

Emperor 4111

### **Chapter 4111: Seven Nights Immortal, Utterly Incomparable**

The floating dao lord weapons astounded the spectators, causing their eyes to turn red with jealousy.

“You know, I’m from a big sect and I haven’t gotten to touch a dao lord weapon yet while he has a bunch.” An expert from a first-rate sect complained.

Li Qiye was displaying the weapons as if he had a vegetable stand.

“Please, I’ve been an elder for half of my life and still don’t have one.” An elder replied.

One ancestor chuckled and said: “Don’t be so petty, how many actually get to have dao lord weapons? They’re always used as defining treasures for the sect.”

This was indeed the truth. Many great powers had one or seven several dao lord weapons. As for behemoths like Sea Emperor? They had many more.

However, few members were qualified to bring one with them. They didn’t belong to a single individual, not even an ancestor or the sect master. Taking one out required the permission of the upper echelon.

As for Li Qiye, he alone had a dozen or so dao lord weapons and they all belonged to him. Thus, the crowd’s jealousy was well-warranted in this case.

“Hmph, is he afraid that people don’t know he’s rich, how shallow.” Someone said bitterly.

Li Qiye’s traveling crew was not inferior to the legendary dao lords in the slightest. No one else in the world right now could come up with something similar.

“Let him be, he’s the richest in the world now. We would all do the same if we were in his shoes.” Another cultivator in a good mood smiled and said.

“What’s there to brag about, so gaudy and ostentatious.” One jealous soul expressed.

“I wouldn’t mind being called gaudy and ostentatious like Li Qiye. At the very least, it means I’m rich.” A young cultivator murmured.

Others chuckled after hearing this young man.

“The brat is too bold, he’s going to Cloud Dream with so much fanfare, is he not afraid of the bandits? I’m seeing a fat sheep marching into his demise.” A last-gen cultivator said.

“I think the bandits should be afraid of him, didn’t you see what happened to the legions from Armament and Starshooter? He took care of them without batting an eye.” Another said.

“Is he really that capable? I thought he relied on the ancient formation.” Some still questioned Li Qiye’s ability to this day.

“You can slap someone to death with enough money. Look at his items and treasures, they’ll obliterate anyone who dares to try.” An old cultivator said.

No one could refute this comment. Li Qiye might not be strong but since he was the richest, he could do whatever he wanted.

“It’s clear what he can do by just looking at the entourage. Those pretty girls didn’t come out of thin air. I heard he spent a lot of money inviting pretty and young cultivators and they all came running. Even some princesses accepted his invitation.” A high elder elaborated.

“Seven Nights Immortal, utterly incomparable.” They suddenly heard a loud and uniform shout. [1]

“Seven Nights Immortal, utterly incomparable. Seven Nights Immortal, utterly incomparable. Seven Nights Immortal, utterly incomparable...” The shouts resembled waves shooting through Cloud Dream.

Cultivators exchanged glances after hearing the majestic chants, speechless. This was both ridiculous yet somehow intimidating.

They felt that Li Qiye was as arrogant as can be. He wanted to show the world just how rich he was.

“Young Noble, this is a little...” Xu Yiyun standing behind him didn’t know whether to laugh or to cry.

Though she was the one who organized the entourage, this chant was added later by Li Qiye.

“What about it?” He lazily leaned on his chair while eating a fruit handed to him by another beautiful cultivator.

“This slogan is a bit much...” She smiled wryly.

“Don’t concern yourself with what the world thinks, broaden your horizon. This is just a little game.” Li Qiye said.

The beauties next to him were left without words.

“Young Noble, your traveling arrangement is absolutely the number one right now. Even the Five Overlords don’t have anything similar.” One maid said.

“Yes, an ant can’t be as great as a giant.” To which he responded.

The girls were stunned again. He was calling the best cultivators in Sword Continent “ants”? Of course, they kept their mouth shut because he was the one paying them.

Just getting a tip from him was more money than they had ever seen before. Their sects couldn’t compare to him in the slightest. Therefore, it was imperative to keep him happy.

As for Xu Yiyun, she was at a loss for Li Qiye’s plan. Taking back some territories wasn’t a big deal because Li Qiye had many experts under his payroll.

However, he still wished to come here in person. She has been perplexed for a while now because from what she had seen, he wasn’t that interested in his wealth, never bothering to check twice. Then what else in the world could interest him?

Lu Qi was also present; her face still hidden behind a black veil. Despite her knowledge, his intention this time was out of her reach.

Meanwhile, the incredible group entered Cloud Dream while still chanting: “Seven Nights Immortal, utterly incomparable!”

They finally saw some islands ahead.

“Let’s see if these bandits will do anything to him.” The neutral spectators followed him inside.

“Rumble!” The sea started splitting and massive waves formed.

In just a short time, gigantic battleships rushed out of the islands.

### **Chapter 4112: Dark Dragon Monarch**

“Rumble!” A large tsunami emerged as a mighty group rushed closer.

“Damn! The bandits are coming!” An expert shouted.

The neutral spectators hurriedly ran back because the bandits here weren’t a joke. They never cared for morality or lives.

Some didn’t bother moving away because they had paid the protection fee to Dark Gale. Thus, they were absolutely safe in Cloud Dream. At the very least, no bandits would target them.

“Boom!” One group stopped before Li Qiye and it seemed as if a colossal creature was coming out of the ocean.

A maelstrom formed and blotted out the sky. Members finally emerged, consisting primarily of demons.

Shrimp soldiers and crab generals, serpent kings and tiger demons, treants other plant-based monsters...

Thousands of them immediately surrounded Li Qiye’s entourage.

“They’re from Dark Dragon Island.” Someone recognized this group right away.

This was one of the eighteen main islands of Cloud Dream, inhabited by primarily demon cultivators. It had considerable influence in this region.

“Boom!” A large figure appeared in one of the wave pillars.

Once the wave subsided, a great demon could be seen standing on top of the water. He had a human head and a snake body. He wielded a long serpent blade. His eyes were dark blue and pulsed brightly. His aura was oppressive, capable of splitting the ocean in two.

“Dark Dragon Monarch, their island lord.” One expert shouted after seeing the gigantic demon.

“He has been here for five thousand years with permission from Cloud Dream King to reside in Dark Dragon Island. He has one hundred thousand demons under him.” An older cultivator revealed.

"I built this road and planted these trees..." The monarch spewed a rather common line for bandits.

However, Li Qiye waved his hand and interrupted him: "There's no road and trees here. Stand aside."

"Brat, do not interrupt me when I'm talking!" The monarch turned red and became angry.

Xu Yiyun stepped forward and cupped her fist: "Dark Dragon Monarch, our young noble is passing through this area. If you have no business with us, please give way and we will show you our appreciation later."

"Hehehe, this brat is the one who got the Preeminent Legacy?" The monarch stared at Li Qiye.

"We have a show now." One spectator whispered. Li Qiye clearly looked like a fat sheep to these bandits.

The monarch had insatiable greed in his eyes, especially when looking at the dao lord weapons floating above him.

He was ecstatic; this seemed to be a gift from heaven. This fat sheep came knocking on his door.

If he could rob this guy and grab all of those weapons, he would never have to worry about competition or needing to listen to Cloud Dream King again. He would be the true ruler of Cloud Dream Lake.

"Yes, that's our young noble." Yiyun said.

Dark Dragon Monarch's saliva streamed out of his lips so he had to wipe it with his hand. He pointed his spear forward and said: "Brat, leave all of your treasures behind and I will spare you."

"Boss, not just his treasures, all the beauties as well." His men salivated while staring at the beauties.

"Hehehe, that's right, so many pretty girls. We'll have so much fun." A river demon let out perverted laughter.

The other demons agreed and became impatient.

Their perverted expression infuriated the beauties under Li Qiye's banner. They were relatively famous and came from powerful sects. Some were actually princesses.

Of course, their sects weren't as large as the behemoths. Nonetheless, they didn't need to back down before anyone.

"Barbaric idiots." Li Qiye didn't bother looking at the monarch when speaking: "Cut off your arm while I'm still feeling merciful, then scam."

"Hahaha! You want me to cut off my arm? The audacity, hahaha, can't believe an outsider is telling me this..." The monarch laughed from being too angry.

He then glared at Li Qiye and said menacingly: "Brat, hand over your sh\*t before it's too late."

"Boss, just give us the orders, we'll eat him down to the bones!" A serpent shouted.

"I'll feast on his bones too!" A mouse demon said.

“Brat, did you hear that? My brothers are hungry.” The monarch said.

“Kill them.” Li Qiye lazily waved his hand while still sitting on his throne.

“Crimsondeath Monarch, your presence is required.” Xu Yiyun shouted.

“Splash!” Another tsunami formed because divine boats traveled above the water.

A mighty legion appeared out of nowhere and surrounded the demons.

“I await your orders.” Crimsondeath Monarch lowered his head. His legions consisted of myriad races. Their armor was shiny and completely new.

“This legion isn’t bad at all.” The spectators found this surprising.

Li Qiye spent a handsome sum to invite the members of this legion. Crimsondeath Monarch was left in charge.

“The young noble wishes to never see them again.” Xu Yiyun passed on the message.

“Dao Brother.” Dark Dragon Monarch was startled to see Crimsondeath.

Crimsondeath was a famous cultivator in Sword Continent, hence the monarch’s astonishment.

“Dark Dagon Monarch, blame yourself for being blind today. Die.” Crimsondeath commanded.

“Kill them!” The members of his legions immediately attacked the demon bandits.

“Take them on!” What else could Dark Dragon do at this point but fight? He swung his spear towards Crimsondeath: “Eat this!”

“Let’s go!” Crimsondeath wasn’t afraid at all and raised both hatchets for a thunderous slash.

“Rumble!” The two sides didn’t show any mercy.

The two monarchs had an incredible match and devastated the area. Waves emanated from their position.

“Ahhh!” Screams echoed while corpses fell downward. Their blood stained the water red.

Crimsondeath Monarch’s legion was well-trained, knowing when to attack and when to defend properly. Their formation was formed quickly and orderly. This allowed them to have the upper hand against the bandits.

“They’re actually doing well, this isn’t a disorderly band consisting of random recruits.” A high elder found this surprising.

These men were rewarded and heavily paid by Li Qiye. Crimsondeath, Tie Jian, and A’zhi spent time training them. Moreover, they were equipped with expensive weapons and armor. Thus, this legion was comparable to those from first-rate sects.

“Hmm, this is the training method and formation of an organized sect, how impressive.” One ancestor pointed out.

## Chapter 4113: All-out Battle

“Boom!” Crimsondeath Monarch and Dark Dragon Monarch’s first exchange caused tsunamis to shoot out from the epicenter.

Horrified spectators immediately retreated, not wanting to die for a dumb reason.

Dark Dragon staggered several steps backward, clearly at a disadvantage in a direct confrontation. His cultivation was one level lower.

“Sisters, kill them!” Xu Yiyun joined the fray and unsheathed her sword. Celestial pulses manifested from the blade.

Her slash contained the power of the stars, ready to flatten the world.

“Go!” The beauties in the entourage leaped forward and summoned their treasures.

“Boom!” Weapons and treasures flew upward and unleashed untold devastation. The beauties didn’t hold back at all against the bandits.

Screams echoed repeatedly as the bandits lost more than half of their men. Large fish and other aquatic creatures were drawn in, wanting a taste of blood and flesh.

They couldn’t keep up with Crimsondeath Monarch’s legion on top of being hunted by Xu Yiyun’s group. This resulted in a swift defeat.

Yiyun’s group primarily consisted of powerful cultivators. At first, one would think that they were there strictly for appearances. However, due to their background, they possessed incredible cultivation for their age.

Normally they wouldn’t risk their lives for Li Qiye but the bandits spewed foul words so they did not hold back.

“We’re withdrawing!” Dark Dragon Monarch was losing his battle as well and jumped out of the battle.

He swung his spear vertically and separated the water to create a path straight to Dark Dragon Island.

“Withdraw!” The other bandits started running without caring about their comrades, wanting to have four legs to run even faster.

“Ahh!” This ended with a massacre for those too slow to run. Crimsondeath Monarch and Yiyun led the way and surrounded the survivors, not sparing a single one.

Dark Dragon Island lost two-third of their men. The lucky survivors were scared out of their mind, not expecting to suffer this terrible defeat. This was their first time losing so badly at Cloud Dream.

“Wow, they’re so strong.” The spectators were in awe.

“Dark Dragon is weak among the eighteen islands. The issue is that not many sects want to start a massacre at Cloud Dream Lake.” A high elder said.

Most understood this reasoning. For example, plenty of sects in Sword Continent could obliterate Dark Dragon Island.

It’s just that no one was willing to do so because it would be considered a declaration of war against Cloud Dream Lake. This would prevent their members from entering this region in the future.

“Pursue, kill them all.” Li Qiye ordered.

“Men, march!” Crimsondeath Monarch gathered his men again and marched towards Dark Dragon Island.

“Rumble!” Carriages and chariots trampled the sky. This legion led the way with Li Qiye’s entourage right behind them.

“Damn, they’re actually attacking the island.” Spectators found this astonishing.

“He’s not playing around, this is rather bold.” One expert thought that Li Qiye was being too arrogant.

“Isn’t this the same as poking a beehive? The other islands won’t sit still and watch. Is his group capable of contending against all eighteen islands?” One youth asked.

Normally, the eighteen islands operated independently. However, they were still under the jurisdiction of Dark Gale Camp.

If someone were to attack an individual island, the other seventeen might group up against them. Thus, it was rather unwise to carry out a siege.

“This is on par for Li Qiye. Cloud Dream Lake is just a lair of bandits compared to Sea Emperor Sword Kingdom. The guy even stole their future queen. He just needs to pay enough money for more experts.” An older cultivator said.

The crowd agreed with this. Everyone knew about Ning Zhu’s matter; this was nothing short of declaring war against Sea Emperor.

He wasn’t afraid of this behemoth, let alone Cloud Dream Lake.

The loud marching alarmed both neutral spectators and the bandits among the eighteen islands.

“They’re still coming, how dare they!” Dark Dragon Monarch received this report after making it back to the island and jumped out of his chair.

“Boom!” The island became resplendent and started spinning like a grinder.

“Dark Dragon Island is activating their defenses.” One expert said: “It’s known to be quite tough, no one has gotten through yet.”

“Crimsondeath, you’re pushing it!” A large image of Dark Dragon Monarch appeared on top of the island and shouted.

Crimsondeath coldly uttered: "It is not too late to surrender. Our young noble might show mercy in that case or it'll be your last moment once we take down the island."

Crimsondeath was notorious in the past and wasn't part of the righteous path. He had destroyed sects before so this wasn't a big deal. Moreover, destroying a lair of bandits was justification enough.

"We'll see if you can take my island down! But remember, this is Cloud Dream, you're not leaving this place alive..." Dark Dragon roared.

"Commence." Li Qiye stopped this conversation and ordered while being fed fruits on his throne.

"Attack!" Crimsondeath led the way for his men.

"Attack!" The legion was right behind him.

"Boom!" The entire island actually started flying towards the legion to attack its enemies.

"Bam! Bam! Bam!" The monarch and his legion stopped the first two smashes successfully but were sent flying by the third.

"Regroup!" He maintained his composure and ordered the legion for another offense while swinging his hatchets wildly.

Alas, this seemed rather futile. The legion couldn't take down the island's defense.

#### **Chapter 4114: Slash**

"Boom!" The monarch became frustrated and leaped into the air for a dual-slash attack, splitting the water beneath.

Fiery sparks scattered everywhere as if a volcano was erupting. The rest of his men didn't relent either.

It seemed as if they were hitting a steel barrier. Meanwhile, the island kept on spinning and forcing them back.

"See, Dark Dragon Island is not bad at all." One cultivator said: "It has been worked on for millions of years now. If Dark Dragon Monarch and his men stay there, they'll be just fine."

"Yes, the situation looks unfavorable for Crimsondeath Monarch's side." Someone from the last generation analyzed: "The bandits from the other islands will come soon, he'll be pincerd then."

"Not only that legion but Li Qiye's group will be trapped too, the bandits won't let such a fat sheep go." A big shot added.

Everyone wanted a piece of Li Qiye's pie, let alone the greedy bandits. Moreover, he was inside their territory.

Dark Dragon Monarch heaved a sigh of relief after seeing the successful defense. He laughed and said: "Crimsondeath, surrender and join us and we'll drop this issue. We'll even give you half of the spoils."



He attempted to poison Crimsondeath to team up with him against Li Qiye. Moreover, having Crimsondeath join them would increase their island's power as well.

"Stop daydreaming, attack!" Crimsondeath didn't fall for it and continued attacking the island.

This wave of offense was still proven ineffective.

"Enough of this, help them." Li Qiye waved his hand and ordered.

"Affirmative." A voice came from the sky.

"Clank!" A resplendent sword glint manifested with the intensity of the sun, temporarily blinding the spectators regardless of their cultivation. They covered their eyes in pain.

A gigantic sword descended; its energies ravaged and divided the lake.

"Such power!" The neutral crowd shouted.

"Crack!" It slashed the island and immediately destroyed the defensive line.

"Who is it?!" Dark Dragon Monarch bellowed in horror.

The massive sword suddenly split into actual cultivators. They had a cold aura, looking like unsheathed swords ready to deliver a fatal blow.

There were only several hundred or so. A middle-aged man also showed up at the same time. He wore a traveler's robe, looking a bit yellow and sickly.

He was none other than Tie Jian. The other sword users were members of his sect - elites among elites and battle-hardened.

"Kill them." He coldly uttered and didn't join the battle.

"Clank!" Sword glints and images filled the sky again. An ocean of grand dao appeared above as numerous slashes rained down on Dark Dragon Island.

"Go!" Dark Dragon Monarch led his men to battle.

"Ahh!" Unfortunately, the bandits were far weaker than the elite swordsmen. This resulted in a bloody massacre.

"Here's our chance!" Crimsondeath Monarch took advantage of the barrier being down and joined the battle with his men.

It became a one-sided massacre; a reversal seemed impossible.

Tie Jian's men were particularly impressive, decapitating one demon after another. Their battle spirit was considerable and frightened the spectators.

"Who are they?" This question popped up.

Crimsondeath's legion was already impressive enough, being on the same level as those from first-rate sects.

However, this elite force was far superior. It would be extremely difficult for any sect to have something as deadly.

“Only the behemoths can train such elites.” One ancestor’s expression darkened.

“It must be nice to have money. How much has he spent so far...” A clan expert said with envy.

Sure, the behemoths such as Sea Emperor and Nine-wheel Citadel could have disciples of this level. However, they would only work for their own sect.

On the other hand, Li Qiye only became rich recently. There was no way he could train this elite force in such a short time. Thus, everyone believed that he had paid a sky-high price for them.

“This seems a bit familiar.” One ancestor commented, thinking that he had seen the swordsmen’s style before.

Blood flowed like rivers in this one-sided affair. The bandits no longer put up a fight.

“Boom!” After a direct exchange with Crimsondeath Monarch, Dark Dragon Monarch smashed into the island, causing it to shake violently.

He turned to flee towards another island to seek reinforcement, aware of how grim the situation was.

“I don’t think so.” Tie Jian saw this and grabbed his sword.

“Clank!” The spectators couldn’t even see his swing but a mighty slash was indeed coming for Dark Dragon Monarch.

The frightened monarch turned around and raised his spear for a parry.

“Clank!” The spear was cut in half without being able to stop the slash from hitting its master.

#### **Chapter 4115: Being Rich Is Terrific**

“Ahh!” Dark Dragon Monarch suffered the same fate as his spear. The two halves fell into the lake, adding a red hue to it.

The mighty cultivator couldn’t stop a single slash. Of course, it should be noted that he was amidst running away and had little time to react. Nonetheless, it wouldn’t be easy to duplicate this feat.

This showed that the man’s cultivation far exceeded both Dark Dragon and Crimsondeath Monarch.

Others took a deep breath after witnessing the murder. Such ability was rare in Sword Continent; he should be someone famous.

“Who is he?” Many experts murmured.

Some carefully observed Tie Jian but didn’t recognize him or his background.

“A master like this shouldn’t be unknown.” Another said. He should be a big shot ruling an entire region. Alas, no one from their memory matched this sword user.

“He seems so familiar as if I’ve met him before.” One ancestor said. Some of his peers also felt the same way but they couldn’t recall.

“He has to be from a big sect.” Another important figure mused.

Tie Jian didn’t reveal any merit law and sword technique. However, people thought that his style and temperament matched someone from a powerful sect.

“Having money is so nice, he gets to hire so many experts.” Someone expressed their jealousy and envy.

Most in the crowd still felt deep contempt towards Li Qiye since he had no redeemable characteristics outside of being rich. Alas, this rich guy had a force rivaling any great power under his control.

This was a case of a nobody suddenly turning into a supreme existence. Nonetheless, the stench of a nouveau-riche and dirty money remained with him. He had no elegance and grace like others from the large sects.

“It’s over for Dark Dragon Island. There will only be seventeen now.” A spectator murmured after seeing the bandits completely wiped out after the death of Dark Dragon Monarch.

“Why didn’t the other islands come to help? Aren’t they on the same side?” Another found this rather strange.

Others exchanged glances after hearing this. There were no signs of other islands coming to help ever since the siege.

“Is it because Dark Dragon Monarch couldn’t call for reinforcement on time? The island went down too fast.” Someone else said.

“No, Cloud Dream Lake might not be that united. They’ll band together when there are enough benefits but normally, they operate independently unless there’s a command from Dark Gale.” An old expert understood the region.

“Don’t forget, the people are dead but the island is still there. Li Qiye’s group won’t stay here forever. Once they leave, the other islands can divide Dark Dragon Island.” A clan elder said.

Most agreed with this. The other bandits probably didn’t mind seeing Dark Dragon Island go down, there would be more room for them in the future.

“Rumble!” Crimsondeath Monarch and his men found the treasury of the island and started excavating it.

Spectators’ eyes lit up after seeing this.

“Dark Dragon Island has been operating for several thousand years, I’m sure they have many treasures and metals.” One of them said.

“No wonder why Li Qiye pursued the matter.” An old cultivator commented.

“Young Noble, we have found Dark Dragon Island’s treasury.” Someone reported to Li Qiye.

Li Qiye glanced at it and nonchalantly said: “Open it.”

“Rumble!” Crimsondeath and the others used all their might and successfully opened it.

“Buzz.” Bright rays rushed out of the treasury. It certainly had some good stuff - refined jades and metals neatly arranged. Colorful lights impressed the spectators.

This was not a supreme treasury or anything but it had plenty of resources - a monstrous sum to a regular cultivator.

“Allocate them in accordance to contribution.” Li Qiye didn’t bother looking at the treasury again. The content was no different than scrap metals to him.

“Thank you, Young Noble!” The members of the legion bowed towards him, looking quite excited for the handsome rewards.

Normally, after a successful take-down of an enemy sect, the spoils would go to the treasury. Only a minor portion was allocated to the contributors.

In this case, Li Qiye gave everything to them. Such generosity was well-appreciated; the morale of his followers improved.

“Sigh, I should have accepted the invitation.” One expert regretted.

During his previous recruitment, many worried about damaging their status and reputation so they didn’t join him.

In retrospect, this seemed to be the wrong decision. The salary was good on top of extra rewards - probably more money than they would get after a lifetime of toiling for their sect.

“I wonder if he’s still recruiting.” An expert quietly asked around.

As the saying goes - no one can resist the temptation of money. Those who looked down on Li Qiye previously still wanted to join him after seeing the potential rewards.

Even elders from larger sects thought about accepting the invitation at this point.

“Let’s go to our destination.” Li Qiye didn’t care for this insignificant child’s play and gave the order.

“Men, to Tortoise Monarch Island!” Xu Yiyun passed down the command.

The legion and his personal entourage started moving again. This time around, the girls were even louder since they were in a great mood.

“A man can enjoy the same treatment as a king as long as he has enough money.” One expert said bitterly.

## **Chapter 4116: Tortoise Monarch Island**

“Rumble!” Explosions and grinding accompanied the legion’s marching.

“Seven Nights Immortal, utterly” The chant became louder and louder.

New spectators found the entire thing bizarre. Today, Li Qiye assaulted the bandits’ lair in such a pompous and arrogant manner.

“I can’t remember the last time anyone did this to Cloud Dream Lake.” An expert said.

“It’s a blatant provocation. What is he trying to do?” An older expert wondered.

Li Qiye had a penchant for offending great powers, from Sea Emperor to Armament. People had thought that he was dead for sure. Alas, he was still perfectly well right now, seemingly ready to humiliate and stomp on the bandits’ faces.

“Seems like he wants to go big, his forces are growing stronger too, not that this matters. When he was all alone, he still dared to provoke Sea Emperor. Now, he certainly isn’t afraid of Cloud Dream Lake. I wonder if these bandits will have the power and decisiveness necessary to stop him, the insane monster.” One elder commented.

By this point, they would find it weirder if Li Qiye wasn’t being arrogant and overbearing.

“Maybe, he already has enough money. If he can take over Cloud Dream, he’ll eventually have a stable income source as well.” A big shot guessed Li Qiye’s goal.

After all, he destroyed one island already. They thought that taking over was the plan; that’s the reasoning behind recruiting an entire legion. Momentum was on his side - it was time for him to expand his reach and start his own sect.

Cloud Dream was a famous destination for trading. If he were to take over, he would have a stable source of income by creating a trade alliance.

Moreover, he would be praised for attacking the bandits in Cloud Dream as well. No one would criticize him for getting rid of villains.

All of these reasons contributed to their speculation of him wanting to seize Cloud Dream.

Meanwhile, the other seventeen islands felt nervous as well and paid close attention to the situation. They even mobilized and were ready for a potential battle. Dark Gale Camp has been informed as well.

The destruction of Dark Dragon Island took them by surprise due to its unprecedented nature. Dark Dragon Island went down too quickly so they didn’t have time to take advantage of the situation.

“He’s heading for Tortoise Monarch Island.” Someone noticed the direction of Li Qiye’s legion: “Is that his next target?”

“If that’s the case, then he’ll be officially declaring war on all the bandits.” An older expert became startled.

“At least we’ll have a fun show, maybe a big battle.” Other cultivators caught news of this and started flying over.

“This might be a good development in the grand scheme of things.” Someone who had suffered at the hand of Cloud Dream became happy.

“Hmm, Tortoise Monarch Island is probably the strongest when not counting Dark Gale Camp.” Another stated.

An elder nodded in agreement: “Yes, and the turtle monarch is older than Cloud Dream King. He was already the island lord before Cloud Dream King took over Dark Gale Camp. His island is also the most peaceful and prosperous. They might be bandits but still uphold some rules and creeds, that’s why traders go there the most.”

What was the main attraction of Cloud Dream Lake? Clearly its black market and freedom in selling goods of questionable origin. A relatively lawful place like Tortoise Monarch Island was perfect.

The place was large and consisted of several islands connected together. From a distance, it looked like a black turtle relaxing on top of the lake. The “head” of the turtle had a massive peak reaching the clouds.

It had numerous cities and towns with no lack of shops. To a certain extent, the island has become something more than a lair for bandits. Some even came here to live and do business.

Today, alarm gongs were struck throughout the island.

“Back to your spot!” The bandits of the island became anxious. Of course, in Tortoise Monarch, they resembled guards and soldiers more.

“War?” Its inhabitants were tense and nervous since they considered the island their home. It was far better than the other seventeen islands.

Beams of light surrounded the island. A massive turtle seemingly came back to life. Barriers manifested into reality.

“That’s a strong defense.” One observer praised.

“Yes, it’s comparable to many great powers. The tortoise monarch’s status is comparable to Cloud Dream King.” One high elder remarked.

“Young Noble, that island is Tortoise Monarch.” Xu Yiyun told Li Qiye.

“Looks like we aren’t welcomed here.” Li Qiye lazily glanced at it.

She smiled wryly in response. It’s because they just took down Dark Dragon Island. Regardless of its relationship with Dark Dragon, of course this island wouldn’t welcome them.

“What is your intention, Fellow Daoist?” An ancient voice came from the island.

“That’s the tortoise monarch.” Someone immediately recognized him.

“Just a little business, that’s all.” Li Qiye smiled after hearing the voice.

“Tortoise Monarch Island welcomes all around the world.” The monarch replied: “It is an honor to have you here, Fellow Daoist. However, the island is too small and has no room for your legion...”

He paused for a second before continuing: “if you wish to do business here, please have your men camp outside and come in alone.”

The listeners thought that the monarch was being rather polite to Li Qiye.

### **Chapter 4117: Old Well**

All eyes were on Li Qiye. The tortoise monarch has expressed his goodwill, seemingly giving up already.

“Are they going to fight?” One spectator quietly asked.

An expert pondered for a bit before answering: “That depends on Li Qiye’s aim. If he’s here for Cloud Dream, a fight is inevitable.”

“He has more than enough money right now and just needs land to start a sect. This location is absolutely a good choice.” Someone from the last generation said.

“His legion is already here. If it were me, I would absolutely go all the way since I’ve spent the money on recruiting already.” A clan elder added.

Many agreed. Li Qiye had spent a monstrous sum to recruit numerous experts. This should be used to expand his territory. Being passive meant losing money for nothing.

“I hope they fight so we have a show to watch.” Another gloated. Numerous cultivators wanted to see the world in chaos as well.

This was especially true for the elders and ancestors. A fight here in Cloud Dream would give them a chance to take advantage of the situation. It would be best if both sides suffer grievous losses.

Li Qiye lazily got up and smiled: “Fine, I’m a reasonable person. I’ll visit the island myself.”

With that, he told his legion: “Station nearby.” Only Xu Yiyun and Lu Qi accompanied him to the island.

“Thank you for showing mercy, Fellow Daoist. I am truly grateful.” The tortoise monarch responded.

Li Qiye’s sudden change in attitude took everyone by surprise. They thought that he wouldn’t give the tortoise monarch any face and resume his attack.

After all, he has never been afraid of anyone nor cared for the loss of lives. Just one argument could result in a massacre. Now, he became amicable and reasonable all of a sudden.

“Is the sun going to rise from the west today?” One listener remarked.

The trio landed on Tortoise Monarch Island and felt a refreshing air. This was akin to being at a comforting hot spring, prompting vacations to take deep breaths.

“It’s a good place.” He looked around and saw rolling hills and blue reflections from the water.

“Yes, this is most likely the best location when not counting Dark Gale Camp. The tortoise monarch has been working to make it better for a very long time now. Rumor has it that he’s just as old as Nightloom, the ancestor of Dark Gale.” Lu Qi responded.

“A good place will have fine people as well.” Li Qiye smiled and said: “Go take our territory back, I will walk around myself.”

The two obeyed without saying another word. In reality, they didn’t need so much fanfare during this trip. Just Xu Yiyun and Crimsondeath’s legion would have been enough to take back their land. Thus, the two could tell that Li Qiye had other plans in coming here but they knew better than to ask unwanted questions.

After the two were gone, Li Qiye took his time walking through the island. The spirit energy here was awfully thick as if there was an energy source deeper in the island.

Strangely enough, it was rather evasive. Ordinary cultivators could only sense its presence, nothing more.

As for Li Qiye, each of his steps measured the land. The contact between the sole of his foot harmonized with the veins in the earth.

He stopped at the ridge instead of going up the mountain completely. There was underbrush attracting his attention.

He went over and removed the grass, weeds, and stones. This revealed an old well made from rocks.

It came from an unknown era and had inscrutable runes on the surface. Staring at it for a long while would make people dizzy. The runes seemed eager to penetrate the mind.

As Li Qiye cleaned the exterior, the runes became clearer. As for the well itself, a layer of dried mud covered the mouth. He waved his hand and blasted away the mud.

He looked down and saw a bottomless well, seemingly connecting the surface to the core of the earth. One could enter a different world after jumping down. It exuded a cold air that would intensify the lower he got down.

It was rather creepy, even cultivators thought that they wouldn’t be able to climb back up once fallen.

He raised his hand over it and released colorful rays and bright particles. This looked to be the door to an immortal world, and that an immortal would come out from the other side.

Once the particles and rays touched the water of the well, they immediately disappeared. This seemed to be a fusion process.

Waves and ripples appeared on the calm water, looking quite beautiful and shiny. However, nothing else happened.

“Old man, I hope you’re not dead.” He murmured.

There was still no reaction from the well outside of the gentle waves. He patiently sat down and waited.



After a long while, he sighed and looked up at the sky: "Old man, I don't want to break in but if there's no other way, I'll do it."

Only silence answered him. He sighed and decided to go down the mountain.

Once he made it to the base, an old cultivator came over. He had gray hair and beard yet was full of vigor and spirits. His pupils were black like jades, looking like they had read countless scriptures.

He gave off a friendly expression and bowed deeply: "Please excuse the lack of reception, Fellow Daoist."

Li Qiye glanced at him and said: "Quite fast on finding out."

"I was born here so I'm very familiar with the land, that's all." The old man smiled.

"Hmm, you, just a tortoise with no innate dao connection. It must have been difficult to reach this level." Li Qiye judged.

The old man felt as if Li Qiye's eyes could see everything about him.

#### **Chapter 4118: Old Tortoise**

"You're quite insightful. My little cultivation is nothing before you." The old man bowed again.

"I do enjoy being flattered." Li Qiye said.

"I am speaking from the heart, I'm just a tortoise managing to reach the dao, can't reach the apex." The old man smiled wryly.

"This land is not bad at all. Even a worm can become something with the right luck." Li Qiye commented.

"It is a blessing from above." The old man said: "The land gave me a chance to cultivate, that's why I've been here my entire life, just a frog under the well."

"You're unduly humble. Your power is enough to earn a spot among the top masters of Sword Continent." Li Qiye said.

"There are too many masters out there, I certainly can't compete." The old man responded right away.

"You just don't want to leave this island. It's not a special treasure land or anything but there is a grand vein buried deep beneath, virtually undetectable. It helps your cultivation, albeit not at a rapid rate. But after millions of years, you'll reach your goal one day."

"I am in awe of your vision, Sir..." The old man was impressed by Li Qiye's insight.

"It's alright, I am not here to take your island, only to take a look." Li Qiye waved his hand and continued: "I wouldn't be here right now listening to you blabbering if I wanted it. Just one command would have been enough to take over."

The old man looked a bit awkward after hearing this. He changed it to a smile right away and said: "Yes, you are a true dragon soaring on the horizon while this island is so tiny. It's not big enough for you."

He was indeed worried about Li Qiye liking the island. As he said before, he was just a regular tortoise lucky enough to be on the island and surrounded by its spirit energy. He had no master to guide him in the past and lacked an innate connection with the dao.

He never left the island before since it was everything to him. Given Li Qiye's current forces, the guy could really take over.

Nonetheless, the situation looked favorable so far if Li Qiye could be trusted.

"You can stop worrying now and keep on being a good tortoise here." Li Qiye said.

"Thank you, Sir." The old man bowed his head and asked: "May I ask why you are here then? Let me know if I can be of service. I might be useless but I have a strong knowledge of the island and even Cloud Dream Lake. I will tell you everything I know."

"Since you've been here for so long, have you seen any strange phenomenon?" Li Qiye smiled.

"What do you mean by strange phenomenon?" The old man asked.

"You were granted a path towards the dao just by being here. Tell me, what would be considered a phenomenon on this special island?" Li Qiye said.

"Hmm..." The old man pondered for a while before answering: "My inability restricts my vision, I'm sure I don't notice all the mysteries but if I must bring something up, I'm sure I've heard the roars of a true dragon during my youth."

"A true dragon's roar." Li Qiye stroked his chin.

"Of course, I have never met a true dragon or heard its cries before. It's just that the sound was completely different from those of regular dragons, not similar to the roars from techniques either. I really thought that it came from a true dragon back then." The old man answered earnestly.

"That is indeed what you heard." Li Qiye nodded.

"Really?" The old man shuddered because this was a creature only existing in the legends. He took a deep breath and said: "I only heard it occasionally during my youth, it stopped later."

"I see." Li Qiye pondered.

"Are you looking for something, Sir? It might be on the other islands." The old man noticed Li Qiye's expression.

"It's here at the lake." Li Qiye said.

"Maybe you should go take a look at Dark Gale Camp, it could be there." The old man said.

"Trying to kill with a borrowed knife?" Li Qiye smiled.

"Of course not, Sir, that is absolutely not my intention." The old man's expression soured as he waved his hands repeatedly to deny the accusation.

“Really?” Li Qiye smirked at him.

“Yes, I have no ambition or plan to speak of, the only thing I want is to stay here, heaven is my witness.” The old man anxiously said, clearly feeling afraid of Li Qiye.

“Seems like you're afraid of Dark Gale Camp.” Li Qiye asked.

The old man put on a smile and said: “Dark Gale is the leader of Cloud Dream Lake, the pillar upholding everything. This region only exists because of it, otherwise, other great powers would have divided us...”

“Stop, I’m not a member of Dark Gale, no need to express your loyalty in front of me.” Li Qiye interrupted him and smiled: “Tell me, how strong is Dark Gale?”

The old man hesitated for a bit before speaking: “Dark Gale is older than the majority of great powers in Sword Continent and has countless elites. Cloud Dream King is a capable ruler as well and their ancestor is also quite unstoppable...”

This sounded like flattery but it was indeed the truth. People looked down on Cloud Dream Lake, thinking that it was a bunch of ruffians banding together.

If this was the case, how could it have survived for millions of years? The answer had nothing to do with the eighteen islands.

The masters of these islands have changed numerous times in history. The only constant and the only thing that mattered was Dark Gale Camp. It prevented other great powers from taking over and dividing the pie.

Villains and monsters gathered here in Cloud Dream Lake. Alas, no one had ever thought about rebelling against Dark Gale Camp. All of the above was a testament to its power.

“Have you been there before?” Li Qiye asked.

“I have, it’s a blessed place with plenty of talents, so much better than my island. It’s unfathomable as well.” The old man said.

“I see.” Li Qiye nodded.

“That’s why I said whatever you’re searching for might be there. You should visit and see.” The old man said.

“Why not?” Li Qiye agreed.

“Sir, I have ties with Cloud Dream King so if you wish to go there, I can lead the way.” The old man suggested.

### **Chapter 4119: Wavesplitter**

“No rush, I’ll go when it’s time.” Li Qiye responded.

“I understand.” The old man bowed: “Do you need a guide right now for the island?”

“No, take your leave if there’s nothing else.” Li Qiye said flatly.

“I will leave then, Sir. If you need anything, just give the command and I’ll do everything I can.” The old man didn’t linger around and bowed one more time before leaving.

He didn’t know why Li Qiye was here but one thing was certain - the guy didn’t come with malice or greed. This made him heave a sigh of relief.

It was tough to read Li Qiye’s personality so it was best to just stay away. He had lived long, starting from being a helpless tortoise. Putting his cultivation aside, this was thanks to his awareness and lack of arrogance. He built good relationships everywhere and the island prospered under his rule.

After the old man left, Li Qiye began walking around the island. This was one of the largest islands so regardless of the direction he was looking at, he still saw rolling mountains as if this was a continent.

He continued his steps in harmony with heaven and earth. An apex existence here would be able to notice the clues from his movement. They would shudder in horror because Li Qiye gave the impression of disappearing despite being physically there. He was becoming one with the world.

The stars have moved and the land has changed. Both this island and the entire lake didn’t use to be like this.

In the past, this region was protected by a supreme power. Alas, the great calamity broke the balance and changed what used to be unchangeable.

Nonetheless, the region’s foundation and core remained so Li Qiye kept on measuring and calculating them.

“It’s better to live a borrowed life than die a good death.” Li Qiye sighed while walking: “Old man, it’s still too early for you to die.”

His stroll lasted a while before he made it to a gulf with surrounding hills and a beautiful reef. The current was rather strong so few people came here.

There was one exception. He heard the clank of a saber and saw saber energies slashing in the air.

He stopped and watched this youth leaping upward with fluttering long hair. The youth’s saber was majestically radiant.

As he roared, he unleashed slashes splitting apart the water deep enough to see the reef at the bottom. He repeated this process as part of his training.

After another slash, the energy suddenly dissipated and he disappeared from sight. In the next moment, he appeared in front of Li Qiye, pointing his blade straight at Li Qiye’s neck.

He wore a cloak that didn’t hide his bulging muscles. He exuded ferocity and raw power. His eyes were stern with a tinge of melancholy within them.

“Who are you? How dare you try to steal my Wavesplitter Saber Art?” He uttered coldly.

“People are free to travel wherever they want, just as you are free to train here in public.” Li Qiye smiled and said.

The youth realized that this was indeed the case. He scowled and pulled his blade back, wanting to leave.

“Decent saber skill.” Li Qiye smiled and said: “I actually have a spot for a follower, do you want it?”

“Do you know who I am?” The youth stopped and turned around.

“Don’t know and don’t need to know.” Li Qiye shook his head: “Everything has an innate value and a price. Name the price and you will find that money isn’t a problem for me.”

“You’re that guy, Li Qiye!” The youth’s eyes narrowed.

“Indeed, so anything will only be a small sum for me.” Li Qiye said.

“Hmph, don’t think you’re all that just because of dirty money.” The youth didn’t like Li Qiye’s pompous attitude: “It can’t buy my Wavesplitter Art! I don’t want your dirty money.”

Others would be startled after hearing his title since he was one of the Four Weapon Heroes, Wavesplitter Young Lord. The others were Eight-armed Prince, Liu Yushang, and Illusory Princess.

“It’s because no one has given you a sky-high price before. They simply didn’t have enough money.” Li Qiye chuckled.

“Clank!” Wavesplitter unsheathed his saber and pointed it at Li Qiye’s neck again with murderous intent.

“Tell me, do you think your money can buy your life right now? I just need one slash to send you to the other side.” He threatened.

“Yes, I just need one word to let your head roll on the ground. Do you wish to try?” Li Qiye calmly said.

Wavesplitter scouted the area but didn’t notice anything. There was no one else around.

“Just try and you’ll see that not only is my dirty money capable of killing you, it can also reduce your clan to ashes as well.” Li Qiye added.

“Are you threatening me!?” Wavesplitter’s murderous intent soared.

“No, I’m merely telling the truth, you’re not worthy of a threat. I can easily pay enough experts to end your clan.” Li Qiye waved his hand.

Wavesplitter wasn’t stupid. He knew that Li Qiye was indeed telling the truth. A monstrous sum could invite enough experts to destroy his clan. No one could resist the right reward.

In fact, even the behemoths like Sea Emperor and Nine-wheel Citadel would join in. They would be able to take his clan’s wealth afterward as well.

“You won’t live to see that day. I just need to thrust my blade forward and end you first.” Wavesplitter’s expression kept on changing until he made up his mind.

“I’ll stand still, you win if you can kill me. However, I can’t guarantee that you won’t die in the process.” Li Qiye smiled.

Wavesplitter waved, unable to tell if Li Qiye was bluffing. He thought that this was rather likely but the guy could have a powerful protector in the shadow as well. It would be idiotic for the richest man in the world to travel without bodyguards.

Alas, he had scanned the area earlier without noticing anyone. This meant that whoever was in hiding would be far more powerful than him.

“Hmph.” He decided to pull his saber back and said: “I don’t desire your wealth, richest man.”

“Then what do you desire?” Li Qiye asked.

“What I want is... Ninth’s head!” He coldly declared.

### **Chapter 4120: How?**

“Ninth’s head? How are you going to do that?” Li Qiye chuckled after hearing this.

“With the saber in my hand.” Wavesplitter said with absolute confidence and determination.

“You overestimate yourself if you think you can kill him.” Li Qiye shook his head.

“You!” Wavesplitter angrily glared at Li Qiye. This was an insult to both his ability and conviction.

“Once again, I’m merely telling the truth.” Li Qiye calmly responded: “How does your cultivation compare to Ninth? Your innate talent? The obsession with the dao? Your lineage? Your dao heart? You are inferior in every regard.”

He paused for a bit and stared at the youth: “He can easily take your head but he’ll think that it’s a waste of time.”

Wavesplitter became frozen, unable to vent. The words seemed to be stuck in his throat because Li Qiye was right.

Ninth’s current achievements were predicated on the guy’s talent. His sword dao comprehension and obsession exceeded his peers.

No one else in the world was more obsessed with the sword than Ninth. As for Wavesplitter, he cultivated the saber dao but didn’t reach the same extreme level.

In terms of background, his Wavesplitter Clan’s art was definitely top-notch. Alas, it was inferior to Sword God Sacred Ground’s thirteen variations. This was a technique that took down a dao lord.

No need to say more about power. Ninth managed to kill his father, Wavesplitter Sovereign, who used to be one of the Six Sect Masters.

Li Qiye’s harsh truth pricked his heart like a knife and made him feel vulnerable.

He wanted to avenge his father so he left his home for training. Now, he felt despair after listening to Li Qiye. There was no point in becoming angry when the guy merely stated the truth.

“There is another path for you.” Li Qiye said.

“What path?” Wavesplitter asked.

“I am still recruiting so join and work for me.” Li Qiye smiled.

“Hmph, I don’t want to rely on someone else, I will use my own power to kill Ninth!” Wavesplitter said.

He had heard rumors of Li Qiye using a grand formation back at the Tang’s pain to suppress Ninth. Moreover, Li Qiye could get a more powerful cultivator to kill Ninth as well.

It’s just that Wavesplitter didn’t want someone else to obtain revenge for him. Only by killing Ninth himself would he find meaning and solace.

“I didn’t say I will kill Ninth for you. Plead loyalty and I will show you the right path.” Li Qiye said.

“My clan will never become servants to anyone, I stand proud and high under heaven!” Wavesplitter took a deep breath and said.

“As you wish.” Li Qiye shrugged: “I’m just bored and appreciate your talent.”

Wavesplitter snorted and left for good this time. Li Qiye didn’t call him back and went with the flow. Wavesplitter had the right to make his own choices.

Li Qiye went on and reached the largest city in Tortoise Monarch Island. The plaque on top of the gate had two characters, Tortoise City.

He saw people from all over the world visiting the city despite the notorious fame of Cloud Dream Lake and the bandits.

However, the bandits in this city were completely different. They weren’t brutes living in the wild. Tortoise City resembled the other great cities in Sword Continent. It was peaceful as well and served as the largest trading market in the lake.

There were thousands and thousands of inhabitants and visitors. Numerous trades happened every day.

This prosperity stemmed from the rule of the tortoise monarch. Dark Dragon Island couldn’t come close in this regard. The latter was only a lair for bandits and relied on crimes for subsistence.

“Looks habitable enough, not completely wretched. I suppose this land isn’t left to waste.” Li Qiye said.

Of course, this wasn’t to say that the city didn’t have villains and murderers around. However, regardless of their reason for being here, these villains chose to stay as law-abiding citizens.

The city had tightly-packed buildings and pavilions. In front of them were merchants setting up stalls.

Loud shouts and normal life made people forget that this place was part of the dangerous Cloud Dream Lake.

Li Qiye picked a wine shop and went upstairs for a drink. He sat near the window and watched the passengers below.

In the distant past, this place used to be a mysterious kingdom until the great calamity. At the very least, Tortoise City bore some semblance to its golden age, albeit very little.

“This is decent enough.” Li Qiye smiled.

This was a smile of mercy. He decided to spare it after seeing the city’s lifestyle. If it was a lair of bandits, he would have taken it down just like Dark Dragon Island.

He eventually noticed a particular person walking on the street - an old yet vigorous daoist. However, no one could say a nice thing about his robe due to patches everywhere.

He held a sword and looked around repeatedly, seemingly looking for something or someone.

Behind him was a rather beautiful lady. Her presence stole everyone’s attention and brightened their day.

She wore a violet dress and possessed an elegant aura. She had gentle features and a pair of eyes brimming with spirit energy.

Sword energies pulsed around her but didn’t alarm or harm anyone. The rhythm of the dao moved with her. Her hair was rather interesting, primarily jet black with the occasional snow-white strands. This was aesthetically pleasing on top of making her unique.