

Emperor 3941

Chapter 3941: Big Shots Showing Up

People who saw Li Qiye's prior actions at the peak were shaken. For example, Five-colored Sacred Sovereign.

He had started the refinement process even before the tidal recession or any sign of the immortal weapon.

No one found logic in anything he did. They thought that using the main cauldron for refining waste metals was ridiculous, similar to a monk still searching for hair on top of his head. Many even mocked him.

But now, it became obvious that Li Qiye predicted everything, from the tidal recession to him being able to grab the immortal weapon.

Others thought that he could read the future - something truly unbelievable. However, the sovereign knew that this was just perfect planning.

The old servant was right - Li Qiye was many moves ahead of anyone else - a truly frightening disparity.

As for the sovereign, he realized that Li Qiye was at an unreachable height.

"Bam! Bam! Bam!" Bright flashes and detonations occurred with each smash.

The lightning bolts became thicker and more violent; the same with the rays emanating from the molten liquid.

It was as if the liquid was flowing towards the gate of an immortal world. The rays made people want to rush closer.

"He's fixing or recreating it, I can't believe that such a method is possible." The crowd was astounded.

Not long ago, they thought that just obtaining the weapon would be the biggest fortune possible. None thought about actually fixing it. Li Qiye didn't only think of it but was actually carrying it out.

"Either way, it'll be unstoppable once finished." An expert murmured.

"Perhaps this weapon will be greater than Heaven." An old ancestor focused on the pulsing light and said.

"Better than Heaven?" Other ancestors became emotional.

"I think so, I saw Heaven in Sword Kingdom once during my youth. I think Heaven is one level below this." The ancestor said earnestly.

"I'm so jealous of Sword Continent. We don't have anything like that in West King." Another big shot became emotional.

“That’s why our West King can’t compare to Sword Continent and the other realms.” A different peer added.

“How does it compare to the nine Heavenly Treasures?” A king brought this up.

The powerful group exchanged glances. A high elder among them shook his head: “The nine treasures are legends that haven’t been seen before. No one knows what they’re like.”

“True, but we’re looking at the immortal weapon right now. It has to be peerless once completed.” Another nodded in agreement.

“This is history in the making.” They became emotional and felt their heart beating faster.

“Its completion is inevitable. What do you think, Brother Black Tides?” A cold and distorted voice sounded.

Everyone looked over and saw an old man wearing a golden imperial robe. He looked gallant while holding a pagoda. His long beard reached his chest, looking like a great general.

“Who is that?” Most didn’t know him but since he addressed Black Tides Saint as “brother”, he was obviously someone important.

They noticed that the disciples around him were from the Li Clan. They looked proud with their chest arched forward, seemingly confident after gaining a strong backer.

“The Li, it might be him.” A high elder from an ancient clan narrowed his eyes.

“You’re right, Celestial King.” Black Tides Saint responded.

“Celestial King? I know who he is, the strongest ancestor of the Li!” The high elder shouted.

“!!!” Other big shots have all heard of this notorious title.

“Who’s that?” A youth had no idea and became curious.

“One of the nine Heavenly Sovereigns, Celestial King Li.” His ancestor solemnly responded.

People finally understood why he could speak to the saint as if they were on the same level. His appearance wasn’t too surprising due to the prior conversation between Righteous Supreme and the saint.

He simply didn’t want to reveal himself until now. It became too tempting.

“The Li just got a lot more powerful.” Those from the holy ground reflected. This took the clan to the next level.

Masters like Five-colored Sacred Sovereign and the Monk of Wisdom remained calm. Perhaps they already knew that these ancient beings were still alive. Only regular cultivators had no idea.

“Whoever possesses this weapon will dominate the era.” A voice in tune with the dao spoke.

The crowd shifted their attention again and saw a daoist standing in the camp of the Zhang. The disciples there had the same arrogant expression, their chin aiming up at the sky.

He wore a daoist robe, simple yet embroidered with golden strings. His eyes pulsed with auspicious energy, seemingly capable of piercing the world and seizing the soul.

“Master Zhang, another sovereign.” The old ancestor recognized him and still became emotional despite already expecting this.

The crowd then understood why the disciples from these two clans had those annoying expressions on their face.

“No wonder why the Li and Zhang are so influential in Vajra.” A big shot from the holy ground reflected.

Everyone knew that the two clans were strong supporters of Vajra. They were extremely strong with deep roots everywhere.

There were many reasons for their power and influence but the fact that these two ancestors were alive might play a large role.

“How many others are still alive among the eight saints and nine sovereigns?” Someone wondered.

“Vajra is showing its fangs.” Another thought after seeing two more top cultivators.

Chapter 3942: Heavenly Tribulation

Celestial King Li revealed his identity first and then Master Zhang did the same. Everyone knew that this was no coincidence and the atmosphere became awfully tense.

Could this be a reunion for the eight saints and nine sovereigns?

The last time they were together was for an expedition against the east, wanting to divide the eight kingdoms.

What would be their goal this time around? All eyes couldn't help but converge on Li Qiye and his weapon, more so the latter.

These top masters were clearly here for the immortal weapon. However, their sacred lord had it now. What would be their choice?

The crowd wondered how many of them survived against the Ancient Empress. Were all the survivors here?

“Is a fight going to break out?” A few cultivators started thinking about this undesirable outcome.

When the immortal weapon first appeared, these top masters didn't do a thing. Only Righteous Supreme became impatient and gave it a shot.

Now, they showed up one after another after Li Qiye successfully tamed the weapon.

“Li Qiye destroyed those two clans' mansions at the capital.” Someone from the holy ground reminded.

Thus, there was an existing feud between Li Qiye and the two clans.

“This trivial matter isn’t worth mentioning. No one dares to be lawless, at least not because of it.” An ancestor shook his head.

“But they might, for the immortal weapon.” His friend, a high elder, quietly responded.

Others took a deep breath after hearing this. As the sacred lord, what Li Qiye did to the Li and Zhang Clan could be construed as taking care of internal business. Not to mention outsiders, even these two clans wouldn’t dare to demand justice. Otherwise, other sects would chastise and mobilize against them for doing so.

But would this immortal weapon make them abandon everything else?

Meanwhile, Li Qiye didn’t pay attention to these big shots at all. His sole focus was on refining the immortal weapon.

With each subsequent smash, the molten liquid gathered on the damaged part and slowly became solid. The immortal weapon was being finished so the immortal rays became brighter.

The cauldron looked like a portal to an immortal world. Lightning bolts and bright flashes engulfed the area around it, resulting in a magnificent spectacle.

“Buzz.” The immortal divinity permeated across the region. People suddenly saw visual phenomena through the cauldron - soaring phoenixes and young immortals greeting guests; immortal materials could be seen as well.

Some spectators were fully immersed in this paradisiacal scene.

“What will this weapon look like at grand completion?” Many big shots exclaimed in admiration.

Suddenly, the sky turned dark with black clouds looming ahead. The clouds became thicker and denser, eventually spinning around to form a maelstrom issuing loud explosions.

The black maelstrom grew in size, seemingly opening the sky vault to let down a terrible tribulation.

“Rumble!” The blasts were deafening and discomforted the listeners.

“What the hell is going on?!” They became horrified at the cataclysmic maelstrom.

“A tribulation is descending.” One ancestor said seriously.

Other cultivators gasped because tribulations rarely happened, especially heavenly tribulations. Only a few dao lords experienced the latter during their dao ascension.

Now, there was a chance of this being a heavenly tribulation so the crowd became frightened.

“Why is it happening? Is it really a heavenly one?” One expert loudly shouted.

“Should be.” An old ancestor solemnly said: “The immortal weapon might be excellent enough to alarm the heaven, resulting in a punishment.”

Even the top existences shuddered after hearing these words.

A punishment from high heaven would only descend when something unallowable was taking place.

“This weapon shouldn’t exist?” One expert asked.

“That’s just a testament to how heaven-defying it is.” Another quietly answered.

“This is unprecedented. Vajra Dao Lord had experienced this before too while crafting an incredible item, at least according to the legend.” A king from the holy ground said.

Vajra Dao Lord wasn’t the strongest among his peers. However, he was known to be the best blacksmith. It shouldn’t be surprising that he could create something inciting a heavenly tribulation.

“Boom! Boom!” Lightning started to gather in the center of the maelstrom.

“Look, it’s actually happening.” Spectators realized that it was indeed a heavenly tribulation.

“Will His Excellency be able to stop it?” Some became worried.

“I don’t know, he’s occupied right now.” Another responded.

They saw Li Qiye being fully busy with the crafting process, how could he handle the tribulation as well?

“Excuse my tardiness.” A powerful voice with a strange metallic ringing could be heard.

Though it came from the horizon, everyone still heard it clearly right away. They then saw multi-colored lights appearing from afar, looking like the reflection of a crystal.

The lights turned into a rainbow, allowing one to cross through two worlds. One end was at Black Tides while the other was to the east.

Thus, a newcomer arrived on the scene. Resplendent radiances of various colors blinded the crowd. It was as if they were staring at a mountain of treasures.

Chapter 3943: Crystal God Monarch

A middle-aged man appeared before the crowd. He had a tall and sturdy figure, surpassing everyone else.

Celestial King Li had an impressive stature but looked like a dwarf compared to this man. It was clear that his body wasn’t made from flesh and blood.

This wasn’t strange in the cultivation world due to the countless races. However, the majority maintained a physical form consisting of flesh and blood. In history, this type of body was the most suitable for cultivation.

On the other hand, the man looked like a cornelian carved in humanoid form. In spite of this, his expression and actions were vivid and smooth.

The circulating halos around him were eye-catching as well. As they rotated and illuminated his body, different colors were reflected back to the spectators. The rotation seemed calculated and harmonious.

He wore an ancient royal crest on his head and exuded a regal aura. The crest actually seemed to be a part of his body as if it was there during his birth. It was the perfect ornament for this man. He was born to be noble and lofty, always commanding respect and love from others.

“Who is he?” Some spectators forgot about the tribulation for a moment after seeing him. They could tell that he was a formidable being.

He looked relatively young in terms of appearance but this didn’t deter his imposing pressure.

“Welcome, God Monarch.” Black Tides Saint greeted him.

“I know who he is now, he, he has to be Crystal God Monarch!” An old king realized who this person was right away after hearing his title.

“Indeed, he is our supreme God Monarch. Greetings, Your Majesty.” A big shot from the east immediately bowed.

The eastern cultivators prostrated before the great cultivator while outsiders became startled.

Everyone has heard of the title, “Crystal God Monarch”. The east had three great legends in history - Worldly Immortal, the Ancient Empress, and lastly, Crystal God Monarch.

The monarch might not be on the same level as Worldly Immortal but was still world-renowned.

He came from the Celestial Crystal Race, blessed with both talents and nobility. Rumor has it that he successfully defended one of South Conch Dao Lord’s three attacks. This was enough to go down in history.

Though he looked young, he was far older than nearly everyone in the crowd. The hiding monsters were still his juniors.

“Gentlemen, I can’t miss this exciting event when everyone is already here. Do excuse my tardiness though since I’m farther away and not up to date with news.” The monarch smiled and said.

It was strange for these undying monsters to be so cordial with each other. After all, they were enemies once.

As he was making casual talks, he stared at Li Qiye and the immortal weapon.

“Bam! Bam! Bam!” Meanwhile, the concentrating Li Qiye didn’t pay attention to the tribulation gathering above.

“Boom!” One violet bolt descended. It didn’t hit Li Qiye yet but still pierced through the peak, creating cracks spanning for thousands of miles.

Just one bolt alone showed its devastating potential. What if the entire tribulation came down?

The crowd thought that it made sense for even dao lords to be afraid of them.

“Gentlemen, what do you think about the incoming tribulation?” The monarch glanced at the sky first then - whether purposely or otherwise - at Li Qiye.

Some listeners took a second before understanding a shift in the atmosphere.

Of course, only those on the same level as him were qualified to speak - Righteous Supreme, Black Tides Saint, Celestial King Li, Master Zhang, and some others.

Celestial King Li and Master Zhang didn't respond, seemingly waiting for something.

"Gods and immortals still can't survive a heavenly tribulation." The saint was the first to break the silence.

Some thought that Celestial King Li and Master Zhang were waiting to see the saint's stance. They have fought together on the battlefield; outsiders didn't know the extent of their relationship.

"Yes, frightening indeed." The monarch's eyes narrowed.

The conversation contained a few key pieces of information for the attentive listeners. For example, the immortal weapon would be up for grabs again after Li Qiye's death.

Or, even if Li Qiye could survive it, he would be in a weakened state. That would give them a great opportunity to seize the weapon.

Thus, some top cultivators began to imagine the various scenarios. Sure enough, the monarch's group had the best chance of winning.

"This tribulation is a disaster warranting precaution. We need to prevent it from spreading." Celestial King Li stroked his long beard and said.

Master Zhang nodded in agreement: "Yes, we should be responsible for limiting potential casualties. Am I right, God Monarch?"

"Indeed, do you agree with us so far, Saint?" The monarch replied.

"I am always ready when it comes to helping the world." The saint pondered for a bit before answering.

The other hidden masters took a deep breath after hearing their conversation. Five-colored Sacred Sovereign and the Monk of Wisdom became serious.

These four have come to an agreement and created an unbelievably powerful alliance.

Chapter 3944: Start Of The Tribulation

Crystal God Monarch, Celestial King Li, Master Zhang, and Black Tides Saint have formed an alliance to the crowd's chagrin.

The scale has tipped in their favor. They had an absolute advantage right now.

"Supreme, what is your opinion on this?" The monarch looked up at the clouds.

The crowd suddenly froze after hearing this question, eagerly awaiting a response from the supreme.

“What should he do?” One ancestor wondered.

The odds were already stacked against Li Qiye. If Righteous Supreme were to join too...

Gauging his power was rather difficult. He was famous alongside Buddha Supreme and considered one of the strongest ancestors in the south.

No one knew if he was stronger than Black Tides Saint and Crystal God Monarch or not. However, his senior brother, Righteous Saint, was the leader of the eight saints and nine sovereigns. His power far exceeded theirs.

Righteous Supreme, being the junior brother and all and possessing top talent, should at least be as strong as these cultivators.

His decision to join could firmly decide this issue. Li Qiye wouldn't stand a damn chance.

However, no response came from the clouds. Righteous Supreme neither accepted nor refused the monarch's invitation.

“Even if the supreme wants to stop them, I don't think he can.” An old cultivator said softly. The alliance had more than enough power to suppress the supreme.

“Boom!” Suddenly, another loud explosion came from above. This time, a golden lightning bolt descended.

“Here we go, a lighting bolt from a heavenly tribulation.” The crowd became alarmed.

“Boom!” The bolt struck Li Qiye and spilled blood. It coursed down to the ground and left behind a deep pit.

“The sacred lord is in danger!” Countless members of the holy ground bellowed.

The loyal members wanted to help Li Qiye but unfortunately, the golden bolt was just too powerful. Willingness wasn't a substitute for ability.

“Buzz.” Rays exuded from him and formed a massive barrier around the entire peak. Li Qiye then continued with his task.

“Rumble!” The tribulation above finally had enough and sent down waves of heavenly lightning bolts and earthly flames at Li Qiye.

The power of this assault could instantly reduce the world into lava to the horror of the crowd. However, the light barrier managed to stop the first wave.

“Yes!” Most spectators started cheering.

“Our sacred lord is invincible!” The members of the holy crowd turned red while loudly cheering.

“His Excellency got this!” Some waved their fists wildly in the air.

“Boom! Boom! Boom!” The bolts and flames still couldn't make it through the barrier.

The rays empowering the barrier seemed to be originating from the source of the dao - the purest type of light. Thus, though it wasn't a special technique and lacked divinity, the tribulation still couldn't break through.

Those from the holy ground loved seeing this development. They fully supported their sacred lord after his status became known. After all, Sacred Mountain stood at the apex in the holy ground.

Black Tides Saint's group discreetly exchanged glances after seeing this. They didn't expect Li Qiye to be able to stop the first wave. Moreover, the crowd's reaction looked unfavorable as well.

"Boom!" An explosion capable of starting a new world detonated and interrupted the applause.

Black clouds and the lightning pond above expanded, forcing the horrified spectators to retreat further.

A while ago, the tribulation was limited to the area above Li Qiye's head. Now, it encompassed the entire region.

This forced his loyal supporters to keep a safe distance from Li Qiye, not wanting to be accidental victims.

"I've never heard of a heavenly tribulation like this before." The knowledgeable ancestors found this astonishing.

"Yes, this is new." An ancient ancestor from a powerful gate said solemnly.

Once the tribulation expanded enough, it illuminated the world with a golden radiance. The maelstrom in the middle sent down four tribulation pillars. They landed and formed a square around Myriad Cauldron Peak.

They had different colors - dark red, gray, dark green, and blue. Tribulation flames engulfed them. Each wisp of flames could burn time and space.

"What are those things?!" Even the big shots became horrified. They haven't seen these pillars before but the destructive nature of the flames was obvious.

"What kind of terrible tribulation is this?" Another murmured.

Chapter 3945: Terrible Tribulation

The four tribulation pillars and their horrifying rays could pierce through anything. Others didn't dare to stare because the rays could pierce through their soul.

"Clank!" The rays began coming together to form energy spears, fully surrounding Li Qiye.

"Buzz." Another group created multiple paintings. The appearance of each turned the world dark as if an apocalypse was coming.

The diagrams loomed above Li Qiye and turned into an ocean of lightning and flames. It seemed eager to reduce Li Qiye to ashes.

Everyone knew that there was a maelstrom of tribulation above. However, these diagrams brought the battle closer to Li Qiye.

They became horrified because his surroundings turned into no man's land. No one would be able to survive.

"A tribulation right in our world, I've never seen anything like this before. It doesn't matter how strong and capable a cultivator is, they still have no chance of surviving." One expert trembled with fear.

Two tribulations have emerged, one in the sky and one directly above the ground. This was completely unprecedented for the cultivators present.

"This is a tribu-tribulation that only comes for dao lords, ri-right?" One pale youth stammered.

His ancestor shook his head: "Proving their dao success and becoming a dao lord won't necessarily herald a tribulation. It's a low possibility."

"Crack! Crack!" The tribulation above started again. The maelstrom released a torrent of lightning bolts.

A golden one had an overwhelming divinity and destruction. The dark one was sinister, looking like silks and strings that could pierce its target's body. Another had a blood hue; its essence contained an unstoppable murderous intent...

No living beings could ever survive the numerous bolts.

"Shit!" Many were scared out of their mind while screaming but it was only the beginning.

The bolts exploded on the way down, wanting to erase Li Qiye from existence. The explosions then morphed together to form a single beam that melted space and time along its trajectory.

"Boom! "Meanwhile, the ocean of tribulation on the ground didn't waste time and also activated.

It erupted and created a tornado of lightning bolts and flames. The tornado spun around Li Qiye while the beam descended from above.

"How can something like this exist..." The crowd was astounded. Even the top masters such as Righteous Supreme and the old servant turned pale.

They thought that they would only last one round at best before disappearing from the world.

"What thing necessitates this level of destruction?" Someone murmured.

"The immortal weapon must be too powerful." Another replied.

"I don't think so, one didn't come down for it before this." A third speaker said with uncertainty.

"Maybe the crux of the issue is the sacred lord." One cultivator said: "The immortal weapon is still just a weapon. Its master decides what to do with it, good or bad."

The voice was indistinct but everyone still heard it clearly: "Who can stop someone wielding this weapon from committing heinous acts? No one."

The listeners thought that this made sense. The wielder could massacre billions in an unstoppable rampage.

"If there's evil in the heart, the person in possession of the immortal weapon will absolutely rampage. That's why this tribulation is coming down to end this." The voice became emotional.

A disciple from the holy ground didn't like this assessment: "What the hell are you implying? That our sacred lord is evil?"

"I'm not the one implying, the heavenly tribulation is here for a reason." The voice spoke again.

Some wavered after hearing this. One expert said with hesitation: "There's logic in this. An evil person wielding this weapon can definitely turn Eight Desolaces into hell."

"The sacred lord isn't someone like that!" The disciple sided with Li Qiye.

"Who knows? He has shown malicious tendencies before." Someone in the group said.

"Right, he killed plenty back in the capital before, millions from the Li and Zhang. He's a butcher." Another remarked.

"It's dangerous for him to have the immortal weapon. He'll kill anyone who dares to oppose him and a scene of carnage will show up all over the world, not just in West King. Sects will turn to ashes." More began kicking a man while he's down.

"It will be too late for regret then." Another instigation spoke.

More and more bought this belief because that explained the terrible tribulation currently happening.

Chapter 3946: Idiomatic Barking

The instigators managed to move many of the audience. Moreover, the stronger experts coveted the immortal weapon. This simply gave him a justification and an opportunity.

"A scourge to the world must be eliminated!" Another unknown soul shouted loudly.

No one knew who said it but the words could be heard by all.

"Eliminate the scourge!" Others felt the urge to shout as well.

Nonetheless, a minority from the holy ground still supported Li Qiye. They shouted back: "The sacred lord is our leader and spiritual totem. Scheming against the sacred lord is opposing the holy ground!"

"Does the holy ground wish to harbor someone who can cause untold misery? The world will not allow this!" Someone else loudly retorted.

"The holy ground needs to take care of its mess and rid itself of evil members for the sake of justice!" Another shouted.

"That's right!" A vocal group supported this notion.

By this point, some members of the holy ground were swayed to the other side. They thought that Li Qiye could become a source of disaster.

"Get rid of evil members for the sake of justice!" The chant gained immense support and only intensified as time passed.

Li Qiye's few supporters couldn't be heard at all due to the waves of opposition.

"As the adage goes - wealth beckons trouble." One ancestor quietly murmured.

Some of the crowd actually believed in this notion while the instigators only wanted to obtain the immortal weapon.

"Saint, you are an ancestor of the holy ground, we are ready to listen to your direction with regard to our future. Please make a decision!" Another unknown crowd member roared loud enough for everyone to hear.

The deafening chants stopped since they decided to wait for the saint's response. Though they shouted about wanting Li Qiye's head, they still needed a leader.

This was especially true for the members of the holy ground. After all, regular ancestors couldn't deliver a judgment on Li Qiye. Someone of higher status had to do so.

In other words, only characters like Black Tides Saint or Righteous Supreme. However, Righteous Supreme wasn't appropriate for this occasion since they were from rival sects.

Black Tides Saint became the focus since he had enough authority and status. Few here could stand shoulder to shoulder with him so he was the most qualified to sentence Li Qiye.

People forgot about the explosions from the tribulations since they cared about the sentencing. In a sense, this could decide Li Qiye's fate.

"Upholding justice and equality is everyone's responsibility. I will shoulder this mission." Black Tides Saint finally broke the silence.

Though he didn't directly accuse Li Qiye of being evil, his attitude was extremely clear.

"Members of the holy ground can't sit idly by and watch." Celestial King Li added.

"Yes, eliminate evil with haste." Master Zhang didn't waste any time.

"Eliminate evil with haste!" Those prepared in the crowd immediately shouted.

"Eliminate evil with haste!" Loud chants began again.

Li Qiye's supporters had no chance of contesting the majority.

"It's unsalvageable." One expert from the holy ground lamented.

"Eliminate, eliminate!" The chant became orderly, turning into a slogan. Some started taking out their weapons while glaring at Li Qiye.

Alas, no one made a move. First, Li Qiye was still the sacred lord. Even the ancestors from the holy ground wouldn't dare to attack him.

This was putting aside his actual power and abilities. As long as he remained the sacred lord, any offensive action would be considered traitorous.

As for those from Righteous and the east, they had a bigger reason to remain passive. If they were to fail, Li Qiye would definitely lead an expedition for revenge later. Moreover, he would still have the immortal weapon then. Their lands would be massacred.

That's why they waited for the top dogs to make a decision first.

"Blind fools." Someone snorted and said.

Though the chants were deafening, his disdainful remark was still overwhelming and forced everyone to listen.

"Talk to my blade first before." An old man holding a saber appeared.

"Clank!" His sharp aura and energy forced everyone back even though the saber was still sheathed.

He looked unbeatable and prideful, not putting anyone else into his sight. It was none other than the old servant.

He glared at the crowd and no one dared to meet his gaze.

"Who is he?" Others only knew him as Li Qiye's servant.

"Mad Blade, Guan Tianba." A few already knew who he was long ago but didn't reveal it: "The third."

"The third..." Others gasped after hearing this.

Guan Tianba had worldwide fame. People even referred to him as the third supreme. The crowd didn't expect someone of his stature to be Li Qiye's servant.

"I can't believe it." Another found this astounding.

Yang Ling's mouth was wide open. She knew that he was strong but he turned out to be one of her heroes - Guan Tianba!

"Who dares to test my blade?!" He laughed heartily and challenged the crowd. His dominant style was obvious after a single glance.

The inconspicuous servant has returned to his imperious self!

Chapter 3947: Mad Blade

Listeners normally shuddered upon hearing the title, Mad Blade. In terms of fame and prestige, he might not be on the same level as Buddha and Righteous Supreme back then.

However, he was still considered the third supreme. His power shouldn't be inferior to them.

Most importantly, he was far younger in comparison. This meant having vigorous vitality and greater battle endurance.

One main difference was their interaction with others. The other two supremes acted like normal ancient ancestors. They rarely cared about mundane matters or showed up in public.

On the other hand, Guan Tianba was always itching for a fight, raising his blade against all provokers.

Virtually all famous cultivators during that generation had a taste of his aggressive temperament. This resulted in many tales about him.

Back to the two supremes, they would ignore disrespectful comments from a junior since any retaliation would be considered inappropriate and beneath them.

As for Guan Tianba, he would actually attack the junior's sect and demand an explanation. He never cared about anyone's background or status.

This still seemed to be the case as he stood stoically; his saber energies pricked the crowd. They no longer dared to chant against Li Qiye.

After all, this was a top master ready to fight even the juniors for offending him. Thus, opening one's mouth was akin to courting death.

Both the instigators or those falling for the scheme didn't say a thing. Just his pressure alone fully intimidated them. None dared to look at him directly.

The atmosphere became oppressive as a result. They felt suffocated by his rampant aura.

"Boom!" Suddenly, someone appeared out of nowhere. His footsteps crushed the space beneath.

A golden radiance illuminated all eight directions and stopped Guan Tianba's saber energies. This allowed the crowd to heave a sigh of relief.

"Fellow Daoist Guan, you're being overbearing." The newcomer spoke with a voice similar to that of a god - awe-inspiring and commanding respect.

This old man wore golden armor with ancient and sacred symbols. He seemed to have come from a distant past.

He had yet to activate his power yet his innate aura felt peerless. His glare alone could inflict untold destruction.

Despite his impressive appearance, the golden cauldron he was holding stole the crowd's attention.

Chaos energy surrounded it along with the sounds of the grand dao. Its inactive form was still enough to crush the firmaments.

Even a fool understood what it was - a dao lord weapon!

"He has a dao lord weapon..." Many were shaken to see this. Possessing a dao lord weapon was a sign of status.

"Who is he?" Many juniors didn't recognize the old man but knew that he was important so they spoke with a hushed tone.

A few ancestors recognized him but didn't dare to utter his title.

However, Guan Tianba had no such qualms and stared at the old man. His eyes narrowed before he burst out in laughter: “Vajra Saint, seems like nothing happened to you. Hmph, finally showing up today? I visited your Ancestral Shrine but didn’t see you there.”

“Vajra Saint...” Others became astounded after hearing his title.

He was the illustrious cultivator in the holy ground before Buddha Supreme. His counterpart was Righteous Saint.

These two were the strongest among the eight saints and nine sovereigns. Of course, Righteous Saint held the number one spot.

Furthermore, Guan Tianba’s comment revealed several pieces of information. It looked like he had visited the Ancestral Shrine in Vajra and defeated other ancestors. However, the saint never answered the challenge.

“Vajra really has a dao lord weapon.” One cultivator from the holy ground said: “No wonder why they have been in charge for so long.”

The Li and the Zhang had capable ancestors too. Alas, they chose to be loyal vassals of Vajra. This dao lord weapon might be a big factor in their choice.

Putting Sacred Mountain aside, very few powers had a dao lord weapon in the holy ground. Potential candidates were Heavenly Dragon Temple and Duality Academy.

Therefore, Vajra maintained a firm grip despite having an incapable ruler in Archaic Sun King. A dao lord weapon was simply too intimidating.

Nonetheless, Guan Tianba showed no fear while facing a mighty senior. The crowd thought that he lived up to his fame.

“My old bones couldn’t handle the trouble.” Vajra Saint wasn’t angry at all and explained: “It’s just that I have no choice but to join the fray this time.”

Chapter 3948: Domineering

Vajra Saint spoke calmly but with an unshakable conviction. The words seemed to be carved in the air.

“Well, let’s see if my blade is sharper or your cauldron is tougher.” Guan Tianba never backed down to anyone.

Vajra Saint’s eyes narrowed and shot out rays. This was akin to being chained and looking up at an executioner with his blade raised. Anyone would be horrified at this moment, ancestors included.

Alas, they couldn’t avert their gaze from a potential battle between Mad Blade and Vajra Saint.

Though they weren’t from the same generation, they were the top dogs in their respective time and could act as its representative. This was a battle between two generations.

“Who will win?” Cultivators became curious about the result.

“In my opinion, Vajra Saint has the overwhelming advantage. Putting cultivation aside, his cauldron is just superior to anything Guan Tianba has.” An elder from a clan quietly spoke after a brief rumination.

“Are you forgetting that Guan Tianba is far younger? Sure, he’s not that young relative to us but the saint has one foot in the grave. He’s a vigorous youth in comparison, having ample lifespan and vitality. How many times can the saint activate that dao lord weapon?” A different old man whispered.

The group agreed with this as well. A dao lord weapon was undoubtedly strong. However, it wasn’t the saint’s own weapon. On the other hand, Guan Tianba and his saber were virtually one and the same.

He could unleash a thousand slashes without a problem. As for the saint, his vitality wouldn’t allow him to use the dao lord weapon in a prolonged fight.

Since it wasn’t his, activating it required an immense amount of vitality and energy. His lifespan must be depleted by this point. The only thing keeping him going was his vitality. Once his vitality went down, the years would start flowing again.

Thus, the saint might be stronger but Guan Tianba could also delay the battle long enough. Time was on his side.

However, before the saint could answer, Righteous Supreme spoke instead: “Brother Guan, you have improved quite a bit. I have prepared a board, would you like to play a match with me to make up for last time?”

Listeners were surprised to hear him. Crystal God Monarch had spoken to him before but he didn’t respond. But now, he asked Guan Tianba to play a chess match with him? Of course, this was a polite way to challenge someone.

“Guan Tianba had challenged Righteous Supreme before?” One listener speculated.

An ancestor nodded: “Very likely considering Guan Tianba’s disposition. He was ready to take on the world during his prime.”

They haven’t heard of a battle between these two, but it sounded like there had been a battle before. Guan Tianba most likely lost as well.

Guan Tianba’s eyes narrowed. He replied: “Have it your way, Supreme.” He then took one step towards the sky and disappeared into the clouds.

No one could see through the clouds because they were most likely created from a supreme treasure. It was an independent realm above.

They found being unable to watch this battle a damn shame. It would have been a brilliant fight.

With Guan Tianba gone, no one else stopped Vajra Saint from fulfilling his goal. People’s focus returned to Li Qiye who was still under heavy fire.

The terrible tribulations have drowned out the peak and Li Qiye couldn't be seen. Who knows if he was still alive?

"Looks like the outcome is clear." His supporters found the situation to be hopeless.

The mighty alliance grew stronger with the addition of Vajra Saint. These five could sweep through the region uncontested. Even if Buddha Supreme were to come back to life, he still wouldn't be able to stop them. This spelled how grim it was for Li Qiye.

"They're usurping." A royal lord from the holy ground quietly said.

The crowd took a deep breath while becoming emotional, especially the members of the holy ground.

"Vajra wants to replace Sacred Mountain." Most understood the current development but didn't want to say it out loud.

For millions of years, Sacred Mountain still reigned over the holy ground despite being elusive. In history, numerous sects desired their position. Vajra was no exception.

Alas, it wasn't possible before. In the present day, this was a great opportunity. Sacred Mountain seemed weakened in both actual power and prestige. Moreover, their current leader was stuck in a precarious situation.

Most importantly, they had a legitimate excuse to take him down. The circumstances were perfect for replacing Sacred Mountain.

The vast holy ground was too desirable and tempting. Vajra couldn't help taking this risk.

Some spectators watched with a heavy heart. Though they wanted to help Li Qiye, they couldn't change the tides in the slightest.

"It's time for someone to uphold this responsibility. Vajra shall take the vanguard!" Vajra Saint stared at the center of the tribulation and declared.

"You're right, Ancestor. Vajra wishes to be a defender of justice." A voice came from the iron carriage: "Brothers, prepare to spill blood for this great cause."

"Creak." The door of the carriage slowly opened and an old man came out.

He looked rather ordinary; his exquisite clothes attracted more attention than him.

Chapter 3949: The Guardian Of Vajra

Though the materials weren't particularly rare and expensive, the craftsmanship was perfect and could be seen in the embroidery.

"Archaic Sun King!" Many became astounded after seeing the old man and started looking around in confusion.

From the beginning, they thought that the man inside the carriage was the guardian of Vajra, not Archaic Sun King.

“Why is he here? He wants to lead the troops?” An expert said.

Others didn't respect this prominent figure, thinking that he was lucky to win the throne.

Black Tides was a dangerous playground for tigers and dragons right now. A fool like him shouldn't be here.

Plus, he couldn't lead War Camp anyway because of his shallow cultivation. The best-case scenario would be him not holding them back.

“Hahaha.” Five-colored Sacred Sovereign couldn't help laughing: “Must have been tiring playing two roles. You're finally dropping the facade.”

“What?!” Most became astounded after hearing this.

“The ki-king is the guardian too?” One guy stammered.

In the last millennium, everyone thought that they were two separate people since there was no resemblance at all.

One was a foolish king while the guardian was a grandmaster - a mighty cultivator of the holy ground.

If someone else were to make this claim, it would be met with doubt and skepticism. However, Five-colored Sacred Sovereign wouldn't falsely claim this. He was a grandmaster as well and had access to more information.

“He did a good job hiding this for so long.” One ancestor smiled wryly.

“No wonder.” Another suddenly realized that this made sense.

Initially, most thought that it was tragic for Vajra to have such an incapable ruler. However, if this was truly the case, there was no way that Vajra would have been able to maintain its authority for so long.

Thus, the crowd quickly accepted this revelation. It only took them by surprise at first since the king did an impeccable job hiding it.

In fact, some top experts and ancestors have been thinking about this issue for a while. The guardian of Vajra was too secretive and mysterious. Thus, a few actually made the connection. It's just that they lacked substantial evidence.

“That's why Sword Hero couldn't become the king.” An official from the court smiled wryly.

The officials and royal members once felt indignation for Sword Hero. They deemed him to be the superior candidate, whether it be in terms of cultivation talent or ability. Nonetheless, he still lost the competition.

Rumor has it that Archaic Sun King only won because of Sacred Mountain. Now, it became apparently clear that Sacred Mountain had nothing to do with this.

A grandmaster was indeed worthy of becoming the king of Vajra.

“Sovereign.” Archaic Sun King smiled and shook his head: “I never denied this before. People simply misunderstood.”

This was indeed the case. The king never claimed to not be the guardian and vice versa. Plus, why couldn't one man be both the king and the guardian?

"I see." The sovereign chuckled and coldly said: "Treacherous wolf, do you think Vajra can take over the holy ground?!"

Vajra's goal was as clear as day to the spectators. It's just that they couldn't break the veil of pretense, only the sovereign didn't hold back.

"Sovereign, that's a close-minded perspective." The king responded: "Vajra is only thinking about the people. Any source of disaster should be swiftly dealt with, regardless of his status and nobility."

"Thinking about the people, huh?" The sovereign glanced at War Camp and said: "Missing some personnel, I see."

"Few in number, sure, but we make up for it with courage and determination. Blood might spill and heads might roll but not a single soldier will back down when it comes to upholding justice and peace." The king laughed and rallied his men.

"Eliminating evil is our responsibility!" The members of War Camp roared back.

"Today, Vajra shall fight to protect the holy ground!" The king confidently declared.

The spectators weren't fooled by his heroic rhetoric. They knew that this was his best chance to kill Li Qiye.

"Amitabha, it's not too late to turn back." The Monk of Wisdom placed his palms together and said: "The sacred lord is supreme, he is the guiding light of the holy ground. Your treachery and betrayal will be answered with merciless retribution."

The monk's words brimmed with strength and Buddhist affinity. Listeners couldn't help becoming serious while feeling enlightened.

Heavenly Dragon Temple maintained their historical stance and chose Sacred Mountain. This loyalty earned them great rewards in the past.

"Sacred Monk, loyalty blinds you." The king said: "You will become a sinner if anything happens to the people. Heavenly Dragon Temple will be condemned by all..."

"Amitabha, turn around to see the shore." The monk interrupted him and continued: "If you will not withdraw your troops, we'll have no choice but to consider you as a traitor and eliminate Vajra."

He made it clear that the temple was ready to defend Li Qiye until the last man standing.

Some members of the holy ground took a deep breath after seeing his firm stance and prayed for his success. They still wanted to support the orthodox branch but were too afraid to speak up before.

“It’s too bad that Elder Samantabhadra is no longer around.” Vajra Saint stared at the monk and said: “Otherwise, the temple would be able to play a main role today.”

Elder Samantabhadra was the strongest monk in Heavenly Dragon, being the master of both the Monk of Wisdom and Untethered Monk.

The temple was indeed weaker compared to the past. They lost their strongest monk and their successor - Untethered Monk. It seemed weaker than Vajra right now.

“Heavenly Dragon, stand with me!” The Monk of Wisdom ignored him and commanded his juniors.

Chapter 3950: Battle Starting

“Rumble!” High monks descended from the sky after hearing the command. Their kasaya pulsed brightly and hymns could be heard.

Heavenly Dragon Temple clearly came prepared. The Monk of Wisdom wasn’t alone.

The temple was ready to stand with Sacred Mountain regardless of the odds. Their loyalty has been proven time and time again through actions.

“Traitor, your head is mine!” The Monk of Wisdom didn’t waste time and reached for the king.

Though he was normally a benevolent monk who would turn the other cheek, this had crossed the line. He turned into a Buddhist warrior - merciless when dealing with the enemies.

His technique of choice was one of the six Buddhist dao - Fingers of the Living. He opened both palms; his fingers bloomed like a raging lotus from hell.

“Let’s see what you can do!” Archaic Sun King glared at the incoming monk and roared. He became engulfed in a golden radiance. A sun materialized behind him and crushed the spatial fabrics. It headed straight for the monk.

“Boom!” The area around the impact exploded in a blinding manner.

Loud footsteps could be heard. When people regained their sight, they saw the king being pushed several steps back.

His face was red and his chest heaved up and down. He clearly lost the previous exchange.

“Yes...” Li Qiye’s supporters cheered in their mind. Many still preferred Sacred Mountain over Vajra Dynasty.

“The Monk of Wisdom’s power is immense, worthy of being the number one of the four grandmasters.” One ancestor commented.

“With more time, he might be able to catch up to his master. It’s a shame that his senior brother chose to leave instead.” Another king brought Untethered Monk up.

“Perish!” The Monk of Wisdom roared thunderously and swung his hand downward.

The sky seemingly collapsed as a result of the devastating attack. This technique was Grand Palm, another of the six dao.

Golden Cicada Buddhist Child had employed this technique against Righteous Scion before. However, the Monk of Wisdom's version was far stronger and contained the rage of a Buddhist warrior.

Ancestors were astonished, thinking that they wouldn't be able to block it. Archaic Sun King's expression also soured.

"Enough!" Someone fiercely shouted and unsheathed their swords. A torrent of swords flew towards the monk's hand.

It was none other than Attendant Hong. With this opportunity, the king set up his defensive move and summoned a treasure that emits a lion's roar. It became a divine mountain to block the palm strike.

"Rumble!" The three started an earth-shattering battle.

The monk didn't have any trouble dealing with this master-servant duo. He borrow the momentum of the land and only became fiercer as time passed.

"For His Majesty!" The generals in War Camp commanded.

The legion began forming formations in the form of dragons and tigers. Their bloodthirst was palpable. This was indeed a fierce legion that had fought all over the world.

"Merciful Buddha." The high monks from the temple chanted before getting ready for battle: "Kill them all!"

Their first line mentioned "mercy" yet the next was a murderous battle call. The contrast was quite interesting.

These monks began leaping towards the formations and didn't hold back. They didn't show mercy when it came to defending the holy ground.

There was an adage in the southern West King - one needs to get through Heavenly Dragon first before reaching Sacred Mountain. It rang truer now than ever before.

Loud explosions detonated along with bright Buddhist lights. War Camp had capable formations and experience, allowing them to stop the onslaught of the monks.

However, as time passed, the monks still had the advantage despite being fewer in number. Each monk was just far stronger compared to the individual soldier.

Vajra versus Heavenly Dragon - this first-round battle included the strongest fighting forces in the holy ground.

"This is the time to make a choice. It'll be too late afterward." Vajra Saint glared at the crowd, successfully intimidating them.

They naturally understood that they needed to pick a side, either Vajra or Sacred Mountain. Otherwise, it would be too late later in the case of a successful rebellion.

As one of the strongest ancestors, Vajra Saint looked like a god and didn't join the battle yet. His sole target was Li Qiye.

Nonetheless, his aura still instilled unbearable pressure onto the crowd. Some ancestors had no choice but to make up their mind.

The clans from Metropolis have always served Vajra Dynasty. If they were to refuse, Vajra would exterminate them after taking over.

"Warriors, follow me, we'll uphold justice!" An ancestor from the Du shouted and led his members into battle.

Several other clans followed them to fight against the high monks of Heavenly Dragon. They chose to stand with Vajra.

Of course, they still didn't dare to talk about killing the sacred lord so their battle chant consisted of "upholding justice."

"Time's running out." Other ancestors and high elders talked among themselves.

They didn't need to make a choice right away unlike those from Metropolis. Nonetheless, they knew that it was inevitable.

"Buzz." A five-colored radiance manifested as the sovereign stepped forward and declared: "I stand with the sacred lord, who dares to stop me?!"

His eyes were fixated on Vajra Saint despite being weaker.