

Emperor 4491

Chapter 4491: Sharp Tongue

Everyone knew that Three Thousand Dao had members all over the world. Offending them in Sky Border was a foolish endeavor.

Lotus Young Noble was far from being a big shot. Nonetheless, he still enjoyed special treatments at all the great powers during his travel.

As the saying goes - one might not care for the monk but still be considerate of Buddha. In this case, no one wanted to offend Lotus Young Noble because of his sect.

As the direct successor of an elder, he was still among the upper ranks of the young generation there.

“You have a death wish, brat?” Lotus Young Noble’s eyes flashed with murderous intent.

“Know your place, tuck your tail between your legs if you want to live a little longer.” Li Qiye chuckled and shook his head.

Listeners couldn’t believe it. Disciples of Three Thousand Dao certainly had enemies. Alas, these enemies usually exercised restraint instead of going to the extreme.

“Did you hear that? Our young noble has spoken.” Jian Ming became audacious like a dog barking on its home turf. He raised his voice: “Tuck your tail between your legs or you’ll wish for death. Wait, no, an insignificant shrimp like you isn’t worth our young noble’s time. He’ll end you with one slap.”

“Scram already!” He then posed aggressively just like an evil servant with a powerful master, seemingly ready to give the youth a good beating.

“Is he insane?” Spectators exchanged glances after seeing this development. They felt second-hand embarrassment for Jian Ming putting up this unbearable sycophantic act, standing up for his master. Such a dog needed to be slapped and put down.

On the other hand, the daoist thought that Jian Ming was purposely provoking Lotus Young Noble. Did he want to kill the brat and then drag Three Thousand Dao down as well?

As for Wise Ancestor, he didn’t know whether to laugh or cry. Normally, he would be slapping the youth already. Unfortunately, Jian Ming was standing up for Li Qiye so he wasn’t in a position to reprimand him.

“Isn’t that brat a member of the four great clans? Why is he so uncouth?” Some in the audience recognized him.

“Is he not afraid of his clans being destroyed by Three Thousand Dao?” Another wondered.

“The brat’s mouth is always this foul, I just didn’t expect him to not hold back against a behemoth.” A member of a great power replied, seemingly eager to watch someone else suffer.

Fury burned in the eyes of Lotus Young Noble. At the start, he was only slightly angered but now, he truly wanted to kill.

“Ignorant fool, today will be your last!” He gritted his teeth and threatened: “If I don’t flay your skin, rip your tendons, and eat your blood...”

“Yeah, yeah.” Jian Ming interrupted him and smirked: “Don’t you know that more often than not, dogs who bark the most don’t bite? I sincerely advise you, and note, this might be the most valuable piece of advice you will ever receive in your entire life, be smart and scam right now. Our young noble does not go as far as to beat a drowning dog.”

Listeners knew that these sarcastic remarks would infuriate any cultivator, let alone someone from a prestigious background such as Three Thousand Dao.

“This is like burying someone alive, it’s tough to watch.” The daoist murmured to himself: “This brat is ruthless.”

Jian Ming heard him and whispered back: “You’re no better, you stole from them and now, you’re trying to hide behind our young noble and involving him. It’s just that he is kind enough not to punish you.”

“Uh, that’s not what’s going on here...” The daoist smiled wryly.

Meanwhile, Lotus found the humiliation and disdain more and more unacceptable.

“State your name before I obliterate you! Which sect are you from?!” He roared but still refrained from attacking Jian Ming without warning.

“I never hide who I am, my last name is Jian.” Jian Ming strongly responded: “Don’t be mistaken that only your sect can be imperious as if everyone else in the world are your grandchildren. Three Thousand Dao is not number one. In terms of power, True Immortal and Lion’s Roar are just as strong. If you want to prove me wrong, go to the Divine Ancestral Temple and shout a few words there, I’ll be utterly convinced then. Otherwise, stop thinking that you’re the best.”

“He’s kinda right.” At first, listeners thought that Jian Ming was courting death but now, they somewhat agreed with the sentiment.

The members of the behemoths always acted haughtily and thought that they were superior to everyone else. This included just the average disciple from these sects.

Lotus Young Noble’s arrogance naturally annoyed everyone. If he was actually capable, he should go prove himself by acting all that at the Ancestral Divine Temple, being just as prideful in front of a superior entity.

Of course, the youth would never do that. He would lower his head and bow like a grandchild.

The temple served as the place of enlightenment for the Supreme Monarch. Not to mention him, even their progenitor, Dao Sanqian, wouldn’t dare to be haughty there.

Wise ancestor shook his head but didn’t interfere since Li Qiye was giving implicit permission.

“Fool, I won’t only cut you to pieces today but my sect will also annihilate your clan! The authority of Three Thousand Dao isn’t to be challenged by the likes of you!” Lotus could stand this no longer.

Chapter 4492: Ancestor In Action

"I'm quaking in my boots right now." Jian Ming sneered: "Whatever will we do? Oh no, the end of our clans, we won't have anywhere to go."

Lotus Young Noble started trembling with rage, wanting nothing more than to take down the contemptuous group.

"Come, I will kill you within three moves." His rage made weaker cultivators tremble.

Jian Ming decided to move back behind Li Qiye and smiled: "Bring it, our young noble and ancestor can send you flying with ease."

His shamelessness only earned him the crowd's disdain. Conflicts were commonplace in the cultivation world.

However, arguments usually resulted in a fight, not one party backing off and hiding like a cowardly turtle.

Nonetheless, Jian Ming didn't care what others thought of him and continued to hide.

"Fine, I will kill your young noble and ancestor first before torturing you!" Lotus has completely lost his cool and began attacking Li Qiye.

"Send him away." Li Qiye showed zero interest in the attacker.

"Die!" The youth roared and activated his impressive and pure nobility. This was because of his background and its mighty merit laws.

"Buzz." Lotus flowers blossomed beneath him with blade-like rays. They started spreading to the water itself and emitted a chilling air.

He was a demon lotus at first, eventually entering the path of the dao after being enlightened by his master.

"Splash!" Thick and long vines rushed out of the water, each was as hard as a steel rod.

"Rumble!" The vines whipped downward with considerable force, capable of pulverizing the flesh and bones.

"No big deal." Wise Ancestor commented and joined the fray.

"Clank!" He flicked his finger and sent out a wave of saber energy. It flashed brightly and froze the water around them. The vines were severed so they immediately withered.

Despite the decline of the four clans, he was still a mighty ancestor. He wouldn't be able to compete against an ancestor from Three Thousand Dao. However, Lotus Young Noble was only a regular disciple. The actual gap between the two combatants was immense.

Just the ancestor's energy alone was enough to stop the youth's technique, causing him to stagger several steps backward.

His expression soured, realizing that he has messed with the wrong people. He had zero chance of winning against Wise Ancestor.

He spewed those aggressive threats earlier out of blind rage and didn't think it through. The first exchange made him realize the difficult situation.

"I am a disciple of an elder from Three Thousand Dao!" He calmed down quite a bit but alas, running was not an option. That would ruin his sect's reputation; how would he be able to answer to his peers and seniors?

"I'm aware. I'll spare you if you can stop three moves." Wise said flatly.

Normally, ancestors would not fight against juniors due to the optics. Of course, they wouldn't show mercy after the start of the fight.

Now, Lotus had stated his sect and backer again. This was obviously a warning - killing him meant provoking Three Thousand Dao.

This was enough to deter others from doing anything. After all, killing an elder's disciple without just cause was not acceptable. Most ancestors would wisely drop the issue.

In this case, Li Qiye had given the order and Wise didn't care about offending Three Thousand Dao.

"Three moves..." The youth's expression darkened while containing both frustration and rage. This was his first time experiencing something so humiliating. He felt like an insect in comparison. Alas, Wise had shown his strength and he didn't know whether he could withstand three moves.

"Didn't someone talk about destroying our clans earlier? You should apologize now." Jian Ming couldn't keep his mouth shut.

The youth's rage ignited again after hearing this. He roared and said: "Three moves? Bring it then! And it's not hard for our invincible sect to destroy your clan. Just one ancestor is more than enough!"

"Hmph, bold words." Wise became annoyed after hearing the repeated threats about clan annihilation: "Start."

"Die!" The youth no longer cared about who he was facing since he had no choice but to fight.

"Boom!" Energy flowers around him became resplendent. The petals turned into blades and issued metallic clanks.

They flew upward and became massive. Thousands of flower blades whirled into a single beam and descended downward.

Wise waved his hand and released another vertical slash. He still hasn't used his weapon.

"Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!" The flower blades suddenly spread apart and turned into a net, fully surrounding the sky above the group and wanting to turn them into sieves.

The youth tried to get Wise to pull back his attack in order to defend his allies. Alas, the entrapment didn't perturb Wise in the slightest.

Chapter 4493: Azure Assault

Wise simply raised his hand and released rays of energy this time like a peacock spreading its wings, easily stabilizing the situation.

Lotus Young Noble's sudden shifting technique was impressive but the difference in power was overwhelming.

"Boom!" The petal blades were instantly destroyed while remnant rays forced the youth backward once more.

Anyone could see that he was no match for Wise Ancestor despite his considerable talent. From start to finish, the ancestor has yet to use his weapon. If he were serious, the youth might die from a single slash.

"My turn." Wise narrowed his eyes. Though he has yet to activate his aura, just his expression alone made others shudder and feel an immense pressure on their chest.

The youth got chills as well, not expecting the situation to develop in this manner. He thought that these clans were too insignificant to dare oppose him.

During a conflict, these clans should be trying their best to appease him. Moreover, they were in the wrong for insulting Three Thousand Dao. Alas, Wise Ancestor seemed keen on backing up his own people instead of apologizing to him. This might end with his death.

Spectators exchanged glances. This was a rather rare occasion, backing one's own members against Three Thousand Dao.

"Prepare yourself." Wise warned and gave the youth a chance. After all, it was an unfair fight.

"Fine!" The youth couldn't back off any longer. Plus, in the back of his mind, he didn't think that Wise Ancestor would actually dare to kill him.

"Boom!" He released his vitality. It manifested into an azure beam and tore the sky vault like a divine sword.

He floated upward and seemingly became empowered by a god. Though the beam wasn't that large in size, it still intimidated the crowd.

"Azure Assault. This is one of the three thousand dao created by the dao progenitor!" An expert bellowed after seeing this.

Three thousand dao reaching for immortality - this was the most accurate description of Dao Sanqian - a supreme monster. The name alone instilled fear into all of Sky Border for eras now.

Dao Sanqian served as both his title and achievements. Rumor has it that he created three thousand special dao and started an impressive lineage.

Countless experts and masters have been trained by him. Some thought that it was disrespectful to address him by his title. Thus, they chose to call him dao progenitor instead.

Once again, he wasn't a supreme genius but being able to cultivate this art was a testament to his skill.

Of course, he was far from mastering this dao but the spectacle still shook the crowd. This particular dao lived up to its fame.

“What a great grand dao. Unfortunately, you have a superficial knowledge of it.” Wise Ancestor commented.

“Try then, I can block three moves for sure!” The dao empowerment also boosted the youth’s courage.

“You do have a backbone.” Wise smiled and channeled his saber dao.

The experts nearby were curious about this ancestor’s saber art.

“Splash!” Suddenly, a massive shadow leaped out of the water.

It was none other than a dragon appearing above the youth. It opened its jaws and came for him.

“No!!!” The youth panicked and tried to retaliate. Alas, it was just too late and the dragon caught him.

“Ahh!” Screams could be heard from the mouth of the dragon.

It chewed several times and then swallowed the corpse.

“Shit...” The worker on Li Qiye’s boat shouted.

“It’s the azure flood-dragon...” The crowd didn’t expect this development. This included the workers.

The dragon was a spirit beast on sale. It has been here for eras now and had never attacked a guest before. Today, it seemed to be on the hunt for food and its target was Lotus Young Noble.

This was an impressive creature; even ancestors didn’t want to provoke it.

“Raa!” It let out a roar and returned to the water.

“Watch it!” Many immediately controlled their boats away from its path and maintained a safe distance.

It swam towards Li Qiye’s boat.

“Watch out!” The worker warned the customers but Li Qiye walked closer to the edge and reached forward.

“Raa...” The dragon rubbed its head against his palm just like a pet wanting to be pampered.

The smiling Li Qiye was happy to oblige. The dragon looked docile and harmless, no longer the murderous beast like before. No one expected them to be so friendly with each other.

“Raa!” The dragon roared again and dived back down to the bottom of the lake.

Everyone heaved a sigh of relief, especially the worker on Li Qiye’s boat.

Chapter 4494: Playful Scolding

The worker then said: “Sir, you must have a special bond with our dragon. Even Skybreak Monarch couldn’t buy it back then.”

The grotto found it difficult to sell the dragon. First, its value was high, necessitating the same level of price. Most importantly, it didn't have a special bond to the potential customers. To put it bluntly, it simply didn't want to leave with them.

Members of the behemoths could have afforded the price. Alas, it refused all the big shots.

"Sir, would you like to buy it? It has an extremely rare bloodline - that of a true dragon. When it fully matures, it can turn into a true dragon. It's also extremely smart with keen awareness, capable of recognizing fortunes and disasters. This is not taking into account its power. Regular people would love to have it but only the chosen one can..."

"The flood-dragon is great but it is not suitable for me." Li Qiye gently interrupted.

"You'll be a tiger with wings, Sir." The worker didn't give up.

Jian Ming interjected, trying to look cool: "Just a flood-dragon can't get into our young noble's sight. It is only a little caterpillar in his eyes, not worth mentioning before becoming a true dragon."

"Then may I ask what type of treasure can interest the young noble?" The worker enthusiastically tried to get a sale.

Jian Ming arched his chest and arrogantly said: "Very few exist in the world. What people call treasures are mere scrap metals in his eyes."

"I'm sure we have some of those very few treasures here." The worker was confident in their long-lasting success.

"Your grotto does indeed have something that interests our young noble." Jian Ming laughed.

"May I know what it is?" The worker hurriedly said.

"I heard that you're trying to auction a little girl. He is interested in her." Jian Ming said.

"Well..." The worker looked around and found this strange: "We haven't announced that item yet, Sirs. How did you find out?"

Jian Ming smiled and acted cool: "You're underestimating our young noble. Who is he? Only the greatest in history, all-knowing and all-understanding, completely omnipotent. Nothing can hide from him."

Though Jian Ming was being ridiculous, the worker was impressed with their information gathering.

"Do you not want to sell?" The daoist asked.

"We do, it's just a secret auction, not a public one. It's about to start soon too." The worker checked the time.

"Our young noble is participating." Jian Ming demanded.

The worker hesitated before answering: "May I ask if you have received an invitation? This private auction has high requirements."

He wasn't looking down on the group, only that it was a rule of the auction house.

Jian Ming became unhappy and said: "Are you looking down on our young noble? I'm afraid your auction house won't be able to handle his wrath. It's just that a big shot like him doesn't care about putting up a show. Otherwise, your Seal Ancestor would need to kneel and greet him."

"Sir, I'm afraid you are out of line right now." The worker smiled wryly.

Their auction house was a serious business and never cared about appearances. However, Jian Ming's words were insulting, to say the least.

"Enough!" Wise Ancestor slapped the youth's head.

Li Qiye only smiled and didn't stop him.

"Hmph, don't believe me then. Just know that our young noble has set his sight on it." Jian Ming uttered coldly while rubbing his head.

"Very well, I will bring everyone over but actual participation will depend on your qualification." The worker accepted.

Seal Ancestor was their strongest ancestor right now. In a different sect, they would have been furious at Jian Ming's comment. However, a business needed to cater to its customers and was more flexible.

As the worker rowed the boat onward, Li Qiye stared at Jian Ming and the daoist: "You two could have taken care of that brat, why the need to be so cowardly?"

"Three Thousand Dao is a behemoth, I do not dare to be the tallest tree." The daoist smiled awkwardly.

"Is that so? You didn't sing the same tune when you stole from them." Li Qiye smirked.

"No, no." The daoist shook his head and said: "I've always been a good person and wouldn't do something like stealing."

He lied without blinking, completely forgetting how he bragged to Li Qiye before about being able to "grasp" any item.

"How shameless can you be?" Jian Ming slapped the guy's head: "You stole from Three Thousand Dao and tried to get the young noble to deal with it for you, are you tired of living? The young noble will wring your dog head off and use it as a chamber pot. He knows what you're doing."

"Of course, of course." The daoist couldn't fight back this time since he was in the wrong.

"As if you didn't do the same thing." Wise Ancestor slapped Jian Ming's head again.

"Ancestor... I was just annoyed at that stupid brat thinking he's all that." Jian Ming protested: "Worst of all, he dared to do so before our peerless young noble. Three Thousand Dao isn't special at all, the young noble can annihilate them on a whim. I was just telling everyone the truth but they didn't believe me and thought that I was causing trouble. Plus, you're here too, Great Ancestor. You could have killed that Lotus Young Noble or whatever with a single saber intent, no need to even unsheathe your saber. He was truly courting death, what an idiot." Jian Ming also praised his ancestor.

"You really enjoy riding someone else's coattails." Li Qiye commented.

“Hehe, I hope to have the privilege of doing so with you, Young Noble.” Jian Ming didn’t find this shameful and said: “In this case, it was their fault for being so blind despite repeated warnings.”

He knew that he could run his mouth because of his backer’s actual identity.

Li Qiye chuckled and didn’t mind this while Wise Ancestor shook his head in shame.

Chapter 4495: Turtle-seeker Ancestor

The worker led the group onto an island with mystical buildings shrouded in mist and clouds. This was a place meant for the most esteemed guests and the secret auction.

There was a reason why they were eligible to be taken to the island. Otherwise, those without an invitation or lacking reputation wouldn’t have the same luck.

Winding paths led to the various buildings, painting an elegant and classical scene. This seemed to be a memento of the past. Moreover, they also served as a maze with no end in sight.

The guests included either ancestors from great powers or experts from the behemoths. The true strongest cultivators had no need to come in person due to not wanting to leave their hibernation. Thus, they sent their disciples here instead.

The guests quietly waited inside their assigned buildings for the incoming auction. The point of this auction was to be secretive. They came aiming for a particular item, not to socialize.

They were busy planning the right starting bid and how to defeat other competitors. They went into it with a very prudent mindset since the competitors were no slouches.

The main hall also had a group of people waiting. They hid their face and their identity. The more important characters hid their true body altogether. This was a way to avoid exposing needless information to the enemies or just another strategy for the auction.

Of course, some didn’t care at all. They brought along numerous disciples to serve and support them. They looked around in an imperious manner in order to intimidate fellow guests.

Thus, this secret auction had numerous renowned participants. As time drew near, more and more people came to the hall.

Once Li Qiye’s group entered, eyes turned towards them. This only lasted for a few seconds before others lost interest. After all, they didn’t stand out in the slightest among the crowd, only serving as a few more participants.

Some recognized Wise Ancestor and came to greet him. Though the four clans weren’t as illustrious as before, they still had some businesses left.

They were merely acquaintances so after some cordial words, they all went back to their place.

Only a few big shots were curious about Li Qiye’s identity but they didn’t ask. They had experienced plenty of strange things before and didn’t find anything surprising anymore.

Li Qiye naturally had no friends in this hall. However, Wise Ancestor actually had someone.

“Brother Wu, long time no see.” An old man standing in the corner saw Wise Ancestor and enthusiastically came over and cupped his fist.

Both his age and impressive aura were high up there. It seemed that the older he got, the stronger. He should be just as strong as Wise.

“Brother Bie, it’s been a millennium since our last meeting. You came to Golden but didn’t even come to our clan. Did you forget me already?” Wise was happy to see an old friend at the auction and playfully complained while embracing the old man.

Cultivators, especially ancestors, could live for a very long time. For a mortal, a millennium consisted of ten generations. Alas, it wasn’t long for an ancestor.

Of course, one thousand years were still one thousand years outside of hibernation. They were still glad to see an old friend.

“I came in a hurry and couldn’t visit you, Brother Wu. Please forgive me.” The old man became embarrassed and cupped his fist again to apologize.

“Come, meet the ancestor of the Wu. Show him the same respect as you would to me.” He then told his juniors.

His juniors appeared exceptional, clearly the top talents of the sect. They came over and lowered their head to greet Wise.

“All dragons and phoenixes among men.” Wise praised. It seemed that his clan has fallen too fast compared to his old friend’s sect.

He then sentimentally said: “Your most brilliant disciple back then was a heaven’s favorite and should be quite successful now.”

“Xiao Er?” The old man sighed and shook his head: “Let’s not talk about this matter. Introduce me to your juniors.”

“Come meet Turtle-seeker Ancestor of Archipelago.” Wise told Jian Ming to come over.

Given the serious circumstances, Jian Ming had to act properly. He walked with his chest arched out and respectfully bowed.

Though he seemed undependable and even slightly sloppy, he knew how to keep up appearances.

“Not bad, not bad. This young fella’s talent is exceptional.” Turtle-seeker praised.

Archipelago was a powerful sect of Eastern Desolace. Rumor has it that their progenitor used to be a young ox herder.

One day, an island descended out of nowhere and the youth was fortunate to be there. He climbed up the island and found a fortune, eventually becoming an unstoppable cultivator.

Turtle-seeker and Wise were close friends despite the distance between their sects. Their relationship remained excellent throughout the years, it’s just that they seldomly get to see each other.

“Who might that be?” Turtle-seeker saw Li Qiye and didn’t think that he was Wise’s disciple.

“This is our ancient ancestor. Call him young noble.” Wise whispered.

“Your ancient ancestor?” Turtle-seeker didn’t expect this and took a closer look.

Li Qiye didn’t have the aura nor the cultivation of an ancient ancestor and looked more like a regular disciple.

However, he knew that Wise couldn’t be lying to him. Despite feeling confused, he still bowed deeply toward Li Qiye and invited the group over to their corner.

He then pulled Wise to the side and asked: “Brother Wu, how come I haven’t heard of this before?”

“It’s a long story.” Wise whispered: “We invited the ancient ancestor back for the Primordial Union in order to revitalize the clan.”

Turtle-seeker knew a few things about this. He smiled wryly and shook his head: “I don’t think I’m going to the union since the benefits will be meager. I’ll run back to the island after this.”

“Is there something going on?” Wise became worried.

“It’s Xiao Er.” Turtle-seeker said wistfully.

“What’s wrong with him? He was lively when I saw him back then, his talent will allow him to inherit your legacy and even surpass you.” Wise said.

“Yes, that brat’s talent is good and I like him a lot.” Turtle-seeker nodded: “I tried my best to train him but we might have been too hasty. A hundred years ago, he lost his focus during an important breakthrough session and suffered qi deviation. His lower half is paralyzed now.”

“What a shame.” Wise sighed. A thousand years were long enough for old cultivators to see their juniors pass away.

“There is a pill here that I want for Xiao Er’s sake.” Turtle-seeker whispered and revealed his intention.

Chapter 4496: Cloudgrasp Elder

While the two old men chatted, Li Qiye sat down while the daoist and Jian Ming stood by his sides.

Disciples from Archipelago stole glances at him because they thought that he didn’t look like an ancient ancestor at all. If Wise Ancestor didn’t say it himself, they would never mistake him for one.

If they saw him outside, they would only think of him as a regular cultivator, completely unforgettable.

“Many big shots have arrived.” The daoist scouted the hall and told Jian Ming.

Jian Ming’s black eyes moved back and forth like that of a thief. His focus was on the guests.

Even though some hid their appearances, he could still see a few clues.

“Haha, of course, it is a secret auction after all. Some of these big shots might be enemies too.” Jian Ming chuckled. He seemed eager to see some competitive biddings for the sake of entertainment.

“Hmm, these ancient lineages are here too. This auction will be fierce.” The daoist scouted the big shots and focused on several important figures. It seemed like he was tempted to make some moves again.

This secret auction didn't let them down. These big shots were powerful and most importantly, wealthy.

They would certainly spend a large sum on their desired treasure. Enemies would compete using wealth instead of force in this place. Some would certainly try to be disruptive and increase the bid for no reason.

“Well, no one can compare to our young noble in terms of wealth.” Jian Ming laughed and raised his voice: “How can a flock of chickens compare to a crane?”

He arched his chest and looked as arrogant as can be as if he was a supreme being superior to everyone else.

The daoist glanced at him with disdain, thinking that he was about to ride Li Qiye's coattails again.

Many participants nearby heard him and instantly looked over in his direction. Though they hid their identity and body, just the feeling of being gazed upon by them was chilling.

Jian Ming shuddered a bit and became nervous. Nonetheless, he composed himself and proudly said: “What are you looking at? Know your place before the peerless young noble.”

The comment peeved the listeners but since they were experienced, they didn't bother reprimanding the juniors. Nonetheless, their juniors glared aggressively at Jian Ming.

“Are you not afraid of being beaten?” Li Qiye smiled.

The unfriendly gazes did intimidate Jian Ming. Nonetheless, he laughed and said: “Once again, I'm merely speaking the truth. If that is a crime, then ignorance is a sin and I'm trying to save people from doing so.”

Li Qiye chuckled and didn't say anything else. From an objective viewpoint, there was no problem with Jian Ming's statement. Li Qiye was indeed peerless and others should back off. Alas, they were ignorant of his actual ability, albeit to no fault of their own.

The daoist stared at Jian Ming and didn't have an issue with the actual statement. He was only annoyed at the guy's sycophantic attitude. It was truly infuriating - an open invitation for others to want to stomp him.

“Bold words, I want to see how peerless he is.” A matter-of-fact voice sounded nearby.

Jian Ming and the daoist looked over and saw an old man with a sharp gaze. He didn't have an oppressive aura but they could tell that he looked down on them.

This was someone who has been used to sitting above the clouds and accepting the worship of others, being in control of their fate.

The disciples sitting behind him also wore expensive robes and looked brilliant. This also made them appear haughty.

“An elder from Three Thousand Dao.” Wise and Turtle-seeker looked over and became serious.

An elder from Three Thousand Dao was often comparable to an ancestor from the other great powers. Some hidden big shots stopped their stealth approach and came to greet him.

Jian Ming wasn't afraid at all due to his backer. He was only taken aback for a moment before laughing: "Ah, it's Cloudgrasp Elder, greetings."

Jian Ming's foul mouth was matched by his vision. He immediately recognized the elder.

"Junior, let your senior talk." Cloudgrasp Elder didn't want to converse with a junior.

Jian Ming became annoyed and continued: "Cloudgrasp Elder, our young noble is supreme, people don't just get to talk to him. You're only a junior in his presence so if you want to communicate, you'll need to represent a senior."

This conversation eventually attracted the attention of the crowd. Cloudgrasp Elder certainly had enough clout to prevent others from being rude towards him. This included the ancestors.

Now, a junior dared to provoke him? The disciples behind him didn't stand for this.

The daoist contemplated and thought that this still required plenty of courage on Jian Ming's part. Though he acted like a sycophant, he knew exactly what he was doing.

Cloudgrasp Elder's expression darkened and glared at Jian Ming. This piercing stare caused some to shudder but Jian Ming stood proudly without backing down.

"I represent Skybreak Monarch today!" He uttered coldly. Each word struck like a javelin piercing the ground.

The crowd gasped after hearing this. They cupped their fist towards him in order to show respect toward Skybreak Monarch.

Even Wise and Turtle-seeker took a deep breath. This was one of the six great monarchs under Dao Sanqian.

"Skybreak Monarch..." Jian Ming licked his lips. He understood how frightening the monarch was. However, he couldn't back down and besmirch his young noble's reputation.

He bowed towards Li Qiye and asked: "Young Noble, he represents Skybreak Monarch."

"Just a nameless junior, never heard of him." Li Qiye answered without batting an eye.

This caused a furor to break out in the quiet hall. Someone had just insulted Skybreak Monarch, calling him a nameless junior. This was disrespectful to both the monarch and Three Thousand Dao.

Chapter 4497: The Fox Exploiting The Tiger's Might

Among the audience were dominant cultivators. Some of the hidden existences were not necessarily weaker than Skybreak Monarch.

However, they would never call him a nameless junior. This level of disrespect was unprecedented, especially coming from an ordinary junior.

Though he sat in the position of an ancestor, there was nothing special about him. Other ancestors keeping a low profile still looked impressive. Being invincible was a fundamental part of their being regardless of their attempt at converging their aura and energy.

On the other hand, Li Qiye's cultivation was out in the open. He didn't try to hide it at all, revealing the fact that he was only slightly stronger than an ordinary disciple.

In a sense, he should be classified as an expert, far from the ancestral level. This was the reason why the crowd was so confused and frustrated by his rampant arrogance.

Turtle-seeker Ancestor was at a loss for words. He stuck his tongue out and then whispered: "Your ancient ancestor seems... a little..."

He didn't know what to say. The inscrutable youth was actually an ancient ancestor of the four great clans.

"Skybreak Monarch and Three Thousand Dao aren't easy to deal with, is your ancient ancestor sure about this?" He worried for his old friends because the four clans stood no chance against Three Thousand Dao.

Wise smiled wryly in response. He didn't know the full extent of Li Qiye's power but for some reason, he had blind confidence in him.

"Our young noble knows what he is doing." He answered.

Cloudgrasp Elder couldn't believe it. He came representing Skybreak Monarch so this was nothing short of a slap to the face. Unfortunately, it didn't stop here.

After hearing Li Qiye's answer, Jian Ming became emboldened and declared: "Did you hear that? Just a nameless junior that our young noble has never heard of. I advise you to save yourself from further embarrassment and be smart. Otherwise, his wrath will cause blood to flow for endless miles. Skybreak? Stick to the ground for that is the right choice. Don't pick hell instead of heaven..."

Others became nauseous while listening to him, wanting to stomp him like a cockroach. Little did they know that he was only telling the truth.

The big shots exchanged glances. If they had a disciple like that, they would be the first to kick him flying. After all, the brat would only create animosity everywhere.

For example, he had just antagonized Three Thousand Dao and Skybreak Monarch, dragging his own sect through the mud.

Li Qiye, on the other hand, seemed amused and didn't stop it.

"Slap him." A disciple standing behind the elder furiously shouted. They had great pride in both the monarch and Three Thousand Dao. Thus, this haughty brat's insult was unforgivable.

"I'm so scared..." Jian Ming laughed and walked back behind Li Qiye.

Wise Ancestor coughed to remind everyone of his presence. The disciples behind the elder stopped being so aggressive since there was an ancestor around. They could think nothing of Jian Ming but an ancestor was a different story.

“Brat, your tongue is quite sharp.” Cloudgrasp Elder became murderous. Alas, he didn’t want to fight Wise Ancestor so he calmed down.

“Just Lotus’ matter alone is already unforgivable. Looks like you all are tired of living.” He coldly uttered.

He was aware of Lotus Young Noble’s death. Alas, he didn’t plan on avenging the youth.

First, the boy was Elder Mu’s disciple and had nothing to do with him. Second, his goal was to bid on a treasure for Skybreak Monarch. This was not the time for escalation. Therefore, he exercised restraint and didn’t attack the brat.

Failure in obtaining the treasure would make it hard for him to answer to the monarch once he returned.

“What am I ever going to do...” Jian Ming taunted.

The daoist suddenly joined in as well: “Cloudgrasp Elder, I see black lines between the brows for you, this is an ominous sign. If you don’t eliminate this phenomenon, you won’t live for much longer.”

Chapter 4498: Alchemy Child

“You have a death wish!” Cloudgrasp’s anger intensified, the same for his fellow sect members.

The daoist sincerely responded: “Elder, this came from the bottom of my heart, don’t be hiding a sickness for fear of treatment. Our clan’s fortune-telling is supreme, I can read your fortune to prove it.”

A few big shots glanced at the daoist. One of them could see his background and nodded: “This person is not lying. His clan is renowned for their fortune-telling, dao lords have come there before seeking answers.”

“No need!” Cloudgrasp Elder had to swallow his anger again.

He indeed feared a bad outcome of the reading. An ominous reading would haunt him on top of proving the daoist correct and helpful. Thus, it would be improper for him to attack the group.

“Sigh, what a shame.” The daoist murmured: “My read can help one seek luck and avoid calamity. I am merely trying to do good for karma, this is not a good decision, Elder.”

“Young man, how much have you learned?” A big shot asked. This person was shrouded in a fog capable of nullifying top heavenly gazes. This was a testament to the big shot’s power and stealth technique.

“Sir, you’re interested in a reading?” The daoist’s eyes became bright: “My price is very fair and is dependent on your identity.”

“Is that so?” The big shot was interested: “I wonder how capable you are. There’s a chance you won’t be very helpful.”

“I’ll do one to test it out. If you feel that I am telling the truth, you can purchase a reading afterward.” The daoist accepted the challenge.

His cultivation was obviously inferior. However, he believed himself to be the absolute authority on divining and could read anyone here.

“I don’t think it’s looking good for you.” Another big shot smiled: “If you can read this daoist’s identity, it will show that you’re not a swindler.”

“I will read your root then.” The daoist told the hidden master.

“How interesting.” The first big shot had confidence in his stealth technique. No one should be able to see a single clue, let alone a junior like the daoist: “Go for it.”

“I will try my best then.” The daoist took a deep breath and took out a shell with both hands. He shook it and clanks could be heard. He started chanting mantra, looking as focused as can be.

A second later, his hands lit up. He read the trigrams and then looked up at the hidden master: “Sir, the trigram reads - plucking chrysanthemum beneath the eastern fence.” [1]

The big shot murmured and couldn’t believe it.

The daoist put away the shell and then smiled: “What do you think about my reading?”

“Not bad at all, seems genuine.” The big shot admitted. The line didn’t explicitly reveal his identity. Alas, this was indeed related to his origin.

“Then do you wish to purchase an official reading? My price is very competitive.” The daoist suggested.

“No.” The big shot was interested in the daoist’s ability. Alas, he also wanted to hide his identity and didn’t want the daoist to know.

“Hehe, anyone else wants to know their future?” The daoist took advantage of this opportunity.

Unfortunately, it was a tough crowd due to the circumstances. They didn’t want to reveal any information to others.

“Sigh, my price is really fair...” The daoist tried his best to peddle to no avail.

“Haha, look, no one wants your shoddy fortune-telling.” Jian Ming teased him.

The daoist glared at him, prompting him to shrug.

At this point, another guest came into the hall. He wore a daoist robe and had a youthful bun hairstyle despite being too old for it. An alchemy symbol could be seen on the robe.

It was obvious that he was a servant. Nonetheless, he stood out because he didn’t have an inferiority complex often found in servants. On the other hand, he looked rather proud and even prideful as if he was someone important.

The moment he came in, he announced his background with haste: “I am a disciple of True Immortal, an alchemy child under True Immortal Young Emperor.”

“True Immortal Young Emperor!” Everyone became startled, even the older cultivators.

True Immortal Young Emperor was one of the Five Conquerors of Sky Border, the successor of his sect.

They had lofty aspirations for his future. Their ancient ancestors personally taught him so that he could become a dao lord.

Though both he and Five-sun King were contemporary scions, most believed that the young emperor was one level higher.

The youth that has just entered the hall was a servant in charge of alchemy, being responsible for all of the young emperor’s medicines and pills.

In terms of status, he was indeed a servant. Alas, he was prestigious thanks to who his master was. If his master could become a dao lord in the future, his status would soar as well. Top alchemists would have to bow before him.

“I come in the young emperor’s stead hoping for a particular medicine.” The youth got straight to the point: “Esteemed Ancestors, please go easy when it is time for the auction. He must have this medicine.”

The youth spoke politely but in reality, this also served as a threat against the ancestors to not compete against the young lord of True Immortal. Otherwise, they would risk being humiliated.

Many ancestors became annoyed after receiving this warning from a servant in spite of his master's prestige.

Chapter 4499: Arrogance

Not all members here were renowned for their personal accomplishments. However, some represented a behemoth while being here.

They were aware of True Immortal’s power. It had reigned for an absurd length during the history of Eight Desolaces. Its dominance couldn’t be overstated during its golden age.

In comparison, it no longer had the same brilliance as before. Alas, it has been biding its time and building its forces, resulting in a sect feared by all.

Their current successor was one of the five conquerors and a top candidate for becoming the next dao lord.

Because of this, big shots from the last generation still gave him some face. Just the possibility of him becoming a dao lord changed everything.

Thus, if he were to desire a particular treasure or pill, they would actually acquiesce and hope that he would remember the favor.

Unfortunately, Alchemy Child’s demand left a sour taste in their mouth. Moreover, the youth didn’t have enough clout either.

If the young emperor was here himself, they would do him a favor in order to build a relationship.

As for Alchemy Child, it didn't matter how favored he was. He lacked the prestige and clout to talk to these ancestors. Moreover, the veiled threat wasn't well-received.

"The highest bidder wins the auction." One of the big shots responded.

Alchemy Child wasn't a fool and recognized this ancestor. He bowed and said: "Heavenjudge Ancestor, the young emperor has once praised you as a matchless hero after recalling your past feats."

"Mmm, the young emperor is a dragon among men." The ancestor felt good after being praised by the youth in front of his peers. It showed that he was noticed by a potential dao lord so he stopped caring about the threat prior.

The youth knew that he was mistaken. It was just that he has grown used to being imperious after being favored by the young emperor. Now, he saw the unfriendly expression of the ancestor and decided to change his tone.

He bowed then told everyone: "The young emperor truly needs the item this time so please, Esteemed Ancestors, be benevolent. He will remember this favor after proving his dao."

Once he decided to be polite, he knew exactly what to say since he was from a prestigious sect. This naturally pleased the majority of the crowd and they forgot about the transgression just now.

Some decided that as long as they didn't need the same treasure, they would just let him have the item.

"Young sir, may I ask what medicine your lord is looking for? Just so that we know and avoid any misunderstanding. The young emperor's plan naturally has the highest priority." Jian Ming's eyes rolled suspiciously before he decided to ask.

The daoist glanced at him, thinking that this brat was up to no good again despite his friendly comment.

As for Alchemy Child, he rarely had to lower his imperious tone. He had to bow earlier and despised doing so. After all, he was going to be an important alchemist working beneath a dao lord in the future. Numerous big shots would kneel and beg for medicine then.

Therefore, Jian Ming's perceived attempt at flattering him came at the perfect time.

He stared at the group and didn't care for any of them, not Li Qiye or the two ancestors. After all, he regularly saw powerful ancestors back at his sect. Wise and Turtle-seeker weren't special in the slightest.

Thus, his arrogance returned again as he spoke: "My young lord wants the Shaking Immortal Grass." Having said that, he cupped his fist at the crowd and said: "Please take it easy on us then."

"Whoa, that immortal grass is priceless!" Jian Ming pretended to be shocked.

"It has only appeared a handful of times in the history of Eight Desolaces." The youth spoke with the tone of a superior.

"I see, only the young emperor deserves something like this then." Jian Ming said and then touched the daoist's shoulder: "Hey, this grass pertains to the young emperor's dao path. You should do a telling to see if he will get it or not."

“That’s hard to say...” The daoist decided to play along this time and shook his head: “This might be a secret auction but the invited guests certainly know about the special treasure...”

He cleared his throat and continued: “Grotto Courtyard didn’t invite randoms, so more than just one ancestor will want the grass. The more they want it, the higher the bid. Look in the room, the gentlemen here are all heroes who have no lack of money. If they want something, they’ll certainly go all out. That’s why there is no need to do a reading.”

He implied that some of the guests came specifically for this so-called immortal grass and they were rich enough to compete against the young emperor.

This prompted Alchemy Child to look around the room, wanting to know which ancestors have the same target.

Of course, no one spoke up. First, they hid their identity and thought that it would be no problem to outbid the young emperor. After all, he wasn’t here in person and wouldn’t be able to figure it out.

Chapter 4500: Slap

Alchemy Child found the daoist’s assessment insulting. He tried to persuade the crowd to drop the issue earlier. Alas, the daoist seemed to be fanning the fire by reminding the big shots here.

Due to the stealthy nature of the crowd, they could outbid and win the grass without suffering any consequence.

“You must be tired of living to spew such untruths.” He uttered coldly with an aggressive expression, aiming for the daoist alone.

“Of course not, a nobody like me wouldn’t dare to compete against True Immortal.” The daoist hid behind Li Qiye.

“Hmph, good.” The youth snorted. At least the guy knew when to give up so this looked good for his reputation.

“Wait, this depends on if our young noble is interested in it or not.” The daoist smiled while standing behind Li Qiye: “Young Noble, this grass might be crucial for True Immortal Young Emperor and his dao in the future. Do you think he should be the one?”

The big shots became interested in the answer. In fact, they thought about this matter when the youth brought it up.

The grass might be pivotal to the young emperor’s dao journey or perhaps some other uses unbeknown to others. A selected few thought about how detrimental it would be if they were to buy the grass instead.

“Right, our young noble has to assess whether he should become the next dao lord or otherwise.” Jian Ming stroked his chin and spoke even more brazenly: “If I remember correctly, True Immortal was sealed by Emperor Ye and stopped having dao lord from then on. What is your opinion on this, Young Noble?”

He spoke as if the next dao lord would need his young noble's permission first, reminding the crowd once more of how annoying he could be.

Not all were fans of True Immortal, albeit none would be so public about their distaste. Attempting to stop True Immortal from having another dao lord meant a fight to the death.

Their sect has yet to produce a dao lord after Emperor Ye's invasion. Of course, there was Worldbearer Dao Lord who could arguably be considered one. However, when strictly speaking, Worldbearer was not from the sect.

The details included Worldbearer being the disciple of Skywheel Dao Lord, the actual last dao lord of True Immortal.

He hibernated at a young age for some unknown reason and didn't come out until many eras later.

Because of the seal, Worldbearer left True Immortal and returned to his original clan - the Sima. He proved his dao later and became a dao lord for his clan.

Nonetheless, some still considered him to be a dao lord of True Immortal. The sect also shared this opinion.

As for the dao lord himself, he refrained from speaking on this issue. Alas, he only ruled the Sima and didn't return to True Immortal. Thus, adding him to their list of dao lords would be inaccurate.

Therefore, breaking their shameful history was of pivotal importance. True Immortal Young Emperor was the one to shoulder this burden of breaking Emperor Ye's seal.

All the big shots here knew that True Immortal was willing to do anything to make him the next dao lord. They also hated whenever this dark past was brought up.

Therefore, Alchemy Child's expression darkened along with his fellow sect members.

Li Qiye only smiled and didn't comment.

"Ignorant fool! Do you know the consequence of insulting True Immortal?!" Alchemy Child shouted.

"I'm so afraid..." Jian Ming got what he wanted and hid behind Li Qiye.

Even a fool at this point could tell that Li Qiye was their backer.

Because of this, Alchemy Child turned his focus towards Li Qiye and threatened: "I don't care which sect you are from, you better disciple your juniors well or disaster will come calling!"

"What kind of disaster?" Li Qiye finally spoke, seemingly amused.

Alchemy Child declared: "Being disrespectful towards True Immortal is a grievous sin. Death is the light punishment, the end of the spectrum being the execution of all seniors in the sect or even clan extermination. Once the young emperor becomes the dao lord, he'll also seal your sect and prevent all of you from ever entering the reincarnation cycle."

"If your young emperor is the type to do that over some words, then he is not qualified to become the next dao lord." Li Qiye shook his head.

“Such impudence!” Alchemy Child roared. This comment had crossed the unforgivable line.

True Immortal had absolute confidence in their effort. They would spend all resources and do anything to make the young emperor into the next dao lord. Therefore, any disparaging comment about this issue was seen as ominous or bad luck.

This was especially true for Alchemy Child since his future was predicated on his master’s success. He wanted this more than anyone else so Li Qiye’s transgression was intolerable.

“Say one more word and we’ll exterminate your ten clans!” Alchemy Child lost his cool, acting unbecoming of someone from a prestigious sect.

“Slap him.” Li Qiye ordered without looking at the guy.

“Pop! Pop! Pop!” Wise Ancestor followed the order right away.

Alchemy Child and his fellow sect members tried to stop him but this ancestor was too powerful.

Alchemy Child was slapped repeatedly until his mouth was filled with blood and his cheeks swollen.

A junior like him was not qualified to stand before the ancestors. It’s just that the latter gave True Immortal Young Lord face and left the kid alone. Any of them could have easily taught him a lesson.

Wise might not be a supreme ancestor but this was not a difficult task. The only issue here was offending the young lord and True Immortal.

The crowd didn’t stop Wise from doing this because some of them wanted to do the same thing.

“Clank! Clank! Clank!” True Immortal’s members unsheathed their weapons, furious.

“You!” Alchemy Child became livid due to the unprecedented disgrace. He felt a fit of uncontrollable anger overwhelming him as he glared at the group and gritted his teeth.