

Emperor 4091

### **Chapter 4091: Existential Battle**

Ninth could only be stopped with death. Once becoming his target, they would be hunted till the very end.

He didn't mind killing their fellow sect members and families in order to force a fight. Criticisms and chastises didn't faze him.

This has been the way of the Sword God Sacred Ground. Thus, their members were viewed as death incarnates despite not being assassins.

Shi Yingxue was his current target. If she were to refuse, Ninth would kill his way through Armament Mountain. Thus, Celestial Ape Demon King and the others were quite unlucky.

They wanted to deal with Li Qiye yet Ninth came out of nowhere. Most of the captives have been killed as well.

"How about this, we will meet you this time tomorrow?" The demon king wanted to retreat to Armament Mountain first.

He knew he couldn't take Ninth on. Otherwise, he might have been the target instead of their sect master.

Moreover, he didn't wish to fight in her place despite being from the same sect. There was a high probability of her death in battle. In that case, the armament branch would decline as a result of having no one truly strong as their representative.

As the current first elder, he could even become the next sect master or at least gain more authority.

Because of this, he didn't want to catch the hot potato. He didn't think about avenging the fallen disciples either nor worry about Li Qiye. Staying alive was the top priority.

"Why not now? I will kill you all first before coming to Armament Mountain." Ninth uttered coldly.

People could smell the stench of blood and the scene of carnage already after listening to him.

"So this is a member of Sword God Sacred Ground..." Someone murmured, having realized how frightening they were. No wonder why people whispered their titles with fear.

The demon king dreaded this development and turned pale. Ninth's insistence left him in a difficult position. He had already conceded just now but Ninth didn't let up.

Ultimately, the first elder should still uphold the sect's prestige and authority. He couldn't fully surrender and had to maintain an air of dignity. A battle seemed inevitable now.

"Enough, our Armament Mountain isn't that easily bullied. If you insist on being the aggressor, we'll show you what we can do!" He roared.

His allies were gazing at him, wanting to see his choice after Ninth had killed so many of their peers. His prior concession teetered on a dangerous line. Being too subservient would destroy his reputation even if he were to return to the sect alive. That's why keeping up a strong act was still crucial.

"Perfect." Ninth said while raising his sword again.

The demon king had no response, this seemed to be the end of their conversation.

"Demon King, let's kill him!" Starshooter King bellowed, eager to fight Ninth despite not being a target.

The difference between the two kings was that Starshooter had lost his son. Vengeance was powerful motivation.

On the other hand, Eight-armed Prince was only a member of his kingdom. Losing one prince wasn't a big deal.

Starshooter King was aware of this and decided to drag a potential ally into the fray. This made it even more difficult for the demon king to back off.

"..." He pondered without responding.

Starshooter didn't wait and commanded: "To formation, we will slay our enemy even if it's the last thing we do!"

"Slay the enemy even if it's the last thing we do!" Both legions roared and returned to their formation.

Ninth caught them off guard earlier so they were ready to give it a shot.

"Brothers, lend me your strength!" Starshooter returned to his post and would fight regardless of the demon king's choice.

"Good, all come together." Ninth pointed his sword forward.

As for the demon king, his beast legion had already started moving to battle. If he were to escape alone, he would absolutely lose his position as the first elder.

He regretted coming here to save Eight-armed Prince, having thought that this would be an easy way to gain recognition.

"A fight to the death." A spectator in the distance became excited.

Ninth frightened them but since they weren't involved in this mess, they were more than happy to watch a fun show. They would also learn many things after seeing his swordsmanship.

"Do they have a chance?" An expert asked.

One ancestor shook his head and gauged the situation: "No, Ninth has taken the next step. I'm afraid it's looking bad for the Six Kings and Six Sect Masters, let alone these two."

"We get to see some of the famous thirteen variations today." One swordsman said.

“Maybe even the ninth?” His friend was overwhelmed with anticipation.

The thirteen slash allowed Thirteenth to kill a dao lord. Though the ninth variation was far from being comparable, it was still a rare spectacle.

“I’ve never seen it before.” A high elder responded.

“Elder!” Meanwhile, a general in the beast legion shouted at the demon king after seeing his hesitation.

“Till death then!” The demon king stomped the ground and returned to his post. His hands were tied due to the circumstances.

“Start!” He commanded.

The members of the beast legion released their vitality and became resplendent. They roared and transformed back into their true form.

### **Chapter 4092: Heartless**

“It’s finally starting.” Spectators watched with bated breath since the battle was starting.

Ninth was all alone against two legions but his cold and distant expression remained. No one liked being gazed at in this manner; they felt as if they were dead men walking.

“Boom!” The beast legion had finished channeling their formation. Runes appeared on the ground and created a massive diagram.

It released boundless light just like the opening of an immortal gate. Each member became a part of this formation.

Celestial Ape Demon King’s vitality was as vast as an ocean, ready to drown everything.

“Rumble!” Dao runes, chaos energy, and vitality mixed together to form a maelstrom.

This monstrous accumulation of energy entered the demon king. He became larger than ever before with a layer of armor added. He became an ape, tall enough to grasp the celestials.

The armor was made from dao laws, looking like thick chains coiling around him. He became brimming with energy and destruction.

Various images of ancient and primal beasts appeared behind him. He looked like the ruler of them all.

“Myriad Beast Formation!” Someone with a deep knowledge of Armament Mountain shouted.

This formation was found by God Ape Dao Lord during his youth. He came across a hidden treasury by chance in a valley. It included this grand formation.

The demon king and his legion were doing a commendable job using it.

At the same time, Starshooter King's legion also exuded a starry glow. The lights rushed to the sky and turned into an engulfing inferno. Similar to the demon king's formation, this inferno illuminated Starshooter King.

He accepted its power and the refinement process. He turned into a pulsing celestial being. The seal on his forehead became clearer and more defined. He gained a pair of light wings.

Once they spread, he appeared to be a holy and supreme being - like an angel from above possessing incredible power.

The bow named Sky Spirit Starshooter in his hand trembled once and the world trembled with it. When he pulled the string back, people felt as if he was controlling the mysteries of the world.

They also felt their soul being affected by it - a truly frightening sensation.

"A dao lord weapon is peerless indeed." They were intimidated already from a slight movement of the bow.

Even the strongest weapon at the sovereign level had a hard time competing with dao lord weapons.

"Raa!" The ape-form demon king summoned a rod as large as a mountain range, spanning for thousands of miles.

His roar destroyed peaks and forests, rupturing weaker cultivators' eardrums.

He smashed downward and crushed space along the way. Minor spatial holes appeared along the way.

"Damn!" Spectators bellowed in astonishment since this was just a physical smash without merit law augmentation.

"That's the first elder of Armament for you." Another ancestor praised.

Regardless of the demon king's personality and character, this smash embodied absolute power.

"Die!" Starshooter King pulled the string all the way back and swords manifested.

That's right, the bow used swords instead of arrows. Thousands of swords hovered in the air. The aura of a dao lord oozed down like a flood to the horror of the spectators.

Everyone became suffocated by the immense pressure. Some fell on their knees, unable to stand up again.

"Clank!" The flying swords pierced through the spatio-temporal fabrics while launching at Ninth.

The rod of the demon king could crush the world while these flying swords seemed unstoppable in the same manner. Spectators thought that not even an immortal could survive.

As for Ninth, he had zero reaction while looking at the incoming attack and retaliating.

He raised his sword and everyone felt as if their chest had been penetrated. "Sharp" was the focus of this technique. Resisting was futile.

“Third variation, Heartless!” The experts shouted right away.

“Rumble!” Fiery sparks scattered, resulting in a cataclysm. Cultivators nearby were sent flying by the shock waves. Some vomited blood, unable to withstand the impact.

“So strong!” They turned pale after witnessing this.

### **Chapter 4093: Holy**

Many unfortunate souls were just too close to the battle. They learned their lesson after losing some blood, having underestimated the large-scale effects from a battle of this magnitude.

They then saw the colossal ape staggering backward repeatedly. Starshooter King was trembling uncontrollably as well. He would have been pushed back without the help of the legion behind him.

Alas, his expression darkened since he noted a shallow sword mark on his bow. Earlier, he used the bow to block Ninth’s slash. The guy actually managed to damage a dao lord bow made from divine metals.

Thus, his sword was most likely something incredible as well, not inferior to the bow in the slightest.

Ninth finally changed his stance. He floated up in the air and gazed at his foe without exuding any aura. Just his emotionless expression alone intimidated people. This god of death could reap any life including the two kings.

“Ninth is so strong!” It became apparent that this swordsman was far stronger than the two kings together.

“No wonder why he dares to challenge the Six Kings, he is qualified to do so.” An expert murmured.

“Yes, I think he might be stronger than those six too.” An ancestor said: “We’ve only seen the third slash, the ninth slash will be something else.”

Others took a deep breath and felt their scalp tingling. He seemed unstoppable after showing just three slashes. There were still six to go.

The two kings exchanged glances; both had a stoic look. The round earlier told them plenty about the future. They didn’t even think they could make it till the ninth slash.

Alas, escaping was not an option. First, there was a high probability of the opponent being faster and killing them anyway. Second, in the case of success, they might be able to stay alive but would lose everything else.

Their rumination didn’t last long since Ninth attacked again. It became too late for them to flee.

“Sixth variation!” He roared.

Swords appeared sequentially behind him, seemingly imprinting themselves into all three thousand worlds. Size and distance no longer served as constraints.

His voice echoed and a holy presence took over. It seemed as if he had reached the next level and became transcendent. All living beings were nothing more than tributes to him.

“Holy is the name of this variation.” An ancestor revealed.

Ninth decided to skip several variations and used the sixth.

“Clank!” The sixth variation consisted of six slashes in unison. It would annihilate emotions and desires, the mortal realm and saints, and all else in existence.

This was akin to an ascension process - tearing away the mortal coils and the associated factors in order to become a higher being.

The spectators suddenly found life to be meaningless and dull. They were willing to die to the slashes so that they could be freed.

“Die!” The two kings knew that they had no choice but to fight.

“Rumble!” The demon king raised his rod and chased away the clouds and winds. He started waving it in a circular motion to build momentum.

It released immense shockwaves while creating chaotic spaces. Dimensions began stacking on top of each other in front of him, serving as an impregnable wall.

“Clank!” As for Starshooter King, he somehow transformed the bow into a sword. The crowd was astounded to see this.

The terrible aura of a dao lord manifested into reality. The resplendent sword created numerous worlds as a result.

After loud explosions, planets materialized in front of Starshooter King. He then unleashed a forward slash containing planetary powers.

“Boom!” Terrible rays shot out from the impact point and destroyed several mountain ranges.

“Ugh...” During the loud blasts, people suddenly heard the noise of someone being unable to speak.

Nonetheless, they focused on the bright spectacles. The world was being torn asunder by the attacks and they were being blinded.

Once the light dispersed, they finally saw the aftermath.

#### **Chapter 4094: Killing**

The battlefield remained a mess but the various powers have dispersed. This allowed the crowd to rest with the pressure gone. Weaker cultivators have been forced to the ground earlier.

They saw Ninth standing there, still wielding his sword. Blood slowly flowed down the edge and gathered at the tip.

On the other hand, the gigantic ape and Starshooter King had a gaping wound on their neck.

“They’ve lost.” An expert whispered.

The duo's eyes were wide open. Their throat moved slightly as if they wanted to speak. Alas, the words were stuck in there.

"Clank!" Rampage sword waves erupted even though Ninth didn't do anything. They actually came from inside the duo's body, especially the wound by the neck.

"Ugh..." Their groan could be heard again.

"Boom!" The maelstrom empowering the demon king cracked and the beast legion appeared again. This was the case for Starshooter Legion as well.

Heads started rolling. Thousands and thousands of cultivators have been decapitated. Blood gushed out of the duo's neck first, then the same thing happened to the rest.

As their head was falling down, they could see their body standing there. They tried to scream to no avail.

Their body eventually fell as well. The demon king's massive frame smashed onto the ground, issuing a deafening blast.

Blood gathered on the ground and became small streams, flowing towards lower elevation. Only corpses remained of these once-famous cultivators.

"An utter defeat." A last-gen cultivator remained shocked.

Who knows how many survivors were actually left on this battlefield after Ninth was done with them?

The other main player didn't even get to play - Li Qiye. Ninth came out and stole the show.

"Damn, he killed so many with one slash." One expert turned pale.

Even the experienced warriors felt dread. Another added: "A reaper indeed."

They have heard of his notoriety and brutality before, that his sword needed to taste blood once unsheathed. Alas, seeing it in person was too much to take. The actual Ninth was far more horrifying than the tales.

The stench of blood and the visual carnage made their legs tremble.

"That was only the sixth variation." A powerful ancestor took a deep breath: "Imagine the ninth."

The high elders and ancestors nearby narrowed their eyes in contemplation. They thought that both Celestial Ape Demon King and Starshooter King were quite capable. They would have a hard time beating either.

The two were definitely big shots in Sword Continent. Unfortunately, they only made it to the sixth variation.

"How many people can actually survive the ninth variation?" This became the next question.

“No wonder why he dares to challenge Shi Yingxue.” Someone else replied: “If he finishes the Six Kings and Six Sect Masters, the next targets would be the Five Overlords...”

“Which variation will that take?” A youth became curious.

The seniors pondered the interesting question.

“If Ninth can kill the twelve right now...” Another youth said before stopping.

The Six Kings and Six Sect Masters represented the top masters of Sword Continent, consisting of members from Sea Emperor, Nine-wheel, Virtuous School...

Saying something like this could offend all of these behemoths.

“Legend has it that Thirteenth died in battle with Bones Dao Lord.” An ancestor said: “How do the Five Overlords compare to a dao lord?”

“Are they at the Immortal Sovereign realm?” One cultivator asked.

“No way. I know that only Immortal Sovereign right now is Dao Sanqian.” An ancestor shook his head.  
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“Dao Sanqian.” Everyone became emotional after hearing this name.

“Hmm, the Five Overlords should be above Golden Sovereign. Myriad or Supreme Sovereign then?”

Of course, a few here knew their true power but refrained from divulging this sensitive information.

“An Immortal Sovereign can fight against a dao lord but can’t kill one.” An ancient ancestor analyzed: “Since the thirteenth slash can kill a dao lord, the twelfth should be able to kill an Immortal Sovereign. The eleventh can deal with anything below.”

“He’s only two variations away.” Another gasped.

“That’s slightly misleading.” The ancient ancestor explained: “Each variation doesn’t mean possessing another technique. It requires cultivation improvement too. For example, for a ninth and ten-slash user, they will have a drastic difference in results while performing the third slash. That’s why it’s easier said than done when talking about the thirteen slashes. The sacred ground only had one Thirteenth in history.”

Others nodded in agreement. Meanwhile, Ninth ignored the conversations, still looking as indifferent as ever.

## **Chapter 4095: Compensation**

Spectators didn’t dare to breathe loudly while staring at Ninth. As for him, he only gave a passing glance at the fallen combatants.

His eyes remained the same as they were in the opening - the opponents were no different than dead men.



He turned his focus towards Armament Mountain next, seemingly wanting to see through the entire sect.

“Is he about to attack?” An expert wondered.

“It seems reckless attacking Armament alone.” Another blurted.

Though Ninth had massacred two legions, this didn’t mean that he could take down Armament.

“This is something unique to Sword God Sacred Ground.” A knowledgeable cultivator explained: “They only care about the targets, nothing else. The difficulties and backers of their targets didn’t matter.”

Many nodded in agreement. The members of the sacred ground wouldn’t give up for any reason. Fear was not part of them.

“He alone won’t win.” A big shot shook his head.

In reality, Armament still had two dao lords. The entire sect has been blessed and augmented repeatedly. They are under the protection of a grand momentum created by the dao lords. Ninth wouldn’t be able to break it.

“Yes, it’ll be difficult for him to break down their defenses.” Another expert nodded.

One ancestor came up with a different perspective: “Ninth isn’t trying to take down Armament. His goal is to shake the tree and scare the monkeys. He can do many other things, such as killing disciples until they no longer dare to kill outside. Their sect master will have to come out eventually.”

“True, this wouldn’t be his first time doing this.” A big shot who had seen this in person agreed.

“What a headache for Armament.” Others exchanged glances.

Ninth might not be able to assault Firmament but he could kill its disciples caught outside. Most importantly, he wasn’t part of the righteous faction and could resort to ambushes and assassinations.

For example, opposing Nine-wheel City Lord and Peace Ocean Sword King was easier. They would not resort to despicable means instead of a fair fight.

Normally, the successors of the sacred ground also preferred to fight a fair battle against their targets. This would only become an issue if the targets were to dodge the challenge.

Ninth remained fixated on Armament. The spectators realized that an aggressive plan was imminent.

“This is not Armament’s year.” Someone gloated.

Ninth started walking towards the mountain, hellbent on getting a fight against Shi Yingxue.

“Leaving just like that?” A lazy voice sounded.

People looked back and saw Li Qiye laying on a long chair, seemingly sunbathing and sleeping. Ning Zhu brought it out for him.

They nearly forgot about him because of Ninth’s appearance.

“Someone else is shouldering the burden for him, shouldn’t he be celebrating?” A cultivator was confused; why would Li Qiye provoke Ninth right now?

Ninth had killed Celestial Ape Demon King and Starshooter King. Sea Emperor and Armament would definitely focus on taking him down before Li Qiye. This was absolutely a great development.

Ninth stopped and looked back at Li Qiye. It was the same gaze of indifference.

“What?” He coldly uttered.

“Is he tired of living? Why would he pick a fight with Ninth out of all people?” One listener wondered.

Most would rather pick a fight with Armament Mountain instead of agitating this god of death.

Li Qiye still lazily lay there; Ninth’s murderous temperament didn’t affect him at all.

“It wasn’t easy gathering all those fish for some money.” He said: “And here you go killing all of them so I won’t get to see a single coin. Tell me, what should you do?”

“We got a show to watch now.” A big shot knew that the play wasn’t over yet. Ninth might not be the strongest right now but only a fool would provoke him. Li Qiye seemed to be a rare exception.

“I will spare your life.” Ninth coldly uttered. He spoke without any trace of arrogance and aggression - only stating it in a matter-of-fact manner.

Others would love to hear this coming from Ninth. It would make them less nervous in the future because he was a man of his word.

“My life is right here, you can’t take it anyway.” Li Qiye retorted.

This was as blatant of a challenge as could be. Ninth had no love

Sure enough, Ninth’s gaze became piercing just like a blade wanting to penetrate Li Qiye’s chest.

#### **Chapter 4096: Fifth Slash**

Ninth then scouted the entire plain and became slightly serious.

“Refine jades as the fuel.” He then concluded.

“Since you’re so insightful, you should know that your best choice is to pay for my losses.” Li Qiye smiled.

Listeners thought that this might be the first time Ninth had heard such a demand.

“I’ve changed my mind, I will take your life.” Ninth paused for a moment before declaring.

The atmosphere immediately became colder. Those nearby felt a chill cold enough to reach their bones.

“So suicidal.” One of them said after seeing Li Qiye’s mistake.

“You’re only at the ninth sword, can’t reach the apex. But I suppose the same thing can be said about the thirteenth.” Li Qiye shook his head.

Others became slack-jawed after hearing this. They have experienced his arrogance and contempt before. However, he didn't care for the thirteen slashes? It became an issue of ignorance.

If Ninth could have all thirteen slashes, it meant that he would be able to fight a dao lord. Not even the Five Overlords could make this statement. In fact, Ninth would be able to kill all five without a problem.

This was the reason why the sacred ground was so feared. All eyes were on Ninth; they knew that he wouldn't let this comment go unpunished.

However, Ninth remained the same without any emotional fluctuation. He simply held his sword and entered the plain.

"Here we go." Everyone became more lively, wanting to see the show.

"Will Li Qiye follow the footsteps of Celestial Ape Demon King and Starshooter King?" One youth asked.

"Very likely, can't you see how strong Ninth is? He massacred a hundred thousand men with one single slash. Li Qiye has no chance." Another youth responded.

"Don't forget about Li Qiye's supreme formation. The two kings couldn't do a thing to him." An older expert said.

"Well, the two kings just got slaughtered despite working together." The second youth retorted.

"It depends on how strong the ninth slash is." One ancestor joined in: "If it's strong enough to break the formation, Li Qiye will be finished."

"How strong do you think it is?" His friend asked.

"I don't know." The ancestor replied: "I haven't seen it before. The sacred ground has few successors and not all of them can reach the ninth slash."

Other sects' merit laws and techniques were well-known to the public. This wasn't the case for the sacred ground due to its few members.

These successors were either unknown or would shock the world. Ninth was a case of the latter.

Plus, not all of their fights were in public. Those who got to see the later slashes were most likely victims and dead men tell no tales.

After entering the plain, Ninth stopped and stared at Li Qiye. He pointed his sword straight at his foe and declared: "You're dead."

"Very well, let's see your mastery with the ninth slash. This will be a good learning experience for you." Li Qiye smiled.

The crowd smiled wryly as well. Li Qiye was treating this famous sword technique as if it could be found in any random market.

"Buzz." He raised his hand and the earth's loop became bright. The lines, fortresses, and towers resonated and became resplendent as well.

Everyone could feel a majestic power moving beneath the plain. It seemed to be endless.

“He’s controlling the formation again.” One expert stated. All the spectators were eager to see the true extent of this formation's power.

This time around, the power didn’t gather around Li Qiye to become a pulse. He was still lying lazily on his chair.

It created countless swords instead. Every inch of the plain was taken up by energy swords ravaging the air.

“Incredible energies.” The crowd was impressed because from an energy purity perspective, it wasn’t inferior to Ninth’s.

“Is Li Qiye a swordmaster too?” Someone thought.

“No, it’s just the power of the formation. It’s magical and profound enough to manifest into different forms.” A big shot from the last generation replied.

Ninth slowly floated upward and released his own energies. They cut into space and left behind long scars.

“Fifth slash, Worldless.” Ninth uttered.

“The fifth already?!” People were astonished because Ninth didn’t start with the fifth variation during the battle against the two kings.

### **Chapter 4097: Unbreakable**

The fifth slash signaled the end of the world. Ninth seemed to be taking Li Qiye and his formation quite seriously.

“Fifth variation right away, not many can have this treatment in our continent.” One ancestor was shaken.

“Will he end with the ninth slash then?” A big shot thought that Ninth might be saving the final slash for the finishing blow.

“Clank!” Ninth’s sword started releasing hymns and sharp rays capable of piercing anything.

The spectators became frozen with chills all over. They instinctively touched their throat since they had the illusion of being penetrated by the rays.

Ninth wore a black robe but due to the glow coming from his sword, he looked transcending like a single lotus flower growing on a mud pond. He seemed unstained by the flaws of the mortal realm.

This presence of his commanded gasps of awe and fear from the crowd. Since he had separated himself from the mortal coil, all living beings still trapped inside appeared to be insignificant insects or ephemeral smoke.

Emotions and relationships didn't exist for him. Thus, he could easily abandon or kill anyone without qualms. This was a key fundamental of the thirteen slashes.

"I sense zero emotion in him, only a will to slash." One expert murmured while feeling intimidated. His coldness seemed more thorough than that of a hardened assassin.

"A little interesting." Li Qiye smiled and raised his hand.

"Clank!" The divine swords pointed at Ninth.

He became a magnet attracting the attention of the swords. As they flew closer, it became a ball of swords fully surrounding Ninth, intending on reducing him to mincemeat.

The area around him turned dark because the swords didn't leave a single spot unoccupied. On top of being omnipresent, the swords were cutting through space as well - a testament to their destruction.

As the ball closed in on him, Ninth finally slashed his sword, separating the myriad realms and severing the affinities of life. Everything became split into two halves.

"Bam!" Cracks could be heard as the slash broke through the incoming divine swords. The fifth slash didn't let the crowd down.

"Clank!" In this split second, Ninth readied another attack.

It consisted of murderous energies gathering together. The lack of a true form made it far harder to stop or dodge. Even gods and devils would be decapitated by this move.

"Seventh variation, Godless!" A big shot shouted in horror.

The spectators felt a sharp pain in their chest and shriek even though the move was only aimed towards Li Qiye. The weaker cultivators actually started bleeding in that area because the invisible murderous energies had a wide area of effect.

"Rumble!" Li Qiye waved his hand in this crucial moment and a wall of swords separated him from everything else. Not a single attack could ever get through.

However, Ninth was impressive enough with his seventh variation. The formless attack pierced through space and time. Even the thick wall couldn't stop it.

Alas, this was still the plain of the Tang. Li Qiye waved his hand again and erected multiple walls the next time around.

Ninth's attack continuously pierced through them but more and more showed up in an endless number.

Thus, even if it broke through a billion walls, it still wouldn't be able to reach Li Qiye. Eventually, Ninth's energy withered and so did the power of the attack.

"Clank!" He pulled back his sword and stabilized his stance, realizing the futility of the attempt. The seventh slash's speed and power couldn't take down this formation. He needed absolute power to break it down at the very start.

"What the hell is this formation? It's so formidable." Everyone was astounded to see this.

Li Qiye didn't put in that much effort outside of waving his hand. However, the big shots knew that creating the sword walls required an absurd amount of dao and chaos energy.

If Li Qiye was the sole source, his vitality and energy would wither right away after creating a few walls. It also meant that the formation's endurance was above Ninth's.

"I think it is at the dao lord level." A big shot became startled.

Experts knew that dao lord formations were normally used to protect their sects. These were the strongest defenses available.

However, the plain didn't belong to a sect right now yet it still had such an unyielding defense. This truly shocked many spectators.

"The plain is worth more than one hundred million jades just because of this formation alone." Another sect master said with a tinge of regret.

### **Chapter 4098: Earthless**

No one expected the seventh variation to be rendered ineffective. Earlier, Ninth just needed to use the sixth variation to kill two legions.

Some richer cultivators wished they could make a different choice regarding purchasing the plain. The Tang Clan Master came to some of them before and advertised his land for only several million jades.

However, they didn't like the barren area and thought that it was useless. Now, several hundred million jades would have still been worth it because it would propel their sect to the next level.

As for Ninth, his cold expression finally showed a hint of murderous intent. This made the spectators feel more discomfort than before.

When his dao power and vitality engulfed the area, the chills moved from the bones all the way to the heart. People felt as if their heart was being sliced by an icy knife; their lips quivered uncontrollably.

Interestingly enough, as Ninth gathered his vitality, his aura became red as if he was ablaze or being washed by lava.

"Crack! Crack!" Cracks appeared on the ground as if the earth was being pulverized by an unknown power.

Lava oozed out of the crack as a result, hot enough to burn even cultivators.

"What's going on?" A youth asked.

"This is Earthless, the eighth variation. What you're seeing is a sword domain, not the actual ground." An ancestor explained.

The youth nodded but still didn't quite get it.

After the lava came sword energies from the gaps and cracks. This resembled the start of an apocalypse. The eighth slash was quite frightening because it created a peerless sword domain. Divine swords eventually appeared from the lava after loud explosions.

“Earthless? Rumor has it that anyone stuck inside this domain will absolutely die.” One expert was amazed.

Ninth had resorted to using his emotionless dao. The base of swords rising from the ground could take down the mightiest foes.

All living beings in the myriad realms would be reduced to ashes. People could smell the stench of death already.

“Try this.” Li Qiye chuckled and closed his fingers to make a fist. He used ample strength and speed in this process.

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“Clank!” A sword hymn hurt everyone’s eardrums. They felt their body and mind suddenly sinking. This appeared to be a supreme power exerting pressure on them.

“What’s happening...” Once they calmed down and looked around, their jaw dropped to the ground.

They saw a sword hovering above, large enough to cover the entire plain. Just one decoration rune on it was as big as a river.

However, the size of the sword wasn’t the thing that shocked people. After all, many ancestors could become gigantic or increase the size of their treasures.

Its weight was the most notable part. Space couldn’t bear this burden and started cracking into pieces.

The plain seemed to be caving down due to spatial instability. If this continued, nothing would be left of the region. Moreover, it became harder and harder to breathe.

This sword was damaging their dao foundation - something they had spent their entire life building. Weaker cultivators were paralyzed on the ground, just waiting to become meat paste.

Ancestors gasped while looking at this incredible sword. Alas, no one knew what it was, only that nothing could ever support its weight.

“A heavy sword doesn’t need to be sharp... absolute force trumps all...” Many swordsmen started pondering this famous concept.

“Whoosh!” The sword whirled for a slash and interrupted their rumination.

It crushed the laws of reality. The five elements and the yin and yang ceased to exist. Even the karmic and reincarnation system stopped.

It had nothing to do with the grand dao and its mysteries. The sheer force of the heavy sword crushed all else. Its physical attribute made the sword unbeatable.

“Hold on tight!” Cultivators started screaming, feeling themselves becoming trapped fish in a jar.

The sky turned dark since light ceased to exist. Space and time disappeared along the trajectory of the sword.

Ninth's expression became serious. His sword domain shifted into a defensive stance and surrounded him. It exuded endless sword energy in the form of a lava dragon.

The creature rushed towards the sky vault, wanting to stop the incoming slash.

### **Chapter 4099: Ninth's Defeat**

Earthless' base of swords stacked up to the sky - unyielding and razor-sharp.

"Boom!" The lava dragon destroyed the sky vault and contested the incoming slash.

The world couldn't endure the weight of Li Qiye's sword. The stars nearby were reduced to ashes just from the gales.

Unfortunately for Ninth, his sword domain instantly crumbled as well.

"The sky is falling!" Numerous spectators screamed.

"Hold on tight, the ground is breaking too!" Another expert shrieked.

Even those not anywhere close to the plain felt the ground sinking, that they were falling down a bottomless abyss.

"Activate!" One ancestor shouted and performed the strongest merit law from his sect. Alas, he still couldn't withstand the absolute pressure from the insane sword.

This was the case for everyone else. Their dao laws and techniques crumbled instantly.

"We're gonna die!" One big shot cried out in fear, realizing how helpless she was. Not a single soul in the world could stop the slash.

"Bam!" As Ninth's sword domain was crumbling, blood and bright flashes appeared everywhere.

One particular sword ray flew through the detonations into the horizon, leaving a long trail before disappearing altogether.

A while later, the darkness subsided and sunlight returned to the region. People looked up and saw the sun and the stars again. Everything became normal with the exception of the fear looming in their heart.

The whole thing felt like a dream. That immense slash could have annihilated everything and left an abyss on the ground.

However, the destructive scene was nowhere to be found.

"Was I dreaming?" One cultivator asked.

"No, that was just the remnant pressure from the slash. It didn't hit us, we were only suppressed mentally." An ancestor calmed down and shook his head.



The crowd couldn't believe it. Did they become paralyzed and helpless just from sheer pressure?

They then turned their attention towards the actual target of the slash. They saw blood pools, fleshy bits, and even limbs.

"Is Ninth dead?" Someone shuddered and asked. Many felt the same way after seeing the aftermath.

"No, he got away." One big shot said: "At the very last second, he used a special technique to run but nonetheless, he'll be bedridden for a long, long time. These injuries are serious."

"Still alive, I see..." Others heaved a sigh of relief.

Logically, the death of a monster like him should please the crowd. Alas, they were strangely glad to see him alive.

"I can't believe it, Ninth lost before he got the chance to use the ninth slash." An expert said.

Ninth didn't even last three moves against Li Qiye despite being so dominant in the previous fight.

Everyone saw Li Qiye still relaxing on his long chair and basking in the sun. This left them speechless.

Not long ago, two legions and their commanders tried their best against Ninth only to die. As for Li Qiye, he simply waved his hand a couple of times before crippling Ninth, forcing him to flee.

This stark contrast truly astounded them. Maybe Ninth was nothing more than an insect in Li Qiye's eyes.

"Yes, this ancient formation is not inferior to any dao lord formation." Someone spoke with certainty.

"Right, even one billion is a fair price for it. It can become the defining treasure of any sect." One sect master said, fantasizing about moving it back to his sect.

"Why did the Tang decline despite having it? They had to sell their land in the end." Another asked.

In the present day, the Tang became completely trivial in the grand scheme of things. This didn't make sense when this formation existed.

"Maybe the Tang had no idea about it before. That's why they sold it at such a cheap price. What a shame to have unworthy descendants." One ancestor mused.

Many agreed with him. They would have asked for an insane price and introduced the formation to others.

In reality, this was a common occurrence. Powerful sects, even those who had total hegemony once, eventually declined and disappeared on the river of time due to not having capable successors.

Nowadays, there were sects no longer having possession of their ancestral merit laws and invincible treasures.

"Goddamn..." Dong Ling stuck his tongue out, thinking that he was smart for standing close enough to Li Qiye.

Otherwise, the remnant shockwaves could have obliterated him.

## Chapter 4100: Sudden Phenomenon

Everyone started fearing Li Qiye despite being aware of the formation doing the bulk of the work.

Nonetheless, no one could touch him while he resided in the plain with control over the ancient formation.

The top dogs knew that as long as Li Qiye was here, no one had a chance of hurting him. Otherwise, they might suffer a worse outcome than Ninth's, not being lucky and strong enough to get away. Not even a smidgen would be left of them.

"The whole thing doesn't make any sense, I feel like Li Qiye just bumps into all the best stuff around, finding such a great treasure in this dead land." A jealous spectator glared at Li Qiye.

Who would have thought that the plain would thrive right after his purchase? Its ancient formation could take down any foe. He got such a great deal so everyone was jealous of him.

"Once is luck, maybe twice, but for a third time? I'm afraid not. There's something else going on." A big shot disagreed.

His peers found this logical, recalling the Preeminent Legacy and the purchase of the plain. Was it all coincidental? Why did this billionaire run to the plain instead of just enjoying his money?

"What is Li Qiye's goal?" This became the question because they were curious about his presence in Armament Mountain.

This was a long way from Omniscient Home yet Li Qiye still came running.

"I think he's scheming against Armament Mountain." Someone boldly speculated.

In this remote region, Li Qiye offended several behemoths. Another full-scale conflict seemed inevitable.

"Does anyone still want to find the treasury?" Li Qiye interrupted their conversations and stared at them.

Many felt their scalp tingling and staggered backward while avoiding his gaze.

Though he spoke normally without any hint of arrogance and imperiousness, they still didn't dare to face him.

"Is there really a treasury?" One youth whispered.

The majority believed in the existence of a treasury left behind by the Tang's progenitor. However, his incapable descendants eventually lost it.

This ancient formation should be one part of it. The Tang never used it in the last millions of years. They probably had no idea about its existence and decided to sell the plain to Li Qiye.

Unfortunately, none dared to invade the plain right now after seeing the previous results.

Ninth himself nearly died in the formation. Others would need to re-evaluate their strength first before trying.

“Of, of course not.” Some stammered in response, feeling fully intimidated.

“If that’s the case, why are you still here?” Li Qiye yawned and waved as if he was trying to chase some annoying flies.

Those who wanted to stick around to watch the fun show changed their mind. Some cupped their fist towards Li Qiye and turned to leave.

Everyone else started leaving in order to keep Li Qiye happy. Meanwhile, he yawned repeatedly, seemingly bored and sleepy by this point.

“Boom!” A loud explosion erupted out of nowhere and caused the ground to shake.

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Dong Ling who was hanging around became frightened: “Young Noble, what are you doing? Did someone offend you?”

He assumed that it was Li Qiye causing the detonation. However, Li Qiye opened his eyes and finally got up out of the chair, looking more spirited than before.

“It’s Armament Mountain.” Ning Zhu gazed towards the distance.

Sure enough, the source of the explosions was Armament Mountain, not the Tang’s plain.

They looked over and saw layers of thick black clouds looming over Armament. They appeared rather heavy, on the verge of falling down.

The sect’s ancestral peak became bright and sent out rays to tear apart the clouds. Alas, the layers only increased in number, rendering the rays ineffective.

Eventually, the clouds started spinning and a maelstrom was formed.

“What the hell?” The members of Armament became startled.

“This isn’t good, an ominous visual phenomenon.” An expert immediately reported this to the elders.

This was the ancestral ground of a two-dao-lord sect. It was protected and blessed by these dao lords before. Normally, such an ominous phenomenon could never happen because the dao lords’ powers would suppress them.

“Clank!” Warning gongs sounded throughout the entire sect.

“Disciples, return to your post!” The elders commanded despite being unaware of the event.

The atmosphere inside the sect became extremely tense as disciples manned their posts. This seemed like the winds before the storm.

“We need to run now, this is looking bad!” Dong Ling became afraid after seeing this and immediately ran away.

