

Emperor 4001

Chapter 4001: Pendant Sword Lady

Prosperity often came with dirty and despicable deeds. This phrase applied to Purification Street filled with complex characters.

Li Qiye and Lu Qi arrived and saw stores and merchants everywhere. There were mortals trying to make a living as well.

Li Qiye chuckled after seeing this. It was tough to escape the temptations of life. This place was a perfect example.

“Is there anything you would like to buy, Young Noble? Purification Street has merchandise from all over the world.” Lu Qi asked.

Unfortunately, she then realized how unnecessary this comment was. Nothing here should be able to enter his sight.

He couldn’t answer before a sweet fragrance wafted in front of them.

“Fellow Daoists, are you here to shop?” A girl stood in front of them with a voice as pretty as the chirp of an oriole.

Eyes would lit up in her presence. Her slender figure was covered by a purple dress and had curves in all the right places. Her eyes were round, bright, and expressive. Two dimples could be seen as she smiled; they accentuated her cuteness.

She had a ponytail, causing her to look innocent yet still gorgeous. She had a jade pendant hanging on her waist that issued pleasant clunks upon movement.

Li Qiye’s direct stare made her uncomfortable. She turned red from being inexperienced. His eyes seemed capable of piercing the soul, just needing one glance to see through everything.

“Fellow Daoist, may I be of assistance?” She maintained her composure and bowed slightly.

“What can you do?” He chuckled.

“I can do many things, errands, hard labor, being an intermediary. As long as you’re willing to pay for a service, I can do it.” She hurriedly said.

“A freelancer?” He smiled.

“That’s one way to put it. Just let me know if you need anything.” Her smile was captivating and natural.

“Interesting. Very well, you may follow me.” He nodded.

“May I ask for the payment information?” Her smile became sweeter after finding a new boss.

“It is a privilege and an honor to work for me. I won’t mistreat you.” He said.

“Very well, if that’s the case, I’ll give it a shot to see if we’re a good match.” She thought about it before accepting.

“Address me as Young Noble henceforth.” He added.

“My name is Xu Yiyun. It is my pleasure, Young Noble.” She bowed.

“Oh?” Lu Qi found this surprising: “One of the ten sword prodigies, Pendant Sword Lady, Miss Xu.”

“It’s an undeserved reputation, I am just trying to get by.” She smiled and said.

Normally, these geniuses were arrogant and thought that they were better than everyone else. Moreover, they always aimed for some lofty goal.

Now, Xu Yiyun was actually willing to run errands? This was rather strange.

“Do you feel sorry for yourself? A genius needing to do menial tasks.” Li Qiye smiled.

His directness caught her off guard. She sighed and nodded: “Of course, but this is my chosen path. The clan is having a hard time as well so I should share the burden.”

“The Xu has declined.” Lu Qi said.

Xu Yiyun had a bitter smile but calmly said while cupping her fist: “I can do anything to the best of my ability, Young Noble. Please guide me.”

The Xu used to be a famous clan in Sword Continent. This was no longer the case. Nonetheless, it still had enough resources to take care of its genius. She didn’t need to resort to working to take care of herself.

However, she chose to do so and considered it a type of training.

“Why do you think I can guide you? Maybe you’ve picked the wrong person.” Li Qiye chuckled.

“I trust you, Young Noble.” She said. Though she chose to work to take care of her cultivation needs, she was relatively selective in the tasks. She had noticed him the moment he entered Purification Street.

“No, you trust the girl next to me.” Li Qiye shook his head: “I am just another average guy who you didn’t notice.”

“You’re right, Young Noble. I feel even better after seeing how insightful you are.” Xu Yiyun smiled and said.

Li Qiye was correct. In the beginning, she noticed Lu Qi right away despite the latter hiding her aura and appearance.

Nonetheless, Yiyun has been here long enough to recognize the hidden big shots. Though she didn’t have a clear idea of Lu Qi’s power, she knew that she was absolutely inferior.

Furthermore, such a powerful cultivator was serving as Li Qiye's maid? Yiyun assumed that he would be a good boss. Thus, she came and offered her service.

"Not necessarily. I might just be a young master with an amazing senior who gave me this capable maid, and that I am stupid and incapable, only living lavishly and surrendering to pleasures." Li Qiye said.

"I don't think any young master is as low-key as you are." Yiyun disagreed.

"So how should a young master act?" Li Qiye replied.

"At the very least, he should be well dressed with a divine sword hanging on the back, and a few precious trinkets as well." She elaborated: "Your style is too simple, no young master is like that."

Li Qiye rubbed his chin and became interested: "Hmm, how should I disguise myself then? A young master is too boring, how about as a new-rich?"

"New-rich?" She asked.

"Someone who got rich overnight, maybe the richest in Sword Continent. Isn't that more interesting?" Li Qiye smiled.

"Oh. Oh! You're here for the Preeminent Legacy, Young Noble!" She realized.

"Mmm, sounds about right. I'll be the richest after I open it. I'll probably get a few sovereigns to be my driver, then I'll put on a really expensive robe. Maybe I'll have some divine swords as hairpins, ten or so dao lord weapons hanging on my waist..." Li Qiye found this amusing.

Yiyun agreed that his description would be a perfect match for a newly rich cultivator.

"Obtaining the legacy isn't that easy." She pondered, then revealed her mind.

She had no intention of disrespecting Li Qiye. It's just that no one has ever done it before in history.

"This is your test since you trust in your vision and people-reading skill so much. Or maybe, you're just an idiot and chose the wrong boss." Li Qiye patted her shoulder and laughed before walking away.

Yiyun stood in a daze for a while before she decided to catch up: "Are you going there right now, Young Noble? Do you need me to show you the way?"

"No one can get it anyway. It's fine, it's there waiting for me." He smiled.

Chapter 4002: Tie's Antique Shop

Xu Yiyun followed behind Li Qiye and winked: "Is there anything that you need in particular, Young Noble? What are your hobbies? Let me know and I'll come up with the right place to visit."

"You sound like a madam right now." He glanced at her.

"Young Noble, that's improper. I'm not a madam, I don't participate in this trade." She turned red and let out an awkward smile.

“No need to try and figure me out, feel free to lead the way since you’re familiar with this place.” He said.

Yiyun was surprised at how easygoing he was. She liked this type of personality and gently flipped her ponytail then said: “I know a rather interesting store on this street. Would you like to take a look?”

“Why not?” He chuckled since he had no particular goal in coming here anyway.

Xu Yiyun led the way. This area was quite complicated with numerous alleys and smaller streets.

Fortunately, she has been here long enough to be familiar with this labyrinth. After numerous turns, they entered an alley and stopped at a small store.

It was quite old with an advertising sign made out of cloth with the characters, "Tie's Antique Shop". The cloth seemed worn enough to tear apart from one touch.

She was familiar and came inside to greet the person sitting behind the counter: “Uncle, look, I found you a customer.”

This was a middle-aged man who appeared to be the shopkeeper. However, he didn’t have a merchant robe on.

His complexion was yellow - a sign of malnourishment. He seemed to be stricken with illness and lacked spirit.

However, he wore a tight robe that outlined his impressive figure, perhaps from doing hard labor for many years.

He coughed and knew who it was without looking up: “You’re running errands again. Why, when you have such a bright future ahead?”

“It’s not a bad thing to work hard. I’m not affecting my clan’s reputation.” Yiyun had a smile as bright as the sun.

Though she wasn’t a kingdom-toppling beauty that could put the swans and fish to shame, she was attractive in her own way.

A cultivator like her was a rare breed. Given her talents, any clan would do everything possible to groom her. There was no need for her to work yet she still chose to do so.

Some would say that this was disgraceful and unbecoming of a genius. However, she ignored the negative comments.

“Why did you bring a guest here today?” He smiled and shook his head before looking up.

Contrary to his sickly appearance, his eyes were black and discerning, seemingly made from precious onyx.

It wouldn’t be an exaggeration to say that all of his vitality and essence have been focused on his eyes. Thus, they brimmed with life and energy.

He scanned the scene and skipped Li Qiye right away. However, he trembled the moment he saw Lu Qi.

“Lady...” He immediately stood up and asked respectfully.

“I am here to accompany the young noble, is there anything interesting here?” Lu Qi calmly said.

Xu Yiyun was surprised to see these two know each other.

“Oh, acquaintances, I see.” Li Qiye smiled.

“We had the pleasure of meeting once before.” Lu Qi answered Li Qiye before turning towards the middle-aged man: “Fellow Daoist Tie Jian, this is our young noble. Miss Xu recommended that we come here to take a look.”

The man named Tie Jian stared at Li Qiye and couldn’t come up with an identity. He knew that Lu Qi was a big deal.

If Lu Qi was here, then their lord must be here as well. Normally, Lu Qi always accompanied the lord and rarely showed up alone in public. Why was she here with this man instead of the lord?

Most importantly, Lu Qi was playing the role of a servant? In his eyes, Li Qiye looked like a lazy youth.

The yin yang realm wasn’t bad for the average sect. However, for the behemoths, it meant nothing.

“Am I not welcomed here?” Li Qiye joked.

“Please take a look, our little store only has old and cheap items but you might fancy something.” The man calmed down and hurriedly replied.

Li Qiye entered the store and saw that it was indeed old. Both the shelves and merchandise have been here for a while. Some had a thin layer of dust covering them.

The uncle was right. The store primarily had antiques and broken treasures. There wasn’t anything worthwhile.

For example, broken arrows, cracked shields, damaged stones... They were clearly taken from ruins.

“Uncle’s store is special in that he sells items from the ancient eras. One might be able to find something interesting among them.” Xu Yiyun smiled.

“Is that so?” Li Qiye glanced at them and said.

“This is a test of knowledge and insight. Some of the items here have a frightening background. I wouldn’t have guessed if Uncle didn’t tell me.” She added.

Li Qiye stopped in front of a shelf. It had an item resembling a jade plate. There were strange lines on it, perhaps cracks on the base. Taking it down for a look might result in breaking it.

“I believe a clan pawned this plate to Uncle.” Yiyun introduced the item.

“White Jade Plate of the Wang. Add water and it’ll create a special dew, add medicine and it’ll create various affinities. Not bad, it’s a shame that the base is broken.”

“You recognize it?” Yiyun found it surprising that Li Qiye understood the item and its effects right away.

Tie Jian felt the same way. The items in the store were personally excavated or purchased by him. Though they were old and damaged, they all had an amazing background.

"I've read a few scrolls, that's all." Li Qiye smiled.

Yiyun became increasingly curious. Everything Li Qiye said so far displayed nothing but confidence.

"What about this thing?" She picked something else on the shelf. This resembled a dagger yet wasn't. It lacked a sharp tip along with a hilt. Moreover, a corner was missing.

"This is the Magnificent Mirror from Magnificent School, its heirloom. Unfortunately, that sect is gone and this mirror is finished. Repairing it is difficult." He glanced at it.

"How about this one?" She was unconvinced and picked up a rusty helmet. It had a hole from being pierced before by a sharp weapon.

He became sentimental and patted the helm to the group's astonishment. It seemed to have a special significance to him.

"It does not belong to this epoch." He said while placing it back on the shelf.

Chapter 4003: Amber

"How keen you are, Young Noble. I personally found this helm from an ancient battlefield. I took my time looking and couldn't find anything similar." Tie Jian found this incredible.

Li Qiye smiled and shook his head. Though the past was long gone, some items still made it through the year. He managed to see one in this shabby shop.

Xu Yiyun found this curious as well. Many of the items in the shop were unidentifiable due to their age. Even top historians had no idea, let alone regular cultivators.

Only big shots could recognize the old items here. However, they didn't know everything and certainly not as fast as Li Qiye. The guy seemed to be more familiar with the items than her uncle.

Tie Jian had spent his time going over each item. He either found them in the ruins or bought them from disciples of fallen clans. He took pride in this yet still didn't know all of their history. It was surprising to see a guest possessing so much knowledge.

These things weren't precious to cultivators. They were broken and old with no real uses. Nonetheless, he still listed them at relatively high prices. Thus, it would be strange for this shop to be profitable. It rarely had customers.

However, he certainly had a few interesting antiques dating back to the previous epoch - the Nine Worlds.

What was his goal in keeping up this shop? All of his efforts were not rewarded in a financial manner.

Li Qiye scanned the entire shop and didn't find anything particularly interesting. He had seen all of them before. In fact, what they considered antiques were new creations in his timeline.

“You don’t like anything?” Xu Yiyun found this disappointing, unable to help her uncle out.

“Some are up there in years but nothing more.” Li Qiye smiled.

Yiyun couldn’t say anything else since he was more familiar with the merchandise than they were. Introducing something else to him would only result in embarrassment.

“Common items can’t interest our young noble.” Lu Qi told the middle-aged man: “If you have a real ace, take it out and let the young noble take a look. He might be able to identify and increase its value.”

The man hesitated for a bit. He had something good indeed, the ace card of the shop. He never took it out because he hadn’t understood it yet, only that it was rather valuable. The extent of its value remained unknown.

Taking it out was risky but on the other hand, meeting someone as knowledgeable as Li Qiye was rare as well. If he missed this chance, he might never be able to solve its mystery.

“Lil’ Jin, take out the thing beneath my bed.” He didn’t waste time and made a decision right away.

Someone in the room acknowledged the command. A while later, a youth brought out a wooden box.

The box seemed to be carved from a single piece of wood. There were no traces of assembly. It didn’t have a lock, only a seal.

The seal wasn’t activated but an immense force still assaulted whoever was close by. The man picked it up and used a merit law to deactivate the seal then took out the item.

It emitted a refreshing air, akin to one finding shade and breezes during a hot summer. It had a faint yellow color and resembled a piece of amber the size of a basin.

The thing inside this amber was nothing shocking - just a piece of tree root. It was golden and as thick as a thumb. There were a few tiny roots branching from it. The thing looked like golden ginseng.

The man presented it to Li Qiye with both hands and said: “I cannot identify this item but I’m sure it is special. I found it buried deep in an ancient land. That area was freed from impurities. It also had incredible visual phenomena when I took it out including a diagram depicting the myriad ages.”

He paused for a bit before continuing: “It has been in my possession for a while but I still can’t figure it out.”

Back then, he was shocked by the visual phenomena when he excavated it. If it wasn’t for this personal experience, he wouldn’t have been able to confirm its precious value and keep it until now.

He spent his spare time looking at it but it didn’t exude anything special afterward. Li Qiye’s arrival today was a decent opportunity.

Li Qiye gently rubbed the piece of amber. It was cool like jade but far harder and heavier. Amber shouldn’t have been heavy but this had more weight than refined metal.

“Do you notice anything?” The uncle could see that the rubbing was intentional.

Li Qiye glanced at him once before focusing on the amber again. His hand lit up with a gentle light and chaos energy.

This energy began melting the amber, allowing him to reach the root inside.

“Buzz.” Once he made contact, the root became resplendent. The rays coming from it were sacred. Being shined by it made the group think that they were ascending.

Hallowed Sword exuded something similar to the entire city. However, the rays here were different.

While being in the rays’ presence, they felt as if a light was being born in their heart. Their very being was slowly being shifted into this holy affinity - a rather profound process.

Chapter 4004: Archaic Style

The rays invoked others to harmonize and become radiant - a feeling of ascension.

“What an incredible feeling!” Xu Yiyun exclaimed while basking in this comfortable moment.

Li Qiye then pulled his hand back and the rays disappeared. The root turned back to its original appearance.

“So what is it?” Tie Jian became emotional. After spending so much effort on this root, he occasionally thought that maybe he was wrong. Perhaps the item was worthless.

Now, Li Qiye has shown them its magical properties and impressed him with his knowledge. The guy managed to accomplish more in several seconds compared to his thousands and thousands of years. This required immense wisdom, knowledge, and ability.

“This item has a fateful connection with me.” Li Qiye didn’t answer the question and looked straight at the guy: “I want it, name the price.”

“Well...” Tie Jian hesitated and was stuck in a tough situation.

The image he saw when he excavated the item was unforgettable. Moreover, what happened today showed its worth. It would be hard to accurately put a number to its monstrous value.

He had no intention of selling it. After all, money came easier than a wondrous treasure and he certainly had no lack of money.

However, the thing was useless in his possession. This was proven throughout the years. He couldn’t understand its profundity, not enough to activate it.

Meanwhile, Yiyun didn’t get involved, not daring to offer her opinion on someone else’s treasure.

Tie Jian had thousands of thoughts circling in his mind at the moment. Eventually, he gritted his teeth and said: “If it’s fate, then so be it. It shall be my gift to you for our first meeting.”

“Oh?!” Yiyun didn’t expect this result at all.

Her uncle has been keeping this a secret, never taking it out for anyone. If he were to sell it, it would be for a sky-high price. Now, he chose to give it to Li Qiye.

She took a deep breath to calm down then stared at the two. She realized that her uncle was a very decisive person.

Lu Qi felt the same way. This was quite a generous gift. Not just anyone could give up their prized possession.

After all, this was their first meeting. They had no ties with each other.

“If that’s the case, I’ll happily accept it.” Li Qiye didn’t refuse and accepted the gift.

Tie Jian actually felt a weight lifted off his shoulders by giving the item away and felt zero regrets regardless of the result.

“It is fate.” He bowed towards Li Qiye.

“Very well. It shall be fate again another day when I bestow upon you a great fortune. Let’s go.” Li Qiye smiled and left.

Tie Jian stood there in a daze because Li Qiye’s domineering comments didn’t sound forceful like empty bravado.

He wouldn’t claim supremacy in the present day but was still a top existence in Sword Continent. Who could actually give him a “great fortune”?

Nonetheless, Li Qiye said it as if it wasn’t a big deal. If it came from another youth, he would consider the guy as being ignorant and arrogant.

Remember, Li Qiye had Lu Qi as a maid. This made Tie Jian more curious about Li Qiye’s actual identity.

Once he stopped pondering, the three were already outside of the store. He watched their departing figure and smiled wryly. This whole meeting felt like a dream. He sighed and went back behind the counter.

The three walked down the lively street again, seeing the mortal coil in action. They stopped at a large store this time, perhaps the largest in Purification Street.

Li Qiye looked up and read the characters on the plaque - Archaic Style. These were modern characters but were written in an ancient style. They seemed to be traveling through the river of time from the past to the present. [1]

He was actually amazed to see these characters, perhaps even a bit surprised.

“How unexpected.” He looked inside and commented.

Meanwhile, Xu Yiyun was also staring at an item inside the display window. She unwillingly looked away.

“Oh? You like it?” She suddenly heard Li Qiye’s voice by her ear.

This was a sword made out of grass. There was a sign next to it with the characters, “Celestial Grass Sword”.

There was a price as well - 210,000 Heavenly Sovereign Refined Jades. It wouldn’t be considered reasonable by anyone since this was just a sword made out of grass.

However, upon closer inspection, one would see tiny flashes within the unknown grass. They were barely visible.

It seemed as if someone had engraved tiny stars onto the grass. The sword required numerous blades of grass bundled together to maintain the shape. Thus, it contained an unimaginable number of stars as well, hence its name.

“I do. I feel that it’s related to my clan somehow.” Yiyun was a bit embarrassed. Her entire clan wouldn’t be able to pay this sum, let alone her.

“Grass Sword Attacking Immortal Law.” Li Qiye chuckled.

“You know about this legend, Young Noble?” Yiyun became startled.

Of course, how could he not know this technique?

“Our clan has never been able to master this immortal technique but our Eight-strike Sword Law is derived from it.” Yiyun smiled.

Their technique was famous in Sword Continent. Though it wasn’t on the same level as say, the dao of Sea Emperor, it was still impressive in its own way.

Rumor has it that in the past, the Xu was only a mortal clan with access to improper dao cultivation manuals.

However, a great matriarch appeared among them.

Chapter 4005: Celestial Grass Sword

The tale told the story of this amazing cultivator. She was guided by a supreme existence during her youth - an immortal. He taught her the “Grass Sword Attacking Immortal Law.”

After finishing her dao, she stood at the apex with unfathomable cultivation.

Later on, she returned to her clan in the mortal world. She remembered their familial ties and decided to teach them how to cultivate.

She didn’t grant them the immortal law but instead, a derivative of it named Eight-strike Sword Law.

It was weaker than the original but could still dominate the cultivation world. With this, the Xu embarked on the path of cultivation. The sword technique also fortified their status in the region.

Later in the future, another top expert appeared in the clan. His title was Striker Heavenly Sovereign. He managed to reach the Immortal Sovereign realm on top of mastering the Eight-strike Sword Law, becoming infinitely close to the original version.

Remember, the realm of Immortal Sovereign was the highest of all sovereigns. They could take on dao lords without a problem.

This sovereign mastered the same sword dao as their matriarch. This was a shocking achievement.

During his era, the Xu could compete against any other sect in Sword Continent. Even Sea Emperor and Nine-wheel Citadel saw the clan in a new light.

This was their golden age - brimming with both power and resources.

Unfortunately, the descendants failed to maintain this and the clan gradually declined in the subsequent generations.

The Eight-strike Sword Law was still passed down. Alas, it was no longer on the same level as the sovereign's version, let alone the original version of the matriarch.

The current law was excellent and usable. Alas, they couldn't compare to the laws of the dao lords, let alone the nine heavenly sword dao.

As the most talented member of the Xu, Yiyun once had aspirations regarding revitalizing the clan. Unfortunately, her abilities couldn't keep up with this ambition.

She spent a lot of time in Purification Street and knew the treasures in each shop. This was especially the case for Archaic Style. They had numerous branches all over Eight Desolaces.

The first time she came to this branch, she was instantly captivated by the grass sword. For some reason, she thought that it was connected to her and her clan.

Intuition told her that it might have something to do with their Eight-strike Sword Law. The problem here was its exorbitant price.

Chaos refined jades were the currency. In some places, they would take chaos stones but the refined version was one level higher.

Refining them required the same level of cultivation. Otherwise, the original stone would be damaged. Thus, the jades were more precious than the stones. For a large store like Archaic Style, they would only take jades.

It was actually Yiyun's motivation for money. She wanted to make 210,000 Heavenly Sovereign Refined Jades in order to buy this sword. Thus, she was happy to see that no one had bought it yet.

Li Qiye could read her like a book. He smiled and said: "Let's go take a look."

She nodded and followed him inside.

The store didn't have gaudy decorations nor a grand aura. It focused on maintaining an older architecture and style.

The area inside was unexpectedly large versus the entrance. It had an independent dimension with rolling hills and winding rivers. Some treasures floated in the air.

A long counter could be seen right away with an old shopkeeper hitting the abacus repeatedly.

A golden bell was tied to his belt. Whenever he moved, the bell would issue hushed ringings.

To the back was a shrine worshipping a golden bell covered in rust. Nonetheless, one wouldn't need to push to realize how heavy it was. It gave off that impression at first glance.

Memories resurfaced in Li Qiye's mind. When was the first time he saw this bell? How many ages ago was that? The bell was still here while everyone in that era was gone.

He sighed and continued onward to the center of the store.

Those who have visited the other branches of Archaic Style would find this one unique. The others were far inferior in comparison.

They saw a flood dragon splashing the water in the river. This mythical beast darted in and out of the water and occasionally turned into a draconic sword. Dragon roars could be heard coming from this expensive weapon.

On top of a mountain was a phoenix roost. "Poof!" Fire suddenly manifested and the phoenix turned into a blazing cauldron. This looked like an erupting volcano capable of incinerating the sky...

Numerous magnificent scenes could be seen. They originated from the various treasures belonging to the store.

Of course, some were stored in a normal manner - on the shelves and display windows. The special ones had their own corner in order to show their true worth.

These ones were exorbitantly expensive. Even the ancestors couldn't afford them.

One could find anything here in Archaic Style. If they couldn't, they would just need to ask and the store would locate the treasure later on.

Thus, the problem became not having enough money. As long as one had enough, they could have whatever they wanted.

All in all, taking a look at this store would broaden one's horizon.

A worker came over to greet Li Qiye's group right away. Li Qiye led him to the window containing the grass sword.

"Sir, do you want this sword?" The worker quickly took it down for Li Qiye to take a closer look: "This is from an ancient sect. Rumor has it that the sky was torn asunder that day. Numerous visual phenomena appeared along with an immortal city. This sword fell down and an ancestor of the sect obtained it. He became invincible afterward. Later on, the clan declined and our branch in Sky Border bought it before shipping it to our branch. I'm sure it's no coincidence that you're interested in it right now. It has to be fate."

"It fell from an immortal city?" Yiyun was surprised.

“Maybe, it’s just a rumor, I can’t guarantee anything.” The worker smiled.

Chapter 4006: Calm Bamboo Princess

The grass sword was surprisingly heavy. Even a fool could tell that it was exceptional.

A sword made from a bundle of grass shouldn’t be powerful in the slightest. Alas, its price told a different story.

“Can you lower the price a bit? What’s your best price?” Yiyun couldn’t help but ask since the sword was right there in front of her. Nonetheless, her tone lacked confidence.

Even if the shop would lower its price generously to 150,000 refined jades, it would still be too much for Yiyun. In fact, her clan most likely couldn’t afford 100,000 refined jades either. [1]

Either way, she couldn’t give up and still asked for the price since she truly desired the sword.

“This is already the best price.” The worker shook his head and smiled wryly: “Miss, our shop always offers the best and final price.”

She smiled back, only asking out of curiosity. Though the sword was somehow connected to her clan, all she could do was watch.

“I’ll take it for 210,000.” Another girl suddenly interjected while Li Qiye was taking a look.

Yiyun looked over and saw a girl dressed in green. She was far more beautiful and brimmed with vigor and vitality. Her aura was both pleasant and comforting.

Her eyes were spirited and bright just like that of a fairy. Her oval face was perfectly sculpted, the same with her facial features. Her red lips were sexy; others couldn’t help wanting to take a bite.

The green dress was a perfect fit and outlined her voluptuous breasts. Others wouldn’t be able to avert their gaze.

Despite her sexy appearance, she had an air of elegance that only added to the overall package.

Her appearance attracted everyone’s attention. The cultivators nearby couldn’t look away.

“Calm Bamboo Princess.” One youth recognized her and whispered: “She is absolutely the prettiest among the ten sword prodigies.”

“Do you sense her spirituality? Wow.” One cultivator was surprised to feel the waves of life force emanating from her.

Someone else familiar with Wooden Sword Holy Kingdom said: “From what I know, she used to be a calm bamboo tree always basking in worldly energies. That’s why her aura is so special.”

“I heard that she’s engaged to Peace Ocean Sword King from Sea Emperor, is this true?” One youth gossiped.

“Shh, don’t talk about matters like this before an official announcement. No one can protect you if they pursue it.” A friend immediately warned.

“He’s right though.” A frequent traveler to Wooden Sword nodded: “The sword king had visited Wooden Sword before.”

“There’s a high chance he’ll become Sea Emperor’s sixth dao lord.” One more youth was in awe when the king was brought up.

Most were afraid of this notorious figure because he was in charge of Sea Emperor. This was before mentioning his dominion over the young generation.

“Calm Bamboo Princess.” Yiyun greeted her.

Both girls were members of the ten sword prodigies. The princess came from Wooden Sword and was a direct disciple of the ruler there - Willow Monarch.

If the rumors of her engagement were true, her status would reach the next level like a phoenix soaring above the nine firmaments.

Thus, there was a considerable disparity between the two girls even though they were on the same list.

Some saw Yiyun before but didn’t have as strong of a reaction. First, she frequently visited Purification but most importantly, she just wasn’t as pretty as Calm Bamboo Princess and lacked a powerful background.

If Yiyun was beautiful, then the princess would be considered gorgeous. The latter would always be under the spotlight wherever she went.

As for their background, Wooden Bamboo wasn’t on the same level as the behemoths. Nonetheless, it was still a dao lord lineage, superior to the Xu even back during their prime.

In the present, the Xu could only be considered a third-rate power while Wooden Bamboo remained at the top.

Furthermore, the princess was a direct disciple of Willow Monarch, one of the six kings in the continent.

All of these factors explained the difference in treatment between the two girls.

“Long time no see, Miss Xu.” The princess replied.

Though they were acquaintances, the princess didn’t hesitate because she came for the sword today: “I wish to have this sword, please let me have it.”

The spectators became interested in the competition between two sword prodigies.

Yiyun shook her head and said: “The sword belongs to Archaic Style, feel free to buy it if you wish, Princess.”

“Wrap it up for me then.” The princess told the worker.

This prompted the guy to stare at Li Qiye because he was still holding it. Moreover, the rule of their shop was first come, first served.

“Young Noble, what do you think?” The worker asked Li Qiye before selling to the princess.

“210,000 will be fine.” Li Qiye said.

“Sounds good, I’ll go wrap it up for you.” The worker responded before bowing towards the princess: “Your Highness, this young noble had purchased the Celestial Grass Sword. Please go look for another sword, we actually have a Celestial Soaring Sword right now in our main hall...”

“I will pay 250,000. Yes?” She glanced at Li Qiye and uttered coldly.

“Well...” The worker stared awkwardly at Li Qiye. Their store also allowed mini-auctions for a highly coveted item.

“300,000.” Li Qiye smiled.

“Oh!” Others exclaimed after hearing this and started analyzing Li Qiye.

“Who is this brat?” Someone quietly asked.

The group shook their head since it was their first time seeing him.

“He doesn’t look like an important character. Can he produce this sum?” Another said.

This had nothing to do with disdain. It’s just that 300,000 Heavenly Sovereign Refined Jades was a monstrous amount. Most top experts didn’t have this much, let alone a nameless junior like him.

Chapter 4007: Bidding War

Since her opponent didn’t relent, the princess glared at him and said: “350,000.”

The large increase left the crowd breathless. The actual currency right now was Golden Sovereign Refined Jades, a relatively high-level type, not 50,000 random stones.

“We can never be this rich.” One cultivator lamented.

“She’s a princess after all.” Someone from the last generation said: “Wooden Sword is rich so she can afford this.”

The princess already had a strong background and if she were to marry the king of Sea Emperor, she would become queen in the future with access to its unimaginable wealth. 350,000 refined jades wouldn’t be a big deal then.

“400,000.” Li Qiye bid without batting an eye.

Xu Yiyun had a wry smile - it seemed that Li Qiye had no intention of giving up.

“400,000!” More and more people became skeptical.

“Does this brat have the capital to back it up? Is he just messing around?” Another whispered.

“He doesn’t look like someone with 400,000 refined jades.” An expert from the last generation commented.

“Just wait and see. It’ll be a show when he doesn’t have enough.” Someone else sneered.

Archaic Style never went easy on those who messed with its business.

The worker became worried about this issue as well. Nonetheless, he kept on going: “400,000, any higher?”

“Hmph!” The princess snorted and retaliated: “450,000!”

“They’re just pissing money away in this contest.” One spectator quietly said.

“This grass sword isn’t worth that much, no need to do this.” An expert shook her head.

Yiyun was at a loss for words since the price for the sword doubled in no time at all.

“It’s no longer about the sword.” A hot-headed youth uttered coldly: “It’s a matter of pride. That brat has no clue who he is dealing with. Her Highness is far above his station. His wealth is akin to a pinch of salt versus the ocean.”

“Right, he has no chance.” Others agreed. The princess’ status and power were simply exceptional among the young generation.

“500,000.” Li Qiye nonchalantly bid as if this wasn’t a huge number.’

“?!!! He’s actually doing this?” One old cultivator was shocked just like the rest.

“There’s no way he can outbid the princess, just wait and see, he’ll be embarrassed soon enough.” Most had a bad impression of Li Qiye since he didn’t relent to the princess.

Most chose to side with the gorgeous princess rather than an unknown cultivator like Li Qiye.

“You!” The princess was furious since the guy wouldn’t give up.

“Your Highness, let’s stop this. The grass sword isn’t worth the price.” An old servant behind her whispered.

He dressed simply and has been sticking to the princess. There was something about him that didn’t attract attention. He acted like the princess’ shadow.

However, those strong enough would be able to see his power even though he was purposely hiding it. The glint in his eyes was one indication.

“Ridiculous.” She glared at him and said: “We don’t have this little sum?”

The old servant opened his mouth but refrained from speaking. He shifted his focus towards Li Qiye.

“550,000.” The princess had no intention of giving up.

“1, no, 2,000,000.” Li Qiye smiled.

“What?!!” The room became silent afterward.

The original cost of 210,000 has become 2,000,000 refined jades. This was a ridiculous increase in price.

Some actually thought that they had misheard him.

“2,000,000, right?” One expert asked.

“Yes, the brat really bid 2,000,000.” Another confirmed.

“Brat, are you sure that you can pay 2,000,000? This is not some crappy Yin-yang Refined Jades we’re talking about here. It’s Golden Sovereign Refined Jades.” One expert shouted at Li Qiye.

He didn’t bother answering.

“Is he crazy? This is still insane even if he can afford it.” Someone from the previous generation said: “Why wouldn’t he spend this much on a better treasure than a grass sword?”

In reality, most thought that just 400,000 was already exceeding the sword’s value. Did the guy have a hobby of wasting money?

Xu Yiyun was shocked as well. “Young Noble, let’s stop, the sword isn’t worth 2,000,000.”

Even if she had the money, she would not spend so much for this grass sword despite wanting it. There were stronger treasures available.

However, Li Qiye smiled and didn’t mind at all. As for Lu Qi, she only quietly watched because this amount was nothing to her.

With one command from Li Qiye, their lord would immediately pay 20,000,000 Supreme Sovereign Refined Jades.

“2,000,000, any higher bid?” The worker calmed down and felt his blood boiling.

If this transaction were to go through, his bonus would be insane. He stared at Li Qiye as if he was looking at the god of wealth.

“Only a madman does something like this.” The crowd started gossiping.

Chapter 4008: Money Is Never A Problem

The new bid shocked everyone, prompting them to assume that Li Qiye was crazy. Being rich didn’t mean wasting money in this manner.

“Money can fall from the sky for him and he’ll still go broke.” One crowd member murmured due to the grade of the refined jades being used here.

“Elder Wang, how much did we bring?” The princess asked the old servant.

The shadow-like protector frowned and said: “Your Highness, this sword is not worth it.”

“What, our Sea Emperor Sword Kingdom can’t come up with 2,000,000?” She became dissatisfied.

“Of course not, Your Highness. You do not wish to take a look at any other treasure?” The old servant asked.

She scowled and said: "I must have this sword. If Elder Wang does not wish to pay, we're leaving."

"We can certainly continue, Your Highness." He coughed wryly and acquiesced.

The spectators had a great time watching the bidding war. Some found her to be awfully stubborn. Nonetheless, they understood why - the future queen of Sea Emperor should be able to get whatever she wanted.

"3,000,000. Bid however high you want, we can play along." She glared at Li Qiye and revealed a proud smile.

Li Qiye became amused and said: "4,000,000."

"5,000,000." She bid generously this time instead of resorting to 50,000 increments.

"Insanity." The crowd clamored since they haven't seen an auction like this before.

"5,000,000... any higher?" The worker was actually more excited than both Li Qiye and the princess.

He had seen plenty of customers before, but these two were a rare breed. The higher the bid, the higher his bonus, hence his excitement.

"10,000,000." Li Qiye smirked.

"He's goddamn crazy!" Everyone gasped after hearing this.

"Does money grow on trees for him?! No, that's still not enough for him to be this crazy." Someone shouted in astonishment.

"Let's assume he can afford this, it's still too much." One expert commented.

"Seems like he wants to compete against Sea Emperor." A different cultivator raised his brows and said.

"Why would anyone do that? It's a sure defeat, borderline suicidal too." A youth replied.

Sea Emperor was the current number one sect in Sword Continent. It had countless experts and unimaginable wealth.

There were other powerful behemoths but they might not be as rich in comparison. In this case, Li Qiye was a single person.

Moreover, why would he risk antagonizing the future queen of Sea Emperor over one sword? It wasn't a peerless treasure or anything.

In fact, relenting to her could be viewed as a favor. Perhaps a relationship could start and he would be able to ride her coattails. Now, he ended up provoking both the princess and her backers.

"What a foolish choice." A young expert snorted. The kingdom wouldn't let him live easily after this mess.

"I don't think he'll have a place to stay in Sword Continent." Another gloated on someone else's misery.

As for the princess, she was still unwilling to give up despite the enormous bid.

“Your Highness, let’s stop here.” The old servant warned again before she could bid.

She naturally didn’t appreciate this and glared at him: “10,000,000 refined jades is enough to force us to back down? No, even 100,000,000 can’t stop our Sea Emperor Sword Kingdom.”

She purposely brought up Sea Emperor in order to intimidate Li Qiye into giving up. Anyone with a sliver of reason would hand her the sword.

“That’s not my intention, Your Highness, but this sword is not worth...” The old servant smiled awkwardly.

“Its worth depends on my mood.” The princess said: “As long as I like it, 100,000,000 is still worth it. My happiness isn’t cheap.”

The old servant gave up after the princess said so much.

“Go back if Sea Emperor can’t handle this.” She added.

“Do as you please, Your Highness. It is fine as long as you like it.” He replied. It wasn’t a matter of affordability. He just thought that the sword was not worth it.

“20,000,000.” The princess bid while staring provocatively at Li Qiye.

The crowd wasn’t too surprised this time given the momentum of the auction. It no longer had anything to do with the grass sword itself.

She represented Sea Emperor at this moment. Losing was unacceptable so she would entertain her opponent regardless of the price.

Now, they wondered if Li Qiye could keep up.

“This has to be it for the brat, right?” Someone murmured.

“This is unnecessary, the sword isn’t worth this much.” Xu Yiyun worried for Li Qiye and pulled on his sleeve.

Li Qiye ignored her and smilingly asked the princess: “I assume that you’ll follow whatever bid I make?”

“I’m afraid you’re neither rich enough nor have the courage to compete against our Sea Emperor Sword Kingdom.” The princess sneered while asserting her future position as the queen.

Chapter 4009: Bid Whatever You Want

It became obvious that opposing the princess was the same as opposing Sea Emperor. Nothing good would come from this.

In fact, if an individual were to antagonize Sea Emperor, their own sect would be the first to kill them then apologize to Sea Emperor.

“50,000,000.” Li Qiye casually bid.

“50,000,000!” The crowd felt the room spinning after hearing this.

“Brat, do you actually have 50,000,000 refined jades?” An old cultivator regained his wits and shouted.

“But what if he can actually pay this amount? Where is he from then? In that case, we should all know who he is.” Another ancestor found this puzzling.

The more perceptive members of the audience thought that someone with this much money should be exceptional in some ways.

This was a huge sum for a sect, let alone an individual. Only the behemoths could casually spend so much. Thus, Li Qiye should be from a mighty sect as well, not an ordinary one.

Furthermore, he should be a top genius there or perhaps even the successor. His name or title should be known across Sword Continent. Some ancestors pondered to no avail like a monk trying to find hair on top of his head.

The majority of the crowd was frightened by this extreme bid. Using the word “insane” to describe him wasn’t an exaggeration.

The princess only frowned slightly in response after hearing the price.

“Bid 100,000,000 and make it fun.” Li Qiye smiled at her.

All eyes were on the princess now after the direct provocation. If she were to refuse, then she would lose the match. This was unacceptable since she had dragged Sea Emperor into this mess.

“Your Highness, no need to stoop lower yourself to a commoner’s level.” The old servant said since it looked like she was going to make a bid.

“Nonsense, our Sea Emperor Sword Kingdom has never lost to anyone before. 100,000,000 is enough to make us run away?” She glared at him.

A few crowd members thought that she was being too stubborn and arrogant. Nonetheless, the kingdom could indeed accept this amount. She was qualified to be arrogant.

“Your Highness, it is unbecoming for someone of your prestigious status to deal with a common. Please show your benevolence and forgive him.” The old servant persuaded.

“No, I’m good, keep going. We can do 100,000,000 increments each time.” Li Qiye laughed and interjected.

“Do you think I’m scared?” The princess looked eager to continue.

Yiyun smiled wryly since this no longer had anything to do with the sword. It became a matter of pride for the princess.

“Sir and madam.” The shopkeeper came over and bowed towards the duo after seeing the heated atmosphere: “I apologize for the inadequate reception shown thus far. We’re just a small shop so please, take it easy on us. We’ll really appreciate it.”

Normally, selling an item for a sky-high price should be something worth celebrating. However, the shopkeeper didn’t want this to go on since there was no end in sight to the bidding. Letting this reach a ridiculous level wasn’t necessarily a good thing for their store.

“Rest assured, Shopkeeper, I am a reasonable person. I’m here to buy, not to cause trouble.” The princess responded.

“Thank you, Your Highness, I appreciate it.” The shopkeeper bowed again.

“Since when is Archaic Style so cowardly?” Li Qiye shook his head.

“Young Noble.” The shopkeeper wasn’t angry and bowed to him as well: “Fairness and equal treatment are important principles to our tiny shop. If we have done something to offend you, please let us know.”

“Tiny?” Li Qiye said: “If Archaic Style is tiny, then no other shops can be considered big. I remember when your ancestors determined the rules, their magnificent aspirations reached the heaven itself.”

“Oh?” The shopkeeper was surprised: “Looks like you know quite a bit about our history, Young Noble...”

He was surprised because their shops were actually older than any lineage in Sword Continent. Fewer than few had any idea about their true background.

Li Qiye chuckled and reached forward to knock the little bell hanging on the shopkeeper’s waist.

“Clank! Clank! Clank!” A melody could be heard echoing across the entire shop.

However, it didn’t come from the shopkeeper’s little bell but rather, the larger one worshipped in the shrine.

Others only found this a little strange and thought that it was a coincidence.

Li Qiye pulled his hand back and stared at the shopkeeper with a smile. The latter, on the other hand, appeared to be frozen.

That golden bell had a special significance; not just anyone can make it ring. However, Li Qiye started a harmonization process.

The meaning behind this could shock the world, hence the shopkeeper’s astonishment.

He took a deep breath and tidied his outfit first before bowing as deep as possible towards Li Qiye.

“It is a supreme honor to have you here at our shop, Young Noble.” He said with reverence.

“No need for convoluted formalities, I am just here to buy this sword.” Li Qiye waved his hand.

“I see, then please accept it as a token of our respect.” The shopkeeper hurriedly wrapped up the sword and gave it to Li Qiye.

Chapter 4010: Please Accept

The fact that a sword that had been bid up to 50,000,000 was suddenly offered for free to Li Qiye astounded the audience.

The piece of fatty meat was right before them yet they chose against biting?

“What is going on?” Everyone found this astonishing.

“Who the hell is he?” This became the question for the big shots. Li Qiye was obviously someone important in order for this to happen.

Though the shopkeeper acted humble in the beginning, this didn’t mean that Archaic Style was afraid of trouble. They had branches throughout Eight Desolaces - a testament of their power.

Numerous sects had turned to dust across the eras yet Archaic Style remained. They chose to be polite because amiability made everyone rich.

In this situation, picking Li Qiye’s side was throwing away their business rules. The crowd couldn’t come up with a reason why.

The princess was naturally displeased. She coldly said: “Shopkeeper, I have yet to bid yet you gave the sword away. Do you think I can’t afford it?”

“Please don’t be angry, Your Highness. The Celestial Grass Sword is fated to be with this young noble. We do note of your loss so please, pick another treasure in the shop and it shall be yours.” The shopkeeper said.

“Any treasure?” The princess was surprised.

“Please check if there’s anything that you fancy.” He bowed.

The crowd couldn’t believe this generous suggestion.

“Anything?” Some started staring at the most valuable treasures in the shop.

The shopkeeper wouldn’t go back on his words. Thus, This offer made everyone’s heart beat faster.

“Archaic Style is trying to please Sea Emperor Sword Kingdom.” Some regained their wits and thought that they knew what was going on.

They assumed that the shop purposely gave the sword to Li Qiye in order to let him off easily then take advantage of the situation to curry favor with the unhappy princess.

“Hmph, I don’t want to take advantage of your shop.” The princess snorted and proudly turned to leave.

The old servant behind her heaved a sigh of relief after seeing this.

“What a shame.” Many found this regrettable. The shop had plenty of precious treasures.

To be able to pick one for free would be a dream come true. They would absolutely pick the best one possible. However, the princess walked away in a prideful manner without taking one look.

An older expert could understand why and said: “She doesn’t lack treasure and someone of her status hates owing others favor.”

Others nodded in agreement. The successor of Wooden Sword and the future queen of Sea Emperor didn’t need more treasures. Her choice was understandable.

As she was walking away, she turned around and glared at Li Qiye: “We’ll compete again next time.”

“Any time you want.” He smiled in response.

The princess scowled then finally left the shop.

A youth nearby heard this and quietly told his friend: “This brat won’t be smiling for long after offending the future queen.”

“Ignorance and arrogance will be his downfalls.” Another gloated.

Everyone thought that this was the end of Li Qiye’s path. This was the result of offending Sea Emperor while staying in Sword Continent.

Unfortunately, the show was over so they went back to their own task.

After the crowd dispersed, the shopkeeper bowed and asked Li Qiye: “We have an ancient ancestor here, would you like to summon him for a visit, Young Noble?”

Xu Yiyun found this unfathomable. The gift of the sword was shocking enough but the shopkeeper’s subservient attitude took it further.

She could tell that this had nothing to do with mediation or business. The shopkeeper’s choice stemmed from respect.

This prompted her to take a closer look at Li Qiye. This wasn’t her first time visiting Archaic Style so she had a good idea of its power.

The shopkeeper was both a businessman and a mighty cultivator. This should be rather apparent since the branches stored numerous treasures.

In her opinion, even the six kings of Sword Continent wouldn’t garner anything close to this level of respect shown by the shopkeeper.

“No need to disturb anyone, I’m just taking a look at interesting places.” Li Qiye shook his head.

“I’m afraid there’s nothing on Purification Street that can interest you. On the other hand, we do have several public venues, it would be a supreme honor if you visit.” The shopkeeper said.

“Maybe.” He nodded.

“If our young noble visits, will everything be free?” Yiyun asked for fun.

The shopkeeper earnestly responded: “The young noble doesn’t even need to go there himself. Just say the word and we will send anything your way.”

“What about the Preeminent Legacy?” She couldn’t help but ask.

“Well...” The shopkeeper smiled wryly: “We have a pact with Omniscient Dao Lord so we can’t be in charge of this matter.”

“Don’t make it difficult for him. He can’t open it anyway even without the pact.” Li Qiye smiled and shook his head.

“Right you are, Young Noble.” The shopkeeper heaved a sigh of relief.

He then walked Li Qiye’s group to the door, not coming back inside until the group was long gone.

Yiyun was awfully curious about the shopkeeper’s attitude towards Li Qiye but didn’t dare to ask.

“That old man next to the princess is a guardian elder of Sea Emperor.” Lu Qi brought up something else.

“A guardian elder?!” Yiyun became startled. She knew that the old man was strong but didn’t expect him to have this position.

“Looks like Peace Ocean Sword King really loves her.” She calmed down and commented. Even a guardian elder was assigned to protect her.

“Minor correction, she’s very important to him.” He smiled.

“Isn’t that the same thing?” Yiyun was confused.

Li Qiye didn’t answer and handed her the box containing the grass sword: “For you, payment for being an errand girl.”

“Fo-for me?” She stood in a daze while holding the box, never expecting to actually get it.