

Emperor 4021

## **Chapter 4021: Maid**

“Start!” The manager ordered.

Numerous cultivators have been waiting for this and threw their refined jades into the legacy.

Light started flashing along with pulsing chaos energy. They knocked on new squares with their money, hoping for activation.

Their method was different because each had a different understanding and interpretation of the embedded runes.

Big shots have researched these runes before. They knew that one could combine all of them together into a single chapter - the key to unlocking the legacy. Unfortunately, no one has ever managed this task.

Those who spent their life to fulfill this goal only gained an elementary understanding due to the runes' complexity.

Loud clunks could be heard as people tossed down both low and high-level chaos stones, refined jades, and various treasures. It became a torrent of money pouring down the funnel. Anyone watching this would understand why the legacy was so highly coveted.

Something else stood out today - some started throwing mortal metals and coins as well. This was due to Li Qiye's influence.

Many thought that mortal coins had a chance of activating the squares as well. They were worthless and easily gathered by cultivators.

If a mortal were here to see this, they would go crazy after seeing the mountains of gold and silver. Even mortal kingdoms didn't have anything close to this level.

Some cultivators only observed. They were from the larger sects or even the behemoths.

In fact, the big shots such as ancestors, sect masters, and kings from these great powers have arrived. Alas, they chose to stay in the shadows and let their disciples stand on the stage instead.

These disciples weren't in a hurry to throw down their capital. Their focus was solely on Li Qiye, not wanting to miss a single detail.

They wished to learn from Li Qiye's actions, thinking that he was the most likely to open the legacy. This was the case for the hidden big shots as well.

Calm Bamboo Princess was the same; her pretty eyes have been fixated on him.

He lazily stretched while scouting the scene before turning towards her.

“Trying to learn how to open the legacy?” He asked with a smile.

“As if you know how.” She answered, clearly tempted.

“It’s already within my grasp.” Li Qiye smiled.

“No one has been able to do so in history, not even Starshooter and Darkfrost Dao Lord. What makes you think you’re special?” She retorted.

“Opening this little game might be hard for others but not me. I’ll become the richest in the world today.” He chuckled.

Everyone stopped right away and stared at him after hearing his haughty declaration.

“Just do it then, enlighten us!” A young cultivator shouted at Li Qiye.

“All the talents in the world have failed, you’re no better than anyone else.” The princess scowled.

“And if I were to succeed?” Li Qiye calmly asked.

She raised her chin and haughtily said: “Let’s do a bet then.”

“A bet? Why not, what’s the bet?” Li Qiye smiled.

The crowd quieted down after hearing this. Due to her future status, this was akin to a match between Li Qiye and Sea Emperor Sword Kingdom.

“If you can open the legacy, you win and you can have it your way.” The princess uttered coldly: “If you can’t, then your dog life is mine.”

“Anything I want?” He stared at her invasively.

She felt as if she was naked under his blatant stare. This drove her angry and embarrassed. She stomped her foot and said: “We can talk after you open it.”

The crowd could see that Li Qiye had devious intentions judging by his expression while looking at the princess.

This was understandable since she was a supreme beauty. Plus, taking someone else’s fiancée could be his fetish as well... The crowd thought that they had fully understood his intention.

“Here’s the deal, I need a maid to make tea and wash my feet, you’ll do.” Li Qiye stroked his chin and said.

This caught the crowd off guard. His perverted stare gave them the impression that he harbored sexual desire towards the princess. However, he only wanted her as a maid for daily essentials?

“You?!” The princess seethed with rage after hearing this. Putting her prestigious background and identity aside, she was still an irresistible beauty. Thus, she assumed that he was purposely insulting her.

“We’ll see about that. I’ll cut off your head when you can’t open it.” She scowled and said.

“No problem, get ready to be my maid then.” Li Qiye smiled.

"It's a deal then." She confirmed.

"Your Highness, you mustn't." The old man behind her told her to stop.

The princess turned cold and said: "Do you think he can actually open the legacy?"

He had no response to this.

### **Chapter 4022: One Stomp**

The majority thought that Li Qiye would lose for sure and that the old man was worrying about nothing.

Dao lords have left empty-handed before. Two particular ones of note were Starshooter and Darkfrost Dao Lord.

They came to observe and never actually made an attempt. However, they did tell people about the difficulty of this feat. This was also proven across history.

"The only thing I'm worried about is your ability to be a maid, I'm sure you never had any practice." Li Qiye smiled.

"You!" A noble lady like princess had never experienced such humiliating treatment before.

"Brat, your tongue will be the end of you!" The old man lost his patience and reached for Li Qiye.

The grand dao exploded the moment he closed his palm. Everyone felt as if there was an invisible hand gripping their neck.

"So strong!" They were impressed by his mighty power. No one paid attention because he followed the princess as if he was her shadow.

However, the next development astounded them - Li Qiye easily grabbing the old man's wrist.

The latter couldn't react before being dragged closer by Li Qiye. He struggled to get free but he found himself completely immobilized.

All of his meridians have been sealed, rendering him unable to channel both his vitality and chaos energy.

"Have fun down there." He heard Li Qiye's voice coming from behind.

"Bam!" Li Qiye kicked his butt and sent him flying into the Preeminent Legacy.

"Rumble!" The old man smashed onto one square and was repelled into another like a shooting ball. This process repeated for a while. The squares lit up every time once struck.

"Ah!" The momentum eventually took him down the abyss at the bottom. His scream came from below.

"Buzz." The astonished crowd then saw all of the squares lighting up.

"What's going on?!" Someone shouted.

“Boom!” Li Qiye’s current square suddenly exuded blinding strands of light. They harmonized with the entire legacy and a beam of light shot up to the sky.

“The legacy... it’s opened... it’s opened!” An unknown crowd member bellowed while jaws dropped to the ground.

Creaks came next as the squares suddenly shrank to the sides. The only thing left of the legacy was a crater pulsing with wondrous lights. There seemed to be countless treasures below.

“Creak!” The changing process didn’t stop either. Unknown materials came together at the bottom and the legacy turned into a pot large enough to boil heaven and earth.

The new form released a bright blast with the intensity of a million stars exploding. Everyone thought that they had turned blind.

A figure appeared in this radiance with a galaxy circling around him. The cycle of life flowed continuously. Its eyes brimming with wisdom and intelligence could see through time itself.

Vast enough to contain an eternity - everyone would think of this phrase after seeing the figure.

It exuded the aura of a dao lord and forced the crowd to get down on their knees.

“Omniscient Dao Lord!” Some willingly prostrated to show their respect.

The embodiment of wisdom, Omniscient Dao Lord, bowed towards Li Qiye before dispersing into little particles.

The crowd still couldn’t digest these developments. They then got blown off the plate and saw the legacy flying upward.

It then became as small as a dining plate and landed on Li Qiye’s palm. It was completely covered in runes that were too small to read.

The area became flat again - the valley and the abyss were nowhere to be found. They thought that they were just seeing things earlier - the large legacy and the squares.

“He... really opened it...” Someone sat with his butt on the ground and murmured.

Lu Qi and Xu Yiyun felt the same astonishment as the rest of the crowd. Even the hidden big shots couldn’t believe it.

The unbeatable legacy has been solved today by Li Qiye whom everyone doubted.

Lu Qi had the most faith in Li Qiye. She thought that his chance of opening it was quite high. The problem for her was the method.

She assumed that he would use a monumental amount of refined jades to open it. Thus, she had prepared the necessary sum.

As for Xu Yiyun, she thought he might use mortal coins again so she prepared that as well.

Both turned out to be wrong. Li Qiye treated Elder Wang of Sea Emperor like a ball and used it to knock on the plates.

“I, I formally announce that Young Noble Li has opened the Preeminent Legacy and earned all of Omniscient Dao Lord’s wealth.” The manager took a while to calm down before announcing.

He wasn’t as smooth this time with the announcement. Though he had mentally prepared for this possibility, it still came too quickly.

The scene fell into a hush as spectators exchanged glances of confusion and awe.

“I oppose!” A crowd member suddenly broke the silence.

### **Chapter 4023: Money Can Buy Anything**

The dissenter was none other than Starshooter Prince. He became the focus of the field right away.

“The Preeminent Legacy was opened by our elder who threw his life away for this sake. That’s why the resources and wealth belong to our Sea Emperor Sword Kingdom!” The prince loudly declared.

The crowd thought that there was a hint of logic in this. Sure, those plates were activated by their elder’s body.

“He’s right, that elder used his life to win the legacy. No matter how you look at it, Sea Emperor is the real winner.” One cultivator commented with his own agenda, wanting to establish a favorable relationship with the behemoth.

Another just wanted to cause chaos and shouted: “We all see who the real winner is. You need to make another announcement for the rightful winner.”

It was best to cause chaos and confusion. Everyone wanted a piece of the pie so if Li Qiye had a clean victory, that would be the end of the legacy.

“Yes, further deliberation is required.” One more chimed in.

“The people of this world have been adding to the legacy for eras now, this can’t go down with frivolity.” The vocal members of the crowd clamored, wanting to cause trouble to prevent a conclusion.

“We can’t just let this Li guy take the legacy when he didn’t earn it!”

“Yes, we need a redo since that didn’t count!”

Who wouldn’t want a piece of the largest pie in the world? Just a tiny portion would propel their sect to the next level.

Archaic Style seemed unfazed against the increasingly agitated crowd. The manager gazed at everyone and said: “Rules are rules. We have no intention of changing the Preeminent Legacy’s established rules. Young Noble Li’s spot is activated, therefore, the resources in there belong to him. This rule was there in the past, it is here now in the present as well. Archaic Style will not change it for anyone or any sect.”

“We formally announced that the legacy belongs to Young Noble Li outside of the administrative fees.” He solemnly declared.

Though his voice wasn't particularly loud, everyone could see his immovable conviction. This successfully stopped the troublemakers from riling the others.

Archaic Style was a business, not a cultivation sect. Nonetheless, its reputation was cladded in gold. It also had plenty of influence and power. Not even Sea Emperor Sword Kingdom can force Archaic Style to change its rules. Thus, Li Qiye's victory became final after the formal declaration.

"Brat, our Sea Emperor Sword Kingdom will not let this go. We'll take back what belongs to us." Starshooter Prince coldly warned Li Qiye.

"Wow, very bold to talk to me like this. Don't you know who I am?" Li Qiye smiled.

"Hmph, who are you?" The prince snorted, not realizing the problem.

"The richest in the world. What do you think is the result of offending the richest person in the world?" Li Qiye smirked.

"So what if you have money? Only an insignificant parvenu." The prince retorted: "Money can't make up for the disparity between..."

"Five million Grand Dao Refined Jades for anyone who beats him up for me." Li Qiye raised five fingers and said slowly.

"Five million Grand Dao Refined Jades!" The crowd clamored.

This referred to jades refined by Grand Dao Sacred Physique cultivators. They weren't the finest grade but still extremely precious, especially when the number was so huge.

Not to mention the young generation, even older cultivators found this number impressive.

Some exchanged glances for a bit, clearly tempted by the offer. Starshooter Prince might be one of the ten sword prodigies but it wasn't for the ancestors to teach him a lesson. It might be the easiest way to make five million jades.

Of course, no one questioned Li Qiye's ability to pay at this point. This sum was just a drop in the ocean for him.

"You, you dare?!" Starshooter trembled with rage. His face turned red as he glared at Li Qiye: "Touch a hair of mine and our kingdom will deliver swift retribution!"

"Slap him twice, hard enough to break his teeth. Another five million." Li Qiye casually added.

"!!!" Starshooter's rage only grew.

"Ten million..." The crowd exercised relative caution after hearing five million but once doubled? The ancestors' heart started beating faster.

"Seems like a good deal." One ancestor murmured.

The only thing holding them back was the prince's background. Otherwise, he would be smacked several times by now.

Nonetheless, some ancestors began changing their appearance or hiding their true identity. This transaction was too favorable to ignore.

“I got this, can’t pass up a deal this good.” A burst of hearty laughter suddenly erupted.

Everyone looked over and saw Jian Sanqiang walking towards the prince.

“We’re too late.” The hidden ancestors found this regrettable. Their hesitation made them miss out.

“You dare?!” The prince was both furious and afraid.

“Little brat, of course I dare. I’ll go easy on you and let you start first.” Sanqiang laughed.

Sanqiang stood at the top of Sword Continent. The prince was undoubtedly strong for a member of the young generation. Alas, he had a long way to go before reaching Sanqiang’s level.

“I am a member of Sea Emperor and the successor of the Starshooter Dynasty!” He had no choice but to bring up his background.

“Yeah, yeah, I know. You talk too much.” Sanqiang waved his hand and activated an arrow intent despite not actually wielding a bow.

“Boom!” The prince summoned his treasures, aware that he must do something before it’s too late.

“Rumble!” Sanqiang easily subdued the prince in the next move.

“Pop! Pop!” He slapped the prince twice and sent him flying out of Hallowed City. Blood and teeth gushed out of the youth’s mouth.

No one found this surprising due to the gap in power.

“Finished.” Sanqiang clapped his hands, seemingly ready for the reward.

“Give it to him.” Li Qiye ordered Archaic Style.

“Thank you, Sir, just let me know if you ever need some more muscle in the future.” Sanqiang accepted the money and happily came over to Li Qiye in order to bow. He didn’t resemble an expert in the slightest.

#### **Chapter 4024: Money Is King**

Getting ten million in just the blink of an eye was about as easy as it gets for making money.

“My sect doesn’t get ten million in one year.” An ancestor whispered: “I should have accepted the deal.”

No one wanted to oppose Sea Emperor Sword King. The issue was the irresistible reward and how effortless it would be. The risk was worth it for these ancestors.

They felt terrible that Jian Sanqiang had gotten the reward by being courageous. The youths felt the same way. This was a monstrous sum for them.

“How nice would it be to have ten million?” One cultivator salivated while fantasizing.

“What an expensive way to get back at someone. He’s going to be a prodigal son.” Another murmured.

“The legacy has billions of Dao Lord refined Jades, this is nothing in comparison. It’s like you or me buying cabbages from a street vendor.” Someone else disagreed.

The group thought that he made perfect sense. This amount was considered massive to virtually anyone. However, Li Qiye wouldn’t think twice about spending this sum.

“Sword Continent has a new magnate now. I’m sure there is profit to be made.” Someone from the last generation said.

Given Li Qiye’s current wealth and penchant for spending, this could be a great opportunity for everyone on the continent.

Therefore, a few thought that the legacy was better left with him rather than a behemoth like Sea Emperor. It would be impossible to extract anything good from the latter.

“Young Noble, if you ever need anything, please come to us. We will do our best.” A bold cultivator shamelessly spoke to Li Qiye.

“Anything? Kneel and call me grandpa then.” Li Qiye chuckled and said.

Silence took over right away due to the disdainful request. Once again, certain cultivators preferred death over dishonor.

“I have money now so let’s play something new today.” Li Qiye smirked: “The first to kneel and call me grandpa will get one million Grand Dao Refined Jades.”

“This is ridiculous, does he think he’s all that now?” Someone complained.

“Li, don’t think so highly of yourself just because you’re right now!” One genius glared at Li Qiye.

“I can get whatever I want now regardless of your feelings. If you’re not happy, just spend more money than me.” Li Qiye smiled.

“You!” The genius turned red from anger, unable to compete with Li Qiye in this regard.

“Grandpa, I pay my respects.” Someone eventually yielded and prostrated.

Li Qiye shook his head in response: “I don’t have a shameless grandson like you but here, one million.”

Having said that, Li Qiye actually tossed him the amount.

“Thank you!” This cultivator prostrated again, completely convinced. Though doing this in public was humiliating, this was a monstrous sum for a nobody like him.

“I pay my respects too, Grandpa.” After seeing the first successful case, a few others started doing the same.



“The first to start anything is a brave talent, the second is exceptional, but everyone else afterward is just foolish.” Li Qiye said: “Fine, 200,000 for each of you. Scram, stop embarrassing yourselves any further.”

Having said that, he tossed the right amount to the kneeling parties without caring about money. They didn’t get one million like the first cultivator but this was still easy money so they left happily.

For the experts here, Li Qiye seemed to be purposely humiliating people. Alas, the temptation of money was too much.

This discomforted the remaining spectators. Though this put cultivators to shame, they couldn’t exactly do anything about it.

Li Qiye wanted to spend his money and others were happy to oblige. Nothing was fundamentally off about this. Nonetheless, the atmosphere was filled with an air of awkwardness.

“He’s an interesting person, maybe Sword Continent will be more lively from now on.” An insightful ancestor told his friend.

In Eight Desolaces, the biggest fist usually had the most power. Now, Li Qiye was doing the same thing with money.

This was unique in that Li Qiye didn’t come from a powerful lineage as far as they know. He suddenly became the richest man in the world and could greatly influence Eight Desolaces.

Some ancestors became excited and wondered about the incoming future.

Li Qiye shifted his focus towards Calm Bamboo Princess and said: “Refresh my memory, you’re my maid now, right?”

The topic changed from the power of money to the bet between these two. The princess had lost and became Li Qiye’s maid.

The princess didn’t run after his success either. She certainly had the chance when no one was paying attention but she chose not to do so.

Being under the spotlight left her embarrassed, unable to maintain her arrogance and haughtiness. She gritted her teeth and met his gaze: “I’ve lost the bet and will stay true to my word. However, give me time so that I can report this back.”

“Very well, I’ll be awaiting your service.” Li Qiye agreed and nodded.

This brief conversation surprised the listeners.

“Really?” Someone took a deep breath. The future queen actually agreed to become Li Qiye’s maid?

This was as humiliating as can be for her fiance and Sea Emperor Sword King.

“There’s no way the sword kingdom will agree to this.” Another expert stated. The kingdom would erupt in fury after knowing that their queen was about to be a maid.

## **Chapter 4025: Rewards**

The crowd exchanged glances and thought that this was ridiculous.

“The strongest sect versus the richest man. Who will win?” An expert wondered.

Prior to this, everyone thought that Li Qiye was suicidal for opposing Sea Emperor Sword Kingdom.

Alas, he was no longer the unknown junior. His extreme wealth carried considerable authority and influence.

“Well, Sea Emperor might not be as rich as Li Qiye but its power can’t be touched by wealth alone. If he really wants to go down this path against them, he’ll die for sure.” An older cultivator said.

No one could refute this because though Li Qiye could make many big shots work for him, the odds were still against him when facing this behemoth. This was akin to an egg trying to fight a rock.

“The feud is there. Their disciples being bullied is one thing but taking the king’s fiancée? There’s no going back from this, the kingdom will not show any patience nor restraint.” A high elder shook his head.

Others nodded in response. The issue with Starshooter Prince was rather negligible, just a feud between two youths. Sea Emperor could drop it but not the matter with the princess.

In fact, they needed to kill Li Qiye in order to wash themselves of this humiliation - a perfect example of an irreconcilable feud.

“There’s more to it than that.” One ancestor pondered: “The kingdom views him as a fat lamb. They want to kill him to maintain their prestige while taking his wealth too.”

Who wouldn’t be tempted by the Preeminent Legacy? The kingdom now also had the perfect excuse to deal with Li Qiye while not hurting their reputation.

“Young Noble, please come to our shop so that we can finish the hand-over process.” The manager invited Li Qiye.

Li Qiye followed the manager before stopping and turning around: “Our meeting is a type of fate so here, fifty million.”

Having said that, he gave Chen Cangsheng fifty million Heavenly Sovereign Refined Jades.

“...” Cangsheng was at a loss for words while looking at the pile of refined jades. He had never seen such a monstrous sum before.

His sect might not have this much money. Though the Daoist Sword Ground used to be a top lineage, it was far removed from its golden age.

Their relationship was rather shallow and he hasn’t done anything for Li Qiye. Was the word “fate” enough of a justification for Li Qiye to give him so much?

He eventually regained his wits and saw that Li Qiye was long gone. He bowed in Li Qiye's direction and said: "Thank you, Young Noble." He then put away the money and sought safety.

"Fifty million just like that?" Others became envious and jealous. One could toil for a lifetime without getting close to this sum.

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The manager asked Li Qiye to sit down before bowing. He then presented a trunk containing numerous records: "This is the list of everything that is in the legacy. Please take a look, Young Noble."

"It's fine, I believe you." Li Qiye only gave it a passing glance.

"I appreciate your trust, Young Noble." The manager said: "The legacy has more than just refined jades. There are artifacts and weapons scattered everywhere. We will gather them and give it to you. Also, there are lands and ore mines as well. We can't move them so you'll have to take over later."

"Alright, I don't have anything else to do anyway." Li Qiye chuckled.

The manager continued the process and found that Li Qiye was quite easy to negotiate with.

Not to mention Xu Yiyun, even Lu Qi found her horizon broadened. The content of the legacy was truly something else. They heard the numbers previously but couldn't actually conceptualize how monstrous it was.

Lu Qi had followed her lord and seen plenty of treasuries before. Alas, she was shaken all the same.

The legacy had a total of thirteen dao lord weapons, twenty-four Immortal Sovereign weapons, and thirty-one secret artifacts. Seeing them in person was something else.

"I don't think any other sect in Sword Continent has this many weapons." Lu Qi commented. By this point, Li Qiye actually exceeded her sect in terms of money and armament as well.

The other behemoths naturally had access to their dao lords' resources. However, these weapons were given away to their powerful members or have been lost due to the long passage of time.

This wasn't the case for the Preeminent Legacy. Omniscient Dao Lord had no descendants and Archaic Style did an amazing job of administration.

On the other hand, Li Qiye was completely calm, unlike the two girls. He accepted the weapons and casually picked four weapons. He gave two each to Lu Qi and Xu Yiyun: "This is your reward for running my errands."

These weapons were mighty but most importantly, extremely suitable for both girls.

Xu Yiyun never thought about possessing something of this level, let alone two. She stood there in a daze.

As for Lu Qi, her sect had plenty of experts and ancestors. Thus, though it was rich, it wasn't her turn to possess the top weapons. She had only served Li Qiye for a brief time yet he actually gave her two without thinking twice.

## Chapter 4026: Kidnapper

Cultivators crowded outside the Archaic Style branch, waiting for Li Qiye to come out. They understood that the moment he came out, he would no longer be the unknown junior but rather, the richest man in Sword Continent.

The sheer weight of his wealth could suffocate anyone. Thus, the crowd wanted to see the birth of the richest man in the world.

“He’s coming, he’s coming.” Li Qiye finally showed up with Lu Qi and Xu Yiyun behind him.

“The richest in the world.” Someone murmured. The behemoths in Sword Continent couldn’t compare to him in this regard.

“Congratulations, Young Master Li. You are the richest in the world now, a god among men.” Some immediately rushed over towards Li Qiye.

“There’s no one else on the same level as you, Sir Li. Your radiance illuminates all of Sword Continent and the rest of the world.” Another congratulated him.

Of course, the majority only watched from a distance, not wanting to stoop down to that level like beggars.

“That’s exactly what I want to hear.” Li Qiye smiled and tossed out several million refined jades to those who came: “Go buy some wine and enjoy yourselves now.”

“Thank you, Sir Li!”

“Thank you, Young Master Li!”

Those who came over excitedly grabbed the refined jades on the ground. Several million jades disappeared right away.

“Leave now.” Li Qiye said without batting an eye.

Those who got money wisely left without asking for more. However, some in the back saw this opportunity and surrounded Li Qiye.

“Sir Li, please be benevolent and show some sympathy to those in need. Please give me ten million.” A bold soul asked for a large sum.

“Sir Li, you have billions and billions now. Please spare me fifty million.” Another was even more ridiculous.

“Young Master Li, you have it all, both looks and wealth, just give me a hundred million to get good karma?” Another seized the opportunity.

“Why should I give you money?” Li Qiye looked at them and smiled.

“Sir Li, I lost my parents early and I’m a vagabond who has to search for the dao all by myself. Bandits robbed and broke my legs once, I barely survived that encounter and have had lingering problems since. Life has not been easy, please show compassion.” One cultivator started weeping.

“Our sect was robbed and it’s pretty much over for us. We’re living in destitution, two thousand of us not having enough food. All I see are fellow cultivators with yellow skin and bones, please save us...” An expert hurriedly added.

“Young Master Li, a hundred million to you is just a drop in the ocean. Heaven blessed you with this fortune so that you can help the world. It’s not a big deal for you to spend a hundred million, no, a billion or so to save us.” Another strongly asserted.

These cultivators spewed different reasons and sob stories. Some cried and tried to be pitiful, others tried to trick him...

“Scram, I have no intention of being a good guy. Crawl back from whence you came.” Li Qiye waved his hand dismissively.

“Sir Li, you are being out of line. It’s one thing that you won’t help us when you’re so rich, there’s no need to spew such disdainful rhetoric!” An old cultivator uttered coldly.

“Yes, it looks like he’s looking down on poor people like us.” Another added.

“If that’s the case, we won’t let it go so easily. There are more of us than the likes of you in Sword Continent...” Others wanted to force Li Qiye to hand over some money.

Li Qiye chuckled after seeing this and said: “Whoever stands in our way, cut off their head.”

With that, he continued moving forward.

“Clank! Clank! Clank!” Xu Yiyun raised her sword and rays pulsing with murderous intent manifested into reality. It became abundantly clear that she wouldn’t show mercy.

“Move or die.” Her expression became fierce.

She earned her spot as one of the ten prodigies with her own power. Those surrounding them didn’t stand a chance and would go down in one slash.

They weren’t big shots or cultivation experts. Thus, fear took over. They exchanged glances and had no choice but to leave a pathway for Li Qiye. Though they wanted easy money, their lives were more important.

The spectators from a distance sneered. They looked down on these “beggars” in the first place so they didn’t stand up for them against Xu Yiyun.

“Being rich is nice.” One youth commented.

Many male geniuses here had a crush on Xu Yiyun. Unfortunately, she was now working under Li Qiye who was far weaker. This made them quite jealous and bitter.

They thought that this was the power of money. It didn’t matter how incapable one was. As long as they had enough money, top sword prodigies or whatever would work for them.

As the group was leading, a shadow suddenly leaped for Li Qiye with extreme speed. It evaded Yiyun's sword rays and reached for Li Qiye.

"Watch out!" She changed her form but it was too late.

The assailant had grabbed Li Qiye and leaped upward again.

Lu Qi's eyes turned cold as a result, ready to kill.

"He's being kidnapped!" An ancestor realized the situation right away.

"!!!" The crowd became alarmed and anxious.

As that person was pulling Li Qiye up, a smirk appeared on the latter's face.

"Boom!" Li Qiye summoned a truncheon with a silvery glow then smashed the kidnapper.

The aura of a dao lord suppressed the area and made everyone tremble in fear.

The shocked kidnapper let go of Li Qiye in order to block the attack.

"Boom!" Though the kidnapper was powerful, the dao lord weapon broke through, destroying the blocking weapons and forcing the kidnapper back to the ground.

Everyone then saw the truncheon clearly. It seemed to be made of stars as it poured down dao lord laws.

"Omniscient Dao Lord's Galactic Shift Truncheon!" A knowledgeable ancestor recognized the weapon.

"This is one of the thirteen?" Others became jealous of him.

As for the kidnapper, they were shrouded in black and couldn't be seen due to a stealth technique. Nonetheless, they started vomiting blood after being hit directly by the truncheon. The difference in weapons was overwhelming.

### **Chapter 4027: Too Many Weapons**

The suddenness of the assault caught people off guard at first. However, this was to be expected.

Who didn't covet Li Qiye's wealth right now? Moreover, he had a weak cultivation realm on top of no known backers. Thus, everyone wanted to have a taste of his delicious meat.

It's just that they didn't have time to plan just yet. Moreover, it was in broad daylight. Failing might result in throwing away their personal reputation along with their sect's.

Nonetheless, this kidnapper had lost their patience and decided to give it a shot. Unfortunately, it just didn't work out.

The person immediately turned to run without saying a word.

“Where are you going?” Li Qiye smiled and raised his hand.

“Boom!” An unrestrained radiance and another dao lord aura manifested.

The sky turned dark for a bit before a five-colored waterfall descended. People looked up and saw five mountains spewing out their respective colored light along with dao lord laws.

These laws started rampaging and created powerful blasts. The spectators’ weapons trembled violently, seemingly in the presence of their king.

The five mountains could suppress gods and devils without Li Qiye’s control. This was its power alone.

“Five-colored Sky Hammer, another weapon of Omniscient Dao Lord!” The same ancestor earlier shouted after seeing the visual phenomenon.

The fleeing assailant became startled and didn’t dare to underestimate the incoming pressure.

“Clank!” They unsheathed a sword. A hawk screech could be heard as the sword turned into a hawk. They jumped on it in order to escape quicker.

“Soaring Hawk Sword Technique!” Since the assailant had no choice but to go all out, they ended up revealing their background.

Though this black-robed assailant was fast, they still couldn’t dodge the dao lord weapon.

“Crack!” Bones broke down right away and they smashed through several buildings.

Nonetheless, they survived despite being struck by the mighty hammer due to having an impressive cultivation.

They ignored these serious wounds and tried to run again. Alas, this was too late.

Li Qiye and Lu Qi didn’t need to do anything since there was a third party appearing. He laughed and said: “Can’t miss this opportunity!”

“Rumble!” He unleashed a barrage of punches on the assailant who was already wounded.

The newcomer was just too powerful and attacked without warning. Thus, the assailant vomited blood again before being smashed downward. Blood and cracks appeared all over the area.

This newcomer was none other than Jian Sanqiang who had already made a killing off Li Qiye. He stomped down and immobilized the assailant.

“Hehe, Young Noble, I’m here to help.” He smiled at Li Qiye.

However, the spectators’ focus was still on Li Qiye and the two weapons floating above him - a silvery truncheon and a five-colored hammer.

The pressure emanating from the weapons made it difficult for people to stand upright and breathe normally.

“Two dao lord weapons...” The crowd became jealous.

"I don't even have one..." An ancestor complained.

Though certain sects such as Sea Emperor or Nine-wheel Citadel had several dao lord weapons or perhaps more, the average ancestors didn't have access to them.

Now, Li Qiye had two right now. This was a privilege only seen for the successors of the behemoths.

"No, he has more than just two. Given what we know about the legacy, it's thirteen." A high elder reminded them.

"Fuck, he has more weapons than a kingdom's armory. This world is so unfair!" The ancestor cursed.

"Do Sea Emperor Sword Kingdom or Nine-wheel Citadel have more than ten?" A jealous youth asked.

No one could answer this question since it was rather sensitive.

"That I do not know. However, I can say with absolute certainty that no single member from there can have more than ten dao lord weapons on them at a time." A big shot shook his head.

"Such incredible and undeserved luck. I want to kidnap him too." A young expert spat on the ground.

The jealousy from the crowd was palpable. After all, they could work their entire life and wouldn't come in contact with a dao lord weapon. As for Li Qiye, he obtained thirteen in no time at all.

"Young Noble, how should we deal with him?" Jian Sanqiang kicked the beaten assailant.

Others looked down on him for acting like Li Qiye's hound. Instead of being a big shot like he is, he chose to work for a junior. Some top cultivators in the crowd found this contemptible.

Of course, Jian Sanqiang wasn't a traditional cultivator and didn't care what people thought about him.

"Let's take a look." Li Qiye smiled.

Sanqiang broke the stealth method to reveal the assailant - an old man with hawk-like eyes and long brows.

"Soaring Hawk Monarch!" The crowd clamored after seeing him.

"The sect master of Soaring Hawk." Some found this surprising.

Soaring Hawk was a relatively powerful sect in Sword Continent. It wasn't on the same level as the behemoths but was still far stronger than the Xu.

"Geezer, you're throwing away your reputation by acting like a bandit." Sanqiang laughed.

The pale monarch turned red from embarrassment despite his serious injuries. He closed his eyes and uttered: "The winner takes all, do what you want." He knew that failure meant death today.

"That's not up to me. Young Master, should I end him?" Sanqiang looked over at Li Qiye.

Though some members of the crowd knew him or even had a good relationship with him, none stepped up to help. After all, the monarch was in the wrong for attempting to kidnap Li Qiye.

"How much is he worth?" Li Qiye smiled.



“Sorry?” Sanqiang didn’t understand.

“How much can Soaring Hawk pay for him?” Li Qiye explained.

“Well...” Sanqiang couldn’t come up with a number right away.

Lu Qi answered instead: “Given Soaring Hawk’s history of having five sovereigns, it should be able to gather seven million Heavenly Sovereign Refined Jades in a short time. Of course, this will bankrupt them.”

She had a good understanding of the various sects in the world.

“Alright, then send them my message, that if they pay the ransom of two million Heavenly Sovereign Refined Jades today, I’ll only strip him naked and hang him on the city wall. If they need two days, then we’ll whip him in public and it’ll be five million. Three days? We’ll make an example out of him by burning him to death...”

The crowd exchanged glances after hearing Li Qiye’s bizarre idea. They thought that he would execute the monarch right away instead of trying to get a ransom.

“You!” The monarch vomited blood from anger.

#### **Chapter 4028: Just Deserts**

Soaring Hawk Monarch was tied up above the city gate just like Li Qiye’s order.

“A warrior chooses death before dishonor! Just kill me!” The humiliated cultivator bellowed.

He was a famous big shot yet now, the crowd was staring at his humiliating state. This was unbearable.

“You’re no warrior.” Jian Sanqiang laughed and sealed the monarch’s veins.

The monarch could no longer scream nor commit suicide.

“Is the message sent?” Li Qiye smiled.

“Yes, Young Noble. They have received your message.” Xu Yiyun replied.

“Alright, let’s get started.” Li Qiye nodded then told Sanqiang: “Strip him, let the public take a look.”

“Very well.” Sanqiang accepted the command then turned towards the monarch: “Monarch, don’t blame me for this. Blame your own stupidity for trying to kidnap someone in broad daylight. You brought this upon yourself.”

Having said that, Sanqiang easily stripped the monarch.

“Ah!” Some female cultivators shouted and hurriedly turned around. Of course, some were just enjoying the show.

The monarch struggled but couldn't move. Only whimpers could be heard. His eyes opened wide, on the verge of tearing. They were completely bloodshot - a testament to his indescribable rage. This humiliation was worse than death for a sect master like him.

"This is too much." One youth became unhappy: "He's right, a warrior chooses death before dishonor. How can they do this to him?"

"He's no warrior, just a despicable ambusher." An older expert snorted.

"He brought this upon himself by overestimating his ability. If Li Qiye had gotten captured, the guy would be suffering as well." An ancestor shook his head.

The youths, in particular, thought that Li Qiye was out of line for this act against the monarch. On the other hand, the experienced cultivators were no stranger to events like this.

They knew that if Li Qiye had gotten captured, the monarch would employ the cruelest means possible. Li Qiye would wish for death at that moment. The torture would be a thousand times crueler than this.

Thus, few actually sympathized with the monarch. They thought that he was an idiot for attempting this.

Now, he threw his reputation away on top of offending Archaic Style. Therefore, no one from Hallowed City dared to stop Li Qiye from causing disorder.

After an entire day, no disciples from Soaring Hawk appeared with the ransom or tried to save him. The monarch's lifelong reputation was ruined just like that.

"We'll continue tomorrow, there's plenty of time left." Li Qiye remained patient.

On the second day, many spectators still came to see the monarch hanging above the gate.

"Start the lashing." Li Qiye ordered: "Let Soaring Hawk see what will happen to their sect master."

"Sure thing." Jian Sanqiang took out a whip and swung it forward for a test.

He then coiled it around his arm and laughed at the monarch: "Once again, you can't blame me for being cruel. I have parents and kids to take care of and they're crying for food, so I need money. Blame your greed and stupidity instead."

The monarch's eyes were filled with hatred, wanting nothing more than to eat Li Qiye's flesh and drink Jian Sanqiang's blood. The last wish was to commit suicide but it wasn't possible.

"Whoosh!" Sanqiang ignored his gaze and started lashing.

"Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!" The whip left behind bloody welts on the monarch.

This wasn't enough to kill him and only served as psychological torture. Remember, a man of his high status couldn't possibly handle the public humiliation. His face twisted in agony as a result.

The spectators shook their head after seeing this.

"He brought this upon himself." One of them said.

"Just end it instead of torturing him." One youth couldn't help but say.

“If the monarch isn’t tortured, the rest of the world won’t see the consequences of messing with Li Qiye.” An older expert knew exactly what was going on.

The young ones nearby finally understood. Li Qiye became the richest overnight. Thus, numerous cultivators harbored the same greed as Soaring Hawk Monarch.

Some of them certainly came up with plans in order to capture Li Qiye for his wealth. The temptation was too great and justified the cruelest methods.

Thus, Li Qiye was making an example out of the monarch in order to deter future problems.

“Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!” Countless welts appeared on the monarch’s body. Alas, the psychological damage from the loss of face was far worse.

“Will Soaring Hawk try to save him?” One youth joined the gossip.

Under these circumstances, no one could try to stop this from happening or they would be considered accomplices.

The only exception was his own sect. They had two choices - using force or by paying the ransom.

“If they don’t do it, they’ll never be able to keep their head up again.” A big shot said: “Just watching their sect master being humiliated like this is unacceptable.”

Others nodded in agreement. The monarch’s conduct didn’t actually matter. They had to do something in order to keep their sect together.

“Using force?” One cultivator scouted the area, hoping to see members of Soaring Hawk.

“They have to go all out. Otherwise, more experts from their sect will join their master on top of the gate.” The big shot replied.

#### **Chapter 4029: Ransom**

“Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!” Jian Sanqiang remained busy with his task, adding more injuries to the hanging monarch.

Of course, these were mere flesh wounds for cultivators. The problem here was the damage to the mind and the dao heart.

The monarch wished for death. If it wasn’t for the complete seal on his meridians and muscles, he would have tried to bite his tongue.

Spectators knew that even if he were to survive, he wouldn’t want to meet anyone again. Nothing was left of his reputation and authority. Furthermore, his sect’s reputation was grievously damaged as well.

“Please stop, please stop!” Suddenly, an old man with a group of disciples appeared in front of the gate.

“The first elder of Soaring Hawk.” Another cultivator recognized him.

The monarch closed his eyes, not wanting to see his fellow members. As for the latter, they clenched their fists and gritted their teeth after seeing him.

If this was any other situation, they would risk their lives trying to avenge their sect master. However, they needed to show restraint in order to pay the ransom and save their master.

“In accordance with your request, Young Noble Li, we have prepared five million jades. Please release our sect master.” The first elder of Soaring Hawk prostrated towards Li Qiye and Jian Sanqiang.

Though they hated Li Qiye for numerous reasons, they could only swallow their anger. First of all, they were in the wrong. Li Qiye could be unreasonable and no one would criticize him since he was the victim.

Plus, their main goal was to save the sect master. Therefore, this elder chose to be as humble and subservient as possible.

He got up and held a pouch with both hands, presenting it to Li Qiye.

Li Qiye grabbed and then tossed it over to Sanqiang without a care. He smiled and said: “Since you came with sincerity, I will stay true to my word and let him go. As for the five million, it is your reward.”

“Thank you, Young Noble.” Sanqiang was ecstatic.

Once again, others became jealous of him for earning five million Heavenly Sovereign Refined Jades in such a short time. Some ancestors wished that they had worked for Li Qiye since the sum was more than their total wealth.

Moreover, Sanqiang didn’t actually do much. Any of them could have done the same thing. Most importantly, Soaring Hawk wasn’t on the same level as Sea Emperor Sword Kingdom.

Offending Soaring Hawk was still acceptable. They could take the risk. Alas, the opportunity was gone.

“Okay, Monarch, your disciples are here to fetch you. I hope you’ll have a quick recovery and learn something from this experience. Don’t cause so much trouble in the future.” Sanqiang smiled and released the monarch from the rope.

“Ugh.” The monarch vomited blood after the seal was gone. His complexion was a sickly yellow.

“Sect Master!” The disciples immediately surrounded him.

“Don’t worry, he’s just a little angry, that’s all. Let him drink some soup and medicine and he’ll wake up as lively as a tiger.” Sanqiang said.

The sarcastic tone naturally infuriated the disciples but Sanqiang ignored their glare.

“Take the sect master back.” The first elder didn’t want to linger around. Further complications were unacceptable after paying the huge ransom.

The disciples obeyed and the group left together.

Many experts knew that Soaring Hawk would disappear for a long time after this serious blow to their reputation and wealth. They no longer had the courage to meet anyone.

The scene became silent after their departure until Li Qiye spoke with a smile: "I enjoy excitement so I welcome anyone who wants to kidnap me. Of course, they better think about how much money their sect has first along with their personal wealth. It's best to do so lest you want your friends to be caught off guard with the ransom amount."

No one answered Li Qiye. Some secretly exchanged glances, especially the big shots.

They naturally wanted to capture Li Qiye just like the monarch. Alas, the consequence seemed rather serious.

Being killed was one thing but being utterly humiliated like that was unacceptable. They would be dragging their sect down as well.

Li Qiye chuckled and didn't wait for an answer before leaving.

"Young Noble, remember to call for me if there's anything else, I'll be the first to come running." Sanqiang shouted at Li Qiye.

Others found him contemptible for being Li Qiye's hound. Nonetheless, others were envious because Sanqiang had nothing holding him back. He was all alone and could do whatever he wanted to earn money.

Some ancestors wanted to work for Li Qiye too - low risk and high reward. Li Qiye was a hundred times more generous than other powers.

Unfortunately, they had prestigious backgrounds. Being Li Qiye's hound would destroy their reputation along with their sect's.

"Must be nice being a hound." One ancestor said with a wry smile.

"It's fine, there'll be chances." His friend still wanted to work for Li Qiye in the future despite the circumstances. The benefit was just too much.

### **Chapter 4030: Money Is Meant To Be Spent**

Soaring Hawk Monarch became the prime example of not to mess with Li Qiye. Some ancestors still had the intention of kidnapping Li Qiye but they needed to re-evaluate their own abilities and the risks entailed.

The richest man in the world was certainly a fat sheep in their eyes. Alas, they needed to figure out his actual power.

Most once considered him as a lucky junior, that his arrogance and ignorance would eventually be his downfall. Now, their view on him had changed since he possessed incredible dao lord weapons and resources.

In their opinion, his cultivation hasn't increased at all. Nonetheless, his actual power soared and could actually threaten them. After all, thirteen dao lord weapons were enough to intimidate anyone.

Of course, this wasn't to say that he was unbeatable. It's just that he had an overwhelming advantage compared to anyone else. Most importantly, due to his ability to be awfully generous, stronger cultivators naturally wanted to work for him.

All of this made capturing him exceedingly difficult. No one wanted to suffer the same fate as the monarch.

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Once Li Qiye returned to the courtyard prepared by Lu Qi, there was a crowd already waiting for him. Humans, demons, heavenly devils; nobles, vagabonds, even ancestors... They all wanted to talk to him. They asked for different payments as well. Some desired refined jades or weapons, others wanted territories.

Among the prices, a few were fair and appropriate given the status of the asking cultivators. However, some were ridiculous and even asked for dao lord weapons or ancient artifacts...

Of course, none actually met Li Qiye. All of this was relayed to him by Xu Yiyun.

She was already famous for being one of the ten sword prodigies. However, she became even more popular because everyone wanted to work for Li Qiye and she served as the intermediary. Even rulers and ancestors begged her to put in a good word for them.

She told Li Qiye all of this, prompting him to smile: "Why not? As long as it is suitable. Tell them to write their resume, I am recruiting. Money is plentiful but we'll see if they have the ability or not."

"Also, we need to be grander in style when we go outside. Beauties, carriages, divine and auspicious beasts. Yes, gather them for me as long as they're cool." Li Qiye laughed and added.

"Young Noble, I'm afraid if we recruit too many people, unwanted folks will mix in and might harm you." She became worried.

This was rather reasonable since everyone coveted Li Qiye's wealth. They could take advantage of this and join the group to wait for an opportunity.

"I'm hoping for that because I've been lacking exercise for years. Gotta get rid of the rust somehow." He smirked.

Yiyun's heart skipped a beat while staring at his smirk. He resembled a primordial beast opening its mouth.

Everyone was a potential prey. He would devour them whole, not leaving a single bone or even strand of hair behind.

"If this is the young noble's wish, you just need to carry it out, Miss Xu." Lu Qi said, aware that Li Qiye simply wanted to have fun and pass the time.

The recruits had no chance of entering Li Qiye's eyes. As for those harboring nefarious intent, they were simply suicidal. Li Qiye would obliterate them soon enough.

“I will take care of it, Young Noble.” Yiyun said.

“Go to the large markets and auction houses, buy the most expensive things like beasts and carriages. I want to have a complete entourage when I travel.” Li Qiye ordered.

“Yes, I will go look around.” Yiyun agreed.

In reality, Li Qiye didn't give a damn about this issue at all. However, she chose to be earnest and swift in carrying out his order.

She went around Hallowed and even the nearby cities to gather the most expensive outfits. As the saying goes - clothes make the man and Buddhas rely on gold. She picked the clothes first before focusing on traveling necessities.

After ample preparation, she returned and reported: “Young Noble, for your outfit, I chose the Hallowed Jewel Robe, Nine-dragon Regalia, Myriad-law Robe... Then for your carriage, we have the Windrider Draconic Carriage, Immortal Monarch Palanquin, Cloudriding Citadel... We also have the Auspicious Golden Lion, Nine-firmament God Hawk, Five-element Fish. How do you wish to match them?” Yiyun gave him the list.

“Only a child picks, I am an important character and will take all of them.”

“All of them?” Yiyun had selected a list of outrageously expensive items suitable for him, not expecting him to buy everything.

“Young Noble...” She slightly frowned.

“What? We don't have enough money?” He smiled.

“Of course not, I just think that it might not be good to spend so much.” She shook her head.

She was fully aware of his matchless wealth. However, this squandering trend might make him poor one day.

“Money is meant to be spent, I can't take it with me to the grave.” Li Qiye smiled: “Well, maybe I can indeed take it to the grave with me but a dead man can't spend. That's why I need to make use of it right now.”