

Emperor 4291

### **Chapter 4291: Dao Instruction**

The elders contemplated while looking around. The first elder was still the first to break the silence: "Sect Master, our sect has no foundation to speak of, I don't think it's realistic to talk about revitalization right now. We seek to survive by storing more food and resources, that should be our aim."

He was afraid of this young sect master being too ambitious and impetuous, wanting to go big from the start with a grand plan.

He lacked experiences compared to others but still had a good idea of the sect's current situation. In his opinion, having an ambitious sect master might not be a good thing.

First, they lacked resources and any grand scheme could result in bankruptcy. Worst of all, they might risk antagonizing a powerful enemy and that would be the end for them.

The other four listened attentively and agreed with him.

"As long as we can survive and grow a little bit, that is enough to meet the ancestors without shame. We must maintain our long heritage." The second elder nodded.

They believed that given their current power and resources, expanding was nothing more than a fantasy.

"Survival isn't difficult." Li Qiye understood their viewpoint and said: "You all just need to train harder, not to dominate the world but to protect Little Diamond in this tiny region."

"I'm afraid we're too old." The first elder said: "Sect Master, the truth is that this is our limit, we won't be able to go any further. The future of the sect relies on you."

"Yes, I believe our improvement will be negligible regardless of how hard we try. We should leave resources to the young ones." Elder Hu agreed.

Improving their cultivation was easier said than done since they all had a bottleneck. Firstly, they lacked longevity. Secondly, they lacked talent. Thirdly, their sect couldn't support them.

Reaching the next realm required immense resources, powerful merit laws, and ample pills.

If they were to actually do this, they would take away the opportunities of the young ones who had more potential.

"Improving by several realms won't be an issue." Li Qiye smiled.

"We appreciate your kind intent, Sect Master. Let's use me as an example, I would need numerous pills in order to surpass the yin yang realm. It's a bottomless pit that can't be filled." The first elder smiled wryly.

"Right, the future is brightest as long as you can lead the young ones towards the right path." The fourth elder nodded.

“Who says cultivation requires natural resources and pills? Requiring external means is not the right way.” Li Qiye’s response stunned the elders.

“Sect Master, could you elaborate?” The fifth elder said with hesitation.

“Resources alone can’t let one reach the apex, the arduous dao will make sure of that.” Li Qiye said: “One can only climb successfully while relying on themselves. Otherwise, it’s akin to a fool climbing a tree to catch fish.”

“Sect Master, do you mean...” The first elder remained skeptical. It’s not that he looked down on Li Qiye, the guy simply seemed too young.

“You cultivate the Golden Bell Prison.” Li Qiye stared at the first elder and said: “It has taken you to the yin yang realm but your dao has stagnated, you know that this is the end.”

“Y-you can see it?” The first elder became startled.

The other four felt the same way. They naturally knew the first elder’s condition. However, the juniors in the sect had no idea.

On the other hand, a stranger like Li Qiye was so familiar with his condition.

“The truth is that you won’t have any problem reaching the next realm. Pills aren’t required.” Li Qiye chuckled.

“Really?” The first elder became excited yet maintained a certain level of skepticism: “I can still break through to the next realm?”

Ultimately, he still believed that he knew his own condition better than anyone. He had researched and attempted numerous methods before, only to find it hopeless.

“Yes.” Li Qiye calmly elaborated: “Your left meridians are damaged from a reckless attempt of breaking through, resulting in an imbalance. This is due to you lacking foundational merit laws at the start of your dao journey.”

“I... can’t believe you know all of this.” The first elder stood up in disbelief. Even his four brothers weren’t privy to the details of his suffering since he never told them. After all, everyone had their own secret.

“Just one glance is enough to see.” Li Qiye said casually and astounded the listeners.

Nonetheless, he proved himself correct and they had to trust him.

“What should I do then? Please guide me, Sect master?” The first elder bowed his head after calming down.

Sincerity took over. He no longer underestimated Li Qiye due to his age.

“I shall do you a favor. Listen carefully, nourish your vitality with a focus on yang energy. Store them in your dao foundation while adding chaos energy to the mix. The true fate can serve as support, let your dao guide your vitality...”

He went on a long lecture, spewing a deluge of profound information. The first elder became immersed in the learning process.

Once Li Qiye finished, he became emotional and bowed earnestly: "Sect Master, listening to you for a day is more fruitful than cultivating for a thousand years."

The other four elders found this astonishing as well. The young Li Qiye was actually teaching the first elder how to cultivate.

The lecture was seamless and logical in accordance with the dao. This was unprecedented for them.

"Sect Master, please guide this disciple." Elder Hu stopped caring about face and bowed sincerely.

"You? You don't have any big problem, a decent foundation as well. The reason for your sluggish improvement is due to your dao. Cultivate a minor art named Minor Sun and there will be considerable changes, doing less yet gaining more..."

### **Chapter 4292: Wang Weiqiao**

Li Qiye, the new sect master of Little Diamond, began preaching the dao and answering questions.

This lifestyle didn't have a negative impact on Li Qiye. In fact, it made him recall the past.

This was far from his first time doing this. He had taught numerous Immortal Emperors and top masters before. Many famous sects in history originated from his teachings.

His days in Little Diamond harked back to the halcyon days. Of course, there was a clear distinction.

Previously, he taught the emperors and created invincible sects for several main reasons - to oppose the Ancient Ming and to build up a mighty alliance. In the present, he did it because he felt like it. He had no intention of making Little Diamond unstoppable.

He considered this as an amusing pastime brought to him by fate. The future success of Little Diamond relied on their own efforts and luck. He didn't wish to force the issue.

Therefore, his days here were carefree and comfortable, making him feel like an old immortal in the tales from the mortal world.

If he truly wanted to, he could make Little Diamond into a behemoth. Alas, this seemed meaningless to him, just repeating the past in creating another Cleansing Incense Ancient Sect or Black Dragon Citadel.

He chose a free approach in educating the disciples this time, letting them explore it on their own for the most part.

Due to a lack of rigorous expectation, the sect members actually became more enthusiastic and studious, whether it be the elders or just regular disciples.

Initially, this small sect lacked profound knowledge on cultivation. They all shared the same few merit laws and the result became rather similar. The top and weakest cultivators were cast from the same mold.

But due to Li Qiye's interference, all of them saw the door to an entirely new world. He casually answered their question regarding the dao, making the path seem so simple and easy.

Some of them spent days researching to no avail. On the other hand, just one sentence from him could enlighten with lucidity in no time at all. The clouds receded and they could see the bright sun.

Many also realized that they have embarked on the wrong path in the past and misunderstood the profundities of certain merit laws. It became clear that listening to Li Qiye was better than years of isolated training.

Therefore, each of his dao lectures was packed with disciples. The field was always filled to the limit.

The older seniors and even the elders seemingly became young again, putting everything they got into cultivating.

These elders lost hope before and thought that they have reached the limit. Deep in their heart, they had abandoned the pursuit of the grand dao. Li Qiye was the one who told them otherwise; spring returned and rekindled their ambition.

Their diligence was noted among the student body and the young ones didn't want to fall behind. Healthy and productive competitions permeated Little Diamond.

They also relied on themselves without using pills and alchemy. Well, they didn't have access to any in the first place.

Since most disciples were always cultivating, the sect became peaceful and quiet.

Today, Li Qiye took a stroll to kill time. When he came to the base of the sect where the workers lived, he saw an old man splitting firewood.

Despite having gray hair, his body was rather muscular. Each swing was powerful and smooth, easily cutting the wood apart.

There was no unnecessary movement - only raise then swing in a single motion.

Li Qiye silently observed without saying anything. The muscular old man didn't notice Li Qiye since he was lost in his own world.

It seemed as if splitting firewood was something immensely enjoyable for him. It was rare to see an old man in such good shape.

He eventually finished with all of them and laughed happily despite being drenched in sweat.

"You did a good job." Li Qiye praised.

"Greetings, Sect Master." He finally saw Li Qiye and bowed respectfully.

"You're a disciple of Little Diamond? This is our first meeting." Li Qiye replied.

"I am only a worker in the sect and stood very far away during your coronation." He said.

"You have cultivated for a long time now." Li Qiye smiled.

“Yes, Sect Master. I joined at the same time as the previous sect master but it’s quite embarrassing. I’m the weakest in the sect.” He said.

“I see.” Li Qiye seemed interested in him.

“Ah, you two are together?” Elder Hu happened to pass by and joined the duo.

“Sect Master, Brother Wang is the oldest member of our sect, he joined a few days earlier than the previous sect master. He’s been working here in recent years.” Elder Hu introduced.

“Elder Hu, a sect shouldn’t have idle members. The sect has fed me so although I am incapable, I know how to use an axe well enough to do hard labor, this gives the youths more time for training.”

It turned out that in terms of time alone, the old man named Wang Weiqiao would have the highest seniority in the sect. Strangely enough, he was the weakest, not even stronger than new recruits.

When he first joined the sect, he also had the ambition of learning how to fly along with other impressive abilities. Unfortunately, his innate talent must have been lacking.

After one hundred years, his peer who joined only a few days later became the sect master while he was still stuck in the same spot.

Such failure could ruin someone and make them leave the sect in order to avoid embarrassment. This didn’t apply to Wang Weiqiao.

He never gave up despite not seeing any improvement. He treated cultivation as a part of life. As long as he was breathing, he would continue to cultivate.

Nonetheless, he didn’t want to use the sect’s resources needlessly either. Thus, though he couldn’t do anything important, he chose to do menial labor in order to contribute.

### **Chapter 4293: Accepting A Disciple**

In reality, Little Diamond could still afford to take care of him. Though it was only a small sect, it still had several hundred members. Another mouth to feed wasn’t a big issue.

Wang Weiqiao simply wanted to share the burden. Though he was the weakest, he was still a cultivator so hard labor wasn’t overly difficult. Moreover, he was in great shape for someone his age.

“I’m sorry, Brother Wang.” Elder Hu didn’t know what to say.

Some young members in the sect also gossiped about this issue, albeit without true malice. Elder Hu and the seniors felt bad for him but he insisted on doing so.

“This is no big deal, my old bones are still tough.” Weiqiao said happily.

In reality, he was no stranger to jeers and sneers. In his first decades as a cultivator, he had suffered numerous setbacks and torment. There was no fatal danger but the psychological trauma could be too much for most.

As time passed, he became steadier and more resolute, able to accept the reality of life.

“Such a clean cut, well done.” Li Qiye picked up a block of firewood and took a look.

The block was perfectly split down the middle. The surface was smooth as if it had been polished.

From the gathering process to the split was a work of art - even distribution of power and flawless trajectory.

"You're too kind, Sect Master. I'm merely used to it after eight to ten years, that's all." Weiqiao smiled. There was something about his physique that made it appear in tune with nature.

"Well said, that's the same with cultivation as well, just have to get used to it." Li Qiye nodded.

"Get used to it?" Both the old men repeated.

"But the grand dao requires comprehension. It's too profound and mysterious." Weiqiao disagreed.

"How does one comprehend the grand dao?" Li Qiye asked.

"From training with merit laws." Weiqiao answered right away.

"Then where did merit laws come from? Did they fall from the sky?" Li Qiye continued.

"Of course not, they were created from the wise ones before us." Elder Hu joined in.

"These created merit laws didn't just appear out of thin air. This required observing the mysteries of the world and feeling the rhythm of the earth and the cycles of reality. These are the sources of merit laws."

Elder Hu and Weiqiao didn't understand yet and exchanged glances of confusion.

"I don't quite comprehend what you are saying, Sect Master. Please enlighten me." Weiqiao bowed.

"Tell me why you do such a good job at splitting firewood." Li Qiye smiled.

"Doing it often and getting familiar with the process. Isn't this rather simple?" Weiqiao said.

"When did it become so simple and easy?" Li Qiye asked.

"Well..." Weiqiao thought about it before answering: "Wood has grain, I just have to aim at one of them and it'll split right away."

"The fundamental here is finding the grain pattern, everything became easier after you realized this, a cleaner split with perfect firewood. It's more than just repetition, no?" Li Qiye smiled.

"Thank you for your guidance, Sect Master." Weiqiao felt something flashing in his head and immediately bowed.

Li Qiye accepted the gesture and continued: "You cultivate Chaos."

"Your vision is second to none, Sect Master." Weiqiao stood up straight again and praised: "It's shameful but the sect did try to give me a different merit law when I first joined. Alas, I was too foolish to comprehend it so I had no choice but to cultivate the simplest mantra. Even then, what I've attained is negligible."

"Don't blame yourself, Brother Wang, no one was more diligent than you in the past. Your effort puts all the youths to shame, you've been a great role model for them all." Elder Hu hurriedly added.

“People say that the clumsy bird flies early. Unfortunately, my effort isn’t enough to compensate for my limited abilities.” Weiqiao replied.

He wasn’t angry and frustrated at himself or anything. This was merely the truth. Chaos was one of the seven mantras, as simple as can be.

Every sect had access to a copy since it was widespread around the world. It was the cheapest merit law in terms of getting started with cultivation. The thing lacking was power.

Weiqiao spent decades training but had limited achievements. Others thought that he wasn’t suitable for cultivation.

“Effort will always be rewarded.” Li Qiye said: “Do you wish to keep on cultivating?”

“Sect Master, I hated my talentless self once and even thought about giving up. However, I’ve gotten my foot into the door and can’t give up. It doesn’t matter how far I go, I’ll keep on trying for the rest of my life. At the very least, I won’t be letting myself down by giving up and can rest at peace when the time comes.” Weiqiao answered with a smile.

“Well said.” Li Qiye nodded then stared straight at the old man to say: “I rarely take in disciples. Kneel, worship me as your teacher.”

“I...” Weiqiao was caught off guard by this suggestion.

Elder Hu felt the same way, not expecting Li Qiye’s disciple recruitment attempt.

There were several capable disciples in Little Diamond. They weren’t supreme geniuses or anything but a few weren’t bad at all. However, Li Qiye didn’t take any of them in.

This seemed like a rather strange choice due to Weiqiao’s lack of talent. There was a considerable age gap in the opposite direction as well.

“No one dares to question your understanding of the dao, Sect Master. Unfortunately, I’m afraid I would only be wasting your time. There are several young ones that are worthy to be under your tutelage.” Weiqiao regained his wits and answered.

He would rather Li Qiye spend his time more productively guiding the youths with the most potential.

“I can grant others fortunes but only a few are worthy of my tutelage. Kneel.” Li Qiye repeated in a cool manner.

Weiqiao and the elder exchanged glances, confused about the situation.

“Very well, I will commence a ceremony to inform everyone about this.” The elder suggested.

“No need for that, secular conventions aren’t necessary.” Li Qiye waved his hand.

“Shou-should I? I do not want to besmirch your reputation, Sect Master.” Weiqiao hesitated.

He had a master in the past but due to his sluggish cultivation speed, their relationship was annulled.

## **Chapter 4294: Teaching**

Weiqiao had no inferiority complex since he has come to terms with reality. It's just that he couldn't understand the logic behind Li Qiye's decision.

By this point, the entire sect understood Li Qiye's potential and ability. They knew that following him would end with nothing but good results.

Many would love to become his disciples but he only had eyes for Weiqiao.

"I, I have to kneel?" Weiqiao didn't know if this was a joke or not.

"Yes." Li Qiye nodded.

Weiqiao took a deep breath and got on his knees then bowed. His head touched the ground as he spoke: "Honored Master, please accept my worship."

He then prostrated two more times and hit his head on the ground a total of nine times.

Li Qiye stood there nonchalantly and accepted the grand gesture.

Finally, Elder Hu helped him up and happily said: "Congratulations, Brother Wang, this will be a new chapter for you."

He considered it an honor to become Li Qiye's disciple. Though he felt the same confusion as Weiqiao, he was still happy for him.

"Congratulations, Sect Master, I'm sure your new disciple will contribute greatly to the sect." He then turned towards Li Qiye, not aware of how true his words would be.

"Elder, don't flatter me now. I would be content with not embarrassing the sect." Weiqiao chuckled awkwardly.

Given his abilities, he wasn't worthy of being Li Qiye's disciple, let alone revitalizing the sect.

"I will bestow you the way, whether you can learn it or not is up to you." Li Qiye said.

"Which merit law will you teach me, Master?" Weiqiao became anxious.

"Chaos Mantra." Li Qiye responded.

"Chaos?" Both old men blurted out at the same time.

Weiqiao was already learning Chaos. Wouldn't this be unnecessary?

"I'm already training with Chaos, Master." Weiqiao respectfully said.

"Do you think you've done a good job?" Li Qiye gave him the side-eye.

"You're right, Master. Chaos might not be a supreme mantra but I've let it down." Weiqiao admitted.

He was aware of rumors regarding this mantra in the past eras, how it used to produce top cultivators. It didn't have the same negative reputation as it did now.

Moreover, other disciples had better results with Chaos after a similar period of time. Thus, he clearly didn't do a good job.



“We have an ancient immortal physique in the sect now, Brother Wang should learn that instead since he is your disciple now, Sect Master.” Elder Hu tried to smooth things over.

Normally, Weiqiao shouldn't attempt to learn something so difficult but since Li Qiye was the one who brought the scroll back to the sect, he had the right to do so.

“You've misunderstood. Are you sure you have cultivated the right Chaos Mantra?” Li Qiye asked.

“Well...” Weiqiao had no response.

“The Chaos Mantra in the sect right now is only a copy that can be bought from street vendors. This version has lost its original profundities and fundamentals. Thus, the fault isn't on you. It doesn't matter how hard you try, it's a fruitless endeavor in the first place.” Li Qiye elaborated.

The two old men contemplated carefully and agreed. The seven starting mantras have been around since the start of the epoch.

After so many eras, they must have been changed and modified, no longer the same as before. The particular version in the sect was as cheap as can be. Little Diamond bought them back then only to fill up their treasury.

“Please guide me, Master.” Weiqiao bowed.

“I will first teach you how to chop wood with three movements.” Li Qiye smiled.

“Chopping wood?” The two were surprised again.

Elder Hu assumed that Li Qiye would start by teaching Weiqiao the best possible merit laws that were available. This didn't seem to be the case.

“Is there a need to learn how to chop?” Weiqiao asked.

“Do you think you have mastered this then?” Li Qiye answered with a question.

Weiqiao didn't respond. In reality, he was quite good with this task and Li Qiye had praised him before. But, he didn't know Li Qiye's perceived ceiling.

“You don't want to teach him something else, Sect Master?” Elder Hu thought that this was a great opportunity for Weiqiao. Becoming the sect master's disciple availed him to excellent merit laws.

Alas, Li Qiye wanted to teach him how to chop wood? This seemed rather ridiculous. Moreover, Weiqiao was trustworthy and had toiled for decades. He deserved better merit laws.

“I think stronger merit laws might be more suitable.” He hurriedly added.

“Stronger merit laws? No merit laws are invincible, only the users.” Li Qiye stared at the elder.

“I see...” Weiqiao became emotional and started fantasizing.

“Do you know any true invincible masters that rely on someone else's merit law?” Li Qiye asked.

The duo exchanged glances and in terms of merit laws, the top dao lords didn't use pre-existing ones and created their own grand dao.

"I await your guidance, Master." Weiqiao said.

"Watch carefully, we'll see if you can learn it." Li Qiye ordered before grabbing Weiqiao's hatchet.

Weiqiao immediately focused up and tried to observe all the little details in Li Qiye's movement.

Li Qiye raised the hatchet, swung downward, and split the piece of wood. His action seemed slow and nonchalant as if it was in tune with the rhythm of heaven and earth, moving along the trajectory of a grand dao.

It appeared simple just like a mortal chopping wood. Others would laugh at him and paid no mind.

However, Weiqiao saw something different as he replayed the action in his mind repeatedly. He could sense a dao harmonization happening.

Having finished the demonstration, Li Qiye handed the hatchet back to Weiqiao.

"Master, what is the name of this move?" Weiqiao became curious.

"It's just a casual swing." Li Qiye responded.

#### **Chapter 4295: Arrival**

Not bothering to name the technique astounded Elder Hu and Wang Weiqiao. Li Qiye didn't bother teaching his new disciple a new merit law, only a casual swing.

Could this even be considered a technique? Why didn't he change Chaos to something else or just a superior version?

To be perfectly blunt, did Li Qiye really teach Weiqiao anything?

"Try your best now." Li Qiye said: "Don't bite more than one can chew. No need to cultivate multiple merit laws or refine invincible treasures. The key is to possess an eternal dao heart, that's the most important prerequisite."

"I shall obey, Master." Though Weiqiao was still confused, he still remembered Li Qiye's movement earlier.

"Ask me if you have questions." Li Qiye wasn't a hands-on teacher and left afterward, letting Weiqiao figure it out on his own.

Weiqiao bowed to show respect while thinking that this felt like a bizarre dream.

Nonetheless, his resolute nature remained. It didn't matter what Li Qiye taught him, he would still do his best one step at a time without uttering a single word of grievance.

The majority of those who joined their sect master's tutelage hoped to have access to the best and most exclusive merit laws possible. That's a primary reason for becoming a sect master's disciple. However, Weiqiao didn't harbor this thought; he was content with just learning whatever Li Qiye taught him.

Cultivation itself was part of his life. He had never given up in the past and this was still the case in the present.

Normally, most would have given up in this hopeless situation. They knew that death was coming so what was the point of training any further for no improvement? It wouldn't change anything.

People in his case would return to the mortal world and live the rest of their lives in luxury and riches. Even the weakest cultivator could enjoy such a life in the mortal world.

Weiqiao's pursuit was the process of cultivation itself. He didn't view it as a means for another goal.

He stayed true to his path and trained diligently. Whenever he had a question, he immediately went to ask Li Qiye.

Though he didn't understand all of the teachings at first, he took his time learning in a meticulous manner. In the past, no one was there to guide him from his errors. Now, with Li Qiye's help, his path was brighter than ever before. This motivated him even further.

Li Qiye wasn't a demanding master either, never telling the old man to reach a particular realm. Nonetheless, Weiqiao was still ambitious and spirited despite his age. His body was old, not his mind.

This might be one of the reasons why Li Qiye picked him as a disciple. Few had this privilege in history.

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A tiny sect such as Little Diamond rarely had serious matters to deal with, only minor issues. The latter didn't need Li Qiye's attention since the five elders could take care of it. Li Qiye had no intention of taking charge either.

"Sect Master, Young Noble Du Weiwu insists on meeting you." Today, there was a matter that the first elder couldn't deal with.

"A young master of a noble clan. The clan itself isn't a big deal but his first uncle is the master of Eight Demons Gate, his uncle-in-law is a member of Dragon Sect." The first elder elaborated.

Eight Demons Gate was just a small sect in this region, only slightly stronger than Little Diamond and its neighbors.

This wasn't the case for Dragon Sect. It was considered the strongest demon branch in Southern Desolace. Many believed that it was only second to Lion's Roar Kingdom.

Thus, Dragon was definitely a behemoth compared to Little Diamond - an unreachable true dragon. Just any expert from this sect could annihilate Little Diamond.

Therefore, this Du Weiwu was nothing himself but he had some strong backers. This was the reason why the first elder exercised caution.

"Not interested." Li Qiye replied.

"Sect Master, I think he is aiming for our ancient immortal physique after having heard some rumors like a shark smelling blood. He won't leave without meeting you." The elder said.

In reality, the guy has been in Little Diamond for several days now.

Initially, the elders wanted to politely send him away via gifts because he shouldn't be offended. Alas, he was hellbent on meeting their sect master.

"A shark smelling blood?" Li Qiye smirked after hearing this: "Fine, let's go take a look at this shark."

The first elder shuddered after seeing his smile despite not being aware of its implication.

It didn't take long before Du Weidu was granted an audience with Li Qiye.

He was around twenty years of age - a young deer demon with a small antler. He was rather handsome and wore an extravagantly-embroidered robe, looking a bit haughty.

He was only an average cultivator at best but in this region, he considered himself to be a top dog. This was understandable due to having an uncle in Dragon Sect. Just the name, Dragon, would intimate everyone.

He indeed had heard some rumors and came to seek out more information, akin to an eagle not giving up after spotting a rabbit.

"My name is Du Weidu, the firstborn of the Du. Nice to meet you, Sect Master." He bowed towards Li Qiye.

The Du was only nobility in the mortal realm and barely had any reach in the cultivation world. Thus, he should be prostrating, not just bowing.

Li Qiye didn't mind and nodded in response.

Weiducarefully scanned Li Qiye. He knew about the death of Little Diamond's previous sect master but didn't expect the successor to be so young and ordinary.

"I'm here to congratulate..." Du Weiduput on a happy appearance.

"Don't hold your fart now, state your true intention." Li Qiye waved his hand dismissively.

### **Chapter 4296: Threat**

Du Weiwu's expression soured, not expecting this sect master to be so bold and impolite towards him.

"Ah, I have no other intention outside of congratulating you, Sect Master. Well, I also heard some news." He coughed and still wore a smile.

"What?" Li Qiye said lazily.

His attitude annoyed Du Weiwu. In the past two days, Little Diamond has been treating him like an esteemed guest so this was a departure from the norm.

"I heard your previous sect master died a violent death recently." Du Weiwu acted like an expert and said: "Coincidentally enough, a battle broke out at the old ruins that day over the emergence of some treasures. I wonder if he had participated?" The implication was as clear as possible.

The previous sect master had indeed participated in that event, albeit under disguise. Everyone else was preoccupied with the treasures and due to the chaos, no one recognized him.

“And?” Li Qiye smiled.

“A very important and precious item went missing among them.” Du Weiwu smiled mysteriously.

“Our sect is insignificant like an insect. We weren’t qualified to participate in a treasure hunt like the heroes of the world.” The first elder hurriedly interjected.

This involved several behemoths in Southern Desolaces. It was dangerous for Little Diamond to join the muddled water. No, “dangerous” wasn’t the right word. This could become an existential crisis.

They didn’t want anyone to figure out the connection between their sect and the ancient immortal physique scroll. Otherwise, destruction would be imminent.

“Elder, you might say that but who knows? The top sects will not allow anyone to steal their feast in front of them. That’s a challenge to their authority.” Du Weiwu smiled implicatively.

The elder’s expression changed after hearing this. He took a deep breath and said: “True, but we have always been neutral. We know our place in the world.”

“Well, you have to prove it. They have sent out investigators regarding this matter. If there’s a sect that’s actually audacious enough to do this, the top sects would have to destroy them to prove a point.” Weiwu added.

The elders secretly exchanged glances, aware of the consequence.

“Right, I wonder which impudent sect dared to do this.” The first elder calmed down and said.

Du Weiwu pressed on: “But your sect master passed away so suddenly, I think people will question this. Perhaps your sect master went to the ruins...”

“Young Master Du, you misunderstood. Our sect master was ambushed by an enemy and passed away from injuries.” The first elder interrupted while shaking his head.

“How regrettable, the end of a true hero.” Weiwu put on a sad expression and said: “I trust you, First Elder, but others might not, especially the ones from the big sects. They will do everything to figure this out, including coming to your sect for a full investigation. I wonder if you’re prepared for it...”

The elders tried their best to stay calm but their expressions betrayed them. If outsiders came, they would immediately be exposed. There would be no escaping then since the immortal scroll was located in their treasury.

“An upright man has no slanted shadow.” The elder said strongly. They must deny this at all costs.

“Your righteousness is commendable.” Du Weiwu said: “It’s just that once they come, it won’t be that easy getting them to leave. A single misstep might result in unimaginable consequences.” Duwei revealed a smile that wasn’t a smile.

The first elder couldn’t refute the logic in this. Once those experts came, there might be other complications even if they couldn’t find the scroll. Powerful cultivators were temperamental and violent.

As the saying goes - summoning a god is easy, getting one to leave is the hard part.

"It's not like there's no way around it." Du Weiwu coughed and said: "Our clan has been close to your sect for so long so I am willing to help out. My uncle, Deer Monarch, is from Dragon Sect. I just need to say his title and no one will dare to trouble your sect, don't you think, Elder?"

Weiwu was right about this. His uncle had enough influence to stop others from investigating Little Diamond even if they were suspicious.

"You came prepared, Young Master Du." The first elder uttered coldly.

"Don't be so harsh, Elder, I'm just here to help out. However, getting my uncle involved requires some form of payment, no? There is no free lunch in this world." Weiwu chuckled.

"Hmph." The first elder scowled; his peers were unhappy as well.

Weiwu wanted to extort them; who knows if the top sects were actually sending investigators.

However, if the latter wasn't true, it could become true in the future. Without sufficient bribes, Weiwu might divulge this information to everyone else.

"Okay, are you done farting now?" Li Qiye finally jumped in.

Weiwu's annoyance grew after hearing the deliberate insult.

"Sect Master, remember, I'm here to help out." He cupped his fist.

"Since I'm in a good mood, I will allow you to run." Li Qiye smiled.

"You!" Weiwu turned red with rage.

The elders exchanged glances. They didn't want to escalate the issue so quickly due to the grave consequences.

"Sect Master, you are blind to kind intentions. If you insist on ignoring advice, you'll have to be ready for the consequences." Weiwu said coldly.

"What consequences?" Li Qiye decided to play along.

"Heavy losses at best, sect destruction at worst. Little Diamond will be no more." Weiwu said.

"Are you threatening us?" The first elder jumped in.

"No, but it sounds like your sect has a guilty conscience, that's why you're trying to chase me away." Weiwu's expression darkened: "Thus, in order to get through this, you must pay an expensive price, either enough refined jades or let me pick a manual." He no longer hid his true intention.

The elders glared intensely at him. Though they were weak, they couldn't bear being treated like fish on the chopping board.

"Looks like you don't wish to leave this place in one piece." Li Qiye said: "I was going to spare you but now, looks like I must make you leave an arm behind."

"As if you dare." Weiwu didn't buy it: "My first uncle is the sect master of Eight Demons, my uncle-in-law is a member of Dragon. Touch a hair of mine and this land will be reduced to scorched earth."

“Keep on speaking and it’ll be your head instead of your arm.” Li Qiye waved his hand dismissively.

### **Chapter 4297: Reckless**

“Sect Master, I am a friend, not an enemy. Watch your words.” Du Weiwu’s expression soured. He had no idea that death was already knocking on his door.

“Gotcha, I’ll keep that in mind. Will you do it yourself or do we have to?” Li Qiye smiled but didn’t change his mind.

“...” Weiwu grimaced, realizing that Li Qiye wasn’t playing around.

“If you do it yourself, I will go easy on you.” Li Qiye added.

“Enough! Don’t you know who I am?!” Weiwu lost his cool and bellowed.

“Don’t know, don’t care, but you’re definitely a nobody.” Li Qiye said: “I’m in a good mood today so I’ll toy with you.”

“Hahaha! I see, the puny Diamond Sect is so arrogant nowadays.” Weiwu’s rage made him burst out in uncontrollable laughter.

The five elders became irate right away. If it was a big shot saying it, then they would have no choice but to endure. However, it was Du Weiwu.

They had enough self-awareness to know how weak Little Diamond was. However, Du Weiwu was a nobody. It would be a different issue if it was his uncle from Dragon Sect.

He himself wasn’t qualified to stand before them and Li Qiye. Little Diamond was actually stronger than his clan.

He was just a junior speaking to elders and a sect master yet he dared to call them “puny”? This blatant disrespect was unforgivable.

“Kill him.” Li Qiye nonchalantly ordered.

Weiwu staggered backward after hearing this and shouted: “My first uncle is the sect master of Eight Demons, my uncle-in-law is from Dragon!”

“Never heard of them.” Li Qiye gently picked his ear.

The elders naturally wanted to do this but had scruples. Eight Demons was relatively the same as them in terms of power so this was doable. Alas, Deer King could crush them with a single stomp.

Thus, they hesitated despite being livid at the arrogant youth.

“Sh-should we?” Elder Hu asked.

“Nothing more than insects.” Li Qiye replied.

They exchanged glances and found that Li Qiye never gave a damn about these cultivators, not even Deer King.

“Sect Master, I’m afraid people will speak ill of us if we kill a guest.” The first elder chose his words carefully: “But we also lose face if we let someone insult us without consequence. Let’s have a proper punishment, just take one of his arms.”

He came up with a compromise because killing the youth might really be poking the beehive.

“Good point.” Li Qiye smiled: “Sever one arm then.”

The elder stepped forward with a serious expression and said: “Young Master Du, you should do it yourself, it’ll be easier on everyone.”

“Do you know what you’re doing?!” Even a fool knew that he was in trouble at this moment.

“Cut off one arm and we’ll help you down the mountain.” The first elder said.

Weiwu’s expression became ugly while still retreating and shouting: “D-don’t be foolish! Know who my uncles are!”

“You’re the fool.” The first elder became impatient and shouted: “Let’s go!”

He wasn’t a top master but with his yin yang realm, he was more than Weiwu can handle. Just his aura alone intimidated the youth.

He only had the thought of escaping in his mind. He turned and immediately fled. A little character like him didn’t care about prestige and reputation.

Unfortunately, the first elder immediately blocked his path. He changed direction but the elder was still faster.

“Die!” He summoned a sword and thrust it towards the elder’s neck. It traveled like a poisonous snake but the elder easily swatted it away.

“Crack!” He broke the youth’s arm.

“Ahh!” The pain made Weiwu scream in agony.

“Leave now.” The first elder stopped and coldly uttered.

The pale youth was both furious and afraid. Nonetheless, he still bellowed: “You all, j-just wait! My uncles will definitely avenge me and, and flatten your sect!” With that, he ran for his life out of the sect.

“What a brat.” The fifth elder felt much better after seeing the youth being taught a lesson.

“This might be problematic though.” The first elder had a worried expression instead of being satisfied.

“Right, the brat is nothing, the same with the Du. The problem is Eight Demons.” The second elder worried as well.

“We can handle Eight Demons, I’m just afraid of interference from Deer King.” The first elder replied.

The elders exchanged glances. It was tragic being part of a weak sect. Destruction could happen whenever.

“Sect Master, what should we do?” The first elder saw Li Qiye’s indifferent attitude.



“Don’t pay no mind, this is trivial and will only serve as entertainment since I have free time.” Li Qiye casually responded.

“...” The elders had no response.

It seemed plausible for Li Qiye to look down on Eight Demons. However, underestimating Dragon Sect was rather ignorant and arrogant.

Recently, they had listened to Li Qiye’s dao lectures and knew that he was extremely capable. Nonetheless, this was a behemoth they were talking about.

“Dragon Sect is true to its name, a dragon soaring in the horizon, not an entity we can afford to provoke. We should exercise prudence, Sect Master.” The first elder warned.

“If they choose to be disobedient, I suppose I’ll be tearing out dragon tendons and drinking dragon blood.” Li Qiye said.

The elders smiled helplessly after hearing this. The sect master was beyond their control.

### **Chapter 4298: Eight Tiger Demon**

Vengeance came swiftly. In just two days, Eight Demons came and surrounded Little Diamond.

“Clank! Clank!” The latter’s members became alarmed after hearing the warning gongs.

“They’re here!” The disciples guarding the base blew their horns.

Those who heard the warning immediately dropped their current task and ran to their assigned post.

The elders also moved with urgency. They had been assigned clear responsibilities. Some stayed in the sect while others went to command disciples.

Eight Demons’ force consisted of several hundred disciples, looking rather aggressive and fierce.

“Close the gate!” The fifth elder ordered.

“Creak...” The arched gate at the base slowly closed.

This gate had a rich history and served as one of the toughest defenses of Little Diamond.

Meanwhile, hybrid demons lined up right outside - bulls, serpents, fiery crows...

They already had weapons at the ready despite a lack of command - axes, spears, and pagodas...

The two sects weren’t far from each other, only several hundred miles or so. Thus, they arrived in no time at all after hearing about Du Weiwu’s injury.

“Little Diamond, come accept your fate!” He appeared among the demonic horde and roared.

His face twisted with both rage and complacency, ready to exact his revenge.

“Boom!” A massive figure appeared before them.

“Raa!” Its demonic energy and murderous intent forced its own allies back.

The members inside Little Diamond were frightened as well. Their legs trembled as their face turned pale.

“Eight Tiger Demon!” Those from Little Diamond jolted in fear.

This tiger demon had a tall and sturdy physique with the character “king” on his forehead. His eyes shone frighteningly.

He was none other than the sect master of Eight Demons and Du Weiwu’s uncle. Strangely enough, Weiwu was a deer demon while his uncle was a tiger demon.

“Elder, the tiger demon himself is leading.” A disciple from Little Diamond reported this to the first elder.

“Can we stop him?” One elder asked.

“He is at the grand level of the yin yang realm.” The fourth elder became worried.

When their previous sect master was alive, he was about as strong as this tiger demon. Now, only the first elder was in the yin yang realm. Alas, he was only at the minor level.

“Eight Tiger, why are you here?” The fifth elder was in charge of the gate and asked the aggressive demon.

“You already know the answer. You injured my nephew and insulted my clan. We need an answer or we’ll flatten your sect.” Eight Tiger barked back.

The elders naturally knew that Du Weiwu must have embellished the stories to make himself the victim. Thus, this assault wasn’t unexpected at all.

“Eight Tiger, you only heard a one-sided account. We might be a small sect but we know better than to bully a junior. Your nephew’s greed and disrespectful attitude towards our sect master warranted the punishment.” The fifth elder said.

“Lies!” Du Weiwu jumped out and shouted: “I came with sincerity to help your sect but you repaid kindness with malice, going as far as severing my arm! Today, I will have vengeance and watch the downfall of your sect!”

“The truth cannot be hidden forever.” The elder ignored him and spoke with the tiger demon instead: “Eight Tiger, reconsider this, don’t start a war over a junior.”

“Hahaha, I’m afraid this won’t be a war, only a one-sided massacre. This is the end for your sect.” The tiger demon smiled coldly.

“Are you sure about that?” The fifth elder’s tone became serious.

“Fifth, you can’t scare me. Your sect master is dead so no one in your sect can take me on. I alone can sweep this place uncontested. Who’s going to stop me?” The demon said.

Junior members of Little Diamond became anxious after hearing this.

“We’ll see about that, Eight Tiger.” The first elder finally appeared on top of a peak.

The demon stared at him and burst out in laughter: "Hahaha, long time no see, First Elder. You're only at the minor level and can't last that long against me. It's over for your sect once I kill you."

"You are so sure of victory already." The elder coldly responded.

Meanwhile, the disciples from Little Diamond crowded near the gate, ready to fight to the death.

They were weaker but had no intention of retreating, ready to die protecting their sect. Thus, Little Diamond had several advantages - defensive position and morale.

"Eighty to ninety percent." The demon said: "But I do not want needless bloodshed. There is an easy way to make me retreat."

"We're listening." The first elder said with a sarcastic tone.

"Firstly, hand your new sect master over so I can avenge my nephew. Secondly, hand over your merit laws, including the recently obtained one. Lastly, half of your territories will belong to us." The demon revealed.

The side of Little Diamond trembled with rage. Their hands shook violently since these conditions were too humiliating. They would rather die fighting.

Ultimately, the last two conditions were akin to a complete takeover. Their sect would only exist in name afterward.

"Your demand is ridiculous! We're not that easily bullied. The outcome is still to be decided." The first elder shouted back.

"Is that so? I guess since you all are courting death, I will lend you a hand. Well, since I'm so merciful, I will give you three-quarters of an hour first to deliberate. Hmph, if you still won't concede then, we will attack." The demon decided.

"Raa!" The demons at the base of the mountain roared after hearing this.

"Sect Master, what should we do?" Elder Hu asked Li Qiye who was only looking at the sky, not caring about the demons.

He finally looked down after being asked for a command.

#### **Chapter 4299: Crush Them With Rocks**

"Crush them to death." Li Qiye ordered.

"Sect Master, you want to personally kill that Eight Tiger?" Elder Hu inquired again.

"No, that little demon isn't worth my time. Just throw rocks at them." Li Qiye smiled.

"Uh... throw rocks at them?" Elder Hu thought that he misheard.

"Yes." Li Qiye confirmed.

Elder Hu stared at him in confusion. Was this a joke? Eight Tiger Demon was a yin yang cultivator.

“Sect Master, I’m not sure this is the time to play around...” He responded. If cultivators could be killed by rocks, then no one would bother to cultivate.

“Any rock will do, large or small, just throw it really far and high in their direction.” Li Qiye ignored the skepticism.

By this point, Elder Hu began to question Li Qiye’s sanity. If it wasn’t for his otherworldly dao instruction and impeccable knowledge, the elder would think that he has a mental illness.

However, Li Qiye had won over the sect by this point. They trusted him despite hearing how ridiculous it was.

“Is this actually possible?” The elder asked again.

“Why not?” Li Qiye remained patient.

“With all due respect, Sect Master, I don’t think any cultivator will die to a rock.” The elder responded.

“If you throw a rock with full strength at a mortal, will he die?” Li Qiye asked.

“Mmm... absolutely.” The elder admitted.

He was powerful compared to mortals. If he were to toss one with all of his might, the mortal’s head would explode regardless of the rock’s size.

However, these demons weren’t mortals. Eight Tiger, in particular, was stronger than any of them.

How could their sect kill these demons via rocks and stones? Logic was not on their side.

“Just listen to me, miracles can and will happen.” Li Qiye stared coolly at the sky and said.

“I...” The elder eventually gritted his teeth and said: “Sect Master, I shall obey.”

He needed to try everything in this desperate situation because Li Qiye was their sliver of hope. Others might consider this ludicrous but he still wanted to bet on Li Qiye.

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“Time is over, Little Diamond! Will you surrender or fight?!” Eight Tiger roared from the base of the mountain.

“Either way, that Li guy will not be allowed to live. I will drink his blood and taste his flesh!” Du Weiwu shouted while gritting his teeth.

Meanwhile, Elder Hu passed on Li Qiye’s command: “The sect master has spoken, we shall throw rocks at them. Any size is fine.”

“Come again?” Not to mention regular disciples, even the elders became slack-jawed.

“Is there a mistake?” The first elder asked Elder Hu.

“No, that’s a direct order from the sect master.” Elder Hu smiled wryly and confirmed.

“Like regular rocks? We just throw them?” The first elder started questioning Li Qiye’s sanity as well.

“Yes, just throw them. He said to go as high and as far as possible.” Elder Hu said with doubt.

He thought that he was crazy too after giving this command, especially during this existential crisis.

The disciples nearby became confused and exchanged glances. However, their respect for Li Qiye kept them calm so they didn’t protest.

“Eight Tiger, our sect master has decided. We shall fight against unwelcomed enemies!” The fifth elder who was on the front line answered.

“Hahaha, very well, so you want it the hard way instead. So be it, don’t blame us for being merciless as we break down your gate and crush your sect.”

“Get ready for battle!” Elder Hu joined the frontline as well and ordered: “Pick up rocks!”

The disciples either sheathed their weapon or tossed them to the side. They looked around to find random rocks or dug them up from the ground.

“What are they doing?” The demons were at a loss while watching this.

“You want to kill us with rocks?” Eight Tiger burst out in laughter.

“Hahaha!” His men felt the same way.

“Oh god, these idiots want to play with rocks? If rocks can kill us, we all might as well commit suicide.” One of them joked.

“There’s something wrong with your new sect master’s brain....”

“I know, they’re trying to make us laugh to death, hahaha!”

“I didn’t expect him to be this stupid, looks like even the heaven wishes for your sect’s demise...” Du Weiwu laughed heartily.

As he was laughing, Li Qiye who was standing on the peak casually picked up a stone and threw it down.

“Boom!” The stone struck and smashed the youth’s head. Fleshy bits and blood splattered everywhere. He didn’t even have the chance to scream before falling backward on the ground.

The waves of laughter in the demon horde subsided instantly.

“Throw!” The first elder shouted and led by example, being the second to throw.

“Throw!” Fellow sect members did the same.

“Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!” Though they mustered all of their might, the offensive power was still limited.

“Hmph, no way these rocks can kill us.” Eight Tiger sneered and was prepared, unlike Du Weiwu.

However, once the rocks got high enough, the air suddenly changed. There seemed to be a power manifesting out of nowhere and blessing all the rocks. Or, it might be that they have reached an elevation high enough to touch a mysterious force and gain its blessing.

## Chapter 4300: Crushing

“Boom!” The empowered rocks and stones instantly turned into massive meteors.

“Rumble!” Explosions and quakes took over. Space trembled violently as a result of this incoming devastation.

“Are you seeing this?!” Everyone in Little Diamond became astounded.

The meteors left behind blazing trails, seemingly melting the sky.

“What is going on?!” On the other hand, the meteors scared the hell out of the demons.

Both sides thought that this was only an illusion. Earlier, even the biggest boulders had a size limit. The stronger disciples picked them up and threw them down the mountain.

However, these meteors were large enough to pierce the earth. The sudden change in size took everyone off guard, even the throwers themselves.

They performed the action and knew just how large the size was on top of the tossing power. They lacked the ability to change the rocks into meteors. There was no explanation for this.

“Activate!” Eight Tiger roared and his vitality erupted. Yin and yang appeared beneath his feet as he activated his grand dao, shooting a beam upward.

He exerted the limit of his cultivation and stars appeared. He summoned a shield with a tiger-head crest.

The crest turned into a roaring white tiger, ready to meet the meteors directly.

“Defense!” The frightened demons calmed down and shouted, following their sect master’s lead.

Various bestial roars could be heard - leopards, tigers, and many others. Buzzes and the sound of wings spreading echoed as well.

The demons reverted to their original form while still holding the various treasures. They activated their natural abilities in an attempt to stop the meteors.

“Boom!” The first one was stopped by the tiger demon’s shield. Nonetheless, the impact caused him to stagger several steps backward.

“Rumble!” The rain of meteors finally hit the surface.

A group of demons working together could manage to stop one or two. However, there were several hundred meteors smashing against the horde’s defenses.

This left them helpless regardless of their abilities and efforts.

“Ahh!” Heavy casualties happened instantly as they were crushed into a pulp.

Even the strongest member, the sect master, could handle it no longer. His shield shattered into countless pieces and he was sent flying while vomiting blood.

“Run!” He no longer cared about his or the sect’s reputation. Staying alive was the only thing on his mind so he turned and fled.

“Run!” The few survivors of the horde wished that they could grow more legs right now to run even faster.

It didn't take long before they were gone, leaving behind a scene of carnage.

The atmosphere fell into a hush. The victors stood there in a daze, unable to process reality.

No one applauded or expressed their happiness. The inside of their brain was either spinning or being completely empty.

Words couldn't come close to describing this event. Perhaps “miracle” was a rare exception.

They were ready to fight to the death despite being clearly weaker than the enemies. Their sect was initially weaker, not to mention the death of their previous sect master.

Today, they obliterated Eight Demons without losing a single man. Moreover, they didn't use a single treasure or merit law. They simply picked up rocks and threw them at the enemies. Who would ever believe them about this victory?

Little Diamond threw rocks to kill several hundred demon cultivators? Utterly ridiculous.

Nonetheless, there were proofs - the stench of blood and the corpses left behind.

Some disciples slapped themselves or asked their friends to slap them. The pain brought them back to reality.

“W-we actually did it. It worked...” The first elder shared the same confusion as everyone else.

In the beginning, he thought that his sect master had gone insane. Alas, they still carried out his order, hoping that Li Qiye was only playing around and had another ace card up his sleeve.

It seemed that he didn't need anything else, just the rocks alone were sufficient. They looked up at the sky but saw nothing special.

“Why?” Elder Hu wondered why the rocks were suddenly empowered.

He and the elders had many questions but one thing was clear - Li Qiye was the prime suspect.