

Emperor 3961

Chapter 3961: Worldly Immortal's True Form?

Worldly Immortal's fame wasn't limited to the southern West King. This title could make any living being in Eight Desolaces trembles.

Halting All-things, stopping Righteous, and testing Dhyana - Worldly Immortal showed up three times and shocked the world each time.

The opponents were all dao lords. Moreover, they were the more exceptional ones as well. Thus, Worldly Immortal stood at the apex in the southern West King.

In terms of appearance, armor plates hid the sex of this cultivator. It exuded a five-colored radiance.

Each ray contained a special visual phenomenon - towering trees, heavenly flames, incredible treasures... They contained powers strong enough to destroy worlds.

Just a casual pose exerted enough pressure to crush the firmaments and force everyone else on their knees.

"Your Excellency!" Those in the east started performing a full kowtow rite.

"I can't believe I get to see the immortal again." Even the ancestors had tears streaming down their cheeks.

The eastern inhabitants took pride in having a cultivator like this in the region. As long as this being was around, so would the eastern kingdoms.

Worldly Immortal had stopped appearing after the dao discussion with Dhyana Dao Lord. No one knew where this being went.

According to the rumors, Worldly Immortal was from the Ancient Immortal Kingdom. The origin and location of this so-called kingdom were unknown to even the eastern inhabitants.

On the other hand, everyone knew that the Ancient Empress was a supreme existence from Jadewater Country. Worldly Immortal was far more mysterious in this regard.

So far, the precedent was that only dao lords were worth Worldly Immortal's time. Now, the being came out for Li Qiye - this also astonished the crowd.

It meant that though he didn't have the cultivation of a dao lord, he was virtually one already.

Spectators' glances shifted between Worldly Immortal and Li Qiye. The same question popped up in their head - who was stronger?

Either way, it became obvious that Li Qiye's appearance was deceiving since he was another supreme existence.

"Boom!" The world became slanted after this being took one step forward.

The eight kingdoms were billions and billions of miles away from Black Tides Ocean yet it only took one step for Worldly Immortal to make it to Li Qiye's position.

The atmosphere became unbearably tense as speculations arose.

"Xian Fan apologies for the lack of reception, Your Excellency." Worldly Immortal prostrated towards Li Qiye to show her reverence despite being an apex existence in Eight Desolaces right now.

This shocked the listeners even more than when the Ancient Empress referred to herself as a "lowly one". Jaws and eyes nearly dropped to the ground.

"Your true form is set in one place so it's not your fault. This dao avatar will count as a meeting between old friends." Li Qiye smiled and said.

Everyone took a deep breath and exchanged glances. They didn't realize that this was only an avatar from Worldly Immortal.

Just an avatar alone was so impressive. What about the real Worldly Immortal?

Ancestors shuddered in fear after this revelation. However, such a great being still assumed an inferior position to Li Qiye? None dared to lift their head to look at Li Qiye at this point.

"Thank you, Your Excellency." Worldly Immortal stood up and remained in the bowing position.

Li Qiye waved his hand and separated the domains. The two of them appeared above the sky vault for a private conversation.

Everyone else remained on the ground. They looked up but couldn't see or hear anything. This applied to the Ancient Empress as well.

"It's not a bad feeling to meet people from back then after so many years." Li Qiye stared at Worldly Immortal and said.

"Your return is unexpected, Your Excellency." Worldly Immortal was none other than Xian Fan, a supreme genius from Simple Mountain Immortal Kingdom of Sacred Nether World.

Li Qiye and Xian Fan were considered the two best prodigies of the human race back then.

She started recalling the things that have changed through the eras. The nine worlds were no longer around. Her Sacred Nether World was gone and now, the young cultivator has become Worldly Immortal.

Few from that era were still around. She didn't expect to meet Li Qiye again either.

Li Qiye's ascension was a sight to behold and would never be forgotten. However, there was no more news of him afterward.

"Surprising yet still within expectation." Li Qiye smiled: "You chose to stay instead of ascending."

"I once thought about it but gave the opportunity up. I didn't force the issue and by this point, I would rather stay here." She spoke softly.

“The items from the Immortals’ Domain are impressive indeed. This Simple Precious Tree opened quite a path for you.” Li Qiye nodded approvingly: “You’ve lived until now yet your vitality is still exuberant. Hmm, there is a price to pay since no one can truly be immortal.”

“Right, I was fearless back then and thought that it was possible. I risked it all and here I am now.” Xian Fan replied.

“Where this is a blessing or a curse is up to you.” Li Qiye said. Everyone had their own path to walk.

“May I inquire about the reason for your return, Your Excellency?” Fan Bai asked.

It seemed that both the nine worlds and Eight Desolaces didn’t have anything worthwhile for Li Qiye.

“I fell down from above, half dead.” Li Qiye chuckled while pointing upward.

Xian Fan became emotional. The vagueness of the response still gave her plenty of information.

“The great calamity.” She murmured.

She personally experienced that monstrous event that ended the nine worlds. So many people turned to ashes.

Chapter 3962: My Pursuit

Li Qiye stared at Xian Fan and smiled: “Are you sure you don’t want to leave?”

“Hmm...” Xian Fan stopped thinking about this because she couldn’t leave this land for millions of years now.

“I’m afraid I can’t.” She smiled wryly.

“Everything is possible, especially for me. Just one thought is enough.” He responded casually.

Xian Fan became emotional after hearing this. It has been a while since she last felt this emotion.

“So would you leave if you can?” He asked again.

Xian Fan had plenty of achievements and life experiences by this point. Nonetheless, Li Qiye’s words were too tempting.

Where would she go? She couldn’t help looking up above.

“The firmaments above?” She murmured.

“That works. The world is vast and can accommodate your heart’s desire. There are many things you have yet to experience.” He nodded.

She nodded back, agreeing with his assessment. Though she was at the apex in the nine worlds and others needed to look up to see her, she knew that this wasn’t the world’s limit.

She focused on the stars flashing deeper up the crevices. It seemed to be the unknown waiting to be explored.

“I’m not sure.” She then glanced down at the eight kingdoms and the towering tree.

Her heart and mind were firm before but Li Qiye had messed with her dao heart. This left her in a tough position.

"I suppose it's hard to give up." He understood and sympathized.

"What can't you give up in this world, Your Excellency?" She asked while staring at him.

Big shots like them stopped caring about mundane matters and treated most things with triviality. Virtually all things were ephemeral with a few exceptions.

These exceptions would always linger in their mind after millions of years.

"I don't remember most things from the old era. It's a difficult question, I don't have a precise answer." He shook his head.

She thought that this was understandable for people like them. They have given up and forgotten many things to get to this point.

Never looking back was a necessity for cultivation. This mindset became increasingly harder to change further on the path. It eventually ended with a tough choice.

This was the case for her but she didn't know what Li Qiye's choice was.

"The opportunity is within your grasp." He smiled and raised one finger. Tiny dao laws looking to be alive circled around the tip.

He then touched her forehead and the dao laws drilled into her mind.

"Pop!" Her body lit up right away. A mysterious force seemed to be enlightening her. It illuminated her face palaces and opened a supreme treasury.

Within the treasury were peerless mantras, unparalleled laws, and matchless dao. The mysteries within couldn't be described with words.

The light eventually dispersed and she became normal again. However, that second just now lasted for an eternity.

She has experienced many eras. Millions of years were only a blink of an eye to her. However, that second earlier was longer than all of that since it opened a dao treasury for her.

"Thank you, Your Excellency." She bowed after calming down.

"I have given you the key, it is up to you whether to stay or leave." He smiled.

She had no response while becoming emotional. Her gaze turned back towards the familiar land.

"A traveler always yearns for home. It's unavoidable." He said.

"Right, but we can't go back in time." She pondered for a bit before responding.

Her tone was calm but those on the same level would feel the same helplessness. Her friends and loved ones were dust now.

"There's another adage, inner peace is the same as being home." He said.

“Inner peace?” She carefully thought about it.

“Yes.” He elaborated: “Ultimately, when people walk on this path, whether it be facing the darkness or choosing the light, they simply want inner peace. That’s why waves of people have tried in history.”

“I see.” She didn’t have an answer right away about the choice.

She stopped thinking about it because she couldn’t move away. But now, Li Qiye gave her the key and changed the circumstances. Thus, she started thinking about the possibilities again.

“I understand.” She eventually concluded in a vague manner. Gaining inner peace still required a long journey. She had ample time before needing to make a choice.

He stopped talking and gazed at the horizon with a smile.

She followed his gaze then said softly: “You want to take a trip there?”

“Yes, they’re asking for it so I have to finish the clean-up.” He nodded.

“Seems like you will always look back regardless of how far you go, Your Excellency.” She said.

“It has nothing to do with emotions and attachment. It’s just better to clean up some mess to avoid needless trouble later on when I’m gone.” He replied.

She thought that he would have no problem doing so given his current ability.

Meanwhile, cultivators started at the sky vault but they couldn’t see or hear anything. Heavenly gazes could only see two faint figures.

Mad Blade Guan Tianba returned as well, looking completely untouched.

Normally, people would be curious about the outcome of a match between Guan Tianba and Righteous Supreme.

However, they were captivated by Li Qiye and Worldly Immortal. They couldn’t blink even though they only saw two dots.

No one uttered a single word as they exercised patience during this momentous event.

Chapter 3963: Nothing Is Unbreakable

Some people were still prostrating during the wait. After a while, two figures descended.

Li Qiye sat down on his throne with Worldly Immortal next to him. Others didn’t have the courage to stare directly at them.

They thought about the content of the conversation. After all, the words from these apex existences could cause a tsunami.

If it was a dao discussion, being able to listen would mean a lifetime of benefits. The words were worth more than gold due to the embedded dao mysteries.

The crowd patiently waited for the two to speak first.

“Where was I earlier?” Li Qiye smiled.

“Right, I said that if your Heaven’s Will Crystal Physique can withstand one slash, you may leave this place alive.” He pointed his saber forward.

Attention suddenly shifted towards the monarch.

Earlier, he called for reinforcement and the Ancient Empress and Worldly Immortal eventually came. Unfortunately, they weren’t here to help him.

It became blatantly clear that no one could save the monarch today. Only death awaited him.

His face turned pale since even his strongest backing didn’t work. It was impossible to escape - a true nightmare.

“You’re telling the truth?” The monarch spoke while his legs trembled.

He had met South Conch Dao Lord before but he wasn’t as afraid. The dao lord had no intention of killing him, unlike Li Qiye.

“Don’t worry, my words are more effective than anything. Start.” Li Qiye smiled.

None dared to question his authority and seriousness despite his nonchalant tone.

“Very well.” The monarch shouted, still hanging onto a sliver of hope. After all, his crystal physique stopped a dao monarch back then. Maybe it could stop one slash from Li Qiye as well.

No one has been able to solve the mystery of this physique. This was the key to staying alive.

“Boom!” He released all of his vitality without holding back. He even burned his lifespan in order to exert the physique to its fullest potential.

His body became resplendent. Shiny rays protected him, looking like the toughest things in creation.

Layers of defense stacked up around him. This was the strongest state of the crystal physique; it certainly amazed the crowd.

They thought that it might be the best defense possible, akin to an impregnable fortress.

“Decent training but unfortunately, even your ancestor has no chance of stopping my slash, let alone you.” Li Qiye shook his head before swinging his saber.

“Clank!” A white flash appeared for a moment.

People didn’t even see the swing clearly before Li Qiye was finished with his attack.

In the next second, they saw the monarch being split into two halves starting from the head.

“Splash!” Blood splashed then the internal organs fell out. The two body sections collapsed as well.

The monarch's eyes widened in disbelief. He felt death approaching but had no idea how it happened. The only thing he saw was a glint before dying without any pain.

The blood and organs were still hot while everyone felt suffocated by Li Qiye's power. Even the crystal physique couldn't stop Li Qiye.

Nonetheless, this was the best possible outcome for the monarch - a painless death.

This rather shocking development was quietly accepted by the crowd. After all, this was a being above Worldly Immortal. It was understandable for him to be able to defeat this physique.

With this task done, Li Qiye spotted the next target and smiled: "I recall that I told you if you were to kneel right then, I would spare your life later."

Who else could it be but the pale Archaic Sun King? It turned out that the carriage driver who met Li Qiye when he first got to the south was the king.

He even gave Li Qiye the saber then but still missed the overarching picture. He became occupied with thoughts. If he had grasped this opportunity, both he and Vajra Dynasty would have soared.

It only required him to get down on his knees. This could have changed his fate completely.

At that time, he assumed that Li Qiye was a disciple from Sacred Mountain on a review mission. Thus, he wanted to test the guy.

There was no way he would kneel down to a junior disciple. Only Buddha Supreme could make this demand.

Unfortunately, even the Ancient Empress and Worldly Immortal were kneeling in front of Li Qiye. He was nothing compared to them, not even qualified to kneel close to Li Qiye.

A once-in-an-era opportunity appeared before him yet he completely threw it away. Li Qiye could have been Vajra's ally.

He spent his whole life calculating and scheming for Vajra's rise. This was all in vain.

"Too clever and conceited for my own good." The pale king smiled wryly before striking his own head without any hesitation.

"Boom!" He crushed his own head and brain splattered. The corpse fell backward to the ground. He didn't try to struggle or beg.

Of course, everyone knew that struggling was useless. Dying like this made him look like a brave man and protected his dignity.

The next question became the inevitable bloodbath. Vajra and its allies have betrayed Sacred Mountain.

If Li Qiye were to swing his blade, blood would rain across the hazy ground. Thousands of sects would cease to exist.

Chapter 3964: For Duality Academy

The death of the god monarch and Archaic Sun King silenced the crowd. They knew that it was time for retribution.

The entire thing felt like a dream. Not long ago, Vajra Dynasty had all the momentum and was pushing back the supporters of Sacred Mountain.

Everyone assumed that Sacred Mountain's loss couldn't be avoided. There would be a new ruler in the holy ground.

Vajra's allies were ecstatic since victory was within grasp. They could become regional monarchs afterward.

Unfortunately, everything popped like bubbles afterward. Chances of victory crumbled. Top masters such as Vajra Saint were killed by one slash. Another murdered millions of disciples, high elders, and ancestors.

Their advantages were annihilated by Li Qiye. Top behemoths were finished even if Sacred Mountain didn't wish to pursue the matter beyond this. The losers would decline at a blinding speed before going into seclusion, their names forgotten.

All eyes were fixated on Li Qiye - the new supreme lord. Each word and action of his could determine the fate of countless lives.

Li Qiye stared at Ebon Scythe and smiled: "A top weapon indeed despite lackluster materials and insufficient repair. Its sharpness is comparable to a paragon artifact."

"Paragon artifact..." Most have never heard of this title. Only a few top masters knew its significance.

These weapons were horrifying. People could search their whole life and never catch a glimpse of one. Thus, the crowd was fortunate to see Ebon Scythe today.

"Go now." He ordered.

"Clank!" The saber flew out of his hand and disappeared into the horizon.

This astounded the spectators. What was he doing with this ultimate weapon?

The saber traveled across the land with blinding speed and appeared above Duality Academy before inserting itself into the ground.

Dao hymns and clanks resonated continuously. All of the weapons in the academy, whether they belonged to students or teachers or simply resided in the treasury, started to resonate as well.

The members had to grasp their weapons tightly in order to prevent them from flying away.

"Clank!" The saber exuded a blinding light that engulfed the entire academy. The rays were gray so they made the buildings have a metallic shine.

A massive phenomenon emerged above after loud explosions. This was a gray galaxy with countless stars. Their rotation was never-ending.

The galaxy poured down starry particles onto the academy, seemingly gestating it and connecting with the saber.

“Buzz.” Dao runes came out of the saber as more particles descended. The dao runes also took over the academy.

“What is happening?” Both normal cultivators and famous ancestors found this puzzling, having never seen a phenomenon like this one before.

More orderly clanks could be heard. The academy seemed to be undergoing a recrafting process.

Eventually, sharp rays exuded from the region. These slashes seemed capable of killing the gods and devils, even immortals. Therefore, the academy became an ultimate weapon with zero mercy.

Any intruder would be killed right away. After a while, the sharp rays gradually dispersed and the academy became the same as before. Ebon Scythe was nowhere to be found. It most likely became one with the academy.

“Where is the saber?” One expert blurted out but hurriedly covered his mouth, afraid of bothering Li Qiye.

The same astonishment struck the spectators. The powerful ancestors were particularly shaken due to their understanding of the situation.

The paragon artifact has become one with Duality Academy. This was the greatest gift - a contribution not inferior to creating the academy.

“Your Majesty, the academy shall be eternal thanks to your bestowment.” Five-colored Sacred Sovereign led the members of the academy and started kowtowing.

This act wasn’t enough to show their gratitude for what he had done. All ceremonies were warranted in order to show their respect.

He accepted their gesture while sitting on his throne.

The other powers became envious - only the academy got something of this level from Li Qiye.

He turned his attention towards the Ancient Empress afterward.

“What do you want?” He smiled.

Jadewater Empress stood at the apex in Eight Desolaces. Nonetheless, she bowed and said: “This lowly one wishes to follow and serve you, Your Majesty.”

Others couldn’t believe it. This top character still wanted to follow him? It became clear that very few were qualified to be Li Qiye’s servants. Guan Tianba was fortunate to be one right now.

“Nothing good might come out of it.” Li Qiye shook his head: “Plus, you clearly like this land, that’s why you’re still here.”

The empress glanced towards the east and sincerely nodded.

He then took out the black piece of metal from the abyss in Black Tides. He tossed it up and down while speaking: "I wish to find a master for this, someone capable and worthy."

He paused for a bit before adding: "It's quite special and unfathomable."

Chapter 3965: Buddha Supreme

The entire audience knew the notorious origin of this black metal. He had shown its incredible power before as well.

In reality, that's the extent of their knowledge. Some would consider it an immortal metal. Others assumed that it contained supreme dao scripture within or just a plethora of dao mysteries.

All in all, their curiosity couldn't be understated.

"You aren't considered a brilliant genius in the grand scheme of things." Li Qiye spoke, surprising the crowd in the process.

This would sound ridiculous coming from anyone else. The empress had lived for eras and became one of the strongest cultivators in the present.

How many in history had the same achievements as her? Quite a pitiful number. Alas, Li Qiye didn't sound like he was impressed.

Of course, they didn't think that he was being purposely pompous and insulting either.

"But, the fact that you're still here right now goes beyond external help." He continued: "It also has to do with your exceptional wisdom and firm dao heart. You are still the same as before, quite commendable."

"Thus, I am bestowing this item to you, hoping that you will meticulously research and understand it. Your future is in your hands." With that, he handed her the black metal.

She got on her knees and accepted it with both hands: "I am moved to tears from your generosity, Your Majesty. I will not let you down." She bowed afterward.

He also accepted her gesture before waving for Fan Bai to come over.

Fan Bai calmly stood in front of him, not sharing the same excitement as the rest of the crowd.

They stared at her with envy in their eyes. Li Qiye has clearly shown himself to be a supreme existence.

How many people were qualified to stand before his throne? To be in his presence was a great honor.

Only the empress or Worldly Immortal had this privilege and now, Fan Bai. It meant that her future would be incredible - a phoenix among men.

Li Qiye took off his ring and personally put it on her finger then smiled: "Time for this to have a new master."

Only the old high elders and ancestors realized the significance of this gift. The young ones had no idea.

"Henceforth, she is the new lord of Buddha Holy Ground." Li Qiye then pulled her hand up in the air.

Jaws dropped to the ground upon this declaration. The current sacred lord, Li Qiye, had just given his position to a little girl.

“Boom!” The moment he finished speaking, Buddhist radiance erupted in the region. Fan Bai herself became resplendent.

A great image consisting of wondrous mountains and rivers materialized behind her - the land of the holy ground.

The wise sages also appeared behind her - the dao lords and other top masters...

Buddhist energy surged in the vicinity. It was as if she had just completed a Buddhist avatar. Her aura amazed the crowd.

“Long live the sacred lord!” The Monk of Wisdom prostrated along with the other monks from Heavenly Dragon Temple.

“Long live the sacred lord!” The members of the other divisions did the same.

This wasn't an official coronation but due to Li Qiye's interference, Fan Bai has become the next sacred lord.

“Okay, Monk, it's your business now, I'm just an outsider.” Li Qiye smiled and said.

“Amitabha!” A monk suddenly appeared among the clouds.

His facial features were fierce and aggressive. He didn't have an inner robe, only a kasaya so his chest was exposed. His beard was unkempt as well, looking more like a brute than a monk.

The first impression people would have of him was that he didn't follow any of the rules. This guy most likely drank wine and ate meat.

Alas, this was strictly limited to his appearance. The moment he chanted, he looked dignified and serious. The aura around him also made up for his brutish appearance.

“Supreme!” The older ancestors blurted out after seeing him.

“Supreme? Buddha Supreme?” The young juniors trembled after hearing his title.

Many became frozen because they thought that he was dead. Moreover, the young ones were taken aback by his appearance as well.

The previous sacred lord was considered a hero for protecting Black Wood Cliff from the monsters of Black Tides. In their mind, he should be an enlightened monk - kind and stately.

But this Buddha Supreme... he looked a little violent...

Of course, they should have expected this if they had known about his previous titles - Ruleless Heavenly Sovereign, Ruleless Master, Ruleless Monk...

He was none other than the merchant that Li Qiye met in the abandoned land.

They simply didn't know what to think. There were three generations of sacred lords in front of them right now.

"Long live the sacred lord." Buddha Supreme bowed towards Fan Bai, confirming her status.

Others also followed suit because, by this point, there was no questioning Fan Bai's role.

"Heavenly Dragon Temple has done well in protecting the master. The division shall become the guardians of the young lord." He commanded.

"We humbly accept." The Monk of Wisdom and other high monks bowed towards the supreme.

Their loyalty has been noted and rewarded. They were the first to step up without any hesitation despite the insurmountable odds earlier.

"Metropolis Division and Divine Ghost Division have also performed their duty and shall be rewarded with..." He went on to reward the various powers that helped Li Qiye.

These powers were elated and thought that they had made the right choice. Otherwise, they would suffer the same fate as Vajra Dynasty.

Meanwhile, the members of Righteous and the east were watching attentively as well.

Though Sacred Mountain rarely showed up to the point of being nearly forgotten, it was still in charge of the holy ground regardless of the perils.

Chapter 3966: Time To Leave

Buddha Supreme had rewarded all the sects that had picked Li Qiye's side. As for the punishment? They were proportionally dished to Vajra's supporters.

After this battle, everyone realized that Sacred Mountain was still in charge. The representative was merely transitory. There was a line that one couldn't cross.

The existence of Sacred Mountain and its supreme authority kept the holy ground united instead of being divided into various regions.

"Your Majesty, would you want to visit our Sacred Mountain?" Buddha Supreme bowed towards Li Qiye after finishing his task.

It would normally be an honor for anyone to visit Sacred Mountain. Only the top masters had this privilege.

In this case, it would be a dragon visiting a shrimp's abode. Sacred Mountain would love to have Li Qiye as a guest.

"Your greed knows no bounds. My little girl is staying at the holy ground, is that not enough?" Li Qiye chuckled.

"It's enough, more than enough!" The supreme glanced at Fan Bai and was elated. He nodded his head repeatedly like a chicken eating grain.

Nonetheless, he still wanted the matchless honor of having Li Qiye visit Sacred Mountain.

Li Qiye smiled and stretched while speaking: "It's time for me to take my leave."

"Farewell, Your Majesty." The Ancient Empress prostrated to show her reverence towards him.

"Farewell, Your Majesty." The others also prostrated for they couldn't stand while she was on the ground.

Moreover, to be part of this event was glorious. It would be the biggest story in their lives.

He looked around and found Yang Ling who was staring at him.

"You have a bright future ahead of you." He went over and gently patted her head.

"I will do my best, Young Master." She tried her best to not be sad about his departure. She clenched her fists and made a promise to herself.

Everyone was envious of her, especially the students from Duality Academy. A regular student like Yang Ling had earned Li Qiye's favor. This would absolutely pave the way for her future, more than enough to make her ancestors proud.

The saddest person was actually Fan Bai. At the start, she was reviled and hated by everyone. Li Qiye was the one who changed this and gave her warmth.

Tears couldn't help streaming down as she stared at him despite her best effort to stay strong.

"Silly girl, no party lasts forever." He wiped her tears and smiled.

"Will we meet again, Young Master?" She looked up and asked, realizing that he was a true dragon who would soar above the nine firmaments. They might never meet again.

He glanced at the sky and said: "The path is long but if you go far enough, there will be a chance."

"I got it." She clenched her fists and nodded, having made up her mind about always moving forward regardless of the trials and tribulations.

"I'm counting on you." He then told Mad Blade.

Mad Blade bowed and said: "Rest assured, Young Master, I will take care of her."

Li Qiye laughed and stopped blabbering. He started heading towards the inner region of Black Tides again.

"I'll see you off, Your Excellency." Xian Fan followed Li Qiye.

Others kept on kneeling until the two could no longer be seen. A bit later, they finally stood up.

"Time to leave." The empress said and rode the splashing waves back to the east.

Others started departing as well after seeing this.

“Monk, the play is done, your holy ground owes my Righteous Sect a favor.” The old voice from Righteous Supreme came from the clouds.

Some recalled the battle between Righteous Supreme and Guan Tianba. It was a shame they didn’t know the result.

“Of course, of course, I’ll be sure to write it down as a debt.” Buddha Supreme laughed heartily, no longer as dignified as before.

The clouds started receding and the members of Righteous Sect followed him back to their region.

“Okay, I need a drink.” Buddhist Supreme raised one leg and suddenly disappeared. No one knew where he went.

The crowd exchanged glances and thought that his previous titles made sense. Their supreme was indeed different.

As for Fan Bai, she didn’t want to leave and continued looking at Black Tides.

“Let’s go.” Guan Tianba urged her.

Fan Bai might be the current sacred lord but she was still young and inexperienced. That’s why Li Qiye left him in charge.

“To where?” Fan Bai regained her wits and asked.

In the past, she was a vagabond until she met Li Qiye. With him gone now, she looked around and became lost since she didn’t have a home.

“Wherever you want.” Guan Tianba said without deciding for her.

“Let’s go back to Duality, I still have a while to go before graduating. Let’s train there together?” Yang Ling said.

Fan Bai nodded in agreement. The academy was one place that had a semblance to home for her right now. Myriad Beast Mountain no longer applied because he wasn’t there.

The two returned to Duality Academy while Mad Blade followed them like a specter.

People were curious about Li Qiye’s departure.

“What is he going to the inner region to do?” One curious soul asked.

For example, if a big shot like Worldly Immortal were to suddenly visit the inner region, it would cause quite a stir in Eight Desolaces.

In this case, Li Qiye was even more prestigious. Their curiosity couldn’t be quelled.

Of course, no one dared to follow him outside of Worldly Immortal. Even those with the power to do so found this inappropriate since they didn’t have his permission.

“Something amazing will happen.” One senior concluded.

“Hmm, Li, no, His Majesty, who is he?” One expert asked.

Everyone knew that his name was Li Qiye and that he was the sacred lord of the holy ground. This wasn't enough of an answer.

Chapter 3967: Is Another Meeting Possible?

Who was Li Qiye? This question haunted the audience. None of his roles and statuses truly explained who he was.

Perhaps they were only one of his many identities. His true one remained unknown.

Unfortunately, no one had an answer because this was above their station. In the current world, people thought that dao lords were at the top of the peak. They could control the myriad dao - this allowed them to be unbeatable.

There were other comparable beings such as Worldly Immortal or the Ancient Empress. Everyone believed that they were unreachable.

However, Li Qiye broke this notion after showing his dominion over these two cultivators. Thus, they had no idea what kind of existence Li Qiye was.

“Even Worldly Immortal prostrated... don't tell me... he's an actual immortal? Or he's from above...” One expert boldly speculated.

“Shut up, enough rubbish!” His senior's expression darkened and put a stop to it.

“Do not discuss this matter. There will be serious punishment for violations.” Many sects gave this order to their disciples.

The top ancestors from these sects worried about some disciples offending Li Qiye in some manner. That might spell the end for their sects.

After all, it would be too easy for him to do so. In fact, he just needed to say the word and plenty of cultivators would be happy to do so.

On the other hand, the juniors weren't the only ones curious. The top ancestors also wanted to know Li Qiye's true identity.

“Is he really an immortal?” A few good friends secretly discussed this matter.

“You're saying immortals do exist?” One ancestor remained skeptical since no one had seen an immortal before.

The existence of an immortal would answer their question right away. Only an immortal would have this effect on the Ancient Empress and Worldly Immortal.

“Don't forget about the legend regarding Blessed Dao Lord.” A king in the group said.

The others exchanged glances because virtually everyone had heard of these stories before.

Blessed Dao Lord was the founder of True Immortal Sect. He was one of the top ten dao lords in history. Some even placed him in the number one spot.

There was no lack of legends regarding him but the most popular consisted of his youth. In this story, he came across an immortal by chance and was taught supreme merit laws by this immortal. This eventually culminated in his future success.

This tale was the reason for his title, “blessed”.

“Are you saying that Li Qiye is the immortal?” Someone else brought this up.

Most found this plausible but weren’t confident.

In another location, an erudite ancestor on the verge of death spent his remaining energy on reading the ancient scrolls and texts. Eventually, he blurted out in excitement: “I-I know who he is! He’s the nine words’...”

He suddenly stopped speaking because he realized the gravity of the situation. The names and titles regarding this being couldn’t be said due to the risks of sect destruction.

“He’s still alive... one era after another, even an epoch.” He became uncontrollably emotional, not expecting to realize an eternal secret.

This secret was purposely buried in history. He didn’t know the underlying stories and reasons nor the people who actively chose to hide it from the world. However, the legend has returned. A torrential storm was coming to Eight Desolaces. Everyone would be affected by this.

“I hope for the best.” He quietly prayed and chose to not reveal this information to any of his juniors. He swore that he would take this to the grave.

The inner region of Black Tides was perilous. However, due to the tidal recession, it became relatively safer.

Moreover, they were meaningless before Li Qiye and Xian Fan.

The two took their time and eventually reached the deepest area of Black Tides.

They saw an annihilated plain before them with a black crater in the center. It was special in that time and space had collapsed here. The crater was actually a massive void zone.

It looked eager to devour all lives, capable of taking down billions in the blink of an eye just like a primordial beast.

The two looked down at the crater. Xian Fan spoke while glancing at the sky: “This is the entrance. It fell down here.”

Back in the great calamity, a heavenly corpse landed and destroyed this region. Only a few survivors remained who clearly saw it. Xian Fan was one of them.

“Right.” Li Qiye smiled, aware of the event more than anyone else.

“Many heroes have come here.” She continued: “Most died trying their best. I also attempted but unfortunately, I couldn’t get that far.”

“There’s not much to see, just a desperate struggle.” He replied.

“Your Excellency, you wish to deal with it now?” She asked.

“It’s convenient since I’m here anyway. This can be considered bidding farewell too.” He smirked.

She was aware that this smirk meant death for his opponents.

“You can’t see me off forever, go back.” He added.

She took a deep breath and said: “I wonder when I’ll get to see you again, Your Excellency.”

“That’s up to you, not me.” He shook his head: “You have all the right conditions on the dao path, it comes down to your choice.”

“I understand.” She turned around to leave but hesitated.

“If you make it to the finish line and everything ends, what will you do then, Your Excellency?” She asked.

“If one is traveling freely without any constraint, then where is the finish line? No need to worry about this.” He answered with a question.

She opened her mouth but didn’t know how to respond.

“Seeking the dao is a test for one’s heart. The stronger the heart, the vaster the dao path. Both can become infinite.” He elaborated and smiled at her before jumping down the crater.

“See you again, Your Excellency.” She whispered wistfully after his disappearance then left the area.

Chapter 3968: Deepest Region

“Bam!” Li Qiye finally touched the ground.

In reality, anyone else jumping down would have been suiciding or being unable to find the bottom.

The crater back in Black Tides was merely the entrance. Reaching Li Qiye’s position required spatial shifting from one dimension to another.

He traveled through chaotic space and just one wrong step would result in being trapped in a spatial vortex, resulting in being torn to pieces. One needed immense power and knowledge in order to make it this far.

Li Qiye looked around and saw a dark ocean devoid of life. There weren’t any ripples and waves; the serenity here was rather creepy.

Rough waves and winds would actually put any visitor at ease. At the least, the laws of nature were at work and there could be life.

In this case, this tranquility made them feel as if they had visited a world consisting of nothing but death.

The sky was a muddled expanse. Lights under the nine firmaments couldn't reach this place, akin to being stuck in a dust storm. This reduced visibility greatly.

The moisture and air coming from the ocean didn't have a salty taste. Most would enjoy the breeze and the splashing of the waves. Unfortunately, the water here was black and sticky. If one were to let them drip down between the fingers, long strings would be formed just like slime.

Li Qiye had a smile on his face while looking around.

"Splash!" Suddenly, a terrible scene occurred.

Skeletons began to come out of the water. One looked like a massive dragon and unleashed a tsunami due to its size.

Another resembled a gigantic ape. Its head was tall enough to break the sky vault.

Others looked like regular human skeletons. Some began reaching for Li Qiye right away. Two skeletal hands grabbed his legs. It seemed as if he had awakened them from their slumber.

Meanwhile, ashes gathered above and formed a dreadful skull, capable of devouring skies and seas.

Everything appeared tiny compared to this skull. Cultivators would tremble in fear upon meeting it but Li Qiye was still amused.

He walked forward and ignored the skeletal hands touching him. He didn't summon any defensive treasures either, not considering them real opponents.

"Boom!" Another tsunami manifested not far from here due to the appearance of a gigantic golem. The thing was shiny like a gem, looking like a mountain of treasures.

However, this golem died long ago. Its eyes had a gray glimmer of death.

"I am the ancestor of the golems!" The golem roared and rushed towards Li Qiye.

"Rumble!" Its movement caused loud detonations and waves.

"Raa!" The skeletal dragon and ape along with all the other creatures also headed for him, wanting to crush him into a pulp.

They didn't appreciate the uninvited guest, hence their rage. Tearing him apart was the only thing that would appease them.

The most terrifying one was still the skull in the sky. Its roar nearly toppled the black ocean over. A powerful sucking force started pulling in everything around it.

Alas, this still wasn't enough to wipe the smile off Li Qiye's face.

“Buzz.” A radiance emanating from him resembled the strongest force in existence. Each pulse had an unstoppable momentum and a burning affinity.

“Zzz...” It immediately bathed the gigantic creatures and reduced them to ashes. Even the mighty skull couldn’t stop it.

The thick water itself fell victim to his light. It became clear as if the evil within has been purified. Or, maybe this evil presence had run farther away.

The force of a million suns exploding came from him, capable of purifying all evil and death in this world. The sky and the ocean became clear once more. His stroll through this ocean continued.

Anyone else would have needed to fight their heart out. Even a top Heavenly Sovereign might not survive the battle. As for Li Qiye, this was no big deal. Just his light alone was more than enough.

He eventually found a continent also devoid of life. There were no grasses and animals, let alone people.

The breezes here were dried and hot. However, it served more of a warning rather than inflicting any damage. Top existence would immediately put on their strongest defense.

As he moved on, he saw signs of battles - broken mountains and severed rivers, unnatural craters and canyons on an open field.

The signs of battles meant that finding corpses was inevitable.

He saw one wearing a royal robe and an imperial crest. The weapon of choice was a crimson spear.

This expert’s chest had been penetrated but he stood straight with the support of his spear.

If an ancestor were to see him, they would instantly shout: “Crimsonflame Godking!”

One old woman wore a five-colored dress and held a resplendent fan. Her chest had a hole as well.

She would be instantly recognized as “Five-fan Ancestor”.

Chapter 3969: Sword God

Any of the dead cultivators could sweep through Eight Desolaces. They were absolutely apex cultivators.

Some were undefeated until they came here. Vajra Saint and his peers weren’t qualified to be spoken in the same breath.

Alas, they all had the same fatal injury - a hole in their chest. Upon closer inspection, their true blood and essences have been drained. Only their skin and bones were left behind. Something had devoured them during their last moment.

Those who could make it this far would think about turning back right away but Li Qiye kept his nonchalant demeanor. He still didn’t activate a barrier or ready a weapon just yet.

The farther he went, the fewer corpses he saw. However, the quality only improved. The marks of battle here were incredible.

The next thing he saw was a majestic fortress that could be clearly seen from a thousand miles away.

However, this was no fortress. Immense sword energies ravaged this area and didn't allow any intruder.

The fortress turned out to be countless divine swords positioned into walls. Their auras alone would scrape any spectator despite the far distance.

It completely separated the realms - an ultimate defense. Most wouldn't be able to get through this immaculate sword dao. They would think that they were in the presence of the greatest swordsman.

The destructive rays naturally couldn't harm Li Qiye. He kept on walking and entered the fortress of swords.

He saw a tall middle-aged man wearing a simple white robe. His hair still fluttered as he held his sword - the source of this domain. Though millions of years have passed, his sword aura still persevered.

In reality, he was dead long ago. The thing keeping him standing was an indomitable will to fight.

The corpses prior have lost their divinity from being drained. On the other hand, this man's aura and divinity remained dangerous and murderous. His corpse was relatively intact outside of the hole on the chest.

His expression was full of rage and indignation. This unwillingness to give up allowed his corpse to stand straight.

His title was Sword God, a cultivator who was actually unbeatable during his era in Eight Desolaces. Though he wasn't a dao lord, others considered him to be on the same level.

He personally came to join the festivity during the foundation of Duality Academy. He also listened to the master's lecture.

Who would have thought that the great sword god would be dead here?

"Death is unavoidable, return to the earth now." Li Qiye chuckled and said.

He swung his hand, releasing a gentle breeze. It chased away the leftover snow from winter and called for spring.

With that, Sword God's unwillingness and indignation dispersed along with the remnant sword energies.

"Clank! Clank! Clank!" The swords in the air came together to form a box. It took in his corpse and served as a steel coffin.

It then drilled into the ground and a memorial tablet made out of stone formed naturally. No words were engraved on it.

During this process, something fell off his body as if the box couldn't take it in.

Li Qiye got down and picked it up for a look. He seemed amused and put it away before moving forward.

In the beginning, those who couldn't get past the ocean would be corroded by the black water and turned into the undead. For example, the golem ancestor, dragon, and ape...

Those who made it to land were more powerful but still eventually died. Nonetheless, they kept their corpses instead of becoming undead.

It was obvious that the danger gradually increased as one delved deeper into this region. However, whatever killed these cultivators didn't attack Li Qiye.

The reason was that Li Qiye's visit was expected. The most dangerous things here couldn't kill him and would only be asking for trouble.

"Rumble!" Loud bangs came from a distance in a rhythmic order. A giant seemed to be walking; each step caused an earthquake.

Li Qiye felt a supreme divinity - a sign of dao and cosmic mastery.

Others would immediately prostrate even before seeing the being after feeling this aura.

He chuckled and kept on walking forward. The sounds became deafening and once he got close enough, he saw the source.

"Rumble!" It was no giant, just another youth. His red robe was ripped and torn in many places, also covered in blood. The scars on his body must have been there years ago.

He didn't need an imperial crest to let others know that he was the ruler of all beings. His aura alone spoke plenty - the aura of a dao lord!

Chapter 3970: A Young Dao Lord

Translator: ImmortalEmperorBao

One would find it astonishing to find a dao lord here. The new dao lord hasn't come out after the era of Eight Stallion Dao Lord.

However, they would quickly notice that this young dao lord was already dead. His chest was also penetrated but this time around, his divinity and grand dao remained.

The death of a dao lord would shock and horrify the world. They all believed that dao lords were invincible yet one went down here.

What made this corpse special was that it was still walking. Sword God and the others didn't move at all.

It wasn't walking that fast but the movement was clear, leaving a deep print every time. The ground seemed as feeble as soft bread.

A faint death presence haunted him, akin to an unremovable curse. He seemed to be trying to leave this area yet continued to walk in a circle.

Perhaps this was due to two conflicting feelings - he wanted to return home because there were people waiting for him. On the other hand, he didn't want to give up like this. Though he lost the battle and his life, he still wanted to keep on fighting.

The two conflicting obsessions resulted in the corpse's perpetual movement. As time went on, basins were formed from his steps.

“Scarlet Moon Dao Lord!” Li Qiye knew who he was right and the circumstances right away.

He was a supreme genius of the Chi, eventually proving his dao to become a dao lord. The world knew that shortly after his golden avatar attainment, he was presumed to be dead from unknown causes.

This rarely happened after the end of the Chaotic Era. Once the Myriad Dao Era started, it became even less frequent.

Scarlet Moon Dao Lord belonged to this group despite his incredible talents. Some said that even from a historical perspective, his dao comprehension exceeded virtually everyone.

He didn't let people down and became a dao lord. Alas, his ultimate fate was quite tragic.

People didn't know about the minor details regarding his death, not even his own clan. Top masters had a general idea but they didn't publicize this issue.

Today, Li Qiye finally met the famous dao lord. He had earned a dao fruit and created a golden avatar. Unfortunately, he had the same hole on his chest with his blood and vitality drained. Nonetheless, his suppressive dao power was still present.

The aura of the dao lord attacked Li Qiye with haste once he got closer. Peaks on the horizon were reduced to dust.

The destruction from his aura alone was immense even before he attacked. How many would be able to survive this pressure alone? They would be instantly reduced to a bloody mist then the mist itself would be annihilated as well.

Eight Desolaces quaked before his aura. West King, in particular, felt something violent happening.

“A dao lord's power!” Many became shaken and assumed that there was a fight involving a dao lord's weapon.

This wasn't the case because this aura was clearly more powerful than a regular dao lord's aura even though he was dead. After all, few cultivators could exert the true power of a dao lord weapon.

Scarlet Moon Dao Lord set his sight on this uninvited guest. His eyes blinked as if he was still alive.

They were gray and lifeless yet still pulsed with the mysteries of the grand dao. Laws were still being derived within.

The dao continued even though the user was dead. This powerful connection with the dao made the dao lords special.

Alas, this power was completely ineffective against Li Qiye. The light coming from him had a better mastery of dao laws.

“Buzz.” The dao lord immediately knew that this was a terrible foe. His sharp instinct persisted after death.

He summoned a weapon - a blood moon. The sky's color changed as a result.

The blood moon poured down crimson laws, looking like it was bleeding. Inside the moon was a supreme grand dao, ready to derive the most mystical truths in the world and create another dao source.

Worldstarter Blood Moon - this was the dao lord's strongest weapon, his patrimony weapon.

The moon became resplendent as it opened a portal to the myriad ages. The power from these ages then poured into the dao lord's forehead.

His power erupted as he became engulfed in a golden radiance. However, the brightest thing loomed inside his mind. There was a tiny tree with one dao fruit hanging on a branch.

Creating a golden avatar and dao fruit was the process of a dao lord. Heavenly Sovereigns didn't have their own dao fruit.

In reality, Sword God was most likely stronger than Scarlet Moon Dao Lord.

However, the former was truly dead while the dao lord's obsession remained along with some fighting potential. This was due to the dao fruit.

"Rumble!" His aura also surged crazily.

The region started melting due to the blood moon. Both time and space came to a halt; everything became trapped in an ocean of blood. The weapon showed its might even before a direct attack.

The aura of this dao lord actually swept through Eight Desolaces. Some people started thinking that someone was about to become a dao lord.

However, a shade of red suddenly took over.