Sacred Mountain’s jurisdiction.

“We need to report this to Sacred Mountain first.” A high-ranking ancestor said.

“Hmm, what about the supreme? He hasn’t appeared in public since the previous battle.” One ancestor said.

No one responded since this was a sensitive issue. The majority thought that he was no longer in this world. Alas, no one dared to say anything before an official announcement from Sacred Mountain.

This was the case for the Vajra Dynasty as well. Most officials believed that the supreme had died. Nonetheless, the royal clan wasn’t in a position to make this public.

“Well, in the case of a recession, it’s not looking optimistic even if Buddha Supreme himself comes. He needs help.” The historian said gravely.

The atmosphere became heavy right away. Buddha Supreme couldn’t stop the monsters back then until he had the help of Righteous Supreme and Eight Stallion Dao Lord. The trio then lasted long enough for the tides to return.

“The dao lord is definitely no longer here.” The historian continued: “I believe Righteous Supreme is available but without the dao lord, he alone...” He sighed without finishing.

“Should we ask our ancient ancestor for guidance?” One of them said.

Their clan was strong with a deep history. They still had one living ancient ancestor.

“If the cliff goes down, so will our clan.” All of them understood the existential nature of this crisis.

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As the Biandu was trying to come up with a plan, there was another sect at a different location in Black Wood - Seer Watch.

A timeworn seer in this sect was observing the stars instead of the black ocean. His soul seemed to be taken by the dark night.

After a while, he regained his wits and said: “We shall commence the heaven observance ceremony tomorrow.”

This command shocked both the disciples and ancestors of this sect.

“Why so sudden? We haven’t prepared anything for it.” Another old seer became startled.

This ceremony was of utmost importance to their sect. It required perfect preparation to avoid any mistakes.

“The Grand Seer is personally presiding over it.” The messenger said.

He and the ancestors nearby took a deep breath after hearing this.

“I see, a major event is unfolding.” The old seer and the disciples hurriedly went to prepare.

This seemed to be a special occasion because normally, the Grand Seer didn’t show up to these ceremonies.

“Ancestor, may I ask why we are suddenly doing this?” A follower of the Grand Seer couldn’t help but ask.

The Grand Seer paused for a bit before revealing: “The son of heaven is coming.”

“The son of heaven? Archaic Sun King from Vajra?” The follower was surprised.

In the holy ground, Archaic Sun King was the most suitable one to have this title. But no, this wasn’t right because his ancestor wouldn’t address the Archaic Sun King in this manner.

“Are you referring to a heavenly genius?” The follower asked again.

“That’s one way to put it.” The Grand Seer glanced at him and said.

“Hmm...” The follower couldn’t imagine a genius capable of capturing their Grand Seer’s attention. After all, he was an amazing existence.

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Back at the inn, Yang Ling watched the entire thing and became worried: “Will the monsters come out tomorrow?”

“Sleep, the sky won’t fall down.” Li Qiye replied and went to bed.

She thought about it and agreed. The young master was here so no need to waste her time thinking about these things.

### **Chapter 3837: Seer Watch**

On the second day, it became known that the Seer Watch would start a heaven observance ceremony.

This caused quite a stir because no one expected this. This sect had a history as deep as the Biandu in Black Wood Cliff. In fact, some believed that it has been around for even longer than the holy ground.

However, this sect didn’t have as much authority and power as the Biandu. To a certain extent, it served as a religious symbol for the regional inhabitants.

It only had a single peak and lacked properties. It survived with the help and offerings of its followers.

Nonetheless, it was arguably more influential than the Biandu, especially when taking the wild kingdoms and the holy ground into account.

Its main focus was astrology and divination, not cultivation. Rumor has it that its root could be traced back to a seering clan back in the ancient era. The majority of its members were heart ghosts. This particular race had a unique advantage when it came to divination.

In this region and even the eight kingdoms, everyone knew how important this ceremony was. It included reading the future and the overarching momentum of the world.

Thus, many sects and experts would come to watch the ceremony. They wanted to learn more and prepare for the future.

Due to the importance of the event, the sect would usually announce the date of a ceremony quite early, usually a year or so.

Today, it chose to perform one without any warning. Both outsiders and the locals found this startling.

Only those in the city received this information fast enough. The holy ground and the eight kingdoms were too far away.

“Isn’t this too sudden? Why today?” Numerous small clans and sects became confused.

“The Grand Seer is directing it this time.” The second piece of news shocked people more than the first.

“What?!” Even the Biandu couldn’t believe it.

“What’s the implication behind this?” One ancestor asked.

“The Grand Seer has been reclusive for so many years, why is he taking charge now?” All the big shots at the cliff found this astonishing.

The Grand Seer was nothing short of a legendary character. Rumor has it that he had lived for a long time, possessing a peerless divination ability. He had predicted several important events correctly.

For example, Eight Stallion Dao Lord had the pleasure of meeting him once during his youth. The Seer then used his divination and claimed that he would become the next dao lord. Sure enough, the prophecy came true.

Another example happened with a correct guess of the next tidal recession. Because of this, Buddha Supreme came early and built a defensive line at Black Wood Cliff ahead of time. Otherwise, the damages would have been far worse.

As the Seer grew older, he made fewer appearances and stopped presiding over the ceremony. The juniors took over afterward, hence everyone’s astonishment today.

“A disaster is coming?” One big shot murmured.

They thought about what happened with Black Tides last night and felt something ominous coming.

Fortunately, the third news pertained to the reason for this ceremony - the arrival of a heavenly genius.

Many heaved a sigh of relief. They thought that this ceremony was meant to predict Black Tides’ next move. This didn’t seem to be the case.

Nonetheless, this still took them by surprise.

“What kind of genius is worthy of the Grand Seer’s time?” An expert wondered.

Most found this unbelievable after thinking about it. So the coming of this genius was even more significant than a potential tidal recession?

“Don’t tell me... the Grand Seer is trying to predict the next dao lord just like he did for Eight Stallion Dao Lord.” An ancestor boldly speculated.

What else could be more significant than seeing the world's future or Black Tides' next move? Perhaps only the future dao lord.

"Which youth is it? Who will be considered the heaven's favorite?" A big shot calmly said.

Currently, the locals immediately thought of someone famous in their region - the young lord of the Biandu with the title of Three Slashes.

"Three Slashes' grand dao is finished, he should be peerless even when compared to the ones in the holy ground. If we're strictly talking about Black Wood, it has to be him." An important character predicted.

"You're right if we're limiting it to our region. But, the Wild Child of the East and the young lord of Righteous Sect are both brilliant." An ancestor shook his head.

Because Black Wood was located at the border, it was always late in receiving the newest information from the mainland. The locals had no idea about recent events.

"Let's go take a look." Many came to the Seer Watch in order to witness the ceremony.

"What if I'm fortunate enough to be chosen as the heavenly genius? Doesn't that mean my potential is limitless?" One talented youth started fantasizing. His peers also did the same.

They all knew that their talents and background didn't matter. Whoever was chosen by the Grand Seer would become the jewel of their sect and clan.

That's why the youths rushed over, as excited as can be.

"Young Master, rumor has it that this ceremony is extremely magical. Let's go see what this Grand Seer will say." Yang Ling couldn't wait to see the mysterious event.

"The Grand Seer is extraordinary, he is gifted at astrology. Many big shots want to ask him for help only to be refused." The old servant nodded his head.

"A descendant of the Heaven Calculating Clan?" Li Qiye smiled and said: "Sure, why not?"

He naturally knew about the Heart Ghost Tribe along with the Heaven Calculating Clan. The latter, in particular, had a special connection to Li Qiye.

Others believed that this clan was no longer around.

### **Chapter 3838: Gathering**

Two peaks towered in this region, one to the east and one to the west. The entire city was built around these two, making them stand out even more.

The eastern one belonged to Seer Watch, thus its name became Seer Peak. The westward one had a different owner back then until the Biandu took over and it became theirs.

Normally, Seer Peak was open to the public. Thus, some came to offer their respect, light an incense, or just sightsee. Of course, this number was limited.



This wasn't the case today since the peak was packed from top to bottom. The stone steps were facing immense pressure. This normally only happened during an official ceremony.

Today was even worse because the Grand Seer himself was in charge. Regardless of their own schedule, people still came to see him. Both the sky and the ground were packed with cultivators, chariots, and mounts...

Due to the density of the crowd, the weaker cultivators were dripping with sweat. Once Li Qiye's group got there, there was almost nowhere to go.

However, the old servant took charge and led the way. The crowd was somehow pushed away and made a path for the group. They themselves had no idea what happened.

Thus, the group had a great position on top of the peak. Of course, his action wasn't that imperious.

A few famous clans directly pushed people out of the way. Once they got to the top, they forced the early-comers to give up the good spots.

Alas, due to their power, the slighted victims didn't dare to do anything.

Ahead, a young lord led a group forward. He had scorching flames around his body, making it uncomfortable for those near him.

The experts from his clan in front also did the same, resulting in sizzling noises in the air. They even melted the rocks and stones beneath, intimidating the crowd in the process. Just like that, this group easily got a great position.

"The Tuhuo..." Others knew who they were right away. [1]

They were considered a powerful clan in Black Wood Cliff. Some believed that they were at the next tier below the Biandu.

"Does that young lord want to be the heavenly genius too?" One expert murmured.

"It's not his turn." Another snorted: "In our region, it has to be Three Slashes." [2]

"Can't argue with that." His friends nodded.

The reason why the young lord of the Biandu had the title of Three Slashes was due to a rumor - no one could withstand more than three moves of his.

"Don't forget about the Wild Child of the East. That's also a top genius who had fought Three Slashes before." Someone who has been to the eight kingdoms said.

Another from Righteous Sect interjected: "There's also the supreme Righteous Scion too. He beat the sect master at such a young age, he has to be the heavenly genius."

"Our holy ground has plenty of geniuses too. Let's not bring up the mysterious Sacred Mountain, Duality Academy alone has numerous, especially their First Sister, Dugu Lan." A youth from Buddha Emperor Plateau couldn't help butting in.

After all, being chosen by the Grand Seer was a great honor. Everyone wanted a member of their sect to be appointed.

“Well, there’s a new talent recently named Li Qiye. He defeated Li Xiangquan and others from the academy, his potential is immense.” Another expert brought this up.

All in all, people had a great time talking about this topic.

“Dang, they have no idea what’s going on.” Li Qiye didn’t care about these conversations but Yang Ling listened to all of them.

She thought that their information was limited to the period when Li Qiye defeated Li Xiangquan and Zhang Yunzhi.

“This place is too far from Buddha Emperor Plateau and even farther than Righteous Sect. It takes a long time for people to come here, hence the lack of on-time intelligence.” The old servant replied.

He personally drove the carriage so the group traveled at an unbelievable speed, unlike other cultivators.

“Aren’t there dao portals here?” Yang Ling asked.

Traveling across territories required an immense amount of time. Dao portals served as a shortcut.

“Yes, Black Wood Cliff has two dao portals.” The old man nodded: “One at the Biandu and the other at the military camp. The latter is reserved for Vajra’s officials and soldiers. As for the Biandu, that portal is rarely activated.”

“Why is that?” Yang Ling asked: “A lot of cultivators from all over the south want to visit Black Wood in order to see Black Tides, the same with merchants. Opening the portal all the time should be a good source of income for the Biandu.”

Sects in possession of portals would usually charge exorbitant fees for usage. For example, the Biandu could absolutely take advantage of this due to their monopoly. That’s why most didn’t understand why they refused to take advantage of this.

The old man smiled and didn’t answer.

“Separation from the king is an advantage.” Li Qiye casually responded instead.

“Ah, they want to keep their dominion over Black Wood.” Yang Ling was smart enough to understand right away.

The Biandu purposely kept a distance from the core of the holy ground. Other great powers at the plateau wouldn’t be able to effectively travel here.

“The young lord of the Biandu is coming!” People at the base shouted.

Everyone looked down below after hearing this.

“Seems like he’s out of his cultivation session. His grand dao is probably finished.” One spectator said.

“Is he picking the path of the dao lord?” An expert became curious and stretched his neck to look down.

The base was filled with people now but they still made way. The Biandu was too influential here, perhaps to the point of having absolute authority.

The locals might not know about Vajra Dynasty or even Sacred Mountain. However, they knew of the Biandu.

Back at the holy ground, some powers here didn't give a damn about Vajra. They only served as the representative.

Here in Black Wood Cliff, everyone needed to give the Biandu face. To oppose them meant risking a sect massacre.

"The future ruler of Black Wood Cliff." One fan said with admiration while looking down.

### **Chapter 3839: Three Slashes**

Three Slashes, the young lord of the Biandu. This was obviously not his given name. However, due to his incredible skill with the saber, no one could last more than three moves against him. That's why others kept on calling him Three Slashes. They forgot his real name entirely. [1]

Three Slashes appeared before the crowd, dressed in black from top to bottom with the exception of his golden belt. His silky black hair draped down his shoulders, looking beautiful like two waterfalls.

Tall and handsome with a perfect posture, not overly muscular yet each of his lines and little details brimmed with power and vigor. They seemed to have been polished by a blade, looking sharp in a natural manner.

His saber was still in its sheath yet people could easily imagine how sharp and fierce it was. The moment it came out, it would be able to slay anyone. The saber has become a part of him. Thus, its aggressive aura influenced his own.

Because of this, people shuddered at his sight even though he didn't purposely release his aura for intimidation purposes. Just his presence alone froze others with fear and trepidation.

There were experts from the clan accompanying him. Alas, they paled while standing next to him. The crowd didn't pay attention to them at all.

"Destined for greatness since his birth. Having his own grand dao at such a young age, so peerless." One older master commented.

"Yes, a heaven's favorite." Another admitted: "He had a perfect harmony with the saber dao from the very start, seemingly born for the blade."

A clan ancestor nodded: "Putting his excellent talents aside, he's also very diligent and unyielding, having trained in Black Tides before. That's not something other geniuses can handle."

Most felt admiration towards Three Slashes while a small minority wasn't convinced. After all, they thought that his achievements and success were due to his clan. He had all the advantages growing up in the Biandu.

However, some geniuses took a deep breath after hearing about his training in Black Tides. This certainly changed the narrative.

Even the big shots from the last generation didn't want to enter, let alone train there. Nonetheless, Three Slashes actually did it and came back alive.

"His saber is obtained from Black Tides, he's definitely blessed by heaven." A knowledgeable spectator stared at the saber and praised.

"He got it from there?!" Those nearby became startled.

"Yes, rumor has it that he found it during his youth while just strolling by the shore." Another answered.

Of course, this wasn't the first time the Biandu got something good from Black Tides. Due to their deep knowledge of this ocean, they found many great things and truly benefited from it.

Others immediately came up to greet him in order to make a good impression. Three Slashes could become the future leader of the Biandu. It would be great to have a good relationship with him.

"The Grand Seer himself, I wonder who this heavenly genius will be." Three Slashes had the best position to stare at the well.

Seer Watch was built on this peak. The actual main building was obviously aged and could only accommodate a hundred people or so.

In front of it was a well made from rocks piling on top of each other. Who knows if it's from too many people taking water from there across the generations or some other reason. The initially coarse rocks were now polished and bright.

It served as the centerpiece for the divination ceremony.

"Who else but you, Young Lord, is worthy of being called a heavenly genius?" Another youth smiled and flattered in a blatant manner.

Nonetheless, it wasn't too outrageous because Three Slashes was indeed a capable genius.

Three Slashes chuckled after hearing this but eventually shook his head: "That's too much of an exaggeration, I don't dare to claim supremacy in the south, let alone the rest of the world. Both Righteous Scion and the wild child are not inferior and there are plenty of hidden experts in Eight Desolaces."

"I see, you're so insightful to see the broader picture. I'm nothing but a frog under the well." The youth earlier changed his approach right away.

His comment won him some love from the audience, especially the cultivators from Righteous Sect and the eight kingdoms. Righteous Sect naturally thought that their scion was the strongest. The eight kingdoms thought the same for the wild child.

Of course, some disagreed with him. For example, Yang Ling. She simply chose to hold her words. In her eyes, no one was a match for the young master.

As people tried to please Three Slashes, loud commotions came from the base of the peak again.

The spectators made way once more for another newcomer.

“Who is it?” People were surprised to see the special treatment that was previously enjoyed by Three Slashes.

A woman eventually made it up to the peak. She had followers as well.

Her simple outfit didn’t diminish her heroic presence. She wasn’t a supreme beauty or anything but was still quite pleasing to the eyes in her own special way.

“General Wei.” Someone shouted. The male cultivators naturally enjoyed this development.

The newcomer was none other than Wei Qianqing. However, she wasn’t in armor today.

This allowed others to see her appearance. They were left in awe. Sure, she wasn’t as pretty as Dugu Lan. Nonetheless, she had a bold aura that made her quite charming.

The soldiers behind her were also in civilian attire. This wasn’t enough to hide their fierceness.

“The commander of the Sentinel Legion.” Even the big shots from the last generation came to greet her.

This powerful legion from Vajra was garrisoned in Black Wood. Some believed that they were only second to the Biandu in terms of military potential.

The main difference was that they never interfered with Black Wood’s business. Their only mission was to watch over Black Tides.

#### **Chapter 3840: Wei Qianqing**

Yes, Vajra’s reach didn’t fully extend to Black Wood Cliff. Nonetheless, they were still the legitimate ruler of the holy ground after being granted permission by Sacred Mountain.

Therefore, the cultivators here might not care about Vajra but still needed to give Sacred Mountain some face.

Moreover, Wei Qianqing was a legion commander. Her power and influence in this region shouldn’t be underestimated. Thus, these experts had no problem with building a good relationship with her.

“Miss Wei, we didn’t know you were coming or we would have personally welcomed you.” Three Slashes revealed a smile as bright as the sun and as pleasant as the spring breeze.

His enthusiasm and happy expression made it apparent that he wished to court her.

“You’re too kind, Young Lord.” Wei Qianqing nodded and said.

“The peak is getting awfully crowded. Would you like to observe the ceremony with me?” Three Slashes enthusiastically asked.

The crowd exchanged glances. The older characters could see that this was political outside of his own interest in her.

A marriage between the two would be quite favorable for the Biandu. Though Wei Qianqing wasn't a supreme genius, she was absolutely among the upper echelon of the young generation in terms of talent and power.

Furthermore, she came from a prestigious clan with immense influence in Vajra and the plateau. This was before taking into account her current position as a legion commander.

In the case of success, the Biandu would have an even stronger grasp on Black Wood Cliff. Plus, it would give the clan a chance to extend their influence into the central region.

All of these above reasons contributed to Three Slashes' intent on courting Wei Qianqing without holding back.

Unfortunately, this was bad news for her fans in the audience. She had no lack of suitors but now, they were smart enough to know the disparity between them and Three Slashes. It would be idiotic competing against him for her love. They lacked the qualification to even try.

Qianqing was about to respond but her eyes happened to fall on Li Qiye not far from there.

She was pleasantly surprised to see him and immediately came over. Three Slashes didn't expect her to just walk away from him like that, the same with the spectators.

Most thought that they would make a perfect pair, a match made in heaven. Thus, her dismissiveness towards him caught everyone off guard.

The next development would shock them even more. She got in front of Li Qiye and bowed: "Greetings, Young Master. Please apologize for the lack of reception since I didn't know you were coming. It is my mistake..."

The crowd was astounded, unable to close their mouth. Who was Wei Qianqing? It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that she has the same status as any princess from Vajra Dynasty.

Why would someone so prestigious bow down to this youth? With the exception of Sacred Mountain's important members, Archaic Sun King would be the only person deserving of this treatment.

Alas, they didn't recognize Li Qiye and found him to be an average brat. He didn't look like a big shot from any angle. Once they calmed down, they began to speculate about his identity.

"Who is this kid?" A youth asked.

The locals didn't recognize Li Qiye because Black Wood Cliff was far removed from the holy ground.

"His name is Li Qiye." An expert from the plateau recognized Li Qiye. He didn't expect to see the guy here.

"Is his background something impressive or is he really strong?" Another spectator took another look at Li Qiye and asked.

Wei Qianqing didn't show the same respect to someone as mighty as Three Slashes at all so this was surprising.

“No, no prestigious background, just a woodchopper from Myriad Beasts Mountain. He became a student of Duality later. The only thing notable is how he recently defeated Li Xiangquan and Zhang Yunzhi, two members of the five heroes of Duality.” The expert said. Since he had left the plateau a while ago, his information was delayed.

“Hmm, so what if he beats some students, still only a woodchopper.” Someone else said.

Confusion ran amok because Li Qiye didn’t look like a strong cultivator either.

Li Qiye waved his hand and said: “Stand up, I’m just here to take a look and follow the flow, there’s no plan.”

She naturally didn’t buy it but still respectfully said: “Just say the words if you ever need my service.”

He smiled and nodded.

“Fellow Daoist, how should I address you? Miss Wei, could you please introduce us?” Three Slashes came over with a smile as well.

Qianqing glanced at Li Qiye, not daring to take the initiative.

“Li Qiye.” Li Qiye said flatly.

Unfortunately, this was viewed as arrogance by the crowd.

“So haughty when the young lord is being polite.” A young local complained.

For the locals, especially the young ones, they believed that Three Slashes might be one of the best geniuses in the holy ground, or even all of the southern West King.

Virtually everyone treated him with respect. This applied to the older cultivators too. After all, he had a chance of becoming a dao lord. Thus, Li Qiye’s casualness was misinterpreted as a deliberate insult.

“Zhang Yunzhi and Li Xiangquan can’t hold a candle to our young lord, he thinks too highly of himself after beating them.” Another genius snorted.