

Emperor 4351

Chapter 4351: Casual Decision

“Peacock Monarch!” Someone recognized this voice.

“He wants to avenge his son.” An expert murmured.

This wasn’t surprising at all due to the horrific death of his son and the destruction of his divine intent. This was an unforgivable transgression.

Though the young lord wasn’t killed by Li Qiye and the same with the divine intent, everyone still thought that he was the primary reason for all of this since he dug a hole for the young lord to jump in.

This notion became apparent the moment Li Qiye used the five gates to kill the dark existence. It showed them that the young lord and the intent were nothing more than bait.

With all this considered, the monarch would never drop this issue. Otherwise, his reputation and face would be seriously damaged.

All eyes were on Li Qiye now, awaiting his reaction. The experts believed that his choice wouldn’t matter since all paths lead to death.

The upper echelons of the smaller sects swore to have nothing to do with Little Diamond after this. They wanted to return to their sect and warn their disciples.

After all, the monarch himself had gotten involved. This meant Little Diamond’s enemies included all of Dragon.

“Will he surrender or flee?” Someone wondered. The outcome would be the same for Li Qiye; it’s just Little Diamond’s fate that was in question.

“Seems like I need to make a trip to Dragon and teach you idiots a lesson in your ancestors’ stead.” Li Qiye stretched and said in a lackadaisical tone.

“What?!” Listeners couldn’t believe what they had just heard.

No one in the south would dare to oppose Dragon outside of Lion’s Roar, let alone teach them a lesson. Such arrogance could only be exhibited by a few sects in all of Sky Border.

“Hmph!” A thunderous scowl came from the horizon and hurt their eardrums. The monarch was obviously furious.

“Dragon’s gate will be open and waiting for you!” His voice had a suppressive affinity and left others trembling.

The monarch was indeed a supreme genius of this generation. Though he was unbelievably far away, his divinity still frightened the crowd.

“He’s insane...” An expert regained his wits and commented.

“He’s courting death, how can Little Diamond take on Dragon?” A disciple from a great power said.

No one had confidence in Little Diamond when their opponent was Dragon.

“Why does he seek his own demise?” Another couldn’t understand.

One youth answered: “Well, is it decided already? Li Qiye has two ultimate treasures right now. They even killed something as strong as that dark creature, maybe he can use them and defeat Dragon.”

“You’re sorely mistaken.” Someone from a prestigious clan replied: “Do you think Dragon only has Peacock Monarch? No, they have numerous ancestors and top weapons. For example, Space Dragon Emperor alone probably left behind invincible weapons, not to mention the other forefathers.”

“That’s true. If Dragon can be taken down by one or two treasures, it wouldn’t be considered to be on the same level as Tiger’s Roar.” A knowledgeable cultivator nodded.

“He has zero chance, both he and his sect will be utterly destroyed. The problem is whether Dragon will be furious enough to clear out the region.” A prestigious clan member uttered coldly.

This was indeed a real concern for the smaller sects present. They could become innocent victims if Dragon decided to show its wrath. Thus, some gritted their teeth angrily at Li Qiye.

Li Qiye ignored them and said: “Looks like there’s nothing else to do at the conference, why are you all still here?”

No one responded. The small sects didn’t want anything to do with Li Qiye. They wanted to leave as soon as possible in order to draw a clear line between them and Little Diamond.

As for the great powers, they understood that the conference was over. Dragon lost its young lord and numerous disciples. Some great powers also lost many members as well. They weren’t in the mood to stick around.

“Let’s go.” The first great power left and many followed right after. This signaled the end of the Myriad Sects Conference.

“We’re leaving too.” Smaller sects no longer had a reason to stay and got as far away from Li Qiye as possible, treating him like a plague.

In just a short time, only a few cultivators remained. For example - Chi Jinlin and Jian Qingzhu.

“Sir, would your group like to visit Lion’s Roar?” Chi Jinlin invited Li Qiye.

The members of Little Diamond became excited right away and stared at Li Qiye with anticipation. Putting the circumstances aside, they would love to visit Lion’s Roar, especially the capital.

After all, cultivators naturally wanted to visit the overlord of the south. The only thing stopping most of them was the distance, rendering it impossible for weaker cultivators.

Therefore, a direct invitation from the heir was as good as it gets. There was a chance of them entering the capital and even meeting the royal clan.

“Afraid that I might fight Dragon to the death?” Li Qiye smiled.

“Sir, you’re a true dragon soaring on the horizon, of course you are not afraid of anything. It’s just that I would like to offer my assistance.” He paused for a bit then stared at the other members of Little Diamond: “Lion’s Roar is responsible for protecting any sect within its border, so you can rest assured.”

He made it clear that even if Li Qiye were to visit Dragon, he wouldn’t need to worry about Dragon sending its underlings to destroy Little Diamond.

Chapter 4352: Immortals Might Exist

This was great news for the members of Little Diamond. It guaranteed their safety for the time being.

The heir of Lion’s Roar could represent both the kingdom and the royal clan. His words carried ample weight and influence.

Thus, no other sects in the south would dare to touch them. This included Dragon. The promise was indeed a cause for celebration.

“I wonder if your future descendants will be as smart as you.” Li Qiye was very pleased with Chi Jinlin.

“I will do my best to remember your guidance and pass it on, Sir.” Jinlin bowed.

“No need for that.” Li Qiye waved and said: “Your kingdom’s current achievements are due to the protection of your ancestors and the wisdom of their descendants. Don’t worry about the future because no one can outlast the test of time. Rise and fall are inevitable and natural.”

Jian Qingzhu repeated the last phrase in her head and then added: “But cultivators like us seek everlasting life.”

“That notion can be disastrous.” Li Qiye chuckled: “This is especially apparent for those at a higher realm with inadequate intelligence.”

“I don’t understand, Young Noble. Please enlighten me.” She bowed and asked.

It was interesting that she maintained her level of respect despite her sect being at odds with Li Qiye. Her sect master was ready to take his life.

“It’s simple.” He replied: “Those who seek everlasting life will eventually become monsters, going against the natural order and the heaven’s will. They will inflict nothing but disasters.”

“Monsters?” The duo didn’t expect this answer.

In their impression, everlasting life meant being buried underground for a long time. They included peerless ancient ancestors and supremes.

These beings were priceless pillars for the top sects. To have one around meant having an unshakeable foundation. This allowed them to prosper.

Because of this, powerful ancient ancestors came up with numerous methods to live longer, whether it be for personal reasons or for the sake of their sect.

However, Li Qiye considered them monsters. This was an unfamiliar perspective for the duo.

“Please go on, Sir.” Chi Jinlin found this topic rather serious. Lion’s Roar had several ancient ancestors potentially slumbering in their ancestral ground.

He himself had no idea how many there were. These beings lived reclusively and didn’t need future generations to know about their existence.

“Why does one seek to have everlasting life?” Li Qiye asked.

Jinlin hesitated for a moment before answering: “To live longer?” The answer seemed rather obvious.

“Why does one wish to live longer? For what reason will you or another cultivator abandon all else to live longer?” Li Qiye smiled.

“Well...” Jinlin had no response. He never interacted with his ancient ancestors before. They never told the descendants about the reason.

Jian Qingzhu answered instead: “The wise sages certainly have their reason for wanting to live longer. It is above the comprehension of insects like us.”

“There is a price for everything.” Li Qiye stared at her: “The price is especially expensive when one goes against the heaven since it invokes the heaven’s wrath.”

“What price do you speak of?” Jinlin asked.

“To the point where the price no longer matters. By any means necessary.” Li Qiye revealed.

“Could you elaborate on a potential scenario...?” Qingzhu pondered for a bit before trembling once. She had a bad feeling when discussing this topic.

“You’re very smart.” He said: “The truth is that it exceeds your current imagination right now. Even your boldest speculation isn’t bold enough.”

She contemplated the possibility. By any means necessary?

“The immortal strokes my head and binds my hair, granting me everlasting life.” Li Qiye answered with a well-known phrase instead.

Qingzhu immediately thought of Blessed Dao Lord after hearing this. This was a popular phrase from the mortal world but it also aptly described the dao lord’s experience.

According to the legends, Blessed Dao Lord taught the world the seven mantras. Rumor has it that these mantras came from an immortal.

Of course, people had no way of verifying this. Nonetheless, the character “Blessed” indicated that he was taught by an immortal.

“So maybe immortals do exist.” Chi Jinlin murmured.

Normal cultivators had never met immortals before. Thus, no one believed that immortals were real, or at least, none were in the mortal world.

This wasn’t the case for Chi Jinlin. His royal clan was one of the oldest forces in Eight Desolaces.

They had access to information unavailable to outsiders. This included stories about immortals.

In fact, the clan believed that some of their ancestors had ties with an immortal before. The details remained unknown. They speculated that it could be their Supreme Monarch or Golden Lion Emperor.

Their clan has been around for many years even before the rise of Golden Lion Emperor. However, his reign led them to prosperity and established a strong foundation. This made them one of the strongest kingdoms in all of Eight Desolaces.

Lion's Roar wouldn't have the same achievements today without his leadership and effort. He was considered to be their most successful ruler, hence the speculation of him being taught by an immortal.

The disagreeing party speculated that the Supreme Monarch was the more likely candidate.

There was a particular nuance here. The monarch and emperor were actually brother and sister. However, the monarch has always been in isolated cultivation. She didn't show herself even after the death of Golden Lion Emperor.

It wasn't until the great calamity that she shocked the world with her might and overshadowed the other masters.

Thus, though they were born in the same generation, they didn't live in the same timeline. Because she managed to live for so long, the royal clan thought that she must have gotten guidance from the immortal.

Of course, there are some who believed that both of them have been taught by the immortal, albeit different things.

These mysteries of the royal clan made Chi Jinlin believe that there might really be immortals.

Chapter 4353: Heaven Sealing Pentagate

"If you ever see any around, you better run as far away as possible. Of course, it's futile anyway." Li Qiye smiled at him.

"Run?" Jinlin didn't expect this answer: "Shouldn't I be asking for the immortal to teach me the way?"

Jian Qingzhu, on the other hand, has been contemplating the entire time and didn't find this as surprising.

True immortals were unreachable existence. Even dao lords had to look up to them.

The truth was that the appearance of one would lead to widespread astonishment and chaos. Every cultivator in the world would run towards this being, hoping to change their fate.

The legend of Blessed Dao Lord was too well known, meeting an immortal and being taught the way. He eventually became the most brilliant dao lord in history.

Who knows if the being he met was an immortal or not? The accuracy wasn't important, only the fundamental of the story.

Meeting such a being would allow one to ascend like a true dragon, becoming a great historical figure. The temptation of such a meeting was irresistible.

In this case, Li Qiye fully disagreed and told them to run as far away as possible, hence Jinlin's confusion.

"Say there is an ant trying to climb up your foot, what will you do?" Li Qiye stared at him and asked.

"Stomp it." He blurted out right away and something flashed in his head. He immediately understood but didn't like the result.

"We're the ants." Qingzhu murmured.

In the eyes of regular cultivators, they had impeccable talents and power. Alas, not to mention the true immortals, even top masters right now viewed them like ants.

Thus, if ants wanted to bother them, they wouldn't hesitate on stomping down. Therefore, why would a true immortal try to bless those so far beneath them?

The answer was rather obvious - this was just the fantasy of fools.

"That isn't the worst outcome." Li Qiye said: "After all, not all wish to stomp down on ants because there might be a colony waiting nearby. They might not wish to kill or burn all the ants since they aren't that bored."

"So that's the case for immortals too?" Weiqiao, who has been silent, asked.

"The answer is that there are no immortals in the mortal world, akin to a fish pond not having a shark." Li Qiye smiled.

"I see." Weiqiao understood. Sharks were the kings of the sea. Many aquatic creatures eventually became their food. He equated sharks to immortals and realized the implications.

As the three were lost in thoughts, Li Qiye recalled the gates and lamp. He gave the gates to Elder Hu and said: "This treasure can seal heaven for eternity. I shall bestow it to Little Diamond since fate has brought us together."

"!" Elder Hu couldn't accept the gates even though it was for the entire sect, not just him.

He clearly saw how powerful the gates were earlier when Li Qiye took down the dark existence.

Not to mention their peers, even the great powers might not have something so wondrous. Li Qiye's generosity left him stunned.

"Take it, consider it a gift from fate." Li Qiye casually said.

It took a while for Elder Hu to calm down. He commanded the disciples to kneel. He did the same and prostrated: "We will never forget the kindness and generosity shown today, Sect Master."

They felt the utmost gratitude for his gift. They knew that it was a supreme treasure but ultimately, they still underestimated its true value.

Chi Jinlin and Jian Qianzhu exchanged glances. Both could see that Li Qiye didn't have deep ties with Little Diamond. Nonetheless, he still gave them such a precious gift. The two thought that this defensive treasure might be comparable to a dao lord weapon.

Despite their noble status, they couldn't afford to give such a precious gift to just anyone. Li Qiye seemed to be the sole exception.

"Sir, does it have a name?" Jinlin asked.

"Heaven Sealing Pentagate." Li Qiye casually responded.

"Heaven Sealing Pentagate." The two repeated. Just the name alone was a sign of how amazing it was. "Heaven sealing" were not characters to be used frivolously.

"Take this." Li Qiye then handed the lamp to Wang Weiqiao.

"I..." Wang Weiqiao didn't dare to accept this offensive treasure despite being Li Qiye's disciple.

"Master, this is too precious." He said.

"It's just a weapon." Li Qiye responded: "If you ever become accomplished in the future, you will have heavy responsibilities then. Do not let it down since it is special."

"What responsibilities do you speak of, Master?" He asked, perplexed.

"It's too early to speak of it right now, once you're capable enough, you'll understand even without being told. With great power comes great responsibility." Li Qiye smiled.

He regained his wits, solemnly accepted the lamp, and bowed deeply: "I won't forget your words, Master."

Chi Jinlin and Jian Qingzhu were moved as they watched the bestowal process. Even the blind could tell that these two treasures were exceptional.

As the heir of Lion's Roar and the saintess of Dragon, they had seen countless treasures before and had some top ones in their possession.

They asked themselves whether they could show the same generosity to their loved ones and closest friends? They would have needed to think carefully due to the level of the treasures.

Alas, Li Qiye showed zero hesitation in doing so as if the two treasures were as common as can be.

There were two potential explanations - Li Qiye either having too many treasures or that he didn't think much of these two.

Either way, they were shocked because it showed just how extraordinary he was, far above their ancestors.

Chapter 4354: Jian Qingzhu

"Alright, time to go pay Dragon a visit." After giving away the treasures, Li Qiye stretched with a smile.

His casual tone was a stark contrast to the gravity of the comment. Though Dragon welcomed all visitors, this didn't apply to Li Qiye.

Everyone believed that he was the mastermind behind the death of their young lord and their sect master's intent. More than a thousand disciples also fell as well.

Moreover, Peacock Monarch had also stated that either Li Qiye apologizes or faces total destruction.

Thus, this visit was either to apologize or to fight to the bitter end. The latter was clearly the choice and the battle could shock all of Sky Border.

The one in a tough position right now was Jian Qingzhu. Li Qiye was clearly an enemy of Dragon. Should she view him as such?

Anyone else from Dragon would be furious and show him a cold expression. On the other hand, she maintained a calm demeanor and still seemed set on befriending him. She had clearly drawn a line between personal and sect matters.

"Would you like to visit the City of Demons first? I will humbly contribute, Young Noble." She invited.

"City of Demons?" Li Qiye stared at her with a smile.

"It is the second branch of Dragon and is just as famous as the citadel. They can be considered the foundation of Dragon." Chi Jinlin explained.

"I am from this branch and I'm absolutely sure we will welcome you, Young Noble." She said.

"You're being too humble, Miss Jian." Jinlin said: "Your clan is a major pillar for Dragon and has plenty of talents and influence."

"Speak what's on your mind." Li Qiye said.

"Young Noble, the conflict between you and Dragon stems from a misunderstanding, not hatred or vengeance. Our sect master doesn't know who you are so I offer my service to speak before the sect master, explaining the intricacies and defusing the situation." She seized the opportunity.

She paused for a bit and continued: "Thus, I respectfully ask you to visit the City of Demons first to see what Dragon is like."

In her opinion, if he were to visit the capital, a fight would break out right away. That would make mediation nearly impossible.

If it was anyone else, they wouldn't care enough to solve it peacefully. After all, a single cultivator going against Dragon was rather suicidal, especially an insignificant sect master.

Any other saintess would view Li Qiye as being arrogant and ignorant. Qingzhu disagreed so she preferred the peaceful way instead, hoping to convince her sect master.

In reality, nothing good could come from this for her, at least on the surface level. She, the saintess of Dragon, wanted to speak on the behalf of the enemy? This was improper and could be construed as traitorous. Even if she were to convince the sect master successfully, her reputation would take a hit.

All in all, the risk was not worth it. Nonetheless, she chose to do it since she believed that this was more beneficial for Dragon.

“You’re smart, a clear rarity in Dragon right now. Some believe that they’re unbeatable now and can do anything. What a shame.” Li Qiye said.

“Is that a yes, Young Noble?” She could see the change in his tone and became happy: “I will go right now to Dragon Citadel and play the part of a mediator.”

“Yes.” Li Qiye smiled and stared at the horizon: “Though some of the descendants from Dragon are foolish, I will give Dragon a chance because of your cleverness so that others won’t say I’m too merciless.” Having said that, he waved his hand.

“Thank you, Young Noble. I will leave right now.” The excited girl bowed and said goodbye to Jinlin before leaving.

“I have to return to the capital, sir.” Jinlin found it regrettable that he couldn’t bring Li Qiye back to Lion’s Roar: “If you ever need my service in the future, please just let me know.”

The members of Little Diamond found this confusing. They didn’t know why the heir of Lion’s Roar was so polite toward their sect master.

“Go.” Li Qiye then stared in the direction of Lion’s Roar: “I might need to give Lion’s Roar a visit to see someone.”

“You have friends in Lion’s Roar?” He asked. Judging by Li Qiye’s expression, it seemed to be an old friend that he hasn’t seen in a long time.

“I don’t recall, it’s been too long. I’ll be there when the time is right.” Li Qiye withdrew his gaze and said.

“I’ll be eagerly waiting, Sir. I will prepare a grant reception upon your arrival.” He bowed.

“Go.” Li Qiye waved.

He bowed one more time before leaving.

After he was gone, a disciple from Little Diamond said what was on everyone’s mind: “Se-sect Master, how do you know His Highness?”

The word “shock” was not enough to describe their emotion. The heir of Lion’s Roar was an ultimate existence. It wouldn’t be an exaggeration to say that he was godlike in their eyes.

Members of the small sects would find it an honor just to see the heir, let alone converse with him. In fact, just getting his acknowledgment once would be the story of a lifetime.

Now, this unreachable heir treated their sect master with nothing but respect. He even bowed multiple times before leaving. Normally, weaker sect masters needed to kneel before him.

That’s why these young ones had a hard time coming to grips with this reality.

“We’ve only met once.” Li Qiye replied.

“Just-just once?” This astounded the listeners. Though it sounded unbelievable, they still believed whatever Li Qiye said.

“Okay, we’re going to this City of Demons so that you all can broaden your horizon. I’m afraid I won’t have as much time to bring you along later.” Li Qiye said. Of course, his focus was on training Wang Weiqiao.

Though he hasn’t taught the man any supreme merit law, he wanted Weiqiao to see the world. This was the primary method of education this time around.

Chapter 4355: City Of Demons

City of Demons was one of the largest locations in Dragon. Only the capital, Dragon Citadel, was comparable.

The capital was the ruling body of Dragon. This has been the case since it was built by the progenitor of the sect - Space Dragon Emperor.

This tradition continued for its future leaders and even a top dao lord, Myriad Eyes. Thus, the authority of Dragon was centralized in the capital. Nonetheless, the City of Demons was still a large part of its foundation.

Some went as far as saying that without this city, there would be no Dragon Sect. The capital, on the other hand, played more of a role in expanding the sect’s external influence.

For millions of years, the city had produced waves of talents. They eventually became top masters and sages for Dragon. This helped the sect stand strong for eras.

Of course, calling it a city wasn’t exactly accurate. Its actual size was unknown since there were no walls to give an accurate assessment.

If one were to stand on top of a high vantage point, they would see endless mountain ranges. Peaks towered among the clouds while some abysses had no bottom to be seen. Magnificent rivers and earth veins could be seen as well...

Impressive architecture were built in this wilderness. Some palaces on the peaks allowed one to come out to the courtyard and seemingly touch the stars.

They looked like the homes of immortals due to the white clouds and mist. Dao chains connected these palaces and served as bridges, painting the scene of a floating city. More were built on the rivers and remained stable in spite of the violent waves.

The entire area brimmed with the presence of life and demons. This was not the wilderness despite its appearance.

It served as the largest congregation of demons in the south. One could spot demons everywhere, whether it be the bustling streets or the verdant peaks - serpent demons with long tails, tiger demons with sharp claws on all limbs, bull demons with a human head and a bestial body, treants...

Therefore, it was stranger to see humans here rather than some rare demons. It also contained numerous hidden masters.

“We’re almost there!” A disciple from Little Diamond stared at the area from afar.

“City of Demons.” Elder Hu became emotional and said: “I never thought I would have the chance to visit one of the largest cities.”

“It’s massive!” Another youth saw the grand scenery. Just one corner of this city was countless times larger than their sect - the difference between a grain of salt and the ocean.

This was only one city in Dragon too. Thus, they realized just how monstrous this sect was compared to their own.

“This city is the lifeblood of Dragon. There are three branches here, all powerful.” Elder Hu elaborated.

“Three branches?” One disciple became curious.

“Phoenix Ground, Tiger Pond, and Dragon Platform.” He went on: “Each has lasted for eras and is unfathomable.”

Due to his humble background, he knew little about Dragon. His knowledge was strictly rumor-based.

Nonetheless, he was correct about the three branches. Though there were inaccuracies, it was roughly on point. These three branches were the main producers of talents in the city.

‘Still around.’ Li Qiye quietly observed the area. The past suddenly resurfaced again.

Many things have changed but not all. He was the only one who could spot the peculiarities.

“What is that over there?” One disciple pointed forward.

The group looked over and saw a majestic floating palace. Judging from its appearance, it must have been built a long time ago.

It exuded a fascinating light while being locked by eight divine chains. The spatial structure around it fluctuated due to the waves of light. This seemed to be the center of the city.

There were other palaces fixated in the air, none could compare to this one. Though it wasn’t the largest or the brightest, it certainly attracted the most attention.

Anyone who looked up at the sky would notice it first. It was the king while all others were mere subjects.

“Demon Realm Palace.” Elder Hu put on a serious expression.

“Is it a treasure?” Another asked.

“I’m not sure.” Elder Hu shook his head: “According to the record, it is of pivotal importance to Dragon. One legend stated that it was built by their progenitor. Another said that it is related to a great battle.”

“A great battle?” The disciple became curious.

“I don’t know the details, it’s between two top existences, maybe a dao lord is involved.” Elder Hu smiled wryly.

This immediately piqued the group’s interest because it involved a dao lord.

“Feng Qi and Jiu Bian.” Li Qiye stared at the palace and said. [1]

“Feng Qi and Jiu Bian?” The group hasn’t heard of these names before.

This palace was indeed special to Dragon. There were two explanations - the first being that Space Emperor Dragon dragged it back here from an external realm. The second speculation stated that it was related to the origin of the three branches.

The historical records contained information about a battle before the era of Space Dragon Emperor, one great enough to shake Eight Desolaces.

One combatant was a supreme being. She lived in an ancient era and even Blessed and Sword Sea Dao Lord couldn’t compare to her.

Her name was Feng Qi; nothing else was written about her origin. It was stated that she debuted as a dao lord at the age of either nine or ten - something truly astounding.

Due to a lack of evidence, some believed that she was not a dao lord.

Chapter 4356: Feng Qi And Jiu Bian

The legend of Feng Qi, a nine-year-old dao lord. This couldn’t be verified; future generations didn’t know her origin and merit laws either.

Only two points were repeated in the records. First, she was a girl named Feng Qi. Second, she did indeed sweep through the world uncontested at the age of nine. [1]

The other combatant, Jiu Bian, was even more mysterious. People didn’t know if this was the right name. In fact, the correct pronoun remained unknown. Jiu Bian could be a human, a demon, or something else entirely. [2]

All in all, Jiu Bian might be the most mysterious cultivator in Desolaces. No one has seen Jiu Bian’s true appearance or actual form.

One theory dictated that Jiu Bian always appeared in a different form. The question was - was the change happening with every appearance or limited to the changing of eras?

Another theory stated that Jiu Bian could be more than just one person. They could be from a single lineage and would have a different successor appearing in each era.

Perhaps Jiu Bian wasn’t even the correct name. These characters might have been first recorded because the being had appeared nine times with nine different appearances.

The most impressive tale regarding Jiu Bian was how it had devoured a dao lord before. This was also unverified but still served as a testament to its power.

Feng Qi and Jiu Bian were complete strangers with no feud to speak of, at least as far as people knew. However, the battle between them affected all of Eight Desolaces.

Some believed that they were mortal enemies since birth due to their background. Others said that they were competing for a supreme treasure.

Most present-day demons believed that they were fighting over Demon Realm Palace. In this legend, both sides found it at the same time and wouldn't relent.

Their battle tore the world asunder. Continental cracks became a common sight. Numerous slumbering monsters woke up, even the existences in the forbidden zones. The Supreme Monarch of Lion's Roar awakened as well and came to see the battle in person.

The ground disappeared and the sky vault was obliterated. It felt like a world-ending disaster.

Future descendants didn't know much about the details of the battle. One belief was that both combatants perished in the battle. Another stated that slumbering monsters took advantage of their injuries and killed them. The third included a draw and both sides decided to leave.

Ultimately, the two combatants were never seen again afterward. They appeared like meteors shooting across the night sky, beautiful yet ephemeral.

However, the palace also disappeared as well. It wasn't until Space Emperor Dragon's emergence and his creation of the City of Demons that it was seen again.

There was one concrete piece of evidence amidst all the rumors. It proved that the battle actually happened and provided a hint to Jiu Bian's identity - a supreme demon god from the ancient age.

Blood was naturally spilled from the great battle. Their blood affected the animals beneath and this gave them divinity and dao attunement. They then subsequently reached the dao and became great demons.

Thus, two branches were created as a result - the present-day Phoenix Ground and Tiger Pond.

Phoenix Ground inherited the bloodline of Feng Qi while Tiger Pond inherited Jiu Bian's bloodline. Because of this, the two branches were always at war.

Space Dragon Emperor appeared and changed this. The emperor subdued both branches and created a third - Dragon Platform. This ended the eternal conflict and signaled the start of a brand new sect - Dragon. Henceforth, there were three branches instead of two.

Once again, these legends weren't verified but, Dragon wholeheartedly agreed with this. The majority of outsiders felt the same way.

Meanwhile, Li Qiye stared at the palace for a while with a smirk on his face.

A disciple nearby asked Elder Hu again: "Elder, what can this palace do?"

"I don't know." Elder Hu chuckled: "I heard that it is very important to Dragon, that any disciple capable of entering will go up the ranks very quickly."

He then waved his hand and said: "I don't know if this is true or not, this is just what others told me." He had limited sources due to his lowly background.

"Can outsiders try too?" The disciple had a bold thought.

"It's useless for you to try." Li Qiye chuckled and patted Weiqiao's shoulder: "But Weiqiao can give it a shot."

"I... Master, I don't think I can go." Wang Weiqiao didn't expect this and smiled awkwardly.

It had nothing to do with lacking confidence. The palace was crucial to Dragon and they wouldn't let anyone enter outside of their own geniuses.

Plus, he knew that his talent couldn't compare to theirs in the first place. Even if he were to enter, the benefits would be limited.

"A disciple of mine can do anything." Li Qiye nonchalantly said.

Weiqiao took a deep breath and solemnly nodded: "Very well, Master, since you've put it that way, I'm sure I can do it."

The others exchanged glances. They didn't know why Li Qiye was so confident in Weiqiao but still believed him.

"Let's go." Li Qiye raised one foot in a natural walking motion.

The moment he lifted his foot, loud metallic clanks happened and shook the entire city. The quakes naturally shocked its inhabitants.

"What's happening?!" This has never happened before in this region.

"Look!" They looked up and saw Demon Realm Palace being more resplendent than ever. The light pulsed like a tsunami, no longer gentle like before. The unprecedented development frightened them.

The palace started shaking violently, seemingly wanting to leave the chains. This negatively impacted the region's stability since the palace resembled a foundational pillar.

Experts from the three branches awakened as a result. This included ancient ancestors.

The latter saw the shaking palace and became startled. Even an ancestor inside the palace didn't know what was going on.

"When was the last time this happened?" One of them wondered.

"Report this to the sect." An ancient ancestor ordered with haste.

"What is happening?!" The members of Little Diamond fell to the ground due to the violent shakes.

Only Li Qiye stood there calmly and observed the changes.

After a while, the palace regained its stability and stopped shaking. This temporarily assured the nervous spectators.

Chapter 4357: Seeing The Beggar Again

By this point, numerous ancient ancestors from the three branches have awakened. Discussions sprung everywhere in the city.

"Is this another treasure bestowment?" One cultivator quietly asked after seeing the violent phenomenon.

Though peace has returned to the city, people couldn't help talking about this matter due to the perceived significance.

"Could it be a supreme weapon? Or an invincible merit law?" A peer added.

"A treasure bestowment doesn't have this kind of phenomenon." An older expert from the previous generation answered: "This is unprecedented."

An ancestor from one of the three branches joined the conversation: "I'm sure there's a reason for something like this to happen."

The top ancestors were aware that such an impressive phenomenon carried a proportionate level of significance. Of course, whether this was a blessing or a disaster remained unknown.

"Didn't a phenomenon happen when Myriad Eyes Dao Lord entered the palace back then?" An old cultivator asked a senior.

The senior shook her head in response: "It was written so, a phenomenon occurred when the young dao lord entered, but it wasn't anything like this."

"Yes, not comparable in the slightest." An ancestor responded: "The difference is so drastic. In fact, I wouldn't even call that a phenomenon after seeing this one. According to our records, the young dao lord's exceptional abilities granted entry to the palace. However, the light of the palace merely intensified. There was nothing like the violent quakes we had earlier."

During the dao lord's youth, the elders granted him entry to the palace. The moment he entered the entrance, the palace became bright and gave him a fortune. Some attributed his future success to this gift.

The truth was that all demons believed that being recognized by the palace meant having a great future. It could also grant gifts to brilliant disciples.

"Does that mean someone had just given birth to a great genius in the city? Or a future demon king?" Everyone started thinking about the possibilities.

"Not necessarily." An older expert became worried: "It could be a disaster of sorts, the appearance of a genius doesn't warrant this strong of a reaction."

"I agree, the dao lord's birth didn't trigger anything, only when he entered the palace." Another expert responded and remained skeptical.

"Well, will there be an incredible reward waiting in there now? Maybe even the imperial laws of Space Dragon Emperor." A young demon fantasized.

"It's within the realm of possibility given the nature of that phenomenon earlier. It is worth a shot." A senior replied.

"Yes, we should try and enter." One ancestor nodded.

Thus, the branches in the city encouraged their disciples to try and enter the palace, hoping to obtain the potential fortune awaiting within.

As for the members of Little Diamond, they were startled by the shocking phenomenon.

“Don’t tell me that’s an ominous sign.” One of them said, not wanting to face another crisis the moment they got here.

“It’s fine. Plus, the great demons in the city will take care of any potential problem, it wouldn’t be your turn.” Li Qiye smiled.

The young ones exchanged glances and wholeheartedly agreed. Given their power, they didn’t have the responsibility to deal with anything. The demon ancestors should have everything under control.

“Right, I worried over nothing.” The guy chuckled.

“It could be an auspicious sign too.” Elder Hu stared at the palace and said: “I heard Myriad Eyes Dao Lord’s entry to the palace sparked a phenomenon.”

“Elder, how do we gain entry to that palace?” Some became eager to try.

“I’m afraid we’re not qualified.” Elder Hu shook his head.

“Let’s go.” Li Qiye said and moved on. The rest hurriedly followed him.

Alas, they didn’t get far before they met a beggar who stopped in front of Li Qiye. He was up there in age and wore a tattered robe with patches shoddily embroidered everywhere.

However, the terrible craftsmanship was understandable because they saw that he was blind. His eyelids were puffed up like two lumps of meat, only opened ever so slightly. Who knows the extent of his blindness, if he could see outlines when close enough?

His cheeks were down to the bones, sunken. His frame was as skinny as the bamboo stick he was holding. Just one gust of wind could send both flying. The bottom of the stick was bald; it had clearly accompanied him for a long time.

He carried a broken bowl with his other hand. It had several holes, perhaps picked up randomly from the street. Nonetheless, he seemed to cherish and cleaned it repeatedly with his robe. Not even a speck of dust could be found. Inside the bowl were a few coins so they clanked as he traveled.

This wasn’t their first meeting. Li Qiye and Lu Qi had met him back in Sword Continent.

“Please, kind sirs.” He came closer and raised the bowl. He narrowed his eyes, seemingly trying hard to see Li Qiye to no avail.

Li Qiye didn’t say anything and only smiled.

He gently shook his bowl to issue more clankings.

“Take it, buy something to eat.” A youth from Little Diamond took out some coins and placed them in the bowl.

This was nothing to cultivators. Alas, it was a considerable amount for a beggar in the mortal world. He could live for a long time without needing to worry about food and clothes.

However, the man turned a deaf ear to them and still kept the bowl raised in front of Li Qiye.

Chapter 4358: Kick

"Please, kind sir." The old beggar insisted but Li Qiye didn't respond.

"What do you want?" A different disciple asked.

He didn't answer which confused the group.

"Don't you see the coins in your bowl?" One attributed this to him being blind.

"He can't see anything, right?" Another added.

"I bet he's famished too, that's why he doesn't care about anything else right now." A female disciple joined in.

"Do we have any food?" The group was kind-hearted and tried to help.

"No. Where are we going to find some buns?" Someone else responded.

Though they weren't experts, they still didn't need to eat like mortals. There was no need to pack food or rations during a long trip.

"I have a snake-scale fruit. He can have it." A generous youth looked for a while and took out a fresh fruit from his pouch.

This was a common fruit for cultivators but for mortals? It was extremely nutritious, especially for a malnourished old man. It would fill him for several days.

"Hey, take this and stop asking our sect master." He placed the fruit into the bowl.

Alas, the old man insisted on begging Li Qiye alone: "Please, kind sir."

The young ones lost their patience. From start to finish, they have been rather cordial to him.

After all, who would give a damn about a mortal beggar? If he were to infuriate cultivators, they might just kill him.

Thus, Little Diamond's members have shown generosity and compassion. Alas, the old man was being rather stubborn.

"What do you want?" One of them lost his politeness.

The old man continued on shaking his bowl in front of Li Qiye, seemingly ready to stay forever until Li Qiye acquiesced.

"We've already given you money and food." An older disciple unhappily complained: "If you won't move, we'll have to make you and it won't be pleasant. I don't think your old bones can handle it."

They didn't look down on the old man but he was being unreasonable to their sect master whom they respect.

Li Qiye was surprisingly patient today and smiled at the old man: "What is it that you're begging for?"

"Life." The old man finally spoke.

"?!!" The disciples immediately unsheathed their weapons and put on a defensive stance after hearing this. They assumed that he carried malice towards the sect master.

"I don't think you can bear it." Li Qiye chuckled.

"Please be generous then." The old man shook his bowl faster this time.

"Fine." Li Qiye smiled and raised one leg before kicking with an unknown amount of strength.

"Whoosh!" Nonetheless, this sent the old man flying across the sky like a shooting star.

It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that he had made it out of the city or even Dragon. This naturally stunned the members of Little Diamond.

Their mouth was wide open, not expecting Li Qiye to mercilessly kick the old beggar with so much force.

They thought that he was dead for sure, or the best-case scenario would be surviving with all of his bones broken.

After all, sending someone out of the city with one kick? Its power was immense while the old man was feeble. A random kick could break his ribs, let alone what Li Qiye did.

"... H-he's dead for sure..." One disciple stammered. Even they would die after being kicked like that.

"No, I'm sure the sect master showed mercy..." Another disciple spoke on behalf of Li Qiye.

Despite being a small sect, Little Diamond still, more or less, considered itself to be part of the orthodox and righteous faction.

Now, their sect master had just killed a beggar. This might become a topic of scorn and ridicule.

"There is no need to worry." Li Qiye smiled: "He'll still be alive and well after you're all buried in your coffin."

"Uhh..." The young ones were left speechless and unconvinced. They were vigorous cultivators so there was no way an old mortal beggar could outlast them.

Of course, little did they know that this old man last showed up in Sword Continent. Going from Sword Continent to Sky Border was exceedingly difficult. Few in the world could travel across continents.

Alas, this old man could do so and showed up wherever Li Qiye went. Thus, how could he be killed by a single kick?

"Sect Master, do you know him?" One of them calmed down and asked.

They gradually realized that this meeting was not a coincidence. The beggar purposely came to see Li Qiye.

"Just a dead man." Li Qiye casually responded.

"A dead man?" This caught the young ones off guard.

"I-impossible. I saw that he was clearly alive." One of them said. Though he was up there in age, he was certainly alive.

Nonetheless, the group always took Li Qiye seriously.

“Why is a dead man playing the part of a beggar, Sect Master?” Another became curious.

Chapter 4359: A’jiao

“The dead still have thoughts.” Li Qiye stared at the horizon and said.

The group shuddered after hearing this because this was a rather strange idea.

“They still have thoughts?” One of them murmured and immediately looked around. He felt chilly gusts and became afraid, thinking that ominous spirits were looking at him.

In their mind, the dead seemed to have a soul and mind. Some no longer had a body as well. Thus, Li Qiye’s comment went against conventional wisdom.

Of course, there were special entities in the cultivation world. For example, stubborn intents and obsessions that wouldn’t disperse. Some strange events could happen after the death of a powerful cultivator as well.

However, strictly speaking, ghosts didn’t exist similarly to immortals in their world. So was that old beggar a ghost then?

“Ghosts can’t appear in broad daylight.” One youth blurted out without being too sure.

“Right, they’ll disperse once exposed to sunlight.” His friend quietly said.

“Maybe he was something ominous.” An older disciple speculated.

A few of them heard this and thought that they may have caught misfortune, especially the one who gave him coins earlier. He wiped his clothes and said: “Please, no misfortune, I didn’t do anything, don’t latch onto me.”

“It’s a great fortune to be sought after by a ghost.” Li Qiye chuckled.

“Why is that? Aren’t ghosts ominous creatures? If one latches onto him, he’ll be unlucky forever.” Another answered.

“It’s not that easy becoming a ghost.” Li Qiye replied: “Being one meant the person had obtained a heaven-defying fortune. Such a being wouldn’t care about you all since you’re nothing more than insects in their eyes.”

The youths exchanged glances and agreed. Ghosts wouldn’t bother coming to look for them. After all, they had nothing noteworthy – no power, no resource, no talent...

“That’s good.” One guy heaved a sigh of relief and said: “I guess it’s not all bad being nobodies.”

“Sect Master, why is he looking for you?” One youth became curious. It became apparent that the old beggar wasn’t here to beg and only came for Li Qiye.

Li Qiye smiled and moved forward without responding. The group followed him but they didn’t get far again.

Another uninvited passerby came along – a woman shaking her hips more than necessary as she walked towards them.

If she was a supreme beauty, then such a walking style would be quite a sight for sore eyes. Unfortunately, she was overweight.

Strangely enough, her fat wasn't shaking either. She seemed to be very well-built and had a tanned complexion. One would assume that she worked all year long at a farm.

In reality, she was only eighteen or nineteen but her appearance betrayed her age. Her hair was long and black. Alas, they were tied into pigtailed in a non-flattering fashion. Worst of all, she was covered in a thick layer of makeup carrying a heavy scent.

It wasn't a crime to be average-looking if she didn't adorn any makeup and had a simpler style. Alas, she also wore a conspicuous flower dress. This combination was absolutely a visual attack.

She appeared to be a village girl who yearns for city life, hence her style.

"Oh, Husband, I've finally found you..." She put on a feminine yet nauseating pose as she rushed over to Li Qiye. [1]

Her unreasonable confidence and coquettishness shook the young ones but most importantly, she addressed Li Qiye as "husband".

They calmed down and their gaze switched back and forth between Li Qiye and her.

"Don't make me obliterate your soul. No one will be able to save you." Li Qiye threatened.

This was not an empty threat when it came from Li Qiye since he had the ability to do so.

"Can't I make a joke?" The girl acted shy while stealing glances at Li Qiye: "My father agreed to our matter."

She was none other than A'jiao who had also shown up at Sword Continent. The timing was identical as well; the beggar came first then her.

The disciples found this rather strange yet amusing. Some thought that their sect master might really have something to do with this girl.

Thus, they were tactful enough to slow down their pace, giving Li Qiye and A'jiao some space.

"Does the sect master really have a fiancée?" One of them whispered.

A different disciple disagreed right away: "It doesn't look that way to me. Plus, who is actually worthy of marrying our sect master?"

"Watch your words." Elder Hu scolded, not wanting them to speculate.

Nonetheless, he found this strange as well. First, it was a beggar; now an overweight girl. This felt rather strange.

Li Qiye ignored the gossip behind him and only focused on A'jiao. He smiled and said: "I see, what'll be the dowry?"

"I'm sure the dowry will be generous, just say the words." A'jiao said bashfully, causing the disciples to have goosebumps.

"I want his dog life then." Li Qiye smirked.

Listeners became slack-jawed. Their sect master wanted to kill his father-in-law?

"Why so cruel, our father bears no malice towards you." A'jiao pouted, seemingly ignorant of the effect she has on others.

"Alright, why are you here?" He asked.

"What else but to strengthen our romance since we're about to be husband and wife?" She looked down at the ground and only stole glances at him.

Chapter 4360: Regrets

"Nothing is impossible since you have gone so far, just keep in mind that although nothing is off the table, there is a price for it all." Li Qiye smiled.

"This again?" A'jiao stared flirtily at him and said: "We're about to become a couple, no need to be so distant and calculative. It should be easy to talk between families."

Her demeanor and tone would have been pleasant if she were a beauty. Alas, listeners only got goosebumps and felt nauseous from her bad acting.

Li Qiye said: "We can talk, it's just that my starting price is high. Of course, he can afford it, no?"

"I'm here with sincerity and knew that you would turn around." She said.

"I see, speak then." He smiled, unaffected by her lack of charm.

"Honey, everyone has regrets, right? You do as well." A'jiao's voice suddenly became alluring and irresistible.

"Now that's more like it." Li Qiye narrowed his eyes.

"My father asks, what if you can make up for past regrets?" She said.

"Go on, I'm interested." Li Qiye was not an exception and certainly had regrets in life.

"For example, the dead coming back to life." There seemed to be celestial lights flashing in the depth of her eyes.

The disciples in the back heard her clearly. First, Li Qiye talked about the old beggar being dead. Now, this girl was talking about rebirth? They thought that this conversation was rather private and sensitive so they decided to stay far away and stop prying.

"There are always those who are missed, what would one do just to have a chance to say goodbye?" She said softly, seemingly falling into remembrance and reflecting.

"True." His gaze traveled across the river of time before stopping at a particular figure. Perhaps someone had waited for him during the long years.

Alas, he kept on moving forward and the figure eventually disappeared. He had thought about returning to at least say something. Unfortunately, this never happened and it became his regret.

It was too late to do anything about it since time reduced it all to dust. The only medicine for this was time traveling or rebirth.

“What if we can turn dust back to life? You can then again pick up the pieces and no longer feel regretful.” She said stirringly.

“It’s not that I can’t do it, there are methods for rebirth.” He smiled. It’s not that he couldn’t do it; it’s that he shouldn’t.

“I see, so you have, at the very least, thought about it.” She said.

“What if I did?” He responded.

This offer didn’t seem to be enough to surprise Li Qiye.

“I don’t doubt your ability in doing so.” She laughed elegantly, one in tune with nature before continuing: “But, I’m sure that there will be flaws in your process. You know that as well. It won’t be the same as before.”

“And he claims to be able to do it?” He knew what she was implying.

“It is not a problem as long as you agree. Just nod and you’ll be able to return to the source.” She blinked.

“Is that so? There are things that one can’t jump out of, not even him in spite of having total control. It is impossible.” He disagreed.

“No one is talking about jumping out but there are substitutions. You mustn’t worry about that and should just focus on how you’ll be able to make up for past regrets. My father can do it.” She elaborated.

“Got it.” He didn’t doubt her father’s ability. A’jiao was most likely telling the truth.

“So what’s your answer?” Her tone became playful again.

“Time eventually leaves no traces, even if one tries to make amend, it still won’t be the same. It is not the past and not the same person.” He stared at her.

“Don’t worry, leave it to my father. Since he dared to boast, I’m sure there won’t be a problem. You will be able to return to the past, the exact past as before without causing any ripple.”

He fell into silence. His eyes returned to the past again and his very being seemed to have returned as well. Time was still flowing around him without disruption despite him breaking the rule.

“This is indeed tempting.” He eventually broke out of this state and said.

“So is that a yes?” Her eyes turned bright.

There weren't many things in the world capable of tempting Li Qiye. Moreover, he just needed to put in the effort and pay the price then he could obtain anything. Thus, both peerless treasures and laws weren't enough. However, getting rid of past regrets might be a different story.

"Wouldn't it be too simple if this alone is enough to move me?" He said flatly.

"I'm aware." She nodded: "This is only the first of many things to show that we're sincere. As long as you agree, we can negotiate further."

"No." He shook his head: "Your condition is excellent but it is not enough. My heart is made of steel and has already decided to let the past go. This is inevitable on the journey, whether one is a devil or an immortal, a test that must be overcome."

She understood his point. The overlords and hidden existences in the darkness have experienced this before. Their heart became as hard as steel as a result.

They eventually made different choices on the long path but none wanted to pick up the pieces of the past.

"Fine, let me know your requirements then." She said.

"My demand is not unreasonable, there is only one. I don't need to say it since you already know." He responded before gazing up at the sky. It seemed that he was already standing at the farthest reach.

Her expression became serious since she knew the demand. There was no need for words considering his gaze.