

Emperor 4101

Chapter 4101: Disaster Arrives

The maelstrom made from black clouds appeared creepy and frightening just like a primal monster wanting to devour Armament Mountain.

The sect was under a state of alert; its members became nervous.

“Call the sect master.” One elder panicked since the maelstrom was moving downward.

Currently, their sect master was in isolated cultivation while their first elder has died in battle. Their ancestors were slumbering so there was no one in charge.

“But the sect master is still...” The disciple hesitated.

“What’s more important than dealing with this potential disaster? Call her.” The elder was decisive. The sect desperately needed Shi Yingxue’s leadership right now.

The disciples on guard continued staring at the maelstrom. Alarm gongs still echoed. They wondered if enemies were attacking.

Nearly sects were notified of this phenomenon as well and became startled.

“Enemies are at the gate?” One expert wondered.

“No, not enemies. I do not see any cultivators in hiding, this is most likely an ominous sign.” An ancestor activated his heavenly gaze.

“Where is it coming from... what the hell is it?” Others were frightened.

If this maelstrom were to devour Armament Mountain, other tributaries nearby might succumb to the same fate as well.

Numerous ancestors have used their heavenly gaze at this point but only saw black clouds, nothing more. Of course, none of them thought that it was so simple.

“Can Armament handle this?” They hoped that Armament could stop this disaster.

Nonetheless, there were a few powers hoping for Armament’s fall, thinking that they could take advantage of it.

“What is it? Seems like an invasion.” Ning Zhu was surprised as well.

“The show is starting.” Li Qiye, on the other hand, showed no sign of curiosity or shock. This was within expectation.

Meanwhile, the rays from the ancestral peak continued trying to stop the maelstrom from descending. They were bright enough to stop spectators from watching closely.

“Rumble!” Alas, its wide-reaching intensity still couldn’t stop the descent. By this point, the maelstrom was right above and ready to crush the peak.

“Armament Mountain is in danger!” External cultivators shouted while watching from a distance.

“Activate the formation!” A dignified command sounded. It was none other than Armament Sect Master, Shi Yingxue.

“Clank!” The weapons in the sect hymned and clanked in response.

Even weapons outside of the main branch resonated with her command as well. This development frightened their masters.

“Rumble!” Rays from all over the sect shot towards the sky.

They came from the various peaks situated around the mountain range. Next, they turned into divine weapons. One looked like a sword pointing at the sky; another resembled a massive hammer, then an earth-splitting saber...

This resembled a dam breaking down due to an unstoppable flood. These weapons had the aura of a dao lord and could suppress the firmaments.

The calamitous attack ravaged the region. Cultivators were forced down on their knees, unable to get up.

“A grand dao lord formation!” Pale spectators bellowed after seeing the attack.

Shi Yingxue personally took charge of controlling the grand formation. This was the final defensive line of Armament Mountain.

“Boom!” Once the blast struck the maelstrom, the remnant shockwaves sent people flying and vomiting blood.

Unfortunately, the maelstrom only quaked once and didn’t break down.

The ancestral peak didn’t give up and sent out more rays. The other peaks also did the same. Their rays coiled together to form a pulsing beam. Its target was the center of the maelstrom.

Alas, this still wasn’t enough to take down the dark maelstrom.

“What the hell is this thing? A direct attack from a grand dao lord formation still can’t take it down?” Spectators gasped after seeing this.

“Switch to defense!” Shi Yingxue shuddered and realized how frightening the maelstrom was. She decided to change the strategy.

Dao laws from the peaks connected them together. All the peaks became one as a result. The weapons then pinned themselves into the ground and formed an indomitable domain.

Chapter 4102: Dao Lords' Spirit

The domain assumed the form of a radiant fortress. Each ray represented the luster of a unique weapon created by the peaks - sword, saber, hammer...

This culminated into a colorful barrier to protect all of Armament Mountain. Thick dao laws then manifested and coiled around the peaks and the ground.

Furthermore, each disciple became shrouded by a layer of light. This added armor to them; each had a unique rune as well corresponding to a certain weapon type.

They felt themselves being blessed by a god. The endless power of their ancestors poured into them. Thus, their cultivation became one or two levels higher than before, akin to being added several hundred years of training.

"Till death!" They became excited and morale soared after gaining the ancestral blessings. They were ready to fight to the death against any enemy since they weren't alone. Their ancestors were here as well in spirit.

"Armament's grand defensive formation lives up to its fame. That's two dao lords and numerous paragons for you." An ancestor from another sect praised.

"Boom!" The dark maelstrom smashed against the grand formation in the next second.

Violent earthquakes ensued. Everyone felt as if the ground was being pierced through. The grand formation released a constant stream of dao lord energy, hoping to turn the tides.

Alas, the maelstrom didn't waver. While being under pressure from the dao lord beam, it actually grew in size.

After reaching a certain size, it was large enough to swallow all of Armament Mountain now.

Cracks finally appeared on the external barriers and eventually, the entire thing crumbled into little particles.

"Rumble!" This gave a clear path for the maelstrom to crash down on Armament.

Spectators have been watching in horror because the maelstrom was unreasonably strong. The grand formation was created by Armament Dao Lord and strengthened by God Ape Dao Lord. However, it still faltered today.

Once Armament Mountain fell, the surrounding sects might become the next victims.

"What the hell is this thing?" Even the experienced ancestors gasped. They had seen many things before but this battle was different. The other party was still unknown at this point.

This amplified the danger of the situation due to a lack of information. If it was a big shot attacking, Armament Mountain would still know who they were facing and prepare accordingly.

Unfortunately, they couldn't come up with a strategy in this case.

"Could this just be a natural disaster?" One expert regained his wits and asked.

“No, a disaster of this level doesn’t come out of nowhere. Moreover, it’s clear what it is targeting.” A big shot shook his head.

Others agreed with this. A disaster had other signs such as lightning and thunder. However, these were black clouds coming together to form a maelstrom. This didn’t look like a natural disaster.

“Wait, can this be an omen in the legends?” One disciple shuddered.

Those nearby staggered backward after hearing the word “omen”. The ones in the myth were extremely dangerous. Even dao lords have died to them before.

“Impossible.” An ancient big shot disagreed while comparing the two: “An omen isn’t like this. Most importantly, after the Myriad Dao Era, they would only appear during the ascension trial of a dao lord. The probability of one happening is minuscule as well. Armament Mountain doesn’t have an invincible character appearing, so this can’t be an omen.”

Others exchanged glances after hearing this. The big shot was right about the omens.

“Then what is this thing?” Conversations popped up everywhere.

“I heard some ominous events have been happening here, maybe it’s related?” A knowledgeable cultivator speculated.

All in all, none could come up with an acceptable answer.

“Rumble!” The grand formation couldn’t keep up with the continuous pressure from the black maelstrom and was on the verge of collapsing.

“What do we do?” The disciples of Armament were no longer as confident as before.

“Boom!” Suddenly, a radiance took over the sect with the force of a million stars exploding. The source was from the sect’s deepest location.

Two supreme figures appeared. One had weapons floating around him, looking like the ruler of worlds. The other was a massive divine ape with majestic golden fur.

“Armament and God Ape Dao Lord!” The crowd shouted.

“The ancestors will protect us!” The emotional members of Armament were moved to tears after seeing their dao lords.

Chapter 4103: Asking For Help

Their impressive auras made people want to prostrate. Of course, these were only intents left behind by them, not the actual dao lords.

Nonetheless, they were mighty enough to stop the maelstrom from pressing down.

“Boom!” Nothing in the world could withstand the onslaught of the black maelstrom. However, the two figures of the dao lord have surpassed the test of time.

They raised their hands and stopped the maelstrom from destroying Armament Mountain.

“Dao lords are invincible indeed!” Spectators were amazed to see this: “Can you imagine if they were here in person?”

Just these images were impressive enough, let alone a dao lord in person. Their divinity and aura would be unstoppable.

Many never had the fortune of seeing one in person. Nonetheless, seeing the two images was enough to stir them to the core.

The members of Armament were crying. Some prostrated and prayed for protection.

Alas, this moment of joy was short-lived. With poofing noises, disciples started disappearing one by one.

It was as if the ground beneath them was covered in trap pits. They were sucked into the dirt and disappeared from sight.

“Sh*t, the disappearance crap is happening again!” Those still around saw this and became frightened.

It didn’t take long before thousands and thousands were gone. Even their treasuries and palaces also vanished.

“Someone’s robbing us!” Regular disciples and ancestors alike turned pale.

“What should we do?” Even the top cultivators felt helpless since they had never seen anything like it before.

“Can we run? Is it too late to run?” One ancestor wondered.

Things were still disappearing despite being under the protection of dao lords’ blessings. The entire sect seemed to be cursed right now.

Unfortunately, there was no good option for them. Staying might result in suddenly vanishing. Eventually, not a single soul would be left. As for escaping? Armament would eventually collapse and they would become orphans without a home.

“What is happening in there?” Spectators outside were confused.

Due to the images of the two dao lords, heavenly gazes became considerably less effective. Nonetheless, the flickering barrier was obviously weakening.

“Sect Master, what should we do?” An ancestor asked Shi Yingxue.

“Keep it together, I will go seek reinforcement.” She gritted her teeth and left.

Shi Yingxue flew out of Armament and entered the Tang’s plain. She saw Li Qiye and prostrated: “Young Noble, please save Armament Mountain.”

“You’re putting me in a rather difficult position. I’m not one to hold a grudge but Armament is my enemy right now, more or less. If I were to become your savior out of nowhere, that might be too big of a change for me to get used to.” Li Qiye was still relaxing on his chair.

“Our members had eyes but couldn’t see Mount Tai. I will bear all the consequences and punishment without uttering a single word of grievance as long as you show benevolence by saving us.” She begged.

Of course, she had nothing to do with the invasion of the plain. She initially wanted him to help Armament Mountain. However, the moment she got back, she was forced to go under isolated cultivation. The sect was then left to Celestial Ape Demon King.

To a certain extent, with her gone, the God Ape branch took over Armament. Alas, she still wanted to be responsible for the sect despite a lack of fault in the matter.

“How can I refuse when you are being so insincere? It’s not difficult for me to save your sect, but I wonder if you can pay the price.” Li Qiye smiled.

“Everything in Armament can be yours as long as you can save us.” She kept her head near the ground.

There was no point in bartering because destruction was imminent.

“How generous. I still want that peak though.” Li Qiye rubbed his chin and said.

“I will take charge in this matter and accept. It is yours, Young Noble.” She gritted her teeth and said, aware of which peak he was referring to.

The ancestral peak was extremely important to Armament for many reasons. No ancestors dared to use it as a negotiating tool. Alas, this existential crisis forced Yingxue to agree without any hesitation.

She knew the potential consequences even in the case of success. She would become the sinner of the sect for disrespecting the forefathers. In the worst scenario, she would be forfeiting her life. In the best scenario, she would lose the sect master position.

Nonetheless, she needed to be decisive right now in order to save Armament. What was the point of keeping the ancestral peak when the rest of Armament was gone?

“Smart, and I like smart people. I will make an exception this time and help you out.” Li Qiye said.

“Thank you, Young Noble, I will dedicate the rest of my life to serving you.” She was moved to tears after hearing this.

“Rise, I can’t handle tears from a beauty.” He waved his hand.

She stood up and knew that her sect was saved. Others thought that Li Qiye was only a newly rich, not a supreme character like the Five Overlords.

However, intuition told her that he was the only one who could save Armament Mountain.

“Let’s go then.” Li Qiye smiled and activated the earth’s loop again. The loop became resplendent, not with the frightening beam but rather tiny rays.

Chapter 4104: Entering

The tiny rays flew towards the black maelstrom, looking like long threads. They spread out and began outlining the entire thing.

“Li Qiye!” Other spectators became startled.

“Why is he joining in?” They were puzzled at his involvement.

After all, he was an enemy of Armament Mountain and had killed members from there. He had no reason to help them right now.

In fact, others would kick a horse while it’s down. This was the best time to take down Armament Mountain and forever eliminate a problematic enemy.

However, his target was the maelstrom. This could only be interpreted as him aiding Armament Mountain.

“The guy is truly unpredictable.” A big shot commented. His peers agreed with him.

He was special since he dared to offend the behemoths without any hesitation. Now, no one else wanted to help Armament while he went against the tides. His actions had no logic to them.

Eventually, the tiny rays fully outlined the maelstrom.

At the start, powerful ancestors could only see the clouds and the maelstrom. But now, with Li Qiye’s rays, they saw a different image of an ancient beast.

It resembled several animals - a whale, serpent, gluttonous dragon. All in all, it possessed too many defining characteristics. When combined together, it was something never seen before.

“What is that?” The spectators became curious.

The image exuded a primal aura as if it was a real beast, not a painting made out of rays. Could this thing be hiding behind the maelstrom?

“This is the thing trying to destroy Armament?” Someone speculated.

“Where did it come from?” Another wondered.

Since this thing was powerful enough to render Armament helpless, it should be extremely famous. However, no one here had a clue.

“It has to be from a forbidden zone.” One more said.

People exchanged glances. They had a shallow understanding of the creatures in these forbidden zones. Only dao lords were privy to this type of information.

“Buzz.” Space suddenly trembled as if some unknown power was activated.

The rays outlining the maelstrom suddenly came together to form a blinding radiance. It looked like a golden badge with complicated dao runes placed in a particular manner. The complexity of the runes couldn't be deciphered by the spectators in a short time.

"Okay, time for me to get some exercise." Li Qiye got up and stretched.

"I'm counting on you, Young Noble." Yingxue bowed her head.

Li Qiye took one step forward and appeared right next to the black maelstrom.

"What is he doing?!" One spectator shouted.

"Is he about to take the maelstrom head-on?" Everyone started speculating.

Remember, even the intents left behind by two dao lords empowered by the foundation of Armament couldn't defeat the maelstrom. No one thought Li Qiye had a chance.

They saw him touching the badge. His hand crossed through it as if it was a portal. He then disappeared from sight as if he was devoured by the maelstrom.

"Did you see that? Was he eaten?" A frightened soul asked.

"No, he entered the maelstrom." His senior answered.

"In my opinion, the formation in the plain is somehow related to this black maelstrom. Li Qiye was able to connect with the maelstrom's framework by using those rays. It's not a reckless and unplanned endeavor." One ancestor said.

"How many more secrets is this plain hiding?" Another asked.

By this point, they thought that the plain had an even stronger foundation than Armament Mountain.

"The Tang is an insignificant clan, how does it have so many resources?" Someone from the last generation asked.

"Don't forget about their forefather, the inventor of the money fall method. It's just that this art is lost with time." One ancestor replied.

"Yes, that art is amazing but I don't care how rich he used to be, a dao lord is still superior, and Armament had two." The first speaker retorted.

No one had a response to this due to their respect for dao lords. Nonetheless, they were still in awe that this clan was showing its worth thanks to Li Qiye.

"So what's in there?" One spectator asked.

"Who knows, maybe he'll never be able to return." Another would love to gloat about Li Qiye's demise.

"That would be a shame, his wealth would be buried with him." An expert said regarding the Preeminent Legacy.

Chapter 4105: True Identity

An independent world awaited Li Qiye after traveling through the golden badge. It was a void expanse - a world that has yet to be excavated.

Chaos energy engulfed the area. This was the beginning before the formation of three thousand worlds.

Due to the density of the energy here, it was the best place for cultivation. Just a short session could be quite beneficial.

“Who are you?” A dignified voice came from above. Listeners would immediately prostrate from fear since the voice could shake the dao heart.

This was akin to being banished to an endless domain. In this place, the listeners were mere insects while the voice belonged to a being above the nine firmaments - a primal god.

Of course, this was completely ineffective against Li Qiye.

“Someone who should be here.” Li Qiye smiled.

“Prostrate before me.” The dignified voice was still imperious and unbearable. [1]

“I don’t think you can handle it.” Li Qiye smiled.

The voice spoke again: “Your ancestors worshipped me so if you wish to enjoy the same blessing, prostrate now and I shall forgive your ignorant insolence.”

This person thought that Li Qiye was a descendant of the Tang.

“Unfortunately, I am not a member of the Tang.” Li Qiye shook his head.

“Who are you then? How do you know their secrets?” The voice asked.

“I’m afraid you’ll jump up from fear after finding out.” Li Qiye smiled.

“Such shameless boasting, unaware that I am the lord of the nine heavens and ten earths. Gods and devils bow before me. No one has ever dared to disrespect me in the long trek of times...” The pressure from the voice intensified. Listeners would feel an immense weight pressing down on their shoulders, capable of crushing their bones. This was an indication of this being’s might.

“Alright, let’s stop playing around.” Li Qiye reached forward and grasped heaven and earth. He shot out an illuminating ray piercing through this world, more than enough to destroy it.

There was no suppressive aura nor loud explosions. Nonetheless, the ray seemingly reduced everything in this world into a miniature version compared to the massive Li Qiye.

“You, you are...” The being was frightened after seeing this light, completely caught off guard, and no longer sounded imperious like before since he realized Li Qiye’s identity.

“It’s just a misunderstanding.” The being coughed awkwardly and said timidly: “Dao Brother, I had no idea that you were coming, my apology.”

It was as if a young cultivator was apologizing to Li Qiye for doing something wrong.

“Forget it, you’re just a greed intent and have limited abilities. I won’t be pursuing it.” Li Qiye smiled then sat down.

“Dao Brother, I must say that you are something else, virtually matchless just like a true immortal.” The voice flattered him right away.

“You wouldn’t be speaking right now if I were a true immortal. I would have devoured you first.” Li Qiye said.

“Well, that’s true... sigh, true immortals...” The voice found it hard to answer at first. Nonetheless, from this sigh, one could hear many implications and secrets about this topic.

“I’m curious, why are you here? Even if you’re just a strand of greed intent.” Li Qiye asked.

“It’s a long story.” The voice responded: “Your battle above the sky back then was something else, everyone became afraid and three thousand worlds crumbled as a result...”

The tone was one of fear. Of course, this was only a remnant intent, not the actual cultivator. Nonetheless, that battle was truly dreadful. Even the being’s true form wouldn’t have survived after participating.

All in all, Li Qiye’s ferocity went down in history to those in the know. If true immortals existed, they would also be afraid of him. Plenty of supreme monsters went down as a result of that battle.

In reality, those praised as being the strongest by ordinary cultivators were nothing more than ants compared to that battle’s combatants.

The top beings thought that Li Qiye had died alongside those monsters. But here he was, perfectly fine and well.

“Three Immortals are still fine.” Li Qiye said.

“Indeed, but your battle did shake Three Immortals to the core. Nonetheless, the lord was able to handle it.” The voice replied.

“More things happened afterward.” Li Qiye said.

“Yes, truly astonishing matters but I don’t know the details. As you know, I am only a remnant of greed with limited abilities. The lord’s reach is beyond me.”

“So how did you get here?” Li Qiye asked.

The voice chuckled and said: “It’s a coincidence. After the unexpected events back then, a brat with the last name Tang came to find me.”

“Tang Ben.” Li Qiye added.

“Yes, that’s him. His clan has a rich history and he somehow figured out enough clues to find me.”

"It's a shame about the Tang, they used to thrive once. What should have been forgotten was remembered even through the long years." Li Qiye nodded.

"Yes, Dao Brother." The voice said: "The brat was angry at me at first but he didn't want to change, choosing to be himself instead. He blabbered all the time and annoyed me."

"He must have had a good idea since he successfully convinced you." Li Qiye smiled.

"I should have just slapped him to death at the start. Now, here I am in this crappy place instead of Three Immortals." The voice said with a tinge of regret.

It was persuaded by Tang Ben back then and decided to leave Three Immortals. All the right circumstances granted them safe passage.

Unexpected matters happened later on and it became stuck in Eight Desolaces.

"How amusing, that brat isn't bad." Li Qiye smiled.

"Yes, he had a few incredible treasures. His problem was timidity, always afraid of being forced to give them back."

"The issue with the three immortals was a long time ago. I'm sure if they cared, he wouldn't have survived for that long." Li Qiye said.

"I told him that too, but he always had a guilty conscience and didn't dare to face it." The voice responded.

"What happens to him next? He couldn't have died so early." Li Qiye asked.

"Someone came." The voice suddenly became serious.

"Someone came." Li Qiye repeated as his eyes narrowed.

"The brat was scared out of his mind after finding out." The voice revealed.

"How did he know? His clan was impressive but if that person came, he'd be nothing more than an ant." Li Qiye asked.

"There was a big commotion. The brat got so scared and to be honest, Dao Brother, I was too." The voice said.

Chapter 4106: He Came

"The brat abandoned everything and ran for his life after finding out. As for me, I'm stuck in this crappy place and have no idea where he went." The voice reminisced.

"Seems unnecessary. Sure, his wealth was considered exceptional to regular people but it wouldn't be able to attract one glance from that individual." Li Qiye shook his head.

“As I’ve said, he had a guilty conscience. He inherited a few things that shouldn’t see daylight, that’s why he fled right away.” The voice chuckled.

Tang Ben had a special and mysterious background. His wealth was indeed exceptional too. That’s why he became one of the richest in Eight Desolaces despite being an outsider.

However, certain things about him were better forgotten and left hidden. Otherwise, he wouldn’t only be one of the richest in Eight Desolaces but rather, the richest of all time.

“It has been long enough for the past to be the past. Otherwise, he wouldn’t have been able to get away with it. The various issues would have been settled before the great battle in Three Immortals.” Li Qiye said.

He knew about Tang Ben’s past and background. It’s just that he didn’t care about it since it wasn’t any of his business.

“Three Immortals are no longer the same, that’s why the brat dragged me down here with him.” The voice said.

Despite not being as strong as its master, this greed intent was still a supreme being and knew many things.

“Then what about you? Why are you here?” Li Qiye smiled and asked.

Tang Ben’s persuasion was one thing but this supreme being naturally had other reasons for coming to Eight Desolaces.

“Hmm...” The voice smiled wryly before answering: “The new world has changed beyond recognition, so I decided to take advantage of the rare circumstances to take a look down here.”

Going from Three Immortals to Eight Desolaces was easier said than done. However, the destruction stemming from Li Qiye’s battle affected the various worlds.

He and Tang Ben took advantage of this and successfully descended. Of course, they still paid a heavy price.

“No longer the same, I see.” Li Qiye repeated and had a good guess about the changes.

“Sigh, as ephemeral as smoke. People and things have disappeared from Three Immortals. It’s a different place now.” The voice sentimentally said.

“It was inevitable.” Li Qiye calmly stated.

“Just too early.” The voice said.

“When then? Peace can’t last forever. No one can escape when the time comes.” Li Qiye paused for a bit and continued: “Some thought that they had made a choice and picked a side. They had no idea that it was meaningless since none had a chance of getting away.”

“Yes, all worlds will be subjected to this eventually.” The voice agreed.

“That’s why he came.” Li Qiye’s eyes suddenly turned profound.

“To be honest, he shouldn’t have.” The voice said.

“Why not?” Li Qiye asked.

“Since he had disappeared for a long time and never reacted to the big events, no one had an idea about his location. Why did he show up again?” The voice mused.

Few knew of this person’s existence. Those who did eventually lost track of his location and goals. All in all, he simply vanished.

This period of disappearance was unimaginably long. For example, the epoch known as the Nine Worlds was quite short in comparison.

Wondrous and shocking events happened during this period. However, he never showed up once. That’s why his sudden appearance back then caught people off guard.

“There’s certainly a reason, the right timing.” Li Qiye said.

“Can it be that he really became a true immortal?” The voice speculated.

“Didn’t he arrive?” Li Qiye asked.

“Yes, but I never got to take a look. The brat ran fast enough to lose his shoes while I kept hiding in this minor world. I didn’t dare to come out.” This was a rather embarrassing thing to admit but the being didn't hide it.

This was rather understandable. Li Qiye’s battle ended with the death and disappearance of many top beings. This made him even more unstoppable.

He could crush the greed intent with a single finger. Thus, it was wise to stay away.

“You made the right move.” Li Qiye nodded instead of teasing.

“Sigh, the past is gone.” The voice said wistfully. It used to be so arrogant and never needed to hide.

“There’s an end to everything.” Li Qiye said.

The being breathed in and changed the topic: “Dao Brother, do you wish to fight?”

“Perhaps.” Li Qiye didn’t deny it.

“Dao Brother, what if he is a true immortal now? Are you still confident?” The voice asked.

“Who knows? Who had fought with a true immortal before? Have to fight to know the answer.” Li Qiye smiled.

In the distant ages, some monstrous lords have fought him before. Alas, too many years had passed and he was no longer the same. Even existences like them couldn’t come up with a reasonable analysis.

“Hmm, let’s assume that he is a true immortal, shouldn’t he visit the final battlefield?” The voice contemplated a bit before asking.

“Challenging the villainous heaven.” Li Qiye chuckled.

“Yes, that should have been the logical course of action but instead, he remained passive and then suddenly appeared in Eight Desolaces.” The voice said.

“It’s interesting indeed.” Li Qiye smiled: “He is always seeking perfection but if everything is perfect, this perfectness will be a fatal weakness.”

“Being perfect is a fatal weakness.” The voice mused this comment.

Chapter 4107: True Immortal On The Dao Path?

Eventually, the conversation came to an end. The voice said: “The path towards the grand dao is endless, be well, Dao Brother.”

“Yes, we’ll meet again one day.” Li Qiye smiled.

“Though I haven’t met him, I heard that he came to a place known as Cloud Dream Lake and was challenged.” The voice revealed.

“Cloud Dream Lake? Looks like there’s a reason for going there.” Li Qiye said seriously.

“It’s impossible to know the details of the battle but since he went on the move again, the outcome is rather obvious.” The voice said.

“It’s just scouting.” Li Qiye said: “People will always be curious and give it a shot.”

“Nothing good can come from it.” The voice said: “At the very least, I’m unaware of anyone escaping unscathed. Though he rarely took action, he crushed every fight. That’s why he is still standing till now.”

“Right, never lost before.” Li Qiye smiled: “Because of this, he keeps on searching on the long path, otherwise, losing is inevitable.”

“Who can do it? The impossible.” The voice said.

“This is the crux of the issue. Defeat is necessary to gain more information.” Li Qiye said.

“I don’t think more will try, it’s a grim endeavor. The outcome is known before the start of the battle.” The voice said.

“There will always be an end for everything, whether good or bad.” Li Qiye said: “Even the villainous heaven is no exception, it’s only a matter of time.”

“I hope it will be a good end then or the future shall be very grim.” The voice said.

The intangible nature of karma didn’t matter to mortals. However, the top existences cared about it. With a cause came a reason, with a beginning came an end.

Top existences have lived for billions of years but eventually, there would still be an end for them. It was impossible to calculate regardless of how much time they spent.

Occasionally, some of them might try to interfere or even change their karma. Unfortunately, it was difficult to assess the effectiveness.

Nonetheless, they all knew that something inevitable was coming - destruction far more terrible than any of the previous.

Not to mention the regular living beings, they themselves wouldn't be able to get away. This seemed predestined by a higher power. They chose to bide their time patiently and silently, waiting for the inevitable day.

"It's all the same." Li Qiye smiled and said: "It'll just be the final point for everyone. No one will be able to break out of the cocoon. From their end comes the start for the next, this is just an endless cycle."

"But maybe it's different for a true immortal." The voice said.

"The world will cease to exist when there is a true immortal around. Karmas will not have any effect on one." Li Qiye said.

"All living beings will die then." The voice said softly.

"Since when do you care about living beings? I don't think anyone does, only when it affects their karma." Li Qiye said.

The voice didn't respond. Characters of their level stood at the apex of three thousand worlds. They looked down at regular people and only saw ants. That's why they continued the cycles with no regard to the loss of lives.

"Well, let's get back to business. You have caused quite a commotion outside." Li Qiye stretched and said.

"Dao Brother, you know what I am, just a bit gluttonous, that's all. The brat did leave me a few things before escaping but too much time has passed and I'm hungry for anything, even scrap metals in your eyes." The voice became a little awkward.

"Right, but since I'm somehow involved in this mess. Let them go, I'll be taking a trip later and will bring you along, your appetite won't be a problem then." Li Qiye waved his hand.

"I shall listen to you, Dao Brother." The voice responded.

"Bam! Bam! Bam!" Back in Armament Mountain, the disappeared disciples returned and rolled on the ground. They eventually woke up again and looked around.

They noticed that they were perfectly fine and became both happy and frightened.

"Everyone's back! They're doing well too!" Others celebrated.

The victims had no idea what happened. Everything remained a mystery to them. Their eyes had turned dark and then they couldn't remember what happened afterward.

“We’re saved...” Shi Yingxue was ecstatic, realizing that she had found the right person. Losing the ancestral peak was worth it since she saved the rest of the sect.

The black maelstrom gradually dispersed as well. The grand formation and the two dao lord images also disappeared.

Li Qiye landed in Armament Mountain and was greeted by Shi Yingxue and other disciples.

“It seems like Li Qiye saved them, how bizarre.” Outsiders found this astonishing.

“This is full of mysteries, I’m sure it has something to do with the Tang.” One ancestor speculated.

“What do you mean?” Another asked.

“This whole disaster might have originated from the Tang. Let me elaborate, I believe the foundation of Armament Mountain might be built on top of the Tang’s ancestral land. However, both Armament and the descendants of the Tang had no grasp of this ancestral land’s mysteries and profundities, this disaster was a side effect. On the other hand, Li Qiye knew more than everyone else including a method to stop the maelstrom...” The ancestor explained.

Everyone agreed with this since Li Qiye had control over the grand formation of the Tang. They also thought that it was interesting how an outsider managed to take over this wondrous land.

“How did the Tang not have a clue after millions of years? An outsider knew more than them.” One expert asked.

“Who knows, maybe there is a connection here. The progenitor of the Tang used to be really rich, Li Qiye is the same way. Maybe the latter obtained his legacy.” One big shot said.

“That might explain why Li Qiye has mastery over the plain.” Another agreed.

They thought that Li Qiye was somehow connected to the progenitor of the Tang. That would explain everything.

Chapter 4108: Gift

Subsequently, Armament Mountain treated Li Qiye as an esteemed guest of the highest order. He enjoyed the best treatment and hospitality possible.

They never brought up the disciples killed by him either since he had saved their sect. The prior feud seemed insignificant in comparison.

As its savior, he could do whatever he wanted right now in the sect. With one word of his, the best genius and prettiest female disciple would come to serve him. Of course, he had no interest in any of this.

Shi Yingxue knew what he wanted. Thus, he didn’t need to ask again before she started a conference with the elders and ancestors.

“Young Noble, we have come to an agreement that you may take the ancestral peak. When will you need it?” She reported after the meeting.

She had taken the risk of deciding on her own during the moment of crisis. Nonetheless, she still needed to let the seniors know.

The ancestral peak had a special status in their sect, serving as its spiritual totem. Emotionally, it was difficult for them to part with it.

Nonetheless, she carried out her promise despite how hard it is on her personally.

“I like trustworthy people.” Li Qiye smiled and said: “Since fate has brought us together, it will be a gift to you.”

Shi Yingxue became confused for a moment before replying: “Youn-young Noble, are you referring to the ancestral peak?”

She thought that she misunderstood since it would be ridiculous.

“What else can it be? You want something else?” Li Qiye chuckled.

Her mouth opened wide in astonishment. She found it hard to regain her wits. In the beginning, he came precisely for the ancestral peak. Its value and importance couldn’t be understated.

After putting in the effort, the peak was finally his yet he simply gave it away just like that?

No one would believe this illogical and ridiculous story. However, it was indeed the case.

She was overwhelmed with emotion. The two of them were strangers yet he gave something so precious away?

“Young Noble, aren’t you here because of it?” She asked, thinking that this was a dream. It would be perfect if they could keep their peak.

“I was just a bit interested, don’t really need it.” He paused for a bit before continuing: “If I actually needed it, I wouldn’t have asked since I could take it whenever.”

Anyone else would become livid after hearing this since he was blatantly disrespecting Armament Mountain.

Forcefully taking their ancestral peak would result in an all-out war. The members would fight to the death.

Moreover, few in Sword Continent could actually bypass their defenses to grab the peak. After all, they had two dao lords and numerous masters.

It’s just that Li Qiye sounded so confident as if he only needed to reach forward. This could be construed as ludicrous arrogance.

Alas, she actually agreed with him. Though he never showed his power and might not be as strong as the Five Overlords, she thought that he would actually be able to take their peak uncontested.

It was just like before. He said he could solve the disaster in Armament and he managed to do so.

“Thank you, Young Noble.” She got on the ground and bowed her head: “It is an honor to receive your grace. I will do everything I can to follow your orders, the same with Armament Mountain.”

“Your intelligence is the reason for Armament’s survival.” Li Qiye nodded.

“Thank you for your kind words, Young Noble.” She felt deep gratitude because she knew that Li Qiye was doing her a personal favor. He didn’t fear her sect at all.

“Go now.” Li Qiye said.

She kowtowed again before leaving. This became a joyous day for her. The sect was saved and they got to keep their ancestral peak as well.

Li Qiye stayed as a guest in Armament for a while but still received reports from Ning Zhu.

“Miss Xu asked when will you be returning? She wishes to go to Cloud Dream Lake.” Ning Zhu said.

“For what?” He asked casually.

“She said that you have bought some land there, Young Noble. However, the other party refused to honor the transaction so she has to go there and recover it with force.” Ning Zhu said.

“Oh? Someone dares to go against me?” He smiled, seemingly amused instead of becoming angry.

Ning Zhu didn’t say anything. This smile of his signaled the death of many people.

“What a coincidence, I need to go to Cloud Dream as well. Tell Yiyun that I’ll be tagging along.” He added.

“Yes, Young Noble.” Ning Zhu obeyed. She seemed to have something else on her mind but refrained from speaking.

“Speak.” He noticed her expression.

“Young Noble, I... wish to return to Wooden Sword.” She revealed.

“Why?” He stared at her.

She gently bit her lip and said: “I’ve heard the news of Ninth sending a challenge letter to my master and he had agreed. I want to go back and see him.”

“I see, this guy recovered quite fast, not bad at all.” He chuckled.

Chapter 4109: Cloud Dream Lake

Note: Changing Cloud Dream Marsh to Lake.

Ning Zhu had a heavy heart about the challenge. Ninth was clearly targeting the Six Kings this time. It would be a battle to the death.

She saw Ninth's power with her own eyes. Though he lost utterly to Li Qiye and had to run, it didn't mean that he was weak. In fact, she was worried about Pine Leaf Sword Lord's life.

"Go back, it's good to see him one last time." Li Qiye gave her permission.

"One last time...?" Her expression darkened right away. She wasn't angry at his insensitive comment but rather, this seemed to be a death sentence for her master.

"Young Noble, do you mean..." She became slightly pale and had to ask for confirmation despite not wanting to hear the answer.

"People say that no one knows a father more than his son nor a master more than his disciple. Tell me, what do you think is your master's chance of winning against Ninth?" Li Qiye said flatly.

She pondered in silence. Far from being a fool, she was smart enough to have an objective analysis of the battle. She might not be the one who understand her master the most but was definitely the closest person to him. Thus, she knew how strong he was.

She naturally hoped that her master would win. Alas, Ninth's sword dao was impressive so the outcome looked grim.

Ninth's sword needed to taste blood before returning to its scabbard. Her master wouldn't survive the battle.

"Young Noble, please save my master." She bowed towards Li Qiye.

Li Qiye had defeated Ninth before and could certainly do so again. Though she wasn't a member of Wooden Sword any longer, she still remembered the kindness and support shown by her master. This was a debt she must pay.

Previously during the engagement with Sea Emperor Sword Kingdom, her master went against numerous elders and ancestors who supported the deal. Alas, he couldn't change their mind.

Now, he was in trouble and she wanted to do everything possible to help him.

"Do you think it's possible? It's not up to me." Li Qiye smiled: "You know what type of person he is more than me."

Ning Zhu thought about it. Yes, her master would refuse Li Qiye's help. As the king of Wooden Sword, he was calm and flexible. However, he was actually a prideful person.

Otherwise, he wouldn't have accepted the challenge so quickly. Others would have bought more time if they weren't fully confident about winning.

Thus, he wouldn't accept help from anyone and preferred to fight a fair duel, relying on his own power.

"Everyone has their own will. You cannot make decisions for him." Li Qiye said.

She sighed after hearing this. Her unwanted involvement might actually be detrimental to his reputation.

"I understand." She bowed after realizing her impropriety.

“Go back and see him one last time. I must go on a trip to Cloud Dream with Yiyun to see who is audacious enough to not pay me.” He smiled.

Ning Zhu only worried about her master right now. She bowed one more time towards Li Qiye and bid goodbye.

Cloud Dream was the largest lake in Sword Continent. While standing ashore, it would appear to be a boundless ocean.

Moreover, it was well-known for its raging current as well. A weak cultivator would certainly drown once fallen.

But its size and turbulence weren't its defining characteristic. It was most famous for its robbers and bandits.

Whenever the name Cloud Dream was brought up, people would instantly think about this unsavory aspect.

It had numerous islands - the home of various bandit groups. Despite their insane population, all of them have pleaded loyalty to Cloud Dream King - the lord of Dark Gale. Of course, outsiders preferred to use another title for him - Bandit King.

In reality, Dark Gale had a history older than even Armament Mountain or Virtuous School. Some historians even believed that it just might be the oldest lineage in Sword Continent.

This bandit camp had committed numerous atrocious deeds including killing disciples from the behemoths. Strangely enough, it survived all the eras. No one had heard of an expedition against it either.

Even dao lords kept their distance from Dark Gale instead of destroying it.

After all, bandits were normally viewed as morally-depraved villains but most importantly, weak. Any organized force should be able to take them down. This just wasn't the case here to everyone's astonishment.

Some attributed this to the camp having powerful experts such as its king and ancestors. Cloud Dream King was one of the Six Sect Masters so he was no slouch.

However, legend has it that there was a terrifying ancestor there with the title of Nightloom, capable of contending against the Five Overlords and should be as strong as Hallowed City Lord. All in all, he was one of the strongest cultivators in Sword Continent, a reason for Dark Gale's resiliency.

Some disagreed with this notion because Dark Gale has been around for a long time before this ancestor. There should be other reasons for its success.

Unfortunately, the world couldn't come up with any concrete support. The dao lords who knew the actual reasons never told the world either.

The place eventually became a haven for criminals and those with secrets to hide. Many with powerful enemies also chose it as their new home.

Chapter 4110: Money Talks

The lake had eighteen well-known islands, the strongest of them being Dak Gale. The entire region was under Dark Gale's rule.

Thus, in order to stay here safely, one must pay Dark Gale enough money and gain their protection. This granted them immunity from being robbed.

To not do so was quite risky. A few disciples from top sects were cocky and confident in their skill. They entered Dark Gale alone and sure enough, the ending of this story was not pretty.

This precedence has been set for eras now. People came to Dark Gale and paid the fee in order to stay alive. They eventually joined the various bandit camps as well.

As time went on, the region became filled with hidden dragons and crouching tigers. There was no lack of powerful cultivators.

There was another reason for its popularity among both the young and the old. The lake also served as an incredible black market without rules. Stolen items were up for sale without any repercussion. Treasures with dubious origins could still be offloaded.

While using a heavenly gaze, one could see the faint outlines of the islands. Some were hidden in the fog and had different physical features.

One could hear the loud marching of a legion from the horizon. Their banners fluttered with the winds while their treasures illuminated the area.

It consisted of tens of thousands of members, the majority being good-looking women. They didn't have a uniform either. Some wore plates thin and small enough to still show off their curves. Others chose dresses barely thick enough to hide their white skin. A few chose regal dresses and exuded an air of nobility...

Spectators would be captivated by this group since beauties of all types could be seen here - sexy, cold, heroic...

They rode incredible beasts - auspicious breeds, colorful birds, elephants as large as mountains. Their march included loud explosions and earthquakes.

Each banner had the character "Li" engraved on it using golden strings. This resulted in a blinding radiance, making it hard to stare directly at it.

On top of them were flying creatures - massive blood eagles, cloud serpents, lightning birds...

From a distance, this looked like a supreme lord accompanied by countless fairies.

Everyone became slack-jawed because no one in Sword Continent traveled with this level of luxury and extravagance.

The most shocking thing was still the flying citadel in the center.

“Windrider Draconic Carriage... Isn’t this the most expensive carriage for sale in Archaic Style?” One expert’s mouth was agape.

“Yes, and that citadel is named Cloudriding, the most expensive one in the Li’s auction house. It has been for sale for five thousand years now.” Another recognized the flying city.

“Do you see that radiance? It should be coming from the Immortal Monarch Palanquin, one of the best treasures from Immortal River Kingdom, why is it here?” An older cultivator took note of a wondrous light coming from the city.

“That’s not all, take a closer look at the throne.” An ancestor activated his heavenly gaze and said: “That’s an Auspicious Golden Lion laying next to it. I remember its price, one billion and three hundred million...”

“I see a Nine-firmament God Hawk perching on that beam too, over there.” One keen-eyed old man saw a hawk pulsing with a divine radiance. Its eyes were as sharp as swords.

“That floating fish around the throne is a Five-element Fish, it’s extremely strong...” One more ancestor reminded.

“Who is this? Don’t tell me it’s one of the Five Overlords?” A young soul asked.

“No, it’s Li Qiye.” An older ancestor responded.

Once the legion got close enough, they saw the man lazily lying on the throne - Li Qiye.

Countless treasures were embedded on his robe - a divine eye, the eye of a devil dragon, a jade with a luster only seen in an immortal realm...

Each of these treasures exuded immense pressure on the spectators.

“Goddamn, isn’t that the Hallowed Jewel Robe? I think the Nine-wheel City Lord thought about buying it before but gave up due to its outrageous price.” One spectator said.

“They’re all nothing compared to what’s on top of his head...” A sacred lord told the crowd.

They finally turned attention to the space right above him and saw floating dao lord weapons...

Galaxy Shift Truncheon, Five-mountain Hammer, Trigram Fiery Mirror...

Their auras could crush the firmaments and make spectators shudder with fear. Just seeing one in person was difficult and rare enough, let alone so many together in one place.