

Emperor 4171

Chapter 4171: Miracle Versus Miracle

“A hidden master?” One expert said after seeing the man easily doing something no one else could.

“I’ve never heard of someone being able to do this.” A big shot replied.

The important characters thought about this repeatedly and couldn’t come up with a historical character matching this middle-aged man.

“He must be from a famous sect.” Another expert whispered.

No one had a problem with this statement. Only a large sect would be able to produce a cultivator with this magical ability. Alas, they still couldn’t match him up with a particular sect.

“How is he unknown?” A high elder wondered while watching the floating divine swords.

“Sir, where are you from?” One cultivator finally walked forward and bowed deeply to ask.

The middle-aged man didn’t answer, either not hearing him or not scaring in the slightest.

The cultivator became awkward and smiled wryly, not daring to say anything else. After all, this man should be a hidden master. Provoking someone like that wouldn’t end well.

“So unreal, this is comparable to a feat from a dao lord.” One youth commented.

“No, not even dao lords can do this. They came here before and didn’t obtain the divine swords so easily.” An ancestor shook his head.

“Who the hell is he?” This question bothered everyone.

Alas, the guy seemed rather eccentric and distant. He ignored everyone so it became impossible to figure out more information.

“I can’t believe he doesn’t want any of them.” One spectator said.

They were jealous because numerous divine swords had floated up at this point. If he had gathered them, he would have more divine swords than any other sect in Sword Continent. This would be a treasury expensive enough to make people go crazy and fight to the death.

“I just want one, I’ll even call him grandpa.” A youth from a small sect shamelessly said.

Of course, the middle-aged man still ignored him.

“Too many crazy people nowadays, can’t make sense of anything anymore.” One ancestor sighed and reflected.

“Who is he?” Snowcloud Princess asked Li Qiye.

The two of them had also arrived at Sword Abyss and were watching the middle-aged man. She was in awe after seeing how easily this man summoned those divine swords.

This made her think of Li Qiye. If anyone could do something so insane and miraculous, he would be the first person on her mind.

However, this wasn't the case here. She stared at him, hoping for an answer.

"Interesting." Li Qiye smirked and rubbed his chin while observing the middle-aged man.

He didn't answer the question and started walking closer to the man.

"Li Qiye? Why is he here?" The crowd clamored after seeing him. They even made a path for him to get through.

"The sorcerer is here." One expert said.

"Sorcery versus sorcery." A last-gen member said: "No, miracle versus miracle. Is Li Qiye up to it?"

"It would be very interesting." The crowd talked among themselves.

Li Qiye was the world's richest right now, capable of performing some outrageous deeds despite his weak cultivation. The word "impossible" was not in his dictionary.

They felt as if he was the only one who could match this mysterious middle-aged man.

"A mountain can't have two tigers, will they fight?" One youth murmured.

"A fight might be too much but a contest is possible. It'll be great to watch." His friend said.

Everyone else was overwhelmed with anticipation, wanting to see which was the most devilish of the two.

Meanwhile, Li Qiye was standing next to the man who was still tossing out scrap metal. The latter stopped and turned around.

"It's happening, it's happening!" Many took a deep breath.

Though the man was only turning around, this still shocked the crowd more than a formidable attack.

Prior to this, ancestors and kings tried to talk to this man to no avail. He never reacted to any of them, not even a single glance. Now, Li Qiye only got close and hasn't said anything but still got a response.

Li Qiye smiled as the two stood face to face. Though half of the man's face was covered by his hair, he still gazed at Li Qiye.

Time seemed to be shifting to the past. The scene became deathly still and silent.

In reality, a temporal stagnation was actually happening. Everyone else disappeared right away. Only Li Qiye and the man existed as time reverted back to the primordial.

Chapter 4172: Suicide

Everything else became insignificant and illusory. Only apex existences like them were eternal at this moment.

While their eyes were fixed on each other, the previous epochs popped up within a flashing primordial light. Deities, geniuses, golden eras = all beautiful but ephemeral in the grand scheme of things. This included ancient emperors and dao lords.

Only a few selected existences were lucky enough to withstand the test of time.

The spectators didn't notice this phenomenon and only cared about a potential contest between these two cultivators.

Eventually, Li Qiye averted his gaze; the same with the middle-aged man. This only lasted a second yet epochs have passed. The rise and fall of eras happened before their eyes.

"Come, let me try." Li Qiye smiled and raised his hand, gesturing for a broken piece.

He seemed eager to test his luck with the abyss.

"It's starting." Everyone opened their eyes wide in anticipation.

Earlier, the man did something unfathomable. They wondered if Li Qiye could somehow duplicate this feat and gain some divine swords. Or, could he even do better and surpass the man somehow?

Alas, it didn't develop the way they wanted. The man suddenly turned around and jumped into the abyss.

"No!!!" Some blurted out after seeing this.

"What the hell?!" They roared in astonishment and could only watch as he disappeared into the darkness.

Initially, they thought that it would be a great show regardless of the victor. Why did that man commit suicide after being challenged by Li Qiye?

The mysterious man was clearly a wondrous cultivator. This shouldn't have been his end. Confusion took over right away.

"Why-why did he do that?" Someone calmed down and asked.

"I don't get it either, no need to commit suicide even if he thinks he'll lose to Li Qiye." A knowledgeable ancestor didn't know where to start.

Such pessimism and narrow-mindedness weren't fitting for someone as capable as him.

"How stingy, I was just playing around." Li Qiye shrugged.

"You killed him and still called him stingy?" One crowd member quietly complained.

"This brat is just on another level, forcing the enemy to commit suicide after one sentence." An ancestor murmured.

"True, no one else is as devilish as him." Others smiled wryly.

Not long ago, they were wholeheartedly impressed by the middle-aged man. Now, it seemed that Li Qiye was still the most bizarre - a comet of trouble wherever he went.

“What happened to him?” Snowcloud Princess quietly asked Li Qiye, knowing that there were other reasons behind the scene.

Li Qiye didn’t answer her. He looked down at the abyss and said: “Whoa, this place has so many crappy swords.”

This naturally offended everyone because they spent so much effort here for the divine swords below. However, they learned by this point not to mess with Li Qiye.

“Clank!” Suddenly, a sword hymn and a bright ray manifested in the burial ground.

A magnificent visual phenomenon emerged on the horizon - a monarch’s sword soaring above the firmaments, a heavy sword crushing the river of time, an eternal sword never losing its edge...

“?!” Spectators became alarmed right away. Their swords and the ones in the burial ground started resonating loudly.

“It has to be the immortal sword appearing.” One expert calmed down and shouted.

“Really?” Others clamored.

“Boom!” In another region, myriad swords rushed to the sky and turned into an ocean. A man was at the center and stepped on the swords to head for the source of this phenomenon.

“Peace Ocean Sword King!” Someone recognized him right away.

“That’s Peace Ocean Sword King?” His friend gasped while staring at the figure’s majestic back.

“He has been here all along, it’s just that he’s showing up now because of the immortal sword.” A well-informed cultivator told the rest.

“The number one of the young generation.” Many were moved to finally see such a famous figure.

“Buzz.” Pentagram-shaped void zones materialized and widened in that general direction. A youth shrouded in flames crossed through the void zones to travel faster.

“Hmm?!” Spectators were stunned to see the spatial leaps.

“Void Saint Child!” One expert shouted: “Peace Ocean Sword King’s rival.”

“Looks like the top members of the young generation are here.” Another added while watching him entering the inner region.

Void Saint Child was one of the Six Kings, a top genius acting as the leader of Nine-wheel Citadel.

Chapter 4173: Nine-sun Sword Saint

The appearances of two kings excited the crowd, thinking that the Sword Burial Zone’s event this time would be amazing.

In fact, many from the bigger sects already knew that they were here. It’s just that they chose to keep a low profile prior, avoiding drawing unnecessary attention.

“Rumble!” A carriage traveled with lightning speed through the border of the various domains to reach Sword Grave. Sun rays shot out everywhere from nine suns circling around it.

Though there wasn't an accompanying army, the phenomenon exuded by the carriage was dazzling and domineering - more than enough to stir the crowd.

“Nine-sun Sword Saint!” The majority knew who was inside right away.

This visual phenomenon was well known in Sword Continent so it was easy to recognize.

“The sword saint is here too?” Discussions began everywhere.

“I think both saints will show up this time.” One expert speculated.

Nine-sun Sword Saint was considered to be the leader of the Six Kings, even stronger than Peace Ocean Sword King and Void Saint Child.

The other two were relatively young geniuses while he was a member of the previous generation. His counterpart was Terra Sword Saint who was the leader of the Six Sect Masters.

Normally, these two rarely showed themselves in public. This might be an event where people could get to see both of them together.

“If there's an immortal sword, I think even the Five Overlords will be here.” A last-gen expert mused.

“Poof!” Violet energy surged just like a dragon. It zigzagged as it traveled through the river and the abyss, heading straight for the grave.

“What was that?” People couldn't see the person inside the billowing energy. They noticed red flames in the billowing energy as well and became impressed with its lightning speed.

“The lord of Flame Valley.” A keen-eyed ancestor recognized the existence.

“Three kings were here, now a sect master too. Would all of them show up today?” One youth became emotional, thinking about all the big shots.

“It's going to be a bloody conflict for this immortal sword.” An old king murmured.

Many could smell the stench of blood already before the incoming storm.

“Let's go, we're heading to Sword Grave.” Some lost their patience and wanted to move on.

Who wouldn't covet the legendary immortal sword? Regardless of what it actually was, obtaining it meant becoming renowned and invincible.

This has been the case for numerous dao lords after obtaining their heavenly sword here. The temptation was irresistible.

“I don't want to be late to this.” Patience was running short.

“Elder, what are we waiting for?” A youth became agitated.

“No, we're staying here.” The elder shook his head.

“Why not test our luck? The immortal sword is right there.” The youth didn’t understand.

“The deeper it is, the more dangerous. The Sword Grave isn’t simple, death looms in every corner.” The elder glared at him.

“It’s that scary?” The youth’s naiveness and inexperience made him courageous.

“Your life won’t be in your hand the moment you set foot in there.” The elder elaborated: “If lucky, even a weak cultivator can escape alive. On the other hand, top Heavenly Sovereigns have fallen in there. This has been the case for millions and millions of years now.”

“Top sovereigns still die there?” The youth took a deep breath.

“The character ‘grave’ in Sword Grave isn’t only referring to graves for the swords.” The elder uttered coldly.

The juniors nearby took a deep breath and refrained from bringing up this issue again.

Nonetheless, this wasn’t the case for all groups. Some knew the danger but still entered the grave.

There was a chance that this immortal sword could surpass all nine heavenly swords. This meant that even the behemoths wouldn’t be able to touch its master then.

“We’re leaving.” Li Qiye lost interest in the abyss.

“Are we heading for Sword Grave?” Snowcloud Princess seemed eager to follow Li Qiye.

Earlier, the lord of Flame Valley and Dao Institution has shown up. He was actually her master.

In reality, other experts from her sect have also arrived but she picked Li Qiye instead.

“Sure.” He glanced towards the direction of the grave and smiled.

She walked right behind him. Her goal here was to gain more knowledge, not to obtain the divine swords or even the immortal sword.

Being the successor of both the valley and the institution, she had access to numerous powerful weapons. There was no need to chase after the divine swords. She wasn’t obsessed with the immortal sword either since becoming the strongest wasn’t her goal.

This was one of the seven forbidden zones - a great opportunity to learn more about the world. She thought that following Li Qiye was best for this purpose instead of tagging with her sect.

As they moved onward, they saw thousands of cultivators running along the safe route.

Chapter 4174: Sword Grave

Sword Grave’s position was third among the five domains. Nonetheless, it was already quite perilous.

The river and the abyss were relatively safe. This was especially true for the latter since one just needed to not be suicidal.

As for the river, refraining from risky endeavors made it safe as well. This didn’t apply to Sword Grave.

The moment cultivators set foot inside, their fate was no longer their own. It was meant as a cemetery for swords.

No one knew who buried these divine swords here. One rumor said that the swords themselves came buried themselves once abandoned by their master.

The graves had varying levels of conspicuousness. Some were obvious; others might not be spotted despite people standing next to them.

Of course, a few were rather notorious due to the plethora of historical texts regarding their danger. These were known as ominous graves.

Each grave should have at least one divine sword beneath. However, one needed to find them on top of being powerful enough to take the divine sword out.

The grave could be a pit or a marsh, even a rock or an old root could serve as a grave. All in all, they were everywhere. A visitor would find one eventually with enough patience or vision.

Li Qiye and Snowcloud Princess stood outside and observed the area. The place had grand geographic features. Unfortunately, there was a lack of life and vegetation due to an abundance of death energy. It gave the impression of being the end of the road for visitors.

It included majestic peaks, deep valleys and caves, floating boulders... The death energy didn't overwhelm the various sword energies either.

However, the sword energies here were different and didn't rampage chaotically. Nonetheless, it was still uncomfortable and oppressive.

Ultimately, regardless of how deep the divine swords were buried, they were still mighty and their auras couldn't be completely hidden.

One particular peak would seize everyone's attention because it was the highest. While in this area, visitors could always see it by just looking up.

It resembled a massive sword pinned to the ground and possessed wondrous divinity. This could be the patriarch of all swords. It could stay in this pose for epochs to come on top of receiving the worship of all divine swords.

Thus, visitors would absolutely assume that it was a grave containing the strongest divine sword.

"That's the number one sword grave. There's a high chance that the immortal sword is buried under there." Snowcloud Princess told Li Qiye.

"Let's assume that's the case, it's not easy getting it." Li Qiye stared at the peak and smiled.

"Yes." The princess agreed: "There is a top ten list for the graves here and it is in the first place. Numerous experts including dao lords have tried only to fail."

"We're going in." Li Qiye chuckled and entered with the princess right behind him.

Meanwhile, others shared a similar conversation.

“Is the immortal sword really there?” One expert asked while staring at the tallest peak.

“That I do not know, what I know is how impossible it is. Space Dragon Emperor, Sword Sea Dao Lord, Sword Queen, War God Dao Lord, Jade Bamboo Dao Lord, they all have tried before.”

“There are plenty of graves here, others in the top ten have been cracked but no this one.” A high elder added.

“So no one has been able to open it before?” A youth asked.

“We weren’t clear enough?” The ancestor gave him the side-eye.

“I absolutely got this!” The youth remained stubborn.

“Got this my ass!” His senior smacked the back of his head and scolded: “You wouldn’t be able to get close, let alone open it. The sword energies there would reduce you to blood.”

“You’re thinking too highly of him.” A different senior shook her head: “Given his meager cultivation, he would drop to his knees while being one thousand miles away. In fact, he should be thanking heaven for still being alive at that distance.”

“Is it really that bad?” The youth became frightened.

“Do you think it’s notorious for no reason? And all those invincible characters merely messed around? They couldn’t open it and yet you consider yourself qualified to try?” The first senior glared at him.

The youth looked like a deflated balloon and no longer dared to speak.

“Don’t think about the first grave. Only Sea Emperor has the ability to try.” A king nearby interjected.

“It’s better to not even try any of those ten graves if people want to survive a little longer. The minor ones will do.” The senior responded.

“Sigh, it’s a shame I wasn’t born during Jade Bamboo Dao Lord’s era. The dao lord planted a branch here and got the rest of the world three thousand years of opportunities.” An expert said wistfully.

Jade Bamboo Dao Lord was from Wooden Sword. Their patriarch died in battle here and for millions of years, no one from this sect could come to take back his corpse.

The dao lord finally picked up the patriarch’s corpse later on and left behind a branch in Sword Grave. It became far easier and safer for visitors to obtain divine swords.

Unfortunately, the branch only lasted three thousand years before being destroyed.

“No need to think so much, just worry about staying alive. Run right away at the first sign of trouble.” An ancestor told his fellow disciples.

He knew that not everyone who entered would be able to come back out.

Sure enough, screams could be heard right away near the entrance. Dozens of victims fell to the ground with blood gushing down from their forehead. Something killed them in the blink of an eye.

“Run!” A cowardly cultivator nearby ran out of the cemetery right away.

Snowcloud Princess followed Li Qiye inside. It didn't take long before she felt danger. Something was shooting for her forehead so she wanted to dodge. However, Li Qiye reacted even faster.

Chapter 4175: Perils

"Buzz." Space vibrated a bit as Li Qiye caught something between two fingers.

This was a sword ray ten times smaller than a strand of hair, virtually imperceptible to the naked eye.

Its size didn't diminish its sharpness. It pierced through the air and could instantly penetrate anyone's forehead.

This was the reason why many victims have fallen without realizing why. Few managed to avoid or survive the ambush.

The princess gasped after seeing the ray caught by Li Qiye. She could have dodged the ray earlier since she did notice. However, she wouldn't have been able to catch it like he did.

He didn't bother to take a look and crushed it into nothingness.

"What a terrible ray." She thought about how dangerous and imperceptible it was.

"This is a resting place for swords, intruders are disturbing them so some will get angry." He said.

She agreed with this because if this was a burial ground for people, some zombies might return out of rage if their sanctified ground was being rudely disturbed.

"Right, the swords here have their own sentience." She said: "Hmm, so the divine swords in the cemetery are stronger than those in the river and the abyss."

"Not necessarily, sentience and awareness don't always imply strength. An emotionless sword might be more frightening." He smiled.

"I see." She murmured before asking: "How do the swords here compare with dao lord weapons?"

"That's a wide range." He shook his head: "There are regular dao lord weapons, then progenitorial weapons, and even paragon weapons."

"Paragon weapons of the dao lord level." The princess took a deep breath. She heard of them but had never seen one before.

"This is the case for the grave as well. There are plenty of classifications, not just a single lab as 'divine'. Li Qiye smiled and glanced at the number one peak and said: "One of them can overshadow even the paragon weapons."

"That place?" She followed the direction of his gaze - the undefeated number one grave.

In history, most believed that the swords found in the cemetery were stronger than those in the outer regions. After all, they were smart enough to bury themselves.

As for the number one grave, speculations of it holding a heavenly sword or the immortal sword were common. Top masters exercised patience over the eras while vying for success. It remained unopened.

“Boom!” As the two crossed a mountain stream, they heard continuous explosions. This area had several hundred cultivators.

The majority came from the same sect given their uniform. The others were neutral spectators. This sect has been experimenting with a stone cave here and finally got a reaction.

The loud explosions resembled the marching of a great army.

“It’s really a sword grave!” The sect’s ancestor became ecstatic.

They initially noticed visual phenomena happening at this stream. Thus, they searched and attempted several methods. Their effort was rewarded since the grave reacted.

“Clank!” The cave’s entrance suddenly lit up and sword rays rushed out.

“Sh*t!” The ancestor sensed something was amiss and immediately tried to flee.

Alas, it was already too late. The sword rays engulfed the entire stream to the sect members’ horror.

Some tried to run, others summoned defensive treasures. It ended with screams; all of them were massacred by the sword rays including the ancestor.

Even some neutral spectators were turned into sieves. Corpses and blood took over the stream.

“...” The lucky survivors’ knees trembled uncontrollably.

The rays then returned to the cave just like bees returning to their nest.

“Well, at least there’s really a grave here.” One survivor said, realizing the futility of the situation.

The divine sword in there seemed to be too strong and sensitive. It didn’t allow anyone to get near.

“Where are you going?!” On another side, a group of cultivators was chasing a rock rolling down the hill at a rapid speed.

It was obvious that this rock wasn’t simple. Thus, it didn’t take long before a thousand or so cultivators started chasing it. More and more people joined in along the way.

“Don’t let it escape! There’s absolutely a top divine sword in there!” A king shouted.

This was a needless reminder since everyone could tell that there was something sentient in the rock - either a top sword or an amazing artifact.

“Surround it!” Once the rock made it to the base of a mountain, it was fully surrounded by cultivators.

“It’s ours!” An ancestor from a sacred ground shouted.

“Clank!” A fiery beam suddenly shot upward and incinerated the sky. A hymn from a divine sword sounded as it unleashed a sweeping horizontal slash.

“Pluff!” Cultivators were as helpless as scarecrows, unable to react before being decapitated.

The eyes on the falling heads were widened in disbelief. They still saw the rock rolling into the forest and disappearing from sight.

In reality, finding sword graves wasn't difficult in the slightest. When one noted a strange spot, they could just provoke it and wake up the divine swords.

However, obtaining them required enough power to subdue the divine swords. Otherwise, it would end in a gruesome death.

Some actually had no idea what was going on before it was too late. A group led by their ancestor entered a stone forest shrouded in mist. Visibility was awfully low.

“Ahh!” The group disappeared one by one. Each screamed once before going quiet as if they were eaten by something.

Those standing outside became frightened and didn't dare to set one foot in this stone forest.

Chapter 4176: Dragon Palace

One misstep in Sword Grave would result in death for not only the person committing the mistake but all of their juniors and allies.

Some sects have lost their ancestors and didn't get a divine sword in return. This was an unacceptable loss.

Nonetheless, people still risked it all because when successful, the reward was handsome as well - becoming famous and mighty on a global scale.

“Clank!” A sword flashed brightly in another spot; auspicious signs began to appear as well.

“Something good for once!” Numerous experienced cultivators ran in that direction.

“Someone got an auspicious flying sword, this aura is coming from it.” When they got there, the sword was already gone.

“Who is the lucky guy?” They asked right away.

“A disciple from a small sect, three-hundred-year-old but still just a regular disciple. He got lucky and found a divine sword within the shrine. Its auspicious aura was incredible.” An expert who was there told the crowd.

The guy was smart enough to immediately run and hide after obtaining this sword, not wanting to be robbed.

“How the hell did he get there? Nothing killed him along the way?” Others became skeptical.

After all, strong cultivators have found graves already but fell victims to the various dangers here.

“It's all about fate.” One sect master sentimentally said: “When fate comes, so does luck. Many divine swords here are willing to follow the fateful ones while others kill whoever provokes them.”

Others agreed with this. Luck and fortune were mysterious forces beyond their control.

“Sigh, why can’t a genius like me be that lucky?” One genius complained: “That guy is so old yet still has no cultivation to speak of. It’s unfair that he got a divine sword.”

Of course, complaints and grievances did nothing to change the divine swords’ mind.

“Boom!” At a different corner, a divine sword rushed to the sky and unleashed numerous slashes for a total onslaught.

However, a net came from above with the power of a dao lord. It fully suppressed the area including the divine sword. People then saw several ancestors working together to seize the sword.

“Armament Mountain!” Others recognized them right away.

“They’re so strong, forcing a sword out and capturing it.” A clan master was startled.

“I heard that their clan master is personally leading the troops this time. They’re well-prepared.” One expert commented.

This also made people think because Armament Mountain didn’t specialize in the sword dao. It was inferior to Sea Emperor and other sword-focused behemoths.

“No one will say no to a divine sword from this area.” Someone speculated: “There’s only one dao lord every million years for a sect but don’t forget about all of its disciples.”

Others agreed because Armament Mountain certainly had a few dao lord weapons. However, this was not enough to share. The more powerful weapon it had, the better.

All in all, the grave was bustling right now. Many have lost their lives but a selected few obtained divine swords and changed their fate.

On the other hand, Li Qiye wasn’t interested in the divine swords. He continued strolling with the princess behind him.

“Is the person you’re wanting to meet here in Sword Grave?” She couldn’t help but ask.

“The inevitability will happen, no rush. Everyone has their own turf, let’s take a look around right now.” Li Qiye smiled.

The princess didn’t quite understand what he was talking about. As the duo was crossing through a thicket, Li Qiye suddenly stopped and stared at a dried tree.

It was rather thick, needing several men to lock hands around it. It seemed to have died long ago; this base was the only thing that was left. It had rotted from the rain and winds, just one push would take it down.

“It’s a good sword.” Li Qiye took his time observing before concluding.

“Hmm?” She didn’t notice a sword here at all but quickly caught up: “This is a sword grave, Young Noble?”

“Yes.” Li Qiye nodded and elaborated: “Born from the yin with a darkness affinity, a boundless sword that can blot out the celestials.”

“It’s that impressive?” She knew that only an amazing sword could receive Li Qiye’s praise like this: “Is it suitable for you, Young Noble?”

“Its dao is not ready, there’s no point in me taking it away.” Li Qiye shook his head and glanced at her: “As for you, it won’t follow you so you can’t have it either.”

Despite being a sword prodigy with ample knowledge, she didn’t think Li Qiye was wrong.

“I lack the fateful connection then.” She accepted reality.

“Your mentality exceeds your peers.” Li Qiye chuckled.

“Thank you, Young Noble, the seniors taught me well.” She said.

Compared to others in the young generation, she was not competitive and lacked ego. This, in turn, gave her freedom.

The duo abandoned this divine sword and continued onward.

“Rumble!” A series of explosions shook the sky. Waves of sword energies rampaged the upper region.

Cultivators’ swords started resonating with this phenomenon. A massive palace materialized in the air. It exuded a blinding golden radiance.

The entire thing seemed to be made from gold and jade - a home suitable for a divine king. High walls with dragon carvings surrounded the place.

“Dragon Palace!” Many became excited after seeing the floating architecture.

“Let’s go up there!” They rushed towards it.

“The eighth grave, Dragon Palace.” Snowcloud Princess noticed it as well.

Chapter 4177: Red Smoke Hill

“Rumble!” The Dragon Palace crushed space as it soared through the sky without a clear path. It continuously changed direction akin to a hawk searching for prey.

It attracted everyone’s attention, many of whom decided to follow. This was the eighth grave potentially containing a divine dragon sword.

For the crowd, even if they couldn’t get the legendary sword, just getting another sword in there was more than good enough for their future.

“Boom!” An ancestor made his move and released a torrent of dao laws. He shouted and summoned a pagoda to smash the palace.

His move was domineering and impressive, enough to stun the spectators.

“Bam!” The expected result didn’t happen. The ancestor’s intent was obvious - smashing the palace down to the ground. Fiery sparks splashed everywhere like numerous volcanic eruptions. Alas, the power of this strike couldn’t shake the palace even a tiny bit.

It was unharmed and continued flying forward. This was akin to a mayfly trying to shake down a great tree.

“Go!” Another leaped up with lightning speed, clearly wanting to board the palace.

The moment he got close, the flames of the palace gathered into a palm and smashed him. He was sent flying into the ground while vomiting blood.

“You’re not going anywhere!” A great king roared and raised his hands to pull down the stars above. They turned into a trapping formation and surrounded the palace.

This was far from enough, unable to hinder the palace at all. It destroyed the celestial net just like a bull rampaging through spiderwebs.

Eventually, numerous ancestors made their move, either wanting to stop or board the palace. This proved to be futile.

“It’s useless, we have to wait for it to land before being able to come inside. Doing this forcefully is just a waste of time.” An old ancestor shook her head and told those nearby.

“You’re right.” An ancient ancestor agreed.

Thus, people stopped attacking the palace and waited for it to land instead.

“I didn’t expect to see the eighth-ranked grave this trip.” The princess watched the palace disappearing into the horizon.

This grave was quite elusive and didn’t show up every time. The princess found this trip more and more worth it.

Li Qiye only smiled and didn’t bother to give chase.

There were thousands and thousands of graves in this area. However, not all of them were that obvious, not even for top cultivators.

Though the peerless eighth grave has appeared, it was reserved for the top powers. Ordinary cultivators focused on obtainable graves instead.

Of course, finding a grave often resulted in death rather than a divine sword. This was a common sight along the duo’s trip.

In reality, both weak and strong cultivators were killed alike by the divine swords. The cemetery was rather fair in this regard.

Li Qiye crossed a particular peak and saw billowing red smokes. A radiant banner was summoned and exuded violet rays. Its relentless power could split the mortal coil apart.

“An artifact banner from Dao Institution!” A spectator shouted after seeing the banner attacking a green hill surrounded by red smoke.

“Activate!” Several elders controlled this banner, hoping to open a straight path towards the hill.

Their combined effort in empowering the banner resulted in an attack capable of splitting the ocean into two halves.

“Woosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!” Rays of red smoke pierced their chest, prompting them to scream and fall to the ground.

“Elder Wu!” Snowcloud Princess watched her sect members die and wanted to go save them. However, Li Qiye stopped her.

“What’s the point? You’ll die even if you have a heavenly sword.” Li Qiye said.

She stopped and composed herself. She wasn’t the reckless and emotional type, realizing that she alone couldn’t save those elders by dispelling the red smoke.

“That’s scary...” One spectator said: “So many elders failed to open the path, they didn’t even have time to defend themselves.”

“Well, this is not a regular grave. It is the fifth, Red Smoke Hill. Only a dao lord can stop the smoke here.” An older cultivator had a serious expression.

“Wait, this is the place where Jade Bamboo Dao Lord left a branch? The fifth grave.” A youth became surprised.

“This is it.” A senior confirmed.

Previously, Jade Bamboo Dao Lord came to pick up the corpse of Wooden Sword Holy Devil. The dao lord then left a branch in this place in order to help the future generation out.

“I heard that because of this, a youth entered the hill and obtained a sword, is it true?” The youth asked again.

“Yes, I’m sure you know this youth’s current title, War God.” An ancestor said.

“One of the Five Overlords!” The youth blurted out in astonishment.

Most knew about the five members, just not their past.

“Where is the branch?” Someone looked around and didn’t notice a branch.

“It’s gone long ago.” An expert said: “This is Sword Burial Zone we’re talking about. It was impressive how long it lasted, three thousand whole years.”

Chapter 4178: Prodigies And Heroes

The fifth grave was indeed dangerous. Nonetheless, this was justified by the potential rewards.

Unfortunately, the elders from Dao Institution were killed earlier, unable to open a path. Thus, the rest of the crowd could only watch.

Plenty of cultivators have tried before. Powerful defensive treasures and merit laws didn't work, neither did artifacts with an anti-poison property.

Many speculated that one must rely on ultimate power to withstand the smoke. Other methods simply weren't enough.

The actual smoke was a mystery as well. It could be a type of miasma but in that case, sacred artifacts and antidotes should work against it. If it was merely physical, then defensive treasures should show some efficiency.

Unfortunately, the smoke could infiltrate and bypass everything on top of being undispellable.

"Let's go." Li Qiye only glanced at the smoke and didn't have any intention of stopping.

The princess sighed while looking at it. She thought about picking up the corpses but this was beyond her right now. She would need someone else to pick up her corpse after trying.

The two continued strolling across the cemetery. Li Qiye took his time, completely unafraid of the hidden dangers. He didn't seem to be seeking treasures either, just walking around aimlessly.

Nonetheless, she still assumed that he was here for a reason. She kept on following him and would do so for as long as he allowed. This was her best opportunity to see the magic and mysteries of the forbidden zones.

Strangely enough, they have been largely untouched outside of the first ambush. It felt as if the dangers here were staying away from Li Qiye.

They eventually made it to the base of a mountain. He looked up at the steep cliff and saw that it was weather-beaten.

Loud explosions and sword hymns were heard. A battle seemed to be raging ahead.

They saw two combatants fighting for quite a while now. The princess was surprised because they were her peers.

One was a member of the Ten Sword Prodigies, Chen Cangsheng. The other was one of the Four Weapon Heroes, Wavesplitter.

"Gather!" Wavesplitter roared and leaped upward, gathering waves of overbearing saber energy.

"Clank!" The next slash released unrestrained waves of energy and left a deep mark on the ground.

"Come!" Cheng Cangsheng roared and didn't have the same scholarly air as before. His hair fluttered as his battle spirit surged. He held his head high and was ready to fight anyone to the death.

He raised his sword directly upward and released its power, ready to stop the incoming slash.

"Boom!" The impact destroyed everything nearby. Both sides staggered backward.

This was unsurprisingly an even fight. Both were prodigies from top sects.

Li Qiye wasn't interested in their battle and moved closer to the cliff. However, those two had a different idea.

They immediately stopped and rushed over.

“Dao Brother Li, I saw this place first, so let’s share.” Chen Cangsheng maintained a polite tone.

On the other hand, Wavesplitter didn’t hold back: “We got here first, so wait in line.”

“Why are you two fighting?” The princess had a good idea but still asked.

“We’re just sparring.” Chen Cangsheng coughed.

“There’s definitely a sword grave here and we came at virtually the same time. That’s why we’re fighting, the winner takes the grave.” Wavesplitter revealed.

“Still haven’t caught the duck yet already debating on how to split it. Isn’t that idiotic?” Li Qiye smiled and stared at the cliff.

There were lines that seemed to be natural at first but upon closer inspection, they followed the order of the grand dao and resembled the lines on a blade. One could hear a faint hymn after spending enough time here.

The princess understood why these two were fighting. Even if this cliff wasn’t a grave, it should still be special in some way.

“You’re right, Dao Brother, I am being impatient.” Chen Cangsheng smiled wryly.

“Hmph, it’s none of your business.” Wavesplitter didn’t like Li Qiye in the first place so he snorted.

“True, but annoy me and I’ll let you taste the dirt on the ground.” Li Qiye glanced at him.

“Hmph, the members of our clans are not afraid of trouble!” He tightened his grip on his saber.

“I’ve never been one to care about background, provoke me and it’ll end the same for anyone.” Li Qiye waved his hand.

Wavesplitter wasn’t stupid and knew all about Li Qiye’s devilish abilities. This rich young master wasn’t one to be trifled with. However, it wasn’t easy dealing with Li Qiye’s contemptuous attitude. Reason stopped him from attacking Li Qiye so he calmed down.

Even Scion Abyss’ group lost to Li Qiye; he didn’t have much confidence in winning.

“There’s something here.” A melodious voice interrupted their conversation.

A girl came over with a group of experts. Among them was a white-haired cultivator with a cold gaze. Halos emanated from him and refined the nearby spatial fabrics - a testament to his power despite him purposely containing it.

“Illusory Princess!” Wavesplitter’s expression soured.

Li Qiye alone was already a big headache. Now, the princess and her men were here too. It would be impossible to monopolize this grave now.

“You!” The princess wasn’t happy to see Li Qiye and gritted her teeth.

“You’re Li Qiye?” The powerful old man glared at him.

Alas, he ignored them and focused on the lines.

“Li Qiye, be smart and leave. We want this grave.” She remained imperious despite having lost before. This time, she came with a strong backer.

Chapter 4179: Imperious

“Illusory Princess, there’s an order to everything.” Wavesplitter was always direct regardless of the situation: “Fellow Daoist Chen and I found this grave first.”

“So what?” The princess wasn’t easy to get along with. She uttered coldly: “The graves have no masters, the virtuous and the worthy shall be the ones to get the divine swords.”

“You want to monopolize this grave?” Wavesplitter scowled.

“And? The strong get everything in the cultivation world.” She didn’t relent and stared straight at him: “Be smart, Brother, and join us. I don’t think your clan will appreciate you going against Nine-wheel Citadel.”

She was as imperious as can be due to having all the right circumstances. Her sect was stronger than the Wavesplitter Clan as well. Moreover, they lost their clan master recently to Ninth. To go against Nine-wheel Citadel now might result in clan extermination.

“You!” Wavesplitter turned red, unable to handle the blatant threat and disdain.

Both of them were Weapon Heroes. He didn’t think that she was stronger than him in the slightest.

“Are you sure you want to go against us?” The princess spoke intimidatingly.

Wavesplitter’s chest heaved up and down from rage. His eyes turned red, bulging outward.

“Hahaha, fine, I won’t forget today, Illusory Princess!” He laughed from being too angry and decided to leave.

He wasn’t a fool and knew the consequences of going against Nine-wheel Citadel. He could take her on but she wasn’t alone. There were plenty of experts behind her, especially that ancestor.

Even if he were to win the duel, he would still lose the grave. Moreover, it would create animosity between their two sects. He would be dragging his clan down towards damnation.

“And you, Brother Chen?” The princess turned her attention towards Chen Cangsheng.

“Your Highness, I agree with Brother Wavesplitter’s viewpoint, first come, first served. Feel free to disagree.” Cangsheng took a deep breath and stared at the princess and her entourage.

He was gentlemanly and reticent. However, this didn’t mean that he would back down easily. There’s a sense of pride and a willingness to fight deep in his heart.

“So you want to go against our sect?” The princess scowled. She enjoyed the feeling of superiority after Wavesplitter backed down earlier. Now, Chen Cangsheng was doing the opposite.

“No need to threaten me with Nine-wheel Citadel.” Cangsheng shook his head: “Members of Daoist Sword Ground don’t need to back down, and our sects already have ongoing feuds. If you think that we’re purposely provoking you, so be it.”

“Haha, I wonder if War God is still around.” The old man with pulsing eyes finally spoke.

Daoist Sword Ground was another behemoth in Sword Continent - a lineage with three dao lords and was just as famous as Nine-wheel Citadel.

They operated with a love for battle. Their golden age was under the reign of War God Dao Lord. They fought everyone and became unbeatable on top of sending numerous expeditions to the forbidden zones.

Their three dao lords were prime examples of warriors. Thus, they had fought virtually every sect in Sword Continent in the past.

In fact, they didn’t back down against the matchless Blessed Dao Lord and the ultimate sect known as True Immortal.

This started changing later on after the weakening of the sect. They weren’t prone to fight as much as before. Nonetheless, this didn’t mean that their members were afraid of trouble. Unyielding blood still flowed in their veins.

The emergence of the cultivator known as War God led them back to glory. He was their most gifted disciple during the era of Jade Bamboo Dao Lord. Some considered him to be the strongest sovereign. Because of this, he became one of the Five Overlords.

The ancestor was trying to read Cangsheng’s expression to obtain more clues about War God’s whereabouts. No one wanted to mess with this being if he was still alive.

“A nobody like me hasn’t met the great ancestor before.” Cangsheng shook his head, not answering the question.

A war over a heavenly sword happened in the past. Eventually, even the Five Overlords got involved and fought over the ocean.

Numerous unfavorable rumors spread about War God’s fate afterward - death in battle, succumbing to serious injuries, barely staying alive to the present day...

However, after millions of years, Daoist Sword Ground still survived and the facts remained unknown.

The ancestor didn’t respond. A senior like him didn’t want to bully a junior so he let the princess talk instead.

“Daoist Sword Ground might not be afraid of regular sects, but our Nine-wheel Citadel is in the top two right now.” The princess uttered coldly.

“I’m well aware, Your Highness, but I believe logic and reason are on my side here.” Cangsheng insisted.

“I see, show us what you can do then since you won’t give up.” The princess challenged.

"If you must act imperiously, I will overestimate myself and see what I can do against your famous Void Wheel." Cangsheng accepted.

"Haha, good, I'll be the judge." Li Qiye stopped looking at the lines on the cliff and clapped.

"Hmph!" The princess still hated Li Qiye but this wasn't the time to deal with him.

"I'm ready to see your War God Sword Dao." She said.

Daoist Sword Ground had one of the nine heavenly sword dao right now - War God.

"I am incapable and can't use the dao to its fullest potential. Nonetheless, I will try my best." Cangsheng said.

"Make your move then!" The princess summoned a treasure wheel.

It poured down dao lord laws. They rotated continuously, ready to crush the firmaments. The wheel itself was long the size of her hand yet it seemed capable of containing the entire world.

Chapter 4180: Just-once

"Boom!" The small wheel turned and forced space and time to do the same.

The princess wielded the aura of a dao lord, causing others to tremble uncontrollably.

"Void Child Wheel!" Chen Cangsheng was surprised to see this artifact. He glanced at the ancestor and said: "Void Ancestor's dao lord weapon."

Void Mother-child Wheel belonged to Nine-wheel Citadel. It was created by its founder and had two parts - mother and child. [1]

Though this was only one-half of it, it still possessed immense power.

The ancestor with the title "Void" didn't respond. He cared too much about his reputation and prestige to deal with a junior like Chen Cangsheng. It would be improper for him to interfere in this fight.

"I'm starting! Myriad Wheel Meteors!" The princess released her vitality and roared.

Her artifact shook once and created countless wheels in the air. They had sharp teeth and destroyed the spatial fabrics, issuing sharp gales.

"Let's do this!" Cangsheng's weapon of choice was a sword of the celestial affinity. He was an expert swordsman with an orthodox style. Each swing contained powerful momentum and sword energy.

"Rumble!" He released celestial rays to target the incoming wheels.

"Hmph!" She formed a mudra and activated her artifact. It became resplendent and rushed to the sky before shooting downward in a dazzling manner.

"Total Suppression!" She commanded and the sky turned dark with haste. Her mastery of this dao lord weapon was commendable.

The wheel descended with the laws of the dao lords.

“Clank!” Chen Cangsheng thrust his sword upward, ready to incinerate the azure.

“War God Art!” He was undeterred as his battle spirit surged above all else. This was a youth ready to fight to the death.

He utilized his sect’s ancient sword style, boosting his battle spirit and sword energy. The latter rampaged in an unstoppable manner.

Unfortunately, his battle spirit wasn’t enough to contest against the power of a dao lord.

“Clank!” His blade broke into several pieces while he staggered backward.

The princess clearly had the upper hand. Her weapon was far superior to his sword.

“Dao Brother Chen, give up yet?” She said pridefully while looking down on him.

“Your Highness, it’s too early to boast.” Chen Cangsheng’s tone became serious.

He summoned a different sword. This one pulsed brightly and seemed to be alive. Its battle spirit was out of control since it desired a worthy battle.

It also had a dao lord aura but its battle spirit was the stand-out factor. Anyone who sensed the latter would become frozen. They would think that they were facing an unstoppable god of war. This feeling was suffocating.

“Just-once!” Void Ancestor’s eyes narrowed after seeing the weapon.

“A dao lord sword.” The princess became serious as well.

Chen Cangsheng was still the successor of Daoist Sword Ground. It wasn’t surprising for him to have a dao lord weapon.

In reality, the princess’ status wasn’t as prestigious as his. She was only the disciple of an ancestor, not the successor of Nine-wheel Citadel.

Her ancestor gifted her the wheel while the sect decided that he had the right to keep a dao lord weapon.

“Just-once Dao Lord’s weapon.” An elder from Nine-wheel said.

Just-once was the third dao lord of Daoist Sword Ground. The meaning behind the title was that one should never relent. It was fine to fight and lose ninety-nine times before winning just once. This was the mentality and creed of the sect; this dao lord was the perfect embodiment of this spirit.

“Come, I’m ready.” Chen Cangsheng’s battle spirit surged like a tsunami, no longer looking gentlemanly like before. A hint of pride and arrogance could be seen now.

It didn’t matter how scholarly he appeared before. The successor of this sect still had a wild side to him.

“Die then!” The princess roared and formed another mudra. A circular void made of countless dao laws appeared, fully sealing Cangsheng.

Her artifact then appeared in front of his chest, on the verge of obliterating him.

“It’s useless!” He shouted. All of a sudden, his body seemed to be taken over by a war god. He grew larger and muscular as he broke through the spatial confinement.

“There’s nothing I can’t take down!” He swung his sword downward in a destructive manner.

It struck the wheel and sent it flying. The princess caught it again but this time, it was her turn to stagger backward.

“One Against All!” Cangsheng seemed to be a different person, warlike and domineering. His sword rays descended, aiming to pin the princess to the ground.

“Void Barrier!” The princess became alarmed after seeing this sword technique. She used her sect’s secret technique and fused with space.

Meanwhile, the Void Child Wheel created layers of crystal barriers to protect her.

Nonetheless, the rays pierced through numerous layers and continued heading for her.

. I couldn’t think of a better title ?