

Emperor 4331

Chapter 4331: Heavenly Sovereign

The stench of blood permeated the air. Most young disciples haven't seen something like this before, especially the new recruits.

Those from the great powers' eyes became different as they stared at Li Qiye.

Deer King was in the myriad-form realm. This wasn't particularly special, at least not to them. However, this guy was the sect master of Little Diamond, an insignificant sect. Nonetheless, he took down Deer King with his bare hands.

"Which realm is he in?" An expert murmured.

Another from a prestigious clan observed carefully with a heavenly gaze before replying: "Hmm, he needs to be at least at the Grand Dao Sacred Physique realm to kill Deer King so easily. Maybe it's doable at the grand level of myriad-form but he looks like neither."

The experts wondered how a tiny sect like Little Diamond has such a powerful sect master.

In Southern Desolace, anyone capable was recruited by the great powers to become outer and inner disciples. Deer King was one example.

Thus, someone as young as Li Qiye should have been recruited by Dragon and Lion's Roar. How did this fish escape the net?

"Is he really from Little Diamond?" Another questioned.

Everyone knew about Little Diamond's current power. Though it was as old as can be, it was still a tiny sect. No notable character has come from there in the last ten thousand years.

Currently, this new sect master was both young and mighty. This certainly made people wonder because he should have been a well-known genius just like Gao Qixin.

"Crushing the king with his bare hands, that's a little too much." An elder from a small sect trembled.

Deer King was strong enough to destroy most sect masters. Alas, Li Qiye was on another level.

"The impudence!" The young lord of Dragon had enough and got out of his chair.

His thunderous roar made the weaker cultivators see stars. Some lost their balance and fell butt first to the ground.

"You deserve death for killing a member of Dragon." His eyes flashed with murderous intent.

He instilled fear into the heart of spectators. The young ones felt a pricking pain in their heart, causing them to falter backward and cry out in pain.

"If such a crime warrants death, then it looks like I'll deserve many more deaths." Li Qiye chuckled.

This retort scared the hell out of the minor sects.

"How does he have the guts to talk to the young lord like that?" One of them asked.

“All of Little Diamond will go down with him.” An elder turned pale.

No one wanted to have anything to do with Li Qiye or Little Diamond at this point. The young lord was about to unleash his wrath. It was best to stay out of the way because a disaster was coming.

The great powers were surprised as well. Their members didn't need to be so afraid of the young lord. Nonetheless, they still needed to show him some face because of his father. They wouldn't have spoken to him with Li Qiye's frivolity.

“Quite courageous.” An expert praised.

“Boom!” The young lord channeled his vitality and energy for a destructive attack.

The waves emanating from him could crush anything as if they were dried branches.

“Shit!” The weaker crowd members turned pale and roared, unable to withstand the torrential pressure.

Even those from the great powers found this astonishing. His power actually exceeded their imagination since he wasn't holding back due to anger. His problem was that he was completely overshadowed by his brilliant father. Thus, others only noticed his father, not him.

With his power activated, a divine light pulsed around him and made him look magnificent just like a deity capable of grasping the stars and using their power.

“He has entered the myriad dao realm and is a sovereign now!” One expert became emotional.

“A Heavenly Sovereign?” The small sects were frightened since he appeared to be unbeatable. This realm was completely unreachable for them.

Even a myriad-form cultivator like Deer King was mighty enough, let alone an actual sovereign. They found themselves to be a bunch of worms looking up at a soaring true dragon, feeling utterly intimidated.

Chapter 4332: Crown Prince

The glow around the young lord was brimming with divinity - a sign of a cultivator at the sovereign realm. It was oppressive, enough to force the weaker members into submission.

“So that's a sovereign...” One pale youth trembled with fear.

“One hand wave is enough to exterminate nine clans.” Another whispered.

If the young lord were to attack a minor sect, it would be akin to a dragon stomping down on an ant nest. The latter would have zero chance of resisting.

“His cultivation soared like the wind.” A great power's disciple couldn't help but praise.

He was indeed a genius, perhaps not one at the upper echelon, but still quite impressive. He certainly paled compared to his father but still more than kept up with his peers.

“A sovereign...” The daughter of Soaring Feather said sentimentally.

“His talent exceeds ours.” The young lord of Flow sighed.

Being a sovereign was worthy of pride because numerous cultivators from the last generation took a lifetime to get here.

His eyes brimmed with flames, capable of incinerating everything. Some spectators felt as if they were being burned while staring at him.

“He’s unbeatable...” A disciple from a weak sect realized the power gap.

“Killing the innocent is punishable with clan extermination.” The young lord slowly descended as if he was a god from above.

The consensus was that Li Qiye was finished along with Little Diamond.

“Who will carry out the punishment? You? You can’t do it.” Li Qiye smirked.

“Ignorant fool, I will let you experience a fate worse than death, the consequence of running your mouth!” The young lord was furious.

His hatred was clearly sensed by the audience. They felt a chill coursing down their spine and understood his rage.

He was the young lord of Dragon, the second strongest sect of the south. On the other hand, his opponent was the sect master of Little Diamond - a worm in comparison.

Today, this sect delayed his plan while its sect master spoke with contempt. If he didn’t kill them all, his authority would diminish significantly.

“You are out of line, Young Lord.” Suddenly, a third party walked onto the stage and spoke in a calm and natural tone.

He was around thirty or so, wearing a simple robe with no expensive trinkets. He lacked auras and visual phenomena as well.

Nonetheless, his pace was confident and sturdy. His eyes were particularly sharp and forceful, akin to all-cutting sabers.

The young lord’s oppressive aura suddenly melted like snow after his appearance. The weaker members could finally breathe easily.

Though most had no idea who he was, they could tell from his style that he was a noble of sorts.

“The heir of Lion’s Roar!” A great power’s disciple recognized him and shouted.

“Prince Chi.” The members of the great power bowed deeply toward him. Even the saintess of Dragon got out of her chair and lowered her head.

The members of the small sects were shocked after hearing his title. They were looking at the future of this land. How could they not be shocked?

“Your Highness!” They got on their knees and shouted respectfully.

There was a drastic difference in their attitude towards the young lord of Dragon and the heir of Lion’s Roar.

The former was oppressive and forced others into submission. On the other hand, the heir didn't release his aura or any pressure. Nonetheless, he still commanded respect.

Lion's Roar was the crownless king of Southern Desolace. The heir was the rightful ruler of the land - hence their reaction.

Though a few powers thought that Dragon could replace Lion's Roar in the future, they still didn't lack in manners.

The influence of Lion's Roar has been embedded in the people's heart for eras now, starting from the days of the Supreme Monarch.

The young lord's expression changed after seeing the heir, especially when everyone prostrated before his opponent. He wasn't stupid and could tell the difference in reaction.

Ultimately, more cultivators recognized Lion's Roar and its heir. Their subservience was sincere and natural.

The heir saw Li Qiye on stage and increased his pace. He stopped in front of Li Qiye and bowed deeply: "Sir, Jinlin has been looking for you all this time. We've finally met again."

This left everyone speechless and frozen. No one could overstate the heir's prestige and nobility.

However, he was humbly using his real name and even bowed toward this sect master.

"S-sir?" The members of Little Diamond stammered, unable to accept this reality.

"What is going on?" Confusion struck the crowd.

The heir of Lion's Roar was actually greeting this sect master by bowing.

Chapter 4333: Chi Jinlin

No one that wasn't here in person would believe this story. The absurdity made jaws drop to the ground; this wouldn't even happen in dreams.

Just a moment ago, they thought that he was about to be killed by the young lord of Dragon. Now, everything changed because of the heir's appearance.

Li Qiye glanced at the bowing man in front of him and didn't say anything.

Jinlin thought that Li Qiye didn't remember him so he hurriedly said: "You stayed at my humble abode for a bit before."

He was not the crown prince despite being the heir. Being the crown prince was not enough to become the next successor in Lion's Roar.

Thus, the heir and the crown prince were two entirely different matters. In order to become the heir, one must be recognized by the kingdom on top of passing numerous tests from the royal clan and the temple. The only requirement was that this person must be from the royal clan.

Chi Jinlin was the son of the current king. However, his mother had a lowly background and no status. Nonetheless, he surpassed the trials and became the official heir of Lion's Roar.

“You’ve improved quite a bit.” Li Qiye remembered him and smiled.

The listeners couldn’t believe it. They thought that despite the ridiculousness of the event, Li Qiye would take it back to normalcy by returning the gesture. However, he stunned them by answering so casually as if he was a senior of the heir.

“Sir, your guidance on that day helped me comprehend. I truly benefited from it.” Jinlin said.

As a member of the side branch, his path wasn’t smooth at all. He faced plenty of competition and contempt.

During his youth, his talent was high enough to be given top merit laws from the royal clan. He improved greatly and surpassed his fellow clan members.

Because of this, many seniors thought highly of him and that he had the potential to compete for the successor position. He didn’t let them down and won numerous competitions.

Just when everything was going perfectly, something happened to his grand dao and his cultivation stagnated completely regardless of his effort. The seniors, one by one, helped him to no avail.

Subsequently, his competitors surpassed him and he was no longer the best candidate. There were still some seniors who believed in him but their number gradually dwindled.

After numerous setbacks, he moved out of the capital and into an old city, hoping that the serenity would help.

Alas, this still didn’t work and he became dejected. It wasn’t until he met Li Qiye and received guidance that he found a way to break through.

Since he had been accumulating the entire time, this became an advantage. His cultivation caught up to his rivals in no time at all. Next, he passed the trials of the kingdom and the royal clan. Lastly, even their ancestral temple gave their approval so he became the heir.

Therefore, it could be said that his current achievement was due to Li Qiye, hence his attempt to find Li Qiye all this time. He became quite emotional after coming across Li Qiye again.

“It is your own fortune.” Li Qiye didn’t take credit.

Nonetheless, Jinlin viewed Li Qiye as a benefactor and a teacher. He replied: “Sir, since we have met again, please allow me to offer you a cup.”

Having said that, he invited Li Qiye up the stage towards the master spot.

Meanwhile, the young lord assumed that Jinlin was actually targeting him. The meeting was meant for him to become the leader of the young generation. Moreover, he was the one who commenced it.

“Your Highness, a criminal like him can’t sit down in that spot.” He didn’t hold back as a result.

As the son of Peacock Monarch, he didn’t need to be concerned with Jinlin’s feelings.

By this point, Dragon might just be as strong as Lion’s Roar. His father was their ace card as well.

“There must be a misunderstanding, Young Lord.” Jinlin wasn’t angry.

“Hmph.” The young lord aggressively sneered: “He killed our inner disciple first then Deer King, this is a blood feud. This happened in the ward and in front of everyone. How is this murderer not a criminal?”

Logic was on his side so regardless of the reason, Li Qiye did indeed kill members of Dragon in public so retaliation was justified.

Jinlin’s brows furrowed slightly. In reality, he didn’t care why Li Qiye killed those men. He had chosen to support Li Qiye no matter what.

“Young Lord, I’m sure you have a clear idea of what had actually happened since you were present.” Jinlin revealed his stance.

The crowd exchanged glances. Even a fool could see that he was supporting Li Qiye. As the heir of Lion’s Roar, he was qualified to represent his kingdom as well.

Some started regretting their previous choice. If they had known that Li Qiye was connected with Lion’s Roar, they would have tried their best to befriend Little Diamond.

As for the elders and disciples of Little Diamond, they have been lost the entire time. They had no idea why Lion’s Roar was backing their sect master.

Chapter 4334: Support

“I know exactly what happened. He must pay with his life for killing my fellow sect members.” The young lord coldly uttered while being under the spotlight.

He paused for a bit before continuing: “Furthermore, Little Diamond conspired with the darkness to harm Southern Desolace. This is a serious offense and we are responsible for eliminating all threats for the sake of the world. Am I right, gentlemen?”

He tried to garner the support of the crowd to go against Chi Jinlin.

The others exchanged glances but none wanted to speak. Li Qiye was certainly a murderer in this case but none wanted to prosecute him.

A while ago, it was Little Diamond versus Dragon. The choice was obvious. Now, Chi Jinlin had shown full support for Li Qiye.

This became a contest between Lion’s Roar and Dragon. Anyone with a little sense would want to stay away.

Joining the fight between two behemoths might result in being stomped to a pulp. Those who loudly supported the young lord earlier kept their mouth shut. It was best not to offend Chi Jinlin and Lion’s Roar.

The young lord’s expression darkened after seeing their passivity. Chi Jinlin’s arrival stole his momentum right away.

“Young Lord, that is a serious accusation. Be careful or you’ll damage your sect’s reputation.” Jinlin calmly responded.

“Hmph.” The young lord snorted: “Putting other matters aside, he must pay with his life for killing our disciples. There is no compromising here.” Others might be afraid of Lion’s Roar and its heir but not him.

Jinlin frowned after hearing this. He then responded: “Young Lord, if you insist on a resolution, there is no need to bother Master Li Qiye. I will overestimate myself and have a taste of your supreme merit laws. Let us spar.”

Listeners took a deep breath right away. Jinlin wanted to take responsibility for Li Qiye’s actions, whether it be the murders or his transgressions against the young lord.

In other words, picking on Li Qiye right now was akin to picking on Lion’s Roar - something unacceptable.

They still didn’t know why Jinlin was willing to go to such length to support this unknown sect master.

“You!” The young lord glared at Jinlin and started to contemplate.

He certainly wasn’t expecting this reaction at all. He wanted to become the leader of the young generation and defeat the heir of Lion’s Roar.

Everyone believed that the new leader would either come from Dragon or Lion’s Roar. In other words, these were two likely candidates.

The young lord had certainly thought about fighting his rival before. Alas, he never got the chance to have a duel. Plus, he had heard of Jinlin’s talent before as well.

He was not ready for a sudden fight so he hesitated. After all, a battle would be extremely important. He had to win in order to become number one.

Thus, ample preparation was necessary. To fight now was being too hasty and reckless.

The crowd also contemplated about these two successors. A fight between them was inevitable. Which one was stronger?

Jinlin went on and said: “Young Lord, you are a sovereign already, quite peerless in all of Southern Desolace. My cultivation has stagnated and I pale before your brilliance. It would be my honor to spar with you.”

Everyone naturally liked his humility and politeness more than the young lord’s imperious attitude. They had also heard about his dao stagnation before he became the heir. However, he improved quickly later so this comment wasn’t exactly accurate.

It still worked on the young lord. He felt better but maintained a strong tone: “A life for a life, this is how it has always been. Even if you ask me to show mercy, I can’t do so since I need to answer to my sect.”

“Senior Brother, it is just a trivial matter. His Highness has given us enough face.” The saintess of Dragon interjected, giving them an easy way out.

“Are you all finished yet?” Li Qiye stretched, looking bored of this conversation.

The crowd had nothing to say. His attitude was disdainful towards everyone including the heir of Lion’s Roar who was helping him.

The young lord scowled after hearing this but the heir didn't mind. He cupped his fist and said: "I'm fortunate to be able to meet you again, Sir. I would like more guidance if possible."

The crowd became confused and stared at Li Qiye. He was certainly not a big shot or anything. Why was the heir so respectful towards him?

The young lord didn't buy it but the saintess looked to be lost in rumination.

"I came here to ferry souls, not to lecture." Li Qiye waved his hand.

"Is there anything we can do to help?" Jinlin asked hurriedly, assuming the role of a junior to the astonishment of listeners.

Chapter 4335: Activate The Altar Or Not?

"No need for that, just don't bother me. This altar doesn't need to be activated either." Li Qiye said flatly.

The young lord scowled and uttered coldly: "The darkness from underground has engulfed the entire mountain range. The barrier might be stopping it now but it can break through at any moment. If it escapes, Southern Desolace will face an unprecedented disaster. How many sects will go down?"

The crowd clamored after hearing this. After all, there were ten thousand sects in this region. The weaker ones scattered across the land. None of them would be able to stop the darkness.

Thus, the young lord successfully stirred them. Only the great powers remained calm since they had enough experience and resources to deal with many things.

"That's why we need to activate the altar and take care of the darkness now while it's still weak." The young lord declared, still set on accomplishing his goal.

"The young lord is right." A member of a small sect said: "What do we do once it escapes? It'll be too late to suppress it then."

Most became nervous and afraid after hearing about this possibility.

"We need to prepare for the worst, it's best to deal with it now." One sect master stared at the billowing fog and said.

The top sects weren't sure of what this black fog was right now. It actually wasn't the most important point.

They were more worried about which side to pick right now - Dragon or Lion's Roar. This pertained to the future wellbeing of their sect; they didn't dare to be careless.

"What do you think, gentlemen?" The young lord asked the audience on the top stage: "We should activate the altar and deal with the darkness today. It will be a feat to be remembered, one done for the sake of our descendants. Why are we still hesitating?"

Remember, he needed their help in order to activate the altar. The ones standing on the field below didn't matter to him. They were too weak to be of use.

“We should deliberate again.” The daughter of Soaring Feather mused: “Of course, our top priority is to stop the darkness from spreading to the outside world.”

“I agree.” The young lord of Flow said.

Both of them had a good relationship with the young lord of Dragon so they supported him. However, they didn’t dare to bluntly go against Lion’s Roar so they chose their words carefully to stay relatively neutral.

The young lord felt great because the sentiment was shifting towards activating the altar once more.

Chi Jinlin naturally knew what he was doing and responded: “The divine altar is left behind by the Supreme Monarch. Activating it is a serious matter that requires the input of the ancestors. We shouldn’t be hasty.”

This silenced the crowd right away because Jinlin was right. The Supreme Monarch had an untouchable status in the south. Activating it required the approval of her Lion’s Roar Kingdom.

To do so without permission meant being responsible if anything were to go wrong.

“It will be too late if we wait for the ancestors’ input.” The young lord disagreed: “The darkness might escape before then and wreak havoc on the land. In my opinion, activate it now. I’ll bear the responsibility alone.” He assumed the role of an altruistic hero.

“Well said, Young Lord.” One weak sect master supported him: “You’re a real man.”

“Yes, a true man who has the courage to accept the consequence of his action. That’s the young lord of Dragon for you.” An elder added.

Many believed that the young lord was doing this to protect them. The smaller sects hoped that he would be able to activate the altar so that they can stop worrying.

“Lion’s Roar Kingdom does not agree with this decision.” Jinlin responded firmly. Though he wasn’t loud, each word was spoken with conviction.

The representative of Lion’s Roar has spoken, meaning that this was the kingdom’s stance.

Though some might disagree with him, they didn’t dare to voice their dissatisfaction. Opposing Lion’s Roar might get them annihilated before the darkness could get to them.

This statement seemed decisive enough to settle the issue. It shut up all of the young lord’s supporters since they wished to remain neutral.

“Your Highness, you will be a sinner if the darkness escapes and engulfs the world. Is that what you-” The young lord criticized, aware that he must get through Jinlin if he wants to lead.

“Young Lord, can you represent Dragon Sect and Peacock Monarch?” Jinlin interrupted him with a hand wave.

Chapter 4336: Wailing Darkness

The crowd’s attention shifted back to the young lord after Jinlin’s question.

Was the idea of activating the altar his alone? Or was it the will of his father and Dragon? In the latter case, the weight was far heavier.

“Does it matter? I represent myself, that’s more than enough.” The young lord replied.

“I represent Lion’s Roar in this matter.” Jinlin stared at him. Each word of this sentence had the immensity of a mountain.

The crowd took a deep breath, aware of its significance. This meant that the kingdom didn’t allow for activation, not just Jinlin himself.

Anyone who supported the young lord in this endeavor would be going against Lion’s Roar.

The young lord glared angrily at Jinlin but didn’t say anything. Everyone could tell that Jinlin had the upper hand right now.

He wanted to do something after Jinlin stole the spotlight and forced him back. Alas, he needed to exercise prudence.

He believed that he was on the same level as Jinlin in terms of ability. It’s just that he lacked authority in Dragon, unable to represent it.

“Your Highness, if you have a better plan, we are eagerly waiting to hear it.” The saintess broke the silence. This helped the young lord from further embarrassment and didn’t offend Jinlin either.

“I’m listening.” The young lord snorted. He thought that once he had enough authority in the future, he would challenge and destroy Lion’s Roar then.

“Are you finished yet?” Li Qiye waved his hand before Jinlin could respond. His patience seemed to be gone: “I’m not here to negotiate, only to inform. You don’t have any option here but to accept.”

“Hmph!” The young lord’s annoyance resurfaced again: “And if I don’t accept?”

He purposely tried to provoke Li Qiye into starting a fight with him.

“Then I’ll wring your head off.” Li Qiye glanced dismissively at him.

“What?!” The crowd gasped after hearing such arrogance.

Further elaboration on the young lord’s prestigious status was unnecessary. The crowd knew it all too well.

Moreover, he was a sovereign already. This made people watch their words when speaking to him. Not even Jinlin would talk about wringing his head off. Li Qiye might be the sole exception.

“Ignorant fool!” The young lord already had a fiery temperament. Now, he could stand this no longer.

He stood up and released his vitality and aura. The area outside the stage became flattened as a result.

While others trembled in fear, Li Qiye wasn’t impressed in the slightest.

“Rumble!” However, continuous explosions akin to a giant beating down on the earth interrupted the quarrel.

Everyone looked back and saw the black fog surging out again. It seemingly took the form of a giant and was unleashing a barrage of palm strikes down on the ward's barrier.

The barrier shook violently and dimmed down, on the verge of collapsing.

"The darkness is back again!" Many shuddered in fear since they saw a fiendish palm striking down.

Some felt their legs giving in so they dropped butt-first on the ground. The majority were members of the weaker sects. They had never seen something like this before, hence their fear.

"Will the barrier go down? How much longer?" A disciple from a great power became startled.

"We need to activate the divine altar now or everything in the south will be destroyed!" An elder from a small sect shouted.

"We need to open it now." The young lord took advantage of this and said.

"What should we do, Sir?" Jinlin had a serious expression while asking Li Qiye.

The latter ignored him and stepped into the air, heading straight for the fog outside the barrier.

"Be careful!" This took everyone by surprise and a few warned him.

"Does he have a death wish?" A disciple from a large sect asked.

"He's crazy." The youths were too afraid of the darkness yet Li Qiye was heading straight for it.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!" The fog took note of this and seemingly came back to life. It roared and expanded continuously. Dark waves engulfed the sky.

Chapter 4337: Roaring Darkness

The fog immediately swallowed Li Qiye since he was outside the barrier.

"Sect Master!" The members of Little Diamond bellowed in horror, thinking that he was being eaten in there. They feared that the worst had happened.

"He's dead for sure." An aghast elder from a different sect commented.

Li Qiye was certainly strong but he couldn't fight back at all. They thought that if this fog were to roam free, it would annihilate the entire region. The smaller sects would be swallowed just like Li Qiye; not even a speck would be left behind.

They started sweating and thought about running as far away from this place and the south as possible.

"He deserved it." The great powers remained calm. Some even gloated after seeing this.

Most didn't care about Li Qiye because he chose to be suicidal.

"What a fool." The young lord snorted. He hated Li Qiye since the guy tried to ruin his plan. Now, he didn't need to do anything and the problem was already solved.

This was a great development since he needed to get through Jinlin to get to Li Qiye a while ago.

"Hmm..." Jinlin was worried as well and slightly frowned.

As for Jian Qingzhu, she remained seated and slightly tilted her head in contemplation.

“Raa!” Crazy noises could be heard - shoutings, wailings, screamings...

There seemed to be a great battle raging in the fog. This was a battlefield with numerous combatants - a fight of the lost souls.

The fog intensified and became larger while smashing the barrier relentlessly.

“What is in there?” Cultivators felt as if there was a monster in the darkness, ready to jump out and devour them.

Those from the great powers were far more composed than the ones from the smaller sects.

“Can the barrier keep it at bay?” This became the main question as the ground shook violently.

“Be on guard.” The experts from the great powers started worrying. There was a real chance of the barrier failing and they would be the first to face the waves.

“Master...” Wang Weiqiao was nervous because there hasn’t been any sign of Li Qiye for a while now.

“Your master is dead.” A disciple from a stronger sect sneered.

“What did you expect? He just waltzed into that frightening darkness. I’m pretty sure it ate him down to the last bone.” Another clan member uttered coldly.

“It would be a miracle if he’s still alive.” One expert murmured.

No one here was confident in surviving the fog after being caught.

“Good.” The young lord heaved a sigh of relief since Li Qiye’s death was all but confirmed.

The disciples of Little Diamond felt terrible but there was nothing they could do. If they were to jump into the fog and Li Qiye was alive in there, they would only get in his way and hinder him.

“Pop!” A mysterious power suddenly manifested inside the fog and started a purification process.

It didn’t matter how strong the darkness was. This purification force was unstoppable and washed away the impurities.

In the next second, the fog dissipated from both the ward and the mountain range. The sky and sunlight returned afterward.

They then saw a massive human skull stained by the darkness. This looked like a devil. Its eyes shot out dark rays capable of piercing through everything.

“What the hell is that?!” The top cultivators here finally became afraid after seeing the skull.

Chi Jinlin and the other geniuses were horrified as well. They readied their weapons and prepared for a fight.

“Wait, there’s someone in front of it!” A keen-eyed spectator noticed something.

“It’s Li Qiye!” This became clear after they calmed down from the initial shock of seeing the skull.

It was massive so he looked like a fly in comparison.

“He’s still alive?” No one expected this.

“Sect Master!” The ones from Little Diamond became ecstatic.

“Good.” Chi Jinlin heaved a sigh of relief.

“He’s really a hidden master then.” The reticent Jian Qingzhu murmured.

“Hmph!” The young lord of Dragon was disappointed to see Li Qiye surviving the fog.

Chapter 4338: Spirits

As the skull breathed in and out, storms of darkness ravaged the area. Every spectator was quivering, unaware of its origin.

“A devil king of the darkness?” One disciple from a great power trembled. The rays coming from its eye sockets could drag souls out of the body.

“What is that thing?” Anxiety took over.

As for Li Qiye, he simply placed his palm on the skull’s forehead.

“What is he doing?!” One expert shouted.

“How risky...” A sect master’s teeth chattered.

The right reaction after seeing the skull was to run as fast as possible, not touching it.

“He’s trying to fuse with the darkness?” The young lord’s eyes lit up as he wondered.

Many stronger cultivators exchanged glances and understood what he was doing.

“Fusing with the darkness?!” However, those who didn’t get the point became startled.

“What’s going to happen? Is he going to absorb the darkness and turn into a devil king?” Another blurted out. Who knows if she was sincere or deliberate with this statement.

The crowd clamored after hearing this.

“We can’t let him fuse with the darkness or the world will face an unmitigated disaster!” A clan member bellowed.

“Right, we have to stop him now before it’s too late!” One disciple fanned the flames.

“We ought to finish him now!” A few started shouting, wanting to turn the crowd against Li Qiye.

Of course, some actually thought that it was the truth and wanted to prevent Li Qiye from turning into a devil king.

“Kill him now!” The latter group took out their weapon, ready for a sneak attack. They would do anything to prevent the darkness from wreaking havoc.

“Silence!” Chi Jinlin finally raised his voice.

The sheer force of the shout discombobulated the listeners. Some lost their balance and dropped to the ground.

His power and status suppressed everyone. The clamoring crowd became silent right away while staring at him.

“Enough speculation before there is a clear answer.” He declared.

Nonetheless, the crowd thought that he was being partial. They still kept their mouth shut, not wanting to go against the heir of Lion’s Roar.

“Your Highness, I’m afraid you’re acting as an accomplice to the darkness. If you keep on protecting that guy, the world will not stand for...” The young lord strongly opposed.

“Lion’s Roar guarantees Sir Li’s conduct.” Jinlin interrupted without bothering to look at him: “If you have grievances, feel free to visit Lion’s Roar and state them. I welcome it.”

He spoke with confidence as he put Lion’s Roar’s reputation on the line for Li Qiye. This stopped the young lord from bringing up the issue again; the same applied to the rest of the crowd.

Using Lion’s Roar’s reputation as a guarantee was rather serious and carried immense weight. Chi Jinlin was clearly not messing around.

“Buzz...” They suddenly heard buzzes and looked back at the skull.

They saw Li Qiye’s hand becoming radiant. The darkness on the skull was being refined and its real shape was revealed - the image of a head made up of an undying intent.

It belonged to an old man with impressive features. There was an air of stateliness to him, capable of commanding others without needing to ever raise his voice.

Though it was only the image of his head, others still held their breath and were fully intimidated.

It seemed that he was a supreme lord when he was alive. Top masters back then certainly treated him with nothing but respect.

“Do you know who he is?” An expert took a deep breath and asked his friends.

If this old man was alive, everyone here would be prostrating right now. The aura coming off the head showed that he was an apex existence in Eight Desolaces.

The head and Li Qiye gazed at each other. Millions of years passed in the blink of an eye.

The head recalled that when it was still alive, it had followed Li Qiye to numerous battlefields. Eventually, it stayed behind to protect this world, awaiting Li Qiye’s return.

Alas, the calamity unleashed by the heavenly corpses and the darkness ended both him and his legion.

They fought bravely and eventually took down the dark being. Unfortunately, none managed to survive the bloody war.

Everyone watched with bated breath despite not knowing what they were waiting for.

“You have done enough, Heavenguard. Your watch is over, it’s time to let go and rest.” Li Qiye gently patted the head.

“Time to go...” The head answered with an ancient voice.

“Buzz...” It started breaking down into countless particles. Eventually, the particles fell to the ground and disappeared, leaving behind a fist-sized core made of light.

This core shook a bit before flying back into the mountain range. Li Qiye casually followed it and disappeared from sight.

“Do you know what’s going on?” Someone asked.

“So that wasn’t a devil king of darkness?” Another found this strange.

Though the dark skull at the start was horrifying, it looked rather fine after the purification process.

“The mountain range must be hiding something.” A clan member boldly speculated.

“Wait, wasn’t the mountain range the home to a supreme lineage once? It fell after ambushing the darkness.” A sect master was reminded of something.

“You’re saying that this place is an ancestral ground or the main branch?” The clan member responded:

“Was this just a manifestation of something incredible buried during that period? It’s coming back out again?”

Chapter 4339: Ghost Soldiers

“It could be a treasure.” Someone else interjected.

“Who knows?” An older cultivator said: “Rumor has it that this place was known as Heavenguard Mountain, it didn’t become Myriad Sect Mountain until later. This sect known as Heavenguard was really strong.”

“How strong are we talking about here?” One youth remained skeptical.

“They should have been quite mighty. I don’t need to tell you about how terrifying the great calamity was. The darkness descended, one beyond our imagination. What we saw earlier was nothing in comparison. However, Heavenguard still managed to take it down, albeit they also fell in battle.” An expert from the last generation chimed in.

Hearts beat faster after this revelation.

“I see... a mighty lineage perished together with the darkness... Wait, there should still be things left behind, right?” One listener suggested.

The crowd exchanged glances as they contemplated the matter. There might still be treasures left among the ruins.

“Should we take a look?” Some became impatient.

The young lord of Dragon was one of them. He uttered coldly: “I will go take a look to see what treachery he is up to.”

Having said that, he headed in Li Qiye's direction. He realized that the transpired event might not have anything to do with the darkness at all. It might just be a remnant or relic of the past.

Whenever something like this happened in ruins, it meant that a hidden treasure might resurface. After all, Heavenguard was destroyed overnight. Certain heaven-defying treasures might be left behind.

He would never let Li Qiye who he deemed inferior get these treasures.

"We're going, don't let the brat get ahead of us." An expert from a great power understood the young lord's intention. He didn't want to fall behind.

The young lord was a prestigious character but this meant nothing when it came to treasures. Moreover, the treasures here should be on another level.

Thus, more risk was warranted. The great powers were willing to compete and go against him.

"Let's go." The majority of great powers headed for the mountain range. Everyone wanted to be the first to get there and obtain the treasures.

"We should go too." The smaller sects became interested as well.

"Let's go, we might be the chosen one but if not, at least we'll broaden our horizon." One sect master told his fellow members.

Of course, a few were afraid of death. One of them shook their head and said: "We're staying at the ward. If a heaven-defying treasure is really emerging, it'll be a bloody battle. We'll all die a terrible death before even touching it."

As for Chi Jinlin, he wasn't in a rush. He took his time while heading outside the barrier.

Jian Qingzhu tagged along and asked: "Your Highness, may you share with me your brilliant opinion on this matter?" [1]

"You're too kind, Miss Jian. I have nothing of that sort." He shook his head.

"Do you think that there is a treasure?" She asked.

"If there is, it belongs to the virtuous. Sir Li will get it, not us." He smiled.

"Your Highness, how do you know Young Noble Li?" She said softly, aware that Jinlin was absolutely a fierce character. Only a capable person could become the heir of Lion's Roar. Moreover, he was renowned in the past for his special gifts and innate talent. This made her quite curious about his high respect for Li Qiye.

He only smiled and said: "I know that you invited him into a heavenly room. Thus, you probably know more than I do."

Jinlin was no slouch and knew what was going on during the conference.

"Your Highness, the truth is that I was asked to do so."

"Oh?" He didn't expect this answer. He started thinking about who had enough influence to ask her for this favor. Moreover, the young lord of Dragon clearly hated Li Qiye yet she still helped him.

“You know this person too, Your Highness.” She said.

Since Qingzhu kept it vague, he stopped thinking and nodded: “Miss Jian, be careful since there might be complications. Don’t worry, I will do my best to help you.”

“I appreciate it, Your Highness.” She understood and cupped her fist: “Though I’m a member of Dragon, this doesn’t mean I need to obey my fellow sect members.”

“I’m sure someone as intelligent as yourself will do just fine.” He praised. Plus, she wasn’t a weak cultivator either.

Crystal Dragon Young Lord wasn’t the master of Dragon and didn’t have absolute control. His father might be Peacock Monarch but Qingzhu’s branch was quite strong and influential.

Even if a conflict arose between the two of them, the young lord might not be able to do anything to her.

By this point, the two of them have reached the inner region of the mountain range.

They saw the broken peaks and a large lake with clear water. Other cultivators were already here.

“How strange, I’ve visited this place before but the water was turbid then.” One cultivator murmured.

“Look ahead, it’s even stranger.” An expert replied.

They looked farther and saw numerous battalions ahead. The auras of the soldiers were incredible.

They didn’t shout or unsheath their weapons yet their battle intent still pierced the sky. Alas, they were made of pulsing light, looking illusory and on the verge of extinguishing like candles.

Nonetheless, spectators still found them immensely powerful and intimidating.

“Uh... are they ghost soldiers?” A member of a large sect trembled.

“No, they are remnant battle intents that won’t disperse.” A clan expert answered.

Everyone sensed their surging battle intent, ready to obliterate their enemies.

Chapter 4340: Ferrying

The intimidating battle intent was innate and naturally formed - the culmination of experiencing countless battles.

The members of this legion weren’t ghosts nor resentful spirits - only the battle intents left behind after their destruction.

They have been around for millions of years and remained underground to suppress the darkness. Eventually, the darkness invaded them and made it impossible for them to move on.

Li Qiye came to purify these battle intents, allowing them to find peace.

The crowd saw him walking on water towards the legion.

“What is he doing?” Someone became surprised.

The battle intents had no sentience, meaning that coming close might result in being attacked. Each strand had immense power. Being surrounded by them meant certain death.

He started chanting a dao mantra. Runes came out of his mouth and illuminated the soldiers.

“Buzz...” The intent had a glow as blue as the sky, looking quite beautiful. The rays intertwined and became blindingly bright, culminating in a draconic insignia seen on each of the soldiers.

The dragon raised its head and could call for clouds and winds. With its emergence, the soldiers also wanted to turn into dragons as well.

Li Qiye himself was radiant. He formed a mudra and pressed down on the lake.

“Boom!” With that, the rays rushed into the sky and created the same insignia, albeit massive. A portal manifested into reality in the same spot.

It loudly creaked and opened, releasing azure waves like the light of heaven itself onto the soldiers.

“Raa!” A dragon roar erupted. Next came its billowing aura sweeping through the realms.

Living beings immediately prostrated, unable to handle the sheer pressure.

An azure dragon flew out of the portal, looking magnificent with its claws raised. It could tear apart everything in the world, crush the darkness, and devour all evil.

“Looks like a divine beast from the legends...” An expert shouted!

“What kind of legion is this?” A last-gen member shuddered after seeing the activated insignia.

This legion must have been immensely powerful when they were alive. They still looked unbeatable right now after death.

“How the hell did this legion fall?” Someone else thought about the past and couldn’t fathom the terrifying power of the darkness.

“Azure Dragon, Heavenguard! eternal protectors of the ages!” Li Qiye chanted harmoniously with the laws of the world.

“Azure Dragon, Heavenguard!” The soldiers chanted back at him.

Their roars caused time and space to explode in a devastating manner. Cultivators were swept off their feet instantly.

“Shit!” They turned pale as they were flying through the air.

“Boom!” The portal fully opened, revealing the paradise on the other side.

The rays from the soldiers started flying through the portal and their current ethereal form gradually vanished. The azure dragon also did the same.

Eventually, once all of them have passed through the portal, the gates creaked and came together.

Everything eventually disappeared outside of scattering particles. Peace returned to the area. The darkness and spectral soldiers were no longer there.

The entire thing felt like a dream but spectators knew that it was real. They still remembered the frightening battle intents and draconic aura just now.

“So this is what he was talking about, ferrying?” One cultivator regained his wits and asked.

In the beginning, no one took Wang Weiqiao seriously when he said that his master was going to ferry souls over to the other side.

Now, after witnessing this event, the majority believed in him.

“So there were this many lost souls underground.” One elder said.

There had been countless conferences taking place in this mountain range. Alas, they had no idea about the presence of the lost souls beneath the ground. Today, Li Qiye finally freed them from their eternal confinement.

“The legend must be true, the mythical Heavenguard Mountain perished together with the darkness.” A member from a large sect became emotional.

This legend was rather well-known but there was no proof of it. Today, the spectral legion convinced the crowd.

“Buzz...” As the crowd talked about the great battle in the past, rays from treasures suddenly shot out of the lake.