

Emperor 3841

Chapter 3841: The Grand Seer

Three Slashes, unlike the furious crowd, showed no sign of anger. He smiled and cupped his fist towards Li Qiye: "I am a member of the Biandu. If you don't mind, please be a guest at our residence."

His amiable nature and politeness despite being the future ruler of Black Wood Cliff earned him points from the crowd.

"I'm sure our region will prosper under his rule." Someone from the last generation nodded approvingly.

"If there's a chance." Li Qiye curtly answered.

The contrast between Three Slashes' hospitality and Li Qiye's bluntness only served to further annoy the crowd.

"Who does he think he is, the young lord of Buddha Holy Ground? Even Righteous Scion or the wild child would only be on the same level as our young lord. How dare he!" One youth unhappily said.

"Give him an inch and he wants a mile." Another expert said: "Black Wood Cliff isn't the place for him to act in this haughty manner."

Most locals considered the Biandu to be their leader, not Vajra Dynasty. Thus, the young lord of this clan was highly respected as well.

Now, an outsider dared to act pompous in front of him? This was truly an eyesore for the locals.

Moreover, a regional boss on his home turf could outdo a king. It didn't matter who Li Qiye was, he had no chance against the Biandu at Black Wood Cliff.

Many big shots came to this place and acted just like Li Qiye. In the end, they tucked their tail between their legs and showed humility.

Three Slashes became a bit awkward and forced himself to smile: "Our door will always be open for you."

By this point, even the people from Righteous Sect and the eight kingdoms appreciated his temperament and patience.

"Clank." A series of melodious clunking of jade pieces could be heard. [1]

"Creak." The wooden gate of the watch opened and two lines of disciples walked out towards the platform.

The ones in front held banners with their sect's insignia and indecipherable runes. They wore gray robes with the same engraved insignia. These were only ordinary disciples and didn't have the right to wear ceremonial robes.

The banners fluttered to the wind. After a while, the seers finally walked out.

They lacked oppressive aura but due to their solemn expression, others knew that it was time to be quiet and serious.

Their ceremonial outfits consisted of rings and loops along with bird feathers. Their pointed hats had embedded golden lines and stars, looking like the sky above.

Some robes had beast bone attached as well. The bones have turned yellow with time. Nonetheless, they still emitted a faint shimmer, looking quite magical.

These robes looked just as old, especially the materials. Nonetheless, the threads stood the test of time despite having worn marks. This only made them more special.

According to the rumors, these robes were passed down from generation to generation. It symbolized the seers' legacy. Thus, if a regular disciple wanted a ceremonial robe, they would need to have considerable achievements. Once they were given a robe, this would mean that they could call themselves a seer.

Seer Watch took disciples from all over the world without discrimination. Thus, both the disciples and seers present consisted of all races - a tiger-body and human-head demon, flashing ghosts, heavenly devil with a halo above their head, regular humans...

However, the majority consisted of heart ghosts. This particular race had a mirror in front of their chest.

It used to be one of the strongest ghost races in the past. This was no longer the case. There were plenty of ghosts in the holy ground, just not heart ghosts. The easiest place to see one was here in Seer Watch.

They were blessed from birth with a divination ability. Thus, it was easier for them to become seers.

The seers surrounded the old well. Their dignified appearance made the atmosphere quite tense. The spectators held their breath in anticipation.

To be able to watch a divination ceremony was an honor. Plus, they could get a glimpse into the future as well. The big shots and ancestors didn't want to miss a single detail.

"Hmm, looks to be rushed." One ancestor who had seen one before quietly told his peers. This ceremony was too simple this time.

In the past, it would take more than a year just to prepare. The audience would have been notified ahead of time as well.

Thus, the weaker cultivators wouldn't be qualified to go up the peak. This wasn't the case today so many big shots were missing.

"Clank!" An old seer hit a gong then announced: "Please grace us with your presence, the venerable Grand Seer!"

The crowd focused right away, not daring to show an ounce of disrespect. The Grand Seer wasn't an unbeatable character but his fame far exceeded the four grandmasters.

An old man slowly walked out of the building and instantly became the center of attention.

One could describe him as being short and small. His ceremonial robe was extremely old. It seemed that a gust of wind could blow pieces off of it.

He also had a heart mirror in front of his chest. The main difference between him and other heart ghosts was the leopard spots on his skin.

It showed that his bloodline wasn't pure. He was a hybrid between a demon and heart ghost. As his walking stick struck the ground with each step, people felt as if it was hitting their heart.

"Grand Seer." Everyone bowed to show their reverence, the ancestors included.

He wasn't as strong as Heavenly Sovereigns but in the past, even Eight Stallion Dao Lord addressed him as "senior". Buddha Supreme addressed him as "Venerable Seer". Righteous Supreme used "old friend".

These were all signs of his prestige and reputation. That's why everyone present was at least one seniority lower than him.

Chapter 3842: Seering Ceremony

All the experts bowed towards the Grand Seer, even those not from Black Wood Cliff. Everyone has heard of this famous cultivator before.

He stood before the well and time came to a halt. People didn't want to breathe loudly and interrupt him.

He opened his eyes and glanced at everyone. Due to his age, his eyes were muddled as if he was on the verge of death. The fire of life could extinguish whenever. Nonetheless, no one dared to be disrespectful towards him.

"I observed the stars last night." His eyes narrowed as he spoke in a feeble manner. Nonetheless, everyone heard him clearly.

Anticipation and anxiety built up for the crowd. They thought about what happened last night with Black Tides. Some opened their mouth, wanting him to hurry up and spill. Alas, they were smart enough to be patient.

"The astrological signs aren't clear. It is best to prepare, gentlemen, for the changing Black Tides." He slowly continued.

The crowd treated each word as if they were gold. The confirmation struck them hard. No one would question his words even without the fascinating event last night.

"Senior, may I ask what we should do?" A powerful ancestor inquired. Everyone wanted to know the answer as well.

The seer didn't answer directly: "The stars are as different as can be, truly unusual."

"Is it an auspicious or ominous sign?" The ancestor earlier asked again.

"That is yet to be determined. The only thing for certain is that the son of heaven has descended." The Grand Seer closed his eyes and revealed.

"The son of heaven?" This stimulated the crowd.

"The rumored heavenly genius."

A while ago, people claimed that Seer Watch had made a prediction about a heavenly genius. Now, the Grand Seer has confirmed it.

“What kind of genius? The future dao lord or someone who can stop this mess?” Another speculated.

“What are the criteria? One can’t be decided in this manner.” A genius said.

Of course, he wanted to be chosen as well. This would mean the easiest path and the brightest future possible.

“Who is it? And descended to which location?” One big shot asked for elaboration.

The Grand Seer coughed, a sign of a weak body. Strangely enough, the cough resonated in everyone’s ears like thunder.

The busily-debating crowd immediately stopped talking. All eyes were on him again.

“The will of heaven is impossible to read. I do not know any more information.” He said.

Some became disappointed, especially the geniuses. They hoped to be appointed as this heavenly genius but the Grand Seer didn’t seem to know.

“This is precisely the reason why a divination ceremony is necessary.” He added.

The disappointed members of the crowd became excited again.

“The heaven’s child might be right here or at the edge of the world.” He continued: “It is up to fate whether the well will tell us.”

No one else dared to speak and bother the Grand Seer after hearing this. He stretched out both hands, revealing how dry and aged they were, looking like bird claws.

He spread his fingers and seemingly encompassed the entire well. No one wanted to miss a single detail.

Most knew about the well rumored to be divine. However, it was useless in their hands. Only the seers would be able to use it, turning it into a tool to read the heaven’s will and the future.

They didn’t know whether this well had this ability at the start or the seers simply used it as a base for their art.

Thus, some visitors would come and take away a little bit of the water with them, hoping that this would bring them luck. Seer Watch didn’t have a problem with this.

Normally, the well would be decorated in a dignified manner for the ceremonies. This wasn’t the case this time due to the event’s rushed nature. Nonetheless, it shouldn’t matter because the Grand Seer was the one doing it.

He entered a state of zen while the other seers surrounding the well continuously chanted.

As the rhythm sped up, the disciples started dancing, clapping, and chanting as well. The faster they went, the more chaotic and crazy it seemed.

The spectators felt as if the world was spinning and they became stuck in freefall. This was a terrifying sensation for the first-timers. They couldn't help but scream.

As for those who have participated in the past, they maintained a calm expression.

Eventually, the chants abruptly stopped along with the clapping. The crowd was able to stabilize themselves once more. The entire thing felt like a dream.

"Open!" Right as everything came to a halt, the Grand Seer opened his eyes and shouted. Dark clouds gathered beneath his palms and lightning bolts came out of his fingertips.

The sky turned dark as well. The sun was clearly up there but dark clouds and lightning gathered above.

"Rumble!" The ground started shaking as if something was awakening. Many felt a frightening power emerging from beneath.

"Splash!" The water in the well started rising upward. The thickness of this beam of water was the same as the mouth of the well. It seemed to be alive and gushed upward into the Grand Seer's palms.

It resembled a puppy playing with its master as it rubbed against the Grand Seer's hands. He then chanted an unknown mantra. No one here understood this ancient language.

Chapter 3843: Astrological Phenomenon

"Buzz." The top part of the water beam transformed into a large crystal ball, floating on the bottom half of the water.

This scene wasn't that surprising. After all, any cultivator at a certain level could change water into a crystal ball or simply perform an illusory technique. In this case, the Grand Seer used an ancient divination art to do so, not relying on his cultivation.

The image inside the crystal ball didn't stop shifting. The spectators saw a sun always emitting bright rays. Then in the next moment, it became dark clouds with flashing lightning. Next came a torrent of rain or scattering snow, enough to freeze and cover the land with a white layer...

Everyone saw a different scene. The first-comers found this surprising but those with experience knew that they had varying senses and awareness - hence the different results.

The dignified Grand Seer chanted while forming a mudra with both hands. The mudra morphed as his dinger danced.

People knew that this was the start of the divination process. Eventually, the final form of the mudra was a lotus flower.

He raised and pointed one finger at the crystal ball, adding the lotus flower into it. Ripples appeared on the surface and continued to spread.

Something similar was duplicated to the rest of the world. The crowd felt as if everything was within the seer's vision.

Once the ripples disappeared, they no longer saw the terrifying lightning bolts and all-encompassing glaciers. The crystal ball now reflected the world itself, acting as a tool for them to observe.

They felt as if they could look at themselves now from the outside - an awfully strange sensation.

The Grand Seer's eyes started pulsing with a golden glow as he attempted to gaze deeper into the crystal ball.

The rest of the crowd followed his vision and traversed through endless space, finally ending at the azure.

They found themselves in a different location, right beneath the sky vault. Laws circulated above, akin to the opening of a supreme dao portal. They couldn't avert their gaze while being overwhelmed with fascination.

"Creak!" The portal opened and chaos true energy oozed out from the gap. Dao laws poured down, intending on illuminating the entire world.

The seer's vision pierced through this chaotic energy in order to gaze at the deepest crevice of the sky through the portal. He wanted to see what lies beyond. The crowd felt the same curiosity as him.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!" Suddenly, loud thunder sounded. Lightning bolts descended with the force of an ocean, wanting to devourer all living beings.

A terrible force rocked their mind and pushed them out of this zen state. They returned to their body and staggered backward.

Once they looked around, they were no longer standing beneath the azure. Of course, they were never there in the first place and merely saw it through the seer's eyes.

They noticed that he was still standing in front of the crystal ball. The artifact contained numerous lightning bolts now.

He tried his best to hold the crystal ball. Though the lighting bolts rampaged within, the ball didn't move in the slightest as long as he maintained his grip.

His eyes opened wide and spewed out magnificent rays; each capable of opening a new realm. This was his attempt to comprehend the mysterious astrological signs.

As he delved deeper into the crystal ball, more lightning bolts spawned in order to stop him. They escaped the ball and surrounded him. This, in turn, made him look like a god of lighting.

The decrepit and dying old man was nowhere to be seen, replaced by a deity capable of understanding the heavenly secrets. All laws and dao were within his grasp.

The emotional spectators realized that this was the real Grand Seer. His feeble state with unsteady steps was only a facade.

Of course, they thought that this was understandable. How could a dying man test the will of heaven?

He had lived for generations and divined numerous great events. Someone with this much experience couldn't possibly be a weakling.

In terms of actual fighting potential, he might not be a match for the supremes but this was more than enough.

“Buzz.” His golden rays gave birth to divination runes. These occult runes gathered on the crystal ball and started a refinement process. They kept on changing, wanting to derive and comprehend the secrets hidden in the azure.

Once they reached their top morphing speed, no experts here could see a thing and became dizzy.

“Stabilize!” The Grand Seer roared thunderously.

“Pop!” The crystal ball was fixed in place by the runes. Though the surface was still rippling and ravaged by lightning bolts, the crowd thought that he had successfully stabilized it.

He staggered backward while his chest heaved up and down, gasping for breath. He turned pale, on the verge of vomiting blood.

Tension took over the air; the crowd became afraid that he might fall down after seeing him tremble.

“What a frightening astronomical sign, the Grand Seer has never struggled like this before.” An ancient ancestor took a deep breath. He was fortunate to see the Grand Seer performing this ceremony before. It went smoothly, unlike this one.

The spectators could easily tell that this was a struggle. This astrology sign was truly frightening, forcing the Grand Seer to go all out. The question became - what did he see in there?

After a long time, the seer took a deep breath. His golden rays were nowhere to be found. A turbid gray took over his eyes again, the same with the previous deathly aura.

Chapter 3844: Observing The Heaven

The spectators solely focused on the crystal ball made of water. It continued to shift and they all saw different things while being fully immersed.

The Grand Seer was as focused as can be after finishing the stabilization process. The crowd grew more nervous by the second, ready for the divination result.

He placed both palms on the crystal ball, causing it to become radiant. It started with an image of a clear sky but in the next moment, a loud explosion caused a black tsunami to take over.

It was nothing more than an image yet the spectators found it so realistic. They felt their chest being smashed by the relentless waves and staggered backward.

“Black Tides!” Some couldn’t help looking in the direction of the black ocean. This was the first thing people thought of.

Suddenly, lightning bolts descended and illuminated the crystal ball. An unmatched divinity instantly banished the darkness and suppressed the ocean.

A faint figure stood at the center of the lightning bolts with a weapon at the ready. “Boom!” Next came a merciless massacre.

The blow seemingly pierced through the entire ocean in a shocking manner. The spectators became breathless after sensing this divinity through the crystal ball. They had a hard time recognizing the details because the attack released a blinding radiance.

Once they could open their eyes again, the radiance dispersed and the crystal ball lost its shimmer. Eventually, a layer of frost covered the surface, shrouding the images within.

They exchanged glances, still shaken. Everyone wanted to know the meanings behind what they had just seen.

So the darkness clearly indicated that Black Tides would do something next. What about the descending figure? Was that the heavenly genius?

They had no choice but to rely on the Grand Seer and his interpretation. He turned around and stared at them.

Though his eyes looked cloudy and spiritless, they thought that he could easily see through them.

“The astrological sign has emerged and determined the momentum of the future.” He briefly concluded without elaborating.

“Grand Seer, may I ask what is the meaning behind this?” A high elder became impatient.

“The mystery known only to heaven cannot be divulged.” The Grand Seer paused for a bit before responding.

Some were naturally unhappy because that’s precisely the reason why they came - to know more about the future. Anyone else would have faced criticism.

Alas, the Grand Seer had a prestigious position and no one dared to express their displeasure.

As disappointment struck the crowd, he coughed and said: “But since the divination ceremony has commenced anyway, we’ll make an exception today. Everyone can take a look.”

“Take a look?” The crowd clamored, finding this both exciting and unbelievable.

In history, the seers were the only ones in control. Others couldn’t come forward near the crystal ball. This was unprecedented.

“Can we look at our future and fate?” One member of the audience asked.

The Grand Seer glanced at him and said: “Everyone will see different things. It might only be a sign or a hint, it isn’t absolute.”

They started fantasizing about their own future. This was something irresistible.

“Grand Seer, may I ask about the heavenly genius?” One genius asked: “Will you designate someone with this title?”

People nearly forgot about the reason why this ceremony was such a big deal. Unfortunately, the Grand Seer didn’t wish to divulge the heaven’s secrets. This turned out to be quite disappointing.

“That’s up to you whether you’ll see this heavenly genius or not. The heaven’s secrets are right there.” The Grand Seer said.

Others thought that he was relinquishing his responsibility. Nonetheless, they worried more about participating in the process.

“Young Master, will that crystal ball show one’s future?” Yang Ling curiously asked.

“It depends on what they want to see and how.” Li Qiye smiled.

“What about you, Young Master?” She tilted her head.

“My fate is mine, not the heaven’s.” He responded.

“I see...” She murmured while repeating the phrase in her head.

This comment was rather common and has been used by masters or red-blooded geniuses. Nonetheless, she found it different when it came from him.

“Those who wish to divine, line up here.” The Grand Seer stood aside and gave everyone this incredible opportunity.

The way was right in front of them yet some started to hesitate. Yes, reading the future seemed tempting but what if the future was bad? No one wanted to face this.

“I’ll go.” A youth full of vim and vigor stepped forward. He climbed up the platform and stood before the crystal ball.

People watched with bated breath, wanting to see the first result. The youth was naturally nervous as he placed his palms on the ball.

The muddled crystal ball lit up again. He was the only one who could see images; others only saw a blinding light.

After a while, he released the ball, looking emotional and excited.

“What did you see?” A cultivator nearby asked.

He clearly saw something good so he happily responded: “I saw myself walking on a golden ladder, my name was on the golden plaque of successful national examinees, I had three flowers placed on my head...”

“The mystery known only to heaven cannot be divulged.” The Grand Seer interrupted the youth from recalling what he saw.

Chapter 3845: Who’s The Heavenly Genius?

The youth saw auspicious signs and couldn’t keep it to himself. However, the Grand Seer’s warning woke him up and he hurriedly left the scene.

Some started talking about him right away. One said: “Looks like his future is quite bright to see those events.”

Others were envious right away. After this, more and more wanted to give it a shot.

They wanted to find out whether they would see the same auspicious signs, perhaps becoming a sect master or a leader in the future. Maybe a sovereign wouldn’t be out of reach.

Thus, someone from the last generation climbed up the platform and touched the crystal ball. It lit up and allowed him to see his own images.

Once he let go, he sighed, looking a bit dejected and sad. He left without saying anything.

Everyone could tell that he had seen something unfavorable regarding his future fate, hence his expression. This created the opposite effect.

Seeing ominous signs would leave behind immense pressure. It was better not to try.

Nonetheless, another youth tempted fate and followed the process. Once he let go, he became confused and asked: "Senior, I saw a white elephant. What does it mean?"

"A white elephant is a sign of mighty power." The seer answered.

The youth was ecstatic and continued: "What if it starts breaking down mountains and rivers?"

"The mystery known only to heaven cannot be divulged." To which the seer responded.

The listeners understood that the seer knew the answer but just didn't want to speak.

The youth had no choice but to bow towards him then left.

"Might as well try." Eventually, a line formed beneath the platform.

The majority couldn't resist this opportunity and gave it a shot. The result was mixed.

One started punching the air in jubilation from seeing something good. Another had a solemn expression and even sighed.

A few had no clue what the signs meant so they asked the Grand Seer for guidance.

"Senior, I saw myself pushing forward while wielding an evil sword..."

"Grand Seer, I saw blue clouds somehow blotting out the sun, leaving nothing but darkness..."

"Grand Seer, I only saw a circular light, nothing else..."

The Grand Seer rarely answered, treating his words as if they were gold.

Those who believed that their future was ominous even asked him for support in order to change it. Alas, he only answered with the same phrase - the mystery known only to heaven cannot be divulged.

"Young Master, do you wish to try?" Wei Qianqing was filled with anticipation.

Yang Ling thought the same way and wanted to try herself too.

"No need." Li Qiye smiled while staring at the crystal ball.

"Young Master, given your ultimate prestige, I'm sure what you see will be incomparable..." Yang Ling urged.

The cultivators nearby snorted, finding the comments to be ludicrous. The geniuses and experts here wouldn't pick such words to describe themselves, let alone someone like Li Qiye.

“My fate is unfathomable.” Li Qiye chuckled.

His group nodded in agreement after hearing this. The old servant thought that it would be difficult to gauge Li Qiye’s future.

However, the crowd found it rather ear-piercing.

“Unfathomable? You think too highly of yourself.” One youth sneered.

“Even the ancestors can check their fate, why can’t you? Just go up there and see.” An expert accused Li Qiye of being arrogant.

Three Slashes himself glanced at Li Qiye then Wei Qianqing. He then said: “The Grand Seer’s remarkable divination ability is second to none. He had checked Eight Stallion Dao Lord’s fate before, so you can give it a shot, Fellow Daoist.”

“Damn right, the Grand Seer even read the future of someone as peerless as a dao lord, let alone a junior like you. It will require zero effort.” The young lord of the Tuhuo added, purposely putting down Li Qiye.

He could see that Three Slashes was interested in Wei Qianqing while she was too close to Li Qiye. Thus, he wanted to help the guy out.

“Crystal alone can’t handle the immensity of my fate.” Li Qiye smiled.

A furor started after he said this. People stared at him and considered him to be ignorant.

“Preposterous! That crystal ball read the fate of a future dao lord!” One older expert shook his head.

“Fool, even the supremes are respectful towards the Grand Seer for his magical ability. I can’t believe a junior is running his mouth like this.” A high elder added.

Many insulted Li Qiye, thinking that he was being disrespectful towards the Grand Seer.

The Grand Seer himself took a look at Li Qiye, slightly raising his muddled eyes. They became profound right away, seemingly capable of seeing everything with total clarity.

“This young master has an auspicious fate.” He then suggested: “Go try, maybe the heavenly genius is none other than you.”

“What?!” The crowd immediately clamored like boiling pots after hearing this.

“He’s the heavenly genius?” Others started paying attention.

A while ago, the Grand Seer no longer wanted the responsibility of looking for the heavenly genius. Now, he said that Li Qiye might be the one?

“Really?” People started examining Li Qiye.

“No way, the Grand Seer himself said that nothing is absolute.” An old cultivator said.

“He was being sarcastic, right? This youth dared to question his ability.” A youth uttered coldly.

Others found this to be the highest possibility. The Grand Seer must be annoyed at Li Qiye for doubting him.

However, he didn't bother explaining to others and still focused on staring at Li Qiye. The latter stood there calmly as well.

"See, you're the heavenly genius, go and confirm it. Show everyone the wondrous images that will stem from your fate." The young lord of the Tuhuo smiled and said.

Chapter 3846: Complacency

"As if a nobody like you is worthy of seeing my greatness." Li Qiye quipped without holding back.

The young lord immediately turned red and trembled with rage: "I see, I see, I am just a nobody."

His clan wasn't unbeatable or anything but still had relative influence in Black Wood Cliff. Now, he as its young lord was being looked down on in public? This was truly humiliating.

If it wasn't for Wei Qianqing, he might have attacked Li Qiye already to teach the guy a lesson or two about propriety.

"I might be a nobody." The young lord restrained his anger and retorted: "But I still want to see the style of the heavenly genius. Since you are him, show us how peerless and dominant you are. What do you think, gentlemen?"

He tried to drag the crowd into the mix as well. The older cultivators only wanted to watch the show but the younger cultivators glared at Li Qiye.

"I'm sure the phenomena of a heavenly genius will be incredible. The grand dao will erupt and it'll look like the descent of an immortal. We would love to see it." Another young talent smiled.

"That's right, broaden our horizon already." Others started laughing. They naturally wouldn't accept Li Qiye as the heavenly genius.

First, all of them wanted this classification from the Grand Seer since it would change their fortune. Nonetheless, they would be okay with him picking someone like Three Slashes. They would have no grievance to speak of because Three Slashes was the strongest and most prestigious genius in Black Wood.

This didn't apply to Li Qiye. The guy was only an outsider with little fame. How could he convince the crowd of his supremacy? Thus, they all assumed that the Grand Seer was being sarcastic.

Three Slashes smiled and spoke: "The chosen genius should be the heaven's favorite, capable of suppressing Black Tides to save the world. You are a crane among a flock of chickens, destined to be great. Please show everyone what you can do so that they'll be convinced."

He spoke in a casual manner, seemingly lacking any personal agenda or malice. Li Qiye still didn't answer.

"Hmph, too scared to do it. Someone this cowardly is no heavenly genius, only a rat." One youth snorted.

“The heavenly genius certainly fears nothing, similar to someone unbeatable and charismatic like Young Lord Biandu.” Another uttered coldly.

“So if he’s the heavenly genius, then the young lord must be a supreme existence.” One older expert joined in.

They mocked Li Qiye while currying favor with the young lord.

“Mind your own business instead of uttering nonsense!” Wei Qianqing’s expression soured and shouted at them.

They merely disliked an outsider like Li Qiye and knew who she was. Thus, they decided to listen to her and swallow their words. After all, it was better to give this legion commander some face.

“I’ll do it then!” Young Lord Tuhuo suddenly shouted and leaped onto the platform in a cool manner.

The crystal ball lit up after his touch. “Poof!” He became engulfed in flames.

He eventually pulled his hand back before many curious gazes and laughed heartily: “Haha, I saw a fire dragon playing in the air, this is as auspicious as can be!”

“Is this a sign that the young lord will successfully train the True Dragon Flame Art?” One youth wanted to please him and said: “You’ll certainly become the Fire Dragon Venerable in the future.”

“That sounds about right.” One expert nodded approvingly.

The Tuhuo placed second in this region so it was understandable for others to flatter its young lord.

“Fire Dragon Venerable? That’s not a bad title at all.” Young Lord Tuhuo was elated to hear all the praises, already having chosen his future title.

“Senior, what does it mean to see a fire dragon playing in the air?” The young lord asked the Grand Seer.

The seer responded while staring at him: “The Tuhuo Clan is versed in playing with fire.”

The crowd already thought that this was an auspicious sign. Now, since the seer talked about the clan’s affinity with the flames, they thought that the young lord would really become this so-called Fire Dragon Venerable later on.

“I see. Thank you, Senior, I will try even harder on the path of fire in order to reach the apex. I’ll absolutely become the Fire Dragon Venerable.” The young lord glowed with anticipation and determination.

Though he wasn’t the heavenly genius, he still had a great divination session on top of being confirmed by the Grand Seer.

“What he meant is, those who play with fire will be burned.” A nonchalant voice interrupted his celebration.

Everyone looked over and saw that the speaker was Li Qiye. It was a bad time to make this comment since it could be construed as purposely diminishing someone’s fortune.

To say something so ominous meant provoking the young lord and his clan. That was unwise for anyone staying at Black Wood Cliff.

The young lord was livid and furiously shouted: "Brat, watch your mouth!"

"I'm merely warning you out of kindness." Li Qiye waved his hand.

"Ignorant fool! You must be tired of living!" The young lord couldn't keep his cool any longer and jumped off the platform.

He has never been afraid of anyone while on his territory. Plus, Li Qiye was an outsider.

"Ridiculous, do you wish to fight?" Wei Qianqing glared at him.

Her dignified and oppressive aura instantly crushed his momentum, causing him to pull back.

As a legion commander and one of the five heroes of Duality, her power was impressive. She was the strongest of the five too so this young lord was no match for her.

This left him in a tough position. He obviously didn't want to fight her but to retreat like a cowardly turtle was shameful as well.

"Fellow Daoist, just mind your words next time." Three Slashes smiled and tried to appease both sides.

Chapter 3847: Fortune Telling

Everyone quieted down since Three Slashes had spoken. He had absolute influence here as the number one of the young generation, at least in this region.

Li Qiye only smiled at him without saying anything else.

"What, do you think you're a seer now and want to tell Young Lord Biandu his fortune too?" A different youth scowled after seeing Li Qiye's carefree expression.

They kept on interpreting his attitude as arrogance and didn't appreciate the way he treated the future ruler of Black Wood.

"I do consider myself a pretty good fortune teller." Li Qiye unexpectedly said.

The crowd exchanged glances and of course, they didn't believe him. One youth snorted: "Bullshit!"

"You better stop playing around!" Young Lord Tuhuo couldn't do anything to Li Qiye because of Wei Qianqing. Nonetheless, he still wanted to cause trouble: "Fortune telling is a supreme technique of the great seers yet a junior like you dare to make this claim during the important ceremony? You clearly want to offend Seer Watch!"

Despite being angry, he wasn't an idiot and chose to stir the pot between Li Qiye and Seer Watch instead.

Seer Watch wasn't powerful but still had plenty of prestige and support.

"It is improper indeed." An expert from the last generation agreed and shook his head: "Making this claim is truly disrespectful to the descendants of the Heaven Calculating Clan."

Everyone knew that Seer Watch came from a clan versed in calculation and divination during the ancient era.

Though Seer Watch never advertised its ability in fortune-telling using astrology, it still should be superior to most.

That's why the crowd glanced over at the seers, wanting to see their reaction. Strangely enough, they had no expression on their face.

Young Lord Tuhuo became disappointed since his ploy didn't work.

"Fellow Daoist, if you are confident in your fortune-telling ability, would you read my future?" Three Slashes was surprised before asking.

"Young Lord, don't take this arrogant guy seriously." Another immediately said.

"Yes, he's making a fool out of himself in Seer Watch." One cultivator said.

Nonetheless, Three Slashes seemed interested and wanted his fortune read by Li Qiye, patiently waiting for a response.

"If you're actually capable of fortune telling, go ahead and read the young lord and show us what we can do." A young cultivator demanded.

"Yes, show the great seers what you can do." Others started chiming in.

"Fellow Daoist, how is my appearance?" Three Slashes asked again.

Li Qiye finally glanced at the guy then answered: "Extremely ominous, definitely will die to a saber."

The smile on Three Slashes' face immediately froze. This went beyond being impolite.

Everyone knew that Three Slashes was famous for his saber mastery. He swept through Black Wood Cliff uncontested. In fact, few could match him in this regard in all of the south. Perhaps only the Wild Child of the East could take him on. Thus, Li Qiye's claim was deliberately insulting.

The scene became quiet right away after Li Qiye's blatant provocation.

"Fellow Daoist, this joke is out of line." Three Slashes still forced a smile, albeit with a touch of coldness.

He tried his best to calm down and give Li Qiye a chance to take back his words. Li Qiye would be foolish to not take this opportunity.

"I'm simply telling the truth. Those who are too confident in their saber dao will die to the blade." Li Qiye smiled and kept his stance.

Three Slashes could no longer smile since Li Qiye refused his good intention and double-downed.

"If you keep on babbling nonsense, your tongue will be cut off eventually!" Young Lord Tuhuo bellowed.

"Indeed, he can't read anything at all and just wants to make a scene. He's lucky that Young Lord Biandu is benevolent. Anyone else would have cut him down." Others voiced their support for Three Slashes.

“He only got here recently and doesn’t know the power of the Biandu.” One ancestor talked among his peers, thinking that Li Qiye was suicidal for offending the number one clan.

“So shameless, he wants to display his slight skill in front of the experts.” Others chastised and looked down on Li Qiye.

Three Slashes maintained his composure and cupped his fist towards the Grand Seer: “Senior, this fellow daoist claims to be a master at fortune telling. What do you think about his assessment after reading my appearance?”

The center of focus shifted to the Grand Seer. Everyone thought that Three Slashes was crafty to do so.

If he had vented on Li Qiye earlier, he would have looked narrow-minded. But now, by letting the Grand Seer assess Li Qiye’s comment, the guy would be humiliated without him needing to do anything.

The Grand Seer glanced at Li Qiye before answering: “The ceremony is still available. You may go there and check for yourself.”

Though he said nothing of Li Qiye’s ability, this was indeed a possible option.

“Right, the crystal ball is still available. Young Lord, you can go take a look yourself.” An audience member told Three Slashes.

Three Slashes stared at the crystal ball on top of the well. As the future leader of Black Wood, he exercised caution. After all, an ominous sign would be quite disadvantageous.

“Go check it out.” Li Qiye smiled and nodded.

“So you’re still confident in your fortune-telling ability, Fellow Daoist.” Three Slashes replied.

“That’s right.” Li Qiye answered without hesitation.

“Young Lord, don’t waste your breath on this ignorant fool. You’re the embodiment of the grand dao so your fortune should be impeccable...” Another youth interjected like a sycophant.

“Fine, I will check it out. We will see if your confidence will waver or not.” Three Slashes glanced at Li Qiye then Wei Qianqing.

Having said that, he stepped onto the platform before the excited crowd. They all wanted to know which visual phenomena would emerge. To a certain extent, Three Slashes’ personal fortune also influenced Black Wood’s future.

Chapter 3848: Strange Image

Three Slashes was afraid of ominous signs despite wanting to see his future, hence his hesitation prior while everyone else tested their luck.

Nonetheless, he had no choice but to do it due to the circumstances. He took a deep breath and placed his hand on the crystal ball. It exuded crystallized rays that chase the chaos away.

The spectators were ready to see the signs and images in the crystal ball. This had serious implications on the future of their region as well as their own sect or clan.

“Buzz.” A saber hymn could be heard as sharp flashes emanated from the young lord. The saber flashes looked happy and harmonized with the hymn prior.

The crowd found this special because this didn’t happen before to anyone else. This wasn’t the end of it. Even the saber hanging by his waist started hymning as well, looking quite happy.

“Clank!” He himself issued the same hymn, resembling an unsheathed saber capable of splitting the sky apart.

His saber energy diffused across the area, freezing those nearby. They didn’t dare to move lest falling victim to the sharp energy slashes.

Some gasped and shouted: “Such a powerful saber energy.”

“Clank-” After a pronounced hymn, his flash became resplendent until he virtually disappeared, becoming one with the saber dao.

People saw an image of a heavenly saber slashing vertically, capable of severing the cycles of reality. Everyone was horrified to see this, the ancestors included.

No one knew what he was seeing in the crystal ball. Nonetheless, his grand dao has been activated. It seemed that the images must have been amazing - a testament to his future potential.

“This phenomenon is unmatched. Even his personal saber is resonating.” A youth exclaimed.

“That saber has an incredible background. It came from Black Tides, definitely an ancient weapon on the same level as a dao lord weapon.” Another nodded in agreement.

“Don’t tell me, Young Lord Biandu is the so-called heavenly genius?” One more took advantage of this to flatter Three Slashes.

The crowd exchanged glances as a result after hearing this. Initially, the purpose of the divination ceremony was to search for the heavenly genius. However, the Grand Seer changed his mind during.

All the youths here wanted to be the lucky one. They knew that the chance was slim but if it had to be someone from Black Wood, it should be none other than Three Slashes.

Others weren’t qualified because they were inferior compared to him. Plus, others wouldn’t be convinced anyway. Only Three Slashes fit the requirements.

“Young Lord Biandu is the very best in the holy ground, no, in all of West King. It has to be him.” A genius who has a good relationship with him immediately remarked.

“Absolutely. As if that Li guy would be the chosen one.” Others voiced their agreement.

The crowd could only see the visual manifestation on the young lord, not the images in the crystal ball. Nonetheless, the majority thought that he was the one.

Li Qiye or Young Lord Biandu? This was an easy choice for them, no need to think twice.

Three Slashes finally removed his palms from the crystal ball during heated discussions. The visual phenomena on him disappeared and a chaotic expanse returned to the crystal ball.

Everyone waited for him to tell them what he saw. From his expression, they could see excitement or even joy.

He took a deep breath and bowed towards the Grand Seer: "Senior, I saw the image of a divine saber descending from the heaven. It possessed a divinity that should be unbeatable in the entire world..."

"?!"

"A divine saber from above with an invincible divinity?!" The crowd clamored.

"The sign of a future dao lord?" Another youth said with admiration.

"That's possible." Someone from the last generation solemnly said: "Who else can see this image outside of a future dao lord?"

"Yes, only the saber of a dao lord would possess an unbeatable divinity." Many sided with this opinion.

"Remember, his divine saber came from Black Tides, maybe the high heaven gifted it to him since he's the chosen one." A genius shouted.

"So he's the one from the Grand Seer's prophecy." Many truly wanted this outcome.

"I have many questions regarding the celestial images, please guide me, Senior." Three Slashes asked after the recollection.

Everyone waited for the Grand Seer's answer. No one thought that Three Slashes was lying about what he saw.

Of course, they wanted to hear him being appointed as the heavenly genius or that he would become the future dao lord. This had happened before with Eight Stallion Dao Lord.

The members of the Biandu wanted this more than anyone. Having a dao lord in their clan would propel them to the next level. Perhaps they would be able to extend their reach into the holy ground and replace Sacred Mountain.

This was a lofty and virtually impossible goal. Nonetheless, ruling for several generations would be good enough.

Three Slashes himself nervously awaited the answer. He naturally wanted to hear the good news more than anyone else.

The Grand Seer rarely calculated for others. Having an auspicious prophecy from him would solidify Three Slashes' future.

The Grand Seer's expression remained indifferent. He glanced at Three Slashes and calmly said: "Sabers are dangerous weapons."

He then closed his eyes and stopped caring about Three Slashes.

Chapter 3849: Want To Calculate Me?

The listeners were disappointed to hear the brief response. That's not the answer they desired. It should have included the words "heavenly genius" or "future dao lord".

Nonetheless, no one dared to ask him for elaboration. After all, even invincible masters addressed him with honorifics. The ancestors and high elders present were all his juniors, let alone the young generation.

Three Slashes felt the same disappointment. After all, he believed that he had witnessed an incredible sign of auspiciousness. It told him that he would stand at the apex and look down at the world.

To take one step back, the Grand Seer should have at least praised his future sign. That would have been enough to elevate his status.

Thus, Three Slashes bowed again and continued: "Is there anything else you wish to teach us, Senior?"

He fished for a compliment but the Grand Seer turned a deaf ear, seemingly resting.

Three Slashes was both disappointed and unhappy. Alas, there was nothing he could do.

Though he was the prestigious young lord of the Biandu and the future ruler of Black Wood, it was still useless if the Grand Seer didn't want to give him face.

In reality, the Grand Seer might have the same prestige and influence as Buddha and Righteous Supreme. His lack of cultivation power didn't matter in this case.

"Sabers are dangerous weapons." Someone suddenly spoke and interrupted the silence. It was none other than Li Qiye who had a smile on his face.

A scowl appeared on Three Slashes. He already had to restrain himself against Li Qiye prior. Even the Grand Seer slighted him just now so frustration built up.

He clearly saw an auspicious sign but the seer made nothing of it. Now, Li Qiye butted in and ruined his mood. Staying calm proved to be impossible.

"Enough of your drivel!" He finally shouted.

"It's up to you to believe it or not." Li Qiye shrugged: "Seer Watch does have some abilities from their ancestral clan, this ceremony is accurate indeed. The image of a descending divine saber means that you'll die to one. This is an ominous sign, so better watch out now."

Rage built up inside Three Slashes while listening to Li Qiye's nonchalant tone. So now, the guy said that he had an ominous reading?

"Such impudence!" Some locals couldn't stand this.

"His far-fetched reasoning is nothing short of an insult, he deserves death!" One youth furiously bellowed.

"Yes, someone who likes to fan the flames everywhere shouldn't be allowed in Black Wood Cliff!" Others jeered rowdily.

"Banish him from Black Wood, never let him take a half a step inside again!" Another youth screamed.

"Just a banishment? That's too easy on him. Insulting the Biandu and its young lord is a crime deserving of death. That's the only way to appease the public." Young Lord Tuhuo coldly uttered.

“True, kill him then!” Many experts shouted in agreement.

Li Qiye was only an outsider in their eyes so they would naturally take Three Slashes’ side. Even if the latter didn’t say anything, some would still be willing to kill Li Qiye in order to please him and his clan.

Three Slashes controlled his anger but his expression was no longer friendly. He glared at Li Qiye and said: “Since you know fortune telling, Fellow Daoist, have you read your own?”

“Yes.” Li Qiye smiled: “A boundless longevity.”

“Boundless longevity? The only things boundless are your arrogance and ignorance!” Someone from the last generation sneered.

“Someone needs to teach this egotistical maniac a lesson.” Many were eager to fight to make Three Slashes happy. Or at the very least, they needed to express their stance.

“Fools.” Li Qiye shook his head then said: “Let’s go.” With that, he turned and left.

He didn’t come here for divination at all. His goal was to take a look at this lineage because they were descendants of the Heaven Calculating Clan. He was interested to see how much they have learned.

After seeing the Grand Seer, he got a good idea and didn’t need to stay around any longer.

“What’s the hurry?” Young Lord Tuhuo snorted and walked over.

The other crowd members looked aggressive, seemingly ready to attack Li Qiye the moment Three Slashes gave them a signal.

However, Li Qiye ignored them while Wei Qianqing huffed thunderously. A chilling intent permeated from her, causing the crowd to pull back.

“Young Master, you do not wish to observe the heaven?” The Grand Seer opened his eyes and asked Li Qiye.

“Unnecessary, I already know what the heaven is like.” Li Qiye smiled and kept on walking.

“Hmph, he’s afraid of seeing his terrible future.” An expert said.

“Yes, running away like a cowardly turtle.” Another chimed in.

The Grand Seer was more anxious than anyone else to see Li Qiye’s departure. He hurriedly said: “Young Master, just take one look.”

He waved his hand and the crystal ball on top of the well flew towards Li Qiye.

He didn’t dare to force Li Qiye to do anything. However, he still wanted to find out more about Li Qiye.

“Buzz.” The moment the crystal ball got close, countless golden beams exploded akin to the eruption of the cosmos.

“What the hell?!” No one could keep their eyes open and started panicking.

“Want to calculate me?” Li Qiye turned his head towards the crystal.

“Boom! Boom!” Lightning bolts rained down along with a massive figure inside the crystal ball.

“Bam!” The crystal ball suddenly shattered. This made the astounded Grand Seer stagger backward, pale.

Once others regained their sight, they saw pieces of the crystal ball scattering downward. Li Qiye was already gone from the peak.

“Did you see that?” Confusion sprang among the crowd.

“What a monstrous visual phenomenon.” A powerful ancestor only got a glimpse and became stricken with fear.

“Even the Grand Seer’s crystal ball couldn’t handle it.” Another ancestor couldn’t see it clearly.

The top masters on the peak were at a loss for words.

Chapter 3850: Climbing The Ancestral Peak

The shattering of the crystal ball shocked everyone.

Three Slashes also had a visual phenomenon earlier that was quite impressive. Alas, it paled when compared to Li Qiye’s.

“Did anyone see that? Why did the crystal ball break?” A youth asked.

The young generation had a hard time seeing the crystal ball due to the blinding radiance earlier. They couldn’t activate their heavenly gaze.

“It got crushed by the divination images.” A top genius among them managed to see.

However, his peers remained skeptical. Another said: “How? So many tried and none broke the ball.”

“Right, even Eight Stallion Dao Lord back then didn’t break it. Li Qiye has no cultivation to speak of, that’s impossible.” Another added.

“A fate too great for words, simply unfathomable.” Another cultivator mused.

Li Qiye had said something like this before. It seemed like he wasn’t kidding.

Of course, most didn’t buy it, thinking that it was only a shocking coincidence.

“You know, he might be the heavenly genius?” Another thought about recent developments and asked.

The first to react was Three Slashes; his expression soured right away but returned to normal in the next moment.

“That Li guy?” One youth didn’t believe it: “I don’t see how, no special aura or prestigious bloodline, weak too. He’s as average as can be.”

Others agreed with this, even those who had no ill-will towards Li Qiye. It was indeed the truth. Li Qiye was average in all aspects, whether it be his appearance, cultivation, or aura...

When he stood next to Three Slashes, everyone would assume that Three Slashes was the real heavenly genius. People couldn't be blamed for judging a book by its cover in this case.

Young Lord Hutuo snorted and said: "If that guy is the heavenly genius, then Young Lord Biandu is an eternal existence or the high heaven."

"Right, Li Qiye doesn't look the part, too ordinary." Someone from the last generation felt the same way.

Nonetheless, what happened earlier was too bizarre and astonishing.

"Venerable Grand Seer, may I ask about what happened earlier?" An ancestor inquired.

All eyes were on him, waiting for his response. This was especially true for Three Slashes.

He worried that this seer might actually appoint Li Qiye as the heavenly genius. That's not a good development for him and Black Wood.

The Grand Seer merely glanced at the group before waving his sleeve and leaving. The crowd was disappointed but didn't dare to stop him.

Some heaved a sigh of relief because, at the very least, he didn't say that Li Qiye was the heavenly genius.

Alas, they questioned Li Qiye's visual phenomena. What was the meaning behind it? Perhaps only the Grand Seer knew.

"The divination ceremony ends here." A while later, Seer Watch made this announcement.

This ceremony wasn't a success for the mass. The Grand Seer didn't reveal enough information, only bits and pieces. Alas, just the fact that he was involved was a miracle.

Everyone started leaving with questions looming in their mind. A minority thought that the mysterious Li Qiye could be this heavenly genius. Most assumed that it was only a coincidence.

Ultimately, groups began paying attention to Li Qiye. After all, he was confident and arrogant despite being an outsider. There must be a reason for it.

After they left the peak, Wei Qianqing bowed towards Li Qiye and said: "My legion's garrison is right outside of Black Wood, just say the word if you ever need me."

"Okay." Li Qiye nodded and accepted the gesture.

She didn't ask why he came because he would tell her if he wanted to. She bowed again and left.

Li Qiye brought the group to another peak in Black Wood. Most referred to this one as Biandu Peak. The reason for its name was simple - it served as the ancestral peak of the Biandu.

In reality, the clan didn't originate from this place or even Black Wood Cliff. Their patriarch followed Buddha Dao Lord on an expedition against Black Tides. He eventually stopped and guarded this place for generations.

No one knew why this peak became their ancestral ground. Rumor has it that this peak was the first landing area of the patriarch and the legion. Thus, future generations established this place as their ancestral ground out of respect for their patriarch.

The previous name of the peak became lost with time. Strangely enough, there were no members of the Biandu guarding this place.

After all, this peak was majestic and stood opposite of the one belonging to Seer Watch. It was high enough that while standing on top, one could see all of Black Wood Cliff.

Thus, from a strategic viewpoint, the Biandu should have garrisons here or at least some patrols. It was still known as their ancestral ground.

Alas, the Biandu never revealed their lack of attention to this area. This, in turn, created some rumors.

One stated that there were some bizarre occurrences here in the past. Initially, the clan had powerful disciples staying here. One night, they all died from unknown causes. Thus, the clan stopped sending members here.

Another speculated that there were powerful blessings and augmentations on the peak. The future descendants couldn't handle this pressure.

One more believed that since the Biandu had total control of Black Wood, no one would dare to trespass this area even though it was empty. This was a sign of the Biandu's confidence in their power.

Regardless of the reason, no other sect has ever tried to take over this peak despite its geographical advantages.

It was covered in healthy trees and vegetation. The pinnacle was flat with plenty of weeds and grass.

"This isn't bad." Li Qiye picked the peak.

"The patriarch of the Biandu has keen eyes. It's a shame that his descendants are useless." The old servant nodded: "Well, maybe Buddha Dao Lord guided him."