

Emperor 4081

Chapter 4081: The Price

A hundred thousand men or so were being tied up on the towers. This was an unforgettable spectacle for the crowd.

“This is really happening.” Someone commented.

Everyone observed from a distance instead of setting one foot in the plain. They didn’t want to share the same fate.

Hundred-blade Noble and the others gradually awakened. Confusion struck first then rage once they realized their current predicament.

They all came from famous clans yet they were being tied up naked right now before everyone. This was an unprecedented level of humiliation.

They struggled in order to break free. Alas, a seal restricted their vitality and energy so it was futile.

“Li, death before dishonor! Just kill me!” Hundred-blade roared furiously.

“No rush, no rush, you might want to die but I still need to make some money first.” Li Qiye smiled.

“Li Qiye, how dare you abduct and humiliate us! This is a crime deserving of nine-clan extermination!” Eight-armed Prince was livid and red.

This was his territory - the place where he enjoyed love and respect. Today, he no longer wanted to show his face to anyone.

“Armament Mountain will cut you to pieces and spare no one from your clan!” A few members of Armament roared as well.

“Keep going, I have plenty of time to stick around.” Li Qiye smiled and said.

They continued to yell while he relaxed on his chair, letting them go hoarse from screaming.

“Li, I dare you to fight me one-on-one!” Starshooter Prince eventually shouted.

Li Qiye shook his head: “A loser shouldn’t run his mouth pompously. Was the previous beating not enough? Must I break your arms and legs too?”

“You!!” Starshooter trembled with rage.

“What about me, Li Qiye? If I lose, you can do whatever, if I win, you must release them...” Hundred-blade interjected.

“Fish on the chopping board don’t get to negotiate.” Li Qiye interrupted: “Your sects can’t negotiate with me either. I will get what I want.”

“...” Hundred-blade was furious as well but the guy was indeed telling the truth.

“I will have my revenge one day...” He gritted his teeth.

Meanwhile, the mass continued to curse and scream at Li Qiye. Some started losing their voice.

Li Qiye didn't pay it any mind and continued to relax. Eventually, the screaming stopped as they lost their strength and motivation.

Their energy and vitality have been sealed so they were no different than mortals. The sun was high and if this continued, they would be dead soon enough.

“What is he doing?” A spectator asked.

“Just humiliating them, maybe?” Someone responded.

“No, he wants to extort Sea Emperor and Armament.” An expert familiar with Li Qiye answered.

“What? Is he tired of living?” Another blurted out.

These two were behemoths, especially Sea Emperor - the number one sect in Sword Continent. Extorting them was awfully unwise.

“It's true, he did something similar to Soaring Hawk Monarch back in Hallowed.” The expert was confident.

“The feud is already there, this doesn't really matter.” An ancestor added.

Those who heard the story regarding Ning Zhu knew that there was no going back between Li Qiye and Sea Emperor.

“How long has it been since someone dared to challenge Sea Emperor?” An old cultivator said softly.

The big shots exchanged glances, thinking that the odds were against Li Qiye.

“Wealth and schemes don't matter against Sea Emperor. Its resources and foundation are unfathomable, a new-rich like him has no chance.” One youth snorted.

The older experts refrained from commenting. If someone were to take down Sea Emperor, a fat piece of meat would suddenly become available for the taking. They actually wanted this to happen.

“Wow, so obedient now.” Li Qiye smiled after seeing the silence from the prisoners.

He then raised his finger and released two disciples, one from each sect.

“Bam! Bam!” They fell to the ground, confused.

He released their seal and said: “Go back and give them this message. If they want the hostages back, I'm not asking for much, only two-third of their treasury. They have five days before these guys are roasted.”

The two released disciples regained their wits and immediately ran away. It was impossible for them to save their allies. It was better to stay alive and just report to their seniors.

“Li, our Armament Mountain will never concede to your demand.” Eight-armed Prince coldly uttered.

“No big deal, I’ll just roast all of you then.” Li Qiye shrugged.

The prisoners trembled with rage but realized their helpless situation at this point.

“Two-third of their treasury? That’s pretty much two-third of their wealth.” A listener took a deep breath.

“Maybe not that much but it’s still a ridiculous demand.” A big shot smiled wryly.

Chapter 4082: Celestial Ape Demon King

The news of Li Qiye’s extortion astounded all listeners.

“Is this brat crazy and suicidal? He wants two-third as the ransom?” One expert said.

“He’s just different, always overbearing and haughty.” Another big shot became surprised.

“He thinks he can do whatever he wants now that he’s rich, even daring to go against Armament and Sea Emperor. He won’t last long.” One more snorted.

“Why is he doing this? Isn’t it better just to tuck his tail between his legs and enjoy his wealth?” An elder said.

All in all, everyone thought that it was unwise of him to create enemies everywhere. He was already set forever, never having to worry about money ever again.

His best option right now should be to lay low and not garner attention from others. On the other hand, he chose to offend the worst potential enemies.

“How will they retaliate?” Someone murmured.

“What else? They’ll have to kill him. There’s no way they’ll accept his demand.” Another answered.

This was also an issue of pride and reputation. Acquiescing here would ruin these sects. Moreover, spending two-third to save these men would weaken them considerably.

“Buzz.” While everyone was having these conversations, an arrow could be seen exploding in the sky. Sparks scattered and resembled illuminating stars.

A vast dao diagram emerged and an ancient voice could be heard.

“Li Qiye, release everyone now or nothing will be left of you in three days.” The voice left no room for negotiation as it echoed.

“That’s Starshooter King.” Everyone recognized him - the father of Starshooter Prince.

Starshooter Kingdom had maintained a strong stance against Li Qiye.

“See, they will not let him extort them.” An expert said. Most shared this view due to Li Qiye’s outrageous demand.

“Brat, release us now or when our real legion comes, you’ll be crushed.” Starshooter Prince took advantage of this opportunity to threaten Li Qiye.

“That’s fine, I’m bored anyway, I’ll kill whoever dares to come.” Li Qiye answered with a smile.

Listeners outside exchanged glances after hearing his confidence.

“Your death will be ugly...” Starshooter Prince uttered coldly since his threat didn’t work.

“Worry about yourselves first because if I get in a bad mood, I’ll light up a torch and turn you all into roast meat.” Li Qiye interrupted.

The prince had an ugly expression but decided to stop speaking. Li Qiye might actually go crazy and do so. That type of death would be too agonizing.

“Would Li Qiye be able to stop the incoming legions?” One spectator asked.

Both Armament and Starshooter had mighty legions consisting of elite disciples.

“Boom!” A pillar of light from Armament Mountain tore apart the sky. Waves of light rippled from the top, looking holy and making others want to prostrate.

“Rumble!” The ground suddenly shook violently as a massive figure emerged.

This was an old man with a human body and an ape head, adorned in full armor. His eyes were as bright as two suns; no one dared to look straight at him. His aura alone made their knees buckle.

“Celestial Ape Demon King, the first elder of Armament.” Someone took a deep breath after seeing him.

Eight-armed Prince was ecstatic to see him.

“The demon king is doing this himself?” Even the ancestors were wary of this character.

The first elder of Armament was once the national teacher of Starshooter for three generations. This was a testament to his ability and power.

“Let them go right now or face death.” His voice echoed and had more oomph compared to Starshooter King. A pressure descended on the plain, making it hard for the crowd to breathe.

“It’s starting soon.” The spectators gasped because Armament was right next to the plain.

The king didn’t need to arrive in person; the plain was already in range of his techniques.

“Make your move, I’m ready.” Li Qiye nonchalantly responded.

“Brat, die!” The demon king raised his hand and a massive, hairy palm manifested above the plain. Terrifying energies ravaged the sky and dao laws poured down like waterfalls.

Spectators immediately rushed away from the border in order to avoid being crushed to mincemeat by the palm.

“Last chance.” The king threatened.

Chapter 4083: Repel

“Boom!” The palm continued exerting tremendous pressure on the plain.

“He’s damn strong.” One expert remarked.

“Yes, the demon king is only second to the sect master at Armament.” His friend replied.

Though he was still ten thousand miles or so away, this palm strike was still insanely strong - enough to crush the average sect masters and ancestors.

“Final warning, release them or die.” Each of his words left no room for question and fully displayed his power. Of course, the palm strike by itself was more than enough.

“Enough, scram!” Li Qiye smiled and raised his hand.

The earth’s loop became resplendent and the plain resonated with it. The fortresses released energy waves that travel through the lines to reach the towers.

The towers released flames akin to erupting volcanoes. Their lights then gathered on Li Qiye, looking similar to a peacock spreading its tail. Each light had a different color.

“Boom!” The loop then shot out a pulsing beam with unparalleled power. The spatial fabrics were instantly torn apart; this scar could last forever.

The spectators became aghast right away, the same case with the demon king.

He immediately channeled his energy and grand dao power. True chaos energy poured down like a flood and could flatten the entire area.

Nonetheless, the beam didn’t relent at all against this mighty defense. It looked like a true dragon climbing up a waterfall, ready for its ascension.

The spectators took a deep breath or gasped after seeing this.

“Such impudence!” The demon king was furious. Though he wasn’t here in person, he still expressed the will of Armament Mountain yet Li Qiye dared to resist?

Moreover, he felt danger coming from that beam. Thus, he added dao laws and celestial power to that palm strike, increasing its potency to the limit.

“Boom!” The palm strike became as grand as the nine firmaments and pressed downward.

“Bye now.” Li Qiye said and the pulse turned bright enough to illuminate heaven and earth, becoming several times wider.

The dao laws and celestial power were useless. The demon king screamed in pain as blood rained down. Everyone saw the beam piercing through the palm and leaving a gaping wound. One could see the sky on the other side.

The palm suddenly pulled back and disappeared from sight. The demon king clearly lost this exchange and had to return to the sect.

Winds and clouds returned. The blood on the ground was the only thing left of the exchange earlier.

The crowd was speechless. Most thought that he was crazy for challenging Armament Mountain and Starshooter Kingdom. This was akin to throwing an egg at a rock.

Now, he easily won the first round. Albeit, the king didn't actually come in person.

"What kind of grand formation is this?" A clan member stared at the resplendent fortresses and towers.

The crowd knew that this formation allowed Li Qiye to repel the demon king. Its power was truly astonishing.

"I have no idea." A formation master from that clan replied after a careful observation: "I don't think it has anything to do with Armament Mountain, I don't see a connection between the two. Hmm, it seemed to be a part of the plain as well, not recently created. This means that the plain had access to it for a long time now."

"The progenitor of the Tang, maybe he created this too." Another brought this up.

"No wonder why Li Qiye spent so much for it. There are secrets here." One cultivator who saw the purchase in person said.

"Putting the treasury aside, this wondrous formation alone might be worth one hundred million." The formation master responded.

The big shots from the region were going crazy with regrets.

"I should have bought it, that clan master only asked for three million back then." A clan master remarked.

The plain was on sale for a long time now but no one wanted to purchase it. Alas, they saw its true potential now and blamed themselves for missing out.

"See, should stop thinking about being saved by your seniors." Li Qiye drank a cup offered by Dong Ling and smiled: "Gotta beg them to come up with the ransom amount or you'll die here."

The hostages didn't bother responding. They initially thought that the seniors would have no problem saving them. Unfortunately, Li Qiye had the upper hand, at least while fighting at the plain.

"If we die here, you won't have good times ahead anyway. Sea Emperor will not let this go so you'll have to stay at the plain forever." Hundred-blade Noble uttered coldly.

"I'm afraid you're mistaken." Li Qiye said: "I don't give a damn about your sect even when I leave the plain."

By this point, Hundred-blade was smart enough to know that Li Qiye was telling the truth. If he were afraid of their sects, he wouldn't have done any of this in the first place.

“Sigh, your ancestors should calm down and be smarter. I don’t really want to roast all of you since we’re from the same generation.” Dong Ling shook his head before taking another gulp.

The prisoners felt the same way and lamented their helpless situation. They could only pray that their seniors can come up with an incredible plan to save them.

Chapter 4084: Sky Spirit Starshooter

The demon king’s setback caught everyone by surprise. It became obvious that Li Qiye had a considerable home-court advantage despite top formation masters being unable to see through the mysteries of the plain.

He seemed capable of defeating Heavenly Sovereigns while staying at the plain.

“The stage is going to get bigger.” An older expert commented.

Both Armament Mountain and Starshooter Kingdom couldn’t concede to Li Qiye. However, he seemed capable enough to stand up for himself. Thus, a fierce battle was inevitable.

“Yes, this show will be brilliant.” Many couldn’t wait to watch.

Some ancestors would prefer a bloodbath so that these two powers would be weakened. They would have more chances for the formation and the treasury in that case.

“Buzz...” Millions of arrows suddenly appeared on the horizon, looking just like meteors.

“What the hell?!” Many spectators ran away, not wanting to be turned into beehives.

The river of arrows left behind long trails, looking like multi-colored rays. It was actually quite beautiful to watch if people weren’t too busy running away.

Once they were pinned on the ground, their light became denser. This culminated in a loud explosion. Once the light dispersed, people saw a bridge connecting the plain to another area.

“That’s in the direction of Starshooter.” An ancestor gazed at the other end of the bridge and saw Starshooter Kingdom.

“Their legion is coming.” Another expert had an easy prediction.

“Boom!” Sure enough, loud rumbles and bright lights came from the other side just like the opening of a treasury.

Of course, this was not the case. A great legion was crossing the bridge in order to arrive at the plain in a short time.

It consisted of a hundred thousand troops or so. Each wore resplendent armors that illuminate the sky above. Most importantly, this upper radiance gathered together to form two defensive wings.

It seemed as if while under their protection, the legion could handle any offense and defeat any enemy.

“Sky Spirit Legion, the royal troops of the kingdom. It’s their strongest.” One cultivator was surprised.

The progenitor of this kingdom was Starshooter Dao Lord who had a sky spirit bloodline. Thus, some descendants in this kingdom also shared this bloodline to a certain extent.

This legion specifically picked members with this bloodline. Not all of them were from the royal branches but still had some connections.

Bright spectacles accompanied this legion, making it seem like they came from above. Others couldn't help wanting to prostrate.

"Creak." An ancient chariot could be seen. It was embedded with treasures and dao protections, looking impressive in both defense and offense.

On top of the chariot was an old man sitting in the meditating pose. He wore a dragon robe and an imperial crest.

A bow was placed above his knees. Its aura could surpass the nine firmaments; it possessed enough force to pull the power of the world. The master of this bow should be able to slaughter all of his foes.

"Starshooter King!" Many recognized him right away: "And that's Sky Spirit Starshooter, a dao lord bow."

This bow was one of the defining treasures of their kingdom. Though Starshooter Dao Lord was also a sword user, this didn't lessen his versatility. For example, this bow was also a top weapon of his.

"Both the legion and the bow? The kingdom isn't playing around, this is almost all of their elites." An expert murmured.

The king himself led their top legion to battle. He seemed hellbent on taking down Li Qiye.

"Father!" Starshooter Prince shouted with joy after seeing his father. At the very least, his father didn't abandon him.

The king and the legion stopped outside the plain and saw the current state of the hostages.

This was a public humiliation - a disgrace to their kingdom. These elites could only wash it away with Li Qiye's blood.

Spectators were smart enough to move to the best spots for observing while maintaining safety. They also needed to be close enough to take advantage of the situation.

"Who will win?" Someone asked.

"Hard to say, Li Qiye has no chance alone but we don't know how strong this grand formation is." An old cultivator replied.

This grand formation was unknown to the world so it was tough to evaluate this battle.

"Do you know the consequence of insulting our people?" The king glared at Li Qiye.

“No idea.” Li Qiye nonchalantly said.

“Death.” To which the king responded.

“Wow, come then, all of you, I’m itching for a warm-up.” Li Qiye smiled.

The crowd exchanged glances, wondering about the source of Li Qiye’s confidence.

The king glared at him; the atmosphere became awfully tense.

Suddenly, the former’s expression relaxed and became friendly. He said: “Youths are always impetuous and headstrong, this is inevitable. If you let them go, I’ll drop everything else.”

His sudden shift in attitude caught everyone off guard.

Chapter 4085: 80,000 Beast Demon Legion

In fact, even the members of his legion didn’t expect the king to act in this manner. They came with aggression in mind, ready to flatten the plain.

Plus, the king was also imperious at the start. No one had a clue why he decided to change his mind.

“What is going on?” One expert murmured.

“Yes, what an abrupt change.” A young cultivator became frustrated. Most wanted to see a real battle, not a negotiation.

“It’s about winning without having to fight.” A clan master said.

Others agreed with this notion. The king personally led his legion in order to show the power of his kingdom. This was to let Li Qiye and everyone else know about their destructive potential, that they could unleash retribution upon anyone daring to hurt their members.

Thus, the king’s change in attitude allowed Li Qiye a way to give up after seeing the potential future ahead.

“Starshooter using everything it has to defeat a junior, this type of victory wouldn’t be considered glorious at all.” One ancestor analyzed: “But they have no other choice due to this grand formation, easy for the defense and hard for the invaders. Failing here would ruin their reputation that has taken generations to build, so this is an easier way to deal with the situation.”

Others agreed with him and waited for Li Qiye’s response.

“You’re smart but still not smart enough, unable to grasp the situation. I won’t let go of the hostages because of this. Your best choice is to listen and hand over two-third of your treasury. Otherwise, be ready to smell some roasted meat.” Li Qiye chuckled before answering.

The members of the army were furious since they considered this as arrogance and ignorance - a blatant insult.

“Show some respect!” A general roared.

The king gestured for the generals to stop. Otherwise, they might have rushed into the plain.

“Your demand is unreasonable. No one in the world would agree to this, let alone our prestigious kingdom!” Starshooter King said.

The generals, soldiers, and even the spectators nodded in agreement.

No one would acquiesce to Li Qiye’s demand. Doing so would throw their reputation in Sword Continent away. They wouldn’t be able to look at anyone with their head held high.

“That’s your business.” Li Qiye smiled: “Feel free to refuse, just get ready to smell some roasted meat.”

“Li! Do whatever you want with us but just know that there will be no place for you to go! Sea Emperor will make sure of it!” Hundred-blade Noble roared.

Starshooter King agreed with him and said: “You need to reconsider. You might have the upper hand today but this will not last forever. I’m afraid disasters are coming for you.”

This wasn’t an exaggeration since Sea Emperor Sword Kingdom would join the fray eventually. Hundred-blade Noble’s master was an elder there. The latter would certainly try to avenge him.

This was before taking Armament Mountain into account as well.

“Who cares about the future? I live for today.” Li Qiye laughed: “Everyone dies eventually, whether it be tomorrow or another day. It is inevitable, so I shall enjoy life whilst I can and make it interesting by taking two armies down with me.”

Though the crowd was left speechless by his mentality, they thought that there was a sliver of logic in this. He was trading himself versus all the hostages. That seemed like a great trade.

“Take one step back and everyone wins, especially you.” The king uttered coldly.

“You seem to be misunderstanding something. I have all the cards right now and all you can do is say yes.” Li Qiye said: “Go back from whence you came if the negotiation is over, lest you want to smell some meaty aroma.”

The king’s expression became unsightly. Li Qiye seemed hellbent on keeping this up.

“Brat, don’t ask for a foot when giving an inch or you’re dead!” Another general shouted.

“What are you waiting for if you don’t wish to pay the ransom? Come get them, I don’t mind killing some more.” Li Qiye smiled.

“I have shown all the mercy I can but you chose the gates of hell instead of heaven’s door...” The king glared at him.

“I got it, come, let’s see how long you can last.” Li Qiye interrupted him.

Fury spewed out of the king’s eyes. His legion roared and readied their weapons and shields.

“Boom!” This heated atmosphere was certainly interrupted by the creaking of a heavy gate opening.

“Rumble!” Next came violent quakes and dust storms everywhere.

Everyone saw the legion of Armament Mountain rushing forward with the force of a tsunami. Its momentum assaulted the plain first.

It consisted of various demons - large serpents with a human upper half. Another was a great centipede demon with golden legs, then a tiger king as large as a mountain with fangs as sharp as blades...

“Raa!” They let out intimidating roars while crushing the terrains in their way.

“So many demons, is this Armament Mountain’s legion?” Many experts turned pale.

The Sky Spirit Legion of Starshooter was quite powerful. However, it lacked ferocity in comparison.

“80,000 beast demons, this is a great legion in Armament Mountain. It is under the control of their First Elder.” A high elder from another clan revealed.

Armament Mountain recruited from many races with humans and demons primarily in charge.

This didn’t use to be the case until God Ape Dao Lord. They started recruiting more demons and God Ape Kingdom became a top branch, not inferior to the main branch in the slightest.

Chapter 4086: Battle Soon

The beast legion instilled fear into the spectators. However, this was only the strongest legion under the first elder. It wasn’t the strongest in Armament Mountain. This was a testament to this sect’s power.

Though Armament Mountain only had two dao lords, it still withstood the test of time. There must be reasons for this and they couldn’t be underestimated.

“Boom!” The sky turned dark and people saw the bottom of a foot first. It stomped the border of the plain in a shocking fashion.

This great demon appeared before everyone. Sure, the plain was right next to Armament Mountain. However, it was still thousands and thousands of miles away. Nonetheless, this demon only needed one step to reach this place.

His head touched the sky and couldn’t be seen by the naked eyes. He was an ape with furs as long as waterfalls. Dao halos circled around him.

It was as if his body was a power source capable of creating new dao and worlds. Just one wave of his hand could annihilate a region.

“Celestial Ape Demon King!” People shuddered while staring at him.

He was currently serving as the first elder of Armament and used to be the national teacher of God Ape Kingdom for three consecutive generations. There was a chance that he could be as strong as Starshooter King, or at least extremely close.

Nonetheless, his appearance struck the crowd harder.

Starshooter King was obviously mighty and had a regal aura, looking like a crane among a flock of chickens. On the other hand, the demon simply had a monstrous body. His breathing alone let out gales and tornadoes.

Because of this, weaker cultivators falsely assumed that he was stronger than the king.

All in all, this alliance against Li Qiye became quite impressive. Not to mention a single cultivator, even a sect would be terrified.

“Two legions and two powerful sovereigns. Can Li Qiye’s grand formation handle this?” A cultivator asked.

“We’ll see soon enough. If the formation fails, it’ll be over for Li Qiye. More people will go for him.” A high elder replied.

At the present, no one dared to invade the plain because of the grand formation. However, when Li Qiye fell into a disadvantage, they would certainly want a piece of the pie.

“No, Li Qiye is insane. Maybe he’ll be able to route both legions. Just watch, everything will end quickly.” One ancestor said.

Only a few hoped for Li Qiye’s victory. The majority wanted to see him lose so that the legacy would be available again. Just a little bit from it would be enough to last a lifetime.

“Hurry up and fight already.” Another gloated, ready to see a bloodbath.

The two legions remained outside the plain. Their commanders’ eyes were fixated on the fortresses and towers.

This was especially true for Celestial Ape Demon King. He was quite frustrated due to the lack of information on the plain. They never realized its value in the past. These fortresses and towers seemingly appeared overnight.

He and the king exchanged glances, unable to fathom the formation and its source. Thus, they certainly lacked confidence in a direct attack.

“Junior, it’s not too late to give up or there will be no place for you to go in this world...” The demon king uttered.

“The world is where I am.” Li Qiye interrupted him: “This is quite simple, fight or pay the ransom? Just pick one and start already, stop wasting time.”

The demon king turned red but no one saw it to his large stature and hairy face. Being disrespected by a junior was both new and unacceptable to him.

“We’ll see how long you can last, brat.” He roared then swung his hand forward: “Start.”

Two battalions of the demon army started marching. However, they didn’t directly enter the plain but rather moved around its border.

At first, spectators thought that this was a surrounding maneuver to trap Li Qiye. However, this wasn't the case since they only stood still. This no longer became a surprise pincer.

The king's command seemed to be weakening his formation, making it easier for Li Qiye to win. People couldn't understand his choice.

"Buzz." Suddenly, roots came out of the members from the two battalions and started drilling into the ground.

"They're plant and tree-based demons." The spectators gradually got a good idea of their goal.

Things seemed to be moving rapidly beneath the plain, evident by the trails on top of the soil. Eventually, these roots dug out of the ground and started growing bigger, looking like serpents.

This phenomenon happened as far as the eye can see. Tentacle-like roots have taken over.

"That looks so gross." One spectator felt his scalp tingling.

They began coiling around the coordinate lines, fortresses, and towers - looking like pythons killing their prey.

"The demon king wants to stop or destroy this formation from underground." The spectators knew his true intent.

"Is it actually possible?" One expert wondered while staring at the countless roots and vines surrounding the buildings.

Chapter 4087: Ninth

"Activate!" The plant demons scattered around the border released their vitality and grand dao power in order to destroy the supreme formation.

Unfortunately, they found that their effort was useless - unable to shake or damage the buildings in the slightest.

"They're immovable, are they a part of the plain now?" One expert was surprised to see the roots failing.

"Yes, it's a perfect fusion. They will not be separated unless something is strong enough to obliterate the entire plain. However, destruction is impossible without taking care of the formation first." A formation master shook his head.

"So there's no way?" A cultivator nearby didn't buy it.

"Of course there's a way, you just need someone far stronger than this formation and use absolute strength to beat it." The ancestor replied.

Listeners exchanged glances, aware that very few in Sword Continent could be stronger than this supreme formation.

The impending failure infuriated and frightened Celestial Ape Demon King. He didn't expect them to fail utterly.

"Stop wasting energy." Li Qiye smiled and flipped his hand. The earth's loop became bright and the buildings resonated with it.

Rays of light came out of them and acted like divine swords. The disciples on the border didn't feel anything at first. Alas, it was too late once they noticed.

"Boom!" The roots and plants suddenly exploded. This sent the original users flying and vomiting blood.

With this, the spectators had a better idea of how hard it was to beat this formation.

"This is gonna be bloody. Li Qiye has all the advantages at the moment, they have to pay a heavy price." One older expert said.

"If this is all you can do, then just pack up and leave. It's truly suicidal." Li Qiye smiled.

Starshooter King and Celestial Ape Demon King had an ugly expression. The latter looked worse because he had lost twice so far. This was extremely humiliating for a famous character like himself.

They stared at each other and nodded in unison.

"To formation!" Both shouted.

"To formation!" The members of their legions roared thunderously. It felt as if the world was shaking from the intensity of their voice.

"Clank! Clank!" The glints of weapons illuminated the region. Both legions gave off the impression that they could break anything.

Spectators trembled, thinking that they were mere ants in comparison. Nonetheless, fear didn't diminish their excitement for the battle.

"They're about to launch the offense." One expert said.

"There's no other way outside of a direct attack. They don't want to pay the ransom." A clan elder nodded.

Everyone knew that Li Qiye's asking price was ridiculous and no sects would accept it.

"Clank!" A sword hymn suddenly forced their weapons to resonate back and interrupted the tense atmosphere.

A divine sword descended, seemingly piercing their heart deep. Some felt a sharp pain and had to cry out.

It pinned onto the ground first then its master landed subsequently. The two have reached a state of oneness. The landing resulted in a huge pit with mud flying everywhere. This was quite a flashy entrance.

The newcomer slowly stood up and revealed himself to be a rather skinny middle-aged man. He wore a black robe with his hair draping down freely. His expression and gaze were cold and devoid of any ripple.

He was exactly like the blade in his hand - a tool for murder, black as ink from top to bottom. Its cold gleam inflicted pain to the spectators.

The legendary state of oneness with the sword was in full display in this case.

“Eighth!” An ancestor bellowed after seeing him.

Even the imperious Celestial Ape Demon King and Starshooter King became alarmed.

“Eighth of Sword God Sacred Ground!” This title struck fear into the listeners regardless of whether they had met him before.

“Ninth.” The middle-aged man uttered emotionlessly.

“Ninth?! He has finished the ninth sword then!” The big shots understood the significance of this title.

“Ninth... Why is he here?!” People stopped calling him “Eighth” right away.

“I thought he had disappeared...” A youth shuddered.

“Yes, after slaying seven sect masters in a row.” An older cultivator said.

“I thought he died from injuries from that last battle, here he is now, with the ninth sword finished.” One ancestor said.

“So this is a member of Sword God Sacred Ground.” Someone else brought this up.

In the contemporary, several sects reigned supreme - Sea Emperor Sword Kingdom as the strongest, Sword Temple with its unfathomable foundation, Virtuous School for its popularity...

However, anyone from these sects, including their successor, would become afraid after hearing about the sacred ground.

This sect was rather unique due to its lack of disciples - only three or so. This number could even go down to one.

Chapter 4088: Sword God Sacred Ground

The lack of disciples didn't affect the sect's prestige in the slightest. In fact, it was notorious across Eight Desolaces.

Sea Emperor Sword Kingdom commanded respect but the sacred ground instilled fear.

The most fitting character to describe the sacred ground was “kill”. This was an ancient lineage that might be older than anything in Sword Continent.

It wasn't an assassin guild but operated in a similar manner. Rumor has it that it has been around since the last epoch but historians couldn't pinpoint a particular era. This was rather impressive given its few members.

Some sources talked about its monstrous progenitor - an Immortal Emperor, that his title was used to stop children from crying at night. [1]

Of course, most exploits and tales of this sect have disappeared from the river of time. It also hasn't produced a dao lord yet during the new epoch but this didn't make it less intimidating.

Their progenitor created an unstoppable sword art consisting of thirteen variations. All members of the sect were eligible to learn it.

They didn't use their own name but rather, what stage they were at. For example, those who have learned the first technique would be known as First, the second as Second...

The strongest ancestor of this sect was Thirteenth, a person who successfully learned all the variations.

He fought against the dao lord of his generation - Bone Dao Lord. This battle ended in mutual destruction and shocked the world. This played a large part in the sacred ground's notoriety.

Bone Dao Lord was exceptional and mighty, using bones as the main dao. However, Thirteenth still managed to kill him. This should be a sign of the sword technique's destructive potential.

Later on, some believed that Bone Dao Lord was someone who could come back to life. This remained a mystery but it didn't affect Thirteenth's fame.

The current successor of the sacred ground was the man ahead. He used to be known as Eighth and disappeared after killing numerous sect masters.

Most thought that he was already dead - either in the last battle or from the grievous injuries.

Today, he showed up again and had become "Ninth", meaning that he had reached the next step.

Ninth's eyes swept across the field. Some couldn't handle his gaze and staggered backward. They felt an unbearable murderous intent. It was as if he was looking at dead corpses even though they were clearly alive and well.

"I have come to fight Sect Master Shi." He glared at the demon king.

The demon king had met stronger cultivators than Ninth before. However, there was something truly dreadful about this swordsman.

"The sect master is in isolated cultivation, please pick another time." He took a deep breath and responded.

"He wants to fight Sect Master Shi, his goals are the Six Kings and Six Sect Masters." People understood why he was here.

"How many will he kill this time?" Even the big shots felt fear.

The members of the sacred ground had similar characteristics and personalities - merciless and solitary. Their blades must taste blood once unsheathed - this must have something to do with their chosen sword technique. The only thing that mattered to them was to prove their dao through killing.

Of course, this didn't mean that they were mass murderers. They only wanted to kill the right foes - usually powerful cultivators.

After picking their targets, they would challenge and kill them in order to hone their sword dao. The criteria had nothing to do with existing feuds and vendetta. In fact, the targets might even be their friends or benefactors.

As long as the targets were deemed as best for dao improvements, they would be chosen.

Some considered them as assassins and even offered sky-high prices. They never agreed since money didn't matter.

Today, Ninth was here to fight Shi Yingxue - his chosen target.

This wasn't surprising because ordinary masters were no longer worthy. Only top fighters could help him become stronger, such as the Six Kings and Six Sect Masters. The next on the list would be the Five Ancestors.

"Would Sect Master Shi agree?" The crowd started talking.

"She's famous alongside Peace Ocean Sword King. Her power is far above the average ancestor now." Another replied.

The Six Kings were far stronger than the Ten Prodigies due to the age gap. The crowd wondered about the victor between these two.

"Not in the sect last time, now in isolated cultivation?" Ninth glared at Celestial Ape Demon King.

The demon king felt the same fear as everyone else. He hurriedly responded: "Our sect master is really in one right now, please pick a different date."

The demon king was imperious no longer, feeling quite nervous while being questioned.

Nonetheless, the sect master was indeed in isolated cultivation. She wasn't around when Ninth came last time. Now, the moment she returned, the sect told her to do so.

First, it might be an excuse to dodge the challenge. Second, this might improve her cultivation enough to fight him when all else failed. This was a well-thought-out plan.

Chapter 4089: Slaughtering Slash

Everyone knew that Ninth's sword would need to taste blood. Thus, this battle would end with someone dead.

They didn't know whether Shi Yingxue was hiding from Ninth or just buying time to recuperate.

"Today." Ninth ignored the demon king's suggestion. Though there was no hint of emotion in his voice, he clearly left no room for negotiation.

He was the embodiment of the sword - always ready to pierce someone's heart. Thus, it was difficult to refuse him.

The listeners took a deep breath after hearing his determination to fight.

“This is a chaotic period and our sect is busy dealing with a scourge.” The demon king could hold back no longer and barked back: “Sir, leave and return another day!”

Starshooter King joined in as well: “No need to be in such a hurry, Armament Mountain won’t go anywhere so your fight will happen eventually. We are occupied right now.”

Ninth didn’t need to be told and still understood the situation.

“Buddha will come out once I kill a few monks.” He uttered coldly.

“What is your intention?” The demon king’s expression darkened. He felt something ominous incoming.

“Make your move.” Ninth glared at the legion of Armament Mountain then bluntly stated.

Not to mention the demon king, even the neutral spectators knew what was about to happen. Alas, no one dared to stand up to this monster.

“I’m afraid you’ll be disappointed if you want to fight us. Our official business is not finished so we won’t fight you just because of face.” The demon king said.

“We have to save our disciples first, please stand aside.” Starshooter King interjected.

“So be it.” Ninth replied then raised his sword.

“Clank!” Everyone became afraid of this cultivator gathering energy. They thought that he was about to attack the legions.

Both Celestial Ape Demon King and Starshooter King grabbed their weapon and were ready to fight this mighty enemy.

“Whoosh!” However, Ninth’s targets weren’t the duo. His slash swept through the plain, seemingly flattening it.

The ropes tying up the three geniuses and their allies were severed from this single slash. Its precision astounded the crowd.

Strangely enough, Li Qiye didn’t bother trying to stop it and only watched.

“Bam! Bam! Bam!” The captives fell to the ground from the towers.

No one expected Ninth to save them. This swordsman was always alone and only cared about the sword. Saving people was not part of his *modus operandi*.

Meanwhile, people were still surprised at Li Qiye’s inaction.

“Run!” The captives were ecstatic and didn’t expect a stranger to save them instead of the seniors. They immediately got up and started running away from the plain.

“Thank you, Sir, for this kind favor!” Both Celestial Ape Demon King and Starshooter King expressed their gratitude.

"I'm not saving them." Ninth turned around to look at the fleeing captives and said: "Be ready to block my slash."

The runners, the kings, and even the spectators were caught off guard by this.

"Clank!" A sword hymn and a sharp aura engulfed the area.

"Sh*t!" Both the kings bellowed: "On guard now!"

The incoming aura horrified the fleeing captives. They immediately gathered energy and vitality, resulting in loud explosions.

Ninth finally made his move and raised his sword, leaving afterimages along the way. Thousands of ethereal swords appeared around him.

People sensed something formless and emotionless - murder was the only thing driving this technique.

"First variation, Compassionless!" An ancestor recognized the first move.

The swords then flew out with the speed of light, ready to unleash fatalities.

"Ahhh! Ahhh..." Waves of screams resounded.

The majority of the captives couldn't block or dodge in time so the ethereal swords pierced their chest. The three geniuses also felt death coming for them.

Hundred-blade raised his hand and swords rained down to create a barrier. Starshooter Prince relied on his movement technique, becoming as fast as a shooting star in order to dodge the flying swords. Eight-armed Prince roared and decided to meet the swords head-on with eight palm strikes.

"Stop!" Both kings roared thunderously and made their move as well, choosing to attack Ninth.

The members of the legions also summoned their weapons and did the same. However, the attack was just too fast. Both dodging and blocking simply didn't work.

"Ahh!" The three geniuses suffered the same fate as their men. Their eyes remained wide open and were filled with unwillingness and despair, not expecting to die after seeing a glimpse of hope.

Chapter 4090: Emotionless

They finally got away from Li Qiye but their supposed savior killed them. As colors started leaving their face, blood also gushed out of their chest.

Struggling was useless. The weaker captives didn't even have time to react and had no idea that death had come for them.

Nonetheless, some fish still escaped the net and was drenched in cold sweat. That was a trip to hell and back.

"Boom!" At the same time, treasures and weapons assaulted Ninth.

The two kings went mad after seeing their dead disciples and unleashed their strongest attacks.

“Boom!” The world shook violently with sparks flying akin to numerous volcanos erupting.

Alas, one could still hear the hymn of a sword through the cacophony. Ninth’s sword could pierce through the myriad realms.

Spectators saw a majestic grand dao as Ninth turned around with incredible speed and easily stopped everything with one move.

Two legions have launched their offense - this was devastating enough to destroy the region. However, Ninth’s horizontal slash served as an unbreakable barrier.

“Clank!” He shifted from defense into offense - one sword became thousands and thousands again.

An overwhelming net of swords engulfed the battlefield and massacred both legions. Tens of thousands died right away with gaping holes on their body.

“Second variation, Emotionless!” The previous ancestor gasped.

Ninth had only used two variations so far yet he still frightened the crowd with his brutality.

The two legions were here to invade the plain. They didn’t expect to lose more than half of their men in this manner.

“Retreat, maintain the lines!” Both kings ordered a regroup.

Blood dripped down the tip of Ninth’s sword as he stood and glanced at the corpses like a god of death. This didn’t affect his mental state.

Spectators thought that few in Sword Continent could be as merciless as him.

The air became tense. Both the combatants and the spectators held their breath. They had heard of Ninth before but seeing him in action was a different story.

The two kings had an ugly expression due to this unfavorable deviation from their initial plan. This was an unacceptable loss to both sects and Li Qiye was no longer the primary target.

“You have no regard for lives.” Celestial Ape Demon King stated, still feeling fear.

“Swords are meant to kill.” Ninth didn’t think much of it; everyone else besides him was no different than a corpse in his eyes.

Normally, people would chastise a mass murderer and brand him as a devil or monster. Such descriptions didn’t describe here.

Ninth came to kill. Whether it be one or a million didn’t matter to him. There was a certain purity to his conduct.

“Your turn.” He told the survivors.

The demon king staggered backward and said: "Why must you kill the innocent? Just wait for a duel between you and the sect master!"

He clearly didn't want to fight Ninth.

"Is he afraid?" A youth asked after seeing the imperious demon king act so cowardly.

"Not necessarily, he just doesn't want to die for no reason. After all, Ninth is looking for Shi Yingxue." An older expert said.

"Is there a difference? Shouldn't he be helping her?" The youth whispered.

Most sects would never let anyone get close to their sect master without putting up a fight. Such a scenario would invoke solidarity and teamwork.

As for the demon king, he insisted on letting Shi Yingxue fight Ninth.

"Armament Mountain has two main factors." The ancestor simply responded.

Sure enough, Shi Yingyue represented the branch belonging to Armament Dao Lord. Humans were in control of this branch. As for the demon king, he belonged to the God Ape Kingdom's branch where demons had control.

Thus, Ninth's challenge was actually good news. If Shi Yingxue were to die in battle, they would be able to take over. This was especially true for him, considering his post as the first elder.

Therefore, it would be idiotic for him to fight Ninth right now. There was a serious risk of dying. All of his effort to get to his current position would be in vain.

"Once again, Buddha will show up after I kill enough monks." Ninth coldly said.

Since Shi Yingxue was in an isolated training session, he just needed to kill enough people to force her out.