

Emperor 4501

Chapter 4501: Slap Again

Alchemy Child's face twisted with anger. He has always been pampered by everyone so this was an unbearable experience.

"You, you!" He had a hard time speaking coherently at first: "I am a disciple of True Immortal, my master is True Immortal Young Lord! You are finished, you and your whole clan! My master, a future dao lord, will see to it!"

The big shots frowned while listening to the enraged youth screaming like a cat with its tail stepped on. This was unbecoming from a member of True Immortal. On the other hand, they could see why the youth went crazy. Being slapped in public like this was too much to endure.

"Slap him again." Li Qiye ordered without batting an eye.

Alchemy Child was horrified while his fellow sect members tried to stop Wise with their weapons and treasures. Unfortunately, regular disciples like them had no chance.

"Pop! Pop! Pop!" Blood spilled again as the youth got smacked repeatedly.

"You!" He lost all sense of direction while shouting, nearly becoming unconscious from the humiliation.

The auction wasn't a dangerous area so he didn't have any escorting experts. They thought that they would be safe just because they were members of True Immortal. Alas, this alone wasn't enough to frighten Li Qiye.

"Just you wait!" The trembling youth uttered hatefully. He stopped asking for trouble and could only wait for revenge in the future.

He glared at Li Qiye with absolute hatred. After returning to True Immortal, he would tell his master about this. At that point, they would bring a force including ancestors to kill both Li Qiye and his clan. This was the only way for him to feel better.

A few big shots enjoyed this development. They disliked the haughty youth but didn't want to antagonize True Immortal over a few words. Now, someone else had taught the brat a needed lesson.

They stared at Li Qiye, aware that the brat would come crying to his master and embellish the event. This would certainly start a feud.

Not even Cloudgrasp Elder of Three Thousand Dao would want to do something like this. It was unwise antagonizing True Immortal over nothing. However, Li Qiye knew all of this and still humiliated Alchemy Child. This was akin to insulting True Immortal.

It was as if Li Qiye didn't care about the young emperor or True Immortal in the slightest. The big shots became curious.

An ancestor like Li Qiye should have enough sense to know about True Immortal's might. How was he so confident?

Turtle-seeker Ancestor thought that he would never do something so risky. How could this ancient ancestor be so bold?

“Ahem.” A worker from Grotto Courtyard came into the hall and coughed: “Gentlemen, the auction shall soon commence, please enter the private room.”

“Creak...” A portal in the form of a gate opened with guards standing in front. This was for the sake of verifying the guests’ eligibility and keeping the location a secret.

“Let’s go.” Turtle-seeker told the group. His disciples got up to follow him.

Turtle-seeker whispered to his friend: “I’m using my clan’s reputation to enter. What about you, Brother Wu?”

Wise stared at Li Qiye because they didn’t receive an invitation. This secret auction had incredible treasures, meaning that the requirement was also unreasonable. Ancestors alone weren’t prestigious enough.

“Gentlemen, please take out your invitation letter or proof of qualification.” A disciple from the grotto asked Li Qiye once they got close.

“Don’t have any.” Li Qiye chuckled.

The guards exchanged glances and frowned. One of them said: “I’m afraid this is a private auction requiring an invitation.”

The ones standing behind stared at Li Qiye. Was he trying to make a fool out of himself? Coming without an invitation?

“I don’t need one.” Li Qiye chuckled.

His attitude frustrated the guards. Did the guy want to force his way in?

“This is not the place to be unreasonable.” A guard warned him.

“Hmph, kick this unqualified wretch out!” Alchemy Child saw the chance and loudly shouted: “Who knows what he is planning, coming here without an invitation. He must be trying to steal the treasures!”

“Please leave.” The guard’s tone became serious.

“How impudent!” Jian Ming glared at him and said: “The young noble is the greatest in history. Open your dog eyes and tell your Seal Ancestor to come greet him. Otherwise, we’ll flip this place over.”

Chapter 4502: Qualification?

The guards’ expression soured after hearing the blatant contempt. This was more offensive than anything Alchemy Child had done thus far.

Though Grotto Courtyard wasn’t a traditional sect, its power was obvious since it has been around for eras now.

Moreover, Seal Ancestor was a renowned cultivator in all of Eight Desolaces who had all the advantages while being in the grotto. Seal didn't need to personally greet someone like Skybreak Monarch, let alone anyone else.

Therefore, Jian Ming's demand seemed outrageous, akin to kicking the grotto's prestige in the face.

Though the grotto focused on business and didn't care for trivial conflicts, this went beyond that. Some guards glared aggressively at him and would have attacked if it wasn't for their creed.

"Brothers from the grotto, don't let this ignorant fool run his mouth like he owns the place, make mincemeat out of them and feed them to the turtles!"

"Sounds like someone wants to be slapped again." Jian Ming glanced at the youth, acting rampant as if he was not afraid of the grotto and True Immortal.

"..." The youth's face became unsightly. He couldn't respond because he didn't have an ancestor protecting him. Otherwise, he would have cut off Jian Ming's head.

"Sir, you are out of line!" An annoyed guard remained relatively calm.

"Out of line? The truth can often be harsh but it is your grotto's honor to have our young noble here. If he didn't remember your ancestors, he wouldn't give a second look here. The reception should have been your sect kneeling for three hundred miles." Jian Ming said flatly.

"Enough." Wise Ancestor said because this brat was becoming crazier and crazier.

Li Qiye only smiled and the daoist refrained from speaking.

This eventually captured the attention of everyone in the hall. They seemed amused to watch because Jian Ming looked like a country bumpkin unaware of the actual world.

In reality, he was the only one acting correctly in this place given Li Qiye's status. If the grotto were to know the truth about Li Qiye, they would indeed line up and kneel for three hundred miles. This would still be the case if their two saints were still around.

The two saints' life goal was to meet Li Qiye again. Furthermore, they knew that it would be an ultimate fortune.

Jian Ming was actually trying to remind the grotto of this, albeit in a blatant manner. It was up to the grotto whether they could take advantage of this or otherwise.

"Sir, please don't break our rules." The guards appeared to be losing their patience and readied themselves for a fight. They had dealt with top masters before and had never been afraid of anyone.

Suddenly, a sweaty old man ran into the hall and immediately bowed toward Li Qiye: "Esteemed guest, it is an honor to have you here at our humble abode. Our disciples were frogs under the well and didn't recognize you, please, come inside."

This old man had a high position in the grotto. The guards immediately bowed and let Li Qiye's group through.

“Now that’s more like it.” Jian Ming commented: “Remember, it is the highest honor to be in the young noble’s presence. One word of his can topple your grotto and then he can take whatever treasure he wants.”

Both the guards and the guests found this comment to be outrageous. The grotto has lasted so long in history and wasn’t easily bullied. Jian Ming was clearly underestimating them.

Alas, Li Qiye could actually do whatever he wanted here. If he desired a treasure, he could just take it from them. However, since he had ties with their ancestors, he chose to follow the rules instead.

“It is our honor indeed.” The old man didn’t seem angry at all.

“Alright, we’ve wasted enough time.” Li Qiye nodded and entered the portal with the rest right after him.

Once all the guests have entered, the guards from the grotto were confused and agitated. One of them quietly asked the old man: “Ancestor, why were we so subservient? That brat basically rode on our head and then took a dump. Since when have we been such cowards?”

They had done countless transactions with the behemoths before. Why did they need to bow down to this average cultivator?

The old man shook his head and elaborated: “Untrue. That little fella’s words were harsh but he was actually trying to help us. It is a warning to not miss this godsend opportunity.”

“Trying to help us?” The guards remained confused.

They thought that they were utterly humiliated. They exercised ample restraint in order to not beat down Jian Ming.

“Who is the guest then? He must be a big shot to warrant your reverence, Ancestor. Which sect is he from?” One of them asked. All were curious about Li Qiye’s true identity.

“Do not inquire on this matter.” The old man solemnly said: “This is beyond your station right now. Just serve and satisfy all of the guest’s demands.”

“We understand.” The disciples obeyed despite lacking information about the mysterious guest.

Chapter 4503: Invincible Sword Art

The auction didn’t take place in a private room without any windows or openings. It wasn’t hidden underground either like a basement.

Surprisingly, the location was rather refreshing and scenic with blue water and gentle breezes. It took place at a lake of unknown location. The big shots sensed that it wasn’t the same lake found after entering the grotto. After all, they were strong enough to discern the little details.

In the middle of the lake was an island with willow trees and pavilions - a perfect place for an auction.

The big shots sat down then the workers began to bring them appetizers and drinks.

An auctioneer with a goatee appeared and coughed to gather everyone's attention. He bowed slightly and began: "I'll commence the auction here. We don't have that many auctions tonight, only ten or so. The highest bidder takes it, so please, gentlemen, pay careful attention."

This auctioneer was powerful and experienced. Thus, he had no problem speaking in front of the big shots.

"Start then." One big shot couldn't wait any longer.

They came prepared and knew exactly what they wanted since they were on the invitation list. The auction house had given them a list before.

Ten auctions were rather few in number but still truly desirable. These cultivators have prepared ample money for their goal.

A disciple from the grotto brought up a wooden box with all the archaic characteristics. The few runes were majestic and powerful, a sign of the great treasure within.

The auctioneer opened it and revealed a scroll made out of unknown material, slightly resembling leather yet not due to its golden and metallic luster.

It emitted an invincible aura despite its rolled-up state. A sword could soar through the pages and pierce the throat.

"The first auction is a sword technique created by Skyblade Dao Lord." The auctioneer introduced.

Though some knew the level of this auction, they still took a deep breath. The opening item was a dao lord-level sword technique, not bad at all.

"What is the source?" A big shot in stealth inquired: "Should the dao lord's sword arts be gathered in Sky Hut?" This person hid their identity and appearance.

Skyblade Dao Lord was a sky spirit who came from Divine Ridge. With this impressive background, he was destined for greatness.

After becoming a dao lord, he created another top lineage in Sky Border - Sky Hut. It became the gathering of many various tribes of their race. Sky spirits were blessed from birth with great innate gifts, hence their numerous geniuses.

As the founder of Sky Hut, he left his legacy in Sky Hut. Thus, it was strange to see one of his techniques up for sale.

"Please rest assured, Esteemed Guest. All of our auctions are traceable." The auctioneer elaborated: "This sword art isn't stored in Sky Hut, they do not have any version either. This was created by the dao lord during his youth, it is the original copy. The dao lord hasn't modified its content either."

He paused for a bit before continuing: "Those who know anything about the dao lord should be aware that the Gu helped him quite a bit at the start. He cultivated and learned the sword dao there, this technique being one of them. Therefore, he remembered their kindness and left the whole scroll to the Gu. If anyone here is from Sky Hut, I'm sure you have read about this in your sect's annals. Today, the Gu entrusts us with it on consignment."

The big shots exchanged glances. One of them nodded and said: "I've heard of this before."

Another nodded and said: "This is verifiable and trustworthy."

"Very well, the auction for the sword scroll from Skyblade Dao Lord will start at 300,000 dao lord jade stones. No other levels are accepted." The auctioneer began.

This was quite a start because 300,000 dao lord jade stones was a large sum for any great power. Of course, the big shots knew whether this scroll was worth it or not.

"310,000." A cultivator in stealth bid.

After a few seconds, another answered: "320,000."

The auction wasn't too hot. This didn't mean that the technique wasn't worth the price. It's just that the participants were from prestigious sects and had access to their own. Dao lord merit laws weren't too rare.

There were other treasures in this auction that were rarer so they couldn't afford to waste their resources here and needed to stick to their conservative strategy.

"330,000." The cultivator in stealth seemed to be interested in the sword art.

No one else continued the auction because they wanted to conserve their jades.

"340,000." This lasted for a bit before another bid.

"380,000." The stealthy cultivator immediately raised it by 40,000 to show his determination.

This cultivator asked about its origin from the start, clearly interested in it.

Finally, no one else wanted to try.

"380,000... sold." The auctioneer repeated the bid three times and concluded the auction.

The stealthy cultivator heaved a sigh of relief. It was fortunate that this didn't go too far.

Others speculated that this cultivator could have been from Sky Hut, a descendant wanting to bring back their dao lord's technique.

Of course, this was mere speculation since no one wanted to overly pry.

Chapter 4504: Void Jade

The first treasure alone spoke plenty about this magnificent secret auction. The second one was stored in a silky bundle of cloth. Each string was meticulously embedded and appeared to be made from cloud, mist, or fog.

The auctioneer opened the bundle and revealed the treasure. At first, this thing lacked an impressive appearance and radiance.

It was a piece of jade that required some time for analysis - white and the size of a bowl. It didn't look smooth or expensive at first sight. The lines on the jade seemed natural like floating clouds.

In fact, it was tough to say that it was a piece of jade and not a rock. Of course, the fact that it was second in line showed its value - above a dao lord sword technique.

The former alone could make people fight to the death. This was even more valuable.

"Some might have seen this jade before." The auctioneer went on: "We will call it Eight Stallion Jade for now. Of course, it has another name."

"Does it belong to Eight Stallion Dao Lord?" A big shot hasn't seen it before.

"Hmm..." The group started pondering.

Eight Stallion was the most recent dao lord with a strange title. Rumor has it that he was a demon stallion reaching the dao.

Why eight? This was up for debate. One theory stated that the dao lord had eight bodies. Another attributed it to eight different identities. One more said that only eight cultivators in history could compare to him...

This question remained unanswered. One thing for sure was that his prestige still ran deep in Eight Desolaces due to the recency.

"I don't know this jade." Another crowd member murmured.

The auctioneer continued: "The jade was indeed left behind by Eight Stallion Dao Lord. Only a few know about it. For example, Cloudgrasp Elder."

All eyes turned towards Cloudgrasp Elder from Three Thousand Dao.

Cloudgrasp cleared his throat and admitted: "Indeed. The dao lord came across it during his youth. He paused for a bit and revealed: "And it does have a different name."

No one disputed his knowledge on this issue. The reason was very simple - Eight Stallion Dao Lord had deep ties with Three Thousand Dao. His dao protector was none other than their progenitor, Dao Sanqian.

"It does not belong to our grotto. A descendant of the dao lord is entrusting us with the item for consignment..." The auctioneer said.

"His descendant is in our sect right now." Cloudgrasp suddenly interrupted.

Quiet discussions sprung with haste.

"So Shen Juntian is really the dao lord's son." A junior who came along whispered. [1]

He was another of the five conquerors and the direct disciple of Dao Sanqian. Rumor has it that his father was the previous dao lord. Any of these identities was extremely impressive.

The auctioneer didn't mind the interruption and continued: "Eight Stallion Dao Lord had many descendants, one is indeed in your sect. However, outside of the main branch, he has descendants in Boundless Mountain according to the records, Falling Blossoms Sect..."

"Yes, yes." Cloudgrasp acquiesced and waved his hand.

A few big shots smiled. The dao lord was known for his romantic exploits, hence his many descendants. After he became a dao lord, others came claiming to be his children. Some were actually true, others weren't.

For example, Falling Blossoms was an instance recognized by the dao lord himself. He had a passionate period with its sect master, resulting in a son.

This didn't mean that the jade came from Falling Blossoms. It could be another offspring or descendant of his. The jade could be used as a proof of kinship.

"What is special about this jade?" One person asked.

"Remember, it has another name, its true name." The auctioneer cleared his throat and then said.

"Void Jade." A big shot responded.

"Void Jade?" The atmosphere immediately changed. Regardless of where it came from, the character "void" had a special significance.

"Yes, Void Jade." The auctioneer said: "It was carved or created by the dao lord, he only came across it by chance during his youth. Nonetheless, it gave him a lifetime of benefit and most likely a big reason for his success."

"Where did he find it?" Another couldn't help but ask.

In reality, most already had a good idea of the answer but it still needed verification.

"Void Zone." The auctioneer revealed: "This is verified after our appraisal. The jade has a void affinity and a connection to this grand dao."

Listeners took a deep breath right away. Few cultivators in this world have heard of Void Zone. Even then, they had very little knowledge of this mythical paradise. Dao lords wanted to visit but it required luck and the right circumstances.

"So Eight Stallion Dao Lord had visited this place back then..." One participant said.

"What is the starting price?" Another became impatient.

The jade could help with dao comprehension and came from a dao lord. Alas, people didn't care about this as much as its origin - Void Zone.

"The currency for this one won't be jades but rather, void coins, starting with 3,000." The auctioneer said.

"3,000 void coins to start?" The group exchanged glances.

Chapter 4505: Casual 10,000 Bid

The big shots didn't know what to say about this requirement.

"Does it have to be void coins? Dao lord jades won't do? How about other treasures or weapons?" Someone asked.

The auctioneer shook his head and said: "I'm afraid to say that the owner only wants void coins, nothing else."

"Where are we going to find void coins in such a short time?" One participant grumbled.

"Not sure if it's even possible." A peer shook his head: "The circulation is low, just one coin is a treasure."

"What is this currency?" One junior didn't know despite being from a great power.

"It is said that these coins are from Void Zone, they might not be used as money there though." Her senior responded.

Another big shot added: "The coins might not be a currency but it has other uses. Once someone has enough, they can redeem it for an opportunity, perhaps gaining entry to Void Zone itself."

The youths became emotional. Void Zone, a place even the dao lords wanted to visit. The chance to enter was a great fortune indeed.

Top big shots have speculated that this opportunity was far better than cultivating dao lord merit laws.

After all, the disciples of top lineages had access to these merit laws. This wasn't the case for Void Zone.

"I know this matter." Jian Ming murmured: "These coins began circulating the world after the ancient clans brought them out."

"Your four clans played a part in this as well." The daoist said: "Your ancestors spent the coins and helped the circulation."

"The coins are great. They can be redeemed for certain things, far better than anything found in the regular world." Jian Ming's eyes lit up.

Jian Ming was special because of a certain fortunate experience. He knew many things but unfortunately, he couldn't gather enough coins.

"Ahem." The auctioneer continued: "Well, our grotto does have quite a few void zones. The price is negotiable but you better hurry or we'll run out fast."

"What a shark." One junior quietly commented.

Was this an auction or an attempt to sell void coins for a high price?

"Now, let's get back to business. The starting bid is 3,000 void coins with 100 minimum increment." The auctioneer shouted.

The number alone seemed humble compared to the dao lord sword art earlier. Alas, this was a matter of quality.

In history, Eight Desolaces had plenty of dao lords. Therefore, all of the lineages had a scary number of dao lord refined jades. The same couldn't be said about the void coins.

"3,100." Cloudgrasp Elder started.

“3,200.” A big shot from an ancient clan bid.

“3,300.” The elder immediately said.

“3,400.” Someone from a dao lord clan joined the competition.

“3,500.” Cloudgrasp didn’t relent.

“3,600.” The big shot from the ancient clan hesitated a bit before bidding.

“3,700.” Cloudgrasp maintained the course.

“3,800...”

This went on for a while because the top lineages have gathered quite a few void coins. This was especially true for Three Thousand Dao, True Immortal, or the ancient clans.

Moreover, if they needed more coins, they could purchase some from the grotto as well. It’s just that the exchange rate would not be favorable in the slightest.

Nonetheless, this jade was highly coveted because of its origin and rarity.

“4,400.” Eventually, only Cloudgrasp and the big shot from the ancient clan were still at it.

They were rather conservative, only going up 100 at a time due to the limited amount of void coins in their sect.

If they were to overbid and not be able to come up with the sum, they would be throwing away their personal reputation along with their sect’s.

It seemed that Cloudgrasp was interested in this jade because he has been bidding relentlessly. This might have been his goal in the first place.

He came representing Skybreak Monarch, so perhaps the monarch wanted the jade. A few big shots thought about it and understood why.

Remember, their progenitor was the dao protector of Eight Stallion Dao Lord. Due to this relationship, the sect might know the mysteries behind the jade.

“5,800.” Cloudgrasp seemed to finally have the highest bid.

This was indeed a tough sum since most didn’t have access to so many void zones.

“Should we bid?” Jian Ming felt like causing trouble for the elder, glancing back and forth between the jade and the old man.

“Since when do we have so many void coins?” Wise Ancestor glared at him: “In the past, maybe this is possible but we don’t have them now.”

This was indeed the truth. Their four clans back then certainly were one of the richest power in terms of void coins. Alas, the descendants have spent them all.

“Hah, the young noble is here.” Jian Ming smiled and said: “Plus, this void jade and our four clans might be related somehow, right, Young Noble?”

“Not that useful but we can bid.” Li Qiye smiled.

Cloudgrasp glared at Li Qiye after hearing this and said: “This is an auction, not a playground. Don’t mess around if you don’t have the void coins.”

“10,000. I bid 10,000 void coins.” Li Qiye raised one finger and joined the fray.

“10,000!?” This meteoric bid naturally astounded everyone.

Chapter 4506: Infinite

Void coins were rare enough for the members of the behemoth to bid extremely conservatively, only going up 100 at a time.

5,800 was enough for others to back down. This exceeded their current sum and they would need to redeem more from the grotto. Alas, the exchange rate would certainly be unreasonable. At that point, the void jade would no longer be worth it.

Therefore, Li Qiye’s bid made the crowd clamor.

“Is he crazy?” One big shot murmured.

“Does he have too many coins to spend?” One youth stared at him and said: “10,00 coins in one go, is this jade worth it?”

“He’s antagonizing Three Thousand Dao.” An older cultivator said, thinking that it wasn’t about the jade at all.

“You!” Cloudgrasp Elder’s expression became unsightly.

Putting the rarity of the coins aside, the bidders previously tried to remain cordial in order to avoid escalation.

They had an implicit agreement of outbidding by small increments to avoid prideful competition. Now, Li Qiye certainly didn’t follow this at all, vexing both Cloudgrasp and other participants. This was a terrible precedence for the rest of the auction.

Cloudgrasp was so certain of victory since the others have backed off. He was quite pleased with himself as well for winning and keeping the price low. Perfect was one way to describe it. Alas, this was all ruined because of Li Qiye.

“Check to see if it’s a valid bid.” A different big shot demanded.

Some purposely wanted to cause trouble due to Li Qiye’s unwanted action. They wanted to win with the lowest bid possible. Therefore, expelling this black sheep was necessary.

“Yes, or anyone can just bid whatever.” Another supported.

Furthermore, they didn’t trust Li Qiye’s reputation and resources. A test was warranted.

“Since you’re bidding 10,000, at least take out 5,000 as a deposit.” Cloudgrasp suggested.

It wouldn't be easy for anyone to muster five thousand coins in a short time. This was one way to chase Li Qiye away.

"This is pocket change for our young noble. His treasury includes all the wonders of the world, 10,000 void coins mean nothing to him. This is ridiculous, the result of being poor and thinking that everyone else is poor as well." Jian Ming interjected.

Wise Ancestor felt helpless since he couldn't stop Jian Ming due to Li Qiye's implicit permission.

"Stop wasting time, if he's going to double the bid, then just prepare a deposit instead of uttering rubbish to disturb the auction." A youth shouted.

"I agree that a deposit is necessary. We do not want any malicious bid." A big shot from an ancient clan said.

"Void coins are rare enough to warrant this." A hidden master said.

Li Qiye only smiled while being the target of the crowd.

"Ahem." The old man from the grotto who had appeared at the entrance showed up once more.

He looked at everyone and cupped his fist: "Young Noble Li's credit limit will be guaranteed by us, and it is unlimited. Gentlemen, no need to worry, we will make a deposit of 5,000 void coins for him to start."

With that, fellow members brought out a trunk. They opened it and revealed void rays coming from neatly stacked coins.

Silence took over the auction since they were left speechless. Unlimited credit? How many others in Eight Desolaces could enjoy this treatment?

Credits were a thing in Grotto Courtyard. After all, not everyone brought their entire treasury with them. Some might go overboard and overbid, resulting in needing temporary assistance from the auction house. This was a service available to reputable and wealthy cultivators.

In other words, Li Qiye could bid whatever he wanted and no one should question the bid. The grotto served as the guarantor.

"Sigh, so much trouble over this small sum." Li Qiye glanced at the trunk and shook his head, causing everyone else to feel awkward.

Chapter 4507: 30,000

The frustrated Cloudgrasp couldn't do anything right now since Li Qiye's bid has become authentic.

"10,000 void coins, any higher?" The auctioneer enjoyed this development.

"Going once..." He repeated.

All eyes were on Cloudgrasp since he was the only person here capable of contending. Moreover, he desired it the most.

He took a deep and told the auctioneer: "Please give me some time to discuss this, is that possible?"

The auctioneer asked the guests: "Any objection, gentlemen?"

This auction was rather flexible. The big shots exchanged glances and allowed to give more time.

Cultivators like them had plenty of time. Most importantly, they had no intention of participating in this round anyway. There was no reason to refuse and they wanted to see what Cloudgrasp can do since he was here to represent Skybreak Monarch.

"Young Noble?" The auctioneer asked Li Qiye since he was the highest bidder and the ultimate decider.

"Let him, benevolence has always been a part of my nature." Li Qiye smiled.

Cloudgrasp heaved a sigh of relief.

"Sigh, the great Three Thousand Dao has trouble over such a tiny sum. Looks like this auction is lower-level than expected." Jian Ming's foul mouth didn't waste this opportunity.

Cloudgrasp's expression turned ugly. If it was any other time, he would rip the kid to shred. Alas, there was something more important to do.

He nodded to the auctioneer and took his leave, clearly wanting to communicate with the monarch about the void jade.

A while later, he came back and sat down, looking calmer than before.

"11,000." He raised the price by 1,000.

"Oh, he received more authority and resources." One youth murmured.

Previously, he only raised the price by 100 each time. It seemed like the monarch has given him more flexibility. The jade appeared to be rather crucial to this top master.

Because of this, the elder looked more confident than ever as he gazed at his peers.

"12,000." Li Qiye, on the other hand, remained relaxed.

"13,000." The elder snorted.

"14,000." Li Qiye's tone didn't change.

"15,000." The elder coldly uttered.

"16,000."

"17,000."

"20,000." Li Qiye smiled and raised the increment.

"Hmm..." The big shots found this astonishing.

"You!" Cloudgrasp Elder thought that he would win for sure but Li Qiye showed no sign of relenting.

"Giving up yet?" Li Qiye smirked.

The elder hesitated. He himself thought that the void jade was no longer worth another bid.

“Forget about it.” Jian Ming tried to act like a good guy: “I know what you’re thinking, is this jade really worth that much? But our young noble’s problem is having too much money. He’s just buying a few things out of boredom, the same can’t be said about you. Spend it frugally instead.”

“Hah, you’re being too kind, it’s just a matter of not being able to afford it.” The daoist decided to join the fun: “It’s tough for everyone when compared to the young noble. A drop in the ocean for the young noble is a mountain to Cloudgrasp Elder. Elder, don’t waste the monarch’s retirement now.”

The two of them infuriated the elder who glared intimidatingly at them.

“These two brats talk too much.” One big shot commented.

The participants couldn’t handle the jeer and wanted to slap the two. This was already merciful; some actually thought about flying them.

“21,000.” Cloudgrasp calmed down and focused on business instead.

“30,000.” Li Qiye casually replied.

“!!!” The participants clamored again, even the experienced big shots.

This current bid was now ten times higher than the starting price, something truly illogical. Moreover, this currency was extremely rare.

“Is he crazy?” One big shot said.

“Is the void jade really worth this price?” Another from an ancient clan wondered.

Some thought that maybe they didn’t know the actual worth of the jade, unlike Li Qiye.

The elder’s expression became unsightly. 30,000 was exceeding his threshold. Alas, the monarch told him that he truly wanted the jade. This was a matter of reputation as well.

Competitions over face were inevitable. As the saying goes - men argue over face, Buddhas argue over incense sticks.

Beads of sweat could be seen on his forehead as he struggled for the next move.

“Is your sect struggling recently? Thinking so much over 30,000 coins, you are making the monarch look bad. On the other hand, our young noble didn’t even bat an eye.” Jian Ming started again.

Though he was trying to provoke the elder, everyone could see Li Qiye’s nonchalant expression and that it wasn’t a lie.

Chapter 4508: Trapped

The elder became the center of attention since everyone eagerly awaited his decision.

They believed that although the void jade was rare, it wasn’t worth the current bid. One could use the void coins to redeem for other things. For example, items from Void Zone.

Of course, they thought that the monarch could afford this sum. After all, as one of the six grand monarchs beneath Dao Sanqian, he had dominated for many eras and should have immense resources.

The elder's expression changed continuously. 30,000 was also approaching the monarch's limit. Losing the auction would leave him in a tough position but so would winning it.

Furthermore, losing to a big shot was rather acceptable, not an unknown junior. It would be humiliating for Three Thousand Dao, especially after all the taunts and jeers.

"31,000." Eventually, he decided that face was more important than reason. Thus, he gritted his teeth and continued.

In a way, making this bid showed everyone the monarch's wealth and his sect's superiority. If Li Qiye kept on going, then at least he has tried his best.

Everyone took a deep breath after hearing this and turned their attention toward Li Qiye.

"Wow, 31,000. You win, Cloudgrasp Elder. A starting price of 3,000 went all the way up to 31,000, so impressive. Three Thousand Dao's wealth lives up to its reputation."

"You!" The elder turned red, thinking that he has fallen into a trap.

The sarcastic praise didn't make the elder feel any better about winning. It only served as a reminder of stupidity.

At first, due to Li Qiye's speed and decisiveness while bidding, everyone thought that he truly coveted the void jade. Now, it seemed that he had no intention of winning in the first place, only wanting to bury the elder alive.

The old man vomited blood from anger and fainted. He could have won with just 5,800 until Li Qiye got involved.

"31,000, sold." The auctioneer slammed his hammer. It was too late for the elder to change his mind.

Many big shots smiled wryly about the final price and the trap. Anyone else would have been laughed out of the room at this point. Alas, they pitied him instead as they watched him being unconscious.

"Sigh, he can blame no one but himself. He jumped into the pit and then even poured dirt down." Jian Ming shook his head as if he felt sorry for the guy.

If the elder was still awake, he would have vomited blood again after hearing this.

This served as a cautionary tale for the big shots. They thought that they needed to keep an eye out for Li Qiye in future auctions.

"The third item." The auctioneer said as an ancient medicine trunk was being brought out.

Inside were ten jade bottles exuding incredible heat waves. It felt as if there were volcanoes on the verge of erupting.

"Ten bottles of fire dragon pills made by Fire Dragon Enlightened Being of Divine Dragon Valley. These are his best work, the only ones left, made from the best possible materials and with the greatest love." The auctioneer said.

"Ten bottles?" A big shot stared intensely at them.

“They’re the best indeed.” The participants agreed.

Fire Dragon Enlightened Being was a renowned alchemist who specialized in fire-affinity pills.

Chapter 4509: Fire Dragon Pills

Most knew about the pills in this auction. Alas, ten bottles exceeded their expectation and truly tempted them.

These pills were coveted by the world, albeit extremely difficult to obtain. Most importantly, they were concocted by Fire Dragon Enlightened Being - an alchemist praised to be on the same level as Alchemy Emperor.

In terms of alchemy, he wasn’t a top existence from a historical scope. However, when strictly talking about fire dragon pills, he walked alone at the top. In fact, even the creator of the pills was one or two levels below him.

“Need I say more about these magical pills? I’m sure everyone knows that they can replenish and cultivate the source. Most importantly, they prevent qi deviation or in the worst case, spark the dao again from the afflicted and give them a chance to cultivate once more. The grade of these pills is superior to anything found in Divine Dragon Valley and inferior to none found in the rest of the world.”

“Why are these bottles placed above a dao lord sword art and the void jade?” One junior couldn’t help but ask.

The other youths agreed with this question too. The value of a dao lord sword art couldn’t be understated. The void jade could help someone become a dao lord on top of being connected to the mysterious Void Zone.

On the other hand, these pills didn’t seem like they were above the first two auctions in terms of value. There were also other pills with similar effects.

“Your skepticism is warranted from a particular perspective.” The auctioneer answered: “However, the demand for these pills is high, whether it be young geniuses or ancestors from the previous generations. Even dao lords might need fire dragon pills, especially the very best of them. Their grade and medicinal efficiency are unmatched.”

The crowd exchanged glances and agreed with this statement. This type of pill had a consolidation effect but most importantly, it helped profoundly with qi deviation and could mend the damages resulting from it.

No cultivator was spared from the risk of qi deviation. Even invincible dao lords could suffer this effect after a touch of carelessness.

Therefore, having ten bottles of fire dragon pills was akin to having a protective talisman against this risk. It guaranteed a smooth road for a long period of time. Therein lay the true value of these pills.

“You could argue that as long as Divine Dragon Valley still has the formula, their alchemists can still make more fire dragon pills. The circulation on the market won’t stop. However, is there a second Fire Dragon Enlightened Being? These are the last of their kind. Once the ten bottles are used up, they are no more.” The auctioneer elaborated.

“These ten bottles are also on consignment. Their starting price is relatively special as well, hence its third position.” He coughed and said.

“What is the starting price?” One big shot became curious.

“1,000,000,000 Heavenly Sovereign Refined Jades.” The auctioneer revealed.

The youths in the audience gasped after hearing the monstrous sum.

“I don’t need to say more about the effects of these last pills in existence. This is only the beginning level of sovereign jades so it is not an unreasonable sum.” A top expert from a great power agreed with the starting bid.

The auctioneer coughed and said: “The seller only asks for entry-level jades, nothing else, not even the higher-level jades. Moreover, they need to be of the highest quality, flawless, just like this one.”

Having said that, he took out a Heavenly Sovereign Refined Jade for the big shots to take a look.

They took a closer look and found that the stored chaos energy, external shell, and craftsmanship were immaculate.

“This is not a regular first-level refined jade.” One big shot said: “It must have been made by someone at the myriad level.”

Others agreed with this assessment. The starting bid wasn’t a problem for them. However, this wasn’t the case due to the quality requirement. They would need to spend a monstrous sum to procure these perfect jades. Therefore, the actual value far exceeded 1,000,000,000 Heavenly Sovereign Refined Jades.

“How strange, why not use the dao lord or golden level?” One big shot wondered: “Why does the seller only desire these low-level jades?”

Dao lord-level jades were always highly coveted and accepted as a form of currency. Therefore, the demand was rather puzzling and illogical. Virtually all qualified buyers would prefer the transaction to be with dao lord jades, not entry-level jades regardless of their quality.

“We do not know and did not ask.” The auctioneer said.

“What is the valley doing?” Wise Ancestor murmured: “They don’t need money given their wealth. Moreover, the remaining pills from Fire Dragon Enlightened Being have symbolic sentiments as well.”

Chapter 4510: Competitive Auction

All in all, the big shots present felt frustrated and curious about the buyer’s demand. Normally, low and high-quality jades of the same level had the same monetary worth.

But now, since the demand was 1,000,000,000 perfect jades, it became a supply issue that would increase the price.

“They want to build a kiln, one better capable of controlling the quality for a long period. This would allow them to produce high-quality pills. Looks like they have gathered enough perfect-quality jades of all levels outside of sovereign.” Li Qiye smiled and said.

“That’s a thing?” Wise hasn’t heard of such a magical cauldron before.

The Wu was also an alchemist clan with peerless alchemists before. However, they have never heard of using a kiln for mass production before. Just controlling one cauldron alone was difficult enough and normally for the divine pills, only one would be produced.

Li Qiye only chuckled and didn’t elaborate.

The auctioneer stared at the guests and then asked: “Any other questions, Esteemed Guests?”

No one else said anything because it was none of their business what the buyer wanted. The only thing to do was to satisfy the demand in order to obtain the bottles. The quality of the pills was not to be questioned since the auction house has guaranteed it.

“Then we shall begin, the starting price will be 1,000,000,000.” The auctioneer went on: “Because this was the final work of Fire Dragon Enlightened Being, the increment will be 100,000,000.”

The crowd clamored after hearing this. Alas, there would be no more pills like them afterward. Maybe this was still within the realm of acceptability.

“This might be better than small raises. We’ll save time too, let’s go.” An ancient cultivator urged.

Qi deviation could happen to everyone, even the mighty ancestors. Of course, the chance for them was lower. Nonetheless, it meant that they would lose everything after working for so hard. Therefore, older cultivators were actually more frightened of qi deviation.

The old cultivators in the crowd were willing to pay a premium to rid themselves of this fear.

“We shall begin.” The auctioneer said.

“1,100,000,000.” Turtle-seeker Ancestor shouted.

“1,200,000,000.” The ancient cultivator immediately responded.

“1,300,000,000.” Alchemy Child bid as well for his young emperor. There was only a tiny chance for someone so talented to suffer qi deviation. However, if the price didn’t go too high, having the ten bottles would still be wise.

“1,400,000,000.” A big shot from an ancient clan joined.

“1,500,000,000.”

“1,600,000,000.”

“1,700,000,000.”

“1,800,000,000.”

“1,900,000,000.”

“2,000,000,000.” The other participants were clearly interested in the pills.

It didn't take long for the atmosphere to heat up and the bid became 3,000,000,000. Despite the heated nature of the auction, everyone still adhered to the minimum increment. No one wanted to escalate the situation.

Turtle-seeker, Alchemy Child, and the ancient cultivator seemed insistent on winning.

Alchemy Child wanted it for his young emperor just in case as long as he could get it for a reasonable price. The ancient cultivator seemed to have a problem with his cultivation, hence needing the pills.

Most participants dropped out once the price got up to 3,000,000,000. Although they could still afford the amount, they needed to save money for other treasures.

Turtle-seeker seemed hellbent on winning and came prepared. Alas, his expression became serious since the price was slowly getting out of reach.

"4,000,000,000." Finally, Alchemy Child broke the mold with a strong bid.

Turtle-seeker hesitated, raising his hand halfway but eventually lowering it. This amount was beyond his current wealth. His expression darkened as he sighed, looking helpless and sad.

"4,100,000,000." A new participant joined the show - Cloudgrasp Elder who has regained his wits.

Meanwhile, Wise worried about his old friend and asked: "You really need these ten bottles?"

"It's the kid." Turtle-seeker smiled bitterly: "His talent is perfect, it's just that there was a problem during the training process."