

Emperor 4151

Chapter 4151: Come Together

Vastsea Paragon was one of the Five Overlords and the strongest member of Sea Emperor Sword Kingdom.

No need to elaborate about his power since everyone knew about the Five Overlords. This included newly-debuted juniors as well.

None dared to utter a single word of disrespect when talking about them. Currently, Ancestor Jialun was only second to Vastsea Paragon. Thus, his power should be obvious.

Even ancestors from bigger sects would exercise caution when talking about him, let alone challenging him. However, Lu Qi didn't care about Wandao Jian and went straight for his master.

Her intention couldn't be clearer - that Wandao Jian was too weak to be her foe. Only his master was qualified to fight her.

This was quite a bold and arrogant claim to the audience. The chief elder of Sea Emperor was mighty enough, let alone his master.

"Who is she, why does she think she can challenge Ancestor Jialun?" One expert wondered.

"Someone capable of fighting Ancestor Jialun can't be unknown in our continent." Another ancestor answered.

This was rather logical. With the exception of the Five Overlords, only characters such as Hallowed City Lord or Nightloom can do so.

Alas, the ancestors present couldn't come up with someone to match Lu Qi.

"Why the hell is someone so strong obeying Li Qiye?" A last-gen cultivator brought this up.

If she was as strong as she claimed, then she would be a supreme existence in any sect. Such a being had no reason to work for a newly-rich young master. This confused the hell out of the big shots.

The problem for them was Lu Qi's incredible stealth technique. This rendered figuring her out impossible.

"Who are you to boast about challenging my master?" Wandao Jian uttered coldly.

"I might not claim to defeat Vastsea Paragon but your master? I'm confident about my chances, so it's not boasting." Lu Qi responded.

The crowd took a deep breath afterward. She once again expressed her confidence in her great ability.

Wandao Jian became serious as he gazed at her intensely. He still couldn't guess her identity and eventually said: "There is no need for you to hide your identity since you are clearly a renowned cultivator. Please, broaden our horizon."

"Renowned is a strong word, I'm just a nameless junior." Lu Qi said: "But it's not too late for you to give up."

“I see.” Wandao Jian said seriously: “I will overestimate my own abilities and see what you can do then.”

He doubted Lu Qi’s power because powerful beings rarely hid their identity. There was no need for them to do so; most rather flaunted their status instead of acting like cowardly rats.

“Kill them all.” Li Qiye lazily said.

Lu Qi’s eyes became colder after hearing the command. She told her opponents: “Come together.”

The expression of Wandao Jian’s group soured. Many big shots from their sect came today; it wasn’t only a trip to watch a battle.

Alas, this woman wanted to fight all of them at once? This was blatant disdain towards Sea Emperor.

“He talks big for someone who hides behind women.” One youth in the crowd complained about Li Qiye.

“Oh? Someone has an issue with me?” The bored Li Qiye suddenly spoke again while staring at the crowd.

Though some were annoyed, none dared to go against Li Qiye right now. He possessed enough power to intimidate anyone at this point.

“Seems like I’m viewed as rather incompetent and cowardly, just surviving off women.” Li Qiye smiled.

Sounds about right?- many wanted to say this but kept their mouth shut.

“Mmm, first, there is nothing wrong with relying on the ladies.” He got up and told Lu Qi: “But fine, let me warm up.”

Lu Qi acknowledged the command and moved aside.

No one in the crowd expected this development after seeing Li Qiye moving closer to the battlefield.

“How many came from Sea Emperor? All come together because this play is becoming trite. Let’s end this fast.” He stretched and told Wandao Jian.

Many were astounded because Li Qiye wasn’t facing some random cultivators. However, he treated them as if they were nothing, not bothering to learn their name or title.

Wandao Jian’s group was furious. It was one thing for Lu Qi to act arrogant because she seemed capable of backing it up.

On the other hand, everyone knew Li Qiye’s current cultivation. He had no chance against Abyss Scion, let alone all of them together.

In fact, Lu Qi was the exception here. Ninth and Terra Sword Saint themselves lacked the ability to make this claim.

“Hahaha!” Wandao Jian laughed from being too angry. It was one thing to be looked down upon by Lu Qi. Now, this young master dared to treat him like this too?

“I’ve traveled the world yet this is the first time I’ve seen such an arrogant...” He said.

“There’s a first time for everything.” Li Qiye interrupted him.

Wandao Jian couldn’t accept the lack of courtesy and blatant disrespect. His face became twisted with rage and murderous intent.

“Li Qiye! Your arrogance will be your downfall, there are consequences to insulting our sect!” Abyss Scion loudly interjected.

“Got it.” Li Qiye said: “Come, I’ll deal with all of you at once.”

Chapter 4152: Chaos Seal Formation

The combined power of Abyss Scion and the seniors would be virtually unstoppable. A junior like Li Qiye seemed suicidal for challenging all of them at once.

“I think he actually has a chance in a one-on-one fight against Abyss Scion, but this is ridiculous.” One expert murmured.

“Li Qiye is consistently domineering, overbearing, and most importantly, undefeated. He just keeps on becoming stronger and stronger through various methods.” A few actually liked Li Qiye’s odds.

“Sure but there has to be a limit. It’s not like he’ll be able to challenge dao lords.” A last-gen cultivator didn’t buy it.

“I wonder what the brat has up his sleeve to be so confident.”

By this point, everyone knew that Li Qiye was not a fool nor was he crazy. Though they hated his personality, they recognized his abilities to a certain extent. The problem here was that they saw no path towards victory for Li Qiye.

The scion and the others didn’t buy it either but rage and confusion blinded them. They couldn’t come up with a reason for his confidence.

“Are you sure you want to take on all of us alone?” The scion glared at him.

They assumed that Lu Qi would be helping in some way. That’s the only way for him to win.

“Don’t worry, if I say I’m doing this alone, I’ll be alone.” Li Qiye chuckled.

“Accept.” Wandao Jian told Abyss Scion, clearly wanting to kill Li Qiye.

The scion took a deep breath and said: “So be it, we will entertain you. Prepare your best merit laws and treasures then...”

His eyes flashed greedily only for a moment. Everyone coveted Li Qiye’s treasures, himself included.

His allies and the members of the crowd had a similar reaction. Killing Li Qiye here meant seizing his resources.

“If Sea Emperor can get another dozen dao lord weapons...” One crowd member didn’t dare to finish this thought.

Others became emotional. Sea Emperor's capital already had plenty of dao lord weapons. If they could get Li Qiye's weapons too? This would start an age of dominance never seen before in this region.

Normally, Wandao Jian and the others cared about their reputation and prestige. This prevented them from attacking Li Qiye as a group.

However, he was the one challenging them in this case. This gave them all the justification needed to kill him and take his treasures. No one could criticize them afterward; Li Qiye would be the one at fault due to his insolence.

Thus, this scenario was developing favorably for Wandao Tian and Sea Emperor.

"Sigh, so much time wasted over some trivial crap. I don't need dao lord weapons to kill some little lizards, just a brick would be enough." Li Qiye said dismissively, once again fanning the fire.

"Junior, I will flay you!" One elder from Sea Emperor gritted his teeth.

Li Qiye waved his hand as if he was swatting a fly: "I was wrong, you're more of an annoying fly than a lizard."

Meanwhile, the crowd started discussing among themselves.

"The money fall method again?" One expert quietly said: "Maybe he can win if he uses enough dao lord refined jades."

"I can't wait to see the amount necessary to defeat that group." Another agreed.

"We're ready to see your money fall method." Abyss Scion unsheathed his weapon.

His group also believed that Li Qiye would be using this method for the battle. Thus, they glanced at each other and nodded before spreading out. They paid particular attention to their position.

"Activate!" Wandao Jian roared and began releasing laws from his hands. Dao runes appeared beneath his feet and spread outward.

The other elders did the same; similar runes also appeared beneath them.

"Buzz." The runes wove together to form a diagram large enough to affect this area. The laws released by Wandao Jian became empowered and pinned themselves into the spatial fabrics.

Chaos energy and dao were sealed inside its area of effect. The spectators found themselves becoming powerless.

"What is this formation?" An astounded expert bellowed. Losing chaos true energy would frighten anyone.

"Mmm, not bad. Using this Chaos Seal Formation to deal with money fall." Li Qiye smiled.

"So that's what it is!" A neutral ancestor heard the name and recognized it.

"You've heard of it before?" His friend asked.

“It is a sealing formation meant for chaos energy. Remember, money fall is a secret method capable of controlling this energy. Thus, the formation is its nemesis.” The ancestor responded.

“I’ve heard of a particular rumor regarding Sea Emperor and its intent on solving all the secret arts in the world. Their wise sages for generations have researched this matter. In other words, they probably figured out how to deal with money fall as well.” A different ancestor added.

Others exchanged glances at this dreadful possibility. Most great powers didn’t have the resources and ability to do this but Sea Emperor was a different story.

Chapter 4153: Too Much Money

“Begin!” Wandao Jian roared and activated the formation. Its light illuminated the region and turned into a boundless flame.

Spectators felt their true chaos energy along with the external source being sealed by this formation with haste.

Even the energy buried deep down in the earth vein stopped resonating with them. The formation acted as an unbreakable lock. Once sealed, no energy source could escape regardless of their distant location.

“We’re sealed!” Many spectators instantly ran from the radius of the formation.

After all, having their energy sealed meant becoming helpless like fish on the chopping board.

Unfortunately, the weaker spectators were already sealed and couldn’t get away in time.

“I can’t move... Sh*t!” A youth turned pale and screamed in horror.

Alas, those affected couldn’t say anything to Wandao Jian. They naturally disliked being dragged into this mess since they were only here to watch. The problem was that why would they risk offending Wandao Jian and Sea Emperor by speaking up?

“Clank!” The scion’s sword brimmed with power. An abyss began taking over the sky.

While watching this sword dao, spectators felt like they were rabbits standing before the monstrous beasts, on the verge of being utterly devoured.

This insane dao caused the world to sink downward. Once trapped in this sword dao, the victims would never see the sunlight again.

“So this is the Abyss Sword Dao.” Someone said, realizing that not only cultivators but the myriad dao would be devoured too.

Previously, the scion had used this dao before during his fight with Ning Zhu. However, the appearance of the abyss still frightened the crowd every time.

“That’s a heavenly sword dao for you, definitely stronger than a dao lord sword art.” One expert became envious.

“Few lineages have one heavenly sword dao yet Sea Emperor has two. That’s why it’s the number one sect.” Even last-gen experts felt the same envy.

For virtually everyone, just being able to learn a dao lord sword art was enough for a lifetime. They wouldn't ask for anything more.

However, heavenly sword dao was even one level above. Therefore, jealousy and envy permeated in the air because the young scion was lucky enough to learn it on top of having a dao lord sword.

"Today will be your last day in this world." The scion pointed his sword at Li Qiye. Though he hasn't attacked, rays of energy still pulsed intimidatingly.

"It's too early to draw conclusions." Li Qiye smiled and took out a spatial pouch.

Spectators became blinded the moment he opened it. "Buzz." Bright beams from the purest refined jades stole their attention and incited their greed.

The pouch was filled with refined jades. Heavenly Sovereign jades were abandoned in the corner, the real focus was the dao lord-level ones - too many to count.

"Fuck, I want to be a rich young master like Li Qiye." A last-gen cultivator salivated and cursed.

The experienced ancestors saw the flashing lights and started talking among themselves.

"Yeah, I wouldn't mind being him with nothing else going on except money. I would love to hear people telling me how useless I am and that having dirty money is meaningless." One of them said.

A big shot might not be tempted by one thousand or even a million dao lord refined jades. But what about one billion?

The scion and his allies became serious, trying to contain their greed. They had seen enough wealth due to their background. Alas, what they saw before was inconsequential compared to Li Qiye's treasury.

Important characters like them didn't have so much while Li Qiye alone monopolized it. They exchanged glances and became more determined to kill Li Qiye.

"Let's go now." Li Qiye suddenly grabbed a bunch and tossed them forward.

He kept on doing this as if he was tired of having money. Thousands of refined jades fell into the lake.

"Is he crazy?" Spectators were astounded.

For ordinary cultivators, a single refined jade at the dao lord level was priceless - enough to let him live lavishly for a lifetime.

Right now, Li Qiye was tossing so many into the lake as if they were worthless pebbles. This simply didn't make any sense.

Some calmed down and were smart enough to dive into the water for those refined jades.

However, they quickly swam back up and got their head out of the water while shouting: "There's nothing down there!"

The lake wasn't dangerous for cultivators so they should have been able to see the refined jades. Alas, this wasn't the case.

Chapter 4154: Fortify

No one had an idea of Li Qiye's purpose since his tossing was random. It didn't seem to be a formation or the previously-seen money fall method.

"Seal him!" Nonetheless, Wandao Jian's group took this seriously and still used their formation.

"Boom!" It released a mighty divinity and a palm made out of dao lord laws descended from above.

Everyone felt the lake being ravaged and shaking violently because of this palm strike. They turned pale as a result.

Wandao Jian's goal was to seal both Li Qiye and the entire lake, stopping Li Qiye from using any secret method.

This made it unbearable for the cultivators nearby, feeling as if they were being crushed.

"You're finished!" The scion's sword continued releasing dreadful energies as he pointed it at Li Qiye. He could sweep through the continent with this sword in his possession.

"Clank!" The bright lights suddenly dissipated and night came in the form of an abyss right above Li Qiye, wishing to devour him.

This sword dao could devour anything, whether it be powerful cultivators or other affinities and eternal laws... Just one move from this dao could extinguish everything in existence.

"My turn." Li Qiye smiled before the incoming attack. He waved his hand and released bright particles.

"Buzz." Suddenly, rays of light rushed out from the bottom of the lake. They illuminated everything and caused ripples. Something incredible was coming out.

"Boom!" The Chaos Seal Formation reacted and increased its suppressive nature. The palm of a dao lord smashed the surface of the lake, wishing to destroy it.

Unfortunately, this wasn't enough to extinguish the light rays. This only agitated something below. A primordial creature seemed to be awakening, unhappy with the rude guest.

"Raa!" Everyone heard the furious scream of a beast.

Next came a bright detonation from the bottom of the lake. The rays came together and formed a single beam. It looked like a massive dragon soaring upward and smashing into the formation.

"Fortify!" Wandao Jian's group became frightened.

Spectators were alarmed as well. The formation itself was impressive since it was created by a dao lord. Moreover, the users were capable as well, the majority being elders from Sea Emperor. This was enough to suppress most great powers.

Alas, the draconic beam was causing serious damage. The formation was nearly toppled.

“Rumble!” The elders and protectors from Sea Emperor immediately poured their vitality and power into the formation.

A wondrous figure appeared with haste, looking to be invincible across the ages. The suppressive nature of the formation intensified.

“A dao lord?!” Spectators immediately lost their freedom, unable to move an inch.

The figure’s focus was on stopping whatever was down there at the bottom of the lake.

Sure enough, the thing down there faltered and stopped struggling.

“This formation is so strong.” An expert noticed the beam weakening.

“Die!” The scion took advantage of this and sent his abyss towards Li Qiye.

It was a formless yet undodgeable slash. Spectators thought that Li Qiye was done for. They saw an illusion of his head flying in the air then falling and rolling on the ground.

In reality, the slash was inches away from Li Qiye’s neck. This prompted him to wave his hand again.

Another beam came from the bottom of the lake and fully engulfed him.

“Boom!” The scion’s technique struck what seemed to be the toughest rock in the world. Fiery sparks splashed everywhere after a deafening clank from the impact.

The scion failed to kill Li Qiye while his sword violently bounced back. He nearly lost his grip.

This beam surrounding Li Qiye served as the toughest armor available, easily stopping the Abyss Sword Dao.

“This thing stopped a dao lord sword and a heavenly sword dao.” Spectators were astounded after seeing this. Even divine armors would be split open yet the beam protected Li Qiye just fine.

Chapter 4155: Divine Dragon Tail Whip

“Boom!” When the scion’s attack failed, the region suddenly trembled intensely. The draconic beam that protected Li Qiye also pierced through the suppression of the formation.

This dragon roared and exuded its torrential aura just like a primordial flood. It manifested into an actual true dragon with a pulsing radiance. It seemed to be made of bright stars, looking magnificent and beautiful.

The fact that it didn’t have a physical body didn’t deter its awe-inspiring presence. It loomed above all existences and served as the ruler of all beasts.

Spectators were in disbelief. They had never seen a true dragon before and some didn’t believe in the existence of one.

However, this celestial dragon might not have a physical body yet its draconic aura felt so real and oppressive.

They were as frightened as can be, thinking that no other dragons could be more intimidating than this one.

“Is this a true dragon?” One spectator asked.

“It can’t be. There are differences compared to the mythical creature in the text.” An ancestor pondered for a moment before answering.

“Raa!” The dragon roared again and its aura intensified, instantly crushing the area around it. As it lunged downward, space and time broke right away. Its claws could tear the myriad dao apart. Defenses and merit laws were as feeble as pieces of paper.

Everyone lost their courage due to the sheer devastation of the attack.

“Immortal-sealing Swords!” Wandao Jian was aghast and decided to switch it up.

After hearing this command, the group sent out numerous divine swords. They kept on changing and rotating, capable of stopping all offense or crushing the enemies.

“Rumble!” The swords flew towards the celestial dragon but were instantly destroyed by its claws.

“We’re leaving!” Wandao Jian read the situation perfectly and knew that their formation wouldn’t hold up against this celestial dragon.

“Clank!” Abyss Scion was extremely decisive and pulled back his heavenly sword. Both ran for the horizon.

“Raa!” The celestial dragon then whipped its tail. The stars and galaxies above were swept away as if they were mere spiderwebs - a testament to the power of this attack.

Everyone bellowed in horror as a result. In the mortal realm, there was a martial art technique with the name, “Divine Dragon Tail Whip”. This name was also popular in the cultivation world.

Many sects and countries had a technique with this name. However, they certainly didn’t deserve the name and paled before this celestial dragon’s strike.

“Boom!” The supreme formation from Sea Emperor instantly exploded, resulting in the gruesome death of many elders and protectors.

They were either reduced to bloody mists or some pieces would be left behind, falling down into the lake.

This shocked the spectators. The elders and protectors from Sea Emperor were extremely powerful and prestigious. Alas, all of them were dead now, Wandao Jian included.

This seemed to be a fight between a dragon and insects. One tail whip alone ended the contest. Thus, everyone became afraid of the celestial dragon since they wouldn’t have fared any better.

“That’s terrifying.” An old existence turned pale since only the scion managed to escape in time. Therefore, this was an absolute failure for Sea Emperor.

“Raa!” The astonished spectators then saw the celestial dragon roaring at Li Qiye once before crashing back into the lake and disappearing without a trace.

“What the hell was that?” Someone regained his wits and wondered if that was a true dragon.

The knowledgeable ancestors disagreed with this because the celestial dragon didn’t fit the descriptions in the ancient texts. Alas, what else could be as strong?

“Was that still the money fall method?” An expert remembered the refined jades tossed out by Li Qiye.

“I don’t think it has anything to do with that method. It might be the lake itself.” An ancestor from a dao lord lineage shook his head.

No one had a definite answer but all in all, Li Qiye was able to summon such a monstrous creature to eliminate his enemies.

“So there are things at the bottom of the lake.” A big shot focused his sight on the bottom of the lake but didn’t notice anything peculiar.

“This might be the reason why Cloud Dream Lake has been around for so long. The bandits are lucky to be here.” A high elder said.

Others agreed with this because numerous eras have passed yet this lair of evil still continued to exist. Many dao lords have appeared and it wouldn’t have been hard for them to eliminate this place.

Chapter 4156: Dark Gale Camp’s Arrival

“Buzz.” Another violent shaking and bright flashes stole everyone’s attention on the other side.

The battle at Black Dragon Island was coming to an end as well. Jian Sanqiang hovered up high in the air while pulling back the bowstring to its limit. Thousands of divine arrows appeared behind him and looked like a pair of angel wings on fire.

This suffocated the crowd because they knew that it could pierce through heaven and earth.

“Whoosh!” Sure enough, the main arrow traveled with incredible speed. Even the mind couldn’t follow the arrow, let alone the eyes.

Spectators felt as if they had been separated from time and space, going half a beat slower.

This successfully destroyed Eight-hundred Commander’s shield, prompting its master to scream.

“Ah!!!” Blood gushed across the night sky and the commander’s huge frame flew for a bit before crashing on the ground.

His eyes were wide open, not ready for death. He thought that he would be the victor but Jian Sanqiang’s power exceeded his expectations.

“I won the gamble, mission accomplished.” Sanqiang wiped off the blood on his lips and laughed. He looked to be in a sorry state with gnarly wounds.

He risked his life this time in order to kill the commander and rid his clan of an evil member.

“Formation shift!” Tie Jian ordered.

“Clank!” The layers and curtains of swords around the island opened and went on the offensive instead.

This shift inflicted serious damage to the attacking bandits. Thousands of them died in just a short time with numerous holes on their body.

The experts near there took a deep breath after seeing the sudden boost in killing potential.

“This formation definitely came from a dao lord.” One of them said, noting that despite the slaughtering nature of the deed, there was still a noble and majestic divinity fully displayed in the formation.

Nonetheless, the formation was purposely changed by someone. Its true mysteries were hidden so it became difficult to pinpoint the source.

“I think the bandits are going to have a rough future ahead of them.” One ancestor said: “They lost many men already, even Eight-hundred Commander died in battle. Their plan is finished and they’re at a grave disadvantage now.”

A while ago, the bandits had the upper hand due to their number advantage. Moreover, this was their home court as well. Alas, losing this battle in such a drastic manner changed everything. Their morale must be at an all-time low.

“Li Qiye’s followers are unreal, they’re all hidden masters. There aren’t many sects in our continent capable of preparing this sword formation.” A last-gen master was jealous.

“One can hire gods and devils with enough money, let alone experts.” A youth said.

“Boom!” Suddenly, loud explosions came from the distance. Violent gales caused high waves to form.

The waves then became high enough to be classified as a tsunami affecting the entire lake.

“What’s going on?!” The crowd shouted in astonishment. They then noticed banners on top of the waves. A cavalry was coming.

A murderous aura akin to millions of blades made them shudder. This cavalry wore black armor with a shiny luster. They seemed to be coming from hell itself. Their fluttering banners were entirely black as well.

As they rode the waves, they looked like a gigantic tornado sweeping through the world.

“Dark Gale!” An older expert recognized them right away.

“The troops of Dark Gale are here!” Others joined in.

Dark Gale Camp was the true leader and owner of Cloud Dream Lake. Though the lake had eighteen islands run by lawless bandits, in reality, the place had a special order and a set of rules. These rules were written by Dark Gale Camp.

The bandits’ morale rose again after seeing this cavalry. They became confident in defeating the enemy.

“This cavalry can match any other legion.” Cultivators took a deep breath after seeing their awe-inspiring arrival.

Their strength and bloodthirst weren’t an act. This cavalry was clearly battle-hardened.

Chapter 4157: Nightloom

The black chariot with circulating gales stole everyone’s attention.

“The king is here.” People glanced at it and realized that one of the Six Sect Masters was inside.

“So he’s inside?” A youth who had never seen him before whispered.

“No, look at the driver.” An ancestor from his sect responded.

“Driver?” The nearby youths’ eyes widened in disbelief.

There was indeed a middle-aged driver sitting in front and holding the reins. He had an embroidered robe and an impressive figure. He gave the feeling of being immense just like a mountain.

He was attentive with his task; his eyes always looked forward at the stallions and the road while forgetting about everything else.

He didn’t have an oppressive aura or overwhelming gallantry, no flashing sword rays either. He only appeared to be an above-average man.

Thus, people assumed that he was the driver while the real king was sitting inside the chariot.

In reality, it turned out that this middle-aged man was actually Cloud Dream King. Who was inside then?

“That’s Cloud Dream King?” Others became confused.

The King of Bandits and ruler of Cloud Dream Lake was driving the chariot for someone else?

Though he was a bandit, he was also one of the Six Sect Masters. This meant that he was quite famous throughout Sword Continent. He stood at the top of the second generation and could smile proudly wherever he went. The current situation didn’t match his status.

“Yes, that’s him.” An expert who saw him before confirmed.

People exchanged glances. Few in Sword Continent were worthy of his service. They started thinking about the being inside the chariot. Some opened their heavenly gaze in order to take a look.

On the other hand, the ancestors and the big shots had a pretty good idea. All of them thought about one particular person - the only one in Cloud Dream Lake that could enjoy this treatment.

“Who is inside?” One youth asked.

“Nightloom.” An ancestor said: “He’s the only one deserving of this.”

“Nightloom...” Listeners nearby took a deep breath. This was an ancient title on the verge of being forgotten by most people.

“Stop!” A thunderous voice echoed in everyone’s ears. Black clouds billowed above the bandits sieging Black Dragon Island.

The shout wasn’t that loud but it still intimidated listeners, akin to hearing unexpected thunder.

The bandits calmed down and retreated away from the battlefield, staring at the chariot. The sword formation also pulled back and didn’t give chase.

“Nightloom Ancestor?” The island lords found hope after seeing their king controlling the chariot.

Initially, they were happy to see Dark Gale Camp’s help. The king and his legion could help them take down Black Dragon Island then they would seize that supreme sword formation.

However, seeing Nightloom himself left them emotional.

“What is Nightloom Ancestor doing here?” Some of them wondered.

When they were younger growing up at the lake, they had heard of this title before but never met the actual cultivator until today.

“Something big is happening.” The neutral ancestors thought.

All in all, his first appearance after many generations shook the crowd. He was one of the strongest right now, rumored to be on the same level as Hallowed City Lord and only a bit beneath the Five Overlords.

“Well yeah, Li Qiye is attacking the lake right now. He can’t let this go.” One expert said.

Most thought that this was the case. Li Qiye had shaken the foundation of the eighteen islands so Dark Gale Camp had to do something.

If Nightloom was here, this meant that Dark Gale was serious in taking Li Qiye down.

“What’s going to happen now?” Someone wondered, uncertain about Li Qiye’s ability to fight this ancestor.

“I think Li Qiye has more tricks up his sleeve, he just eliminated the experts from Sea Emperor earlier. Maybe he can do the same against Nightloom.” A big shot from the last generation was optimistic about Li Qiye’s chance.

“Just wait, at least it’ll be fun.” One expert became excited.

“Creak.” The door opened and an old man came out from the chariot. He wore all black, looking a bit feeble and elderly - clearly not far from death.

“That’s Nightloom.” A mighty ancestor recognized him.

Everyone watched with bated breath, not daring to show disrespect despite the old man looking quite weak.

Chapter 4158: Unexpected Outcome

Of course, none dared to question his power. Thus, the scene became silent as he disembarked.

The eighteen islands had plenty of experts and villains. Alas, they all obeyed Dark Gale Camp regardless of their violent nature. This was double when it came to someone like Nightloom. Even the oldest bandits could only be considered his juniors.

“Greetings, Ancestor and Camp Lord. Please excuse us for the lack of reception.” One island lord came over and bowed towards Cloud Dream King, no longer worrying about the siege.

“Why the escalation?” Cloud Dream King frowned.

The island lord immediately responded: “Camp Lord, it’s because the enemy forced our hands, daring to take over Black Dragon Island and massacring our men. Please avenge our fallen brothers.”

“Ancestor, Camp Lord, please avenge our fallen brothers!” The other island lords and bandits shouted.

They knew that they wouldn’t be able to take down the island themselves. The situation was rather unfavorable so they needed Dark Gale’s involvement.

Dark Gale was their leader for a reason; its power was considerable. Moreover, Nightloom has made a rare appearance as well. Victory would be theirs for sure with his involvement. Then, all of Li Qiye’s wealth would belong to them.

They assumed that this was Nightloom’s purpose for being here.

“Is Nightloom going to join?” A neutral expert asked.

“Yes, and it’ll be amazing.” One ancestor became emotional since a true top master was present.

“That would make it the end for Li Qiye.” His friend speculated and became eager for the next development.

To see Nightloom in person was a priceless experience for their cultivation path. Moreover, some were annoyed at Li Qiye’s pompous attitude as well.

“Decapitate the enemy and drink their blood! Show no mercy towards Li Qiye! Let the world tremble before our might!” One bandit started shouting.

“Decapitate the enemy and drink their blood! Show no mercy towards Li Qiye...” This prompted the rest to shout as well.

They glared at Li Qiye; each gaze was as sharp as a sword. If gazes could kill, Li Qiye would be dead a million times by now.

However, he only smiled, seemingly taunting them.

He and Nightloom became the main stars of this event. Everyone thought that a battle was inevitable because Li Qiye had challenged Dark Gale’s authority.

Cloud Dream King didn’t respond and waited for his ancestor’s order.

Nightloom didn’t bother to look at the shouting bandits. He calmly spoke: “Enough shouting. Kill whoever wants to cause more trouble.”

The shouting stopped right away. Everyone heard him clearly despite the low volume. The bandits, in particular, were completely shocked.

They thought that the strongest reinforcement was here; this no longer seemed to be the case. They initially thought that a new offense would launch and they would be able to kill Li Qiye.

A single command killed this dream. Nightloom sounded as if he didn't wish to help them.

With that, Nightloom tidied up his robe and walked to Li Qiye's front. He bowed deeply and said: "It is an honor to have you here in Cloud Dream Lake, I apologize for ruining your mood."

Jaws dropped to the ground as a result. People couldn't close their mouth.

"You didn't know, it's fine." Li Qiye waved his hand.

"The night is chilly here, please come to my humble abode..." Nightloom heaved a sigh of relief and invited.

"Go." Li Qiye agreed right away.

"Prepare the carriage, we're returning." Nightloom didn't waste time at all.

"Rumble!" The cavalry rode the waves again before astonished eyes. Li Qiye joined Nightloom on his chariot.

All of this happened too quickly and caught everyone off guard. Dark Gale Camp came thunderously and left just as fast. Most importantly, they weren't here to help the other bandits, only to greet Li Qiye.

"What the hell is going on? What's his relationship with Dark Gale?" Most scratched their head, looking like confused monks trying to find hair.

Just a moment ago, Li Qiye's legion had a bloody battle against the bandits. Now, he became an esteemed guest?

"Maybe he's from Dark Gale?" Someone boldly speculated.

"Well, we don't know where he's from so that's a possibility." One expert said.

There was no reasonable explanation for the development just now.

"Even if he's from Dark Gale, he should only be an important disciple or successor at best. That doesn't explain Nightloom's attitude." A last-gen cultivator said.

"I don't think he is related to Dark Gale. Don't forget, he's the richest man in the world while Dark Gale is in charge of the bandits. If they become an alliance, they'll have both manpower and resources." One ancestor mused.

"You're saying that Dark Gale wants to team up with Li Qiye for a more ambitious goal?" His friend responded.

Chapter 4159: Dark Gale Camp

Few had the privilege of visiting Dark Gale Camp. Its true main branch wasn't on an island but took up an entire region.

Visitors would see a massive mountain blocking everyone's path and resembling a barrier. It was located right in the middle of Dark Gale Camp and Cloud Dream Lake.

In a sense, the lake served as a moat. This along with the mountain made it difficult for others to attack the camp.

Waterfalls could be seen; their currents flowed down like rivers of stars. This magnificent scene exuded a transcending feeling. Verdant trees and lush vegetation made the air refreshing and comforting. This didn't look like a lair of bandits in the slightest.

Most assumed that there would be camps and outposts everywhere. Black banners should be seen up high with sentries on patrol - a place of fierce and rowdy characters.

This wasn't the case at all. People would mistake this place for the ancestral ground of an important sect. Its majestic aura and scenic beauty were enviable.

Li Qiye got down the chariot and found himself standing on a high peak. He took a deep breath of the refreshing air.

"This is all the reception I get?" Li Qiye stood at the edge and looked down at the world with a smile.

Anyone else in this situation would be trembling with fear. After all, this was a place filled with hidden masters including a mighty ancestor like Nightloom.

None of this mattered to Li Qiye; he was still as nonchalant and relaxed as ever.

"This junior is under the order of the Forefather." Nightloom prostrated and spoke humbly. [1]

Cloud Dream King and the others also prostrated, not daring to breathe loudly.

"Forefather?" Li Qiye said.

"The Forefather is a supreme being capable of reaching the high heaven." Nightloom responded with haste.

"You're not a descendant of the dragons. No bloodline." Li Qiye shook his head.

Nightloom looked a bit awkward as he coughed and said: "We are not descendants of the Forefather. I simply got lucky and was taught briefly by the Forefather, hence my current abilities."

"Mmm, true. Looks like the old man put some effort into you, it's a shame that this is all you have learned." Li Qiye nodded.

Anyone else would think that this was an insult. Nightloom was only second to the Five Overlords right now yet Li Qiye found him inadequate.

Nonetheless, Nightloom didn't become angry. Embarrassment struck instead as he answered: "The Forefather said that I lack comprehension and can only learn to a superficial level. Please guide me, Young Noble."

"There's nothing I can teach you." Li Qiye shook his head: "The old man has reached an incredible stage. Only a selected few in all of history had surpassed him. He taught you well yet you stopped here, this is your limit."

"I am ashamed of failing to live up to expectations." Nightloom said.

In the eyes of regular cultivators, he stood at the apex. However, since he had contact with his master, he realized how insignificant he was.

His master was a true supreme existence that could take on anyone. Unfortunately, he had limited talent and comprehension.

If he had understood his master's teachings, the Five Overlords wouldn't be worth mentioning in his presence.

"It's alright. I do feel at ease knowing that he is still alive. Let me meet him." Li Qiye waved his hand.

"This way, Young Noble." Nightloom immediately led the way.

They walked to a courtyard in a remote region. Only Nightloom and Cloud Dream King had access. Inside was a sealed well.

The well was ancient with inscrutable runes. One shouldn't even try deciphering them since it would only be a waste of time. There was still water inside.

Normally, even the top cultivators would find opening this seal difficult. Nightloom knew the secret so he didn't have a problem.

After he fully pushed the cover open, a cold air shot upward. An eternity seemed to have been sealed inside this well.

"Come out to see an old friend." Li Qiye glanced down and said.

"Splash!" A rainbow fish flew out of the well, looking rather gorgeous due to all of its colors. It let out a bubble reflecting similar colors from the sunlight.

Li Qiye smiled and got on top of the fish. It continued releasing more bubbles and the two disappeared from sight in an illusory manner.

"Ancestor, when can I meet the Forefather?" Cloud Dream King asked after Li Qiye was gone.

His knowledge of the Forefather was strictly limited to what Nightloom told him, that the Forefather was the reason why Cloud Dream Lake was untouchable across the years. Even the dao lords didn't wish to challenge him.

“When you are summoned.” Nightloom said. He was the only one lucky enough to receive guidance from the Forefather.

He had no idea what was going on, not daring to speculate the Forefather’s intent nor could he see the world beyond.

Clouds and mists filled this separate domain. It looked surreal just like an illusion or a dream. Unfortunately, it seemed abandoned and devoid of life.

However, if they could get past all of this and see the core of this world, they would find a vein serving as the heart, empowering everything here.

An old pavilion existed somewhere in this area. Alas, it was in terrible shape. Just a minor storm should be able to take it down.

Appearance was deceiving in this case. The pavilion had withstood numerous years and tribulations.

There were two aged deck chairs; one was prepared for Li Qiye. It creaked when he sat down, looking awfully unstable.

He relaxed and enjoyed the breeze. Millions of years seemed to pass in the blink of an eye.

. This is the character usually used for Ancestor. Progenitor/ancestor/forefather/primogenitor, anything like that works here. Forefather is the least assuming and probably fits the best without further context ?

Chapter 4160: An Old Friend

The gentle breezes seemed to be the only natural order at work in this dimension.

“You’re here.” A feeble voice greeted Li Qiye. The speaker must have one foot in the grave.

“Indeed.” Li Qiye continued to relax in his chair.

A decrepit old man rested on the other chair. One could mistake him for a corpse if he didn’t speak earlier. He didn’t open his mouth; the words seemed to be traveling with the winds like the whispers of a spirit.

“Death draws near for me.” His voice didn’t only permeate the ears but also the very soul of listeners.

“You’ll live for three to five more epochs.” Li Qiye replied softly. Nonetheless, he seemed to have made a decision for this old man.

“My strength is sapped, there is no difference between life and death now.” The old man smiled wryly.

“People say that living a borrowed life is still better than a good death.” Li Qiye responded.

“I’m not one of them, living a borrowed life is meaningless.” To which the old man responded.

"I can't argue with that." Li Qiye said: "A true dragon will have the pride of a true dragon, not sharing the weak characteristics of insects. However, a shallow pond cannot hold a true dragon nor is it the right place to rest."

"Don't be so sentimental now, it's just death, and not my first time either." The old man laughed heartily. His laughter was as bright and warm as the sunlight, completely untethered and all-reaching.

"You're more open-minded than me in this regard." Li Qiye said.

"It's about time for me after the myriad ages." He smiled: "I don't need descendants to come see my old bones or remember me."

"They have their own path." Li Qiye smiled: "If they're capable, they'll prosper. If they're worthless, then no need to worry about them."

"I don't worry because of that one place of yours. I already told them to leave. As for me, I don't mind this broken place." He said.

"That's fine. Leave the long journey to me then, it's still the same as before, only a different person is doing the walking." Li Qiye said.

"It is time for you to embark." The old man said.

Li Qiye didn't answer and turned his sight towards the sky vault. There seemed to be a path leading deeper up above with no end in sight, not even after a journey lasting a billion years.

"Feeling old?" The old man smiled.

"So many geezers are still alive, it's too early to call me old. I'm only eighteen compared to them." Li Qiye chuckled.

"Maybe I should die earlier then so you can stop refusing to recognize your age." The old man didn't seem to think much of death.

"It's hard to say, maybe after enough years, geezers like you might regain your passion." Li Qiye said.

"Hmm..." The old man became sentimental and recalled his past. It started with learning martial arts and repeating strikes, then came performing heroic deeds...

"It's nice to be alive." He added: "But death isn't that bad either. My bones might be worth a few coins, just enough to nourish this land."

"True. When I die, my corpse will probably poison everything instead." Li Qiye added.

"That's possible." The old man laughed: "I'm sure you will go down in infamy. The death gods will stomp your face upon meeting you since you are the butcher, the crow that brings nothing but disasters."

"That's okay, the world can think as they please." Li Qiye chuckled.

"Don't worry, it doesn't matter how hated you are, you'll stay alive, Dark Crow." The old man said.

Li Qiye paused for a bit before speaking hushedly: "Maybe you're right, death is better than living sometimes."

“That’s for others to say, not you. You cannot die since you’ll need to cause trouble for ages to come.”
The old man said seriously.

“Yes, the world needs a scourge like me or it’ll be too boring and peaceful. Peace brings prosperity and fat sheep, some will salivate then.”

“They’ll reveal their fangs in due time.” The old man said.

“I’ve been waiting for a very long time now. It’s quite problematic that they’re so patient.” Li Qiye said.

“There might be someone else just like you, waiting for that exact moment.” The old man said.

The breeze suddenly stopped and the atmosphere became serious.

“Yes, beasts like to eat sheep but there are monsters that feast on beasts.” Li Qiye nodded.

“The monsters might not always be so lucky either.” The old man added.

Li Qiye rubbed his cheek and said: “Sounds like you’re jinxing me and carving the word “monster” on my face. I need to take a look in the mirror first.”

“Well, maybe you’ll be the lucky one.” The old man smiled.

“Hard to say, only the ultimate winner can smile in the end.” Li Qiye said.

“The villainous heaven.” The old man suddenly opened his eyes wide, becoming emotional. They were empty yet still contained a boundless universe. There was a barely discernible spark there that could illuminate the cosmos and give birth to countless lives.

“If that day ever comes, I suppose dying to the villainous heaven isn’t too bad. It’s a wish-comes-true for many, just making it that far.” Li Qiye reflected.

“Once again, you will have to be the exception.” The old man reminded.

“Yes, others can, not I... not I.” Li Qiye sighed and agreed: “It’s not easy to die nowadays, or at least a death that is a little acceptable. No one has it as rough as me.”

“You picked your path, now you have to walk or crawl until you reach the end.” The old man said.

“I’m visiting to get useful stuff, not for you to verbally stab me.” Li Qiye chuckled.

“It’s fine, I can’t stab for too long since I’m about to die soon.” The old man

“I still think it’s too early to say that. A turtle can live for a long time and your lifespan is even better than a turtle’s.” Li Qiye joked.

The old man chuckled before putting on a somber expression: “I lost.”

These two simple words weighed heavily like countless mountains.

“Not surprising, you’re old and not as strong as before.” Li Qiye responded.

“No, I have no excuse, it’s a loss. I probably would have lost during my prime too. He is strong, really strong.” The old man sighed.

“I know, the strongest.” Li Qiye nodded.

“I’m afraid you’ll have to fight him first before getting to the villainous heaven. How is your preparation?” The old man asked.

“Perhaps the villainous heaven won’t give us the chance.” Li Qiye said.

“It’s more likely that he won’t give you the chance. I still think it’s best for you to fight him or the consequences will be grave.” The old man suggested.

“What is your opinion on him?” Li Qiye asked.

The old man thought about it carefully before replying: “I don’t trust him.”