

Emperor 4141

Chapter 4141: Curtain Of Blades

“Clank!” A curtain made out of swords poured down and protected the sword lord. He swung his sword once and the curtain fully surrounded him, once more to fortify his domain.

One layer became two, three, and more... The sword domain seemed to be unbreakable as it filled up space.

“Curtain of Blades, this is his proudest defensive technique.” One ancestor who recognized the move said.

“Boom!” Ninth’s slashes came in an apocalyptic manner, ready to annihilate the entire peak.

“Rumble!” Fiery sparks scattered everywhere, resulting in something akin to an erupting volcano. They shined the night sky just like gorgeous fireworks.

“Rumble!” Though ten thousand slashes struck at the same time, the curtains stood strong like an impregnable fortress.

The crowd clicked their tongue after seeing the sword lord’s calm expression after the first exchange.

“His internal force is incredible, this must have been accumulated after millions of years.” One expert praised.

People became more confident in him after he stopped Lifeless. They thought that he still had a chance.

“Hmm, he can rely on his ample internal power and keep on defending, it might be enough until Ninth is out of strength. That’s a winning strategy.” One youth said.

“He’s right to be proud of this defensive technique. Few contemporaries can break it.” A sect master sighed and commented.

“Clank!” Ninth immediately unleashed another variation. He became resplendent and appeared to be holy just like a saint looking down on the world. He could grasp the stars and push the celestials.

He seemed to be freed from the three worlds and the reincarnation cycle. The holy aura simply wouldn’t disperse.

“Whoosh!” The slash came without showing any mercy, proving the saints were emotionless and all other living beings were mere sacrificial offerings.

Being a saint meant transcending into a greater being and abandoning previous mortal constraints. Spectators saw their own death as a result despite not being struck by it.

“Bam!” The thrust traveled through several layers but still stopped eventually. It was still not enough to take down the sword lord’s defense.

“What a move...” Many felt their palms moistened with sweat. Others were drenched from top to bottom.

“That’s only the sixth slash, Holy. He has three more.” One ancestor said.

“Only the sixth slash?!” Youths shuddered in fear, especially those who were seeing Ninth for the first time.

They couldn't possibly fathom the power of the ninth slash and didn't dare to imagine it. “Holy” was already unstoppable and could easily kill them.

“The sixth slash was nearly enough to break the barrier, the ninth should be able to kill the sword lord.” Those who felt confident earlier about the sword lord quickly lost their optimism.

“Clank!” The sword lord painted with his sword again. The broken spots on the layers returned to normal. Though some layers were broken, fixing them didn't seem like it took too much energy from him.

“Activate!” Ninth roared and his hair suddenly fluttered even though there was no wind.

A massive sword with rampaging rays emerged, tearing apart the spatial fabrics. Its boundless energy could devour even the gods.

The spectators became injured as they felt a sharp pain on their chest, seemingly being pierced by thousands of swords.

“That’s terrifying...” They immediately retreated, unable to withstand the energy and the sword intent. If they were to forcefully resist, they might actually be grievously injured.

“Seventh variation, Godless!” Ninth slashed forward. Even gods would wail in lamentation.

A heavenly kingdom and all of its inhabitants would go down before this attack. Their divine corpses would pile up high.

Spectators bellowed, thinking that they had been killed by the move. It could even slay the gods, let alone regular cultivators like them.

“Boom!” The first layer of swords couldn't stop it, the same with the second layer and the next...

It became abundantly clear that the proud defense of the sword lord wouldn't be able to stop the seventh variation.

In the past, he had relied on this technique to stop many powerful enemies, even ancestors stronger than him. Today, it finally tasted defeat.

“Be careful!” Ning Zhu shouted while worrying about her master.

In this crucial moment, the pine tree became bright and the sword lord swung his blade with lightning speed, releasing a fiery torrent.

The slash's majestic dao could seal the sky and separate the myriad realms, not allowing anything to get through.

“Jade Bamboo Rend! A top technique of Jade Bamboo Dao Lord!” An ancestor recognized the move and shouted.

This dao lord slash finally stopped the seventh slash from Ninth, once again putting the crowd at ease. Ning Zhu heaved a sigh of relief because she panicked earlier.

“The sword lord is indeed a top cultivator of this generation.” Both disciples and ancestors were impressed by Pineleaf thus far.

Chapter 4142: Sever

Ninth’s seventh slash was incredibly powerful. Some ancestors believed that they might even die to it but Pineleaf Sword Lord successfully stopped it.

The sword lord was putting up a great fight and lived up to his reputation. In terms of sword technique, he was inferior to Ninth. However, he made this up by having ample inner force and cultivation.

“There’s still hope, just two more variations, Earthless and Skyleless.” A high elder said softly.

“Right, maybe it’s possible to stop Skyleless.” A different ancestor mused.

No one has been able to stop Ninth’s titular attack but they thought the sword lord had a good chance. After all, he still looked perfectly fine and composed after stopping the seventh slash.

“Clank!” Pineleaf’s sword vibrated slightly as he went on the offensive.

This wasn’t surprising since he seemed to have ample energy still. This attack severed all the existing affinities - karma, the temporal trinity, and various cycles.

“Sever, a sure-kill move from Wooden Sword Holy Devil!” An ancient ancestor shouted.

“I’ve never seen anything like this before.” The top masters of the sword dao were astounded.

“I see, the sect master is versed in two different schools.” Someone else praised since the sword lord had used techniques from both Jade Bamboo Dao Lord and Wooden Sword Holy Devil so far.

Ninth used the seventh slash again to stop this incoming attack. Both were exceptional and truly dangerous.

A devastating blast was the result, capable of destroying numerous eras. The countless slashes from Ninth crumbled right away. Pineleaf’s sword made from his main root seemed sharper than anything else in existence.

Though the slash didn’t sever Ninth’s sword, it still defeated his seventh slash.

“Yes!” Some started cheering loudly since the sword lord currently had the upper hand thanks to his counterattack.

“This attack is invincible! He got this!” One ancestor became red with excitement while clenching his fists.

The reversal stirred the crowd. “Sever” still had enough momentum to fly straight for Ninth’s head.

The user of this move needed to go all-out, concentrating everything on this slash without holding back. They couldn’t think about the consequences, only the present until blood is drawn.

The technique itself was impeccable on top of being elevated by the sword lord's ample energy. This was the move Wooden Sword Holy Devil relied on to defeat War God Dao Lord.

"Activate!" However, Ninth showed no fear despite the slash coming for his head.

His sword became resplendent and chasms formed beneath his feet. Swords rushed out from below like an ocean of lava. They came together to form a fortress capable of both offense and defense.

"Earthless!" One spectator shouted.

This technique was rather versatile. It could kill millions or simply act as an unbreakable barrier.

Nonetheless, the formation of this technique didn't stop the sword lord from pressing forward. He kept on severing the swords standing in his way but sure enough, his momentum was weakening.

"Sever got this!" A genius shouted: "Kill him!"

The members from Wooden Sword in the audience became ecstatic. Even the ancestors were shouting.

"The sword lord will win!" The young ones applauded. Severing seemed to be overpowering Earthless.

Not long ago, the majority considered Pineleaf to be a clear underdog. Ninth's sword techniques were just too terrifying but Pineleaf was proving them wrong.

"The tides are reversed now." Another young one became emotional.

Many watched closely, hoping that the slash would be able to decapitate Ninth.

"This is the end of Ninth's era." One expert shouted.

"Sword Lord, you got this!" Tumultuous chants echoed across the region like waves.

"Break." Ninth didn't try to dodge the slash and said one word.

Everyone instantly felt his vitality rushing out in an endless manner. This empowered his existing sword energies and raised them to the next level.

Chapter 4143: Skyless

"Clank!" The metallic hymn of his sword reached the depths of the nine heavens. The stars lost their color and the myriad realms sank down.

He suddenly became unreachable; all else was subjected to the tyranny of the incoming slash - Skyless!

The sky disappeared as a result. Everyone lost their sense of direction and weight, feeling as if they were drifting away.

Even the high heaven has been destroyed by Skyless, let alone all creations beneath. The only thing left behind would be a massive void.

"Ninth slash, Skyless!" By this point, even ancient cultivators bellowed in horror.

"So this is Skyless." Terra Sword Saint's expression darkened.

Ninth had no name, only the number of his technique. It represented everything about him, from his power to dao attainment.

The moment he used this slash, it became the defining and brightest moment of his life. He became the most radiant creation. This light started burning his life, belief, and pursuit.

It traveled through his life and gathered his ultimate understanding of the sword dao. This allowed him to reach his apex state. The sky shall be no more after this slash.

Spectators started wailing in despair, thinking that there was no chance of them being able to stop the attack.

They thought that the sword lord's "Sever" had a good chance of winning. Unfortunately, Ninth disagreed and showed them "Skyles".

The members of Wooden Sword turned pale and became fully intimidated.

"Clank!" The sword lord used Sever again without any fear, ready to cut apart the incoming slash.

Everyone could sense his determination and willingness to face death. There was no hint of regrets. In fact, he seemed rather happy because he was facing a technique on the same level as "Sever".

Time came to a halt after the slashes collided. A bright flash blinded everyone and seemed to be eternal. Billions of years could pass and it would still be here. The river of time couldn't wash it away.

Everything stagnated; even the tiniest movement took forever to unravel.

"Clank!" Finally, another hymn resounded and broke the silence along with the temporal stagnation. The various affinities flowed once more.

Ninth and Pineleaf Sword Lord stood proudly while holding their sword. They considered this battle a sacred ceremony that must be carried out.

However, neither moved an inch which made it impossible for spectators to determine the victor.

Eventually, a tiny drop of blood finally dripped off the tip of a blade.

"Delightful." The sword lord said heartily. The battle had indeed brought him joy.

Others exchanged glances, thinking this sounded like the sword lord's victory. They then looked over towards Ninth's direction.

The latter had zero emotion just like before. Ninth was still Ninth, a sword indifferent to everything.

"Did the sword lord win?" One youth murmured.

The big shots, on the other hand, had a serious expression. They sighed since they knew the actual outcome.

"Ugh..." The sword lord spat out a stream of blood. He then staggered backward and fell off the cliff.

"Master!" Ning Zhu screamed. She was already mentally prepared for this outcome yet to witness her master's death was still too much to take.

“Your Majesty!” Several ancestors leaped over and caught him, only to find that he was already dead.

Blood stained his robe with a heavy concentration in the chest area. Though Ninth’s sword itself didn’t physically pierce his body, Skyles still took him down with its sword energy and sword intent.

“Your Majesty...” The disciples of Wooden Sword lamented.

Alas, their lord was already gone and didn’t leave any last word behind.

“Master...” Ning Zhu watched from a distance because she was no longer a member of Wooden Sword.

After a while, the highest-ranking ancestor from Wooden Sword stared at Ninth for a bit before commanding: “We’re leaving.” He carried Pineleaf’s corpse with him.

Ultimately, the sword lord had said that this battle would be a fair fight. Wooden Sword didn’t need to avenge him. Plus, they wouldn’t be able to do it either because Ninth was too strong.

Ninth simply watched and didn’t stop them from taking Pineleaf’s corpse away.

“Rumble!” After this group was gone, Lakeshine Peak suddenly collapsed. Huge boulders dropped down and made large waves.

This startled people for a bit but it was understandable. Skyles’ sword energy and intent had pierced through the entire peak.

The only thing left behind was the pine tree. Though the lord was dead, this tree took root in the water. Its branches and leaves still fluttered to the night wind.

It was as if the sword lord was still standing there, as unyielding as ever.

“A sect master is gone just like that.” One expert became sentimental while watching this scene.

He was the oldest and most respected among the Six Sect Masters. Alas, he couldn’t escape the fate of being killed by Ninth.

“Only the sword dao is eternal. He was a good example for us all.” Terra Sword Saint sighed and said.

Chapter 4144: Trouble Comes Knocking

Silence and rumination came next. Two of the Six Sect Masters have lost to Ninth by now.

Some glanced over at Terra Sword Saint. He was certainly the strongest in this group and could become the next target.

He himself understood this. If Ninth wanted to reach the next level, he and Nine-day Sword Saint would be next. The question became which of them would Ninth go for next?

He remained calm since he had expected this in the past. However, Ninth showed no sign of challenging the sword saint right now.

Nonetheless, everyone thought that this was inevitable.

“He has to beat the two saints if he wishes to break through to the next generation.” An older expert said.

Currently, the first generation of this era belonged to the Five Overlords or the reclusive ancestors.

The second generation consisted of the Six Kings and Six Sect Masters. This group had the most authority.

The young generation was represented by the Ten Sword Prodigies and Four Weapon Heroes.

In order to reach the first generation, he has to get through the two saints first.

“Once he does, only the slumbering ancestors or the Five Overlords will be able to beat him.” His friend responded.

“If he fights Terra Sword Saint right now, what is his chance of victory?” Someone couldn’t help but ask.

“I think Terra Sword Saint has a better chance but it’s hard to say.” An older expert with a good knowledge of the saint quietly responded: “From what we can see today, Ninth is only slightly stronger than Pineleaf Sword Lord. If the difference is really this small, he can’t beat the two saints.”

“Right.” Someone else nodded in agreement: “The two saints are stronger than the others, might be one whole realm. Ninth’s current self can’t win.”

The crowd had a hard time gauging their power by just looking at them. Ninth remained cold while the saint was calm, seemingly ready to accept the challenge right now. However, he didn’t take the initiative.

“If Ninth is confident and has the saint as a potential target, he should be challenging the saint right now since he’s right here.” One youth boldly speculated.

Alas, Ninth showed no sign of doing so.

“Maybe he’s not in a rush since he has just come out again with success. Maybe he’ll go into seclusion to learn the tenth slash, that’s when he’ll challenge the saints or Hallowed City Lord. When he has the eleventh slash, it’ll be time for the Five Overlords. Doesn’t that make more sense?” A high elder wondered.

People shuddered as a result. Just the ninth slash was already so terrifying. The eleventh would result in a massacre.

“It’s not time if he isn’t one hundred percent confident. If I were him, I would wait until I have the tenth slash, far less risk.” An expert added.

“I don’t know if we can guess what he’s thinking. The members of Sword God Sacred Ground don’t care for the word ‘safety’. They only have the sword in their mind and wouldn’t mind dying in battle.” An older cultivator disagreed.

“It’s such a strange sect, what is their goal?” A junior became curious.

Normally, sects had clear reasons for existing - protecting the world, domination, maintaining their dao legacy...

Regardless of their goal, they usually recruited more members and tried to grow. This wasn't the case for the sacred ground.

It didn't care about world domination or producing dao lords. It certainly didn't exist for protecting the world either. It never tried to have more disciples as well. It was difficult for others to understand its existence.

Eventually, they realized that this was the end of the show.

"It's over." Someone said since Ninth didn't challenge Terra Sword Saint.

However, a new development occurred thanks to Abyss Scion.

He stepped forward and said: "Your Highness, I am here to escort you back to Sea Emperor."

This attracted everyone's attention. All eyes were on Li Qiye's group.

Princess Ning Zhu lost a bet and became Li Qiye's maid. This was quite an interesting story. Now, it just became even more interesting.

Ning Zhu bowed slightly and said: "Thank you for your trouble and good intention. I'm afraid I will no longer be able to uphold the engagement with His Majesty."

This naturally surprised the listeners.

"So weird, she would rather be Li Qiye's maid than the prestigious queen of Sea Emperor." One youth stated. Even a fool would pick the right choice.

"Why is Sea Emperor insisting on pushing this marriage through?" Another became curious.

The whole matter was humiliating and disgraceful for them. The moment Ning Zhu became Li Qiye's maid, she was no longer worthy to become their future queen. Her past had besmirched their reputation and glory.

Thus, they should be the ones to abandon her and cancel the engagement. Given their power and status, they had too many candidates to be their future queen.

"Right, Peace Ocean Sword King can marry anyone. Saintesses and princesses are more than happy to be with him. Why Princess Ning Zhu? She's not the prettiest in our continent." Someone else expressed their confusion.

Chapter 4145: Choice

Ning Zhu refused Abyss Scion's invitation back to Sea Emperor Sword Kingdom. Though she maintained a polite tone, she couldn't be clearer with her message.

The scion's expression soured as a result.

"Your Highness, please return." An old man behind him calmly spoke. He seemed to have ample authority, clearly an elder from there. An elder from Sea Emperor was different from an elder anywhere else. After all, it was the number one sect in Sword Continent.

"I appreciate it, Elder Zhan, but I must keep my words. Please forgive me." She tactfully refused, once again surprising the crowd.

First was the scion, now an elder from there. This was a great chance for her.

In their eyes, being Li Qiye's maid was insulting for someone of her status. Thus, the fact that Sea Emperor was willing to take her back was quite generous.

Anyone with a bit of sense would know what to do in this situation. In fact, a more vicious type would actually turn this around and push Li Qiye towards his demise. This would wash them clean from this mess.

Strangely enough, Ning Zhu preferred to be Li Qiye's maid instead of a queen. People found this inconceivable and foolish in spite of Li Qiye's wealth. He only became rich recently and new money never lasted long.

On the contrary, Sea Emperor had an impeccable foundation due to having five dao emperors in the past.

"What is wrong with her?" One youth murmured: "Being a queen is ten thousand times better than being a maid."

"Yes, she needs to pick a strong backer now that Pineleaf Sword Lord is dead." One elder didn't understand her.

In the past, she used to be the successor of Wooden Sword and enjoyed the love of the sword lord. Now, it would make more sense for her to side with Sea Emperor; this would be far better for her future.

In reality, she disagreed with these viewpoints. When the sword lord was alive, he helped her nullify this marriage. His death was quite a blow to their branch so the advantage belonged to the opposing side now.

The marriage would be brought up again. This might be the reason why Abyss Scion came to bring her back.

In Wooden Sword, nothing would be able to stop this marriage now since she had lost her strongest supporter.

The scion was left in a tough position. They came expecting the sword lord to lose. Thus, their mission was to bring the princess back to Sea Emperor. Unfortunately, she was stubborn and refused their invitation.

"Your Highness, please reconsider." He took a deep breath and solemnly said: "This choice affects your future and legacy..."

"Enough of this nonsense." Li Qiye interrupted him and said: "I make decisions for my people. If she wishes to stay, then your sect needs to scram. Stop bothering us."

This was both a slap to the scion's face and another insult towards Sea Emperor. Li Qiye had taken their queen and still maintained an arrogant tone. Even an ordinary sect wouldn't be able to swallow this anger, let alone Sea Emperor. Showing restraint here was akin to showing weakness.

"Is he always like this?" One spectator asked.

"Yes, always so overbearing and aggression prone." Someone else smiled wryly, having been used to Li Qiye's personality.

Those who knew Li Qiye were aware that he had no problem offending anyone in Sword Continent. Moreover, he was still living just fine - a testament to his ability.

The scion's expression darkened and his tone became colder: "Li, we've been lenient on past grievances so you should know how to act today..."

He spoke confidently because he could back it up, given his personal power and being the representative of Sea Emperor.

"Of course I know what to do, and that's not to bother with annoyances like you." Li Qiye waved his hand without looking at the guy.

The old men behind the scion glowered after hearing this, unable to handle the blatant disrespect from this newly-rich youth.

"So you rather do this the hard way." The scion's eyes flashed murderously.

This naturally excited the crowd since there could be a fun show for them.

"Sea Emperor wants a fight." One cultivator murmured.

"Or maybe there is just a good justification. It's not only about the feud, who doesn't want Li Qiye's wealth?" Another ancestor speculated.

Others agreed with him. As the number one sect, Sea Emperor would face criticism if they were to rob Li Qiye. Now, with Ning Zhu's issue as a reason, they had the right to maneuver against him. This was killing two birds with one stone.

"Bring it." Li Qiye laughed in response.

"Rumble!" Suddenly, drums could be heard all over the lake.

"What's going on?" This frightened the crowd because it came from various islands.

"The eighteen islands of Cloud Dream Lake." One member became afraid.

"March!" A thunderous command could be heard.

"March!" The other islands answered back.

Numerous legions began flying out of the islands. The first voice spoke again: "We're taking back Dark Dragon Island. Those who offend us shall die!"

“Eight-hundred Li Court, the second island of Lake Dream and the strongest bandit group.” Someone recognized the first group.

Chapter 4146: Eight-hundred Li Court

Most believed that Eight-hundred Li is only second to Dark Gale Camp. Though it wasn't as old as Tortoise Monarch Island, it was still extremely strong. [1]

Their island lord, Eight-hundred Commander, was a ferocious monster - famous even before joining the lake.

Rumor has it that he was abandoned by his clan. This led him down on an evil path and eventually, he was pursued by many powers. This necessitated hiding in Cloud Dream Lake.

Dark Gale approved and supported him. Later on, he took over the island and called himself Eight-hundred Commander. His actual name and origin couldn't be traced.

“Boom!” The bandits from Eight-hundred Li Court mustered all of their forces as they marched towards Dark Dragon Island.

The other islands also obeyed the command and marched as well.

“Eight-hundred Li is quite influential.” One expert became startled: “They're all listening to Eight-hundred Commander, will this be okay?”

“Not everyone, Dark Gale and Tortoise Monarch aren't mobilizing. They only have fifteen islands with them.” An older cultivator observed carefully and analyzed.

“Right, those two aren't answering the clarion call.” An elder nodded in agreement.

An expert in the region said: “Eight-hundred Li is quite domineering here, only Dark Gale Camp can command them, but keep in mind that Tortoise Monarch might not be weaker at all. It's just that the latter has little interest in criminal activities. Their leader is special as well since he's the oldest ancestor here. Not even Cloud Dream King can command him, let alone Eight-hundred Commander.”

“Really?” Another was skeptical.

Another ancestor chimed in: “That sounds about right. Tortoise Monarch is technically under Dark Gale's jurisdiction but since he's the oldest, even Cloud Dream King is his junior. Rumor has it that the monarch has a great relationship with Nightloom, that they're on the same level.”

“I see, no wonder why it's so peaceful and prosperous there.” A merchant nodded.

Meanwhile, more explosions came from all directions as bandits surrounded Dark Dragon Island. This was quite an impressive and diverse group - humans, demons, heavenly devils, even sky spirits...

The situation looked quite dire for Dark Dragon Island at this point.

“On guard!” Crimsondeath Monarch ordered his men to guard the important locations and gates.

He didn’t waste time during the short occupation and had built a mighty defensive line.

“Crimsondeath is quite capable.” One expert noted: “He would do a much better job than the previous leader of Dark Dragon Island.”

“Crimsondeath Monarch, surrender. Realize how futile it is to oppose us.” Eight-hundred Commander roared.

Crimsondeath ignored him and continued to order his men.

“Ready the siege.” The commander shouted and the bandits unsheathed their weapons with great momentum.

This was clearly an uneven fight. The bandits had the number and power advantage.

“He can turn the island into a fortress of steel and it still wouldn’t be enough. This siege won’t take long.” An ancient ancestor said.

“Yes, this is all in vain.” Another added.

“Formation!” A resounding voice came from within the island.

“Clank!” Sword glints illuminated the island and the night sky. It soared upward in a dominant manner and released countless sword energies.

Its torrential devastation shocked both spectators and bandits alike.

Waves of sword formations gathered above the island and turned into an all-encompassing ocean. It was brimming with battle intent; even a trespassing god would be slain.

“I’ve never seen this sword formation before.” Astonishment struck the crowd.

“The sheer power and scale... this can’t be created by unknown or rootless cultivators. Only a dao lord lineage has access to this...” A knowledgeable ancestor took a deep breath.

Sword formations could be more frightening than merit laws. A top-level one normally came from a prestigious sect. Ordinary cultivators couldn’t create one.

As for this one, it should be created by a dao lord. The members activating the formation were well-trained too.

“Crimsondeath Monarch created this?” One high elder said.

In terms of raw power, Crimsondeath was actually well-received in Sword Continent. Alas, the crowd didn’t think he could create this formation.

“I know that Li Qiye has a group of master swordsmen working for him. I wonder where they came from.” Someone who watched the fight at Dark Dragon Island said.

He was indeed correct. The ones creating the formation were members of Tie Jian’s sect.

“Prepare formations for battle.” Eight-hundred Commander became serious after seeing the sword barriers.

“Kill them!” However, Tie Jian’s side didn’t give them time to set up and went on the offensive. Swords rained down on the enemies.

“Go!” The fifteen island lords had to fight without formations.

Meanwhile, Abyss Scion took one step forward and threatened: “Li Qiye, it’s not too late to grow a brain.”

Chapter 4147: Abyss Sword Dao

The scion seemed ready to fight or even kill Li Qiye. The crowd exchanged glances, thinking that this was quite a coincidence.

The scion questioned Li Qiye then the bandits started attacking Dark Dragon Island right after? Some thought that they must have been working together.

Attacking Dark Dragon Island would prevent Li Qiye’s reinforcement. The majority of his legion was located on this island and they were stuck, unable to help their boss.

This was Li Qiye’s weakest state - the best time to capture him.

“Eight-hundred Li Court is actually working with an orthodox sect?” One cultivator asked.

The islands consisted of bandits and villains - men whose status was completely different from members of Sea Emperor.

In fact, one could say that they were mortal enemies because Sea Emperor represented the righteous faction in Sword Continent.

Subduing evil was their mission. Would they still work with the bandits and vice versa?

“Nothing is impossible.” A big shot answered: “Eight-hundred Li Court might not be able to refuse. Remember, there’s a heavy price in not obeying Sea Emperor.”

This was indeed the case. Sea Emperor could call other powerful sects to attack Cloud Dream Lake. It wouldn’t be a good situation for the bandits regardless of their power. Thus, Eight-hundred Li Court probably didn’t dare to refuse Sea Emperor’s plan against Li Qiye.

“So the scion didn’t only come to watch the battle.” Someone else said.

“Of course, he did steal their future queen.” An expert whispered.

The scion clearly came with eradicating Li Qiye in mind. Sea Emperor had no intention of letting this go.

“Surrender obediently or do I have to make you?” The scion threatened.

“Scion, don’t get ahead of yourself now. You have to deal with me first.” Xu Yiyun answered instead.

She knew that no reinforcement would be coming so she shouldered the responsibility of protecting Li Qiye.

“Pendant Sword Maiden.” The scion glared at her and said: “If you must interfere, I will end you.”

He spoke confidently since he came prepared to take the princess away on top of killing Li Qiye.

“Very well, let’s see what you can do with your heavenly sword art then.” Her being amicable normally didn’t mean that she would back down against her foes.

Though she didn’t have a heavenly art, she still wanted to try fighting.

“Clank!” She stepped forward and unsheathed her sword, exuding a bright radiance.

“A fight between sword prodigies.” Someone whistled as the crowd became excited.

The ten prodigies represented the peak of the young generation. Therefore, this fight was absolutely worth watching.

“The maiden can’t beat the scion. The gap is too clear.” One ancestor concluded before the start of the fight.

This was understandable since her talent and background were inferior. The scion had the Abyss Sword Dao on top of possessing a dao lord weapon.

“You’re courting death.” The scion unsheathed his sword and released an oppressive dao lord aura.

“Violet Abyss!” Others shuddered in fear after seeing this dao lord sword left behind by Violet Abyss Dao Lord.

This sword wasn’t actually the dao lord’s stronger weapon. Nonetheless, it was purposely created by the dao lord for the descendants to use in conjunction with the Abyss Sword Dao.

“Make your move.” The scion looked unstoppable while wielding Violet Abyss, capable of eliminating Xu Yiyun with just one hand wave.

His powerful aura alone intimidated the young spectators.

“So strong, he’s definitely first place among the tenth.” One genius took a deep breath, astonished.

They thought that they were no match for him even before the start of the fight. Nonetheless, this wasn’t shameful at all. He was a prodigy with access to all the best tools possible. Even last-gen experts would be taken down all the same.

“Fine.” Xu Yiyun wasn’t afraid at all. Her sword started vibrating and issuing hymns.

“Buzz.” A ray shot to the sky with enough momentum to cause the galaxy to spin.

“This is the Xu’s legacy? Their Eight-strike Sword Law is also very impressive.” One expert said.

The young ones were also in awe of her power. This was enough for her to dominate but alas, she was facing Abyss Scion today.

“Know your place.” The ground beneath the scion’s feet caved downward as he unleashed his sword dao.

An abyss manifested out of nowhere and sucked in Xu Yiyun along with her sword energy. Everything inside this abyss was being pressured by a dao lord aura.

“Rumble!” Xu Yiyun was trapped right away; her ray earlier dissipated.

“Abyss Sword Dao!” A youth screamed, aware that he would die right away to this move.

“The heavenly swords live up to their fame.” A last-gen master took a deep breath.

“Yes, the maiden is no match for him.” One ancestor shook his head after seeing Yiyun being trapped in the abyss. This fight wouldn’t last long in his opinion.

“Clank!” She unleashed a majestic sword energy with a verdant glow while being stuck in there, severing everything in its path.

Chapter 4148: Ning Zhu’s Ability

“Jade Bamboo Rend!” The move was brimming with life and possibilities.

The most suppressive technique still wouldn’t be able to destroy it completely. After all, it had a tenacious life force regardless of the harsh conditions.

This surprised the spectators because they saw it earlier when Pinelead Sword Lord used it against Ninth.

The move stopped the suppressive aura and the terrifying abyss.

“Princess Ning Zhu.” A spectator murmured after seeing Ning Zhu getting involved.

People exchanged glances as their interest in this conflict grew. The princess had repeatedly refused the scion’s request to return to Sea Emperor. She seemed to be firmly on Li Qiye’s side - a true puzzle to everyone present.

“Why would she ruin her future like this?” One cultivator asked.

“Is she crazy? She’s going against Sea Emperor now for this unworthy guy?” A youth added.

“She must be possessed.” Even older ancestors didn’t understand. She actually picked Li Qiye over Peace Ocean Sword King: “I don’t see any charm and charisma oozing from him.”

It was one thing for her to keep her word after losing the bet. However, she had a chance to get out of the situation yet she didn’t grasp it.

The moment she swung her sword, it became clear to everyone that she was more than content with being Li Qiye’s maid.

The scion had an ugly expression, and rightfully so. He thought that he would be viewed as a savior by her. It was fine for her to take a neutral stance but to actually attack him?

He had the same thought as other cultivators and became awfully annoyed.

“Your Highness, it’s not too late to turn back or you’ll regret it.” He uttered coldly.

This was a warning, telling her to wake up or face the wrath of Sea Emperor Sword Kingdom.

“Thanks, but the string of fate between Sea Emperor and I is severed, no need to dwell on it. Scion, go back now, you’re the one making a mistake.” She calmly responded.

The crowd gasped after hearing this. She didn’t mind going against Sea Emperor for the sake of her master?

Though they didn’t understand her decision, they did appreciate her courage. After all, few dared to go against this behemoth.

“Your Highness, blame your own stubbornness then, not me.” The scion’s eyes flashed murderously.

She had chosen Li Qiye so her very existence was a symbol of humiliation for his sect. Thus, it would be best for her to die in his eyes.

“Boom!” He released his vitality. A primal beast seemed to be awakening; its aura engulfed the area to the astonishment of the crowd. Even older masters were impressed.

“Perish.” He chanted and no longer held back. Violet Abyss released a destructive torrent towards Ning Zhu.

She leaped upward for a slash capable of severing everything. No other affinity could stop it.

“Sever!” Spectators were no longer strangers to this move.

Sparks as large as boulders splashed everywhere. Waves emanated from the contact point and forced spectators back.

After this exchange, Ning Zhu staggered three steps backward. Nonetheless, she remained calm and composed.

This surprised the crowd because they thought that it would be a landslide victory for the scion. His expression soured as well since he didn’t expect her to be so strong.

“My turn.” She flew forward like a shooting star. “Clank!” Golden flashes appeared around her; she seemed to be covered by a layer of gold - a blessing from the gods.

This next move wasn’t as merciless and decisive as “Sever”. It was in tune with the rhythm of the world, seemingly containing the profundity of the myriad dao.

“Bring it!” The scion roared and swung his dao lord sword again. Another massive slash rushed forward.

“What is this sword technique?” People didn’t recognize Ning Zhu’s art, not even the ancestors who were familiar with Wooden Sword. They knew that it didn’t come from this kingdom.

“It’s not from Wooden Sword.” One ancestor said.

“Then what the hell is she using?” One expert asked.

Chapter 4149: Jian Sanqiang Again

“Boom!” Eight-hundred Commander personally led the bandits against the sword formation. Alas, the latter appeared to be an impregnable fortress.

Nonetheless, the bandits were far from being weak. Their continuous barrages made the island tremble violently. The sword formation pulsed with instability. Perhaps the bandits could actually take it down once given enough time.

Meanwhile, spectators were in awe. This nameless sword formation was actually powerful enough to withstand the forces of Cloud Dream Lake.

They speculated about these mercenaries hired by Li Qiye. The fact that they could use this formation indicated that they should be famous.

The big shots contemplated the origin of the formation, believing that it should be from a dao lord lineage.

At the same time, Tie Jian and A’zhi were watching from a distance with their hands crossed in front of their chest. It was as if this had nothing to do with them even though the sword formation was wavering.

“Dao Brother, you have done a commendable job raising your disciples. They can watch over an entire region with this formation.” A’zhi praised while watching the rampaging sword energies.

“Youths need polishment and further battle experience. This is good for them.” Tie Jian smiled.

“Yes, so many capable successors.” A’zhi nodded, looking a bit sentimental.

“Speaking of capable successors, you’re in a much better spot. You have so many talents under you while we’re just stray dogs without a home.” Tie Jian said.

“If you’re a dog, then the rest of the world is inferior to dogs.” A’zhi shook his head.

Tie Jian chuckled and didn’t comment.

These two clearly knew each other’s history and background. Only Li Qiye didn’t care enough to ask.

They knew that it wasn’t a question of trust for Li Qiye. It’s just that it didn’t matter who they were or their power. Even dragons needed to coil and tigers needed to crouch before Li Qiye. Having any ulterior motive would only result in their death.

“Whoosh!” Thousands of gigantic arrows suddenly rained down on Eight-hundred Commander. He raised his shield to block them but was still sent flying.

“Who dares ambush me?!” He became furious and apprehensive.

“Me.” A figure appeared in the sky, none other than the phantom-like Jian Sanqiang.

His expression was one of laziness and disdain - rather strange for a combatant facing a worthy foe. He said: “Banished one, I am here to take your life.”

“You!” Eight-hundred Commander was startled to see the newcomer.

Sanqiang nodded and showed a rare serious side: “That’s right, I am here to take your dog life lest you continue to humiliate the clan.”

The listeners didn’t expect this development.

“They have a past?” One expert murmured.

“Sounds like they might be from the same branch or clan.” A last-gen member became curious.

“Looks like it, I heard that this bandit was from an ancient clan. As for Jian Sanqiang, I’m not sure, people say that he’s just a vagabond.” A knowledgeable cultivator added.

Many believed that Jian Sanqiang was just a vagabond with no roots. A few top masters disagreed because they noted that his cultivation wasn’t chaotic. On the contrary, it was profound and required deep foundations and resources. Thus, he must be from an important clan.

Sanqiang never talked about his background and rarely interacted with others. As for the commander, everyone knew him as an island lord, a king of bandits.

However, his history before that was a blur outside of uncertain rumors. Now, maybe they were both from an ancient clan but for some reason, the commander was banished.

“Hahaha, you overestimate yourself if you think you alone can kill me here in my own domain. If the old man were here, maybe I would be a little bit afraid...” The commander burst out in laughter.

“Don’t worry, you’ll see him soon enough because I’ll be taking your head to him.” Sanqiang interrupted him.

“Hmph, let’s see how much you have learned from him!” The commander roared.

“Take this!” Sanqiang didn’t waste time and reloaded his bow again. Another barrage of arrows came straight towards the commander.

“Bring it!” The latter raised his shield again, crushing the spatial fabrics.

“Boom!” The two of them flew upward and began a devastating fight.

They were from the same sect despite having drastically different weapons and merit laws. Nonetheless, they had a strong understanding of each other’s abilities and fighting styles.

Weaker spectators had a hard time keeping up with their lightning-fast moves.

On the other side, the other island lords still kept the siege going against Dark Dragon Island.

“Clank!” The sword formation held on while releasing numerous swords and slashes. One could mistake them for heavenly waterfalls pouring from above.

People became increasingly convinced that this was absolutely a dao lord-level formation. The power might not be there right now but it certainly had the potential.

On the other side, Abyss Scion and Ning Zhu also fought fiercely. Their slashes and sword energies filled the entire area, forcing the crowd back as a result.

Ning Zhu’s sword art was peculiar since it didn’t originate from Wooden Sword. Each move contained boundless mysteries and golden particles. She resembled a magnificent golden god at this moment.

The spectators were curious since this art was actually keeping up with Abyss Sword Dao. Of course, she was still at a disadvantage but this battle wouldn’t end any time soon.

“What a black horse.” One big shot said: “Not weak at all, Princess Ning Zhu is a contender for the top spot.”

“True.” An ancestor agreed: “If the scion didn’t have a heavenly sword dao and Violet Abyss, he might not be her opponent.”

“I believe this is why Sea Emperor insists on this marriage. Her incredible talent has to be the answer.” An old lord added.

All in all, the crowd was shocked by her actual power. Though she was one of the Ten Sword Prodigies, their first impression of her was that she would become the future queen of Sea Emperor.

“You have another strong rival.” The spectating Snowcloud Princess smiled at Goldflow Young Noble.

Chapter 4150: Wandao Jian

“You’re too kind, Your Highness. My meager ability is not worth mentioning.” Goldflow shook his head.

He was not a competitive person and this only made people like him more. Geniuses from large sects were normally imperious; he was a rare exception.

The princess didn’t say anything else. The competition between the Ten Sword Prodigies has always been there. Albeit, they rarely fought each other so an actual ranking couldn’t be determined. More battles were required for anything concrete.

Well, to be exact, only eight were left after the death of Hundred-blade Noble and Starshooter Prince. The top candidates were currently Abyss Scion and Goldflow Young Noble.

Therefore, Ning Zhu left many in shock since her potential could eventually surpass these other two.

“She’s so strong, this is enough to let her run rampant right now in the world.” One youth whispered.

However, Li Qiye wasn’t as impressed as the rest. He yawned and said: “All of this back and forth is a waste of time. Finish this.”

Lu Qi obeyed and stepped forward, flicking one finger.

“Boom!” The scion seemed to be struck by lightning and staggered backward, nearly dropping his sword due to a sharp pain in his palm.

The crowd gasped after seeing this. The scion was now strong enough to threaten big shots from the last generation.

However, one finger strike from this woman alone pushed him back.

“Who is she?” All eyes were on Lu Qi. Alas, they couldn’t see anything due to her veil and stealth technique.

None recognized her despite being aware that she must be a famous cultivator.

“An ancestor from a big sect, no, a dao lord-lineage like Nine-wheel Citadel or Sea Emperor.” A regional lord concluded.

“Why does Li Qiye have so many masters under his banner? Being rich is so nice.” One youth became jealous.

Li Qiye had two members of the ten on his side. No other youth had such a grand style when traveling. Now, this mysterious woman was incredible as well. This was before mentioning Tie Jian in action a while back.

Thus, Li Qiye clearly had numerous masters under him. It might not be difficult for him to summon ten Heavenly Sovereigns to this place right now, meaning that his faction alone was comparable to a great power.

“It might not have anything to do with money. Money can’t be this omnipotent.” An old ancestor commented.

This made his peers think. Sure, Crimsondeath Monarch or Pendant Sword Maiden could be recruited with money. However, this mysterious woman was at the next level.

Why would this powerful existence work for Li Qiye if money wasn’t a factor?

Unfortunately, their heavenly gazes didn’t work so they had no idea who she was.

Terra Sword Saint stared at Lu Qi for a bit before stopping; his expression looked a little strange.

“Our young noble has grown tired of this, leave.” Lu Qi said flatly.

“The audacity to give a command to our Sea Emperor Sword Kingdom. We have never been afraid of a fight before.” An old man helped support Abyss Scion and uttered coldly.

He then activated his torrential vitality. A terrible aura engulfed the region and froze the crowd.

“A Myriad Sovereign?” One expert shouted.

“Yes, the minister of Sea Emperor, Wandao Jian.” An expert recognized him and said: “He’s also its chief elder.” [1]

“That’s the elder known for being able to obliterate a kingdom with one slash?” The youths have heard of this top master before.

“That’s him. Few are stronger than him in Sea Emperor when not counting the ancient ancestors.” An expert nodded.

“Of course, the chief elder of Sea Emperor can’t be weak.” His friend agreed.

Normally, ancient ancestors slumbered and didn’t care for mundane and worldly affairs. Thus, younger masters such as Wandao Jian stood at the peak.

“I don’t know who you are but if you wish to fight, we are ready.” Wandao Jian glared at Lu Qi while lightning coursed in his eyes.

This wasn’t an empty threat because Sea Emperor was afraid of no one in this region. Others would be intimidated and give up with haste.

“Wandao Jian, you’re no match for me, tell Jialun to come.” Lu Qi responded with an indifferent tone.

“Who is Jialun?” A young listener asked.

An ancestor took a deep breath and said: “Ancestor Jialun, Wandao Jian’s master.”

“... Wo-wouldn’tn’t that make him an ancient ancestor?” The youth stammered.

Wandao Jian was already the chief elder of Sea Emperor and its minister. Thus, his master had to be an ancient ancestor.

“Indeed, rumor has it that Ancestor Jialun is only second to Vastsea Paragon.” The ancestor replied.

“Only second to Vastsea Paragon?!” Those nearby gasped after hearing this.