

Emperor 4261

Chapter 4261: Supreme Woman

Not even the sound of breathing could be heard during this crucial moment. The overlords and others never expected this development.

This was the same for the existence in the shadows - to meet Li Qiye again? If there was a list of people this existence didn't want to meet the most, Li Qiye was definitely on it.

From the brief exchange, everyone understood that this existence recognized Li Qiye and vice versa. Thus, the origin of Li Qiye became a prime focus again.

At first, they thought that Li Qiye was deeply related to the Tang. Next came speculations regarding Cloud Dream Lake, then Sword Temple... In hindsight, none of these seemed accurate.

The problem was that Li Qiye had appeared out of nowhere overnight. There were no hints to his identity and background.

"You..." The existence uttered but stopped because Li Qiye's appearance was truly unforeseen.

In the past, rage with a murderous urge might be the first direction. Unfortunately, this was the epoch of Eight Desolaces - a timeline started by Li Qiye. Thus, the existence couldn't oppose Li Qiye while residing in this world.

"Tell me, what should I do right now? Perhaps dig a grave for you?" Li Qiye asked.

Listeners couldn't believe that Li Qiye was threatening an ancient emperor. "Domineering" or "heaven-defying" wasn't enough to describe him.

The existence didn't lash back, falling into silent rumination instead. This caused the atmosphere to become tense since everyone patiently waited for a response. This was an apex conversation; both beings were capable of unleashing untold destruction.

"Whoosh!" Suddenly, beautiful flower petals rained down and brought light back to this ghastly world, fully reversing the dark atmosphere. A silver dawn manifested and put the crowd at ease.

"It's peach blossom." One cultivator picked up a petal on his shoulder. Petals continuously fell down but there were no trees above.

"It's her..." Lu Qi murmured. She recognized the petals since she had accompanied Li Qiye to this city before.

Li Qiye also picked up a petal with a smile on his face.

A gust of wind with a gentle fragrance blew by. Those who caught a whiff became freed from worry and full of vigor.

A woman in a light dress descended gracefully from above, looking like a blossom fairy. Spectators became petrified after catching one glance of her, seemingly struck by thunder.

This applied to the ancestors and lords as well. They had seen plenty of beauties before but none was on the same level as this woman. Words weren't enough to describe her godly appearance.

Kingdom-toppling, supreme, immaculate... Many racked their brains and found their diction insufficient. To put it simply, she was the most gorgeous woman they have seen.

Due to cultivation, each era produced many beauties. Alas, even from a historical perspective, all paled compared to her.

"Wh-who is she?" Weaker cultivators with an unstable dao heart couldn't avert their gaze.

When her eyes fell on Li Qiye, time came to a halt. This wasn't their first time meeting each other recently. Nonetheless, this didn't diminish the special occasion.

Her lucid eyes lacked imperfections. She was transcending and untethered from the mortal coil. However, staring at him stirred up different emotions - familiarity and strange images. This caused her to frown.

The spectators took note of this and wanted nothing more than to comfort her and get rid of the source of her frustration.

"Boom!" Their stupor was interrupted by a massive detonation.

In this split second, the existence in the shadow soared towards the horizon.

"Rumble!" The world started rotating again and they became dizzy. Some fell and rolled on the ground.

The landscape around them receded like the tides along with the darkness. Once they calmed down and regained their wits, the evil mountain range and the broken buildings were no longer there, the same for the ancient emperor.

They returned to their original position and the whole thing felt like a dream.

"She's gone, thank goodness." An ancestor wiped the sweat off his forehead: "My cultivation would have been ruined from the uncontrollable infatuation."

Other big shots heaved a sigh of relief. It's good that she wasn't here for that long or her beauty would have driven them mad.

The event earlier felt unreal and illusory. Nonetheless, her beauty still left an indelible mark in their memory. Many were still standing there, trying their best to recall her wondrous face.

Chapter 4262: Futile

The city and the ancient emperor arrived quickly and left just as fast. The being was summoned by Vastsea Venerable but fled before doing anything.

What was the emperor afraid of? Li Qiye? Some thought that this might be the case. However, the appearance of the supreme beauty might have more to do with it than Li Qiye.

The attention shifted from Li Qiye to the mysterious woman - a being potentially strong enough to frighten an ancient emperor, something truly inconceivable.

An ancient emperor absolutely stood at the apex. Even the two overlords beseeched the emperor's help.

There were many legends regarding the abilities of the past emperors. Plus, the monstrous aura earlier spoke plenty.

Many thought that this ancient being was comparable to their dao lords. This would imply that the woman just now was even stronger than dao lords.

"Who is she?" Knowledgeable characters examined the clues in history. Alas, they couldn't come up with a matching female figure.

"If that ancient emperor was afraid of her, it means that she might be stronger than even dao lords." A king brought this up.

Others exchanged glances and doubted this statement. The invincibility of dao lords was ingrained in their culture and common sense.

Regardless of the period, the dao lord of that generation would be the strongest cultivator. How could there be someone else higher than a dao lord?

Unfortunately, no one had an answer regarding her identity.

"Looks like you're left disappointed. Your backer isn't of use." Li Qiye broke the silence with a casual tone.

People stopped thinking and focused up again. The venerable's ace card didn't come into fruition since the emperor fled.

He thought that there was a chance of the emperor being able to kill Li Qiye. This would avenge their fallen disciples on top of getting rid of a nightmare for their sect. Thus, the duo was ready to pay a monstrous price. Now, they were lost in despair after losing again and again.

This was truly vexing since they weren't used to the taste of defeat. Their dao journey had been too easy and smooth sailing until they reached the top.

In their entire life, setbacks and defeats could be counted with one's hand. Alas, Li Qiye shattered their confidence today.

As for the spectators, too many twists and turns happened in a short period. They thought that the overlords were going to win for sure when in reality, the opposite happened.

The duo looked dejected. They still had other cards up their sleeve but have decided to give up.

"The winner takes all." The decrepit vajra emotionally said.

"There is nothing to say for we have lost. Take our heads." The venerable smiled bitterly.

The two looked hours away from death, no longer domineering like before. The crowd was sympathetic since the old men looked so weak and pathetic. Mighty masters have become losers; no one could remain at the top forever.

“Isn’t it a little too late to come to this realization?” Li Qiye smiled.

The duo’s expression darkened while everyone else was moved.

“The winner takes all” was euphemistic. More often than not, the consequences of losing were extreme.

“What do you want then?!” The venerable roared, looking more pitiful than commanding.

“Hmm, you tell me.” Li Qiye stroked his chin.

“Isn’t it enough that we are accepting defeat and death?” The vajra said.

The lucky survivors from Nine-wheel and Sea Emperor lamented and cried after seeing their mighty ancestors reduced to this pathetic state.

They had never surrendered nor showed despair until today.

“This can’t end with you accepting defeat, you know better than that given your long reign. If I were to lose, would my life alone be enough?” Li Qiye chuckled.

The answer was rather obvious to the crowd. In the case of defeat, even if Li Qiye were to offer his head, it wouldn’t have been enough to appease the two behemoths and their allies.

Chapter 4263: Pyrrhic Attempt

The crowd exchanged glances. Li Qiye’s defeat wouldn’t have ended with his death. There might have been torture before a cruel demise.

Moreover, those who sided with him would be massacred by the two behemoths as well.

In reality, this was their plan in the first place, hence the need to use the sword formation and halos. They wouldn’t have let anyone leave alive, not even Everlasting Sword God and the two saints. Next, they would mobilize against Sword Temple, Virtuous School, and many others.

Such a thing was not unprecedented in history. They have destroyed plenty of enemies previously.

Therefore, although the two old men looked pitiful in their current state, it wasn’t out of line for Li Qiye to press the issue. Sympathy didn’t cloud the crowd’s judgment.

“Do you intend on destroying my kingdom?!” Vastsea Venerable bellowed.

Listeners shuddered because this was an actual possibility.

“Why not?” Li Qiye said.

The crowd shuddered because Sea Emperor and Nine-wheel have been around for eras. What would be the consequences of their demise? Nonetheless, this might actually happen today because Li Qiye had the ability to do so.

The duo’s expression was as ugly as can be. They naturally didn’t want to see their sect being dragged down as well. Unfortunately, the cards were stacked against them.

“D-don’t be so unreasonable!” The vajra turned red. He was ready to do anything to stop Li Qiye from destroying Nine-wheel.

“On the contrary, I’ve been reasonable the entire time and gave you all plenty of chances. Your stupidity has buried you and your sect.”

“You!” The vajra was too livid to speak.

The crowd thought about it and Li Qiye seemed to have given them multiple chances to back off. Alas, the duo was confident in winning and didn’t yield. One misstep resulted in losing everything. Such was life, they thought.

“Enough talking, time to end this.” Li Qiye said.

The duo was at their wits’ end. What else could they do now outside of trying one more time?

“Li, if you insist on being stubborn, we will take you down with us!” The venerable roared.

“Seems like you won’t cry until you see the coffin.” Li Qiye replied.

“Hahaha, fine, we’ll all die then!” The vajra let out a sorrowful smile.

“Boom!” The true flames of life erupted from him. He activated his palaces and released his true fate, deciding to burn everything.

“Boom!” The venerable did the same and ignited his true fate and longevity blood.

“Ahh!” They screamed in agony; their face contorted due to the pain of being burned alive.

Nonetheless, they endured the unbearable pain and started chanting: “My ancestor, my lord, the source of the dao...”

Each word echoed into the horizon. “Rumble!” Billowing flames suddenly appeared over Sea Emperor and Nine-wheel Citadel. They incinerated the sky and left behind black holes.

The members of the two sects started chanting as well. They have answered the call of their ancient ancestors and ignited the foundation of the sect.

“Fuck!” The heat waves were unbearable for the neutral spectators. Numerous were burned while some were reduced to ashes.

They felt their blood and true fate sizzling, wanting to ignite as well. This scared the hell out of them.

“Why is this happening?!” A youth felt a sharp pain coming from her true fate and screamed.

“They want to perish together with Li Qiye.” Her ancient ancestor shielded her and explained: “Those two overlords are burning their life while chanting a mantra serving to ignite their sect’s foundation as well. This is a spell capable of burning their opponent’s life until death. Unfortunately, they will also turn to ashes. As for their sect, the best-case scenario would be maintaining thirty to forty percent of its power.”

“How scary...” She retreated.

Others weren’t as lucky as her to have a protector. They screamed due to internal pain.

“Seal your senses, don’t try to resist because it’s futile. Two overlords and the foundations are burning.” A king told his fellow disciples.

This advice was heeded. They stopped actively trying to resist and sealed off their senses instead.

Chapter 4264: Dao Lords’ Appearance

The burning signaled their intent to die and take Li Qiye down with them. This type of fire spell rendered escaping impossible regardless of one’s power and heaven-defying method.

“Zzz...” Dao laws and other physical affinities were being incinerated by the true flames. Even the cycle of karma was affected. This was all for the sake of killing Li Qiye.

“They really want to kill him.” A big shot turned pale while watching this from a safe distance.

This suicidal method was immensely destructive. Moreover, the users were two top cultivators channeling the power of their sect’s foundation and fellow members.

The foundations have been blessed and empowered by countless masters in the past. Thus, the accumulation of energy there was immense. Thus, the ignition resulted in an incalculable attack - one creating black holes in the air.

“Is it worth it? To go down together with Li Qiye.” A big shot murmured, aware that the two sects were about to pay a shocking price.

“Absolutely for the duo. They want to kill Li Qiye at all cost, that’s the only way to survive.” A high elder said.

No one disagreed because the feud had reached an irreconcilable level.

“They could have saved their sect before by committing suicide. Their pride got in the way.” An ancient ancestor shook his head.

This was indeed the case. Li Qiye gave them a chance but they were too confident in their ace card. They could have used their lives as a token of apology earlier. That might have been enough for Li Qiye to spare their sects.

“Unfortunately, it’s too late for that.” Another expert said: “Li Qiye will destroy their sects if he stays alive.”

“Are you sure? He’s merciless but might not be that extreme. The duo can still give up their life along with many ancestors. The sects then can offer him their resources, that might be enough for him to stop.” The ancient ancestor responded.

The crowd didn’t respond. This scenario was utterly humiliating. Which sect would be willing to go so far?

“That’s no different than sect destruction. They might as well go all out.” A sect master murmured.

The prideful behemoths would never agree to those conditions.

“Yes, it is better to die than live in disgrace.” Someone else added.

“That’s exactly what they’re thinking, still holding on to a sliver of hope. My scenario at least saves their younger members. There is always firewood as long as the verdant hills remain. Otherwise, their sects will be destroyed.” The ancient ancestor chuckled.

“Boom!” The true flames continued to ravage the air and suddenly erupted with a monstrous divinity.

Laws of a dao lord shot vertically upward and blinded the spectators. Incredible figures then appeared in both sects.

“Sword Sea Dao Lord!” A spectator recognized one figure.

“Saberlearned, Violet Abyss, Starshooter, Nine-wheel, Immovable Dao Lord...” Spectators shouted in astonishment.

Their suffocating auras began ravaging the firmaments and forced everyone on their knees. No one had ever seen such a magnificent spectacle before, not even the two overlords.

“They summoned all nine...” The hidden masters turned pale after seeing this incredible gathering.

“That’s why their foundations are unbeatable.” A sect master became emotional.

This was the reason why the two behemoths dominated for so long. Their foundation was just superior to every other sect.

“The ancestors have answered our call and will protect us.” Their members prostrated and smacked their forehead on the ground while crying.

They were overwhelmed with emotion after seeing the great sages of their sect. Just seeing the portrait of a dao lord was a great honor, let alone their activated energy form.

Chapter 4265: Death

The figures floating above Nine-wheel and Sea Emperor seemed to be eternal and capable of untold destruction.

Dao laws poured down from them like heavenly waterfalls. They were at the dao lord level, resplendent and filled with peerless runes containing the truths of the dao lords. They rendered it impossible for anyone to get through.

Just one figure alone was enough to frighten all living beings. In this case, there were a total of nine.

If gods were to appear, they would still be considered insignificant compared to this force. Unlike the dread felt by others, the members of the two behemoths viewed these beings as the ultimate existences. They were uncontrollably emotional with tears streaming down their cheeks.

“The ancestors are here with us!” Both regular disciples and ancestors shouted.

The two overlords became overwhelmed as well and hope resurfaced. After all, this was the combined power of nine dao lords.

Meanwhile, the neutral spectators were horrified and immobilized by the various auras.

“Ancestors, please slay this monster and save us!” Many prostrating members from Sea Emperor beseeched.

“Ancestors, raise our banners and bring our glory back!” Those from Nine-wheel did the same thing.

The ancestors have returned in spiritual form so their morale was back. As long as these avatars were willing, they would be able to kill Li Qiye. In fact, they believed that their sincere effort to subdue the enemy had reached the dao lords. Thus, victory was on their side.

“Can anyone stop an attack from nine dao lords?” The crowd turned the sight on Li Qiye.

Those with complete confidence in Li Qiye wavered due to the insurmountable odds.

“Boom!” The dao lords actually answered the prayers of their sect members and made their move.

No one could see a damn thing due to the blinding radiance. The auras of these dao lords became flood-like and drowned out the entire world.

“Yes!” The two overlords and their fellow sect members were ecstatic.

However, the duo suddenly stopped and their eyes became wide open.

“Boom!” The incoming attack was shockingly aimed at them, not Li Qiye.

“Noo!” This was something they and their allies never expected. Why would the ancestors attack them instead of Li Qiye?

Everyone else became slack-jawed as well. Alas, they didn’t have any power to resist.

The true flames around them extinguished with haste and then the full brunt of the attack annihilated both their fate palaces and body. It only took a second for them to be reduced to a bloody mist.

The wind blew what’s left of their body away. This was the end for two supreme cultivators.

“Poof!” The ablaze foundation from both sects became normal again after their death.

No one had an explanation for this development. When the avatars showed up, the members of the two sects thought that they would be able to destroy Li Qiye. He should have been annihilated by that attack, not their overlords.

Alas, this was indeed the reality and left them frozen for a long time.

“This can’t be!” After a while, they regained their wits and screamed in despair.

Chapter 4266: Destruction

The avatars destroyed Vastsea Venerable and Earthraiser Vajra instead of saving them. This result was too much of a blow for the survivors.

They were ready to die in order to kill Li Qiye. Alas, all plans have failed at this point and they lost all hope.

“Why, why, this can’t be real...” One ancestor murmured. Why did the dao lords kill their own descendants?

Without the protection of their dao lords and top ancient ancestors, they seemed rather weak at this point against a monster like Li Qiye despite their domination over Sword Continent.

“Why did this happen?” The neutral spectators looked confused without an answer.

“The foundation and spirit avatars are meant to protect future descendants, this is so strange.” A sect master from a dao lord power commented.

If it was one dao lord deciding to do this, it would be a different story. However, all nine chose to do the killing.

Remember, they weren’t from the same era and had different perspectives on matters. Today, they came to a consensus of needing to eliminate Vastsea Venerable and Earthraiser Vajra.

“Maybe they weren’t content with how their descendants turned out.” One expert boldly speculated.

Others thought that at least it was one explanation. Another big shot said: “It does make sense. Just think about it, the two overlords were furious enough to drag the sect down with them, igniting the foundation as well. The dao lords were most likely unsatisfied with their destructive nature.”

“True.” The crowd agreed since no one else offered a second opinion. Nonetheless, their skepticism remained.

As they were assessing the situation, the supreme avatars disappeared one by one...

As for Li Qiye, he captured Vastsea and Abyss then took a closer look. No one dared to say a thing about these heavenly swords.

Currently, he had a total of three - Myriad Era, Vastsea, and Abyss. This was unprecedented yet no one dared to be greedy.

To oppose Li Qiye was akin to committing suicide on top of bringing their sect down with them. Anyone with this idea would be swiftly dealt with by their seniors.

“Will he gather all nine?” Someone else asked.

“Just how invincible will he be? The next dao lord?” An ancestor became emotional.

Li Qiye already had Finality and its sword dao. If he were to obtain the nine heavenly swords, he would be able to utilize them with the corresponding dao. That would result in a frightening power.

“No dao lord has ever done this before. He would become the greatest in that case.” An ancient ancestor from a prestigious clan added.

Sword Sea Dao Lord only had access to one sword and one dao, the same for Violet Abyss Dao Lord. This was still enough for them to dominate their era.

“If he gets all of them, he’ll be something greater than a dao lord even if he doesn’t become one.” An old master joined in.

Of course, there were mere speculations. No one had an estimation of the power resulting from obtaining all the heavenly swords and dao.

“Go now.” Li Qiye suddenly released the two swords.

“Rumble!” The two swords flew towards the horizon like two meteors with a flashy trail behind them. Their targets turned out to be Sea Emperor and Nine-wheel.

“Shit!” An ancestor in Sea Emperor shouted. Alarms could be heard across the kingdom.

A similar scene occurred in Nine-wheel as well.

“The heavenly swords are attacking!” The disciples of the two sects looked up in astonishment.

For the members of Sea Emperor, these swords used to be their defining treasures and had always protected them. Today, they heralded an apocalypse.

The ancestors at home knew that they had no chance of stopping the sword. Thus, they tried to take away as many disciples as possible.

“Rumble!” Floating palaces crumbled in Nine-wheel Citadel.

On the other side of the ocean, sacred palaces and shrines exploded from the might of the heavenly sword. The ground seemed to be fully penetrated.

It didn't take long before their ancestral ground was completely annihilated.

Spectators, regardless of how strong they were, became stricken with fear after seeing the devastation.

Chapter 4267: Goodbye

For millions of years, Sea Emperor and Nine-wheel resided unopposed at the top of the continent. No one thought of offending them, let alone attacking their ancestral ground.

This all changed with Li Qiye commanding the heavenly swords against their foundation.

Though the majority of disciples escaped alive, they had to watch their ancestral ground being covered in dust and flames.

They knew that this spelled the end of their golden days. They would never be able to loom above all others henceforth.

The sects wouldn't have a problem with losing ancient ancestors. After all, the foundation would allow them to produce more powerful cultivators in the future. Alas, their ancestral ground and foundation were annihilated now. There was no climbing out of this abyss.

They have been used to jades, extravagant outfits, and exquisite delicacies. Now, they became dogs without a master.

Many big shots activated their heavenly gaze to take a better look at the aftermath. Although they already knew the result, witnessing caused them to gasp audibly.

The ancestral ground from these two sects used to be heavily guarded and was considered a holy ground for cultivation. Everyone wanted a chance to enter - this would be the opportunity of a lifetime. Alas, only ruins were left of them.

“There’s no coming back from this.” One ancestor whispered.

“Yes, Sea Emperor Sword Kingdom and Nine-wheel Citadel will never dominate again.” A big shot said softly.

“It’s still better than sect destruction.” One ancient ancestor sentimentally said: “At least their descendants get to stay alive. They’ll only lose their riches, this is as good as one can ask for.”

Others remained quiet. Many of them wanted their sect to last forever in prosperity and authority. Unfortunately, living a borrowed life was still better than dying.

It was obvious that Li Qiye could have easily massacred every single member of the two sects. Nonetheless, he showed mercy while changing the landscape of Sword Continent.

“My heart grows softer with age, can’t be as merciless any longer.” Li Qiye commented.

No one dared to utter a word. They didn’t even dare to stare straight at him even when they felt nothing but respect and awe.

Terrifying became the most common emotion when dealing with Li Qiye since he had obliterated the top two sects of the continent.

His allies and supporters quietly congratulated themselves for making the right choice. As for the supporters of his opponents, they were kneeling on the ground. They didn’t dare to beg for mercy either and simply waited for his judgment.

“Come here.” Li Qiye waved at Daoist Peng.

The daoist scuttled over. He trembled while standing in front of Li Qiye because back in Hallowed, he had tried to recruit Li Qiye and treated the guy as a naive junior. It’s fortunate that Li Qiye wasn’t so petty.

“Take it. Back to where it belongs.” Li Qiye handed Myriad Era to the daoist.

The daoist didn’t expect this. Though Myriad Era was their heirloom, he didn’t have the power to take it back from Li Qiye. Plus, the guy was the only one who could seize it from that boulder.

He held Myriad Era and found the sword to be completely different. It was as if he was holding a grand dao in his palm.

“Thank you, Young Noble. Our sect will always remember your kindness today.” The daoist carefully put away the sword before kowtowing.

Others watched with envy. Li Qiye actually gave away the potential leader of the nine swords. This generosity was unmatched. Furthermore, they were jealous of the daoist’s incredible luck as well.

In this particular case, reason trumped over greed. No one dared to think about robbing this weak daoist.

Li Qiye publicly handed him the sword, meaning that to go against the daoist was to go against his wish. This might end in sect destruction.

"I leave Omniscient Home to you all." Li Qiye then told Ning Zhu and Xu Yiyun.

"You're leaving, Young Noble?" Ning Zhu quietly asked after hearing this command.

She already knew that this day would come since the continent was too small for a dragon like Li Qiye. Alas, it was happening too quickly.

"It's about time." He smiled.

"It was the greatest honor being able to follow you, Young Noble." Ning Zhu became sentimental.

Xu Yiyun bowed as well. She wasn't as close to Li Qiye while Ning Zhu was considered a confidante.

"This wealth should go back to where it belongs." He also handed the resources belonging to Omniscient Dao Lord to the two girls.

Crimsondeath Monarch and the others bowed; they have become a part of Omniscient Home.

"You've followed me for a long time, what is your wish?" He then asked Lu Qi. She was his first follower starting from Crimson Island.

"Nothing, being able to learn from you has been the greatest reward." She respectfully bowed.

"Good answer." He chuckled and touched her forehead with one finger, releasing a dao light to wash over her.

"Thank you, Young Noble." She prostrated after receiving his blessing.

"Young Noble, when will I be able to follow you?" Everlasting Sword God Xi Yue came over and asked.

Others were silent. An overlord of the continent wanted to follow Li Qiye.

"The dao path is long, there will be a chance." He said.

Chapter 4268: Gifts

Tie Jian also came forward and prostrated before Li Qiye: "We can never pay you back for what you have given us, Young Noble. If you ever need anything, just say the word and Daoist Sword Ground will jump into an inferno for you."

He had given them back their missing heavenly sword, War God. This alone was enough to make up for many generations of regrets.

Many members in history did everything they could in order to search for the sword. Now, their wish has finally come true.

At this point, the crowd was envious of those eligible to have an audience with Li Qiye and show their respect.

He has firmly established himself as the number one cultivator in Sword Continent, possessing the most power and authority.

Thus, being able to speak with him and earning a gift would result in a lifetime of benefits. Daoist Peng was perhaps the best example. He regained Myriad Era and no one would dare to think about opposing his Everlasting Courtyard henceforth.

Some hidden masters regretted their passivity and indecisiveness. When Li Qiye first appeared, they had many chances of befriending or supporting him.

He was just a nobody then so they could have entered his inner circle. This was the case for Xu Yiyun and the others, and they were handsomely rewarded for their choice.

Now, he stood at the apex and it was too late for them to curry favor and climb up the branch.

“What is on your mind?” Li Qiye asked Hallowed City Lord as people came to offer their respect.

“Young Noble, I am old and have no desire other than to live in peace for my remaining years.” The lord smiled.

While being just below the overlord level, he disguised himself as A’zhi in order to serve Li Qiye. One must admit that his vision and insight were far above the overlords themselves, not to mention being humble enough to act as a nameless follower.

“No desire is the toughest desire to have.” Li Qiye said.

“I see, Young Noble.” He bowed towards Li Qiye.

“As long as your heart remains the same, the dao won’t be out of reach regardless of the passage of time. Don’t give up so early.” Li Qiye nodded.

Li Qiye’s casual comment carried enough weight to change the lord’s perspective. He saw stars illuminating the dark path.

He certainly had desires before but lacked confidence. His cultivation improvement slowed down drastically as well. Given his advanced age, this meant that he was simply waiting for death. However, being with Li Qiye changed his perspective. The ultimate master told him that it wasn’t an impossibility.

This made him spirited again and seemingly younger. The future wasn’t that grim after all.

“Thank you for your guidance, Young Noble.” He bowed again.

With that, he turned towards the group and said: “We’ll meet again if it’s meant to be.” Having said that, he disappeared into the next region of Sword Burial Ground.

The group continued to bow until he was long gone.

“Goodbye, Young Noble.” Ning Zhu was emotional since she didn’t know if they would be able to meet again. She thought that picking him was the wisest decision in her life.

With his departure, she realized that she was only an insect while he was a true dragon. She couldn’t keep up with him and could only watch the dragon soaring in the air, calling for rain and thunder...

Some became curious about Li Qiye’s goal.

“Why is he going there?” An expert asked.

“Will he challenge the ominous beings of the burial ground?” A high elder responded.

“It could be the legendary immortal sword too. He already has Finality, maybe he needs a weapon even stronger than the heavenly blades, a better match for all nine dao together.” A big shot speculated.

Others exchanged glances and found logic in this. After all, Li Qiye’s sword dao was perfect. The immortal sword might add wings to the tiger.

The legends of the immortal sword had been around for many eras. His current search was understandable.

“No, the real question is, who the hell is he?” An ancient ancestor focused on something else instead.

His knowledgeable friends fell into rumination regarding Li Qiye’s true identity.

Unfortunately, no one had an answer since Li Qiye was shrouded in fog. They only knew that he wasn’t from any of the current lineages in Sword Continent.

What about being a simple vagabond or from an unknown sect? They thought that this was unlikely.

In order to reach the peak as a vagabond, one would need to embark on a bloody path with numerous battles. The path of those with humble beginnings wasn’t as smooth. In that scenario, he would have been famous long ago.

Alas, Li Qiye seemingly appeared out of nowhere as if he wasn’t one of them.

“A descended immortal?” Another had a bold guess.

They stared at each other again after hearing this insane notion. It sounded ridiculous before no one had seen an immortal before.

Chapter 4269: Tao Xianzi

Sword Burial Ground had five domains. The cauldron came after the graves while the last area was named World.

Li Qiye left the ocean and headed for Sword World. However, he stopped at the border of Sword Cauldron since he noticed a woman - the one appearing back in the haunted city.

Her flawless features made men unable to look away and drove them crazy. Nonetheless, Li Qiye calmly approached the woman.

She seemed to be waiting for him so she turned back to take a closer look with her clear eyes. They were shiny and rippling as if there was a spring coursing through them.

“Waiting for me?” Li Qiye didn’t find this surprising.

She nodded and said: “My name is Tao Xianzi.” [1]

“Tao Xianzi, it’s a nice name.” Li Qiye stated his own: “Li Qiye.”

“Li Qiye.” She tilted her head as her clear eyes became slightly muddled. She tried her best but couldn’t recall. “It’s a familiar name, I think I’ve heard of it before, I should have heard of it...”

"Indeed, there are lingering marks in everything but they can't last forever. Your name is a perfect fit though." He said.

"You heard of it before?" She asked sincerely and naively - a stark contrast to her power and flawless appearance.

In theory, she should be imperious and hard to get along with. However, she appeared rather innocent and childish.

"No." He shook his head. He didn't tell her that he knew her by another name before.

She looked as beautiful as an immortal in a painting as she was lost in rumination. Even a slight frown stirred the soul.

People would be willing to give up everything for her - kings abandoning their kingdoms. One glance of her left an unforgettable memory.

"Have we met a long time ago?" She asked softly.

"You tell me." Li Qiye revealed a rare, gentle smile.

She pondered for a while, clearly looking lost. "I don't know, we haven't met in my memory but I feel quite familiar with you as if we've known each other in a past life."

"Do you believe in reincarnation?" He asked.

"Not as far as I know because the gods and the dao lords in the past would be trying to do so." She replied.

"True." He nodded.

She smiled wryly and continued: "But when I see you, I believe in it a little more, that we have met in our previous life."

"If you actually had a previous life, do you want to know about it?" He stared at her.

"Hmm..." She hesitated; her eyes brimming with curiosity. "I wonder what type of life I lived then."

"I'm sure you loved and hated, a life filled with unforgettable memories and many emotions." He replied.

"Love? What type of man did I fall for?" She asked.

"That depends on your belief. If you want to entertain the notion of a previous life, I will tell you more."

He paused for a bit before continuing: "But if you don't, there is no point since it'll interfere with your current path. There is a long way to go, should you let this intangible previous life affect it?"

"You're right." She said.

"The decision is yours, I will pass down the memories if you wish to know." He added.

"Thank you, but no." She shook her head firmly.

"What is making you abandon the past?" He smiled.

"If we're assuming that reincarnation is real, then the heavenly dao is giving me a new chance. If that's the case, no need to dwell on the past, I just need to pursue the present." She answered.

"Well said!" Li Qiye clapped and praised: "The future is boundless, don't let worries stop you from reaching higher and walking farther. Everything else are mere images on the river of time."

"What about you?" She asked. Her innocence made it hard for others to refuse.

The eyes made him sentimental so he responded: "I have no previous or next, only this one."

"I see." She stared at him and said: "Then you need to make good use of it."

He looked up towards the horizon and said: "Yes, only this life to do what must be done. There is no other option."

"What if you fail?" She asked.

"I will do a great job." He chuckled, not minding the question.

He spoke calmly and slowly; each word containing absolute confidence and conviction. The characters seemed imprinted into history and time couldn't erase them.

"I believe you." She somehow believed in him.

"What will you do afterward?" She continued with another inquiry.

"What about you? Why do you keep attacking Revival Emperor City?" He changed the topic.

"A mission, my destiny." She said: "I just know that I must go whenever the city appears despite not knowing the reason."

"Instinct." He nodded: "Go, follow your heart. There are many others who can't due to fear and weakness."

"The mind follows the heart." She replied.

"This might be what people call destiny, and it's immensely difficult going against it. Nonetheless, this is still a path towards the dao. You aren't wrong here." He replied.

"Thank you." She thanked him for his guidance.

"Yes, you're talented enough and are his nemesis, that is your destiny and the reason for reincarnation. The question is, what will you do after destroying the city?" Li Qiye became slightly emotional at the end.

"I haven't thought of it." The innocent woman had no answer.

He came closer and gently patted her head: "Don't be lost and hasty, exercise patience instead. When the time is right, you will know."

"I understand, it's the same for you after you finish your task?" She asked.

"Me? Perhaps, we will see when that day comes." His gaze returned to the end of the world - the place of his final mission.

“Okay.” Her eyes appeared brighter than before.

“I have to go now. Thank you, may we meet again.” She said before bowing.

“May we meet again.” He nodded.

Her figure flashed once and disappeared from sight along with the sweet fragrance in the air.

Li Qiye stared in her direction. The pain, the training, the previous life - all were still sealed deep in memories.

“If the past is too heavy of a burden, just let it pass. This is where death is a better outcome, at least one will be able to forget. Goodbye, little one.” He reflected.

Chapter 4270: Sword Cauldron

Sword Cauldron and Sword World were the two last domains of this burial ground, also the hardest to enter.

Those capable of entering the cauldron were all top masters in history, capable of sweeping through Eight Desolaces. As for Sword World? The visitors were equal to dao lords. Alas, just leaving that place alive was rather difficult.

The cauldron was true to its name, resembling a massive cauldron capable of refining anything. The heat here was beyond measurement by any existing scale.

Treasures of the sovereign level or other artifacts could be melted in the blink of an eye. It also nullified defensive merit laws.

Thus, the heat stopped others from intruding since they would be reduced to ashes. Only Supreme Sovereigns and up were capable of surviving in this harsh condition.

As for Li Qiye, he grasped heaven and earth with his palm, contained the myriad laws in his heart, and restrained karmic ties and the yin yang with his mind. The various methods prevented the heat from injuring him.

The endless lava here was discomfoting due to its boundless nature. It seemed to be the source of the unbearable heat.

Upon closer inspection, they would find that it contained more than just lava. Perhaps it had molten metal or the liquefied form of various artifacts...

Only Li Qiye could have such an easy time dealing with it. He walked on top of the boiling lava and stirred the entities below.

“Raa!” On one end, a giant covered in lava stood up and opened its mouth, spewing out a golden liquid. One would think that it had melted immortal metal before.

“Boom!” The lava surged crazily and a black hole appeared to suck in the golden liquid.

The monster roared continuously and turned the black hole into a terrible tornado, capable of incredible destruction. There seemed to be other hidden entities as well, hiding in the lava.

This cataclysmic battle was frightening. However, everything was limited to the cauldron so outsiders had no idea what was going on.

Remember, the lava here didn't allow for any lifeform. However, these monsters were still capable of surviving in it. This showed just how powerful they were.

Some corpses also showed up, managing to withstand the test of time and the high heat. One of them was a skeleton with its ribs penetrated by a terrible spine. Nonetheless, it remained standing proudly.

Its divinity was no longer there, only a faint golden glow. This person must have been immensely strong when they were alive. The rough conditions destroyed the flesh so only the bones were left.

In a different spot was a skull as big as an island. It had eight eye sockets and three mouths, clearly a mighty monster.

The lava also burned down its divinity but it still had miasma floating around it. It mixed with the lava, resulting in an ink-like liquid. One could imagine a colossal creature with a corrosive miasma capable of instantly killing its opponents. Alas, it still died in Sword Cauldron.

Some rare treasures remained. For example, the blade of a sword with no hilt. It wasn't damaged, merely uncompleted.

Despite its imperfect form, it still had a golden aura and visual phenomena around it. Once completed, this divine sword could slay gods and devils.

"Buzz." There was a ghost banner swimming in the lava. Wails of lament could be heard coming from it. The banner itself endured the heat but whatever inside was being tormented.

It possessed a devouring nature, capable of feeding on three thousand worlds and their inhabitants. If this thing found its way out of the grave, it would cause a terrible calamity.

All in all, the monsters and weapons capable of surviving were supreme, the finest of an era. Those lucky enough to obtain and control one would become unbeatable. Of course, more often than not, these things were too powerful and would devour the adventurers instead.

Li Qiye seemed quite amused at the diverse things living in the lava. He only glanced and didn't bother taking them. They were definitely top-level treasures but this wasn't his goal in coming here.

The lava beneath him suddenly split apart, revealing a gigantic monster. It had six blood eyes; the rays from them could mesmerize any cultivator. It clearly viewed Li Qiye as a delicious meal.

He stared at it with a smile before speaking: "Mmm, interesting, I haven't skinned your type yet. You would make a decent robe."

The red rays intensified but still did nothing to Li Qiye.

"Splash!" The lava walls caved downward again and the monster went into hiding. It realized how strong Li Qiye was and immediately fled.