

Emperor 4061

Chapter 4061: Abyss Creator

The prince despised that he appeared to be the underdog after the first exchange. His opponent looked calm and composed as if she could beat him in the next second.

“Fine, let’s see what you can do then!” He roared.

“Boom!” His fate palaces released endless chaos energy and empowered his sword dao, causing it to become even brighter.

Space trembled as the stars in the sky seemingly awakened and formed wondrous constellations. A distant legend emerged, akin to a holy kingdom with gods as inhabitants.

“Clank! Clank! Clank!” The Starshooter Sword Dao activated and forced other swords nearby to resonate with it.

The portal to the holy kingdom opened and divine swords started flying outward. Their terrible energy assaulted the region with the same intensity as a primordial flood. This attack could easily destroy a mountain range.

“Go!” He commanded for the divine swords to gather behind him. They lined up together to form a pair of sword wings.

The sky was blotted out by the countless layers. The wings seemed capable of starting a cataclysm once unleashed.

“Abyss Creator!” He roared and intimidated the crowd.

Those who have heard of this technique before became frightened. One of them said: “Get back, this is an ultimate technique. A mighty ancestor from Starshooter used it to destroy a country once.”

“Yes, a top variation of the Starshooter Sword Dao.” Another expert shivered.

Even the big shots from the previous generation became serious after hearing the name of the technique.

Ning Zhu’s eyes narrowed and pinned her sword to the ground. Energies finally materialized in the area around her. A divine sword seemed to be protruding from the ground.

“Buzz.” A supreme sword diagram appeared beneath her. It had a verdant glow - a sign of ample life force. It started giving birth to countless swords.

Behind her was the image of a bamboo sword that kept on increasing in size.

The prince didn’t give her time to prepare her technique and immediately sent his technique towards her.

The pair of wings swung down with enough force to sever an ocean or create numerous abysses.

"It's coming!" Spectators have already gotten far away since they knew its power quite well.

Ning Zhu had gathered enough vitality and energy so she remained undeterred. The bamboo sword behind her became radiant and served as a barrier, easily stopping the incoming onslaught.

Fiery sparks splashed off the barrier, resulting in beautiful fireworks.

"What technique is this?" People were in awe because she managed to stop something as impressive as Abyss Creator.

"Bamboo Bulwark." A sect master familiar with Wooden Sword said: "I've seen Pineleaf Sword Lord use it before, stopping numerous powerful enemies for three days and three nights. It seems that the princess has successfully learned and mastered it."

Abyss Creator was relentless but it couldn't break the sword barrier. Though she was on the defensive, this exchange displayed her mastery of the sword.

"My turn." She shouted and leaped upward with incredible speed, seemingly traveling through time.

Most spectators lost track of her but in the next moment, she evaded Abyss Creator and appeared above the prince.

"Over there!" A keen-eyed spectator pointed in her direction.

The prince was aghast and immediately stopped Abyss Creator, raising his sword defensively.

"Try this!" She unleashed a slash capable of dividing a galaxy.

He got a terrible feeling about this incoming attack - something dangerous was coming.

He immediately recalled his sword wings to the front to block the slash. The layers completely surrounded him, forming an impregnable fortress.

Moreover, a small figure rushed out from the sapphire embedded in his forehead. It had a pair of cicada-like wings and created a unique seal to empower the fortress.

Chapter 4062: Three Moves

The seal took the form of a giant lock, improving the fortress multiple times over. It seemed that a divine race was empowering the prince.

"What is that?" Many became startled by the sudden influx of power.

This didn't seem to be a shortcut or a temporary forbidden technique with side effects. This power boost was righteous and orthodox, stemming from his source. There was no danger in using this technique.

"The power of the sky spirits." An elder said: "That's their special power."

Sky spirits were unique and shrouded in mystery. They seemed to be blessed by heaven itself.

Starshooter Dao Lord had a pure bloodline of this race. As for the prince, he also came from this branch.

“So he has the bloodline of the dao lord too?” One youth took a deep breath and said.

“No, don’t conflate the issues.” An expert shook his head: “He only has the sky spirit bloodline.”

Starshooter Dao Lord already had a powerful bloodline. However, after becoming a dao lord, his bloodline became even stronger - something uniquely his.

The prince naturally didn’t have this bloodline. Nonetheless, the sky spirit one alone was beneficial enough.

“This is already so powerful. Imagine if he has both...” Someone from the last generation commented.

If he actually had both bloodlines, he might be chosen as the successor of Sword Emperor instead of Peace Ocean Sword King.

All in all, everyone felt that this defensive line should be enough to stop Ning Zhu’s incoming slash. The prince himself believed so as well.

“Sword Breaker!” As she was mid-swing, her light suddenly came together and something seemed to be awakening.

Everything happened so quickly and the spectators had no idea what was going on.

“Boom!” The slash struck the fortress.

However, the result was rather unexpected. Though the prince had a multi-faceted approach, cracks still appeared on the fortress.

Her slash seemed capable of severing the five elements and the karmic ties. This made it impossible for the defenses to keep up.

With a loud blast, the seal of the sky spirit broke down and the divine swords were reduced to scattering pieces.

The prince couldn’t handle the blast and vomited blood while flying through the air like a meteor. He eventually smashed into the ground and left behind a large pit. His blood stained the walls, who knows if he was still alive down there?

A hush descended over the crowd as they exchanged glances of disbelief. None expected the prince to lose so quickly or in other words, for the princess to win so effortlessly.

“It’s over already?” The young ones from Sea Emperor couldn’t believe it.

It only took three moves for this to end.

Of course, there was a belief that a battle could end after one decisive move. It’s just that the lack of competitiveness was apparent. The princess was just far stronger.

“But how?” One spectator clearly saw how strong the prince was. He lived up to his title and fame.

“The princess is just too strong.” An expert said.

“Really?” Others remained doubtful. Their first impression of her was her engagement to Peace Ocean Sword King. The fact that she was one of the Ten Sword Prodigies was usually put off till later.

They also thought that she was a regular noble - prideful and haughty. There was a lack of her true power. Perhaps they didn’t care to find out.

“I believe she is among the top three.” One sect master concluded after seeing the result.

“Who are the other two then?” His juniors became curious right away.

There were no rankings within the ten prodigies so this interested the crowd.

“Right, who are the top three? What’s the exact ranking?” People kept on asking without caring about the prince’s survival.

“If the princess is among the top three. The other two spots, hmm... Fire-and-Ice Sword, Abyss Scion, or Hundred-blade Noble?”

“I would bet money on Abyss Scion and Hundred-blade Noble.” Someone from Sea Emperor responded.

These two were also from this kingdom, just as gifted with incredible backgrounds as Starshooter Prince. The kingdom had three out of the ten prodigies - a testament to its power.

“I agree with Abyss Scion. He cultivates one of the nine - Abyss. Who can stop him?” One youth said.

“Then why aren’t you bringing up Chen Cangsheng of Daoist Sword Ground? He has the War God Sword Dao.” Someone else immediately disagreed.

“Right, Fire-and-ice also has one of the nine, Darkflame.” A calm cultivator interjected. [1]

Youths argued with each other regarding the rankings, supporting different cultivators.

No matter what, the consensus seemed to be that Princess Ning Zhu was among the top three.

Meanwhile, she didn’t say a thing and stood there patiently.

The big shots took note of her calm and composed nature. They thought that there was more to her being chosen as the future queen of Sea Emperor.

There were plenty of fish in the sea yet she alone was chosen for this position. This helped them understand the decision.

Chapter 4063: Asking For A Beating

Ning Zhu defeated Starshooter Prince without resorting to external measures nor trickeries, only her actual power. No one could criticize her victory and only gained a better understanding of her power.

She seemed to be among the top three and could actually contend against the high elders and ancestors from the previous generation.

Thus, from today henceforth, people might be more prone to think about her power instead of her past engagement with the king or her status as a princess from Wooden Sword.

“Bam!” Dirt splashed outward and spectators noticed Starshooter Prince climbing out of the pit.

Being occupied with the princess and the ranking made everyone forget about the prince. Some thought that he was already dead.

He looked ragged and bloodied with wounds all over. The slash didn’t kill him but still smashed him onto the ground. This left him with both external and internal injuries.

“You’ve lost.” Ning Zhu glanced at him.

Not long ago, he looked awe-inspiring and flushed with success. Now, losing in this manner publicly dealt a considerable blow to his reputation. He would never be able to hold his head high in the presence of the princess.

His arrogance and pride have been trampled upon and shattered.

“You, you have nothing!” Starshooter Prince blurted without rhyme or reason due to his rage: “You’re nothing but a maid, and that’s all you’re worth, not worthy of being a member of our Sea Emperor Sword Kingdom, shameless and foolish woman!”

The princess’ expression darkened while the spectators exchanged glances.

However, the prince’s spiel stopped abruptly due to a figure appearing in front of him.

“Ugh!” His eyes turned white as he kicked his legs back and forth.

People saw someone seizing him by the throat and raising him up in the air. This uninvited third party was none other than Li Qiye who has been observing on the sideline.

No one saw how he got there, only mere flashes before he subdued the prince.

“Wh-what are you doing-?” The strangled prince had trouble speaking clearly.

“Should I crush your neck right now or just let you run out of breath?” Li Qiye smiled and asked before adding more strength to his fingers.

“Crack!” Just a bit more force and he would be able to end the prince.

“D-don’t b-be insane!” The prince nearly pissed his pants, never having been so close to death before.

He had such a bright future but death would spell the end to all of that. Thus, survival trumped reputation and honor.

“Pl-please, le-let me down, let me down...” The frightened prince began begging for mercy.

“Fine, I’ll spare your life.” Li Qiye showed a rare moment of compassion.

He slowly put down the prince and the latter heaved a sigh of relief. However, he then grabbed the prince's ankle and raised him up again.

"What are you doing?!" The upside-down prince was horrified.

"Bam! Bam! Bam!" Li Qiye smashed him against the ground repeatedly without showing any mercy.

"Crack!" Blood and bits splashed everywhere while the youth screamed. The sounds of crushed bones horrified the listeners.

They could feel his pain while watching the visceral and gruesome beating.

Finally, Li Qiye casually tossed him into a dirt pit nearby, just like a piece of trash. He was at his last gasp from being mangled.

Spectators shuddered after seeing the gruesome assault. His defeat earlier was acceptable since duels and deaths were common in the cultivation world.

However, it was rare to see a sadistic assault. Li Qiye didn't hold back despite the prince having powerful backings.

Their initial impression of him was that he was just a lucky parvenu. Thus, the ferocious display only added to their shock.

They realized that he wasn't a fat sheep with money at all. He was a ferocious beast ready to bite.

"A maid of mine is a thousand times nobler than a king. You all are nothing more than an insect, just me looking at you for a second is the blessing of three lifetimes." Li Qiye told the crowd before leaving.

Ning Zhu was stunned for a moment before calming down and catching up.

Meanwhile, everyone stared at the half-death prince in disbelief. No one refuted Li Qiye's arrogant comment.

After leaving Armament City, Ning Zhu bowed towards Li Qiye and emotionally said: "Thanks for standing up for me, Young Noble."

There was a hint of truth to the prince's insult. She was indeed a maid right now.

"Gotta look at the master before beating a dog." He smiled: "No one can bully my maid."

Chapter 4064: You're Too Poor

Once the duo returned to the plain, the servants had mixed feelings. They had been working for the Tang for generations now.

Though the Tang had declined, it was still considered prestigious to mortals. Thus, they felt happy for the clan master to sell his estates for such a high price.

Because of the profit, he left everything behind to Li Qiye including the servants. Therefore, they were also nervous about this new master and the uncertainties regarding their future.

Since the Tang had moved to the city, they didn't have much to do in this ancestral plain. They hoped that this new master would find them useful and not kick them out.

Sure enough, Li Qiye had tasks for them to get done. He ordered them to dig out the dirt piles all over the plains. Of course, they turned out to be tiny fortresses instead.

Moreover, he asked them to dig out some roads for the plain. As they removed the top layer, they found roads already existing underneath, consisting of unknown materials.

When looking down from above, one would find that these "roads" appeared to be lines carved all over the plain. The mortals didn't notice anything special about the roads.

Nonetheless, they were ecstatic because Li Qiye didn't chase them away. This made them work even harder since they had a purpose now.

This wasn't a small project but Li Qiye didn't interfere and left Ning Zhu in charge. She didn't mind leading them and even working herself, completely forgetting about her noble roots.

She, on the other hand, noticed a strange momentum flowing in this land. After removing the dirt from the fortresses and lines, their current residence seemed to be the center. The momentum spread across the entire plain.

She thought that this place was an ancient diagram or formation, and that there must be something else going on here. She tried to comprehend the mysteries of the lines but didn't notice any pattern. It was complex enough to make her dizzy.

"Young Noble, is this a formation?" She asked Li Qiye.

"Not a formation, just a hidden secret." Li Qiye smiled.

"Who is it? The progenitor of the Tang?" She brought up her first guess.

"Right, he left behind a few things here on purpose." He nodded.

"What are they?" This interested her because Li Qiye was invested in the plain. He had plenty of treasures and weapons already. What would be worth his time?

"They're not really treasures, just fate related." Li Qiye gazed at the plain and said.

"Fate?" She didn't understand the answer but stopped prying because the answer would show itself soon enough.

She returned to her task afterward. This was something she never had to do back in Wooden Sword but she didn't mind.

Alas, someone else came to complain in her stead. It was none other than someone who had a crush on her - Liu Yushang.

He found out somehow and came to find her. When he saw her digging up the ground with the servants, he thought that Li Qiye was mistreating her.

“Her Highness is a noble of Wooden Sword. This type of wretched labor is meant for servants or villagers, why does she have to be subjected to this treatment?” He found Li Qiye and stated his grievance: “I will not stand and allow you to do this!”

“A man can’t understand what makes a fish happy.” Li Qiye couldn’t help but smile and shake his head after seeing this. [1]

“You don’t need to involve yourself in my business.” Ning Zhu didn’t appreciate the sudden intrusion either. [2]

“Your Highness, since he’s mistreating you like this, he’s absolutely offending Wooden Sword. We will not allow him to keep this up...” Yushang responded.

His small sect was located by the border of Wooden Sword. Due to its weakness, Wooden Sword didn’t bother turning it into a tributary. Nonetheless, he and his sect still considered themselves as members of Wooden Sword.

“I am no longer a princess there.” She shook her head.

Of course, Yushang also came wanting to teach Li Qiye a lesson. He became enraged after seeing the princess like this and wouldn’t drop the issue.

“Li, you might be rich but that doesn’t mean you can do whatever you want. Her Highness should be treated better or I’ll be the first to take you down!” Yushang shouted with indignation.

This caused Ning Zhu to frown since Li Qiye wasn’t actually mistreating her. The more Yushang went on, the more she found it intolerable.

“Are you going to do something about it?” Li Qiye smiled.

“Do you dare to fight me?!” Yushang challenged.

“Fight you?”

“Yes, money is not an indication of your actual ability. Use your own strength and fight me to prove your worth!” Yushang loudly shouted.

“No, having money proves my worth.” Li Qiye responded: “Do you think your merit laws are your innate abilities? No, in the eyes of mortals, you were just lucky enough to learn immortal laws. That’s not your actual ability, so would a mortal challenge you to a duel and ask you to destroy your cultivation for a fair fight?”

“Well...” Yushang had no response.

“Plus, why should I bother with you? I am the richest in the world while you’re just a poor brat. It’s not worth my time, you have nothing that I want.” Li Qiye added.

“I’m not a poor brat!” He turned red after hearing this.

He did come from a humble background but in recent years, he made a name for himself and gathered considerable resources. He was far richer than his peers who were born with a golden spoon. Thus, he didn't accept the insult from Li Qiye.

Chapter 4065: Vampiric Dyad

"Tell me about your current wealth then." Li Qiye smiled while staring at the youth.

"I..." Liu Yushang opened his mouth but found that speaking would only result in further humiliation.

He stood out among his peers and regular cultivators. However, he didn't come close to being able to touch Li Qiye.

Even if he had one or two hundred million refined jades, this was not even considered a spare change for Li Qiye. The latter could casually give someone this amount without thinking twice.

Thus, even if he was satisfied with his wealth accumulation so far, it was meaningless to respond.

As a proud genius, he looked down and even found Li Qiye wretched. In his opinion, the guy was only lucky.

Unfortunately, once wealth reached a certain level, it could trump everything else. That's why it wasn't unreasonable for Li Qiye to call him a "poor brat".

Nonetheless, he felt as if Li Qiye had just slapped him with a stack of money. It certainly didn't feel good.

"Cultivators don't compete with money, that's vulgar." He said with indignation.

"Well, I'm a vulgar person who loves money and jades." Li Qiye smirked as if he loved to show off his wealth.

"You!" Yushang turned red right away.

"Stop lying to yourself. Cultivators certainly don't compete with money but don't think you're above it. Nothing escapes money, the gold and silver of mortals become refined jades for cultivators as well." Li Qiye shook his head.

Yushang couldn't refute this statement since it was indeed the case. Cultivators wielded incredible powers and abilities. However, their treasures and cultivation resources were still purchased with money.

"So you won't compete then?!" Yushang changed the topic.

"What makes you qualified to challenge me?" Li Qiye smiled.

"Here's how it will go, we'll spar for ten moves. If I win, the bet between you and the princess will end. If you win..." Yushang gritted his teeth before finishing, aware that he had nothing to make it worthwhile.

He eventually made up his mind and shouted: "If I lose, I'll stay and become your servant!"

“How courageous and chivalrous.” Li Qiye shook his head: “Unfortunately, you’re only doing what you want without caring for her opinion.”

“Your Highness...” Yushang turned towards Ning Zhu.

To which she responded: “I truly appreciate your kindness, Young Noble Li, although I do not deserve it. As for my own business, I can make decisions myself. I am willing to stay with my young noble, so please, don’t interfere.”

She explicitly stated her stance, not needing anyone to save her.

“I...” Yushang had an awkward expression. He saw the princess working with the servants earlier and assumed that she wouldn’t want to stick around any longer. However, this didn’t seem to be the case.

Fortunately for him, their conversation was interrupted by a series of footsteps. They sounded both chaotic yet orderly.

Both youths gazed in the direction of the sound and a dozen unknown cultivators surrounding Li Qiye.

They wore different uniforms, clearly not from the same sect. What was important to note were their empty eyes. Their movements resembled that of puppets.

“Clank!” They immediately unsheathed their weapons, showing off their aggressive intention.

‘What’s going on?’ Liu Yushang asked.

“Slaves of the Vampyric Dyad.” Ning Zhu’s expression darkened.

“The Vampyric Dyad?” Yushang became serious as well.

“Die!” The servants lunged for Li Qiye.

“Hmph.” Ning Zhu unsheathed her sword and unleashed a torrent of green sword rays against the attackers.

“Ah!!” Several died right away.

Her decisiveness and brutality in battle rivaled her intelligence and beauty.

“Nice technique!” Yushang praised after seeing the wide radius of the attack.

“Kekeke, not nice at all, how dare you kill our slaves?” A nefarious voice sounded.

“Poof!” A rain of blood descended and two figures appeared not far from Li Qiye. A stench of blood permeated the air.

They wore black robes while bloody mists engulfed them. Their hair stood up straight just like two horns. Their eyes were green and creepy, akin to those of poisonous creatures.

As they spoke, four long, sharp fangs could be seen.

“The dyad...” Liu Yushang became startled.

“Young Noble, they are blood suckers.” Ning Zhu returned to Li Qiye’s side, on guard.

“Keke, little juniors, at least you know your stuff.” The two appeared to be identical twins.

Their notoriety was comparable to Crimsondeath Monarch. However, they were far crueler and evil, similar to the dead Dark Hand Devil.

They belonged to the side branch of the Blood Race and cultivated an evil art requiring blood sucking. Worst of all, their victims would become their slaves afterward.

Ning Zhu and Yushang found their presence surprising because this territory was under Armament Mountain’s jurisdiction. Big shots of the evil path rarely came here because they might be under attack right away.

“Kekeke, you’re that brat who got the Preeminent Legacy?” One of them spoke.

Chapter 4066: Threat

“Should be me if there isn’t a second legacy.” Li Qiye smiled.

“Hahaha, good, we didn’t find the wrong person then.” The two exchanged glances then one of them laughed.

“Kekeke, brat, do you pick life or death?” The other smiled sinisterly.

“Elaborate.” Li Qiye calmly responded.

“Death comes easily, we just need to bite your neck. Kekeke, of course, you won’t die that easily and will become a moving corpse, our puppet.” The second revealed his sharp fangs.

Liu Yushang shuddered since he had heard about these two before. Some believed that it was better to die in battle than be bitten by them.

Their evil technique drained their victims dry on top of turning them into a puppet. The dozen cultivators earlier were the perfect examples.

“If you want to live, then hand over everything you have. We’ll be merciful and spare your dog life.” The first smiled.

“How boring, the same old song again. What’s the point of becoming the richest when you look like that? Have you looked in the mirror recently?” Li Qiye shook his head.

The two exchanged glances. Their eyes flashed fiercely, clearly infuriated.

“Hahaha, brat, because of your foolish comment just now, we’ll have you taste a fate worse than death. You’ll be a corpse for an eternity.” One of them threatened with a murderous glint.

“No need to rush it.” The other smiled cruelly: “We need to torture him first, let’s just take our time.”

“Brat, today is not your lucky day.” The two exchanged glances and walked forward, wanting to surround Li Qiye.

“Young Noble, please get inside first.” Ning Zhu raised her sword defensively and blocked the duo.

“Little girl, you’re not bad but still no match for us. Out of consideration for Pineleaf Sword Lord, we will not bully you today. Leave now.” One of them smiled at Ning Zhu.

“We’ll see about that.” She maintained her composure while gesturing with her sword.

Liu Yushang didn’t want her to get hurt by the renowned masters. He stepped forward and shouted: “Count me in.”

He looked back and told Li Qiye: “Li, we will save your life today so you’ll have to write off the bet later!” He still didn’t forget about trying to save the princess.

“Hahaha, how interesting.” The duo exchanged glances after seeing this.

Li Qiye waved his hand and pulled Ning Zhu back before answering: “Does it look like I need to be saved?”

Yushang became frozen. How could Li Qiye face these two monsters alone?

Li Qiye turned his focus towards the duo and smiled: “Do you know the true origin of your progenitor?”

No one expected Li Qiye to suddenly bring this up. The duo was indeed from the Blood Race but they didn’t have anything to do with the progenitor.

“What does that have to do with anything? Brat, accept your fate.” One of them retorted.

“Very well, it’s time for you to see what is called the Blood Progenitor.” He smiled.

“You think you can become the Blood Progenitor given your meager cultivation. Are you hearing this?” The duo burst out in laughter as if this was the most hilarious thing ever.

“Watch.” Li Qiye smiled before slightly cutting his finger, just enough to draw a little blood.

“Buzz.” His vitality and blood suddenly turned into evil energy.

He seemed to have succumbed to the evil path and a rune appeared on his forehead.

“Devil Mantra!” Liu Yushang recognized this right away.

Ning Zhu heard him and became startled. The seven mantras were the easiest to cultivate. This also made them the least popular for cultivators. Why did Li Qiye pick something like this?

Liu Yushang recognized it right away because he came from a small sect. They didn’t have top merit laws so they collected common ones from all over the world.

As for Ning Zhu, she most likely had never seen any of the seven before.

“Hahaha! This brat thinks he’s the Blood Progenitor just by using the Devil Mantra! We’ll teach you a lesson for overestimating yourself!” The duo laughed again.

Yushang shouted: "Your Devil Mantra can't take them on. They'll suck you dry right away!"

He wasn't trying to belittle Li Qiye. The weak merit law was one thing but Li Qiye's cultivation wasn't on the same level as the duo.

"I'll take care of this ignorant brat." One of them stepped forward.

He activated his vitality and a pair of blood wings manifested behind him. His eyes became bat-like, looking quite intimidating.

"Let's see the taste of your blood." He revealed his fangs again and licked his lips.

Spectators would feel a chill by their neck as if they had been bitten.

"Idiot." Li Qiye chuckled and became serious.

In the next second, he suddenly turned into someone else; his eyes became filled with blood.

The evil energy around him turned into layers of blood mists. His appearance also changed into that of a supreme devil - red from top to bottom. His body seemed to be made from congealed blood.

Chapter 4067: Blood Progenitor

A man made of blood was terrifying enough. However, the fear instilled by him into others was primal and instinctive.

He resembled the Blood Progenitor from the ancient era. Even his soul seemed to be made of blood - a creature born from this affinity.

Everything else in the world was nothing more than food in his eyes. He also had four fangs now. They weren't particularly long but nothing could be sharper or more intimidating. This was in spite of Li Qiye not activating his divinity and aura.

There were other evil creatures and villains in the vast world. Just their name or title alone would frighten grown men. However, to personally witness Li Qiye was an entirely different experience.

Spectators would tremble and quiver uncontrollably, realizing that the evil cultivators they had seen before were nothing in comparison.

He became the ruler of the darkness and the embodiment of malice. Thus, the Vampyric Dyad felt the same fear from the depth of their heart. He was their worst nightmare.

Ning Zhu gasped in response while Liu Yushang's jaw dropped to the ground in disbelief.

He thought that Li Qiye was a weak cultivator who got lucky. But now, this state of his was horrifying. He himself was an experienced cultivator who had traveled the world yet his legs were still shaking.

"Brat, this act doesn't fool anyone. You're displaying your slight skills before real experts." One of the two shouted: "Your blood is mine!"

He was trembling inside but didn't think that this was anything more than a physical transformation. It was impossible for the youth to turn into a supreme devil king.

"Screech!" He let out a roar and turned into a blood bat, wanting to bite Li Qiye's neck.

"Fool." Li Qiye scowled and released his divinity. His eyes became bright red like two suns. The force coming from them rushed towards the assailant. The progenitor of the race had total control over his descendants.

Blood took over the spatial fabrics and time came to a halt. The assailant found his soul to be under someone else's control, akin to a servant in front of the king.

After immobilizing his prey, Li Qiye opened his mouth and aimed for the neck.

"No!!!" The victim bellowed in horror while looking at Li Qiye's sharp fangs. They have always been the ones doing the blood sucking, never the opposite.

Sucking and swallowing noises ensued. It was as if Li Qiye had inserted a straw into the victim's bloodstream.

"Nooo." The victim struggled and twitched but it was too late. With the last drop of blood drained, his legs kicked out one last time before being summoned by death.

"Sh*t!" The other was scared out of his mind and immediately fled.

"Where do you think you're going?" Li Qiye appeared in front of him, raising one hand to immobilize the next victim.

"No..." The latter could only speak, unable to move anything else.

Li Qiye revealed his fangs again for another bite.

"Please! Nooo!" The last of the dyad begged for mercy, albeit a little too late. He became a dried corpse as well.

The duo's eyes were still open as they lay on the ground. They had done the same to countless victims in the past, never expecting karma to strike back.

"What the hell..." Yushang turned pale and crouched down while feeling awfully nauseous.

"The idiots know nothing about the origin of the Blood Race yet they dare to act like they're progenitors, this is their just deserts." Li Qiye licked his lips, looking quite dreadful.

"You're, you're a devil king?" Yushang calmed down and pointed at Li Qiye. His finger was trembling.

The harmless rich guy turned out to be a terrible monster with enough power to instantly kill the Vampyric Dyad. No one would believe this story.

"Says who?" Li Qiye smiled and became normal again. The thick blood around him flowed to the ground and disappeared from sight.

The aghast Yushang found this process akin to Li Qiye just taking off his clothes. The whole thing was surreal, like a dream. However, the dried corpses of the dyad were still there.

“What sor-sorcery did you employ?” Yushang asked. There was no evil aura left on Li Qiye.

“Sorcery? No, this is a transformation with a single thought. Tell me, what do you respect or fear the most?” Li Qiye smiled at the youth.

Chapter 4068: Aghast

“Don’t, don’t come over here!” Liu Yushang became startled and staggered backward just from Li Qiye’s gaze.

He was certainly not a coward and deserved his spot as one of the Four Armament Heroes. It took numerous battles and near-death experiences.

He had confidence that as long as he wielded his saber, he would be able to beat everyone eventually. Alas, Li Qiye’s Blood Progenitor transformation traumatized him.

That form looked like the embodiment of an ancient evil who feasted on blood. All living beings were nothing more than food, powerful ancestors included.

“I’m not interested in you, I won’t bite.” Li Qiye smiled. His normal appearance was a stark contrast to the devil form earlier.

One would never make a connection between the two. Alas, Liu Yushang still slowly walked backward, feeling that Li Qiye’s fangs were inches away from his neck. A dangerous premonition still loomed.

“I, I have something to do, goodbye now.” Yushang didn’t want to linger around so he cupped his fist towards Ning Zhu: “Your Highness, please take care of yourself. I hope we’ll meet again later.”

Having said that, he left in a hurry lest Li Qiye want to keep him around.

Fortunately, Li Qiye didn’t stop him at all. He heaved a sigh of relief and increased his speed.

He felt so much better after making it out of the plain. It was as if he was given a second life. He looked back and didn’t know what to think.

Alas, he realized that he and Ning Zhu would have no chances together in the future. She wanted to stay with someone as monstrous as Li Qiye while he wished to be as far away as possible.

He naturally wanted to stay close and please her but the image of Li Qiye’s devil form kept on haunting him.

Not long ago, he viewed Li Qiye with disdain - an unknown junior not worthy of being noticed. Now, it seemed that this fella was a monster in disguise. Perhaps him winning the legacy had nothing to do with luck.

Curiosity beckoned him but ultimately, fear won. He didn't return to the plain and decided to never come anywhere close to Li Qiye again.

"Your transformation earlier scared the hell out of Liu Yushang." Ning Zhu chuckled and shook her head: "That swift transformation earlier, what is it?"

At first, Li Qiye used the Devil Mantra. However, the latter part had nothing to do with it.

"So there's something supreme in everyone's heart." He said.

"Could you elaborate?" She asked.

"For example, someone you worship the most, an idol or an ancestor, perhaps an invincible dao lord." He replied.

She pondered a bit before asking: "Is it bad to have something like that?"

"Both good and bad." Li Qiye smiled: "The good is obvious. To have an idol means having a clear pursuit and motivation."

She nodded in agreement: "What about the bad side?"

"It will limit you and become your shackles. If you have a dao lord as your supreme, that will be the ceiling. You'll find it difficult to surpass this dao lord. His images, tales, and life will affect and model you. You'll find the ridiculous things about him perfectly acceptable." He responded.

"How do we surpass it then?" She inquired.

"It requires maturing, not one of age but rather, the dao heart." He paused and stared at her: "In order to mature, one has to surpass their limit and kill their father."

"Kill their father?" She became confused.

He chuckled and shook his head: "Not literally. Once reaching the right level, you should start thinking about the flaws and deficiency of the supreme in your mind then replacing it with your own radiance. In other words, escape this being's shadow, that's maturing. As for the father metaphor, it's because this supreme has accompanied and motivated you your entire life. But in order to become stronger, you must crush it, hence the father killing part."

"Thank you for your guidance." She took her time digesting this information before bowing deeply towards Li Qiye. This was a beneficial perspective, perhaps even better than a top merit law.

He chuckled and didn't say anything.

"As for the Blood Progenitor earlier..." She remained curious about the devil transformation.

He smiled and said: "Those fools obtained an evil art somewhere and thought that they knew the principles and truths of the Blood Race. They wanted to become gods who devour blood. Unfortunately, they knew nothing of their race's true origin. I merely transformed into their supreme."

"So is the progenitor of the Blood Race a blood-sucking fiend?" She asked.

There were plenty of rumors about this race being blood suckers at the start. However, the Blood Race vehemently denied this.

Chapter 4069: What Rank?

“Time erased everything, the world doesn’t remember and neither do I.” Li Qiye didn’t answer the question.

She nodded and restrained her curiosity after hearing his non-answer. But of course, maybe he was telling the truth. The Blood Race has existed for a long time. No one in the present day might have an answer.

Only rumors and legends remained, one of them being the blood suckers belief. In spite of the Blood Race’s denial, future generations still brought this up.

This was because of some unfortunate occurrences popping up here or there. For example, the Vampiric Dyad in this generation.

Everyone knew that they cultivated an evil art of the Blood Race. Nonetheless, their actions made people think of this race’s origin - that the forefathers of this race were monsters who hid in the shadows and survived by sucking blood.

Fate played a part later on. One of their kings copulated with a female human. The latter gave birth to an entirely new race. The monsters eventually died out and were replaced by their offspring. This was the origin of the Blood Race that most people believed in.

“Things have disappeared with time, the truths no longer matter to regular people. Only a few would benefit from knowing the origin.” He saw that she was ruminating on this topic.

“Which group would that be?” She looked up and asked.

The origin of the Blood Race was nothing more than a conversational topic in the present. However, only a few would find this significant.

“Those who want to surpass.” Li Qiye gazed at the horizon and said: “They want to exceed the limit of their race. Of course, only peak existences are allowed to search for this. Then there’s another small group...”

“Another small group?” She asked since Li Qiye paused. This only added to her curiosity. The first group was understandable but what about the second?

“Searching for the origin is not a good thing. It can cause devastating disasters.” He gazed at her and said.

Though she didn’t know what he was referring to, it must be a big deal coming from him.

“We’ll stop here regarding the Blood Race. Let’s talk about your cultivation instead.” He smiled.

She bowed towards him right away and said: "Young Noble, my meager cultivation isn't worth bringing up in your presence."

"It's fine, no need to hide anything. What do you think is your current ranking among the Ten Sword Prodigies?" He asked.

She pondered for a bit before answering honestly: "We rarely competed and have our own strong and weak points. I do not dare to carelessly comment."

"Top three." He said flatly.

"I will not let you down, Young Noble." She replied.

"What about first place?" He lazily stretched.

She looked at him and earnestly said: "Hmm, this assessment is not easy. Abyss Scion has one of the nine. It is the defining technique of Sea Emperor, virtually unstoppable. But when we're just talking about dao comprehension, Goldflow Young Noble of Virtuous School makes everyone feel inferior, the previous generation included."

She only mentioned Abyss Scion and Goldflow Young Noble out of the other nine.

"It's not difficult to overcome them." He smiled.

"Young Noble, I am not being unduly humble but I don't think it will be that simple." She smiled wryly.

"The Sword Breaker Dao from Wooden Sword Holy Devil is not the only thing you have." He explained: "Imagine your potential when you also cultivate the sword dao of Jade Bamboo Dao Lord due to your bloodline."

She thought that he knew everything about her sword dao and secrets after a single glance.

"Those two are excellent in their own way, my bloodline is special as well but it's not omnipotent." She said.

"That's a good mentality you have, wise beyond your years." He praised.

"No one should be considered wise in your presence, Young Noble." She bowed.

"What you lack is neither bloodline nor a sword dao. It is a lack of realization and focus." He explained.

"Young Noble, listening to the guidance of a supreme being such as yourself will benefit me for a lifetime." She bowed again.

"Flattering me again?" He chuckled.

She kept her head down, looking obedient and lovable.

"I won't mistreat you for serving me. This is a type of fate anyway." He said, agreeing to help her.

She became ecstatic and said: "Thank you, Young Noble. I will do everything in my power to repay this debt."

She knew that despite his meager cultivation, a piece of advice from him was worth more than anything.

“On this long path ahead, I will not be teaching you a supreme sword law or any grand dao. You’ll come to understand them in due time. But, I have something else immensely suitable for you. Now, it is yours, take your time learning it.” He said and took out an item.

She accepted it and took a look. She found it surprising since the gift was an old root.

It didn’t look like a peerless treasure but there was something inscrutable about it. She felt harmonization the moment she touched it, something originating from her source.

“This is...” She assumed that he would give her a mantra for comprehension, not a piece of root.

She was aware that a gift from Li Qiye would be extraordinary. It’s just that she didn’t have a clue right now.

“It doesn’t belong to this world.” Li Qiye looked up at the sky and said: “But the unexpected will always happen.”

His expression perplexed her. He seemed to be lost in remembrance.

Of course, this root was none other than the one given to Li Qiye by Tie Jian back in the antique shop.

After a while, Li Qiye stopped looking and told Ning Zhu: “Jade Bamboo Dao Lord, your ancestor, was a bamboo demon. This means that he was deeply related to the wood affinity. This root has the same origin and its mystery is beyond your imagination. Take your time learning and you won’t be disappointed.”

“I will not stop trying in order to live up to your expectations, Young Noble.” Ning Zhu bowed and said.

Chapter 4070: Mysterious Cellar

With Li Qiye’s guidance and time, Ning Zhu and the servants finally cleaned up the plain. The place didn’t return to its golden age but its buried foundation could finally be seen.

It resembled an ancient diagram with numerous intersecting lines and fortresses - this was the work of a godly creator.

One could say that this appeared to be a universe being engraved onto the ground. The lines were too confusing and obscured, enough to make spectators dizzy.

With this task finished, Li Qiye entered a hidden cellar inside the mansion. The descendants of the Tang didn’t have a clue about this cellar.

Perhaps the early generations had an idea about this cellar. As time passed, the method to open the cellar became lost.

To be exact, this cellar wasn’t a part of the mansion but rather, it was a part of the entire plain. Its very existence was created by a supreme power, not from physical digging.

From an architectural viewpoint, this cellar was the central hub, the very nucleus of the plain. All the lines and fortresses were built around and from this cellar.

“Crack!” When Li Qiye activated the door, the bricks on the ground started shifting into different spots - a process looking like a paper fan spreading.

“What is this place?” Ning Zhu didn’t notice the existence of this cellar at all.

Given her cultivation, her divine intents could have scanned the mansion countless times. A secret cellar wouldn’t have been able to escape her scout.

This meant that the creator must have used a powerful shielding method to hide the cellar. Their power far exceeded Ning Zhu.

“It’s a secret purposely guarded even from the descendants.” Li Qiye smiled and entered the cellar with Ning Zhu right behind him.

She was surprised to see the content, or rather, the lack of anything. The entire cellar was empty.

Since someone put in the effort to hide it, it should have contained a wondrous treasury of manuals and artifacts. This was not the case and she didn’t even spot a single coin on the ground.

“There’s nothing here.” She said. Of course, she wasn’t dumb enough to actually believe this and continued scouting the area.

She eventually noticed thousands of tiny holes on the walls, ceiling, and floor. They all had the same size and a square shape - clearly purposely added. The only thing disorderly were their positions. It was tough to pinpoint a pattern.

“What are they for?” She asked, unable to see the meaning behind the numerous holes.

The creator must have hid a great secret here. It’s just that she couldn’t see it right now.

“To store money.” Li Qiye smiled.

“Hmm?” She didn’t get it right away.

Li Qiye took out a square-shaped refined jade that was rather small in size. Chaos energy erupted right away. It exuded rays of light as if the jade contained a galaxy. The power greeting her was of the dao lord level.

“Dao Lord Refined Jades.” Ning Zhu had seen it before but was still surprised every time.

Not to mention regular cultivators, these jades were special and expensive even for her and her kingdom.

“Click.” Li Qiye inserted the square jade into a hole on the wall - a perfect match.

“I see, they’re used to store refined jades.” Ning Zhu understood right away.

Li Qiye then took out a bunch of square-shaped refined jades and told her: “Insert all of them.”

She followed his order and couldn't wait to see the secret hidden in this cellar. By the time she nearly finished, she found that there were more than ten thousand holes.

It became obvious why the Tang eventually lost access to this cellar. They stopped viewing it with importance because ultimately, they didn't have enough jades to fulfill this requirement.

Many cultivators tried their entire life and still wouldn't be able to touch one Dao Lord Refined Jade, let alone ten thousand.

Only someone like Li Qiye would carry so many with him at a time. As for Wooden Sword, this sum would be guarded in their safest treasury.

"Buzz." Once the last one was inserted, the refined jades in the holes became resplendent. The rays actually looked tangibly substantive and filled up the cellar from different angles. They began crossing and intertwining.