

Emperor 4121

Chapter 4121: Snowcloud Princess

Despite her beauty, Li Qiye only gave her a passing glance before focusing on the old daoist again.

“Why is this guy here?” Li Qiye was slightly surprised since this old man was none other than Daoist Peng from Everlasting Courtyard.

The old daoist kept on looking around before entering Li Qiye’s restaurant. He sat down on the first floor and ordered some wine and appetizers.

Meanwhile, the pretty girl entered as well and sat down next to the daoist.

“Snowcloud Princess...” Numerous cultivators got up to greet her.

She nodded politely back at them but her eyes never moved from the old daoist’s sword.

“So that’s Snowcloud Princess, Xu Yiwen.” The young cultivators were fascinated with her appearance and quietly talked among themselves.

“Yes, she’s the Fire-and-Ice Sword from Flame Valley Dao Institution of the ten Sword Prodigies. I believe she’s among the top five.” One cultivator quietly whispered.

Her exceptional beauty always commanded attention wherever she went. Thus, it was normal for everyone in the restaurant to be talking about her.

Rumor has it that she was cultivating a heavenly sword dao as well. Because of this, many believed that she was among the top five.

She didn’t care about the whispers; only the sword captured her interest.

Daoist Peng knew that she had been following him as well. After finishing his meal, he put on a pained expression and complained: “Young lady, you followed me for a long time now even though we have no past grievances. Why?”

“Daoist, I am merely interested in your sword, would you like to sell it?” Her voice was quite pleasant and polite.

“I told you that this sword is not for sale.” He said.

It turned out that he had bragged about this ancestral sword. Most didn’t think much of it but when the princess saw it, her interest was piqued right away.

“Daoist, don’t refuse so fast. After all, my price is rather reasonable. You should reconsider.” She smiled.

His head seemed to be shrinking into his neck as he spoke: “Thanks, the problem is that though the sword isn’t famous or special, it is still passed down by our ancestors as the sect’s heirloom. I can’t sell it for any amount.”

“Maybe there is another way.” She insisted: “Just tell me if there’s anything you need. I will try to satisfy you to the best of my ability.”

These weren’t empty words. Her sect was one of the strongest right now and she had plenty of influence there.

He opened his mouth but stopped then shook his head.

“It must be extraordinary to be viewed so highly by you, Princess.” A youth walked into the restaurant and said with confidence.

Others immediately thought that he was superior in some way. Everyone looked over and saw his shimmering golden outfit.

Normally, wearing golden was rather tacky and pompous if one wasn’t a royal member. However, this seemed perfect on him and gave off a transcending impression.

This particular robe seemed to be alive. The surface of the cloth seemed to have flowing golden liquid.

He wasn’t particularly handsome but looked clean and neat. He had a refreshing and amicable smile.

His golden radiance seeped through the entire restaurant and engulfed everyone.

“Goldflow Young Noble!” Everyone stood up to greet him.

“It’s my pleasure.” He slightly bowed his head.

The others sat down; their eyes brimmed with respect for him.

He was none other than Goldflow Young Noble, one of the ten prodigies. Some even considered him to be in the number one spot.

The ten have never fought before but he was still listed at the top, even above Abyss Scion of Sea Emperor.

There were several reasons for his high evaluation. Of course, not everyone agreed to this.

The first reason was due to Virtuous School’s good relationship with everyone. Since people liked him, they were more prone to giving him a generous evaluation.

Virtuos School founded by Sword Emperor had a total of three dao lords. This was a rather influential sect. It was said that three out of ten sects in Sword Continent had deep ties with Virtuous School.

This was because Sword Emperor spread the dao of the sword to this region. Thus, Virtuous School was highly respected. Goldflow Young Noble benefited from this as well.

His critics said that his high ranking had nothing to do with his cultivation, just his popularity.

Others disagreed with this, spouting that his strength was number one among the ten. They justified it by bringing up his master - the current leader of Virtuous School, Nine-sun Sword Saint. He also enjoyed the number one spot among the Six Kings.

Rumor has it that he could put up a good fight against Hallowed City Lord, and that the two had actually fought before.

Goldflow Young Noble greeted the princess then sat down next to Daoist Peng and asked: "Daoist, may I ask where you're from?"

"Just a small sect named Everlasting Courtyard from Ancient Crimson, an island." Daoist Peng didn't lie.

The young noble has indeed never heard of this tiny sect before. His eyes fell on the sword as he asked: "May I take a look at your sword?"

"It's just an heirloom, not worth your time." Daoist Peng shook his head. Though he bragged about it before, he no longer wanted the attention.

"I apologize for my rudeness." The young noble smiled wryly. He then whispered to the princess sitting nearby: "Your Highness, what's special about this sword?"

Since the sword was sheathed, he didn't see anything exceptional about the sword. He was merely curious due to her involvement.

Currently, Flame Valley Dao Institution was a lineage in possession of a heavenly sword - Flamedao. She most likely had seen it before. Therefore, her standard should be rather high which made this more interesting.

"I'm just curious." She smiled.

She saw the sword when the daoist took it out to brag. This reminded her of some texts she had read back in her sect.

Flame Valley Dao Institution was a rather unique sect. Outsiders usually considered them as one entity with two dao lords. In reality, they were two separate sects with a total of three dao lords.

In the distant past, Flame Valley and Dao Institution used to be separate. A cultivator with the title of Flame God started the valley. It was extremely powerful and ruled over numerous kingdoms.

As for Dao Institution, it was just a mortal educational establishment despite its grand name within Flame Valley's jurisdiction.

Chapter 4122: Flame Valley Dao Institution

These two powers initially had nothing to do with each other until one day, a princess from the valley fell in love with a poor scholar from Dao Institution.

Her love was immediately met with strong opposition. This was rather understandable and common.

She was a prestigious noble while the scholar was just a mortal. He had a lowly upbringing with only a few decades worth of life. All of his knowledge and education were useless.

They weren't a good match regardless of the place and time due to a disparity in status. No sect would agree to this.

Flame Valley planned to break them apart by preparing a different marriage for the princess. This plan backfired because the princess showed unprecedented courage and determination, choosing to elope with her lover.

Of course, the valley pursued them right away. This left the couple in a precarious situation.

Fortunately, heaven showed mercy and during their most desperate moment, they came back from death's door and gained a fortune - the legendary Darkflame Sword Dao, one of the nine.

Darkflame was a double sword dao, divided into the Dark Sword Dao and Flame Sword Dao. There were two heavenly swords to match this dao. [1]

The princess chose the Flame Sword Dao while the poor scholar cultivated the Dark Sword Dao.

They became dao companions and appeared again in the cultivation world, sweeping through all opponents.

Both reached the peak and became dao lords, something rarely seen in history. Their title was Daoflame Dual Lords.

Despite not possessing the matching heavenly swords, they still proved themselves as mighty. Rumor has it that they could defeat other heavenly-sword-wielding dao lords as well.

Later on, many experts agreed with this notion. After all, it would be a two-on-one fight. However, since this could be construed as unfair, the couple wasn't listed among the top ten dao lords despite potentially being strong enough to qualify.

Flame Valley and Dao Institution officially became one entity later. However, they maintained their independence and operated as an alliance instead. Because they had always helped each other, outsiders viewed them as a single sect.

The two dao lords never managed to find the right celestial swords. Later on, a youth from Dao institution came across the Flamedao Sword and learned its technique. He became the next user of the Darkflame Sword Dao but unlike his predecessors, he learned a dual-wielding style.

This was a miraculous feat, shifting a double sword dao into something usable by a single person. Surprisingly enough, this wasn't the most shocking thing about this dao lord.

He actually married a regular female disciple from Flame Valley despite being a dao lord.

Remember, a dao lord was essentially the lord of Eight Desolaces. He could have married anyone - saintess, empress, princess...

It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that he had a chance with any woman during that period yet he ultimately chose a common cultivator. Moreover, he even gave his heavenly sword to her while teaching her the equivalent sword dao.

Eventually, she didn't let him down and obtained great mastery with the sword dao. From then on, he swapped back to using a single sword. The two of them could finally use the double sword style together. Many believed that they might not be weaker than Daoflame Dual Lords.

Their romance became a legend in Eight Desolaces. Darkfrost Dao Lord wasn't the strongest among his peers but he was certainly popular.

Their love also bolstered the relationship between Flame Valley and Dao Institution. Currently, Snowcloud Princess was a disciple of both powers, having access to the top techniques from both places.

"Why did you come to Cloud Dream Lake, Dao Brother?" She smiled and asked.

Goldflow Young Noble always had a mysterious air around him as if he was a hidden master. It might be due to his prestigious background on top of his humility, never praising himself or revealing his true power.

"I heard there's a top sword fight happening so I'm here to watch." The young noble revealed.

"Oh, your information network is quite fast." She praised.

"What about you, Your Highness?" he asked.

"I've heard of it too but that's not why I'm here. My main purpose is still this sword." She glanced at Daoist Peng.

The young noble did the same, aware of the princess' insight. He thought that this sword must be truly special but unfortunately, the old man didn't let him take a look.

"Daoist, why are you here at Cloud Dream?" He inquired.

"To find someone." Daoist Peng paused for a moment before answering.

"Who is it?" He smiled: "Maybe I can help you find them."

"Yes, the young noble has friends everywhere. I'm sure he'll be very helpful." The princess added.

The old daoist shook his head, not wanting to speak.

"Are you afraid that we'll ask for an unreasonable payment?" The princess smilingly joked.

The old daoist scratched his head and said: "What would the price be if you two were to help?"

"Do you mind if I make a decision, Dao Brother?" She asked the young noble before turning towards the old daoist: "I just want to take a look at your sword, I'll return it right away."

Goldflow nodded in response: "Don't worry, Daoist, I assure you that she'll give it back."

Daoist Peng became slightly tempted after hearing the two. After all, she only wanted to take a look.

"Your Highness, I'm surprised to see you so invested in something." A melodious voice sounded.

It was a lucky day for the patrons of this restaurant. They saw another girl wearing a regal dress, looking as royal as can be. Her eyes, in particular, were mesmerizing.

She and Snowcloud Princess were both gorgeous. However, the latter had an elegant and gentle style while she possessed a dignified and noble demeanor.

Waves of light emanated from her, making her look rather ethereal and pulsing in and out of existence.

“Illusory Princess.” The patrons had to stand up again to greet her.

Unlike the other two geniuses, she appeared more prideful and only nodded once.

“The top disciple from Nine-wheel Citadel.” A spectator quietly said.

“Right, one of the Four Weapon Heroes.” His friend nodded.

Many were shaken after Nine-wheel Citadel was brought up. This was a sect with four dao lords. Most importantly, it still dominated Sword Continent without relying on the sword dao.

Chapter 4123: Illusory Princess

Nine-wheel Citadel stood second only to Sea Emperor on this continent. In fact, for a long period of time, it was stronger than its rival and ruled over the region.

The most unmatched thing about Sea Emperor was its possession of two heavenly sword daos. How did Nine-wheel Citadel manage to overcome this in the past?

Of course, this was due to them producing waves of talents, but the primary reason was that they possessed three parts of one of the Nine Heavenly Scriptures, Six Wheels of the Myriad Realms.

They had three wheels out of the six - void, diamond, and earth. This made it easy for them to train top cultivators, culminating in four dao lords.

Its progenitor was Nine-wheel Dao Lord, a member of the sky spirit race and their very first dao lord. His talents and innate gifts were impeccable. He then eventually found part of the Heavenly Scripture, establishing an unshakable status for his sect.

These three wheels were definitely comparable to Sea Emperor’s two sword dao. Thus, they remained competitive over the years.

Though many came to greet the princess, there was a clear difference in their attitude versus Goldflow Young Noble’s entrance.

They actually liked him so they sincerely greeted him. As for the princess, they had to do so out of fear and propriety.

“What is this sword?” She came over and glanced at the daoist’s sword, getting straight to the point.

She didn't care for this sword after having seen numerous treasures in her life, merely feeling curious after seeing her peers in this place. She thought about obtaining it in order to one-up them.

"It's just a family heirloom." The daoist could sense a sliver of hostility from her. He actually didn't think the sword was that precious. It's just he couldn't lose it or he would go down as a sinner.

"Let me see it." She demanded imperiously.

This attitude wasn't appreciated, especially not after the daoist saw Goldflow and Snowcloud. He instinctively held the sword tighter and closer to his chest.

"No need for that, it's just a crappy sword. I won't waste your time." He smiled wryly.

Though he was an inexperienced traveler, he had heard of Nine-wheel Citadel and its might before.

"Old man, it is an honor to be asked by Her Highness." A cultivator nearby said, wanting to please the princess and climb up Nine-wheel Citadel.

"No way." The daoist didn't like this development.

Illusory Princess didn't like this and uttered coldly: "I only want to take a look, do you think I'll rob you of your crappy sword? Hmph, it's not up to you either way."

His expression darkened after hearing this.

"Princess, don't make it difficult for him even if you're just joking." Goldflow Young Noble smiled.

"He's treating me like a robber and this sword like an ultimate treasure. As if I care about this piece of crap..." She said.

"It's our sect's ultimate sword..." The daoist complained, unable to endure her contemptuous speech.

"It's still worthless." She didn't like him because others would have happily handed her the sword.

As for this old man, he seemed afraid of her stealing from him. She viewed this as an insult.

"How much, name the price and I'll buy it." She glared at him.

"It's not for sale." He immediately responded.

"I can afford it, don't worry. 3,000,000 Myriad Form Refined Jades, yes or no?" She snorted.

The crowd clamored afterward. This was quite a high price because the old man probably came from an unknown sect. Even his heirloom probably wasn't worth anything close to the offer.

In fact, they thought that he could sell his entire sect and that still wouldn't be enough. They didn't doubt the princess' ability to pay this much either.

"I'm not selling." He shook his head and spoke firmly. Though his sect and he were completely broke, he didn't want to sell their heirloom.

"5,000,000." She spoke again, wanting to buy it more and more after seeing his refusal. She thought that a poor cultivator like him would cave eventually.

“Daoist Peng doesn’t want to sell, let’s drop this matter, Princess.” Snowcloud chimed in, aware of Illusory Princess’ fiery temperament.

The girl’s pride and arrogance were understandable since she came from such a prestigious sect.

“That only makes me want it more. 7,000,000.” The princess scowled.

Goldflow Young Noble and Snowcloud Princess exchanged glances. Their relationship with her wasn’t strong enough to overcome her imperious and competitive nature.

“100,000,000.” A lazy voice interjected.

“100,000,000?!” The crowd looked over right away, astounded.

“Who is this, he dares to offend the princess?” Another murmured.

Everyone could see the princess’ insistence on obtaining this sword. It would be foolish to interfere right now since she was a top disciple of Nine-wheel Citadel.

“He, he’s Li Qiye, the world’s richest!” Someone shouted after seeing the bidder.

“Li Qiye? The guy with enough money to drown people to death?” Most have heard of Li Qiye at this point.

“He can smash a hole in the sky with his money. He’s the one who took down Dark Dragon Island, there are so many experts working for him right now so he can do whatever he wants. Bidding one hundred million is nothing more than a game to him.” One expert became jealous.

Chapter 4124: Plenty Of Money

All eyes were on Li Qiye but none doubted his financial prowess. This was only a drop in the ocean.

“One hundred million again.” Someone spoke.

“Don’t you know? That’s his favorite number. It would be foolish to bid against him, someone has to be a real masochist to do that.” An expert who had met Li Qiye before said.

“Might as well call him Millionaire Li.” An old cultivator said. [1]

“No, that’s an egregious underestimation since one hundred million is so little to him. In fact, he wouldn’t even notice it missing.” The expert elaborated.

“Billionaire Li then?” The old cultivator suggested.

“Still not enough.” The expert shook his head: “Maybe Trillionaire Li.” [2]

“I agree, that’s straight to the point. Just add his wealth to his title.” One youth agreed.

“Yes, Li Qiye should really just change his name.” Others agreed with this notion.

Of course, that wouldn’t be possible but they liked it enough to use it as a nickname.

Daoist Peng looked up and saw Li Qiye. He became ecstatic because this was the man he was searching for.

“Dis-” He was about to shout “disciple” but that wouldn’t be right given the circumstances.

“Boss, you’re here? I’ve finally found you! It wasn’t easy at all!” He stood in front of Li Qiye and was overwhelmed with joy.

Illusory Princess’ sharp eyes focused on Li Qiye. This was the case for the other two geniuses as well.

They have heard of him before but the first meeting still caught them by surprise.

“One hundred million?” Illusory Princess turned cold. She wanted to take a look or even just buy Daoist Peng’s sword. This was a matter of pride for her; the sword was irrelevant.

No one dared to interfere or bid against her, lest they want to antagonize her sect as well. Moreover, Daoist Peng was a nobody. There was no reason to stand up for a stranger.

On the other hand, this seemed on course for Li Qiye given his aggressive personality. Nine-wheel Citadel was never part of his consideration.

The princess has been used to special treatments. Even ancestors from large sects spoke politely to her. Thus, his bid was nothing short of provocation, akin to a slap on the cheek.

“You bidding against me?” She glared at him.

“Indeed, got a problem with it? I’ll make it five hundred million then. Feel free to keep it going, I’ll entertain you.” He said with a smile, not caring about her annoyance.

This only made her more livid since he increased his bid for no reason.

“Five hundred million now? I can’t imagine how rich he is.” One listener said.

“Get used to it, he has a hundred billion Dao Lord Refined Jades, this is nothing to him.” One expert said.

“Imagine how much money he spent recruiting all those experts and realize that he probably didn’t even bat an eye then. He’s probably sick of having too much money.” Another added.

“He’s done offending Nine-wheel Citadel now.” One youth noticed the princess’ ugly expression.

“As I’ve said, get used to it. The guy even stole the future queen of Sea Emperor, it’s impossible to be any crazier.” The first expert said.

“Offending too many people will result in death.” One big shot said.

Many agreed with this since Li Qiye was dealing with too many behemoths. If they were to mobilize against him, he would die without a grave.

Of course, some spectators were happy too. They disliked Li Qiye and wouldn’t mind witnessing his downfall. Furthermore, his wealth would become available again.

“Seems like you have more money than sense.” The princess uttered coldly, possessing enough self-control not to erupt in anger.

“Yes, it’s hurting my back carrying so much.” Li Qiye nodded, unaffected by her quip.

“Sword Continent is a place where strength matters...” The princess said, unable to back down. A top genius like her couldn’t lose to a guy like Li Qiye. She couldn’t contest with him in terms of money but her sect wasn’t afraid of him either.

“Yeah, yeah, I know. But, I have enough money to recruit all the experts I want. If ten isn’t enough, then one hundred. If one hundred isn’t enough, then a thousand...” Li Qiye waved his hand as if he was swatting a fly.

“Money can’t solve everything...” Her chest heaved up and down from rage.

“But that is precisely what I just did. If you can bid one billion, I’ll tell the daoist to sell the sword to you.” Li Qiye interrupted her again: “You got one billion?”

She gritted her teeth, frustrated due to her lack of finance. She wanted to display her superiority and win against this newly-rich jerk. Alas, he stopped her every time.

“You have no idea how strong Nine-wheel Citadel is, know your place!” One youth interjected to help her.

“Can Nine-wheel Citadel take things without paying? No, bandits from Cloud Dream Lake do that, not a prestigious sect. Wait a minute, this is Tortoise Monarch City, gotta pay here too.” Li Qiye had nothing else to do and decided to kill time, ready to retort against anyone.

Chapter 4125: Dirty Money

“Who says Nine-wheel Citadel won’t pay?” The youth helping the princess barked back.

“That’s perfect then, just bid five hundred million and I’ll give up the sword.” Li Qiye reached out his hand, telling them to go ahead.

“You!” The youth turned red.

“It’s just five hundred million, pay the daoist and the sword is yours.” Li Qiye continued.

The youth turned as red as a pig’s liver. He obviously couldn’t muster this monstrous sum and left himself in an embarrassing situation. Plus, even if he actually had five hundred million, he wouldn’t buy the sword with it anyway.

“I don’t want to buy it.” The princess said, unable to keep up the farce of saving face. Though she was pampered by the seniors, this amount was still outrageous. Thus, she changed the narrative.

“Oh? Your Highness, you were so imposing earlier when you demanded the sword, and here I thought you would be more than willing to pay a meager five hundred million for it.”

The princess trembled with rage but restrained herself from killing Li Qiye in order to maintain her image. She took a deep breath and said: "I've changed my mind. That piece of scrap metal is not worth five hundred million, I would rather buy something else that is actually worth it."

She spewed acrimonious words towards someone's heirloom. This was rather distasteful but Daoist Peng remained calm. He himself didn't think the sword was worth the price.

Nonetheless, no price was enough to buy it since it has been passed down for generations. He wouldn't be the one to lose it.

"A poor excuse from a poor person." Li Qiye shrugged and smiled: "Those with money never care about the price, they buy as long as they like it."

"..." The princess gritted her teeth, wanting to cut Li Qiye to pieces.

Meanwhile, spectators exchanged glances, wondering why Li Qiye was taunting her. It ended up with him becoming an enemy of the two strongest sects in Sword Continent.

"This brat is just crazy, offending everyone." One person said. Others smiled wryly after seeing his arrogant and fearless style.

"Oh well, I gave you the chance. It won't be for sale again." Li Qiye smiled.

"No one would buy it anyway." The princess snorted.

Daoist Peng heaved a sigh of relief - the storm was finally over. He shouldn't have bragged about his sword in the first place.

"It's not easy for all of us to meet, let's enjoy this moment." Goldflow laughed and tried to change the topic after seeing a pause.

He walked to Li Qiye's front and slightly bowed: "Your reputation precedes you, Young Noble. It is a pleasure to finally meet you in person."

"Coming over just to flatter me?" Li Qiye glanced at him.

Goldflow had an awkward expression but didn't mind too much: "Haha, let's say that I am, shouldn't the richest man in the world reward me with a few coins for drinks?"

"Sure, thirty million then." Li Qiye chuckled and rewarded him.

"Bam!" Refined jades fell to the ground and lit up the entire floor.

The young noble was just joking around yet Li Qiye actually rewarded him with a crazy sum.

"Thirty million..." Numerous patrons salivated.

One of them calmed down and wiped his mouth: "I've never seen so much money in my life before.

Goldflow himself couldn't believe it either since he was just joking around. He became emotional despite being quite experienced. This wasn't his first time seeing thirty million refined jades.

But in this case, they were mere strangers and this was their first conversation. This level of generosity was unprecedented.

“It would be rude of me to refuse your generosity, Young Noble.” He bowed and accepted the jades.

Other geniuses would find this rather embarrassing, more or less. After all, he was from the famous Virtuous School. Accepting a reward from Li Qiye seemed improper or even disgraceful. He didn’t seem to care and preferred the jades.

“Never seen anyone like him before, so ridiculous.” A previous-gen cultivator said sentimentally.

Others toiled for a lifetime and would never come close to this sum yet he simply gave it away.

“Young Noble, you’re the greatest...” Another came over and flattered Li Qiye, wanting the easy money.

“Stand aside.” Li Qiye impatiently waved his hand: “The first to do something is a genius, the rest are just idiots.”

Others immediately backed off right away, not wanting to make fools out of themselves. Li Qiye was amused at first but didn’t want to be bothered afterward.

“I have a question for you, Young Noble Li. I’ve been very curious about it.” Snowcloud Princess politely inquired.

“What is it?” He smiled.

“How did you open the Preeminent Legacy?” She asked. She had heard every detail about it before from numerous sources.

However, she knew that opening it wasn’t so simple.

All eyes were on Li Qiye right away since they were curious as well. That event turned him into the richest man in the world.

Chapter 4126: That Easy

“It wasn’t hard at all. I kicked an old man down there and the legacy just opened by itself.” Li Qiye casually responded, prompting the group to ruminate.

They heard this story before but remained skeptical. After all, no one else in history had done it and the opening method sounded ridiculous.

Nonetheless, they didn’t doubt that it had actually happened since Li Qiye was the main character in this story.

Snowcloud Princess felt the same way. She believed in his recollection but refused to attribute it to mere luck.

“It couldn’t have been luck, Young Noble Li.” She stared at him with a half-smile filled with implication.

She checked numerous records documenting the experiments at the legacy before. With that, she absolutely knew that luck was not a factor. The issue here was getting Li Qiye to reveal his actual method. It had nothing to do with kicking an elder from Sea Emperor down there.

Perhaps others didn't spot the underlying mysteries or Li Qiye performed something special back then. She found it regrettable that she wasn't there in person.

"How do I know, that's just how I opened it. Seems simple and easy enough to me." He played coy and said.

It was hard to argue against Li Qiye because he actually managed a feat that had eluded dao lords. Worst of all, his nonchalant attitude annoyed the crowd.

"I spent 3.6 million on that legacy..." A big shot complained. All of his money belonged to Li Qiye now.

"I spent 5.8 million, I'm still in debt over it." An ancestor added.

In order to become rich overnight, people threw their money into it only to return empty-handed. Some even went into debt. Now, they have to endure listening to Li Qiye's bullsh*t.

"I heard All in all, Hundred-flower Sect spent fifty million, they're broke now. Their sect master back then was so confident too." One cultivator said.

Some experts spent thousands of years researching the plate and became confident, thinking that they knew everything about it. Misery awaited them next.

"Hmph, just a blind cat coming across a dead mouse." Illusory Princess interjected.

"True, I guess I really am the heaven's favorite." Li Qiye ignored her insult: "I can do whatever and still win. Sigh, you all cultivated so hard your entire life while pinching coins. All of that only to still be poor. As for me, I have no cultivation to speak of and virtually zero dao comprehension, but my luck alone turned me into the richest in the world. Life is truly unfair."

He seemed to be asking for it. The crowd glared at him with both jealousy and hatred. His words struck them where it hurts.

In their mind, Li Qiye wasn't worthy of the Preeminent Legacy. He had no talent and power to speak of, no determination and ambition either...

Calling such a cultivator "trash" wouldn't be an exaggeration. But now, just a casual reward of his exceeded their lifelong savings.

"Cultivators rely on their own power. Our fate is our own, not the heaven's. We don't need luck, power alone can grasp the universe." The princess uttered coldly.

"Well said, Your Highness!" Applauses and praises popped across the floor.

"Yes, cultivators change their fate with power! She's so articulate!"

"Wow, amazing." Li Qiye clapped as well before adding: "Too bad you're still poor."

The princess' rage only grew the more she talked to Li Qiye.

“Am just telling the truth, you can see that my wealth is in the trillions while what you have is insignificant. Even your sect isn’t as rich as me. An idiot still knows better than to compete with me yet you still tried. Know your place and stop seeking further embarrassment.” Li Qiye suddenly became sharp.

Cultivators usually underestimated the power of wealth. However, Li Qiye’s case was extreme. His own power was nothing but his legion right now was comparable to any great sect’s.

Why were people afraid of Sea Emperor and Nine-wheel while feeling disdain towards Li Qiye? The guy had beaten Ninth and taken down Dark Dragon Island not long ago. This should have been enough to prove his capabilities.

Nonetheless, the princess still disagreed: “External items don’t matter to cultivators...”

“Stop lying to yourself, is it that hard to admit that you’re poor?” He interrupted her with a hand wave.

“You!” Being the junior sister of Void Saintess of Nine-wheel, she has grown accustomed to praises and love. Therefore, she couldn’t tolerate Li Qiye’s insults.

Chapter 4127: Coincidence

“Money is not omnipotent, cultivators focus on the dao. Only ultimate strength can represent everything.” A young cultivator interjected.

“Strength is the foundation.” Illusory Princess glared at Li Qiye, not wanting to back down after his repeated transgressions.

“Sounds like you think you are stronger than me.” Li Qiye smirked at her.

“I am absolutely sure of it in terms of cultivation.” She paused for a bit before emphasizing.

Of course, the majority here agreed with her since they could see Li Qiye’s cultivation. There was nothing profound to speak of since he was below average.

Ordinary disciples from the behemoths could easily kill Li Qiye in a one-on-one fight, or so they thought.

“Hmph, do you dare to fight the princess without relying on external means?” One youth scowled.

Illusory Princess wasn’t the number one genius at Nine-wheel Citadel. However, her strength shouldn’t be questioned.

As part of the Four Weapon Heroes, she was on the same level as the Ten Sword Prodigies. Sure, Goldflow Young Noble would be stronger but she might be able to contend against the others.

“Blades do not have eyes, death might be the result.” She sneered.

It became apparently clear that she wanted to kill him. It was his fault for insulting her several times so far.

His amusement returned as he spoke: "Some fools are so full of themselves, always thinking that they can kill me."

"Try then if you're not convinced." She wasn't afraid of trouble. So what if Li Qiye was the richest man in the world? Her sect wasn't afraid of Sea Emperor, let alone the new-rich.

"We have fine wine and good dishes here, enjoy them instead of violence." Goldflow Young Noble said.

He had immense influence and pull. After his smoothing attempt, the crowd scowled but chose to drop the issue. The princess did the same.

As for Snowcloud Princess, she had a strange smile on her face. Her interest in Li Qiye only grew since she was unable to see through him.

Calling him ignorant and arrogant wasn't quite right. It was more so confidence and boldness.

Thus, the atmosphere calmed down but this didn't last. "Bam!" A middle-aged man rushed in and accidentally slammed one of the tables.

He kept on looking out the entrance, looking quite sorry as if under pursuit. He saw many patrons and became happy. This doubled the moment he saw Illusory Princess.

"Your Highness, please save me!" He rushed over and prostrated before her.

"You are?" The princess didn't recognize him.

"I am Liang Po, a member of the side branch. I was there during your coronation." The middle-aged man hurriedly responded.

She nodded and recalled someone like that. He must have been a descendant of a powerful ancestor from the sect who decided to branch out later on.

The members of such sects might never set foot in the primary sect but were still considered part of it.

"What is it?" She slightly frowned after seeing the call for help. Who dared to pursue a member of Nine-wheel Citadel?

"Your Highness, my ancestral ground is on this island but someone is after it. I couldn't take them on so I fled but they still wouldn't let go." The man explained.

The crowd became startled after this.

"Such audacity? Are they courting death?" One youth said.

"Right, they're messing with the wrong person." Another expert added, wanting to please the princess.

"Who is it?" The princess' eyes turned cold and flashed with aggression.

Others should be thanking their luck that her sect wasn't actively expanding. Who dared to take their territory? She wanted to make an example of these fools to show others the consequences of provoking Nine-wheel Citadel.

Two women then entered the restaurant. One had a black veil and a stealth technique, making it impossible for anyone to see her true appearance. The other wore a purple dress, looking slim and graceful.

“Us.” The latter responded to the princess.

“Pendant Sword Maiden!” Someone shouted her title. [1]

The newcomers were none other than Xu Yiyun and Lu Qi. They were surprised to see Li Qiye and walked over to bow.

“What a coincidence.” He smiled.

The patrons exchanged glances. The sword maiden’s background wasn’t as impressive as Illusory Princess but she was still one of the Ten Sword Prodigies. They also knew that she was working for Li Qiye.

“Miss Xu, why are you seizing our disciple’s ancestral land and pursuing him?” Illusory Princess had no intention of being courteous to someone working for Li Qiye.

“Your Highness.” Xu Yiyun responded: “Then you need to ask your disciple why he sold his land to our young noble but won’t actually hand it over once we come for it. I had no choice but to take what belongs to us by force.”

The crowd had no idea who was telling the truth or not.

The middle-aged man shouted back: “Such lies! They came and took our land for no reason, now they’re trying to make up a story!”

Illusory Princess’ eyes narrowed: “Our members do not lack money. Even if they do, they’ll ask the sect for it. This must be a misunderstanding.”

She naturally trusted her sect member over Xu Yiyun and Li Qiye. Plus, she was being logical as well. Her sect had enough resources to take care of even external members and side branches.

“Words aren’t enough, you need proof!” Another youth helped the princess.

Yiyun calmly responded: “Your Highness, I have the receipt for the land deed right here. His signature is on it.”

“She faked it!” The man bellowed.

“Let me take a look to know if it’s fake or not. Every inch of land here has a rightful owner and a deed approved by me.” A gentle voice suddenly sounded.

An old man came into the restaurant. Li Qiye had met him earlier at the base of the mountain.

“Tortoise Monarch!” Many got up and bowed towards him.

Though he lacked an oppressive aura, he was still the lord of this island. Some believed that he was only second to Cloud Dream King in this region.

Chapter 4128: Covering Up?

Moreover, his power was comparable to any sect master. He controlled everything on this island as well.

He bowed deeply towards Li Qiye then told the rest: "All the deeds pertaining to this island have my personal seal and can't be faked."

Spectators glanced at the main parties. Earlier, that side-branch disciple swore that Xu Yiyun's deed was fake. Now, the monarch was here to attest.

The disciple's expression soured as he staggered backward. He didn't expect the situation to deteriorate to this level.

In the beginning, everyone thought that Li Qiye was an idiot who got lucky. Thus, they sold their lands and treasures to Li Qiye at a ridiculous price, far higher than the actual valuation.

Li Qiye didn't care at all and purchased the majority of the offers with the help of Xu Yiyun.

The sellers thought that Li Qiye was tricked and wouldn't actually come to finish the transaction. In this case, the man shared the same thought.

His ancestral land on this island wasn't worth much yet he sold it to Li Qiye for a high price. He thought that Li Qiye wouldn't be able to come and get it either.

After all, this was Cloud Dream Lake - the lair of bandits. Moreover, even if Li Qiye did, he wasn't afraid, being from Nine-wheel Citadel and all.

Now, the guy actually came for his tiny plot on top of bringing an unstoppable legion. He was scared out of his mind and started running away.

Of course, Xu Yiyun had traveled so far and wouldn't give up so easily, hence the current situation.

"Miss Xu, do you mind if I check the deed?" The tortoise monarch asked Xu Yiyun.

Yiyun looked over at Li Qiye and was granted permission. She then handed the deed to the monarch.

He accepted and inspected it. "Buzz." The deed scroll became brighter. The map of the island appeared with several bright dots - the location of the side-branch disciple's ancestral branch. A seal of a crawling tortoise also lit up on the deed.

"It is real and the ownership has been transferred." The monarch concluded.

The spotlight changed back to the side-branch disciple. Even Illusory Princess had an ugly expression. This conclusion was a slap to her face.

"No, this must be a mistake." The disciple still denied the accusation.

"In accordance to the transactional rules of Tortoise Monarch Island, this deed formalizes Young Noble Li's ownership of the respective plot." The monarch ignored him and continued sternly: "Cloud Dream

Lake is indeed a place for bandits and villains, this includes this island. However, there are rules here that must be upheld. Violation will be punishable with banishment, not only to the violator but also all kins."

People quietly discussed the outcome but none tried to help the side-branch member. The rules of Tortoise Monarch Island couldn't be broken. They were crucial for the island's prosperity.

Since this side-branch disciple had violated it, he deserved the banishment. Pleasing Nine-wheel Citadel was not worth opposing the monarch.

The disciple was in disarray. Their properties have already been taken. Being banished now meant losing everything at the lake.

"Your-" He looked over at the princess only to be disappointed by her scowl.

"Unfortunately, this isn't over yet. It's not a matter of repaying the debt." Li Qiye stared at him.

"What, what do you want?" The disciple staggered backward in fear.

"Those who welch must be made an example of. In your case, death." Li Qiye lazily said.

"You're out of line!" The disciple shouted.

"I have spent an outrageous sum buying stuff so if everyone tries to welch, I'll waste too much time dealing with each one. As the saying goes, kill the chicken to scare the monkey. Don't worry, I'm a merciful person who doesn't believe in clan extermination. Kill yourself now and I'll drop this issue." Li Qiye revealed a bright and harmless smile.

The crowd had mixed responses - some thought that he was right while others felt that he was pushing it.

It was true that Li Qiye had bought many properties after becoming rich. Thus, forcefully dealing with issues might take a long time. Making an example of this disciple was a fine solution.

On the other hand, to kill someone over a matter of debt was quite extreme. Li Qiye had already taken back the land too.

"Don't be ridiculous, members of Nine-wheel aren't subjected to punishments and judgments from outsiders! You are trying to undermine our authority and prestige!" The disciple hid behind the princess and shouted.

"What authority and prestige? Not to mention Nine-wheel, even if it was Ten-wheel or Hundred-wheel, if someone from there dares to welch me, I'll kill them even if they're an ancestor or the sect master!"

"How dare you! Disrespecting us will result in death!" The disciple became bolder and stepped forward.

Initially, he thought the princess would definitely save him. But now, Li Qiye had disrespected Nine-wheel Citadel. This became a bigger issue.

“What did you say?” The princess’ expression changed. Earlier, her member was at fault so she didn’t say anything.

“I am saying that if your sect is foolish enough to cross me, I’ll annihilate you all.” Anyone else would have taken back their words but not Li Qiye.

“Ten deaths wouldn’t be enough, you deserve clan extermination!” The side-branch member jumped on this opportunity.

“This brat has balls of steel to make this claim.” One expert whispered.

To say such words in public meant starting an irreconcilable feud with Nine-wheel Citadel.

“Such impudence!” The princes could have dropped the issue with the side-branch member but this was unforgivable.

Chapter 4129: I Have Dao Lord Weapons Too

“Enough of your arrogance, Li Qiye. Money does not justify your conduct...” Illusory Princess glowered at Li Qiye and uttered coldly.

“I can be arrogant even without money but you’re right in this case, my money allows me to do whatever I want.” Li Qiye waved his hand, interrupting him.

The crowd clamored, thinking that this situation was going to escalate again.

“Seems like he’s intending on opposing Nine-wheel Citadel.” One youth said.

“This is Li Qiye’s style. The question is whether his opponent will be able to swallow their anger.” An older expert commented.

“No way they’ll be able to, would you be able to endure such insults towards your sect?” An elder asked.

Li Qiye had talked about destroying Nine-wheel Citadel before. Members of weaker sects wouldn’t stand for something like this, let alone a behemoth.

Moreover, he showed no intention of backing down after the initial offense, seemingly wanting to insult Nine-wheel Citadel whenever possible. No one from the citadel could handle this, let alone a top disciple like the princess.

She was trembling with rage, never having experienced something like this before. After all, few dared to oppose their sect in the entire continent.

If she didn’t do anything now, her sect’s prestige and reputation would be sullied.

“Li, it’s time to fight instead of just talking. If you win, I’ll drop the issue today. If you lose, I will decapitate you and take your head back to Nine-wheel Citadel as a symbol of apology.” She stepped forward and shouted. Killing Li Qiye was necessary to make an example of him.

“Here we go again, people thinking they can kill me.” Li Qiye chuckled and lazily said.

“Don’t rely on anyone else, use your own abilities against the princess! Show some courage for once!” One youth chimed in.

The majority thought that Li Qiye stood no chance when it came to cultivation and power against the princess.

In reality, few youths in Sword Continent could actually defeat the princess in an actual battle.

“Do you dare to fight me to the death?” The princess went outside and challenged.

She purposely taunted him in order to stop him from letting someone else fight in his stead. For example, Xu Yiyun or another master.

She wasn’t that confident due to him being so rich. On the other hand, she had no problem fighting him alone.

“You insist on fighting me?” Li Qiye’s smirk became wider.

Xu Yiyun knew that the princess was about to become very unlucky.

“It’s not too late to give up if you’re afraid. Apologize to Nine-wheel Citadel and slap yourself, I will show benevolence and forgive you.” The princess uttered coldly.

“Her Highness is merciful for allowing you to yield.” Another youth interjected.

Her fans were all on her side and voiced their support.

“Just give up and stay alive. There’s no point in being the richest man in the grave. Plus, it’s not embarrassing yielding to Nine-wheel Citadel.” One expert commented.

“You’ll die if you fight the princess.” Another persuaded: “Change your mind now, don’t let it all go to waste.”

A fair number of youths were vocal in their support. There was another group - people who wanted to watch a fight so they fanned the fire. It would be good for them if either side suffered serious losses.

“Since everyone thinks I should yield, I have to prove myself then.” Li Qiye lazily stretched and then walked out.

Xu Yiyun and Lu Qi followed behind him. Yiyun was excited to see Li Qiye in action but Lu Qi was disinterested. The outcome was obvious.

Goldflow and Snowcloud tagged along as well. The former was neutral and only wanted to watch. As for Snowcloud, she had a serious expression, aware that Li Qiye wasn’t so simple.

Thus, she finally had the chance to watch and gauge his actual power, to understand the type of existence he truly was.

Meanwhile, Illusory Princess stood outside and glared at Li Qiye. The normally empty street was filled with spectators.

“You will be shown no mercy for your transgression against Nine-wheel Citadel. It’s your last day.” The princess threatened after seeing Li Qiye make his choice.

She served as the sect’s representative right now and must uphold its reputation. The crowd remained relatively silent, aware of the consequences of opposing a sect with four dao lords.

“Stole the words right out of my mouth. Very well, I’m bored anyway, let’s kill some time.” He smiled and said.

“Buzz. Buzz. Buzz...” He summoned several weapons and caused space to tremble.

“Rumble!” Terrifying auras of dao lord manifested into reality.

Though Li Qiye didn’t activate them with his own power, the auras still swept through the area and sent the spectators flying. The stronger experts became frozen.

“Dao lord weapons!” Some shouted in horror.

The weapons seemed to be resonating and woke each other up. Li Qiye didn’t need to do anything himself. The waves of energy eventually turned into tsunamis, making it unbearable for the crowd.

“I don’t think Nine-wheel Citadel can muster this many dao lord weapons at one time.” One jealous soul said.

“I hate rich people so much right now. I worked so hard for my sect and never got to touch one, look at him, showing them off.” Another whispered.

Behemoths such as Nine-wheel Citadel and Sea Emperor probably had just as many dao lord weapons. However, they were scattered and divided among their ancestors and regions. In this case, Li Qiye had all of them in one place.

“Are they resonating with each other?” One spectator asked because there was nothing empowering the dao lord weapons right now.

“I think so.” His friend answered.

Chapter 4130: Spacebreak Badge

Palpitation increased before the might of the dao lord weapons. People thought that just getting one weapon would be so nice; their name would be written in history.

“I just want one, that’s not greedy, is it?” A young expert’s eyes turned red with greed. Possessing one would allow him to dominate.

A senior immediately slapped the back of his head and scolded: “Feeling suicidal?! If it’s so easy, others would have done it long ago.”

The junior stuck his tongue out and didn’t say anything else. He wasn’t the only one tempted to take a weapon from Li Qiye. Nonetheless, they had qualms against actually doing so.

Illusory Princess' expression soured after seeing her opponent's weapons. Given her position in Nine-wheel, she was more prestigious than other princesses.

Alas, she didn't have a single dao lord weapon. Among their young generation, only Void Saint Child was qualified to have one.

On the other hand, the guy she deemed as lowly and despicable had too many. This disparity left her in an awkward state.

"Okay, take out your weapons, broaden our horizon." Li Qiye said lazily, looking bored.

Normally, this statement would sound ignorant and out of place when addressing Illusory Princess. Her weapons would obviously be incredible given her background.

Unfortunately, Li Qiye had what it took to make fun of her given his arsenal, whether it was on purpose or not.

"Hmph." She snorted and raised both hands. Ripples appeared and a treasure appeared.

It resembled a lotus-shaped badge or pagoda made out of bronze. As time passed, it lost its golden luster.

"Spacebreak Badge." Many experts became startled after seeing the spatial ripples.

"A weapon left behind by a top Immortal Sovereign." One elder revealed.

"Wow..." Others were moved because Immortal Sovereigns were arguably comparable to dao lords.

She would certainly have the weapon advantage in most situations. This just wasn't the case this time because Li Qiye had the number advantage.

"I have to admit, Li Qiye can back up his arrogance." One expert said.

"Yes, that's the power of wealth." An elder said.

Li Qiye completely dominated the princess in terms of weapons. Regardless of how he got it, the reality was that he had more dao lord weapons than anyone.

"Looks like I'm taking advantage of you when I have all the dao lord weapons while you only have one thing." Li Qiye smiled.

She turned pale after hearing this. It was rare for her to have a feeling of inferiority, akin to a beggar standing before a baron.

"The competition towards the dao doesn't only rely on weapons and treasures. The foundation is still one's own strength." She said but deep inside, she was going crazy from jealousy and cursing the heaven for being unfair.

"You're completely right, Your Highness. Cultivators need to be aware of this, relying on their cultivation instead of ephemeral and pompous wealth. He should be a merchant instead of a cultivator!" One young expert shouted.

The majority of youths were on her side. Some naturally had a crush on her or wanted to build a relationship with the prestigious princess. However, a few merely hated Li Qiye's ostentatious style. He had no abilities and virtues, unworthy of those dao lord weapons.

Though they weren't as rich as him, this didn't stop them from looking down on him in the slightest.

"Wow, making poverty sound so grand and lofty, this is truly an impressive skill. I am lost in admiration." Li Qiye chuckled: "I hope I can act as noble and virtuous as you all when I'm poor, saying that money and treasures are just external and insignificant. Unfortunately, you all can say this but won't be able to stick to this principle. Look, your eyes are red and you're salivating while staring at these dao lord treasures, no different from hungry dogs spotting a bone, wanting nothing more than to take a bite."

His harsh statement infuriated the crowd.

"Brat, watch your words!" One genius roared.

"I'm just telling the truth. How about this, do you want this dao lord weapon?" Li Qiye asked.

"Yes!" The youth blurted out without thinking and turned red right away.

It was obvious that no one here would refuse a dao lord weapon. Downplaying the value of treasures and weapons was mere rhetoric, nothing more.