

Emperor 4571

Chapter 4571: Invincible Slash

The crowd was left speechless after seeing True Immortal's defeat.

Six-dao Immortal Monarch was praised for being talented enough to become the first disciple of All-things Dao Lord, someone rumored to only be second to Blessed Dao Lord.

All-things could be considered one of the top ten dao lords or at least had a battle record matching any of them.

Therefore Skybreak Monarch was considerably inferior when compared to Six-dao. He was a being among the apex of this generation. Just one breath of his could freeze the entire region; a hand wave could take down a kingdom.

People trembled after hearing his name. Alas, he could only stop the first slash. Remember, that slash was already weakened too. The second slash completely overwhelmed him.

If Everlasting Monarch had left the bridge to pursue, both monarchs from True Immortal would have fallen to his blade.

"This is the power of a dao lord." The crowd gained an insight into true invincibility, not just how the word was used colloquially.

For example, if an existence were to survive after one or two moves against a dao lord, they would be praised as being "invincible". This was naturally incorrect; the dao lord merely showed mercy.

Both Six-dao Immortal Monarch and Skybreak Monarch have been praised as being invincible before. This was clearly an incorrect way to use the word yet it has been repeated time and time again in history.

The survivors were praised too highly, making regular cultivators think that a dao lord's power was actually reachable. In reality, they were merely trying to console themselves.

Today, Everlasting Monarch made the spectators realize the actual gap between "invincible" cultivators and the actual pinnacle.

"Six-dao Immortal Monarch is just as strong as Dao Sanqian, right?" An expert quietly asked after regaining his wits.

When talking about the current strongest cultivator, everyone would think about Dao Sanqian, a man with three thousand dao.

He was nothing short of an immortal in regular cultivators' eyes. His words were the heavenly decrees. Thus, how did Six-dao Monarch compare to him? If they were closely matched, then Dao Sanqian wouldn't be able to beat Everlasting Monarch either.

"Did Everlasting Monarch fight during the worst days of True Immortal?" An old ancestor asked.

The big shots exchanged glances after hearing this. After the generation of All-things Dao Lord, an arrogant woman appeared with the intention of beating down the Li. She was unbeatable and ended True Immortal's supremacy.

Next came Emperor Ye who dominated True Immortal as well, beating them in countless battles. In the end, they were sealed and another lengthy period of declination ensued.

An ancestor versed in history shook his head and elaborated: "There are no records of Everlasting Monarch fighting either lady. Maybe the world wasn't qualified to witness a battle of that level. There could be other reasons why they didn't fight too, I do not know."

Whether he fought them or not, he was clearly a true contender, not just a "survivor" against a dao lord.

"If Everlasting Monarch is already this strong, can you imagine Blessed Dao Lord?" A different ancestor had a rich imagination.

The monarch could be used as a reference point for gauging Blessed Dao Lord's power. Unfortunately, they couldn't fathom a greater height.

"Wait, look over there!" As people were busy talking about the possibilities, someone noticed a person standing in front of Everlasting Monarch.

"Who is that?!" This shocked the listeners.

They looked up and saw a man standing there with a leisure expression. It was as if he was standing in the shade and enjoying the breeze - just another passerby with no worries on his mind.

"It's Li Qiye!" A big shot recognized him and shouted.

"Is he crazy, does he want that scented pouch too?" No one expected this development.

Everlasting Monarch has shown his mastery of the sword earlier. It became apparent that no one would be able to survive. This included ancient ancestors and famous monarchs.

The decapitated corpses from True Immortal were still there to remind them of this.

"He has a death wish." A spectator shouted.

Alas, as they were still thinking about his death, he already got the scented pouch in his hand.

Those who paid enough attention felt as if a gap in time was formed for a split second. Something happened fast enough for them to forget about the past despite technically seeing it.

"What..." They became slack-jawed and couldn't believe their own eyes.

True Immortal mobilized a mighty force for the pouch only to fail. Two ancient ancestors ran for their lives.

On the other hand, Li Qiye already found success and Everlasting Monarch didn't slash him.

Chapter 4572: Timeless Melody

“Buzz.” He then opened the pouch and released a blinding radiance. These were true immortal rays. The so-called “immortal rays” were used incorrectly by frogs under the well.

Not a hint of impurities could be seen. They seemed to be eternal and have been there since the very start. Time didn’t change them at all and this would be the case later in the future as well.

They gave everyone an insight into the scene during the initial inception of the world or the final destruction of the present. Everything else seemed ephemeral in comparison.

Through these true immortal rays, one could see the past and future. Nothing else mattered but them. Eternal and indestructible - the properties of these immortal rays.

Both juniors and ancestors were instantly suppressed without any chance of resisting. In fact, even the will to resist was crushed.

The rays illuminated Li Qiye and he suddenly disappeared from sight.

In a world of absolute stillness, nothing existed, only the void. Time, space, and the other dao affinities were absent.

Suddenly, a drop of water appeared with the reflection of a figure inside. “Pop!” The figure came out and it was none other than Li Qiye.

He didn’t bother scouting the area; his target was already in front of him - a shimmering glow.

Within was an indiscernible figure. It could be a man or a woman, pretty or ugly, regular form or possessing three heads and six arms...

It was impossible to tell the actual appearance of this figure through the pulsing radiance. The figure seemed to be meditating with something resembling a zither placed on the knees.

Since there was no temporal affinity, this figure could sit here for an eternity without changing.

After seeing Li Qiye, the figure nodded and started playing plucking the strings.

Instead of a zither note, what came out were the sounds and runes of the grand dao.

“Clank!” The runes served as the foundation of a new world. It included bright expanses, heavenly treasures, and other living beings.

The diversity in species was great. They also followed different affinities - light, darkness, or neutrality...

“Clank!” With another note, three thousand worlds appeared along with a reincarnation cycle and predetermined fates. The process of life and death continued.

As time passed, living beings were able to reach the apex and learn the heavenly dao. Love and hatred were plentiful; flourishing worlds were in abundance. Countless moving songs and poems were written.

Fate came and went in the three thousand worlds; numerous Heaven’s Will were created. The worlds diverged from their original form and eventually, the void returned again and life disappeared.

The dao runes created from the zither continued to derive this endless cycle. There was one constant - a relentless pursuit for immortality only to end in failure.

Mighty cultivators experienced the sadness of death, not in themselves but from seeing their loved ones dying and turning into dust. In the end, only one remained standing. This loneliness turned into apathy and mercilessness.

These beings then devoured the worlds and everything within, viewing them as nothing more than food to be gorged.

They were wise once with supreme wisdom and insight. Alas, they turned into monsters that have nothing to do with light or darkness. Only one thing was on their mind - the feast. This allowed them to live longer and devour more cycles.

This was the price of immortality unbeknown to regular living beings. The latter lived happily and fulfilled their desires. Some thought that they have obtained the peerless dao and eternal truths. Ultimately, this was ephemeral for being devoured was inevitable.

The price for immortality was everything else. Moreover, this was only the beginning...

Li Qiye smiled and turned into the Dark Crow. He spread his wings and everything beneath lived prosperously under his shadow. Meanwhile, he looked upward and arduously searched for means to fight the heaven - a quest possible only due to his indomitable dao heart.

The crowd was at a loss after seeing the immortal ray. It only lasted for a split second yet contained an eternity within.

"Buzz." It was then extinguished, not gradually dispersed.

They looked around again and everything seemed to be normal. Everlasting Monarch stood there and the scented pouch was still hanging from his belt. As for Li Qiye, he was still next to the group.

People questioned whether they were only seeing things, that it didn't actually happen.

"What is going on?" Even the calmest ancient ancestor had no explanation for this.

Some ancestors started rubbing their eyes in confusion.

"Did you notice something earlier?" Everyone started asking those nearby.

Some then stared at Li Qiye but he had an indifferent expression.

Chapter 4573: Back To The Earth

The crowd stared at Li Qiye but didn't see any clue from it. His nonchalant expression revealed nothing.

"Didn't Li Qiye get the pouch?" A big shot looked back at Everlasting Monarch and saw that the pouch was still there.

They contemplated and thought that if the illusion was true, then Li Qiye would be holding the pouch right now.

Remember, the behemoth known as True Immortal mobilized its top masters for the pouch. It paid a heavy price only to fail.

Therefore, the value of this pouch couldn't be overstated. Fewer than few treasures in the entire world could compare to it.

If Li Qiye had somehow gotten it, he would have opened it right away and taken whatever was inside for himself. Therefore, all of them must be seeing things.

"I'm going crazy." Jian Ming murmured. He also saw the same thing - Li Qiye obtaining the pouch. Alas, reality told a different tale since no battle ensued.

"You're not, the young noble was just too fast. His speed is matchless." Si Jingru said softly.

Jian Ming didn't doubt her claim at all. The daoist became emotional and asked right away: "Young Noble, what's inside the pouch?"

The entire group wanted to know the highly-coveted item inside it.

"Not something anyone should have or it'll cause a disaster." Li Qiye smiled.

"A disaster..." The group pondered quietly.

This simply didn't make sense because Everlasting Monarch wanted to take it to his next life. Moreover, True Immortal tried its best to obtain it as well. How could it be the source of a disaster?

Li Qiye didn't elaborate and left it to their imagination.

"Boom!" Meanwhile, the maelstrom at the center of the Yin Wheel has reached its limit. It seemed to be collapsing and made the world shake violently.

"It's almost over." A big shot exclaimed.

"Clank! Clank! Clank!" The emissary summoned a bell in one hand and a divine sign made out of cloth in the other.

The bell seemed to be made from ancient bronze, looking tough and heavy. It had a wooden handle brimming with an archaic aura.

It must have been used for many years now since the handle looked smooth, most likely from being held so often. Time has left marks on the bell but nonetheless, it still persevered and lasted until now.

As for the sign, it became gray from the passage of time, only taken out every once in a while during the crossing.

The emissary glanced at the cemetery and saw that no one else was coming. The cemetery's entrance then closed.

"It's time." A top master whispered: "The dead in the grave have to wait until the next opening or some time later in the future. They don't believe that their time is right."

"Clank! Clank! Clank!" The emissary shook the bell while chanting an ancient language.

“Dust to dust, return to the earth for there is no way back on the immortal road...” His voice seemed to be coming from a different temporal plane.

He began crossing the bridge toward the Yin Wheel. All the corpses on the bridge also followed along.

As they entered the void, the Yin Wheel shook violently. Deafening detonations could be heard as everything came crumbling down. The maelstrom spun faster, seemingly wanting to destroy all intruders.

“Buzz.” The sign held by the emissary exuded a golden radiance, looking like the reflection from the water in the Yellow River.

They illuminated the corpses and added a golden layer on top. This turned them from corpses to emissaries from the underworld. This calmed the Yin Wheel down and it seemed ready to accept these corpses.

“So the emissary is the reason why the corpses can enter the Yin Wheel. Otherwise, they would have been reduced to dust by that maelstrom.” A first-timer commented.

“Boom!” After the final corpse entered the Yin Wheel, ancient palaces suddenly appeared in the void. Sacred rings of light pulsed from all of them.

They resembled the hall of fortune, granting luck and life to the dead for a chance at reincarnation. Divine stairs appeared before the entrances, covered by mysterious runes of the reincarnation affinity. Each palace awaited a corpse to give them a new chance.

“What are those buildings?” First-time spectators took a deep breath.

Big shots who have been here several times weren't as surprised. One of them said: “No one knows since only the dead can enter.”

“What about Calamity Dao God?” Someone else brought the sole survivor of the Yin Wheel.

“I don't know, I don't think he had said anything about the Yin Wheel after returning.” The big shot shook his head.

The emissary led the dead on top of the stairs. Each step issued a Buddhist melody that could be construed as a greeting for an entirely new life.

Chapter 4574: The End Of The Grand Dao

These steps were the path toward reincarnation, severing all ties with the previous life. The moment these corpses touched the stair, they seemed to be returning to life.

Previously, they showed no sign of emotion when others tried to rob them of their treasures. After all, they were truly dead with no soul and true fate. Their divine intents have also dispersed long ago.

Now, they seemed to be awakening from a deep slumber. Everlasting Monarch, Pioneer Ancestor, Fromheaven Stone God... these beings turned their head back toward Eight Desolaces - the place where they grew up and made their marks.

“Farewell, Ancestor.” Outside of the bridge were disciples from the various sects. They prostrated respectfully.

Not all came to rob the corpses. Some simply came to see their ancestors for the last time.

Even experts of no relations bowed their head in reverence. These corpses were legendary figures who have done magnificent feats. They served as role models for future generations.

The corpses looked back and recalled their experiences. Glints flashed in their eyes along with various emotions.

Whether it be the heroic figures or heinous villains, they felt many things - sentimental, helplessness, unwillingness, determination, love...

They clearly made waves during their lifetime and left behind lasting tales. Now, all of this was going to disappear from their lives. After a successful reincarnation, they wouldn't remember anything - not their descendants and their successes.

In the end, the gaze disappeared one by one. This was their last time looking back at their world. They turned around with determination and continued to walk forward.

Meanwhile, the maelstrom grew smaller until it was no longer there. The images within also disappeared.

“Boom!” An explosion wiped away everything, leaving behind a vast expanse with floating temporal foams.

Spectators also pondered the transpired event. The older cultivators were especially emotional.

“The end of that path is reincarnation?” A renowned big shot murmured in a daze.

No one had an answer. They chose cultivation in order to reach a greater realm for the sake of living longer. The ultimate goal was everlasting life.

However, even a mighty being such as Everlasting Monarch still failed in the end. This was already miraculous.

Was everlasting life impossible? This was the question in the ancestors' mind. Some of them had enough power and ample resources. Of course, this didn't matter in the grand scheme of things.

So was the end of the path reincarnation? Everlasting life was impossible, hence the need to travel to the Yin Wheel.

Maybe this would be another hopeful opportunity, another way to prolong their life or to enter a new path altogether.

“What is beyond that bridge?” An old yet powerful big shot wondered.

Nothing was better than being alive. This included living in terrible circumstances. There existed a yearning to the point of it being an obsession for the world.

On the other hand, the path toward reincarnation required severing all ties with the previous life. What would be the point? They would no longer be themselves.

“After enough years, all love and attachments will be gone.” One amazing ancestor sighed and said.

Sure, the crowd thought that reincarnation might not be different from death since one would lose all memories and ties. However, those who have lived long enough would eventually become distant anyway.

Their lovers and friends would have died long ago. Eventually, their descendants and bloodline would also disappear. All karmic ties connecting to the world would be gone. Therefore, there was nothing holding them back. Reincarnation was clearly the best route.

“Let’s go home.” A big shot sighed and told his juniors. This was too much to think about right now.

“We’re going back.” Others started leaving as well. This experience forced them to ponder their life.

“Reincarnation, hmm...” Wise Ancestor was the same way. He wondered about his future path when the time comes.

“Young Noble, are we heading back?” He regained his wits and asked.

“Yes.” Li Qiye smiled leisurely and said.

“Is it alright if I follow you, Young Noble? I will be at your beck and call.” Si Jingru asked.

Outsiders would be astounded if they were to hear this. Their lower jaw would drop to the ground.

Chapter 4575: Truth

Nothing more needed to be said about Si Jingru’s prestige, just the respect given to her by the seniors everywhere said it all.

Even sect masters needed to lower their head in her presence. Among the young generation, only someone such as the successor of True Immortal was comparable. However, she wanted to serve Li Qiye right now.

For others, just standing close to her was a supreme honor. Who would be worthy of having her join their faction?

Li Qiye smiled and gently flicked her forehead: “I don’t have anything good to pass down to you. You just need more time and luck before obtaining great achievements. However, just take your time since the grand dao is arduous and long. An immovable dao heart is necessary before reaching the apex. You already have all the right prerequisites, work on your dao heart until ten thousand years are no different than the blink of an eye.”

Si Jingru listened attentively, took a moment to ponder, and then bowed deeply: “I thank you for your guidance, Young Noble.”

“Go, we might meet again one day on the dao path.” Li Qiye smiled and nodded.

"I hope to be able to follow you on this path later." Si Jingru didn't know when she would be able to meet him again. She then asked: "Will you visit Ancestral Divine Temple later?"

Entering the temple was a big deal. Only supreme masters were invited but judging by her tone, it would be their honor to have him visit.

"No, a meeting is just another separation in the end." Li Qiye stared at the horizon and let out a sigh.

"I understand, may we meet again. I will be taking my leave now." She bowed once more. As she departed, she couldn't help looking at him for a while before leaving. She recalled the years when she told him both her joyous and sad moments, even her most secretive insecurities.

After she was gone, Li Qiye glanced at Lin Mo.

"When are you departing, Young Noble?" She asked, looking as serene as can be regardless of the circumstances.

"When the time is right." Li Qiye smiled.

"Would it be alright if I follow you on that date?" She stared at him with her clear eyes.

"Why do you suddenly want to leave?" He asked.

"I've been in this mortal world long enough to see it a thousand times." She tilted her head slightly and said seriously. [1]

"It's all the same, just in a different form and location." Li Qiye smiled.

She nodded in agreement: "I've heard this line before but still want to go take a look." Her goal seemed to be to visit all places possible in the world.

The others were confused by this conversation. What was this about a departure date and mortal world, different form?

"I suppose it's fine if that is all you want to do." Li Qiye nodded.

Her starry eyes were special. Nothing in this world could leave its reflection on them. On the other hand, she was capable of seeing the souls and minds of others.

"Young Noble, what is your pursuit?" She asked.

His eyes became profound as he answered: "Everything in the world happens for a reason. Perhaps I'm trying to fulfill my desired vision."

"I see. That requires knowing yourself and what you truly want." She pondered for a moment before responding: "Someone once said that searching for the truth and proving oneself is the longest path."

"It is a lofty goal indeed. Many peerless cultivators have tried their whole life only to fail. The prerequisite of seeing the truth might require everlasting life. When one has everything, that's when they can realize their true selves." Li Qiye said.

"When one has everything, that's when they can realize their true selves." She quietly murmured.

Wise Ancestor also listened and something suddenly flashed in his mind.

“But I don’t think that is your goal.” She said.

“No need for that because I already know as I’m standing here.” Li Qiye smiled and said: “Listen to your heart and it will tell you the truth. No need to prove anything, be free and see who you truly are.”

“Mmm...” She fell into deep rumination. After a while, she seemed to be enlightened and bowed deeply: “Your words are better than cultivating for ten thousand years. I will take your teachings to heart.”

He smiled and accepted her gesture.

“Since the grand dao has no end in sight, one needs a rudder and anchor to move forward. Do you have one, Young Noble?” She became curious.

“I am seeking for an answer, not for myself or anyone else, just an answer in and of itself.” Li Qiye responded.

“What answer are you looking for?” She asked.

“I do not know, maybe there is no answer. Perhaps the search and the journey are the answers.” He shook his head and said.

“Your perspective is unique and exceptional.” She couldn’t help but praise after gaining some insight into cultivation.

“As for you, you have seen what you needed to see, you just don’t know it yet.” He smiled.

“Right.” She agreed: “A child saw many things without understanding until far later. This was the case for me, unfortunately, the moment has passed. Nonetheless, it is a fortune to be able to see you today.”

“To see without understanding might not be a bad thing.” He responded: “Knowing doesn’t mean overcoming. Plus, who you are today was built on youthful ignorance. You could have become a shining star or the dark night, but in the end, those aren’t you. Do you like who you are right now?”

She took her time thinking before concluding: “The current me will do. No more, no less, not too much, not too little, just enough.”

“How many people can be lucky enough to say the same thing about themselves? This is due to your effort and luck.” He said.

“Like our meeting today.” She added.

“It’s too early to say that. This might be true for someone else, the greatest of fortune but for you, no. Our meeting might illuminate your mind or stir it up, causing unrest and instability, not a good thing at all.” He shook his head.

“I still think that meeting you is a blessing regardless of what comes next.” She bowed deeply.

Chapter 4576: Saving Contribution

“During the day of departure, please take me along.” She asked.

“Fine, if you want to see a different world, so be it. It won’t hurt.” He nodded.

She bowed again and left. She came silently and left in the same manner without making any sound. This mirrored her existence - a state of serenity and peace.

“Who is she? Where did she come from?” Jian Ming was curious about her.

He could tell that Li Qiye’s attitude toward Si Jingru and Lin Mo was completely different. He clearly favored the latter by a considerable margin.

Who the hell could be superior to the priestess of Ancestral Divine Temple? Jian Ming couldn’t come up with an answer. All he knew was that Lin Mo’s background must be special.

Only a peerless and unique existence would be able to earn Li Qiye’s grace. Unfortunately, Li Qiye didn’t answer.

“Swindler, since you’ve seen her face, would you be able to calculate her background?” Jian Ming came over and whispered.

The daoist shook his head in response: “No, a supreme master must have concealed her everything so she’s incalculable. The price to seer is unimaginable, borderline suicidal.”

“Just try a little, maybe her background will be shockingly interesting.” Jian Ming tried.

“You go be an idiot, don’t drag me down with you.” The daoist glanced at him with disdain.

He was obviously curious about Lin Mo as well. However, there must be something forbidden and taboo about her. Forcefully calculating her background would have grave consequences. He didn’t mind the risk to his life as much but it could drag his clan members down as well.

“Hmph, here I am forgetting why I call you a swindler in the first place. Given your meager abilities, you can train for another eight lifetimes and still won’t be able to see a single clue from her.” He tried to use a psychological taunt.

The daoist naturally didn’t bite and stared at the guy as if he was an idiot.

Jian Ming gave up since he couldn’t pry a single piece of information from the daoist. Intuition told him that the guy must know a little bit but chose to be quiet.

“Ancestor, what do you think?” Jian Ming then asked Wise Ancestor.

Wise stared in the direction of Lin Mo’s departure and mused: “I couldn’t see through her but I’m sure that we absolutely can’t. She seems rather special because even her cultivation is a mystery, let alone her background.”

Lin Mo was the second who made Wise Ancestor feel this way. The first was Li Qiye.

“Seems like there are many secrets going on here. Why the need to be so secretive?” Jian Ming murmured.

No one was born with these concealments. She must have chosen to be mysterious and reclusive for a particular purpose. Otherwise, she would have become a famous figure in the cultivation world.

“Let’s go, we’re heading back to save the Tree of Contribution.” Li Qiye didn’t mind Jian Ming being such a busybody and told the group.

Wise and the others trembled after hearing this. They have met their goal of obtaining the dao stone from the Lu. It was time to return now and try to revitalize their clans.

Jian Ming and Wise contained their excitement and hurriedly follow Li Qiye. The daoist also tagged along.

“What are you doing? We’re going home now.” Jian Ming instigated.

“I’m not going to your clan, I’m just following the young noble.” The daoist strongly responded.

“I don’t want you any where close to our clans. Heh, tell the truth, you want to steal our supreme treasures.” Jian Ming sneered.

“I am a member of an orthodox sect, the successor of a great clan, don’t be ridiculous.” The daoist angrily retorted.

“Please, who are you trying to fool? You tried to steal from the auction house and got caught, haha.” Jian Ming said.

The daoist turned red because that was indeed the case. He failed and had to run for his life.

“I was only going to take a look, that’s all, don’t besmirch the reputation of an innocent man.” The daoist uttered coldly. Alas, his tone was no longer as confident.

“Right, only went to take a look and if no one was there, you would have taken them with you too, right? It’s a good thing Seal Ancestor scared the hell out of you.” Jian Ming laughed.

“My innocence can’t be tainted by your foul mouth.” The daoist glared at him, embarrassed.

Jian Ming laughed heartily. He naturally had no intention of stopping the daoist from visiting the four clans. Plus, Li Qiye - the boss - would have to be the one to deny permission.

They climbed up the peak after returning to the four clans and stood before the withered tree. All four dao stones have been gathered together.

The elders of the four clans stared at the dao stones with bated breath. They were rather nervous and tense because this pertained to the prosperity of their clans.

“What a tree, just like a divine tree in the legends.” The daoist’s eyes lit up.

Jian Ming saw this and warned him: “If you dare to think about stealing our tree, all descendants from the four clans will flay you, rip out your tendons, and drink your blood.”

“Idiot, this tree is connected to an earth vein, how is anyone going to steal it? There’s something wrong with your brains.” The daoist didn’t appreciate the threat.

“You’re the idiot here.” Jian Ming angrily barked back.

“Clank!” The four dao stones were embedded into their respective slot. It didn’t require strength because once placed correctly, they were sucked inside.

“Buzz.” They became bright enough to illuminate the entire altar. Tiny runic lines appeared and flowed with great speed in the direction of the dead tree.

Li Qiye loudly chanted and formed hand seals, resulting in particles shooting at the tree. They then melted like snow flakes after making contact, seeping into the body.

“Buzz.” Life suddenly returned to the dead tree as it awakened. It felt as if this has been an unreasonably long slumber.

“Boom!” Something else also woke up deep underground, similar to a colossal monster turning its body. Next came a majestic tsunami of endless life force shooting upward.

Chapter 4577: Spring Comes Upon A Withered Tree

A verdant spring returned to the Tree of Contribution. Though it was still dead, the group felt as if it was returning to life and that leaves could return at any second.

Majestic life force continued to surge from the depths. It seemed that the tree was still rooted in that peerless earth vein.

This vein resembled a gigantic dragon slumbering underground. Thus, the tree was growing on its body and capable of borrowing its power.

“This is...?” The members of the four clans felt this special aura. Though it wasn’t overwhelming, each inch of their land became more pleasant with a bit more water and life.

Nonetheless, this was more than enough for them. The highly-aware disciples could feel that their territory was transforming. With enough years, their land would turn into a paradise for cultivation - a perfect foundation for future descendants.

“Is it alive again?” Everyone on top of the peak was ecstatic.

“Not quite, but it is awakened.” Wise quietly said: “In order for it to actually be alive again, hmm... a lot more time is required. Most importantly, the Primordial Union.”

“Buzz.” Green rays, the color of life, emanated from the withered tree. Each ray represented a single grand dao of life.

A spatial ripple could be felt, akin to the opening of another dimension. A tiny spiritual totem surrounded by green light flew out of the tree. It had the form of a tiny tree but its life force was as vast as a boundless ocean. The waves emanating from it could drown the firmaments.

“Is this the soul of the tree?” An ancestor asked. This was still her first time seeing something like this - a tiny totem possessing enough life force to engulf the entire world. This could change everything regarding their four clans.

“This must be the thing to enter the union.” Wise and the others have read the old records before. He quietly said: “It’s finally here, seems like we still need the ancient ancestor’s method. The four dao stones alone weren’t enough.”

They understood that given their ability, they couldn’t have possibly activated the tree, let alone summoned its soul.

“Buzz.” The soul fell into Li Qiye’s palm and turned into little strands. They seeped into his flesh and flowed through his blood.

“It seems a true awakening still requires entry.” Li Qiye felt the tree’s power and commented.

“Please, Young Noble.” The ancestors prostrated and chanted.

Li Qiye stared at them and said: “It’s fine, I was going to go anyway.”

The ancestors ordered their immediate descendants to come to the peak in order to show their respect. They finally saw a sliver of hope for their clans in the future.

While staying in the Wu, Li Qiye had a courtyard with his regular group as company.

He sat down and summoned the girl encapsulated in chronoblood amber.

“Is it time, Young Noble?” Jian Ming and the daoist became excited, the same for Wise Ancestor. They have been eagerly awaiting for this moment ever since Li Qiye won the auction.

Li Qiye seemed a bit emotional while staring at the girl.

“I wonder who she is. Unless this is a natural encapsulation, she must be a heaven-defying existence.” Jian Ming was the first to speak.

“It’s not naturally formed.” The daoist shook his head.

“Then it’s manmade.” Jian Ming became even more emotional: “This is chronoblood amber we’re talking about? Where does one find such a large block? I don’t think Sky Border has a single one. Is she a dao lord or an emperor, or maybe even an immortal? Or perhaps the daughter of one.”

“We can eliminate her being a dao lord or emperor.” The daoist said: “I’ve heard a theory that these beings either accept the dao fruit or the heaven’s will. They have such peerless properties that even the precious chronoblood amber can’t seal them for long. That is the reason why they have to leave this world eventually.”

“Then she’s the daughter of an immortal.” Jian Ming joked: “We’re rich then, we found an immortal’s daughter and we’ll be able to fish her parents out.” He started laughing, seemingly coming up with a nefarious plan.

“Where are you going to find some immortals?” Li Qiye said dismissively.

“Hehe.” Jian Ming scratched his head awkwardly because no one has seen an immortal before. Therefore, how could this girl be an immortal’s daughter?

“Young Noble, you surely know who she is.” Jian Ming naturally understood this because Li Qiye’s eyes were different whenever he gazed at her.

“An old friend.” Li Qiye didn’t hide it.

“An old friend?” The trio shuddered. They knew that Li Qiye was an ancient and mighty existence.

Therefore, his old friend must be incredible as well. These simple characters overwhelmed them because they came from Li Qiye.

“I see...” Jian Ming’s legs started shaking.

If this was another immemorial existence, just one stray strand of power could crush them.

“Young Noble, this old friend of yours must be a peerless fairy, completely unmatched in history...” Jian Ming calmed down and started flattering.

“I wonder if your sly tongue will be effective. I advise you to watch yourself in a little bit.” Li Qiye smiled.

“...” Jian Ming trembled again.

Chapter 4578: Breaking The Seal

“Poof!” Dao flame ignited in Li Qiye’s hand, nearly colorless. Despite its inconspicuous appearance, it was one of the strongest dao flames in existence.

It had a multiplicative transformation property, from one to three, from three to nine, and on and on...

This gave it a special characteristic - an ability to return anything back to the void. In other words, anything touched by it would turn into void.

This was countless times scarier than being burned. The latter was due to intolerable heat and the end result would be ashes. Of course, there were ways to stop it as well.

As for returning to the void - nothing would be left. There was no heat to produce a change, only a simple return to nothingness.

Not to mention cultivators, even an immortal would suffer from the power of this dao flame. Their hard-earned immortality would extinguish in no time.

The trio obviously didn’t understand the power of this dao flame. Nonetheless, they were still intimidated. This was an instinctive fear stemming from the depth of the heart. Power and determination forged by experiences weren’t enough to overcome this fear.

“I’ve never seen a dao flame like this one before.” Jian Ming murmured.

The other two felt the same way. This dao flame had no heat in the slightest and Li Qiye didn’t activate his power. Nonetheless, they knew better than to mess with it.

Li Qiye raised his fiery hand and touched the block of amber. The latter immediately melted, inch by inch, in a soundless manner without sizzles and crackles. There was no byproduct in the form of a liquid or ash. Nothing was left of the amber.

Keep in mind that chronoblood amber was one of the toughest substances available, capable of withstanding ultimate attacks and the withering of time. This was the reason why it could seal a living person for eras.

Using the amber required immense strength and painstaking effort, and so did melting it. In this case, the void dao flame bypassed all of that - a testament to its destructive potential.

“No... this is chronoblood amber, not temporal stones... such a large block too... we could have been so rich...” Jian Ming was on the verge of tears.

Temporal blood stones were highly coveted, especially by near-death ancestors. They served to prolong life via hibernation.

The resulting expense was sky-high even for the power of an entire sect or kingdom. In this case, chronoblood amber was the highest quality meant only for the strongest characters.

A tiny bit was refined from a huge quantity of temporal blood stones by a top master. The process was arduous and lengthy.

How many top masters would want to spend their time refining these stones? After reaching the peak, they have grown old. Thus, they valued their time and energy.

Given the priceless nature of the amber block, even the dregs or remnants after the melting process would still sell for an insane price.

Unfortunately, Li Qiye turned it back to the void. Not even ashes were left.

“At least leave a little crumb for me so I can sell it for something...” Jian Ming grieved the financial loss as if he was Li Qiye’s accountant.

Eventually, the girl appeared before them once the amber block was gone.

Jian Ming and the others didn’t dare to utter a single word, completely focused on observing her. She seemed to be sleeping and resembled a beautiful jade statue.

The trio became tense because she should be alive before entering the amber. No one was dumb or wasteful enough to encapsulate a corpse in chronoblood amber.

Sure enough, she suddenly opened her eyes.

“Boom!” A torrential force erupted and sent all three flying.

“Shit!!!” Jian Ming bellowed in astonishment.

Wise Ancestor was a relatively strong cultivator yet he still got blown away.

Their butt became sore after hitting the ground, causing them to grimace in pain.

“So strong, that was just a glance.” The daoist was astounded.

The girl merely opened her eyes and unleashed that unstoppable force. It wasn’t an attack in the slightest.

They calmed down and stared at her. She was clearly alive now with a flowing life force. Her eyes were blue just like the color of the ocean. They seemed capable of containing an entire world. Waves could come out of them and engulf everything.

There was no doubt that she came from the highest of nobility. Despite a lack of aura, the three had to look up at her with nothing but reverence.

Chapter 4579: Unbeatable Girl

The trio became calm enough to try and get up. Alas, they were still within her vision and an invisible force suddenly descended.

“Bam!” This forced them back to the ground.

“Shit...” Jian Ming cursed again. All three felt like insects, unable to resist her power.

“Where is this place?” She finally spoke with a voice as pleasant as the chirping of a golden oriole.

However, the voice had a commanding presence not seen in someone her age - mature and dignified. It was as if she wasn't a girl but a god that has lived for countless years. All living beings needed to prostrate before her.

“The four clans.” Jian Ming answered right away.

“The four clans? Which four clans?” Her eyes flashed in an intimidating manner. Just one thought of her could destroy the sun and moon.

The power disparity became abundantly clear.

“Who is your strongest ancestor? Bring them here.” The girl ordered, leaving no room for refusal.

“He, he's our ancestor.” Jian Ming pointed at Wise Ancestor.

The girl gazed at him. He felt as if countless hurricanes were pushing down on his chest.

He channeled his vitality and merit law, only to learn that this was futile against her divine aura.

“You?” The girl wasn't trying to be disdainful. Alas, her expression said that this strongest ancestor from the four clans was too weak.

“I am indeed an ancestor from our clan, please excuse my meager cultivation.” Wise Ancestor smiled wryly, feeling a bit embarrassed.

He was considered a big shot in the outside world but in this case, he wouldn't be able to stop one move from this little girl.

“What is the strongest sect now?” She asked, clearly not interested in this ancestor.

“True Immortal and Three Thousand Dao.” The daoist answered.

“Never heard of them.” She pondered before answering.

“Timeworn, Immortal Lake, Divine Ridge, have you heard of them, Senior?” The daoist immediately asked.

The girl thought for longer this time, seemingly finding these names familiar.

This gave the three enough information about her era. These ancient sects were too old to be traced yet they sounded familiar to her.

“Which god is in charge now?” She asked.

“I’m afraid we do not know.” The daoist smiled wryly while exchanging glances with the other two.

They had never been to these sects before. Even if they did, they wouldn’t have been qualified to meet the top masters there, not even the slightest chance in hell.

Her eyes narrowed, seemingly unhappy. This caused the pressure on the trio to double, making it unbearable.

“Okay, don’t pick on the juniors.” Li Qiye’s voice came from behind.

She immediately turned around after hearing him. The three felt as if the world was spinning alongside her. They became dizzy and fell head first to the ground.

“Not again...” They regained their balance.

They felt as if she was the center axle so her movement also affected all the realms. This was truly a suffocating feeling.

Her expression was one of caution because she didn’t notice Li Qiye standing behind her.

Though her memories seemed to be a mess or that she had lost them completely, her power and awareness still remained. She instantly gathered power and assumed a fighting stance.

However, Li Qiye was unaffected and sat back down.

“Who are you?” Her eyes fixated on him. She was ready to attack if he dared to move.

She became a primordial beast bearing its fangs in the eyes of the trio. This horrified them because this little girl had the aura of an immemorial god.

“Li Qiye.” He smiled and said.

The name caused her to pause for a bit in confusion. It sounded rather familiar. Though her memories have disappeared, some still remained and couldn’t be removed.

“I’ve heard of it before.” She said with certainty and observed Li Qiye closely.

She felt as if they have met before but couldn’t come up with a relationship.

“Do we know each other?” She asked.

The trio took a deep breath after hearing this. They became curious about Li Qiye’s identity as well.

“If you believe in the existence of a previous life, then yes, you knew me then.” Li Qiye answered.

“Previous life?” She concentrated but images of the past just flashed too quickly. She couldn’t make head or tail out of them.

Despite her overwhelming power, she didn't obtain any clue by staring at him either.

"Who am I?" She looked confused.

The trio exchanged glances - an existence encapsulated in chronoblood amber with her memories gone. It sounded like a case of reincarnation.

"Who do you think you are?" He asked.

She tilted her head and took her time thinking. Once again, the flashing images in her mind were too fast for her to grasp.

Chapter 4580: Who Am I?

Who am I? These characters circled in her mind. A sense of familiarity yet confusion engulfed her memories.

She seemed to be recalling herself in the past along with familiar scenes. Unfortunate, this was a case of trying to catch the starry light. One could be fast and precise but they wouldn't be able to catch the rays. They would always flow through the gaps and pass by.

Images appeared and popped like water bubbles, truly indecipherable. Someone called for her but she couldn't answer. The name was at the tip of her tongue but there was a silver veil separating the two. Breaking through this veil and learning the name proved to be impossible.

Therefore, she actually thought that this was the separation between the previous life and the current - the memories of the past have been forgotten.

This left her mind in an empty state. She didn't know who she was or where she came from.

"What is my name?" She blurted but then, she thought that this was ridiculous. If she didn't know her own name, why would anyone here be privy to this information?

"Let's call you Xiao Xuan." Li Qiye answered right away.

"Xiao Xuan? Why Xiao Xuan?" She asked while furrowing her brows. [1]

In spite of her age, she always had an air of dignified divinity. When her expression changed, the resulting pressure was unbearable.

"Xiao Xuan is correct." Li Qiye smiled, undeterred by her innate and crushing pressure.

For some reason, she instinctively took several steps backward even though he was only sitting there with a nonchalant expression.

He seemed to be a friendly person and no one should be on guard. However, she felt that when her aura touched his, it made her feel fear.

She was no different from a true god. At the very least, there existed an unimaginable power slumbering inside her.

Back in the primordial age, she would be a monstrous creature capable of devouring heaven and earth, capable of defeating the other primal beasts. Alas, there seemed to be something even more frightening hiding inside Li Qiye's harmless appearance.

If she were a primal beast, then he would be the terror of the night. The beast could look around and see no end in sight. He was unfathomable and boundless, engulfing the entire world.

Therefore, the great beast was nothing more than a mayfly in comparison, not worth mentioning in the slightest.

"Who are you?" This prompted her next question.

"Li Qiye." He repeated with a smile.

Each time he said these characters, she felt as if she had met him before in the "previous life". The same feeling of dread might have been around as well.

As time passed, she regained her wits and let go of unnecessary thoughts.

"Xiao Xuan." She said. Though this seemed to be a name he made up on the spot, it also gave her a familiar feeling. The moment he gave her this name, it became absolute regardless of her feeling.

"So be it." She unconsciously believed that her name was Xiao Xuan.

Li Qiye chuckled and didn't find this surprising.

"So many things familiar yet so far away, right in front of me yet I can't grasp." She then added.

"If you believe in reincarnation, you may consider it as memories of the previous life." He added.

"Reincarnation?" The trio became surprised.

They thought about Yin Yang Crossing and the corpses that have entered the Yin Wheel. Was this an actual case of reincarnation right before them?

"So the reincarnation cycle is real?" Jian Ming murmured in disbelief.