

Emperor 4451

Chapter 4451: Crow

The demon god was captivated by the simple diagram of a crow flapping its wings. Normally, crows were ominous - a sign of bad luck.

They were nothing compared to phoenixes - the kings of birds. He had even experienced the dignified aura of this bloodline before.

Alas, he felt as if the crow depicted in the tablet was actually more magnificent than divine beasts including phoenixes and true dragons.

The world knew that the divine beasts were the noblest and strongest of all creatures due to their inborn advantages. However, this crow was a clear exception in the demon's mind.

"What... is this?" He became emotional and wracked his brains to no avail. He had a good grasp of the various demons but still knew nothing about this crow.

"No records at all..." He then realized that he might be seeing something that he shouldn't.

"A taboo subject?" He shuddered and didn't dare to pry any further.

Certain things in history were considered taboos. Talking about it might result in death and clan destruction.

He wasn't scared of them but still needed to exercise caution for the sake of Dragon.

"Sir, this is the opportunity for immortality?" He asked because the crow diagram was the only hint here.

"You can put it that way." Li Qiye smiled. In his current state, a single thought of his was connected to the myriad dao.

He then activated his aura and became resplendent, shocking the demon god for only a split moment because he suddenly dispersed into particles.

This wasn't because of an external force destroying his body. It turned into countless runes; his body resembled a world of grand dao.

Runes came together to form tiny dao laws; each containing wondrous mysteries. Just one strand would require a lifetime of research.

"Buzz." The tiny laws started flowing towards the slab with the crow. The latter became resplendent as well, seemingly coming back alive.

The laws then entered the crow. This diagram could contain everything, even the profound dao laws stemming from Li Qiye.

"Pop!" The crow eventually became bright enough to force the demon god several steps backward. He had no choice but to close his eyes.

This brilliance only lasted for a split second. Once the demon opened his eyes, Li Qiye and the crow were nowhere to be found. The slab was still there, albeit devoid of content once more.

“They’re gone... So that’s the chance for immortality.” He immediately realized something.

So it turned out that the slab was the door. Entry allowed one to see the true opportunity. Otherwise, it would be impossible to gain access.

He was naturally curious and wanted to enter as well. He took a deep breath and copied Li Qiye, gently rubbing the slab.

His talent was exceptional so he imitated Li Qiye’s rhythm in order to feel the secrets of the slab. He attempted to summon the crow - this must be the key.

Unfortunately, although his action was identical, the diagram didn’t appear for him. He tried several times and eventually gave up.

“It’s not meant to be.” He understood.

Li Qiye had entered another different dimension, one unaffected by time and disturbance.

It seemed to be boundless. Perhaps this was the reason why it gave off an unchanging impression - a sense of being eternal.

However, those at the right level could tell the difference between being eternal and unchanging. Being eternal meant still flowing in the river of time instead of this stagnation.

He reached forward and suddenly, a tree branch emerged. It wasn’t big and had smaller offshoots with few leaves.

Nonetheless, the right experts would be astounded to see it. The branch was golden due to it being created from primordial energy and dao. They contained the very source of the dao within the runes and veins.

In other words, this tiny branch contained everything about numerous grand dao. Of course, it didn’t represent all grand dao, only the sources of certain affinities.

If one could somehow obtain and comprehend these sources, it meant being able to create an eternal lineage. Capable successors, whether tied by blood or not, would always be produced.

As for the few leaves, they contained merit laws far stronger than dao-lord-level ones.

Chapter 4452: Nest

Putting the dao sources aside, the most stirring thing was the bird nest resting on top of the branch.

It was magnificent, even outshining the incredible branch. The disparity was that of a firefly versus the moon.

It released immortal beams into the sky. They then erupted into infernos and released wondrous visual phenomena. It seemed that an immortal world was being open or that an immortal was descending.

Though this dimension was one of stagnation, the beams from the nest became the only thing that could make a difference.

Holy lotuses, deities chanting, divine citizens, the rotations of the worlds and heavens... Moreover, the nest had a special aura that demanded submission and reverence. The myriad realms seemed tiny in comparison.

This could be considered the throne of the universe. All living beings would undergo a pilgrimage to this place.

Those in the know would be shocked to see the materials required - phoenix wood refined by nine-cycle tribulations. The bottom was padded with azure tribulation grass.

These two things were desired by dao lords and even Immortal Emperors. Alas, they never got the chance of obtaining either.

Just one alone was impossible to find yet both materials were found in the same place. In fact, this could drive the lords and emperors crazy enough to risk it all. Either would be considered the greatest of treasure - an heirloom for eras to come.

In this case, they were used to build a simple nest. This might be the most expensive nest in existence.

Most importantly, it seemed to be blessed and protected by the seals and intents of numerous Immortal Emperors.

Because of this, it possessed power beyond imagination while being an unbreakable fortress. The world had a hard time withstanding its sheer weight, hence the special dimension.

The unique materials and the various empowerments elevated the nest into a supreme and inviolable entity. Those who dare to test it would risk destruction.

In a sense, this nest was more than a fortress. It represented authority and sovereignty over the nine worlds.

There was something lying in the nest. However, it has been shielded by the emperors so no one could see its true form. One had to forcefully break through all the seals before earning the privilege.

Li Qiye became rather sentimental while staring at the nest. As time passed, history gained numerous tales and legends.

Once upon a time before this nest, numerous youths ascended to the sky above the nine worlds.

In another era, the appearance of the nest caused quite a stir throughout the realms. During the era of the Ancient Ming, it became the symbol of hope...

Alas, these wondrous tales and characters eventually disappeared among the river of time. Future descendants no longer remembered the names of the brilliant emperors.

The same thing occurred to this nest during the Eight Desolaces Era. No one remembered the nest any longer nor its significance.

Memorable scenes flashed in his mind - a stubborn girl who wouldn't give up cultivating, a kind-hearted boy observing the waves at dawn...

In fact, there were no longer any traces of some of these stories in Eight Desolaces. The flow of time was the only constant, nothing else could last forever with one exception - a dao heart firm enough to withstand the temporal battering.

Li Qiye took a deep breath and stopped thinking. He reached for the nest.

"Boom!" The powers of the nest immediately awakened. Flames rushed for him with enough force to treat all intruders as insects. Visual phenomena accompanied the inferno, ready to obliterate the unwelcomed guest. Imperious auras of Immortal Emperors woke up as well.

Majestic figures could be seen in the inferno; each capable of suppressing everything - Min Ren, Xue Xi, Mu Tian, Hong Tian, Qian Li, and many others...

Their combined might was too much for a single being to handle. This included Li Qiye from an emotional perspective. The eventful years filled with emotions returned, causing him to yearn for the past.

"Buzz." He released his true fate and immortal rays. The dark hand behind the curtains and the ruler of the nine worlds have returned to loom above all else.

As he spread his palm to form a seal, everything came to a halt. Time started reversing back to the past. Images of a youth fighting a dragon, a woman fighting the heaven, a demon wielding lightning itself...

"The unforgettable years..." Li Qiye sighed and murmured. People always harkened back to their golden days when they were vigorous and ambitious. Beautiful memories were difficult to forget.

The seal from his hand moved forward and quelled the inferno. The majestic figures gradually dispersed as well.

Chapter 4453: Dark Crow

The majestic figures of the emperors slowly dispersed just like their memories slowly being buried again in Li Qiye's mind.

These intents and blessings have been guarding this nest for eras now, rendering it impossible for anyone to get close.

Their teamwork was impeccable and frightening. Previous emperors and dao lords couldn't get close despite coming here in person.

Of course, Li Qiye's handwave dispelled the seals because they existed to protect Li Qiye. His true body was here now so there was no need to be activated.

With them gone, the nest became exposed and he could see the thing laying in there - the corpse of a bird. Of course, it was a crow.

If anyone else were to see this, they would find it unfathomable. The nest was made from insane materials. It would be virtually impossible to find a second one in the entire world.

Everyone would think that this place contained some peerless secret or artifact. After all, the materials alone were priceless treasures. Thus, whatever in there must be even more precious, ten or a hundred times greater.

The only plausible answer must have something to do with immortality. In reality, it only had the corpse of a crow.

It didn't look special at all and seemed to be just sleeping in the nest. If one had to pick something, then the feathers were darker and older than most crows. In other words, if normal crows could live for twenty to thirty years, then this one had somehow lived for fifty to sixty years. It gave the impression that it was a spirit or phantom of the night.

It seemingly endured the test of time for millions of years, treating this lengthy period as a mere blink of an eye.

It didn't belong to the nine worlds or the reincarnation cycle. It gave the impression of being separated from all else - an entity unaffected by the laws of the world.

In reality, the state of its existence remained unknown, whether it was sleeping or already dead. Nonetheless, it certainly had peace in this place.

Li Qiye's chest was heaving after seeing the crow since the past rushed back like a storm.

Back in a forgotten era, a crow flew out of Immortal Demon Grotto. It traveled around the nine worlds and ten domains for eras, crossing from one dimension to the next, and creating one miracle after another...

Others knew this being as the Dark Crow. Alas, they didn't know about the soul trapped inside - the true mastermind behind it all. The soul started golden eras, trained unbeatable beings, and created monstrous lineages.

Numerous enemies shuddered in fear after hearing this title. The crow acted as the dark hand behind the curtain, controlling everything in an unstoppable manner.

Dark Crow - a title hated and loved, remembered and feared...

Some cursed it as an ominous entity or a butcher. Its appearance always ended with destruction and massacre. It reigned over others' fate without mercy...

Few viewed it as the protector of the nine worlds - a leader leading many wise sages to battle to stop the Ancient Ming.

If it wasn't for the crow, the nine worlds would have been fully dominated by this race and been subjected to slavery.

This was all in the past now. No one in Eight Desolaces remembered the protector and the butcher. This was because the top masters still alive to this day were either hibernating or keeping their mouth shut about this taboo matter.

Li Qiye picked up the crow. This was once his medium and now, his corpse. Everything started with it.

Later on, he regained his body and the crow disappeared from the river of time. The name, Li Qiye, replaced it.

He gently rubbed the hard feathers. They were tougher than any metal in existence, capable of blocking all attacks. When its wings were fully spread, they would blot out the sky like an iron curtain. Furthermore, they could be used as the sharpest swords as well.

He was overwhelmed with emotions, feeling as if he had returned to the Nine Worlds Epoch. Everything seemed like it was just yesterday. Of course, the reality was that they have turned into smoke. He was but alone.

Chapter 4454: Energy Blade

The crow has certainly left its mark on the last epoch. Even ancient overlords and the rulers of the burial grounds took it quite seriously.

It was older and more frightening than any Immortal Emperor, training invincible cultivators while destroying monstrous lineages. It was the source of numerous legends, albeit they didn't explicitly include the crow.

Alas, nothing lasted forever. The greatest cultivators would still eventually be forgotten.

Li Qiye's recollection started with a young shepherd turning into a crow in Immortal Demon Grotto.

"Old man, looks like you always had this up your sleeve. It has always been here, your death isn't in vain then." Li Qiye sentimentally murmured.

Only he understood this sentence. The other person who could understand was no longer alive.

He took a deep breath and channeled a merit law with a mudra. True chaos energy engulfed the area and started deriving the grand dao.

"Buzz." Black rays emanated from the crow as a result. They have been accumulated through eras and had enough power to pierce the sky vault. Runes appeared within the rays and turned them into chains - tiny yet unbreakable.

A bright radiance appeared on the crow's forehead. Despite being small, it was actually larger than the nine worlds.

It didn't contain life but rather - endless time. This was the light of worlds, as eternal as can be. In other words, possessing it meant having eternal life. This wasn't quite immortality but the owner could live as long as heaven itself.

Li Qiye's eyes narrowed as he used his immortal energy. He closed his hand and started refining the various affinities, even the elusive power of tribulations. Thus, all powers in history have been condensed into his fingertip.

He created a blade of energy, only three inches long but capable of penetrating everything. Even the laws and cycles of the world wouldn't be able to endure its destruction.

Now that he had the right weapon, his cutting movement was at the apogee level. Its profundity couldn't be described by words.

"Clank! Clank! Clank!" The chains sealing the crow were being cut by a combination of perfect sharpness and precision. They fell apart with no signs of being cut as if the two ends were separated naturally, not by an external force.

As more chains went down, the radiance in the crowd's forehead became increasingly brighter and larger - the same with the inner world.

He took a deep breath and released a flood of primordial chaos energy. The rays seemed to be of the immortal level. His body became the ruler of the ages and the source of everything. Even planets were tiny in comparison.

If outsiders were somehow here, they would be fully suppressed by his activated state, unable to stop themselves from trembling.

He became the sole true immortal in existence. His one thought could destroy or create an epoch.

He then cut the crow's forehead with lightning speed. One could even hear a soft sound of bone breaking as he cut through it completely.

"Boom!" Time exploded from the radiance and poured out. It had accumulated for too many years, from the past all the way to the future. Thus, this temporal flood encompassed untold devastation.

It struck Li Qiye's immortal rays and actually managed to with them. Fortunately, his primordial chaos laws were able to slow down the flood.

"Zzz." Alas, they were decaying as well.

Chapter 4455: Seed

The area became enriched with primordial laws and powers. These were the strongest and most eternal affinities. Alas, the temporal flood still withered them.

It contained the power of billions of years all focused on the same target. The transformations of the worlds happened in the blink of an eye. This could make oceans turn into mulberry fields in an instant. A dao lord here would be reduced to dust, unable to resist this temporal force.

The primordial laws continued to heal and rebuild themselves. Alas, the other side attacked relentlessly. They couldn't handle the withering and started to crack.

"Boom!" This gave room for the flood to strike Li Qiye directly.

"Activate!" He was prepared and roared, turning his body into an immortal fortress containing all the laws. In fact, calling it a primordial cosmo wasn't an exaggeration.

The flood immediately entered his cosmic form. Despite its colossal size, it was still being affected by the withering force of time intending on reducing it to a speck of dust.

Li Qiye channeled his immortal rays internally in order to sweep away the invasion. The rays contained boundless life force and slowly healed the rotting areas.

Alas, the temporal flood seemed to have taken roots in his body and continued an unending cycle.

He saw the past again, albeit unwillingly - bringing a hot-blooded youth around the world, seeking a fortune for a young lady, burying one friend after another...

This process continued again and again until it brought in the power of karma. The karmic tribulation of the massacres carried out when he was the Dark Crow joined the power of time.

“Sever!” His true fate joined the battle and started eradicating the karmic tribulation.

Finally, radiance took over his internal body and turned it into an immortal world.

“Crack!” His energy blade cut through the crow’s forehead. The light in there dispersed and something rolled out into his palm.

He took a look and saw that it was a seed. Yes, a seed around the size of a finger with a gray hue.

Just like the nest and the crow, it appeared regular at first. However, only the strongest characters would be able to see a particular ray circling around the seed. This wasn’t always present since it pulsed in and out of existence continuously.

Noticing this was akin to being on the river of time, surrounded by loneliness and silence. In the duality between eternity and ephemeral pulsing, one could suddenly sense an opportunity to grasp everlasting life. The ongoing pulse gave the best glimpse into what would be construed as everlasting life.

“Everlasting life, coveted by all.” Li Qiye sentimentally commented. He was too familiar with this feeling in the past.

“Old man, it had to happen. It would be too unfair if you had immortality as well. It’s just that your gamble was too risky.” He said while staring at the seed.

He knew what the old man wanted to do. Unfortunately, the latter couldn’t control everything.

In the beginning, he thought that he could control the Dark Crow. Alas, his puppet managed to sever all ties and escape the control of the grotto. The thing he didn’t take into account was Li Qiye’s immovable dao heart.

The old man expended untold efforts and resources in order to create an everlasting crow. This was another way to return to the world. Alas, all of these calculations were in vain since Li Qiye eventually gained complete freedom. Because of this, the grotto failed during the final attack. Its ace card was already gone.

Now, Li Qiye had in his hand a legend coveted by all cultivators. Most importantly, it used to be his companion for a long time and helped him accomplish many things.

Though his dao heart was unique, it wasn’t enough to let him walk on the dao path forever without the seed.

“Old man, close your eyes and rest. Though I do not inherit your will, feel free to watch my next move.” Li Qiye smiled.

Having said that, he put away the seed. He glanced at the crow in the nest and this world one last time before leaving.

Everything started here and this was the final ark for the Dark Crow. From now on, it began with Li Qiye.

Chapter 4456: Leaving

After returning from Ravaged Land, Li Qiye summoned the members of Little Diamond.

“Go back from whence you came.” He ordered.

“Sect Master...” Elder Hu and the other disciples were unwilling but they still bowed.

“I’m no longer your sect master, our ties end here. You all can decide on the next sect master later.” He smiled and shook his head.

Little Diamond was only one stop along the way. There was no reluctance and hesitation in leaving. It was time for him to leave Southern Desolace.

Little Diamond didn’t feel the same way. Li Qiye was their hope and star. Losing him was a heavy loss.

“Wh-who should we pick then?” Elder Hu had a hard time reacting.

“Let the sect decide.” He casually said.

“How about...” Elder Hu was experienced enough to come up with a plan. His eyes darted towards Wang Weiqiao.

His bold idea was to let Wang Weiqiao become their next sect master. Although the old man wasn’t strong right now, he had plenty of potential being Li Qiye’s only disciple.

“Weiqiao will follow me to train.” Li Qiye said.

“I understand.” Elder Hu bowed again and became emotional: “We hope to see you again, Sect Master.”

The other disciples bowed as well. At first, they had no love for this sect master who came out of nowhere.

However, as they spent time together, they truly benefitted from his presence. Their horizon broadened during the trip. Moreover, Li Qiye has become the pillar of their sect so they considered him a close senior.

Even a fool could tell that they might not be able to see him again after this departure. Thus, they tried their best to express their gratitude for what he had done.

“Don’t worry, Sir. As long as Dragon is here, Little Diamond will be just fine.” Nine-tailed God interjected.

The members of Little Diamond were moved and bowed again. This promise was truly significant.

Prior to this, Little Diamond had no chance of interacting with Dragon, let alone a legendary figure like the demon god. Now, they have just gained an incredible backer due to this promise. This was also because of Li Qiye.

“It’s time to leave.” Li Qiye told Wang Weiqiao and the rest of the group.

Jian Qingzhu came closer and bowed: "Sir, I do not know how I can ever repay you. If you ever need my service in the future, just say the word."

Goldbird Monarch also did the same. Li Qiye was the reason why he became the sect master of Dragon.

"I wonder when I'll be able to meet you again, Sir." Nine-tailed God also bid farewell by bowing.

"I'll be staying at Sky Border for a bit so leave it to fate." Li Qiye smiled.

"Sir, please let me know if I can be of service later." The demon god said. He naturally knew that although Sky Border was large, it wasn't enough to hold Li Qiye back forever.

Everyone wanted to see him off but he refused. In the end, only the demon god had the privilege of tagging along for a bit longer.

"Sir, may I ask where you are heading to?" The demon god asked.

"Somewhere in Inner Ruins." Li Qiye gazed at the horizon.

"Inner Ruins? That is a long journey then." He said.

Inner Ruins was the most mysterious region in Sky Border. It had numerous strange phenomena and legends. It hasn't been fully mapped out yet.

"Life is a long journey." Li Qiye chuckled.

"Indeed." The demon god knew the arduous path ahead for cultivators.

"May I ask for your purpose?" He continued.

"To grab something and settle a matter." Li Qiye responded. He paused for a bit then said: "Expect the unexpected, the cycle will continue and men do not triumph over calamities."

This casual advice took the demon god like a storm.

"I will take this to heart, Sir." He calmed down and bowed while feeling anxious. He had a terrible premonition and wanted to go prepare for the worst.

"You can't see us off forever, go back." Li Qiye said.

"Goodbye, Sir. I truly hope we can meet again." The demon god responded and watched the duo disappear into the horizon.

"Master, how should I train during our trip?" Wang Weiqiao asked along the way. He knew that it was not time to relax.

"What are you missing?" Li Qiye answered with a question.

"Well..." Weiqiao pondered and said: "My cultivation is shallow, the same with my knowledge. I suppose I am missing many things."

“You’re correct, but the things you’re missing the most right now are experience and practice.” Li Qiye said.

“Right.” Weiqiao agreed. Though he was the oldest member of Little Diamond, he had no experience in the cultivation world until Li Qiye came along.

“So what should I do then, Master?” Weiqiao asked again.

“Are you prepared to face death during your training?” Li Qiye stared at him.

“Face death?” Weiqiao shuddered.

Little Diamond was a tiny sect with no methods and treasures for life prolongment. An ordinary disciple like him living for so long was already impressive. Nonetheless, having to face death was still daunting.

“I’ve thought of this before, Master.” Weiqiao said softly: “I have no problem dying a natural death since I’ve been blessed with longevity already. But to die in battle or a disaster? I’m just a worm in the grand scheme of things and am not mentally prepared.”

Chapter 4457: Life Or Death Situations

Death was unavoidable for all living beings. Wang Weiqiao’s answer wasn’t unreasonable. Since he lived far longer than mortals and the average disciples, he had no problem accepting his mortality from old age.

However, to suddenly face unexpected and traumatic death? He felt fear and was not ready for this.

“Facing death is a way to test your dao heart. Nothing else carries the same gravity.” Li Qiye stared at him and said.

“I see.” He naturally understood this comment.

“It’s fine to be attached to life, that’s absolutely understandable. On the other hand, it’s also pitiful and blameworthy.” Li Qiye went on.

“Could you elaborate?” He asked.

Li Qiye looked towards the horizon and explained: “Being attached to life makes one enthusiastic about the world, a source of motivation. If you don’t care for your own life, then there’s nothing else you will care for.”

“Right.” Weiqiao agreed.

“But if you have lived long enough, being too attached to life can be a source of calamity for others.” Li Qiye went on.

“Hmm...” Weiqiao found this surprising.

“Once someone has lived long enough, they will have also gained ample power. Thus, for the sake of surviving, they might do anything to live. In the end, they might go as far as destroying the world they love to live longer.”

Weiqiao was moved to hear this.

An attachment to life bred motivation but also destruction - a double-edged blade. With time, the latter became rather likely.

“Because of this, you need to experience facing death.” Li Qiye elaborated: “Not only would this improve your cultivation and foundation, but it’ll also give you a clearer perspective on life. After several experiences, you will know what you want.”

“Master, I’m afraid that I can’t live up to your expectations.” Weiqiao said.

“Only time can tell. If you don’t wish to ruin yourself, you need to be resolute and courageously continue forward.” Li Qiye said.

“I understand.” Weiqiao memorized his teaching.

“We’re going.” Li Qiye grabbed the old man and crossed through space.

Inner Ruins was massive; few could see all of its mysteries. This didn’t stop the duo from reaching a desolate area protected by a mysterious force. No one else could come here.

There seemed to be no end in sight in this void expanse. There were floating continents; some were destroyed and reduced to large boulders. The lucky ones were completely intact with a strong life force. A few became dangerous grounds resembling hell...

“We’re here. Leave.” Li Qiye stared at the expanse and said.

Weiqiao had no idea where he was. Though he was weak, he instantly recognized the perilous nature of this area. There were too many hidden dangers to count.

He also got the feeling that numerous eyes were staring at them from the shadows. They belonged to creatures eager of leaping out and eating them.

“Where is this place, Master?” He took a deep breath and asked softly.

“Inner Ruins.” Li Qiye casually answered.

“How will I find you, Master?” Weiqiao inquired.

“No need to say goodbye. Walk your own path and become a mighty tree. Being under my protection will limit your growth, you’ll amount to nothing.” Li Qiye smiled.

“I see, I will try my best and not let you down, Master.” Weiqiao became emotional and bowed.

“No, do it for yourself, not for me. Cultivation is a personal pursuit. Find out what it is that you seek.” Li Qiye continued.

“I will remember this.” Weiqiao bowed again.

“Go now, there is a long path ahead, we’ll meet again.” Li Qiye waved his hand.

“I’m leaving, Master.” Weiqiao bowed again, not truly wanting to leave. Nonetheless, he got up and turned away.

“I’ll see you off.” Li Qiye chuckled and kicked the old man.

“Bam!” Weiqiao flew like a meteor towards the horizon while screaming: “Ahh!”

“Boom!” Eventually, he landed and rolled on the ground.

It took a while before he stopped seeing stars. He strugglingly got up from being dizzy.

Suddenly, his mind became focused again due to a thick stench in the wind.

“Creak-” Something heavy was moving ahead.

He looked up and saw a moving hill. No, it turned out to be a massive insect with countless legs. Its carapace seemed to be made of rocks. It slowly crawled out of the ground with eyes larger than lanterns. This was the source of the stench.

“Shit...” Weiqiao immediately fled.

The insect roared and headed for Weiqiao. Its sharp legs cut through the ground, leaving behind numerous cracks.

Weiqiao ran for his life, crossing through the maze-like terrains in order to avoid the attack. He completely forgot about the whole training with facing death. The only thing on his mind was to get away from this creature.

Meanwhile, Li Qiye observed the chase with a smirk on his face. He then looked up and said: “Show yourself.”

Bright ripples appeared above, akin to an elephant walking into the water. There was something large hiding above.

Sure enough, a monstrous creature appeared with a billowing aura. It had tried its best to hide this frightening aura to no avail.

Despite its world-devouring nature, it looked rather obedient before Li Qiye.

“Greetings, Sir. I am a member of the burial ground.” It landed on the continent and bowed.

Others might not know about Li Qiye but this thing certainly did. It was facing a true monster capable of crushing it with no problem at all.

“You’ve been following us since Little Diamond.” Li Qiye smiled.

“I didn’t dare to act on my own volition without your permission, Sir. Please forgive me if I had offended you.” The creature said.

“It’s fine.” Li Qiye waved his hand: “You harbored no nefarious intent so there is no fault. Your ancestor stuck to his words so I will keep an eye on his descendants. His investment was not in vain.”

“The ancestor had mentioned you to us before, that if we see you, we must treat you with the same level of respect as we do him.” The creature hurriedly said.

Chapter 4458: The Legend

“Hmm, not bad. Looks like he knows how to educate his descendants.” Li Qiye chuckled.

“Sir, we have benefited from your benevolence.” The creature said: “We wouldn’t be able to see the sun without your help.”

“I had nothing to do with it. Your old man toiled for it while risking his life.” Li Qiye responded.

“The ancestor has never forgotten your deed.” The creature continued.

“Hmm, looks like he has benefited greatly in order to still live in this epoch. Truly a miracle.” Li Qiye sentimentally said.

“Yes, the ancestor said that when you opened the world and created a new dao method, he had a great harvest. This is the same for us as well.” The creature elaborated.

“It was just an even exchange.” Li Qiye didn’t take credit but this didn’t diminish the creature’s reverence towards him.

In reality, this creature could be considered a supreme in Eight Desolaces. Nonetheless, it assumed the role of a junior because this was indeed the case. Li Qiye was a special existence.

Moreover, their ancestor had stressed this time and time again - to never cross Li Qiye. It didn’t know the details of the deal between its ancestor and Li Qiye. This was an epoch-level transaction beyond the reach of the descendants.

Nonetheless, it had a pretty good guess considering historical events, hence its wholehearted respect.

“Sir, would you like to visit our abode? The ancestor will be ecstatic to see you.” It invited Li Qiye.

“No. There’s no need to bother the old man and make him climb out. When I actually need something, I’ll let him know then.” Li Qiye said.

“Rest assured, Sir, we will do anything you ask of us.” The creature said.

“Ancient” was not enough to describe their lineage. They had enough strength to shake all of Eight Desolaces.

However, they remained reclusive and rarely interfered with the outside world. Alas, they would participate once more if Li Qiye so desired.

“I appreciate his enthusiasm.” Li Qiye accepted the sentiment. He then stared deeper into the region and murmured: “Years went by so quickly yet he is still alive. It must have been difficult.”

“The ancestor once drank a special medicine.” The creature revealed to Li Qiye a well-guarded secret. Few in their lineage knew about it but it still told Li Qiye.

“He said that due to your involvement, the circumstances became right for the medicine to form. Otherwise, he would have been dead long ago.” It continued.

“He’s quite lucky. The perfect circumstances still aren’t enough for some medicines since the villainous heaven might not permit.” Li Qiye smiled.

The medicine in this case was forbidden. Finishing it meant facing a heavenly tribulation. Thus, even the old man didn't dare to do so. However, the circumstances became perfect with the great calamity, hence his success.

"It was due to your help, Sir." The creature said. It didn't know the alchemy process but the ancestor had asked Li Qiye for help before.

Li Qiye chuckled and shifted his focus elsewhere. His eyes became bright as he scanned all of Inner Ruins. He then commented: "This desolate land contains countless heavenly essences."

"Yes." The creature smiled wryly: "I still don't have a full grasp of its actual size. We're not the only lineage here either."

"They haven't died completely and decided to hide here." Li Qiye understood.

"I've heard that there are lineages even older than us. During the great calamity, some got lucky and obtained some ancient sources..." It said.

"To put it bluntly, they got some corpses and get to live a bit longer, it's nothing worthy of pride." Li Qiye said.

"You're right, Sir." It didn't dare to look down on the other lineages, unlike Li Qiye: "We only occupy one corner of Inner Ruins."

"It's fine, your old man likes to play it safe. This is the right way, know when to push and when to back off. Those who aren't smart enough will face my wrath." Li Qiye casually said.

The creature became startled since it understood the implication. There were other lineages just as strong as theirs right now in Inner Ruins. Their great ancestor might not be able to sweep through Inner Ruins.

However, Li Qiye made it sound so easy. Others might attribute this to arrogance and ignorance. Of course, it knew better than to underestimate Li Qiye.

This character might be the most terrifying and strongest being in Eight Desolaces right now. He could actually flatten Inner Ruins.

"You are invincible, Sir." It sincerely said. Though it seemed to be at the top of the food chain, it knew that they haven't come close to reaching Li Qiye's level.

"Let's not dwell on this issue. I'm here for one thing." Li Qiye changed the topic.

"The thing from back then." It finally understood Li Qiye's goal.

"Yes, your old man knows." Li Qiye smiled.

The creature politely said: "I heard about this from the ancestor before but nothing specific. We don't dare to inquire without permission and have been waiting for you."

In reality, they all coveted this item - something peerless enough to tempt the eternal existences. Their branch had ample information about it but they didn't dare to push the issue.

First, they didn't know whether they could obtain it or not. Second, and most importantly, the thing already had an owner. Sharing was not an option - their ancestor had warned.

Chapter 4459: The Thing

"It's fine to explore and search, it doesn't make a difference." Li Qiye said.

There was already an agreement between him and the old ghost. A pact between characters like them was eternal. Millions of years could pass but they were eternal overlords. There was no time limit to the pact.

Thus, the parties' lineages were constrained by the clauses. It's just that the descendants didn't know about the exact details.

"I understand." The creature bowed again.

It was one of the rare beings who knew about the peerless item. However, it harbored no intention of taking it from Li Qiye. The consequence would be unthinkable; even their lineage would be affected.

In fact, if it had tried to do anything, its ancestor would be the first one to kill it for being unfilial. Moreover, the pact was actually more important since it was a promise of prosperity. Their lineage would continue to prosper during this epoch.

"We never dared to think about the item but we can assist you in finding it, Sir." The creature said. This was an order given by its ancestor.

"No need, you all don't have the right conditions to leave yet, the restraint for your lineage is still there. Doing so will be detrimental so don't rally them." Li Qiye refused: "Plus, it might be rather close, it won't be hard for me to get it."

"I understand, I will relay your message to everyone." The creature said.

Li Qiye then looked around again for a bit before speaking: "Your old man isn't doing well, he's gasping for air."

"Well, I do not dare to speculate the ancestor's plans. I just know that there are still shadows looming over our world, not only from the other lineages but mysterious things." The creature said.

"Mysterious things." Li Qiye chuckled and started observing again.

"I won't come to any hasty conclusion, I just have the feeling that there are still things outside of this world, always spying on us. It might just be pessimism but one day, the races of Eight Desolaces and even my lineage might become food." It was worried about this matter.

Due to its powerful cultivation, it could sense things that others couldn't. Alas, it had too many constraints and couldn't explore any further.

"They still haven't given up." Li Qiye stroked his chin and smirked.

This smirk naturally frightened the creature since Li Qiye looked like a beast searching for the next prey, eager to reveal its fangs.

Then, it saw Li Qiye's eyes and realized that Li Qiye was actually looking at something. It wasn't just imagining things.

They were considered untouchable existences but Li Qiye could easily devour them, not leaving a single bone behind. Violating Li Qiye's domain meant a death without a burial regardless of the mysterious beings' power.

"Years aren't enough to kill ambition. They still think that they're rulers. How foolish." The smirk gradually disappeared off his face.

The creature no longer dared to talk, thinking that others should be smart enough to stay hidden. Otherwise, they would die a terrible death for provoking Li Qiye.

"This is just a speculation of mine, nothing more." It elaborated.

"It has nothing to do with you." Li Qiye smiled: "They're delusional. Just because they had grasped their own epoch, they believe that they can return to this one too."

He paused for a bit before continuing: "They didn't even have the courage to fight against the heaven. It doesn't matter how strong they are, they're still cowards. If they don't hide in their shell this time, I'll show them a horrific end."

The creature rebled after hearing this. He was indeed a being above their level right now - someone who had fought the heaven and still returned alive, retaining his power and freedom.

In fact, he was the lord of this epoch. Those who wanted to take advantage of the situation would be suicidal, akin to a mortal challenging a primordial beast.

"Your old man is wise." Li Qiye suddenly commented: "Your lineage has been quite fortunate thanks to the karma accumulated by him. Try and enjoy it instead of making stupid mistakes, he won't be able to save you all then."

"I will remember your guidance, Sir." The creature bowed.

"I'm leaving now but I'll visit the old man when I have time." Li Qiye smiled.

"Have a good trip, Sir. And your disciple?" The creature asked.

"Let him taste some hardship here for training." Li Qiye waved his hand and then disappeared from sight.

Chapter 4460: Inner Ruins

Inner Ruins, true to its name, was located in the center of Sky Border. The character for "Ruins" had many interpretations.

For example, some believed that these ruins have been here since time antiquity. Another merely focused on its massive size instead, and that it had much more than just the ruins. [1]

Regardless of the answer, no one had a problem with this title. They also had no idea about the actual size of this place.

Cultivators have explored the world due to their increased mobility. Of course, this didn't take into account the dangerous areas as the forbidden zones. Moreover, the long history of the epoch also helped.

Lineages had a perfect map of their own territory. This wasn't the case for Inner Ruins.

The place remained relatively unknown. Top masters explored it and found that it was a separate world, one that was broken.

Thus, sad scenes could be seen here - ravaged lands and rivers, broken space...

One theory stated that this destruction wasn't due to a direct attack. It most likely originated from what was known as the great calamity.

Evil and disasters took over. It wasn't until top masters swept through them and re-created the world, resulting in Eight Desolaces.

To expand on this, some believed that their current world used to be unstable, floating continents. Dao lords and the wise sages had to remake and shape them again, allowing enough stability for life to prosper.

However, they seemed to have forgotten about one area - Inner Ruins. In a sense, this was a remnant of the great calamity.

Despite its ravaged nature, one would be mistaken to say that it was abandoned. There were many mysterious lineages with incredible powers.

If one of their disciples were to roam the world, they would shock everyone, dao lords included.

The age of these lineages was incredible. One phrase stated that they were older than the start of the world. Of course, this was rather exaggerated but it still hit the right chords.

Timeworn, Immortal Lake, God Peak... These were familiar yet strange titles - the names of the immemorial lineages.

Most youths have never heard of them before but their seniors certainly did. If someone from these sects were to come out, even True Immortal Sect or Lion's Roar would be alarmed.

Currently, Three Thousand Dao, True Immortal, and Lion's Roar were often named as the top lineages in Eight Desolaces.

Alas, these immemorial lineages might be on par. There was no way to adequately judge their true power.

Another name was often brought up by the big shots from the previous generation - Void Zone. This was a location that even dao lords refrained from commenting on it.

It had numerous legends. One stated that it was a paradise full of wondrous vegetation and metals. Another said that it was an ancient lineage with numerous members.

All in all, the best way to explain it was to say that even Blessed Dao Lord would tread carefully when dealing with Void Zone.

Its location remained unknown, only theorized that the entrance was hidden in Inner Ruins.

Because of the perils hidden in Inner Ruins, not even dao lords wanted to start a sect here. However, the outer regions were full of people and sects.

This was because it took up so much land. The outer region didn't belong to any of the main continents.

Thus, it was fine for cultivators to divide them up and start sects there. Numerous smaller sects existed in the outskirts. Of course, some lineages older than any found in Eight Desolaces were here as well.

Smoke and the cries of livestock could be heard in a small village outside of Inner Ruins. Next to it was a prosperous city.

The outskirts seemed like a different world compared to the broken Inner Ruins. Nonetheless, some areas shared the same ruinous state - pagoda and great walls have been reduced to bricks and infested with weeds.

Li Qiye came to the outer region afterward instead of visiting another continent. He focused on the scattered ruins.

The world didn't know of their significance but he stopped every once in a while. Memories resurfaced because some of these places were personally built by him. Others served as temporary homes or battlefields...

The fall of the Nine Worlds Epoch left them devastated. The strongest sects and unbreakable fortresses couldn't survive the calamity.

His goal was to find a peerless item buried deep underground, virtually impossible to find. Alas, he wasn't in a rush since this was his time to reminisce.

After a long trek early morning, he finally stopped and took his time at a tattered area.