

Emperor 4531

Chapter 4531: Courting Death

Untethered Vajra roared and tried to break free, unleashing one golden dragon after another. His mighty power assaulted the sky and stirred the heart of spectators. Their legs trembled with fear.

Unfortunately, his effort and the devastating golden dragons were stopped by Wise Ancestor.

Spectators didn't know how Wise was so strong. The vajra's techniques were frightening. Each dragon could rend the earth or destroy any ancestor, let alone them. Alas, Wise still managed to stop the vajra from helping Alchemy Child.

"Untethered Vajra is worthy of his fame as the number one vagabond. He's strong enough to contend against any ancient ancestor." One expert said with admiration. The vajra's techniques and power could let him roam the world uncontested.

"This Wise Ancestor is so scary too, how come I haven't heard of his domination before?" A youth asked.

"The Wu was a behemoth, at least during the Chaotic Era. They reigned for a long time but eventually declined." A last-gen cultivator explained.

The spectators had no idea that the two were acting because they weren't holding back with their auras and techniques. They just had enough control to not hurt each other.

"Majestic Sky Dragon!" Untethered Vajra roared and summoned a massive golden dragon.

It had small dragons accompanying it and the horde coiled around him. He looked magnificent and divine just like a dragon god. It seemed as if he could control all dragons. He then commanded all the dragons to attack Wise Ancestor.

The flashiness of the attack made Wise nearly burst out in laughter. He couldn't let the guy down and shouted: "Sword Firmament!"

Thousands of swords manifested into reality and rushed to meet the dragons.

"Rumble!" Sure enough, Wise managed to stop the draconic assault with his sword without any problem.

While the two combatants were relaxed inside, spectators found their attacks horrifying, not wanting to become needless casualties.

At first, Alchemy Child had hopes of Untethered Vajra saving him. After all, the guy's power was recognized by True Immortal, hence their request.

Alas, he watched the vajra being pushed back time and time again. Despair started to surface inside his mind.

Li Qiye found this rather amusing. The vajra was trapping the youth who had no idea. He should have been an actor instead of a cultivator.

"I'll kill you then since you won't make a move. The result will be the same anyway." Li Qiye smiled.

“Do-do you wish to suffer the wrath of True Immortal?! My-my sect will avenge...” Alchemy Child billowed.

“My ears have calluses from listening to the same words over and over again.” Li Qiye waved his hand and interrupted before moving onward.

Since he was only a servant, there was no reputation and prestige to worry about. He turned and fled, not expecting his plan to go south so quickly.

Alas, he saw Li Qiye blocking his path and was horrified. He immediately changed direction only to see Li Qiye in front again.

“To hell with you!” This happened several more times before he gave up and attacked: “Phoenix Claw!”

“Poof!” Flames engulfed his hands and turned them into phoenix claws capable of crushing any physical affinity. He reached for Li Qiye’s heart with this attack. The flames alone could reduce any opponent to ashes.

“This is a top technique from True Immortal.” One spectator commented.

Alchemy Child couldn’t actually use the technique correctly. Alas, it was rather famous so people were surprised.

“Even a servant has access to this technique?” One expert said.

“It’s because the young emperor values him and probably gave him many things.” Another murmured.

For other great powers, only elite disciples had access to this level of merit law, not an alchemy servant.

Unfortunately, the youth didn’t master the technique. Li Qiye simply crushed the move and grabbed him by the throat, dangling him in the air.

“Re-release me!” Alchemy Child panicked and bellowed: “M-my master is True Immortal Young Emperor. Master, save me---”

“Crack!” He couldn’t finish before Li Qiye added a bit more force and crushed his neck. His legs then went limp.

Time came to a halt as everyone watched his death.

“He killed the young emperor’s servant, this is serious.” One cultivator regained her wits and said.

Everyone understood that Alchemy Child was only a servant in True Immortal. However, his master was an heir.

As the saying goes - check the dog’s master before beating it. Though most found Alchemy Child annoying, they wouldn’t have escalated the issue. This was akin to slapping the young emperor in the face and provoking True Immortal.

Li Qiye, on the other hand, tossed the corpse away and said: “I’ll kill your master too if he dares to come.”

Chapter 4532: The Yu

Li Qiye's contemptuous attitude towards True Immortal meant a declaration of war.

Listeners took a deep breath. How many cultivators in the world would dare to do the same thing?

"His audacity has no bounds. Does he think he's unbeatable?" One youth blurted.

"An unbeatable cultivator would still need to think twice before declaring war on True Immortal. The worst-case scenario is clan extermination." A last-gen cultivator thought that Li Qiye's words were arrogant and unwise.

"What sect is he from?" A few experts pondered this question.

"It doesn't matter, even someone from Three Thousand Dao wouldn't do this carelessly, the same for Dao Sanqian." Another stated.

No one refuted this fact. Though True Immortal wasn't as strong as it used to be during Blessed Dao Lord's era, it was still an untouchable behemoth.

Dao Sanqian, a true master that has tested time itself, wouldn't go against True Immortal without ample deliberation.

"This is a case of being too ignorant for your own good." A clan elder shook his head.

Everyone thought that Li Qiye had messed with the beehive. There would be no place for him to stay in Eight Desolaces.

"Boom!" A loud explosion drew everyone's attention.

They looked up and saw Untethered Vajra and Wise Ancestor performing an ultimate move. This resulted in both of them falling down to the ground.

Untethered Vajra struggled to breathe but nonetheless, he cupped his fist and said: "I cannot defeat the peerless sword art of your clan."

Those in the know would find this ridiculous because the Wu wasn't known for their swordsmanship.

Wise Ancestor smiled wryly. He didn't use any power at all; Untethered Vajra did most of the work.

"You're too kind." He had no choice but to play along.

"I can't believe that a weakened clan still has such a mighty ancestor." One spectator said with admiration after seeing Wise in action.

"How disgraceful of me." The vajra stared at Alchemy Child's corpse and then said with regrets: "I was too weak to protect you and couldn't carry out True Immortal's request."

Having said that, he told the disciples from the sect to take Alchemy Child's corpse away. There was nothing else they could do anyway due to their limited power. They were fortunate enough to survive.

"I'm afraid your future path won't be easy but I'm sure you will rise above anyway. I feel inadequate in comparison." The vajra said.

"Inadequate or just lazy?" Li Qiye smirked.

The vajra smiled wryly and said: "A vagabond such as myself has no power to speak of. Even if I had gone all out, it would just be an ant trying to push down a tree."

"Go." Li Qiye let him go.

"May we meet again." The vajra cupped his fist and left.

The spectators also dispersed afterward.

"The guy should be an actor." Jian Ming commented. He knew how powerful Wise Ancestor was and that the old man didn't go all out. However, the vajra acted as if he was struggling for his life.

"That's the only way for him to deal with True Immortal." Wise shook his head.

"He probably did it on purpose to get rid of that annoying brat. The guy had no idea what the hell happened before dying." The daoist smiled and said.

Alchemy Child would be screaming in the yellow river if he were to find out the circumstances of his death. He only came seeking the grass because he thought Untethered Vajra would be able to protect him.

"The old man is a crafty one, I better watch out to not become a victim later." Jian Ming said and added the vajra to his black list.

"There's a reason why he traveled the world and came out unscathed. It's not easy being a vagabond and dealing with the great powers." Wise smiled.

"Might not be a vagabond." Li Qiye chuckled.

"Right, there is a high chance of him being from an ancient sect. It's either reclusive or too weak to matter now with only a few members." The daoist nodded.

"Let's go." Li Qiye didn't care about this issue.

"Yes, back to the Yu." Jian Ming led the way again.

"Remember, don't cause trouble. We're the ones asking for a favor." Wise warned again.

Jian Ming only smiled. Since he had such a mighty backer, there was no way the Yu could escape this time.

Eventually, the group stopped by an isolated hill outside the city. Jian Ming looked around and said: "It's right here, this is where the thieves live." He then looked up.

There were white clouds stacking each other, looking like a snowy mountain range.

Li Qiye looked up and chuckled.

"I'll get them out, they can't hide forever." Jian Ming took out a puppet and placed it on top of the hill.

"Fire!" He gave the order and the puppet started shooting massive shells.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!" The explosions made the clouds disperse.

“This is your peaceful measure?” Wise glared at him.

“Haha, I forgot...” Jian Ming smiled awkwardly but didn’t stop the shelling.

“Who is it?!” Figures appeared amidst the cloud and started descending.

Flying wasn’t a big deal for cultivators. Some used swords and treasures to fly. However, these figures moved like monkeys leaping in the forest. Instead of branches, they leaped from one cloud to another.

“Bam! Bam! Bam!” Muscular men in tight clothes landed in front of the group.

“Why did you attack us?!” One of them shouted.

“It’s just a misunderstanding, we’re on the same side. Brothers, long time no see.” Jian Ming smiled and said.

The members of the Yu recognized him. The middle-aged man who spoke first said: “Brat, what are you doing?”

It looked like Jian Ming had dealt with them before.

“See, birds of a feather.” The daoist mumbled.

“Our ancestor wants to see Fat Yu, it’s important.” Jian Ming got really close to them, standing shoulder to shoulder.

Of course, the four clans and the Yu could be considered in-laws.

Chapter 4533: Fat Yu

“You dare to call our clan master fat?” The disciples of the Yu glared at him but didn’t seem to be particularly offended.

“Fine, can my ancestor call him that then? Given our clans’ relationship, you all should be kneeling to my ancestor, even Fat Yu would need to do so.” Jian Ming smiled.

The group then noticed Wise Ancestor.

Jian Ming immediately introduced Li Qiye and Wise: “Our ancient ancestor and the famous Wise Ancestor of the Wu. I’m sure you have heard of him before.”

Whether they knew Wise Ancestor or not, they still earnestly bowed towards the two. Though they didn’t kneel, this was still respectful enough.

Outsiders would find it surprising. The famous thieves actually conducted themselves like those from a proper clan?

“As I’ve said, our ancestors are here to speak to Fat Yu. Shouldn’t you let us in?” Jian Ming repeated.

“We need to report this to the ancestors.” The Yu members hesitated before replying.

The Yu were considered thieves due to some of their unsavory acts. They rarely interacted with outsiders and great powers.

The four clans were exceptions since they had ties with the Yu in the past. Later on, the Yu and the Tie had an alliance marriage. This helped with their relationship.

Of course, due to the Yu's terrible reputation, this friendship was often kept a secret and direct contact was limited.

"Invite our guests." A voice came from above. With that, the clouds suddenly parted and a gigantic ship could finally be seen.

Of course, clouds weren't enough to hide something so massive. There was a stealth spatial technique at work here.

"Young Noble, up we go." Jian Ming smiled at the group.

"This is my first time boarding the ship." Wise Ancestor said.

"Haha, it's actually bigger than it seems, it's an independent realm." Jian Ming has been here several times before and laughed: "It is their ancestral ground, these thieves have lived here for generations now, always floating around and stealing. That's their way of keeping up with their ancestors' traditions."

"It's a nice ship." Li Qiye commented.

"Its name is God Vessel." The daoist said: "Our ancestors have read their fortune before, helping them escape from the great calamity and actually benefiting from it."

"I've heard of this before. They consider themselves to be the Yu but I think they're just a side branch." Jian Ming said.

"Wrong." The daoist said: "Their ancestor was certainly from the main branch, it's just that he was a sinner and was imprisoned. This allowed him to focus and become a greater cultivator. When the calamity came, the prison broke down and he came across God Vessel, eventually starting the current Yu clan. So you're right that they're no longer the orthodox branch. The original clan wouldn't recognize them. After all, the Yu was a prestigious clan who wouldn't allow any misconduct."

"Well, either way, the Yu is no longer around, so they're the Yu." Jian Ming said.

"Let's go." Li Qiye said.

The group then flew onto the ship. Once they got up, they found that it was actually even larger than expected. This was nothing short of a floating island.

Though the members of the Yu looked a bit rough, their manners were just fine when interacting with Li Qiye's group. A prestigious bloodline still flowed in their veins.

Therefore, though they were bandits, they chose to be cultured bandits instead of reckless criminals.

The reception took place in the main hall. The clan master of the Yu was already there.

As Jian Ming had mentioned, he was rather fat. His body looked like a mountain of flesh. When he walked, his fat would jiggle.

He wore an expensive robe and shiny golden rings with five-colored jades embedded to them. This ostentatious look made him look like a pampered young master, not a bandit.

Deep in his eyes was a fierce glow - something that would catch others off guard. When he became serious, he would resemble a tiger ready to lunge on its prey. His fat frame wouldn't affect his speed in the slightest.

"Yo, long time no see, fatty." Jian Ming greeted in a familiar manner.

The clan master glared at him and said: "Brat, nothing good comes with your visit. Last time you snuck some of our disciples out, I haven't forgotten."

"Don't worry, I'm just teaching them how to be good people instead of bandits. Plus, I'm doing it for free, what more do you want?" Jian Ming smiled.

"You're itching for a beating?" The clan master uttered coldly.

Jian Ming wasn't afraid at all even though this fat clan master was immensely strong, on the same level as leaders of the great powers.

"Fatty, watch your mouth in the presence of our ancient ancestor. Say the wrong thing and he might destroy your clan, you'll be homeless then." Jian Ming came closer and whispered.

One could see that these two were rather close. This was because Jian Ming regularly disposed of stolen goods for them, not to mention the closeness of the clans.

"Fatty, hurry up and greet the young noble." He then said loudly to put on an act. He couldn't let his clan know that he was helping the Yu with illegal transactions. Otherwise, his seniors would give him a harsh beating.

"I, Yu Zun, respectfully greet the young noble and Wise Ancestor." He bowed to greet the two. His large frame seemingly made the hall tremble a bit during the bow.

Chapter 4534: Home Of The Dead

Yu Zun invited the two ancestors to sit down while stealing glances at Li Qiye. He was curious and frustrated about Li Qiye being an ancient ancestor.

No matter the angles, the guy didn't resemble an ancient ancestor. He even seemed inferior to Wise Ancestor. However, he could tell that Wise was following Li Qiye's lead so he didn't dare to say anything.

"Ancestors, may I humbly ask for the purpose of your visit?" He cupped his fist.

"I'm afraid it is something that will trouble you, Virtuous Nephew." Wise smiled.

"Ancestor, please let me know. We will do everything in our power to assist you." Yu Zun replied.

His enthusiasm caught Wise by surprise. There were old ties between them and this was strengthened after the marriage.

Alas, due to the Yu's special circumstances, they rarely interacted and kept a distance. Therefore, from another perspective, their relationship was awfully weak.

Wise was ready for the Yu to refuse the request. If he were to let them know how important the dao stone was, their villainous blood might make them extort him.

In reality, the entire clan has been treating them awfully well. He pondered for a bit and got straight to the point: "When the ancestral aunt went to your clan, her dowry included something that belong to the four clans. The reason for our visit today is to take it back."

"The dowry?" The clan master didn't expect the reason for this visit.

The two parties rarely mingled, Jian Ming was an exception. Therefore, he assumed that it would be something of significance to have two ancestors arriving.

He pondered a bit before responding: "I'm afraid this is rather difficult. Ancestors, there married was a very long time ago and the ancestral aunt's branch is all but gone. Finding something that old will be challenging."

"This is why we need your help, Virtuous Nephew." Wise said.

"May I ask what it is?" Yu Zun asked.

"A dao stone, it was special to the ancestral aunt." Jian Ming said: "Think about it, do you remember anything? Ask some old men."

"Well..." Yu Zun said with uncertainty: "I know about it but I'm not that sure. The dowry was generous back then."

Having said that, he smiled awkwardly and added: "You know about our situation. Normally, when disciples or even ancestors pass, their funeral arrangements would be done on the spot. This applied to the ancestral aunt as well. We descendants don't know much about it anymore."

They had a nomadic lifestyle so whenever a member passed away, they would be buried on the spot if they didn't want cremation. Because of how much time had passed, they didn't know the location of the ancestral aunt's grave.

"It was a very special item, I'm sure the ancestral aunt was attached to it." Jian Ming said: "Fatty, think carefully, this is very important."

"Mmm..." Yu Zun didn't dare to be careless after hearing this. In recent years, Jian Ming have helped them out with getting rid of merchandises. This was a huge favor.

"Now that I think about it, there is really something." He responded after a moment of contemplation: "It is not with the ancestral aunt but rather, Pioneer Ancestor."

Pioneer Ancestor was renowned and mighty, the husband of the ancestral aunt.

"He always carried something with him and had it with him before burial, nothing else. From what I've heard, it could be your dao stone." He said.

"Where is his grave?" Jian Ming couldn't wait.

"I can answer this question. He is one of the few who has a chosen place for his grave." He answered.

“A chosen place?” Wise found this surprising given the nomadic nature of their clan.

“We didn’t keep track of all the graves but Pioneer Ancestor was different. He already picked a spot when he was still alive.” He added.

“Where is it?” Wise asked.

“Yin Yang Crossing.” He became serious as he answered.

“Yin Yang Crossing?!” Jian Ming became startled.

“What did your ancestor want to do? To live again or to enter the reincarnation cycle?” The daoist felt the same way.

“We aren’t sure.” He shook his head: “He’s the only one who chose Yin Yang Crossing, according to our sparse records.”

“It’s a place for the death, excavating a grave there won’t be easy.” Wise’s expression soured.

“Indeed.” He smiled wryly: “Rumor has it that he had a plan and everything. Once he died, the disciples of our clan only carried him to the entrance and didn’t dare to enter.”

“That place is no joke.” The daoist said: “Just entering should be fine but digging a grave? That’s fundamentally different and will alert the dead. Numerous invincible beings have been buried there and their corpses might wake up. They’ll be just as strong as before.”

“Right, it is a devilish place.” Jian Ming smiled wryly.

Wise thought of a worse possibility: “What if your ancestor has finished the crossing? The dao stone would be gone then.”

“There is good news, the seniors have said that with a successful crossing, his lamp in our clan will extinguish due to him entering the reincarnation cycle. The lamp is still lit so I don’t think he has crossed over yet.”

“Should we go to that cursed place?” Jian Ming was afraid of digging up a grave surrounded by the dead.

“What else can we do?” Wise said.

On the other hand, the daoist was interested in this: “Did your ancestor obtain a fortune or know something? Why did he choose that place?”

Chapter 4535: Where Is The Grave?

Yu Zun couldn’t answer this and shook his head: “I know very little about Pioneer Ancestor, only that he was a true dragon soaring on the horizon. His vision eluded frogs like us. Hmm, if I have to pick something, it would be that he took several long journeys during his prime.”

Normally, ancestral grounds were immobile. The destruction of the ancestral ground spelled the demise of a sect.

For the Yu, God Vessel was their ancestral ground. It was usually always on the move with no goal in sight.

Because of this, their disciples rarely went out. After all, they were always going out together as a clan. Therefore, a powerful ancestor such as Pioneer normally guarded God Vessel. The ship would take him wherever he wanted.

Thus, it was noted that he left the ship several times. The descendants didn't know the reason for his departure. Perhaps these journeys gave him the idea of burying himself in Yin Yang Crossing.

"Reincarnation and rebirth are just legends, your ancestor can't do it." Jian Ming doubted.

Anyone else would be livid by this comment regarding their ancestor. However, Yu Zun only shook his head and said: "Other ancestors mentioned it, living again was definitely his goal."

"Such wishful thinking." Li Qiye, who has been quiet the entire time, finally commented.

"I haven't heard of a successful case." Jian Ming said.

"The place is incalculable too. Trying to do so would result in calling the ominous." The daoist added.

"Your clan had tried before?" Jian Ming stared at the daoist.

"We had ancestors wanting to understand the crossing. Unfortunately, only failure and mysterious death ensued. Because of this, we are told to never see into that dangerous place." The daoist answered.

"Dangerous it may be, we still have to go or we won't be able to get the dao stone." Wise said helplessly.

"We could be walking to the gate of hell or the reincarnation cycle." Jian Ming found this dreadful.

Wise then asked Yu Zun: "Putting this matter aside, did our ancestral aunt take anything with her for the burial?"

Though they speculated that the dao stone might be with Pioneer Ancestor, Wise still hoped that there might be another possibility, hence the inquiry.

"Well..." Yu zun didn't have a response.

Normally, it would be improper to ask this about someone else's ancestor. In this case, she did originally come from the four clans so it seemed fine for Wise to ask.

"I don't have an answer." He said: "The ancestral aunt passed away a very long time ago. What I know came from recent ancestors."

"Can we somehow find her grave?" Wise asked again.

"That's hard to say. As you know about our custom, the majority of members will be buried on the spot without a memorial tablet or records. Dust to dust, returning to the earth." Yu Zun sighed and said.

There were reasons for this custom. Firstly, they didn't have their own territory. Secondly, they didn't follow the orthodox path, having robbed and stole from numerous great powers. If others were to know that they were buried nearby, the graves would not be safe. This made the omission of memorial tablets and records necessary.

“We might be able to find it, it’ll just take a very long time.” Yu Zun said without any guarantee.

Wise then coughed and mentioned something sensitive: “If we find our ancestral aunt’s grave, would you give us permission to respectfully open it? What about Pioneer Ancestor’s grave?”

He put it rather delicately. In other words, the four clans must open the graves in order to find the dao stone. This, of course, required permission from the Yu.

“Hmm...” Yu Zun smiled awkwardly and then answered: “The truth is that we don’t know the exact location of Pioneer Ancestor’s grave. We couldn’t help at all, the only thing we can do is remember and honor him.”

A fool could tell that Yu Zun was giving implicit permission. If the four clans could actually enter Yin Yang Crossing and find the grave, then the Yu would close their eyes and ignore this matter.

“As for the ancestral aunt, we would have to negotiate after finding the grave. It might take some time too.” He added.

Yu Zun was being reasonable enough because after marriage, the ancestral aunt became a member of the Yu. If her maternal side wished to excavate her grave, they would still need permission.

“We shouldn’t wait for the ancestral aunt’s grave. According to my calculations, the crossing will be actually opening soon.” The daoist told Wise.

“Then we should go to Yin Yang Cross first. It would be problematic if the ancestor is already gone once we’re there.” Wise agreed and stood up.

“Why do you keep saying we? It’s just us, the four clans.” Jian Ming brought up something else: “You’re trying to get close to us and scheming something, aren’t you?”

The daoist gave him a disdainful glare and ignored him.

“So be it, Yin Yang Cross first before Pioneer Ancestor is gone.” Li Qiye stood up and ordered.

Yu Zun got up and cupped his fist: “Young Noble, may I have permission to ask you something?”

“Speak.” Li Qiye said.

He scratched his head and said: “Young Noble, as an ancient ancestor, are you older than Wise Ancestor?”

“Yes, old enough to be forgotten.” Li Qiye glanced at Wise then said.

“My question is regarding our clan.” Yu Zun hesitated before asking: “I heard that during the Chaotic Era, the four clans followed a big shot here. All of them came from the same place. I believe that our clan also had ties with this place?”

Chapter 4536: What Is Home?

“There were ties indeed, and?” Li Qiye said flatly.

“Young Noble, may I ask whether our branch has a chance of returning to our home or the primary branch?” Yu Zu was happy to hear this.

“You tell me.” Li Qiye said: “If this was the goal, your clan wouldn’t have waited until now to do something. You all have been robbing and stealing for eras now, completely free and unrestrained. Can you change your way after returning to that place?”

“Well...” Yu Zun couldn’t answer right away.

“Do wild monkeys like being stuck in cages?” Li Qiye went on: “Of course, I’m not praising your lifestyle at all, it isn’t admirable.”

He paused for a bit and continued: “Say, your clan is willing to change your way but the real question is, would the main branch accept you? Remember, the original clan is a righteous faction. Their ancestors were prestigious characters walking on the path of justice. As descendants, albeit a side branch, what did you choose to do? Though nothing heinous such as murdering the innocent, you all have been reduced to bandits.”

“We...” Yu Zun was tongue-tied again.

Jian Ming who was nearby came over and whispered: “Fatty, what’s wrong with you today? Why so sentimental? This isn’t your style, you damned bandit.”

“When it’s all said and done, we still need a home.” Yu Zun sighed and bitterly said: “Our members have been rootless for generations now, born in the sky and buried in the ground without memorial tablets and offerings. In other words, no more than stray spirits in the wilderness.”

He became emotional after saying this. For their branch, God Vessel was their home. Alas, it wasn’t a suitable site for a cemetery. This meant that their end was rather sad and lonely.

Living on the ship was fine. Alas, this was only temporary and nothing else was there after death.

This rootless type of existence left them sad for some reason. Of course, some of them have attempted to live permanently in other places. This just didn’t work out - perhaps it was due to their bloodline demanding freedom.

The current clan wasn’t doing badly. It wasn’t prosperous but could still be considered a great power, albeit in the absence of an ancestral ground or vast territory.

“Your ancestor was a sinner, now, his descendants are the same way.” Li Qiye shook his head: “This makes it difficult for them to accept you.”

Yu Zun didn’t say anything because this was a sore spot for the clan. Sure, they haven’t done anything heinous and only picked targets who were deserving of being robbed. Alas, this didn’t abdicate them from all responsibilities.

Ultimately, their branch was banished from the main clan. How could they ever return without this being resolved somehow?

“Seems like we are destined to drift forever.” Yu Zun smiled bitterly.

“How do I put this, there are two sides to everything. Your nomadic lifestyle has advantages and disadvantages. The former is simple, always being able to run during moments of danger. On the other hand, other great powers can’t uproot their home.”

“That is an advantage indeed.” Yu Zun admitted.

If they were to meet a powerful enemy or any danger, their vessel could instantly flee to an unknown location. This could potentially save their entire clan from any casualty.

“That’s why settling down isn’t necessary but of course, it’s not impossible if that is your wish.” Li Qiye said.

“Please guide me, Young Noble.” Yu Zun bowed.

“Pick a spot and destroy God Vessel. How can your clan drift anymore without it?” Li Qiye said.

“But, but God Vessel is our very foundation.” Yu Zun blurted.

“Having a ship as a foundation meant floating forever. You might probably think that you just need to stop flying it and pick a place. However, when danger comes one day, will your clan fight to the bitter end or just fly away once more? Which has a high probability?”

“We wouldn’t stay and die.” Yu Zun answered.

Their clan has grown used to running at the first sight of danger, even losing their shoes in the process. This generational way of life has been embedded deep in their bones.

“Other clans and sects can try to defend their territory for the sake and prosperity of their descendants. This land was built with generations of blood.” Li Qiye said: “There is no perfect outcome, a price is necessary. If you want a home, use your life to build one. Of course, there is nothing wrong with prioritizing survival and avoiding danger either. It’s about choices and from these choices come karma and consequences. These things don’t just fall down from the sky. Make your decision for the sake of your descendants.”

“Choices...” Yu Zun murmured.

“If you wish to have a permanent home, ask yourself and the clan whether you have enough determination to do it. If not, then keep on drifting and attribute this to not being the right time.” Li Qiye finished.

Having said that, he started walking out. The group hurriedly caught up.

“Hmm...” Yu Zun stood there in a daze.

Once the group left, Jian Ming looked back at the barely-visible ship amidst the clouds. This looked like a scene from the legend.

“This ship is amazing, nearly impossible to make a breakthrough for attackers.” Jian Ming salivated.

This ship protected the Yu for many eras now - a testament to its value.

“Its origin is rumored to be frightening.” The daoist said: “A supreme artifact during the ancient era. The ancestor of the Yu got lucky and found it during the great calamity or he would have died.”

Chapter 4537: Heaven Devourer Mad God

“To Yin Yang Crossing.” Li Qiye ordered.

“...” The audacious Jian Ming felt a chill coursing down his neck after hearing this.

“The world of the dead, the living isn’t meant to be there.” The daoist said.

“There is a possibility of waking the corpses if we dig up a grave there. The coffin lids won’t be able to stop them.” Wise said with a serious expression.

“Not just a possibility, it is absolutely certain and it will be wild. The entire mountain will be filled with corpses and not just regular zombies, they will include the strongest cultivators in history, those capable of grasping stars and changing the celestials with a single thought...” The daoist said.

“Shit...” Jian Ming’s head shrank down into his neck a little as he spoke: “We can at least kill the living, how do we kill something that’s already dead? I heard people say that those corpses can’t be taken down.”

“Of course, they’re already dead regardless of what you do but they can kill you. Moreover, their power and battle potential aren’t that different from when they were alive.” The daoist said.

“No wonder why even that big shot from Divine Dragon Valley died there.” Jian Ming stated.

“That mad man deserved to die. Arrogant people, such as yourself, will be obliterated after going there.” The daoist said.

This naturally annoyed Jian Ming. He glared at the daoist and then said: “You trying to curse me with bad luck?”

“Of course not.” The daoist smiled: “What I’m saying is that you are comparable to that mad man, both will be remembered in history.”

“You’re finally right for once.” Jian Ming gloated for a bit before realizing that something was wrong: “Wait, are you praising or insulting me?”

“Is it not enough to compare you to Heaven Devourer Mad God? This is a supreme honor, just think about it, how many in history are comparable to him? Only a few and they’re all famous.” The daoist waved his hand.

“True.” Though Jian Ming knew that the daoist was cursing him, the comparison made him feel good.

Wise Ancestor ignored the two since he worried about the bigger picture: “The mad god was insanely powerful, being on the same level as Apex Moon Dao Lord. He never lost to anyone in his life yet met his end in Yin Yang Crossing.”

Heaven Devourer Mad God was a mighty ancestor of Divine Dragon Valley. How should one describe his strength? During his era, he was formidable enough to break the heaven.

He was the senior brother of the valley’s second Dao Lord, Apex Moon. They have fought before and his unbeatable streak remained.

Therefore, the arrogant cultivator feared nothing under the heaven. Thus, he decided to enter the cemetery of Yin Yang Crossing.

This wasn't considered outrageous during his era since he had beat them all. The result was rather obvious - he caused enough trouble to call out a wave of corpses.

They pushed off the lid and climbed out of their graves - all famous cultivators. There was only one target - Heaven Devourer Mad God.

At the start, he showed his supremacy and repelled the horde. Alas, these mighty corpses were unkillable. Fatigue eventually got the best of him and he couldn't get out of their containment. The unbeatable cultivator was torn to pieces first then reduced to ashes.

Wise Ancestor shuddered after recalling this tale. Would they be able to escape from the horde of corpses? He had zero confidence because no one has done so, at least not in the historical records.

Heaven Devourer Mad God wasn't the only one who chose to infiltrate the Yang Cemetery. Many coveted the treasures buried in there, eventually throwing their lives away.

"In the incoming days, the crossing will begin. If we're lucky enough, Pioneer Ancestor will try to cross too. Maybe we won't have to enter the cemetery and can meet him at the bridge." The daoist said.

"That's not a bad idea." Jian Ming and Wise Ancestor agreed.

"What if he doesn't bring the dao stone with him?" However, Jian Ming thought about this potential complication.

The daoist thought about it and said: "Someone who cares enough to bring an item along there will always have it with them. He'll take it with him for the crossing."

"Shit, that could be bad too. If we don't meet him, he might be gone with the stone forever." Jian Ming said.

"Thank god that he still hasn't crossed over yet or the dao stone would be gone forever." Wise Ancestor started sweating.

"Right." The daoist said: "Anything crossing to the Yin Wheel will disappear forever, perhaps entering the reincarnation cycle."

"Time is of the essence then." Jian Ming was serious since this pertained to the prosperity of the four clans.

"Calm down, there is still time before the next crossing. The crossing emissary won't be there so the dead won't come out. We need to wait." The daoist, on the other hand, disagreed.

"I've never seen one before." Jian Ming became curious.

"Yes, the emissary is a specialist in leading the dead from the cemetery." The daoist said.

Wise Ancestor had witnessed the ferrying process previously and nodded: "The bridge only appears with the emissary, the latter seems to be in control. Once they're both there, the dead finally come out to try and enter the Yin Wheel."

"Who is this emissary? Why does he try to cross the dead over?" Jian Ming had many questions.

Chapter 4538: Pertaining The Legend

"No one knows his identity. A legend states that he is only a strand of soul. Another says that he came from the nether world. Some believe that he is an ancient existence..." Wise Ancestor elaborated.

"How can he live for so long?" Jian Ming inquired.

Wise Ancestor rubbed his chin and then said: "Who knows? The emissary has existed for a long time now. Dead or alive? Unknown. Origin, unknown. It's a being shrouded in mystery."

"How interesting." Jian Ming then thought about the daoist and smiled happily: "Swindler, your renowned clan knows everything, hehe, what about this emissary?"

"We have indeed calculated this topic." The daoist stared at him and said earnestly.

"Oh? Tell me already." Jian Ming's eyes lit up since these were his favorite topics.

"Why should I? Seering is a dangerous art, I can't just give out this precious information to you."

"Hey, what the hell are you saying? You have been following us, eating our food, and drinking our water on top of riding our young noble's coattails. We'll throw you out right now, wait, no, since we're nice people, we'll let you walk away." Jian Ming accused him.

The daoist glared at him. He was only following Li Qiye, since when did he become a freeloader?

He coughed and tried to play it off: "Very well, I can appreciate your desire to learn so I'll make an exception. Listen well, how much you learn depends on your own fortune."

His attitude annoyed Jian Ming, prompting a brief glare. He then brushed it aside and laughed: "Tell me already."

"The truth is that the emissary is not a person." The daoist revealed.

"What do you mean? Is he a ghost? I guess that's not a new thing in this world." Jian Ming's eyes lit up.

"Ghosts don't exist." Li Qiye smiled and interjected: "There are only resentful spirits and lingering intents. The absence of ghosts is actually a great thing for the world."

"Really?" Jian Ming became disappointed: "So there are no immortals or ghosts, only people. That's a little boring."

"Do you still want to listen?" The daoist glared at him.

"Of course, of course, keep going. Let everyone know how impressive your clan's divining abilities are." Jian Ming got closer to the daoist and smirked.

"It's just you who wants to listen." The daoist said seriously: "Our ancestor, a great seer, attempted to read the fortune of the emissary. He found that the emissary was neither human nor ghost, a being whose root is far, far older than your clan."

"Really? But our four clans are rumored to be from the previous epoch." Jian Ming said.

“He is an even older existence.” The daoist said: “The fortune couldn’t trace all the way back but there were clues. He had deep ties with an ancient emperor.”

“That sounds plausible.” Wise nodded: “I did feel an archaic imperial aura coming from him. It is suppressive even for top cultivators.”

He had witnessed the opening of the crossing before and saw the emissary. This left an unforgettable impression on him.

“Ancestor, are you saying that the emissary is an ancient emperor?” Jian Ming asked.

“I’m not sure but that is a known legend among the upper echelon. It’s rather possible.” Wise shook his head.

“Why would an ancient emperor ferry the dead? Don’t emperors and dao lords ascend to a higher realm?” Jian Ming doubted this legend.

“It doesn’t have to be the emperor’s true body.” The daoist said: “It could just be an avatar or a divine intent or maybe... a previous incarnation.”

“Previous incarnation.” Wise focused on this last part since it gave him a fresh perspective on this matter.

“What is a previous incarnation? Who has something like this?” Jian Ming asked.

“Someone who has lived again.” Li Qiye said.

“!!!” The group became emotional.

Jian Ming calmed down and became excited. He got closer to Li Qiye; his eyes flashing brightly: “Young Noble, you must know the identity of this emissary, hehe. Can you please tell us?”

“A few secrets are beyond your station, not knowing is better for your wellbeing.” Li Qiye replied.

“Oh.” Jian Ming had no choice but to restrain his curiosity, not daring to ask any longer.

“Let’s get going since the opening of the cross is the best chance of meeting Pioneer Ancestor.” Li Qiye said: “Needing to go to the Yang Cemetery will make it more complicated, there are too many graves there.”

The group shuddered, not wanting to enter a place filled with mighty corpses.

“Young Noble.” The daoist had a question: “Is the reincarnation cycle real? The corpses in the Yang Cemetery all want to experience this, right?”

Li Qiye rubbed his chin and said: “The cycle? Yes and no, but true reincarnation isn’t like this.”

“I see.” The daoist ruminated. His clan has done plenty of research on this matter since it pertained to fate and time.

Li Qiye didn’t dwell on this topic and moved onward. The group hurriedly caught up.

Yin Yang Crossing was located in both Sky Border and Inner Wild, bordering Desolate Wild.

It consisted of three main areas - Yang Cemetery, Yin Wheel, and Yin Yang Bridge. The first two were always present but the bridge required the opening of the crossing before appearing.

While standing outside, the crossing had a crescent shape. To the left were Desolate Wild and endless mountain ranges. This included the Yang Cemetery.

This area was geographically perilous with peaks and ravines. Top masters would be able to see hazy energies engulfing this place.

The peaks were home to the graves of numerous experts. They came here on the verge of death, hoping to find a grave. They would then lay down in the coffin for years to come, awaiting the crossing in order to enter the Yin Wheel.

Chapter 4539: Yin Yang Crossing

When the group made it to the edge, they saw many cultivators there including big shots from the great powers - ancestors and monarchs. Some young geniuses were present as well.

They stood on top of a peak and had a good view of Yin Yang Crossing - Yang Cemetery to the left and Yin Wheel to the right.

In the middle was a plain brimming with life and water, definitely suitable for long-term inhabitation.

Everyone knew that during the opening, a bridge would connect the cemetery with the wheel.

The group looked over the grave and saw how magnificent it was. Some peaks pierced through the clouds and were covered in snow. Rampaging rivers could be seen roaring like dragons along with bottomless valleys...

One thing was for certain - all of them contained the graves of top masters. These graves also varied in appearance.

A few had a tablet as large as a hill with clear engravings detailing the exploits of the owners. Some were nothing more than a puddle of dirt sticking out of the ground. A few had even less than that - just a flat surface, nothing else. One wouldn't be able to find them without digging randomly. Therefore, there were more graves than visible.

A faint aura could be felt everywhere. Despite its virtually indiscernible nature, anyone would know that this was an ominous sign.

As one looked farther into the region, there was no end in sight. No one knew the exact vastness of the cemetery and the number of graves erected there.

Of course, none attempted to measure this place due to its perilous nature. Perhaps there were some bold enough. Alas, they most likely didn't make it out alive.

"If we actually have to find Pioneer Ancestor's grave, it'll be like trying to find a needle in a haystack, there are countless graves here." Jian Ming became pessimistic.

"Right, there might not be a memorial tablet at all." The daoist shook his head.

“We didn’t ask the fatty about any markings or runes on his ancestor’s grave.” Jian Ming said.

“Yu Zun might not know since he said that they only took him to the entrance, not the cemetery itself. The ancestor was the one who came in and buried himself. They don’t know the exact location and even if they did, their clan wouldn’t keep records of it.” Wise said.

“So our trip will be a waste of time if he doesn’t come out for the crossing.” Jian Ming said.

Suddenly, he thought about something and told the daoist: “Haha, I’m wrong. We have a peerless diviner right here. You should perform a reading on Pioneer Ancestor, maybe you can figure out the location of the grave.”

“No way in hell.” The daoist refused: “Calculating the dead is awfully unlucky, terrible karma.”

“What do we do then? We can’t dig up the grave one by one.” Jian Ming said.

“Obviously unless you want everyone to die.” The daoist replied.

Li Qiye only smiled at the conversation and focused on the Yin Wheel instead of the cemetery. It stretched deep into an area known as Highest Wild. It seemed to be the void yet not due to the existence of floating unknowns. Light didn’t seem capable of reaching it - a stark contrast to the cemetery bathed in the sun.

This was especially true due to the snowy peaks reflecting bright rays. Alas, they couldn’t pierce through what seemed to be an invisible curtain separating Yin Wheel from the cemetery. Strange gray suds floated in this void, seemingly the aftermath of spatial fabrics being crushed.

“That’s the Yin Wheel? Doesn’t look too strange, just another space. How does it become the place for reincarnation?” Jian Ming looked over and said.

“This is its normal appearance, the real thing only appears during the opening.” Wise Ancestor explained: “A large maelstrom would appear then, it looks like death or the eye of the yellow river and will open the reincarnation path.”

“So there’s a chance of entering the vortex and reaching the reincarnation cycle?” Jian Ming smiled, seemingly excited.

“No, when that maelstrom appears, it will be extremely dangerous and capable of tearing anyone to pieces. Only the dead from the Yang Cemetery can get close. In fact, there are speculations that by burying themselves long enough, they would be able to enter the Yin Wheel.” The daoist glanced with disdain, seemingly laughing at Jian Ming’s lack of knowledge.

“Hmph, it’s just that I didn’t give a damn about this god-forsaken place.” Jian Ming retorted: “I don’t buy it either, there’s no way that vortex is so devilish.”

“The living entering the Yin Wheel will die, this has been established for eras now. Of course, there is one exception.” The daoist elaborated.

“Really, who is it?” Jian Ming asked. He actually believed the daoist’s claim about the Yin Wheel but only wanted to argue for the sake of it.

“Calamity Dao Lord.” Wise Ancestor answered instead.

“Calamity Dao Lord? That one snail?” Jian Ming was surprised.

“Pop!” Wise Ancestor smacked his head and said: “Your mouth will be the end of you one day. Think before you speak next time.”

“Hehe, this lowly one was wrong, please forgive me, Great One.” Jian Ming smiled wryly and cupped his fist towards the sky.

The daoist enjoyed watching him being slapped and said: “Calamity Dao Lord’s background is unreal. Heh, a calamity might actually descend and it’ll be too late to apologize then.”

“I’ve already apologized, he won’t care about the nonsense of a junior.” Jian Ming was a little bit afraid and said: “Please don’t send anything down, my feeble self can’t handle it.”

He had heard about the legends of Calamity Dao Lord. Rumor has it that this dao lord had something known as Heaven’s Will Elucidation.

During the dao lord’s era, he could summon calamities from above and destroy his foes without lifting a finger. This extended to clans and kingdoms as well, hence his title as Calamity Dao Lord.

Chapter 4540: Yin Wheel

Calamity was a mysterious dao lord with numerous legends. A consensus was that he came from a secret realm and was certainly a demon.

To be exact, his original form was a snail. Before becoming a dao lord, he took advantage of this and used his shell as a weapon versed in both offense and defense.

The strongest weapon had a hard time scratching this shell, let alone breaking it. Because of this, ever since his debut, he rarely suffered an injury.

Of course, possessing one of the toughest things in existence only played one part. His own power was just as impressive.

One snail, one shell, unbeatable. This phrase was often used to describe Calamity Dao Lord.

Amusingly enough, the most memorable thing about the dao lord was not his unbreakable shell but rather - something known as Elucidation Calamities.

This knowledge came from the previous epoch. No one currently could possibly research or fathom this truth. It was completely different from the current cultivation system, hence the impossibility.

Most importantly, after cultivating this art to the highest level, one would be able to call down calamities relating to the Heaven’s Will or the mysteries of the world.

Therefore, calamities could descend from several sources - the whim of the dao lord or negative comments about him.

A weaker calamity would result in one death; a more serious one would destroy a clan or a kingdom. Therefore, no one dared to say a thing about the dao lord during his era.

Though countless years have passed, he was still considered a taboo existence.

“How did Calamity Dao Lord enter?” Jian Ming’s curiosity made him courageous.

“It is said that when the crossing opened and the Yin Wheel activated, the dao lord forced his way in under the protection of his shell.” Wise Ancestor glanced at the wheel.

“Did he enter the cycle?” Jian Ming immediately asked.

“No one knew but he came back alive, albeit with serious injuries. Even his renowned shell was heavily damaged.” Wise shook his head.

“That’s something to brag about, the only one to return alive.” Jian Ming murmured.

“He wasn’t the only famous cultivator to try. Unbeatable ancestors from Pursun or True Immortal have done so. Unfortunately, they were reduced to ashes..” The daoist said.

“Do you think that this strange place is the key to reincarnation?” Jian Ming couldn’t help but ask.

“There has to be a reason for all of this, the emissary and the crossing. We don’t know whether rebirth is real but most believe in it.” The daoist said.

“Hehe, so have your clan done any research on this? Did you try to calculate the secrets here?” Jian Ming went on.

“No.” The daoist didn’t elaborate, this seemed to be a sensitive topic for their clan.

“Why not? Maybe you’ll be able to understand the mysteries of Yin Yang Crossing, enough to reach the other shore.” Jian Ming didn’t give up.

“Mortals aren’t meant to understand the cycle of life and birth.” The daoist snorted.

Meanwhile, more groups continued to arrive. Even a few reclusive masters started showing their faces once more. The atmosphere became rather intimidating.

‘Why are they here? They’re scheming against the dead?’ Jian Ming stared at the big shots and asked.

“Something’s off. Normally, only juniors or those without background would come here, wanting to steal from the graves or meet their ancestors. Great powers care too much about their reputation to do this but look, many reclusive masters are here.” Wise observed for a bit before whispering.

“Even a few ancient clans from the east are here.” The daoist added.

“Let me go ask around.” Jian Ming immediately ran over and acted familiar with a random crowd member.

“Brother, you here to get rich?” He smiled and said: “You got an ancestor coming out for this crossing with an heirloom?”

He went around and asked sensitive questions. The actual answers didn’t matter; he was merely reading their expression.

“Everyone’s here for Seer Monarch’s divinatory trigram.” After a while, someone gave him useful information.

“Oh? I see, I see.” He said before running around again.

He returned to the group and said: “They’re here because of a famous big shot buried in the cemetery. Seer Monarch calculated that this being would come out this time to enter the cycle.”

Having said that, he stared at the daoist and smirked: “Seer Monarch is very famous in Sky Border. Heh, is he related to your clan?”

“Hmph, only an inadequate side branch.” The daoist snorted with contempt.

So it turned out that the ancestor of this Seer Monarch was indeed from his clan. However, he left and started his own lineage.

“What’s with the contempt? Seer Monarch’s skill is world-renowned. So many great powers come to ask him for help while you is only known as a swindler despite being from such a prestigious clan.” Jian Ming teased.

“Divining and calculating are to understand the heaven’s machination, not for vain fame.” The daoist retorted.

“In my opinion, your skill is far inferior. Seer Monarch is rumored to instantly know the future after one reading.” Jian Ming didn’t give him any face.

“Nonsense.” The daoist snorted: “False advertisement with trumpets and drums. Not to mention our forefather, he probably can’t even compare to the Grand Seer of Seer Watch in West King.”

“Sounds like you’re the one falsely advertising about your clan.” Jian Ming remained skeptical.

“His abilities came from our clan and his ancestor was only an outer disciple. You tell me whether I’m lying or not.” The daoist said with pride.

“I see, my mistake.” Jian Ming continued: “Then can you calculate which big shot everyone is here for?”

The daoist couldn’t help but touch his seering shell after hearing this. Alas, he eventually shook his head: “We do not spy on the dead.”

“Fine.” Jian Ming scowled and said: “I was only testing you, I’m sure that it’s an ancient ancestor from a famous sect given the circumstances.”

“It’s Everlasting Monarch from True immortal.” A random youth nearby suddenly interjected.