

Emperor 3981

## Chapter 3981: Xi Yue

“What is your opinion, Young Noble?” She then asked.

“I’m just an uninvolved visitor. But, things in life are ephemeral. The winds will take them all.” Li Qiye shrugged and said.

“Right.” The woman agreed.

“I’ve been amused by the island, there are some interesting characters.” Li Qiye remarked.

“The island is small but it has a rich history and hidden resources. There are many things waiting to be found here.” She agreed.

She was right. He sighed and started thinking about how this region used to be the bulwark of the human race. Now, it became a tiny town by the border, resembling an old man on his deathbed.

“It looks like you have a lot on your mind.” She looked at him and said softly.

“Men always have those days each month.” Li Qiye joked.

This got her to chuckle. Her smile was strangely captivating and memorable - a stark contrast to her average appearance. “I can’t see through you, Young Noble.”

“Keep on focusing on your research here.” Li Qiye replied.

“I am merely trying to learn the mysteries left behind, not wanting to disturb the past created by the effort of the sages.” She said.

“You must have noticed something to visit this tower.” He smiled.

“Since you know a lot, may I ask you some questions?” She bowed towards him, showing proper etiquette.

“I only know the hearsays, my knowledge is limited.” He responded.

“Will the blessings of the sages continue to protect their descendants in perpetuity?” She questioned as she stared at him with her large and round eyes.

They were clear and moist on top of possessing a natural elegance like worldly energy. Nonetheless, people would still want to answer her after seeing her eyes. There was an irresistible soft power at work.

“The descendants are the ones in charge of their fate. They shouldn’t rely on their ancestors for protection. Otherwise, generations will become weaker and inferior to the previous. At that point, it would be a mistake to protect those fools.” He shook his head and spoke while she paid careful attention.

“Your logic is sound, Young Noble, but there will always be weak people who are innocent, unable to handle the disasters.” She replied. Her soft words had a melting power, capable of influencing others.

“Each being has their own responsibility and role.” He said bluntly: “Both the weak and strong will have their own ending while obeying the orders of the world.”

“What if we want to break these orders?” She asked sharply. Her aura suddenly became powerful like an unsheathed blade with blinding glints.

“Then go against the heaven. Those who follow this rare path will have their own set of laws and principles.” He elaborated.

“Which type are you, Young Noble?” She inquired.

“I am an idle passerby traveling freely outside of everything.” He smiled and turned to leave.

She frowned again while staring at his back, feeling a little lost.

“You don’t need to study the tower any further.” His lazy voice came from a distance: “Understanding it is not of use. What you seek is not found in the foundation of this place.”

She was caught off guard at first then carefully thought about his advice. She eventually chose to listen and left the tower.

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Li Qiye continued sightseeing across the island. It wasn’t that large at all, only consisting of Holy City and a few more towns and villages.

This made it feel like a pristine paradise. People in the present day would have a hard time visualizing the island during its prime - how it used to protect the human race.

Nonetheless, the island was still doing the same thing - sheltering its small population from the dangers and competitions of the outside world.

Li Qiye played the role of an observer and chose not to be too attached to the past. He came quietly and would leave in the same manner. There was no need for him to leave anything behind for the island.

He inadvertently made it back to the creek before and saw smoke from the kitchens.

Xi Yue was washing clothes again. Her hand movements felt as natural as the flow of water. Each breath was in harmony with the rhythm of heaven and earth.

A creek, a small home, and a woman - none of these were particularly out of place in a village, not worthy of special attention.

However, Li Qiye could tell that this area has taken roots in the natural order. He smiled and entered the yard as if it was his own home. He lay down on a long chair and basked in the sun.

After a while, he was woken up by Xi Yue’s return. She was busy hanging up thin sheets to dry them.

“Nobody will believe that you’re doing this.” He smilingly said.

She didn’t stop and responded: “Just a part of life.”

“You definitely don’t need to do so.” He said before closing his eyes again.

After a while, he began talking in his sleep: “I feel a wave of sword energy.”

“Were you dreaming, Young Noble?” She asked while continuing her task.

“There is a flaw in the sword.” He went on.

She stopped and quietly listened.

“Myriad Era can repair and prolong the overarching momentum...” He whispered but she still heard him clearly.

She had faced everything with calmness before but his words made her tremble and emotional. She took a deep breath and calmed down.

“Young Noble, how should one go about this?” She inquired.

“A thoughtless mind filled with thoughts; a netless world yet inescapable; a flawless dao in full propagation...”

His trance-like words sounded like the ringing of the gongs in a monastery, enlightening her with perfect wisdom. She tried her best to keep her composure while trying to understand the content.

She let go of the cloth in her hands and walked over to prostrate in front of him: “My dao is incomplete and I am lost on the way. Please guide me, Young Noble.”

He still seemed to be asleep but she patiently waited on her knees. After a long while, he finally woke up.

He sat up and stared at her: “You should know that this path is long and arduous.”

### **Chapter 3982: Fixing The Grand Dao**

“Yes, as you’re probably aware, I’ve never faltered before, Young Noble.” She looked up to answer.

“True, you can indeed persevere.” He nodded and praised her persistence on the dao path.

“Please give me pointers, Young Noble.” Xi Yue lowered her head again.

“Rise.” Li Qiye smiled: “Fate brings us together today and your wisdom seals the deal.”

“Thank you, Young Noble.” Xi Yue brought her head up, being overwhelmed with excitement despite maintaining a calm demeanor.

“Your dao has more than flaws, it is damaged.” He said.

“Your insight is impeccable, discerning it with one glance.” She sighed and revealed: “I met a powerful foe and suffered a setback to my dao. This plus facing a bottleneck stopped me from improving. That’s why I have no choice but to search for a method.”

“Because of this, you’re looking for perfection, something even more magical.” He chuckled.

“Yes, Young Noble.” She continued: “I have been assiduous in my search in recent years, only to find nothing. Perhaps the timing wasn’t right, or the thing never existed in the first place.”

“No, it’s there.” Li Qiye said.

His answer shocked her because this thing she was pursuing was highly coveted in history. Numerous masters planned and some even paid with their lives only to fail.

She didn’t want it before but due to the damages to her dao, this became her method.

Now, he confirmed the validity of this theory. They were strangers but she believed in him. His tone left no room for doubts either.

“Do you know where it is?” She blurted out before realizing how silly she was being. “I’m sorry, I’m being senseless.”

After all, the news of this item would cause a bloodbath all over Sword Continent. Everyone desired it and would hide all information pertaining to it.

“It’s fine. The problem is that it might not actually be that beneficial to you.” He shook his head.

“Please elaborate, Young Noble.” She asked respectfully.

“I know your plan, wanting to use it to fix your dao. However, relying on external means isn’t the right way. It is time to take a leap given your current cultivation.” He explained.

“You’re right, Young Noble. I can follow the logic.” She agreed and actually knew this already. Alas, there was nothing else she could do.

“It’s just that I am trapped in a predicament. If I can’t get out, I’ll keep on deteriorating.” She smiled wryly.

It was dangerous for one’s cultivation to continuously recede. That’s why she had to resort to external help.

“I’ve thought about using pills first.” She added.

“But you didn’t because you knew that it wouldn’t solve the actual issue. Using alchemy is only effective for a weaker cultivator. For someone like you, it’s only temporary unless it is an immortal item.” He smiled.

The problem for her was finding alchemy ingredients at the immortal level. That would be tougher than resorting to external means.

“Leap out of your grand dao, replace it with something newer and better.” He suggested.

“Please show me the way, Young Noble.” She cupped her fist and bowed after finding hope again.

“Very well, I shall aid you.” He said before reaching for her forehead with one finger.

The forehead was a vulnerable position. One powerful attack would definitely take her down. However, she trusted him enough to not be wary.

A tiny law looking like a golden string circled around his finger. It entered her mind and created a ripple effect.

“Clank! Clank! Clank!” Sword hymns could be heard as she became resplendent with this affinity.

Fortunately, the area around the house has been sealed so no destruction happened to the outside world.

A sword dao erupted inside her mind like a supreme dragon. It started an endless tsunami with enough power to kill everything.

She started shaking and immediately got into the meditative position. She absorbed energy and channeled her own sword dao in order to fuse it with the new law.

The sword aura emanating from her prevented anyone from getting close. The individual rays could pierce through any cultivator.

This wasn't her strongest state - only an internal activation of her sword dao. Once she chose to actually use it, one slash could cut Ancient Crimson Island into two halves.

The golden law pierced through her sword dao, causing it to roar and struggle. Its scales extended like swords in a magnificent manner.

The law continued with an incredible speed and made it to a particular position in this sword dao. There was a damaged portion that couldn't be repaired before until now. The law weaved back and forth and instantly fixed this problem.

Meanwhile, this process put her in unimaginable pain. She mustered all of her willpower in order to endure it.

Of course, the joy due to the successful repair eventually overwhelmed the pain.

“Buzz.” The golden law began affecting the entire sword dao. A golden color eventually took over.

This made the pain even worse since the sword dao realized that it was being changed. Xi Yue felt as if her body was being burned by branding irons all over.

The dragon-like sword dao struggled but this was futile. It eventually succumbed to the golden law, culminating in a refreshing aura.

This went beyond a transformative process, akin to starting a second life. The golden dragon soared to the sky and then landed again. It kept on playing in this manner, seemingly enjoying itself.

What came after the pain was an equal level of pleasure and happiness. Xi Yue could tell that her sword dao had leap out of the previous constraints.

She had trained for years to no avail, unable to break through this bottleneck. However, Li Qiye helped her fix her dao damages and let her reach the next cultivation realm.

### **Chapter 3983: Still The Seven Laws**

Some time passed and Xi Yue woke up from her cultivation session, opening her eyes. She was drenched in sweat due to the pain of her sword dao being pierced. This further accentuated her alluring curves.

Pleasant sensations and happiness overwhelmed her. She had made it through the gate and saved tens of thousands of years from a simple touch in the forehead.

This favor was truly shocking. Of course, the improvement had plenty to do with her training over the years. He simply guided her away from the wrong path. Otherwise, stagnation would have continued.

She looked over and found him sleeping again. She then left quietly in order to not bother him.

She was naturally curious about his identity. There wasn't anyone like him in Sword Continent so where did he come from?

Of course, a character like him certainly had his reasons for coming here. Asking him could be construed as being disrespectful.

She finished hanging up the laundry then returned to the yard. Li Qiye had woken up and started cultivating.

Her mouth widened as she saw his process - chaos energy engulfed him. It wasn't overly dense and simply looked like water vapor.

One side yin and the other side yang. They rotated and formed the taiji; this revolution contained a boundless and everlasting force.

Nonetheless, the process itself looked rather ordinary. It didn't have a shocking aura and pressure. However, this was special in Xi Yue's eyes.

She saw that he was in the Yin Yang Celestial realm. For ordinary people, this wasn't a bad realm at all.

Alas, when compared to characters like her, they were simply ants. She could crush them with one finger. It's just that this didn't apply to Li Qiye.

Someone who could heal her dao injuries and help her break through couldn't possibly be limited to his cultivation.

The weirdest thing was not his cultivation but rather, his chosen law - Samsara Mantra.

This was one of the Seven Laws of the Golden Age. Not to mention geniuses or experts, even a new cultivator wouldn't pick this mantra.

The seven used to be popular but later on, as the races prospered, fewer chose them for cultivation.

They were indeed proper cultivation techniques but became outdated with time. The individual sects had better merit laws and mantras.

Therefore, it seemed out of place for an unfathomable master like Li Qiye to pick something so basic. Of course, she wasn't the type of fool who would make fun of him for doing so.

She became curious about his choice, thinking that there must be something else going on.

Once he gradually awakened from the session, she prostrated: "I have nothing but gratitude towards you, I will never forget this kindness."

"Rise." He accepted her gesture then told her to get up.

"Young Noble, are you practicing the Samsara Mantra?" She stood up and hesitated a bit before asking. There was the possibility of her not recognizing the law correctly.

"Indeed." He smiled: "You must be curious about why I'm cultivating Samsara. After all, the seven laws are as common as can be."

"It must be due to my shallow knowledge. I can't fathom your choice, Young Noble." She smiled wryly.

"I shall elaborate due to your commendable humility." Li Qiye chuckled and said: "What is the source of the world's merit laws?"

"Hmm..." She mused before answering: "In terms of mass propagation, one must credit the seven laws."

These laws originated from Blessed Dao Lord, allowing more mortals to embark on the cultivation path. This produced more cultivators than ever before, letting Eight Desolaces reach unprecedented prosperity.

"What about before the seven laws? Everything has an origin, no?" Li Qiye smiled.

"Young Noble, you mean that the seven laws are deeply connected to the origin of the grand dao?" She deduced.

There were already cultivation methods before Blessed Dao Lord. He compiled and simplified them into the current version of the seven laws. However, no one knew the creator of these laws before that.

What did they use to look like then? Xi Yue had never thought about this issue before because the seven laws were insignificant.

"Comparison between the dao paths is unnecessary." He said: "It's just that people like to take shortcuts, using them as main roads while ignoring the actual ones."

"I see..." This gave her a new perspective on cultivation.

What was considered the right path for cultivation? Most people would pick the strongest ones. However, was this the right answer?

As more people took shortcuts with cultivation, these methods became popular and were considered the right choice.

In the distant past, the right path was before them but due to its difficulty, they eventually abandoned it. Now, the path was still there.

She found this perspective interesting and helpful. It was akin to a supreme gem being discarded while a polished piece of jade being treasured.

“So we have gone on the wrong path?” She whispered.

“Because of the passage of time, a few things will inevitably be forgotten.” Li Qiye said.

“What is your recommendation, Young Noble?” She asked.

“Nothing, you’ve already reached a high level today, do you still wish to change the path? It’s not a trivial issue. Ask yourself, can your dao heart handle it?” He stared at her and asked.

She fell into silent rumination. She had already reached the top, what would be the outcome of changing her way?

#### **Chapter 3984: Preeminent Legacy**

The apex was the dream of all cultivators. She might not be at the apex in Eight Desolaces but certainly wasn’t far off.

She paid in sweat, blood, and time for her current achievements. To restart was an unacceptable price. Furthermore, she had no idea if success was possible. Failure meant losing everything.

Asking a king to give up his authority and start again as a beggar? No king would be willing to do this.

It required immense determination and a firm dao heart to jump down the abyss. Just one wrong step meant damnation.

Xi Yue sighed. It was easier said than done.

“Everyone has a limit.” Li Qiye said: “Only a selected few could reach this border and even fewer could surpass it. This applied to all the geniuses and top cultivators in history. But those capable of reaching the limitless state will become true overlords.”

“Thank you for telling me this, Young Noble. It seems like I do not have the ability to ascend above the nine heavens.” She bowed, having made up her mind.

No one would fault her for giving up. In fact, to start over was the crazier choice.

“Understandable.” He nodded: “Everyone has their own position on the long path. Those without a seat have no choice but to continue until one is found.”

She carefully thought about the statement and suddenly, she saw a solitary traveler walking on the dao path through history. He crossed through the firmaments in spite of the raging waves. Prosperity came

and went but one thing was for certain - his continuous progress and footsteps on the river of time. He eventually traveled farther than anyone else. Others could only see his back.

Once she regained her wits, she found him sleeping again. Nonetheless, she still bowed towards him.

He slept until noon the next day when they had a female visitor. She was tall and thin, only around the age of twenty or so, attractive like most cultivators.

Her simple dress gave her an elegant appearance. Her face was covered by a thin veil. Even a heavenly gaze wouldn't be able to see through it.

The only thing visible were her gem-like eyes, looking bright and pure. She exuded a gentle and warm presence like water flowing through one's heart.

She was startled to see a man in the courtyard. How could there be an outsider here and a man at that?

Most importantly, he was acting as if this was his house, not showing any restraint or awkwardness.

Her lord was a supreme character. Ordinary people had no right to be here, let alone being so blatantly rude. She had followed the lord for so long yet never saw anything like this before.

She had to compose herself despite being quite experienced in life.

"My Lord." The girl bowed towards Xi Yue and said: "The elders asked me to come and seek your order."

"What is it?" Xi Yue stopped her task and replied.

"The Preeminent Legacy in Hallowed City is opening again, the elders would like a decision from you." The girl said.

"I see, it looks like Hallowed will be busy." Xi Yue's brows narrowed.

"Would you like to join the fun?" The girl asked.

"It's only a waste of time, no point in doing so." Xi Yue shook her head.

"So we won't participate?" She asked again.

"The disciples may do as they please, let them have fun. As for the sect, no point in even attempting." Xi Yue responded.

"The elders only care whether you will participate or not, My Lord. You haven't tried it before." She said.

"It's pointless. If someone like me could do so, the plate wouldn't have lasted this long. How could I compare to Omniscient Dao Lord?" She smiled beautifully. No one would ever get tired of staring at this smile.

"My Lord, you're being too humble. How many in the world right now can compare to you?" The girl wasn't trying to be a sycophant. This was indeed the case, at least in Sword Continent.

"Lu Qi, do not be arrogant. My accomplishment thus far on the dao path is not worth mentioning compared to the peerless sovereigns and unbeatable dao lords, far from the apex."

"My Lord..." The girl didn't know what to say. In her mind, her lord was very close to being invincible.

“The great cultivators before me would have solved this plate long ago if they could. It wouldn’t be my turn.” Xi Yue emphasized.

The girl kept her mouth shut, realizing that her lord was being logical.

“As I’ve said, individuals can go if they want but our sect is not participating. I will also be in isolated cultivation soon and won’t see anyone.” Xi Yue ordered.

“I understand.” The girl bowed.

“Preeminent Legacy?” Li Qiye woke up and interjected.

Lu Qi who was serving as Xi Yue’s maid stared at Li Qiye after listening to him. She found that he was only in the yin yang realm.

Why would such an ordinary cultivator enjoy the privilege of being in the lord’s presence?

“You would like to go, Young Noble?” Xi Yue inquired.

“I’m a bit interested since I’ve been bored recently. It’ll be something to do.” Li Qiye lazily said.

“You can definitely give it a shot. Omniscient Dao Lord is considered the most erudite cultivator in history. He wasn’t the strongest but his knowledge was peerless and praised by all dao lords. He left behind a special plate in Hallowed.”

Lu Qi shuddered after seeing her lord’s tone. Normally, others would bow before the lord. She rarely showed others politeness, let alone respect. This left Lu Qi speechless and frightened.

“Omniscient? How interesting. We must take a look.” Li Qiye smiled.

### **Chapter 3985: Blessed By An Immortal**

“Is it alright if I let Lu Qi guide you to Hallowed City? I’m afraid I’ll be in isolated cultivation and can’t accompany you, Young Noble.” Xi Yue said.

Lu Qi was stunned because her lord was speaking as if she was Li Qiye’s maid. Nothing like this had happened before.

“That’s fine.” Li Qiye smiled.

“Lu Qi, you’ll be serving the young noble from now on. His orders are my orders. If he ever needs anything, the sect will do everything in its power to support him, understood?”

Lu Qi calmed down and prostrated towards Li Qiye: “My name is Lu Qi. I am ready to serve.”

She then took off her veil and revealed an enchanting and lovable appearance. Each of her smiles and frowns could stir the souls of spectators.

Lu Qi was clearly superior to Xi Yue in terms of appearance. She only lacked the grand temperament found in the latter.

“Good.” Li Qiye nodded approvingly.

“When would you like to embark on the trip?” The experienced maid asked Li Qiye.

“Whenever, no rush.” Li Qiye smiled.

“I will prepare a boat for you, Young Noble.” Lu Qi didn’t waste time and went to prepare.

Because of this, the two left Ancient Crimson on the next day.

Xi Yue came to see their departure and said: “Young Noble, I apologize for my lack of hospitality. I will come to find you after my session.”

Li Qiye waved his hand, telling her to go back. As he was leaving, he glanced back at the broken city and sighed.

Nonetheless, he chose against restoring its former glory back. After all, he was only a passerby.

Rise and fall were part of the dao. Nothing lasts forever so the fall of the city was acceptable. It couldn’t escape its fate just like other sects. The city had its own end and he wasn’t responsible for it.

By the shore, Lu Qi had called for a boat and helped Li Qiye board.

In fact, Lu Qi and her sect were more than capable of taking Li Qiye to Hallowed in no time at all. However, he said he wasn’t in a rush so Lu Qi obeyed his will.

The helmsman was an old man, wearing clothes with a low-hanging hat. He looked rather ordinary but once one got close enough, everyone would be able to feel immense pressure.

Nonetheless, he was willing to play this role. He only glanced at Li Qiye once before focusing on his responsibilities.

As the boat was about to leave, someone ran to the shore and started shouting. It was none other than Daoist Peng.

His speed increased after spotting Li Qiye: “Young Brother, didn’t you want to join our courtyard? Why are you leaving so soon?”

He heaved for breath but didn’t care about his image. He grabbed Li Qiye’s sleeve, afraid of the guy escaping.

He had woken up earlier and didn’t see Li Qiye so he searched all around the island. He wanted nothing more than to bring Li Qiye back right now.

Lu Qi watched with great curiosity, unaware of the details.

“I’m afraid it’s not meant to be, I’m leaving for the main continent to see Hallowed.” Li Qiye smiled.

“Sigh, you don’t have to rush. Why not stay at our courtyard for several more days, I’ll pass our secret laws down to you first then you can leave. Once you learn them, I’ll teach you our legacy arts too.”

Daoist Peng was on the verge of begging. It wasn’t easy for him to find an interested party so giving up was unacceptable.

“Please go back, Daoist.” Li Qiye shook his head.

“What am I going to do, I have to pass down our lineage.” Daoist Peng couldn’t force the guy to obey so he was stuck in quite a predicament.

“Just let it go when it’s the right time. It is inevitable for the courtyard to fall eventually, plenty of sects have failed before, yours isn’t the only one.” Li Qiye sighed softly.

The old daoist smiled bitterly and said: “Of course I know this, it’s just that, the courtyard will end with me... I am too ashamed to see the ancestors...”

How could he get anyone to join when they had nothing left - no resources and usable merit laws. The only thing left was a broken courtyard.

This wasn’t qualified to be a sect, let alone wanting to recruit more disciples.

Li Qiye saw the guy’s sad appearance and changed his mind.

“Karma... let’s settle this.” He murmured to himself before raising his hand.

Time floated in his palm in a resplendent manner. It was as if he was a time lord capable of traversing through the epochs.

Lu Qi was shocked; the helmsman became emotional too with his eyes wide open.

However, Daoist Peng didn’t have a clue and only stared curiously at Li Qiye’s palm.

“I shall bestow a fortune upon you. You will bear the heavy responsibility now.” He then placed his palm on the daoist’s head.

Time started flowing again and its destination was the old man’s mind. His body trembled violently before becoming radiant. He was engulfed by the temporal affinity and lost control of his body.

Lu Qi couldn’t believe it. Li Qiye didn’t need to gather his strength or activate anything at all yet he could still control time.

This required immense strength. Lu Qi followed Xi Yue and had access to supreme laws. She could take down any ancestors.

However, she couldn’t casually grasp time like this. Her lord couldn’t do so either.

“Blessed by an immortal and taught the art of immortality...” Lu Qi recalled a tale that has been passed down for eras.

She finally realized why her lord showed nothing but respect for Li Qiye. The man was unfathomable and beyond her comprehension.

She thought that if she had met Li Qiye in a different scenario, she wouldn’t have looked at him twice. Only her lord had such insight.

As for the helmsman, he was left speechless. He was a big shot in their sect and if he were to reveal his identity, it would be enough to frighten many in Sword Continent. Though he was inferior to Lu Qi in many ways, he could still see that Li Qiye was doing something monstrous.

Only Daoist Peng was unaware of this as he became immersed in time.

“Let’s go.” Li Qiye pulled his hand back and lay down on a large chair on the deck.

The two calmed down and immediately obeyed his command.

### **Chapter 3986: Capsize Them**

Sunlight shined down on the blue water. Life was good at this moment as Li Qiye enjoyed the sea breezes while laying on his long chair.

The helmsman limited the speed to a comfortable level. There was no bump and jolt as they traveled across the massive ocean. Lu Qi stood by Li Qiye’s side, ready to serve him.

He wasn’t a king but still enjoyed a similar treatment. He had no qualms against enjoying these rare moments of peace.

However, this didn’t last long because loud rumbles came from behind. They stemmed from a large ship speeding at a rapid rate.

It had a large banner exuding sword rays from the front. Others in Sword Continent would become afraid right away after seeing it because it belonged to Sea Emperor Sword Kingdom.

This was the strongest lineage in the continent, having had five dao lords before. It also had the most territories, spanning from Eastern Grand Land to Eastern Sword Sea. It had thousands and thousands of tributaries.

Their progenitor, Sea Sword Dao Lord was incredible - the first to obtain a heavenly scripture. This contribution to the continent was priceless. He was the one who started the love for the swords here.

Thus, most people backed off whenever they saw this kingdom’s banner. The target of this ship was actually Li Qiye’s boat.

There were nearly a hundred young cultivators on the ship - male and female; humans and sea demons of various forms.

They looked to be on vacation, not official business or training.

“Whoosh!” It passed by Li Qiye’s boat, leaving a trail of water that eventually poured down like the rain.

Li Qiye’s boat was about to get hit. However, the old man was fast enough to evade the splashes.

As for the young ones, they didn’t give a damn and even waved towards Li Qiye. One of them shouted: “We’re going ahead, keep moving at a turtle’s pace.”

The group erupted in laughter after hearing this. Having a bit of fun wasn’t a big deal. Plus, Li Qiye’s group didn’t look like big shots at all.

They didn’t even care about smashing into Li Qiye’s boat. After all, this group was blind for being in their way.

“Capsize them.” Li Qiye didn’t bat an eye as he gave out this order.

The old man immediately roared and increased the speed of the boat.

The youths noticed this and one of them laughed: “You think your little boat can catch up to our divine ship?”

However, the boat was indeed gaining on them at a rapid rate.

“So what if you can catch up? As if you can do anything to us.” Another disciple coldly uttered.

One female disciple sneered: “Acting haughty in our territory? They must be tired of living.”

Their arrogance was understandable since they have grown used to having privileges everywhere. Moreover, this was within their own territory.

In the next split second, the small boat leaped forward just like an arrow.

“Sh\*t!” An expert on the ship bellowed but it was too late.

“Boom!” The boat struck the back of the ship with the force of lightning.

“Crack!” Though the latter had a defensive barrier, it was taken down instantly.

The laughing disciples didn’t expect their ship to break down. The impact threw them off the ship and into the ocean.

Moreover, a massive tsunami formed from the shock waves and smashed them down into the water, causing them to drink several gulps.

Once they floated to the surface, the boat was already long gone.

“We won’t forgive you for this!” Many disciples roared furiously.

“You can run to the edge of the world and we’ll still find you.” Another declared.

Their hatred couldn’t be contained since they had never experienced retaliation before. Alas, the people on the boat couldn’t hear them.

Li Qiye was already sleeping while Lu Qi remained nonchalant. Sea Emperor Sword Kingdom was formidable indeed but these random disciples meant nothing to her.

The boat continued riding the winds and waves. After a long while, Li Qiye woke up and found that they had made it to shore. The helmsman was now waiting in a carriage.

“There’s still some time before we reach Hallowed. Is there anything you want, Young Noble?” Lu Qi asked, not minding to take their time since it was Li Qiye’s wish.

“Let’s go.” Li Qiye gazed ahead and said.

They embarked on the journey with the old man doing a great job. He never said a word from start to finish.

The scene outside the window was beautiful. Li Qiye quietly watched the ever-changing landscape.

Meanwhile, Lu Qi thought about who he was. The man was a puzzle and she had no idea where to start. Nonetheless, she was aware of the mission given to her by the lord. She must do everything in her power to serve Li Qiye well.

Sun rose and set during their journey. Li Qiye eventually grew bored of the scenery and decided to sleep. He recognized many places but the familiar faces were no longer there.

On a night filled with fog and mist, the sounds of hooves stomping on the ground could be heard in a rhythmic manner.

“Stop.” Li Qiye suddenly sat up and ordered.

“What’s the matter, Young Noble?” Lu Qi immediately asked.

“We’re taking a break.” Li Qiye got out of the carriage.

Lu Qi found this strange since this was the first time Li Qiye showed interest in anything.

They stopped before a peak with a stone path leading from the base all the way to the pinnacle. The top half was covered by fog and clouds, resulting in an unsettling feeling.

Li Qiye glanced upward before starting the climb. Lu Qi gave chase right away while the old man waited with the carriage.

### **Chapter 3987: Dong Ling**

The night was peaceful and indistinct, fully shrouded by the fog as they climbed up the ancient stone steps covered in moss.

It must have been years since the last visitors. The steps weren’t perfect either and had cracks everywhere, perhaps from the weathering of time.

Lu Qi looked around and frowned, wondering why this place got Li Qiye’s attention. He walked slowly; each of his steps seemed deliberate and timed in a mystical manner.

The two of them eventually reached the end of the steps. It turned out that this pathway only took them to the ridge.

There was a large crack in the middle of the peak, seemingly separating two different worlds. An arched door waited at the last step. It had lost its color and had spots everywhere.

They heard loud swallowing noises and saw a youth holding a wine gourd. He devoured the drink and didn’t care that the wine was spilling on his sleeves.

He appeared to be around twenty years of age. His robe was dirty but one could tell that it was made from precious materials with golden threads and silks. He didn’t seem to care about his image, resulting in a shabby appearance.

He was rather handsome with long brows and bright eyes. He had a wide smile as if everything in life was so beautiful.

His unkempt hair was charming, displaying confidence and freedom. A sword was tied to his back and had a faint pulse - clearly an exceptional weapon. The stains on it showed that he didn't treasure it too much.

"Oh, someone's here." The youth was surprised to see the duo and stopped drinking.

He only glanced at Li Qiye for a moment before stopping on Lu Qi.

Li Qiye's cultivation was obvious but Lu Qi was hiding her aura. Intuition told him that she wasn't simple.

"It is a pleasure to meet you two in this remote area." He cupped his fist and said: "My name is Dong Ling."

Li Qiye nodded then shifted his focus towards the arched door. There should be a plaque at the top but it might have gone missing due to the years.

"There's evil energy inside." Lu Qi's eyes narrowed.

"How sharp of you, Fellow Daoist." Dong Ling said: "I feel something ghastly in there. I got here not long ago and have been thinking about entering. That's why I need some wine to build up courage."

Anyone else would have refrained from revealing this because it was embarrassing. He didn't seem to mind.

"Let's go take a look." Li Qiye continued without any hesitation. Lu Qi followed right behind him.

This surprised Dong Ling. He hurriedly asked: "Fellow Daoists, you don't need to prepare?"

He decided to enter as well and smiled: "I'm too afraid entering alone but now, there's a group. Let's see if we can get lucky and obtain a fortune."

"There's no fortune in here. One misstep and it'll be death." Li Qiye flatly responded.

"Don't scare me, I want to live for tens of thousands of years, I can't die here." Dong Ling was startled.

Li Qiye chuckled and didn't say anything else.

The trio entered the crack and saw a mountain range. There seemed to be architectures built on top of these mountains.

This area might have had inhabitants before but it looked abandoned now. There was no sign of life. The vegetation had dried and withered. The buildings were dilapidated and broken.

"What is this place?" Lu Qi wondered.

"We'll find out soon." Li Qiye smiled and moved forward.

More steps could be seen for each of the mountains. This place was prosperous once with plenty of inhabitants. This was no longer the case so the steps were covered in a thick layer of dried leaves and branches.

Lu Qi had an ominous feeling about this place despite being so powerful. On the other hand, Li Qiye seemed unaffected by everything.

He eventually stopped to take a look at a tablet. This tablet also showed the same signs of aging just like other things found here. Its original color was indiscernable.

There were three ancient characters carved on the surface, barely legible after being assaulted by rains and winds.

“Divine, divine something peak.” Dong Ling carefully examined it and understood two characters.

“A scholar, how surprising.” Li Qiye said.

Dong Ling didn’t know what to say after being looked down upon by a yin yang cultivator despite being a famous prodigy. Others might have become angry at Li Qiye but he had great self-restraint.

He coughed and continued: “My sect has scrolls regarding these ancient characters. I learned a little during my youth.”

“Your Heaven Silkworm School does have a long history.” Lu Qi interjected.

“You know where I’m from?” Dong Ling didn’t expect Lu Qi to figure him out so quickly.

Lu Qi didn’t answer and kept on walking behind Li Qiye. This perplexed the youth as well.

He could tell that Lu Qi was definitely stronger than Li Qiye. However, she looked like his maid.

“Divine Crow Peak.” Li Qiye sighed, looking a bit disappointed while staring at the peak.

“Oh, that’s right, this character is ‘crow’, it seems like my knowledge of the old language is inferior to yours.” Dong Ling replied.

Meanwhile, Lu Qi was taken aback by Li Qiye’s obvious look of disappointment. This guy never showed any emotion. She thought that he would be able to stay calm even when the sky was falling down. Why would looking at this peak elicit such a response? She didn’t see anything special about the peak.

Li Qiye looked away and moved on to another peak with Lu Qi behind him.

As for Dong Ling, he was curious about the tablet and Li Qiye’s reaction. He thought that there might be treasures here but it would be improper to ask.

As they traveled across the peaks, they saw signs of greatness and prosperity from the ruins. There must have been a powerful sect here in the past.

They eventually made it to a street paved with bluestones, also covered in dried leaves. To the left and right were buildings tightly erected.

## Chapter 3988: Ghost City

The trio imagined the old street flourishing in the past with carriages and passersby brushing shoulders. They could hear the peddling merchants. Now, a single footstep couldn't be found anywhere.

There was something creepy about this street. They had the feeling that it wasn't a gradual decline throughout the years.

It seemed as if everyone disappeared in the blink of an eye. There were still some stalls, tables, and carts to the side. Daily essentials were still seen inside the houses. Bowls and cups were placed on tables as if the families were about to have a meal.

In front of the street was the neighborhood sign. They looked up and saw three ancient words covered in dust. They were worn down and difficult to read.

Dong Ling looked up and tried his best. He was an expert in this field but couldn't figure out all three: "Revival... something..."

"Revival Emperor City." Li Qiye only needed one glance. [1]

Dong Ling clapped and said: "You're right, it's Revival Emperor City! You're really something else, I spent several years learning the ancient language but can't hold a candle to you..."

However, something flashed in his head and he realized something: "What?! Revival Emperor City?!"

"Isn't, isn't this the famous ghost city in the legends? Sh\*t! How unlucky is this?! I thought that we would be finding a fortune through the portal, not this hellish place!"

"Yes, many never returned after visiting this city, quite perilous." Lu Qi's expression soured as well.

"Perilous is putting it lightly." Dong Ling shuddered with fear: "So many brilliant characters were finished here. I heard that an ancestor from Sea Emperor Sword Kingdom thought that he was strong enough to be unbeatable. When this city appeared in Eastern Sword Sea, he entered alone and no one saw him since."

"A ghost city, I see." Li Qiye couldn't help but smile after listening.

"Yes, people always disappear after coming inside." Dong Ling paused for a bit; his face became pale: "We should leave now, there's nothing good awaiting us here, only death."

He wasn't a coward. This place was just too famous for its bizarre nature. No one knew what was inside so there were rumors of ghosts and evil entities.

Only one thing was for certain - whenever this city appeared, no visitors ever returned. It moved location continuously and without any warning in Sword Continent.

Thus, Revival Emperor City eventually became known as a ghost city. Nonetheless, people were still curious and some always took the risk whenever it appeared again.

Dong Ling was being logical in wanting to leave. Even powerful ancestors have disappeared, let alone them.

“Let’s just take things as they come.” Li Qiye smiled and sauntered forward.

Lu Qi didn’t say a word and followed him.

Dong Ling was left in a tough position. Leaving alone could be dangerous so he made up his mind: “Fine, I’ll risk my life and accompany you two. However, let it be known that I might not be able to save you if it gets too dangerous.”

Li Qiye glanced at him and remarked: “Your forefathers were more courageous than you.”

“You heard about our forefathers?” Dong Ling found this strange.

“A bit, a group of heroes who worked together and created an impressive technique. They were brilliant geniuses.” Li Qiye stared ahead while speaking.

“Wow, you know this too? How?” Dong Ling’s astonishment only increased.

Their Heaven Silkworm School was mighty in Sword Continent but unlike others, they never had a dao lord.

Moreover, they didn’t focus on the sword dao either. They had a vast repertoire of cultivation knowledge since they had a rich history. Some actually believed that they were older than any other power in Sword Continent.

Strangely enough, it never produced a dao lord. Normally, even sects with dao lords might fall after enough time had passed. This wasn’t the case for Heaven Silkworm.

Its disciples themselves also lacked knowledge regarding the true origin of their sect. Dong Ling was a top disciple there who had taken in ample knowledge. He knew a few things about the tales of their progenitor as well.

Thus, he was surprised to see an outsider like Li Qiye know so much about his sect.

“Just read and you’ll learn a lot.” Li Qiye looked back at him and said.

“Can’t argue with that.” Dong Ling scratched his head.

“Your cultivation isn’t that exceptional among the young generation. However, your actual battle potential is impressive. Your imperial dao is wonderful and can pull a fast one on your opponents too.” Li Qiye changed the conversation.

“How do you know all of this?!” Dong Ling staggered backward and took a deep breath.

His imperial dao was magical. It might not be the strongest but had plenty of applications in battle. The problem here was that he had never used it before in public.

Few in the sects had knowledge of his training, hence his shock at Li Qiye being privy to this.

“Read more and you’ll know everything.” Li Qiye chuckled and continued onward.

There was no refuting the logic in this response but it didn’t apply here. The tales on their forefathers might be recorded but his personal training? Impossible.

He shuddered and thought that Li Qiye was something else, only needing one glance to see through him. In the beginning, he only paid attention to Lu Qi.

As they traveled together, she appeared to be Li Qiye’s maid. It became obvious that Li Qiye was the real monster here. He eventually regained his wits and caught up to the duo.

A while later on the path, they heard cracks and movements.

“Come out here!” Dong Ling was creeped out.

The street started shaking and all of the items came back to life - the broken buildings, the vendors’ stands, the carts, and tables...

These non-living things became animated and turned into monsters.

For example, the door of a building became a mouth; the windows turned into eyes, and the flagpole in front became a tail.

### **Chapter 3989: Easy Takedown**

“Rumble!” Massive monsters stood up and made the trio look tiny in comparison.

The houses were as large as mountains. One stomp could crush them like ants.

“What the hell are these things?!” Dong Ling was startled.

They didn’t look like regular monsters and beasts. The latter would at least be considered alive. On the other hand, these things had no sign of life even though they were moving.

There were no ferocious auras but Dong Ling felt threatened. He found them to be brimming with power and pressure.

“Rumble!” The trio became trapped in a world of monsters and suddenly turned into potential delicacies.

Of course, their tiny frames wouldn’t be enough as an appetizer for a single monster.

“What do we do now, kill our way out?” Dong Ling panicked.

Contrastly, Li Qiye didn’t give a damn; the same with Lu Qi.

“Whoosh!” One building raised both hands for a downward smash.

The sky suddenly turned dark with two mountain ranges descending down on Li Qiye.

He didn't bother looking up and kept the same pace. Meanwhile, Dong Ling was scared out of his mind. He grabbed his sword, ready to fight to the death.

In this split second, Lu Qi made her move. She raised her jade hand and her fingers looked like a blossoming lotus flower.

Rays of light came out and erupted like an exploding sun. A terrible force easily crushed the descending hands of the monster and pierced through the monster's chest.

"Boom!" The entire thing collapsed right away.

Dong Ling became slack-jawed after seeing how easy it was for her to take down one. He thought that he was quite strong given his age. Nonetheless, he had no confidence against so many monsters. This might not be the case for Lu Qi.

As for Li Qiye, he didn't bother looking at the fight at all.

"Raa!" Strange roars came from the other side of the street. More monsters roared in response.

Dong Qing felt as if he was a lost lamb being surrounded by a pack of wolves. They seemed to be infuriated, perhaps by Lu Qi's offense.

Thus, all rushed towards Li Qiye's group and caused violent quakes.

"We'll turn into meat pastes!" Dong Qing bellowed in horror.

However, Lu Qi raised both hands this time and her fingers released bright sword lights.

"Boom!" Frightening sword energies manifested from the rays. Thousands of divine swords appeared; their glints could wash the entire world.

"She's this strong?!" Dong Ling's legs became weak while being exposed to the domineering sword energy.

He had met plenty of experts - both geniuses and ancestors. Thus, he had a good idea of power level. Alas, he was frightened this time.

Even ancestors wouldn't be as powerful as her. This included most of the top ancestors in his sect.

"Clank!" The swords gathered to form a single one. It unleashed a slash and decapitated numerous monsters. Their huge frames smashed onto the ground.

This one slash covered the entire street - a testament to her incredible might.

Dong Ling's mouth became wide open, speechless. The problem for him here was that she was only Li Qiye's maid.

Such a powerful existence commanded respect anywhere in Sword Continent. Others would address her as "senior". Why would she be inferior to a yin-yang cultivator? The whole thing didn't make sense.

Li Qiye, on the other hand, was unimpressed by her power. It was as if he thought that she was being too sloppy.

Dong Ling swallowed his saliva and caught up to the duo again. He stole glances at Lu Qi but couldn't see through the veil.

"Se-senior, which sect are you from?" He couldn't contain his curiosity despite being afraid.

Unfortunately, Lu Qi didn't bother answering him.

Li Qiye chuckled and shook his head: "You're making our little miss look old. She might be offended and make mincemeat out of you." Having said that, he gently stroked Lu Qi's long hair.

"..." Dong Ling had no response.

Given her power, he assumed that she was part of the previous generation. After all, he was acquainted with most of the young geniuses - the ten swords, the four heroes, on and on...

But what if Li Qiye was telling the truth, that she was just as young as him?

What would be her background? Sea Emperor Sword Kingdom? Nine-wheel Citadel? He couldn't exactly connect her to anyone from these two sects.

### **Chapter 3990: Number One Beauty**

Just one sword slash from Li Qiye's maid took care of all the monsters on this street. Everything happened so quickly to Dong Ling's astonishment.

The monsters assumed their original state. Doors, windows, and rocks scattered on the ground.

Nonetheless, this wasn't the end of the creepy occurrences. Clicks and clacks could be heard as these things were moving.

There seemed to be invisible strings trying to pull them back in position again. This process was rather slow.

The small items such as the carts and tables were faster. The assembly wasn't perfect either. There were still damaged spots. The tiny things started walking, looking feeble and powerless.

"They're still not dead?" This was Dong Ling's first time seeing something like this.

They crossed through the street and saw a massive plain shrouded in darkness. The sunlight didn't reach this place. Perhaps this has been the case for millions of years.

However, upon activating his heavenly gaze, he noticed a peak ahead. It could be a monster as well. Either way, it spanned the entire length of the plain.

The scariest thing was the black smoke oozing from it, thick enough to obscure all vision. The smoke made it look like a great army was gathered there, giving off a creepy sensation.

It resembled an evil city with flashing lights. With just one command, the army would rush out and rampage. A murderous presence wafted in the air, enough to make anyone shudder. Nothing in this world could be scarier than this city.

Dong Ling was frightened as he spoke: "That looks like the gate to hell, the gathering of fiends."

"Rumble!" The dried vegetation suddenly sprung up from the ground. They came back alive as if something had granted them life force.

Loud explosions detonated as large trees walked towards Li Qiye's group. They have been turned evil. The roots coiled together to form legs. Each step from them resulted in violent quakes.

They have been here for millions of years and didn't appreciate the presence of outsiders.

"More monsters." Dong Ling said while looking at the approaching horde.

Lu Qi's eyes turned cold as she released her sword energy again. Rays shot out like a storm of needles, capable of turning these tree monsters into beehives.

Dong Ling stuck his tongue out after seeing this, aware that she could turn him to ashes whenever she wanted.

However, she didn't have the chance to release her attack because peach petals suddenly descended.

"Rain?" It felt like rain so Dong Ling stuck his hand out only to catch some petals: "How strange, a flower rain?"

This place was filled with ominous occurrences. This rain might be evil as well.

Li Qiye finally stopped to take a look at the petals. The world became an ocean of flowers - beautiful and melted the eerie atmosphere.

"Someone's there!" Dong Ling faltered backward after sensing something.

A girl had appeared out of nowhere in front of them and seemed to be floating instead of walking. She possessed a slim and graceful figure beneath a cloak only covering her neck and shoulders.

Her steps birthed lotus flowers that sway with the winds - a scene only found in the paintings.

"A gho-" Dong Ling shouted but his words suddenly stopped in his throat.

This was because the moment she opened her eyes, they chased away the engulfing darkness. Spring returned to the regions and millions of flowers blossomed.

Her face was equally gorgeous - looking natural without any makeup. Words weren't enough to describe her soul-swaying beauty.

Dong Ling considered himself a scholar yet he couldn't come up with the right characters to describe her. Words sprung in his mind and the only suitable ones were - number one beauty.

This common and overused phrase was the only one matching the current situation.

She finally saw Li Qiye and he stared at her as well. Everything halted on the river of time. Not a single sound could be heard.

It was as if the two of them were the only ones existing right now. The past, present, and future collided at this moment.

Her eyes were filled with mist. She seemed to be recalling the past and only saw faint images and lines. In the next second, her body trembled once and lucidity returned. She then turned around and moved forward.

“Rumble!” The flower petals landed on the tree monsters and exploded, destroying all of them.

She headed towards the evil realm ahead in a courageous manner, never looking back.

“So pretty, since when does our continent have someone like her?” Dong Ling regained his wits after she was long gone.

There was no one like her among the young and old generation.

Lu Qi nodded in agreement. Calling her the “number one beauty” wouldn’t be an exaggeration. She herself was gorgeous on top of having a vast network. However, even her lord and all other women she had met couldn’t compare to this lady.