

Emperor 3851

Chapter 3851: Rotten Stump

Yang Ling looked around after listening to the two. She didn't find anything special about this peak.

Though it was considered one of the two great peaks, it seemed inferior compared to Seer Peak.

It lacked dangerous yet picturesque terrains and an air of magnificence. Nonetheless, the vegetation and trees were verdant and lush.

The only thing comparable to Seer Peak was its height. In fact, it might be a little taller. There seemed to be nothing else on the same level.

Nonetheless, she didn't think that this peak was unworthy of its fame. After all, it must be the Biandu's ancestral peak for a reason. It's just that she couldn't see its magicalness right now.

In fact, virtually everyone thought the same thing - that it was inferior compared to Seer Peak. If they had to pick one, they would always pick Seer Peak.

That's why people were confused regarding the Biandu patriarch's choice in picking this one. Only a few top masters understood but they didn't tell anyone else.

"What is special about this peak?" Yang Ling eventually gave up and asked.

"The patriarch of the Biandu is an exceptional character. He picked this place for its roots." The old servant smiled.

"A peak has roots?" She asked.

"Everything has roots." Li Qiye spoke: "It's just that people didn't know and couldn't know. For example, what was the name of this peak before the Biandu got here? Who did it belong to? Who lived here? What grew here? That's part of its history and roots."

She definitely didn't know any of the things he brought up just now. Everyone only thought about the Biandu when talking about this peak. They have had ownership over it for a very long time now. The years before that were too distant.

Perhaps no one in Black Wood right now could answer these questions, not even the Biandu themselves.

"Do you know, Young Master?" She inquired.

"Of course." He nodded with a smile.

"Mmm, tell me more about it." She became quite curious. Maybe after knowing the answers, she would know why the patriarch chose this place.

Unfortunately, Li Qiye didn't answer and only stared at Seer Peak on the other side.

These two peaks were the tallest in Black Wood, standing opposite of each other. Seer Peak was closer to Black Tides. When standing here, one would see all of Seer Peak along with Black Tides.

This was indeed beautiful and magnificent scenery. Alas, Li Qiye wasn't here for that.

She didn't ask him either because he would have told her already if he wanted to.

He eventually stopped looking and crouched down to look at a rotten stump. Weeds and grass have taken over this area because the Biandu didn't take care of it.

This particular stump looked huge, needing many men to fully surround it. It died later on, perhaps cut down or fell from disease. Only a stump was left now.

After years of rains and winds on top of termites, it became rotten. Nonetheless, layers of thick barks still surrounded the surface.

The damages were immense in many areas but overall, it was still tough like metal. Of course, it was hard to see it due to the overgrowths. Those who could see it wouldn't care too much either.

Yang Ling became curious again because Li Qiye was carefully looking at it. What made this rotten stump so special?

"Young Master, this stump is special too?" She asked.

"You tell me." He responded.

"I don't think it's special because if it was, it wouldn't be rotten right now." She gave her opinion.

"What if I tell you that it's older than Eight Desolaces?" He revealed.

"Older than Eight Desolaces?" Her mouth became agape after hearing this.

Adding up the actual age of Eight Desolaces was virtually impossible since so many generations have passed.

The land produced numerous dao lords. Lineages rose and fell due to the long trek of time.

She thought about one particular adage that applies to this situation - oceans can dry up and stones will break down yet this rotten stump will always be here.

Just its age alone was indicative of its true value. Now she finally understood why the patriarch of the Biandu chose this peak. As a top general of the holy ground, he was far more insightful than others.

"Are we going to dig it up?" She calmed down and asked.

"It's doing well here so no need to dig it up." Li Qiye shook his head and patted the stump. He then told the old man: "We'll be staying here for a while."

The old man followed the order without thinking twice. It didn't take long before buildings were erected.

As for Yang Ling and Fan Bai, they took care of the overgrowths nearby. They didn't know what Li Qiye wanted to do but still decided to entertain him.

Not even the old man had a good idea. He could see some clues, just not the entire picture of Li Qiye's plan. He knew that Li Qiye's real goal was Black Tides, just not the actual details.

Their sudden appearance on top of this peak didn't come unnoticed. The Biandu Clan eventually found out that outsiders were occupying their ancestral ground. This wasn't something they could overlook.

Chapter 3852: The Biandu's Reaction

A furor broke out at Black Wood Cliff over Li Qiye's decision to stay on top of the ancestral peak.

"Is this brat crazy? Actually taking over the Biandu's peak, he must be tired of living." An older expert became startled.

Everyone knew that the peak belonged to the Biandu despite a lack of physical presence. It had immense significance and served as a symbol of their ancestors' prestige.

In history, a few courageous souls tried to take over the peak. Their result was obvious - tragic death.

"At least it'll be a show, he'll wish for death once captured." One youth snorted after finding out.

The Biandu's supremacy and mercilessness in Black Wood were well-documented. Just dying was a good end. Sometimes, clan extermination was the outcome.

Li Qiye's action was no different from slapping the clan's face. The latter would never let this go until ample punishment is dished out.

"The guy is no fool, what is giving him the confidence to provoke the Biandu?" One ancestor had a different opinion.

Though they still haven't received the news from Buddha Emperor Plateau, they could tell that Li Qiye was special after the divination ceremony.

The destruction of the crystal ball fortified this notion. A few ancestors thought that Li Qiye was a dragon waiting to soar.

However, the Biandu wasn't one to be trifled with, especially not in their own territory. Many big shots have tried and ended up dead. Li Qiye's action so far was nothing short of a direct declaration of war against the Biandu - truly a reckless choice.

Thus, these ancestors didn't understand. Li Qiye might have a strong background but that wasn't enough. Even Vajra Dynasty couldn't do anything to the Biandu here.

"So overbearing, he has to be the heavenly genius." One youth speculated after hearing the news.

This wasn't well-received. A genius disagreed: "He's the heavenly genius? He can't even hold a candle to Young Lord Biandu or the Wild Child of the East."

"If he's the one, why didn't the Grand Seer say something?" Another added: "The Grand Seer said that the purpose of the ceremony was to find the heavenly genius so an announcement should have been made. That's why I'm sure Li Qiye isn't."

All in all, conversations about this topic could be heard all over Black Wood.

Meanwhile, the Biandu didn't sit still either. Not reacting would be detrimental to their authority and reputation.

They sent a powerful group led by their butler up the peak. Normally, an ancient and powerful clan like this shouldn't have a role like a butler. That's something for the new rich or the clans in the mortal realm.

However, the Biandu had this position. Historically, only those outside of the clan served as the butler.

In other words, this "butler" was the one to deal with problems. If something bad or unexpected were to happen, their clan could arguably be absolved of any responsibility.

Of course, not just anyone can qualify for this position. The current butler right now was already a famous cultivator in Black Wood prior.

"We got a show now." Many became excited to see the group moving up the peak. They followed right behind, not wanting to miss the show.

"That Li guy is going to get obliterated by the butler, it's gonna be ugly." One youth snorted.

Meanwhile, Li Qiye still crouched next to the rotten stump in order to remove the barks. Some have rotted beyond words and removal seemed easy.

This was not the case. Ordinary people had no chance of removing even one.

He didn't mind getting dirty and focused on this task, seemingly carving a work of art.

Yang Ling thought that the young master shouldn't do menial tasks and wanted to help. However, he shook his head and smiled: "You can't do it. Just one mistake and it'll lose its chance."

She didn't know what he meant by "chance" here. Nonetheless, she didn't want to ruin his plan and only watched him, hoping to learn something.

By this point, the group led by the butler of the Biandu has arrived. The curious spectators came right after.

The majority of the latter wanted to see Li Qiye humiliated or even killed by the Biandu.

"You're Li Qiye?" The butler looked around and saw a palace erected nearby. His expression soured right away.

To build on top of their ancestral peak was a deliberate provocation. He needed to flatten the palace and capture Li Qiye in order to answer to his masters.

However, Li Qiye ignored them without responding. His hands were covered in dirt.

The spectators found this entertaining.

"He's being a little careless now, not paying attention to the butler from the Biandu." One expert said.

"If he gave a damn about the Biandu, he wouldn't have built that palace." Another added.

The butler was in a terrible mood. He was already famous before taking this position. Many here in Black Wood showed him nothing but respect.

After becoming the butler of the Biandu, he gained more authority and dealt with numerous issues in the region.

Now, an outsider dared to ignore him? This was utterly humiliating.

“Li Qiye, destroy this palace and surrender yourself. I will take you to the Biandu.” The butler said gravely.

His tone was already polite enough. Otherwise, he would have captured Li Qiye first. Crippling the guy or not during the process would depend on his mood. Alas, since he represented the Biandu, he needed to show benevolence.

Once again, Li Qiye completely ignored him, not bothering to give him a single glance. His hands didn't stop moving to remove the barks.

Chapter 3853: Scram

The butler's mood worsened from the repeated transgressions from the arrogant Li Qiye, especially in public.

Others exchanged glances, thinking that Li Qiye was indeed pushing it from not responding.

As the saying goes - one may ignore the monks but still need to give Buddha some face. Li Qiye's attitude would only sour the relationship between him and the Biandu.

“You're pushing your luck.” The butler said sinisterly: “It's not too late to follow me lest my masters show their wrath. At that point, you would pray for death...”

There was no need for him to hold back anymore. Since Li Qiye refused to give him face, it was time to teach the guy a lesson about the true lords of Black Wood Cliff. It would also serve to show everyone else the fate of those who dare to oppose the Biandu.

His threat fell on deaf ears once more. Li Qiye paid attention to nothing but his task.

Anger brewed inside the butler from the contemptuous treatment. “Go, flatten that palace and capture them all. Kill whoever tries to resist.” He uttered murderously.

People thought they could hear his teeth grinding furiously. Nothing would please him more than cutting Li Qiye to pieces.

“Go!” The disciples who followed him separated into two groups. One rushed for the palace while the other surrounded Li Qiye.

“Brat, be obedient or I'll cut off your limbs.” One of them said while all readied their weapons.

They pointed their swords and sabers straight at Li Qiye. If he were to resist in the slightest, they would instantly make mincemeat out of him.

The spectators watched with bated breath since a battle was about to start.

“Make them scram.” Li Qiye still didn't bat an eye despite the precarious situation and ordered.

Others became confused because they didn't know who he was talking to.

“Rumble!” During this confusion, the group who headed for the palace was suddenly sent flying.

“Ahh!! Ahh!” Some screamed in pain. These disciples suffered various injuries - broken legs, crushed rib cage... They vomited blood before slamming into the ground.

Once the spectators calmed down, they realized that the assailant was a wild boar. It attacked the group from behind and caught them off guard. Its incredible speed didn't diminish its precision. It easily crushed the bones of its enemies.

They took a good look at the boar - its mane had empty patches; one of its tusks was half-broken as well.

“Kill that thing!” The group that surrounded Li Qiye saw this and immediately rushed over towards the wild boar.

Blade flashed and treasures emerged - all aiming for the boar. Unfortunately, they did nothing to the boar.

“Rumble!” The attackers were sent to the sky; more bones were broken. Most couldn't get back up after falling down.

“Enough, beast!” The butler shouted after regaining his wits.

“Boom!” He summoned a treasure disk that spun around like a millstone. Alas, the result was still the same.

The disk was flipped over by the boar. It moved forward and slammed onto the butler. His chest instantly caved in. He fell down and a puddle of blood could be seen.

It only took a few seconds before the forces of the Biandu were taken down. They screamed and squirmed on the ground. Their leader suffered the same fate.

The spectators who came for the show couldn't believe it. They stood there, speechless.

Once they calmed down, they looked around in astonishment. This felt like a dream.

Of course, for the members of the Biandu, it was a nightmare. They had no idea how they got blown away. Their powerful merit laws and weapons were simply useless before the boar.

The spectators looked again and saw the boar digging the dirt beneath a tree, seemingly looking for a good meal.

To the other side of this tree was a dog with yellow fur, looking quite sickly and malnourished. It glanced contemptuously at the boar as if wanting to make fun of it for bullying some juniors.

The boar ignored the dog and continued to dig more dirt out.

No one would believe this unless they saw it with their own eyes. In fact, the crowd was still in doubt. How could this wild boar defeat that powerful group? Were these animals Li Qiye's pets? They didn't look like pets at all.

Li Qiye didn't bother watching that fight at all. He either didn't notice or didn't care enough. He was in a state of complete concentration.

It was as if he was a virtuoso working on his finest piece. Each action was deliberate and meticulous in order to avoid unnecessary mistakes.

"Scram already." Yang Ling then shouted.

Chapter 3854: Grand Dao Bestowment

The frozen butler and the clan disciples heard Yang Ling's shouting and regained their wits. They didn't dare to say one word before fleeing from the peak, looking as pathetic as can be.

The spectators needed time to digest this. An outsider has just defeated more than a hundred disciples from the Biandu. It was difficult for them to find the right word to describe Li Qiye - arrogance or domineering?

A youth going against the Biandu in Black Wood Cliff should be described as ignorant and arrogant.

However, from what they have seen so far, Li Qiye was neither. He certainly knew about the Biandu's strength yet still chose to go against them. He knew that there was a tiger on the mountain but still climbed up. That's certainly domineering.

He became an enigma in their eyes. Was he just an ordinary cultivator or an unfathomable master?

The spectators weren't the only ones confused. The defeated members of the Biandu couldn't believe it either. Someone was actually audacious enough to injure them in Black Wood?

The butler thought that given his power and his clan's prestige, a junior would immediately acquiesce. It turned out that they had messed with the wrong person.

Most were still staring at the digging boar. How did this animal defeat all those experts just now?

"A dragon passing by." Someone from the last generation quietly commented on Li Qiye's situation.

"Just wait." Another neutral party responded: "A dragon still has a hard time defeating the local serpent. The Biandu has been around for millions of years for a reason. Numerous outsiders have failed to overthrow them."

Some agreed with this statement. The Biandu weathered numerous storms and disasters before, always able to defeat their foes in the end.

As for Li Qiye, the main character of this ordeal, he simply focused on removing the barks. He probably wouldn't stop to look even if the sky were falling down.

"Let's go." The majority started leaving. Only a small number stuck around to see what Li Qiye was doing.

They spent half a day and gained nothing, finally concluding that Li Qiye was just killing time.

The rotten barks should have been easy to remove. In reality, they were tough like calluses with numerous layers, serving as protection for the tree throughout the years.

It took plenty of effort for Li Qiye to finally strip the stump clean. He then removed the heavily damaged part to reveal the heartwood around the size of a small bowl. It had an extraordinary presence.

In the beginning, Yang Ling thought that the tree was dead. Once Li Qiye finished the clean-up, she saw that the heartwood still had some life and color left to it.

It was certainly on the verge of death given the state of the tree. Nonetheless, it still felt brimming with water as if there was an ocean stored within. Once released, the water would drown the entire peak. This might be the reason why the stump was able to last until now.

“Good.” Li Qiye patted his dirty hands and returned to the palace.

Yang Ling’s gaze shifted between Li Qiye and the stump. She tilted her head in rumination.

“What does the young master want to do?” She asked the old servant.

“The likes of us can’t fathom his goals.” The old man smiled and shook his head.

He then glanced over at Black Tides and became emotional: “The storm is coming. It will spare no one, reducing the top masters down until not even bones are left.”

Yang Ling thought about the near future as well. Alas, she had limited information and eventually gave up. She then returned to her room.

As for Fan Bai, she sat there and meditated like a statue. She has been unaffected by all outside occurrences. The only thing that mattered to her was cultivation.

She was the purest and simplest among them, at least in this aspect. The old man admired her for this, thinking that he was inferior.

On the second day, Yang Ling woke up early. The moment she got out the door, she saw Li Qiye standing next to the stump again.

“Young Master!” She came over to chat but once she got close enough, her face turned red because Li Qiye was urinating on the stump without holding back.

“Why didn’t you warn me?!” She turned around and stomped her foot. Even her neck became red from embarrassment.

“About what?” He finished and tied his belt again before stretching.

“About what you just did...” The girl showed her bashful side.

“You misunderstood. This is a grand dao bestowment.” Li Qiye smiled and shook his head.

“Grand dao bestowment? You’re messing with me, Young Master.” She didn’t expect this answer.

“Imagine this, what if there are immortals in this world?” He suddenly asked.

“Immortals?” She hasn’t thought of this because there were no immortals.

“Very valuable.” He added.

“Hmm?” She assumed that he would talk about their appearance or incredible auras when appearing.

“Their hair, blood, skin... all priceless treasures for mortals.” He elaborated.

“Right.” She nodded since this was a matter of fact.

The closest example was the true blood of dao lords. Just one bottle alone could drive the world crazy, let alone the immortals in the myths.

“That’s why my urine is a grand dao bestowment.” He concluded.

The content was rather vulgar and casual yet she became frozen.

Once she regained her wits, he was already back in the palace. She glanced over at the stump, turning red once more after recalling his action.

“Is this so-called grand dao bestowment an actual thing?” She asked the old man who has been watching Black Tides the entire time.

He smiled and said: “The young master never shoots without hitting the target, grand dao bestowment it is.”

“I see...” The embarrassed girl murmured.

“He can swallow heaven and earth and devour the myriad worlds. Everything can happen with a whim of his. If he wants it to be a grand dao bestowment, then it’ll be a grand dao bestowment. The actual method doesn’t matter.” He added.

She found this to be quite logical after thinking it through. Nonetheless, this manner of blessing was indeed new to her.

Chapter 3855: Incoming Battle

The news of the Biandu’s defeat at their own ancestral peak created a tempest in Black Wood.

It has been peaceful for quite a while now. None dared to challenge the Biandu on their home turf in recent years.

The recent development went beyond a skirmish. Their ancestral peak was now taken and they have lost the first exchange. Everyone thought that the Biandu needed to obliterate Li Qiye in order to regain their prestige.

Discussions started regarding how the Biandu would mobilize in order to capture Li Qiye. Perhaps they would rely on torture in order to make an example out of him.

“A dragon will still die when facing the Biandu at Black Cliff.” Most harbored this thought.

“I’m sure their ancestors will come this time around.” Another said.

Despite his strange and flawless victory, people still didn’t think Li Qiye had a chance. The Biandu has plenty of disciples and mighty ancestors. In fact, they might be strong enough to contend against Vajra.

The consensus was that the furious Biandu would gather thousands of disciples for another assault and that their ancestors would be furious after hearing the news.

However, the clan was silent after the escaped disciples returned in shame. No mobilization and no ancestors showed their face either. The passiveness was rather strange.

“Is the Biandu letting this go? No way.” Someone thought. Those who have provoked them in the past have been destroyed.

“They can’t spare Li Qiye like this, he’s still occupying their ancestral peak.” Another said.

Ancestors from the other sects shared the same sentiment. The Biandu had to do something unless they wanted to give their peak to Li Qiye.

On the second day, Three Slashes and two elders from the Biandu appeared.

“Young Lord Biandu is personally going.” The spectators kept a close watch on this development since it was quite entertaining.

“This is their answer, letting their young lord kill Li Qiye.” A young expert said.

Others nodded in agreement. Three Slashes was mighty on top of having two elders with him. No one else from the young generation could do this. In fact, an ancestor alone would have a tough time.

“Less than three moves is all he’ll need to decapitate Li Qiye!” Another exclaimed.

“Yes, he alone is more than enough to kill a junior like Li Qiye.” One expert agreed.

All in all, most were ready to see how Three Slashes would kill Li Qiye. They finally understood the lack of reaction from the clan.

There was no point in being angry because their young lord would take care of it.

“We can finally see him in action now. It’s a good learning opportunity.” An excited youth stated.

Everyone knew the famous three slashes from this young lord. Each slash was brilliant and worthy of admiration. Both the young and old at the cliff didn’t want to miss this opportunity.

Three Slashes carried his saber in a cool manner while hiking up the peak. The two elders walked right behind him with a serious expression.

Meanwhile, tens of thousands of cultivators followed a bit farther behind. They thought that Li Qiye was a dead man.

“How many slashes will it take?” A speculator wondered.

“Just one, that’s it.” To which someone else responded: “I heard he only used three slashes even against the Wild Child of the East.”

The wild child was famous alongside Righteous Scion in West King. The group thought that it was Li Qiye’s honor to die to Young Lord Biandu’s blade.

It didn’t take long for the three to reach the top to see Li Qiye.

“We meet again, Fellow Daoist.” Three Slashes bowed towards him.

The spectators found his humility to be admirable. This was the style and manner of someone from a prestigious clan.

If anyone else had their peak taken by Li Qiye, they would have been overwhelmed with rage - unable to hold back. It wasn't easy to be as calm as Three Slashes right now.

"What is it?" Li Qiye nonchalantly said.

This wasn't the first time the crowd saw his overbearing attitude. They were naturally annoyed but this wasn't their fight.

"I come today to ask you to leave, Fellow Daoist." Three Slashes calmly responded.

"Why?" Li Qiye didn't bat an eye.

Some members of the audience felt the urge to come and kick this annoyingly arrogant guy in the face, let alone Three Slashes.

"Did he just ask why? How is he acting like this when he took over their ancestral peak?" A spectator murmured.

"This place is our clan's ancestral peak, a legacy left behind by our patriarch so outsiders aren't allowed inside. Please leave." Three Slashes cupped his fist.

"Oh? Who owned it before your patriarch?" Li Qiye smiled.

Three Slashes didn't expect this question, neither did the listeners.

Everyone knew that the peak belonged to the Biandu, that's it. The history prior to that was unknown. No one could answer this question.

How could they know something that had happened so long ago? There were no records of it.

"Ages have gone by so it's impossible to find out." Three Slashes said: "But in the present, it belongs to our clan. That's enough of a reason."

He restrained himself from unsheathing his saber because he wasn't completely confident.

"I see. Well, henceforth, it belongs to me now." Li Qiye casually said.

The listeners exchanged glances after hearing the domineering statement. Three Slashes' expression changed as well. There was no way they would ever accept this.

"Fellow Daoist, leave instead of making more mistakes. It's not too late to leave." Three Slashes cupped his fist again.

"If your clan wisely leaves now, it'll prosper for generations to come." Li Qiye glanced at the youth.

Chapter 3856: Ebbing Tides

The crowd couldn't come up with a more arrogant response than Li Qiye's just now.

"I don't think anyone else dares to say the same thing, the Biandu has been around for ages." Someone murmured.

“He’s courting death, things have escalated too far.” Another expert shook his head.

“That’s already decided the moment he took over the ancestral peak, he can say whatever he wants now.” A big shot from the last generation said flatly.

Some started to imagine Li Qiye’s demise. Perhaps one slash from the young lord out of anger?

Three Slashes had plenty of patience but still thought it was ridiculous. Li Qiye’s disdainful attitude offended both him and his clan.

“Fellow Daoist. You are way out of line, apologize now before it’s too late.” Three Slashes’ expression darkened as he spoke.

“Unsheath your saber then, let’s see if you are as powerful as your title.” Li Qiye waved his hand and smiled.

The hand wave was dismissive and nonchalant as if he thought nothing of Three Slashes. Even the average cultivators wouldn’t accept this treatment, let alone a famous genius like him.

“Young Lord Biandu, cut down this egomaniac!” One youth felt indignant for their young lord.

“One slash is more than enough to kill him!” Others urged him to attack.

“Ignorant junior, clean your neck in preparation for decapitation!” A genius shouted.

Li Qiye’s repeated transgression infuriated the young fans of Three Slashes. He himself could hold back no longer.

It had nothing to do with pride. Given his power and status, even the ancestors needed to address him as “Young Lord”.

Now, this outsider refused to use honorifics. Putting that aside, the guy went as far as blatantly disrespecting him in public.

He took a deep breath and slowly grabbed the hilt of his saber. The crowd watched his hand carefully, not wanting to miss a single detail of his supreme slash.

“It’s about time...” One expert murmured.

“Boom!” Suddenly, everyone became discombobulated by a deafening explosion. The entire cliff started shaking; the world was being flipped over.

“What the hell?!” Some immediately fell down on their butt while screaming.

“Boom!” The second explosion was even louder, akin to the start of an apocalypse.

The world turned dark to the horror of the crowd. These explosions had nothing to do with Three Slashes.

He wasn’t strong enough to have this effect. On the other hand, it was due to a massive wave hitting the cliff.

This wave was high enough to reach the stars, acting like an evil entity wishing to swallow the sky vault.

“Boom!” The third wave nearly crushed the entire cliff.

The region became feeble like a boat amidst a raging ocean. By this point, many cultivators were paralyzed on the ground.

“What’s going on with Black Tides?!” Even the big shots turned pale.

The locals were no strangers to the waves from Black Tides. However, they have never seen a tsunami before.

“Boom!” The fourth carried an earth-shattering force. Countless cultivators were sent flying in the air.

“Save me!” Cries could be heard everywhere from both the mortals and cultivators.

“Get in the house!”

“We need to get inside!”

“Boom!” The fifth smash was brutal. Some heard a cracking sound as if the cliff was starting to crumble.

The Biandu was caught completely off guard. Ancient ancestors who have been slumbering for millions of years immediately woke up. They sat up, stricken with astonishment.

“This is it, it’s the end...” Doom and gloom took over Black Wood.

However, unbeknown to the horrified victims, a buzzing light emerged in the deepest area of Black Tides.

A supreme power forcefully grasped the incoming tides and pulled them back into the ocean.

“Rumble!” The tides didn’t relent and wanted to continue the assault on Black Wood. Alas, this supreme power had a firm grasp. The tides struggled and roared to no avail.

Therefore, the next waves actually hitting Black Wood became weaker and weaker until a full stop.

“Splash! Splash!” Cultivators were still confused but time didn’t wait for them.

An unbelievable scene manifested before their very eyes - the water of Black Tides suddenly receded from the shore.

The waves certainly resisted but this was futile. The supreme power was overwhelming.

The ocean’s size was immense but due to this mysterious power, the water ebbed at an incredible rate. The seabed gradually became visible to those in Black Wood.

Chapter 3857: Tidal Recession

A long while passed before the crowd calmed down. They noticed that Black Tides was still the same before.

The massive waves earlier scared the hell out of them. Black Wood Cliff had no business enduring that onslaught.

Some even heard cracking noises - a sign of the cliff giving in. Now, everything seemed fine. No serious damages have been done to their home. Both mortals and cultivators heaved a sigh of relief.

“Thank heavens, the calamity is gone, this must be due to the blessings of our holy ground’s ancestors.” Someone placed their palms together and prayed.

Since Black Wood successfully withstood the tsunami earlier, the inhabitants became more confident. No wonder why this place has been the first line of defense for many generations now.

Of course, it has been blessed by numerous sages and dao lords. In reality, Black Wood has been around even before Buddha Dao Lord. Its current appearance and toughness were due to the hard work of numerous cultivation masters. A regular landmass would have been obliterated by the first wave from Black Tides.

Unfortunately, it was too early to celebrate. Some began paying attention to the exposed seabed. It consisted of strangely-shaped seamounts and hills.

“The water is gone now...” Everyone came to the shore to take a better look.

“I can’t believe it, where did it all go?” The first-timers were astounded since they witnessed the black tides raging not long ago.

This ocean’s size was unfathomable. Thus, the amount of water should be incalculable as well. How could it just disappear?

They glanced at each other in confusion. Even the big shots and ancestors had no answer to this eternal mystery.

“Another tidal recession, the second in one generation. This is unprecedented, is it a sign for something?” One ancestor murmured in a daze.

This happened once already during Eight Stallion Dao Lord’s generation. A new dao lord has yet to appear yet the tides are gone again.

This was the second time seeing this phenomenon for some old cultivators here. They had no idea if this was a blessing or misfortune.

The only thing for certain was that these tidal recessions were unforgettable.

“An ominous sign?” A big shot had a heavy heart while looking at the seabed.

The previous occurrence left an indelible impression on them. Terrible creatures assaulted the shore, nearly taking down Black Wood.

Buddha Supreme descended and swept through a hundred thousand miles. Alas, this wasn’t enough to stop the endless onslaught.

Two allies came later and stabilized the situation. The trio lasted long enough to save Black Wood from sure destruction.

Those who experienced this battle back then still had nightmares of it. They thought that the same thing might happen once more.

“We had the brave Buddha Supreme back then, Righteous Supreme and Eight Stallion Dao Lord came to help as well. But now...” An ancestor became worried.

Buddha Supreme became increasingly reclusive and eventually disappeared altogether. Rumor has it that he suffered internal injuries. After returning to Sacred Mountain, these wounds eventually recurred, resulting in his death.

Sacred Mountain never made an announcement regarding this before. Thus, in the beginning, most assumed that the supreme was still alive. As time passed, his lack of appearance birthed skepticism.

As for Righteous Supreme, he was an antique compared to Buddha Supreme. He has lived for numerous generations and would need to slumber for a long period after each appearance.

Most speculated that he didn't have long to live due to his withered true blood. Therefore, he wouldn't appear again in the future. He needed to stay alive for as long as possible in order to help Righteous Sect.

As for Eight Stallion Dao Lord, he left Eight Desolaces long ago right after reaching his prime.

Therefore, this heroic trio would not be here for this tidal recession. What could they do if the monsters returned?

“Let's pick the safe strategy?” A big shot wondered to himself. This meant evacuating from Black Wood Cliff or even the holy ground.

Many shared this thought after seeing the seabed again.

In the Biandu Clan, an ancient ancestor woke up and spoke: “A tidal recession?”

“The sacred ancestor has awakened!” Other ancestors hurriedly rushed over after hearing his voice.

On top of the ancestral peak, a messenger arrived and whispered to Three Slashes. He immediately left, no longer caring about the business here.

Li Qiye didn't mind his opponents leaving. He simply gazed at the deepest area of Black Tides.

Everyone became preoccupied with this new development and stopped caring about the ancestral peak issue.

“Clang! Clang! Clang!” The Guardian Legion outside the city struck the gongs multiple times. The ringing echoed throughout the region.

“Clang! Clang! Clang!” The Biandu also sounded their alarm.

“The water is gone, we need to find a safe place.” Mortals and cultivators became restless and nervous, unaware of how to deal with future uncertainties.

Meanwhile, the Guardian Legion activated their dao portal and sent messages back to Vajra Dynasty and the other divisions. This was their primary mission - observing Black Tides and sending messages on any new development.

Chapter 3858: Reinforcement

A furor broke out at the holy ground with the news of the tidal recession. The big shots from the various sects and races were shaken.

In fact, these men have received a message from Wei Qianqing before. She reported that the tides might recede once more. None of them supported her speculation since the last one was so recent. There was no historical precedence to support this.

The normal period was normally several generations or even longer. The current generation has yet to pass so how could another happen now?

Since Wei Qianqing found no supporters, she had no choice but to seek out Li Qiye.

Now, it was confirmed. The ancestor knew that this abnormal activity would have consequences.

“Report this to Sacred Mountain.” The dynasty immediately relayed this information to the highest power in the holy ground.

Other countries and sects didn’t have a direct line of communication, only Vajra. Of course, this was reserved for only the most important issues.

Prior to this, whether deliberate or inadvertently, Vajra rarely sent information to Sacred Mountain. In the former case, this would be an attempt to isolate Sacred Mountain from the holy ground.

Alas, they wouldn’t be able to hide the tidal recession even if they tried. This was too serious; just one mistake could leave them in ruins.

“Let Righteous Sect know as well.” Vajra also sent messengers to their neighbor.

The holy ground couldn’t handle this alone, and since the alliance between Buddha and Righteous Supreme was still in effect, Righteous Sect needed to know as well.

Unfortunately, both Sacred Mountain and Righteous Sect didn’t respond back to Vajra.

The dynasty didn’t expect this at all. The big shots from the other divisions found this astonishing as well.

Righteous Sect was one thing because their relationship was worsening. The scion’s challenge against the holy ground exacerbated the situation. Therefore, it was understandable for Righteous Sect to turn a blind eye.

However, this wasn’t the case for Sacred Mountain. It was the true ruling entity of the holy ground. Its silence left everyone anxious.

The ancestors and big shots speculated the possibilities.

“So the rumor is true? Buddha Supreme is gone.” One ancestor said.

This would be a grievous blow to the holy ground, akin to a snake losing its head. Chaos would be inevitable.

Furthermore, a lack of response from Righteous Sect was still alarming. This neighbor being neutral wasn't the worst-case scenario. What if they decided to invade as well? The holy ground would be fighting on multiple fronts - a truly calamitous outcome.

"Gather our forces." The Vajra Dynasty had no other choice.

The other divisions and powers in the holy ground began to make their move as well. They couldn't sit idly by and wait for death.

In reality, many big shots realized that even a united holy ground wasn't enough to deal with the incoming disaster. Ultimately, they lacked capable paragons against those monsters.

Unfortunately, they still needed to fight since this was an existential crisis.

Not long ago, Vajra would love to have an unresponsive Sacred Mountain. The death of Buddha Supreme meant that they had more chance of seizing the holy ground as well. Now, given the circumstances, his death was terrible news.

"Buzz." A mighty group came out of the portal in the Guardian Legion's camp.

They all had vigorous vitality and incredible skills. Most importantly, they were bald and wore kasaya.

That's right, this first group consisted of elite monks from Heavenly Dragon Temple.

Buddha Holy Ground had countless temples and monks. As the largest division of the holy ground, Heavenly Dragon would always support Sacred Mountain even when the latter was unresponsive.

It instantly mobilized numerous monks and disciples for the sake of defending Black Wood Cliff.

"The Monk of Wisdom is here!" This news began to spread and served as a morale boost.

This monk was one of the four grandmasters. Though he wasn't the strongest, his personal arrival had a positive effect on the entire holy ground.

"Buzz..." The portal back at the Biandu was activated as well, empowered by numerous chaos primal stones.

The clan allowed other powers to use this portal. In the past, it was deactivated or required an enormous sum since the clan purposely wanted to isolate Black Wood Cliff from the world.

Now, they had no choice but to spend their own primal stones for traveling purposes. They knew that they would be the first to go down in the case of failure against the invading monsters.

More light beams shot to the sky back at the army camp. Numerous mighty legions from Vajra came out with imposing auras.

"War Camp is not holding back. The Supreme Brother is in charge." This news spread across Black Wood as well.

The young ones didn't know who he was but the older generations have heard of him before - someone capable of contending against the four grandmasters.

“I wonder if the guardian of Vajra will come as well.” People became excited to see War Camp.

Vajra was second after Heavenly Dragon Temple. However, there was nothing to criticize since it seemed to be fully mobilizing its legions.

Other powers and experts started arriving as well, following the good example set by these two. It didn't take long before Black Wood was filled with top experts and soldiers.

Chapter 3859: Praetor

Both main portals in Black Wood remained busy with newcomers.

“Buzz.” On the same day, another portal suddenly emerged on the shore next to Black Tides, effective enough for mass teleportation. A gigantic army with millions of men marched out of the portal and waited by the shore.

This was a magnificent scene indeed, akin to a heavenly army descending from above. Its momentum seemed unstoppable.

Their armor was different from anything seen in the holy ground or all of the south. This type looked ancient, perhaps from millions of years ago. Nonetheless, the fact that they were still intact was a sign of their power. Only capable weapons and armors could withstand the test of time.

The experts back in Black Wood became emotional after seeing the fluttering banners.

“The insignia of the eight kingdoms.” Both the locals and the soldiers in the Guardian Legion became tense.

The eight kingdoms have been invaded by Righteous Sect and Buddha Holy Ground before. Peace came later along with trading.

Nonetheless, the sudden appearance of this great army still frightened the crowd. Some sects actually struck their gongs and prepared for battle.

The Guardian Legion and the Biandu didn't go as far. Nonetheless, their commanders still ordered the troops to remain vigilant.

During this tense atmosphere, a messenger from the eight kingdoms came to state their intention.

The Biandu and the legion then allowed this army to camp here as well.

“The army of the east is here to aid Black Wood Cliff against the incoming disaster!” This information eventually spread.

The experts in Black Wood heaved a sigh of relief. They worried that this army might have come to invade Black Wood during this crucial moment. They would be fighting multiple fronts then.

Another message came subsequently from the eastern army: “The Praetor himself is leading the coalition army. We swear to push back the monsters of Black Tides!”

Most have never heard of this Praetor. However, those familiar with the eastern kingdoms shuddered after hearing this news.

“The Praetor himself? The kingdoms are truly wanting to help us!” One expert rejoiced.

“If the Praetor is here, it shows that their top ancestors are unanimous in wanting to help us. Maybe the legendary God Monarch will show up too.” Another added.

“What God Monarch?” Those nearby didn’t know the situation in the eastern kingdoms due to a lack of contact.

“Crystal God Monarch of the Celestial Crystal Race.” Someone from the east elaborated.

“The legendary being only second to the Ancient Empress?” Most were extremely shaken after hearing this title.

“That’s him.” The man from the east confirmed.

Crystal God Monarch was a renowned existence, rumored to only be second to the Ancient Empress. In fact, some believed that their cultivation was equal. It’s just that the Ancient Empress had greater status, beloved by the eight kingdoms.

He came from the Celestial Crystal Race. They were famous for possessing an indestructible diamond law, allowing them to be undefeated.

“I heard that the monarch was able to withstand three moves from South Conch Dao Lord’s patrimony weapon. Is this true?” Someone else brought this up.

“It’s true.” A powerful cultivator from the east confirmed: “The crystal race’s indestructible diamond physique is the strongest defensive merit law. This shouldn’t be surprising.”

“Yes, their indestructible diamond physique is incredible. What a feat it is to survive three attacks from a dao lord.” A big shot from the last generation said: “That’s why the monarch is only second to the Ancient Empress.

“The current Praetor has been taught by the monarch. The monarch has a high evaluation of him.” The powerful cultivator from the east added.

The eastern coalition armies were mighty. As the Praetor in command, this cultivator must be exceptional. His cultivation wouldn’t be inferior to the four grandmasters.

“Nothing can be better if the monarch and maybe even the empress come to help.” Someone from the holy ground said.

“Yes, imagine if Worldly Immortal comes too.” His friend said with excitement.

The members of the holy ground harbored these hopeful ideas, even the experienced big shots. Their legions alone weren’t enough to stop the tides so external help was necessary.

If Crystal God Monarch, the Ancient Empress, and Worldly Immortal were to come, then it would be more than enough. After all, Worldly Immortal was comparable to any dao lord.

“I hope so.” A big shot said, albeit with pessimism. The current holy ground lacked a leader capable of directly asking these great beings for help.

As armies gathered on the shore, Three Slashes and his group secretly entered Black Tides during the night.

“Buzz.” Suddenly, a radiant beam from the depth of the ocean illuminated the seafloor.

“Hmm, do you see that?” Outsiders had no clue what was going on.

The light suddenly converged back to its origin and disappeared. “Boom!” A powerful force emanated in all directions, wielding the affinity of destruction.

Within a ten million radius in Black Cliff, all weapons - whether they be carried by personnel or stored in treasuries - started resonating. They seemed to be summoned by a higher existence.

“Clank! Clank!” Cultivators needed to hold their weapons back since they wanted to fly away.

“What’s going on?!” The astounded members grasped their weapons tightly.

“The mythical weapon is appearing again.” An ancestor quietly responded.

“Weapon?” The young ones nearby became curious.

Meanwhile, many big shots hidden in the shadow were gazing at Black Tides.

“Here again, who will be able to obtain this weapon in this generation?” A mighty ancestor murmured to himself.

Chapter 3860: Immortal Weapon

A secret existed in Black Tides that would only appear during tidal recessions. Few were privy of this knowledge, only the powerful ancestors. Some entered Black Tides searching for it, dao lords included.

It pertained to an immortal weapon far superior to dao lord weapons, perhaps on the same level as the nine heavenly treasures. Of course, the nine only belonged in the legends; no one knew if they were real or otherwise.

On the other hand, people were sure that this immortal weapon was there in Black Tides, hiding in some unknown location.

Its name and origin remained a mystery. The top dao lords and supremes themselves had no idea.

Conflicting opinions existed historically. Some believed that no one had ever seen it; others said that certain dao lords were fortunate enough. Either way, information regarding its shape and origin was never made public.

The ancestors and reclusive masters from various sects were sure of its existence. The biggest reason was the phenomenon just now - the resonance of every weapon within a ten-million-miles radius.

They thought that this immortal weapon must have shown itself, resulting in the resonance.

All eyes were on Black Tides, focusing on the source of the light earlier. They thought that it should be the location of the weapon.

The weapon resonance on a mass scale eventually stopped, allowing cultivators to breathe easy again without the fear of losing their treasures.

Suddenly, buzzes and lights emerged in various locations in Black Tides. Red, platinum, black lights... They only flashed for a moment before dimming down outside of certain places.

“What are those things?” The lights attracted the attention of many.

“Treasures are appearing.” A big shot from the last generation replied.

“So Black Tides really has treasures?” A young outsider asked since she didn’t know much about Black Tides.

“Yes.” The big shot nodded: “Numerous masters died in Black Tides throughout history. They left behind their weapons and treasures there. Moreover, Black Tides itself has secret treasures too. They usually show up during the tidal recessions.”

“Really now...” The young ones’ excitement grew.

Their seniors gave him the side-eye and said: “Look, so many important characters have gathered here. Are they all here to help Black Wood? Of course not, some merely came for the treasure in Black Tides. Each tidal recession is a terrible disaster but for some, an opportunity.”

“We gotta go then!” Some lost their patience and wanted to rush in.

They were late to the party because many big shots had already secretly entered a while back. The public had no idea that they were here since their target was the legendary immortal weapon. Some among them were actually famous supremes.

During this night, Li Qiye also observed the ocean while standing on the ancestral peak of the Biandu.

The old servant accompanied him alone since the vivacious Yang Ling had gone outside to watch the show.

Li Qiye had a smile while looking at the lights. On the other hand, the old man looked solemn as he focused on the deepest areas of Black Tides.

The old man eventually broke the silence: “Rumor has it that there is a peerless immortal weapon in Black Tides. What is your opinion on it, Young Master?”

“You’ve gone inside already, no?” Li Qiye smiled.

“Yes.” The old man smiled wryly. There were various reasons for his entry in the past. One of them was definitely this immortal weapon. He sought it and hoped to turn it into his own - a weapon that would be immortalized in history.

“I knew about this weapon’s appearance during tidal recessions but I had nothing but confidence back then. I rushed in early and never saw anything, nearly throwing my life away in the process.” He revealed while shaking his head.

Black Tides was just too dangerous, especially with the blood water compared to its dried version.

The old man didn't make it to the last area of Black Tides. He knew that it was time to give up instead of being suicidal.

"It's there indeed." Li Qiye nodded.

The old man shuddered since this made the rumor true. The immortal weapon really existed.

"What type of weapon is it? It's from an immortal beyond the sky?" He took a deep breath and asked.

"You're overthinking it, they don't exist but if they do and are actually here, I'll be the first to take them down. Eight Desolaces can't handle the existence of an immortal." Li Qiye smiled.

The casual comment contained high-level information for the old man. Those with more knowledge would become emotional after hearing this. Waves ran rampant in his mind as he tried to digest it. Words couldn't describe how he was feeling.

It took a while before he regained his composure and asked softly: "Tell me more about this weapon then, Young Master. How does it compare to the nine heavenly treasures?"

"No need to use them as a gauge. Putting aside their amazing nature, not all are weapons." Li Qiye shook his head.

The nine treasures only existed in the myths. All the stories surrounding them were confusing and lacked details. Not all believed in them being real.

"As for this one, it's just scrap metal. Of course, scrap metal can be useful and valuable too." He added.

The old man smiled wryly. Even dao lords in history desired this immortal weapon yet Li Qiye used "scrap metal" to describe it.

"Looks like you want it." Li Qiye smiled at the old man.

"A top weapon is reserved for the fated ones. I came before and didn't obtain it, so it's not meant for me. I'm sure the person is none other than you, Young Master." The old man replied.

"You're too old for flatteries." Li Qiye shook his head: "It's not that I want it. It's just that someone else does and it can be useful."

The old man then understood that this immortal weapon had been claimed.