

Emperor 4591

Chapter 4591: Duck Egg Buyer

“This duck egg buyer is quite strong.” Xiao Xuan couldn’t help but praise after hearing the tale.

“Indeed.” The daoist continued: “The legend stated that in history, the duck egg buyer was the only person capable of destroying the gemmed gauntlet. Dao lords, later on, even the most brilliant ones, probably couldn’t repeat the feat.”

“That’s putting it lightly.” Jian Ming added: “He, all alone, crossed through several great powers to reach the final path of the fist. That alone is difficult enough, the actual destruction must have been insane.”

He paused for a bit and added: “Later on, Puresun Dao Lord had entered alone too, killing millions of fist slaves and three great schools. He also made it to the final path after fighting the chamber.”

“Yes, that is another brilliant feat of battle, most likely impossible to duplicate.” The daoist nodded.

“Future dao lords came here too. For example, Eight-step Dragon Dao Lord led the great demon horde and made it to the fist domain. However, this couldn’t compare to Puresun Dao Lord’s achievement, let alone the duck egg buyer who directly crossed through the great powers.” Jian Ming’s voice brimmed with excitement as if he had witnessed all these tales in person.

The stories about the dao lords always made blood flow faster.

“The duck egg buyer stands out among the dao lords?” Xiao Xuan said: “Does he not have a name?”

Jian Ming smiled wryly: “The potentially first and greatest dao lord is a mystery. No one knows his name, only his numerous legends and exploits in all seven forbidden zones. The existences there were mighty but they couldn’t stop him. If it wasn’t for him, the world would have a much harder time. Becoming a dao lord would have been difficult too.”

Becoming a dao lord required proving and obtaining a dao fruit on top of beating the rest of the world. However, misfortunes also occurred afterward.

For example, Scarlet Moon Dao Lord was a victim of this despite the misfortunes being rare occurrences at this point.

Back during the Chaotic Era, it happened more frequently. Eventually, expeditions were started by the duck egg buyer, Puresun Dao Lord, Sword Queen, Azure Ancestor, Stone Ancestor, Eight-step Dragon Dao Lord...

These top dao lords weakened the seven forbidden zones and misfortunes no longer happened as much as before. They risked their lives to pave a better road for the future.

The duck egg buyer had the most contribution. He significantly weakened the forbidden zones. Otherwise, these subsequent expeditions might have ended with death.

The world knew nothing about the first dao lord. They called him “the duck egg buyer” since he always talked about buying duck egg. It became a catchphrase of sorts.

This was obviously a terrible and unsuitable title for such a great being. Nonetheless, people became used to it.

The words became taboo. No one else was qualified to become a second duck egg buyer. He was one and only.

“There is a dao there.” Xiao Xuan concluded while staring at the fist.

“Yes, people call it an immortal dao of the fist. Whoever gets it will become unbeatable.” Jian Ming’s eyes became brighter: “This is the reason why adventurers risk everything, hoping to get there.”

Li Qiye smiled and stared at him: “Don’t even bother, if you make it to that domain, you’ll turn into a fist slave instantly. Let’s say you are lucky enough to obtain that dao, well, you’ll be the strongest fist slave, nothing more.”

“Right...” Jian Ming smiled wryly: “What’s the point of being unbeatable if I can’t leave Worldbreaker Fist?”

“This intent might be unimaginable inside the domain itself.” The daoist gazed deeper into the region.

The pressure stemming from the sheer power of the fist was naturally unbearable. Nonetheless, the most dreadful thing was the intent itself.

Entering meant being invaded by this intent. This wasn’t an unpleasant feeling in the slightest. Intruders would find themselves being able to understand the dao of the fist even if this wasn’t their main dao. As time passed, they would gain greater mastery.

Of course, there was no refusing anyway. Entering Worldbreaker meant being subjected to this intent. The degree varied depending on the location.

Normally, being able to learn a new dao was a fortuitous event. If they could somehow mold this dao into an actual merit law, they would become even stronger than before.

This wasn’t the case in Worldbreaker. The more fist intent within, the more one would become immersed in this region. It eventually became an irresistible magnetic force.

At the final point, they would become slaves to the fist and enter the dynasty here, unable to leave despite wanting to. The fist of the dao served as the toughest shackles, tethering the slaves to the land.

“So anyone who learns the fist dao here won’t be able to leave?” Xiao Xuan became curious.

“I heard two people broke this rule.” Jian Ming couldn’t help showing off his knowledge: “The first left instantly at the perfect moment. The other took longer and was still able to leave despite becoming a fist slave.”

“Elaborate.” Xiao Xuan seemed interested.

“The first is rumored to be a disciple of Blessed Dao Lord, a supreme talent that was highly praised even by the dao lord. He came to Worldbreaker and created an ultimate punch in just three days. He had a special method that activated at the very last second before the transformation and allowed him to leave Worldbreaker.”

He paused for a moment and said: "In theory, learning and understanding the fist dao will turn one into a slave, let alone creating a supreme technique. Nonetheless, Worldbreaker couldn't keep him around."

"So let's be exact here, only one person has left Worldbreaker after turning into a slave, God Fist." The daoist added.

"God Fist? The audacity to have this title." Xiao Xuan commented.

"It's rather justified." Jian Ming smiled wryly: "Even dao lords can't stop him."

Chapter 4592: God Fist

"His battle records are something else." The daoist said.

God Fist was unstoppable; even the great Ruminant Dao Lord couldn't slow him down. He came from a prestigious sect - Solar School.

His father was the schoolmaster but unfortunately, he passed away at an early age and left behind a widow and children. The clan immediately declined.

He was respected while serving as the schoolmaster, earning sufficient fame and reputation. Alas, with his death, the young God Fist's status and benefits were all taken away.

Since he was a weak child with many illnesses, he suffered from cold gazes and bullying from fellow sect members.

The worst day was when his fiancée changed her mind, tearing up the marriage agreement. This humiliated him but in time, his mother suffered from depression until death.

The schoolmaster position should have been inherited by him but in the end, he lost it all. Another genius took the spot and he was banished from the school.

At the end of the road, he somehow entered Worldbreaker Fist. The world no longer heard of him afterward.

No one cared about his disappearance since he was just an insignificant weakling. They wouldn't shed a single tear if they were to hear about him dying in the wilderness.

In a stark contrast to his tragic fate, the genius who took his spot was also favored by the fourth dao lord of True Immortal - Ruminant. He was recruited to be Ruminant's disciple.

His cultivation soared like the wind and he became peerless, being praised as the greatest genius of that generation. His glory also affected Solar School. The latter became a great power and no one remembered the contribution of the previous schoolmaster or the sickly child that was unfairly treated.

At the brightest stage of his life, he married a supreme beauty who was once God Fist's fiancée. The wedding was magnificent with guests from all over the world including famous monarchs and lords.

The greatest cultivator of that generation, Ruminant Dao Lord, sent his good wishes. That day was absolutely the peak of the genius' life, obtaining both fame and beauty. Others had nothing but envy for him.

At the same time on this joyous day, a youth suddenly came out of Worldbreaker - God Fist.

He has become a fist slave yet he wasn't restricted by the boundary of Worldbreaker. His destination was none other than Solar School.

Chaos ensued with his arrival. The ancestors and monarchs took action to take him down but his punches were destructive and unblockable.

He killed these older cultivators, even going as far as defeating the supreme genius wielding a dao lord weapon.

As he was about to put the finishing blow and eradicate all of Solar, Ruminant Dao Lord finally took action.

However, he still couldn't stop the ultimate blow. The punch came down like a tribulation from the high heaven. An inferno burned the entire school to a crisp. The dao lord then tried to capture God Fist but the latter managed to return to Worldbreaker.

All of Eight Desolaces were shocked afterward and became increasingly frightened of Worldbreaker. They didn't understand how God Fist managed to become so powerful but most importantly, able to leave that region.

The youth gained a new title afterward - God Fist. Solar School and the supreme genius became forgotten.

A popular phrase also stemmed from this event - no fist but God Fist.

Alas, he chose to live his remaining days in Worldbreaker and never left. During his tenure, no one dared to challenge Worldbreaker.

The reclusive beings took note of this unique achievement - being able to leave the cursed land. Only Blessed Dao Lord's disciple came close but remember, he left before becoming a fist slave.

Due to this unprecedented feat, no one had a problem with God Fist's awe-inspiring title.

"As far as we know, God Fist was the only one to leave Worldbreaker after the transformation. Simply incredible." Jian Ming finished the tale, feeling nothing but awe.

"The other mighty fist slaves can't leave?" Xiao Xuan asked.

Jian Ming and the daoist exchanged glances. The latter rubbed his chin and then shook his head: "I don't think so. The dreadful Golden Divine Fist was quite strong and started a sect in Worldbreaker. However, he still couldn't leave."

"Dreadful to what level?" Xiao Xuan asked.

"Capable of fighting dao lords." Jian Ming became spirited whenever he talked about top cultivators: "He was already strong before entering Worldbreaker. His name was Ye Zuodao, he served as the Golden City Lord..."

He wasn't exaggerating. The Golden City Lord was a position respected by the entire world. For some reason, Ye Zuodao decided to enter Worldbreaker.

“He wasn’t a simple fist slave. He founded a sect with the same title as his. Keep in mind that in history, only a selected few were able to start a sect. The rest had to join the dynasty there. His sect managed to be competitive against the dynasty, that alone is enough to show how strong he was...” Jian Ming took a break for a second before continuing: “That year, Five-sun Dao Lord started an expedition against Worldbreaker. Alas, this didn’t work because Ye Zuodao stood at the entrance alone to stop the army. Five-sun Dao Lord realized how futile this was and never started a second expedition.”

“One man standing at the gate? Mighty indeed.” Xiao Xuan praised.

“Right, but see, someone as strong as him still couldn’t leave.” The daoist said softly.

Chapter 4593: Golden Divine Fist

Golden Divine Fist stopped a dao lord’s legion at the gate. That alone spoke plenty about his power.

However, God Fist could leave while he couldn’t. The disparity was obvious with a single glance.

“God Fist might be the only exception among the fist slaves.” The daoist said sentimentally.

“One day a slave, an eternity a slave.” Li Qiye commented.

Jian Ming became afraid while staring at Worldbreaker. Unbeatable characters have entered only to never return.

He didn’t want to become a fist slave despite the power boost. For someone who enjoyed traveling as much as him, being stuck in Worldbreaker was worse than death.

“Let’s not stay there for too long.” He said: “It’s over if we become fist slaves. After all, we’re not untethered like Duality Master.”

“Duality Master?” Xiao Xuan seemed interested in all of these cultivators.

“How should I put this...” Jian Ming chose his words carefully since this was a rather difficult character to describe: “Monster, deity, immortal, celestial...”

“Duality Master is the only person in history to not be affected by Worldbreaker, at least according to records.” The daoist interjected: “Completely untouched by the fist intent, something the dao lords couldn’t do. It’s rather strange.”

“Right.” Jian Ming continued: “I read that he treated it as a vacation, bathing in the fist intent while pulsing with fist energy. He visited the dynasty along with the scripture chamber. He read the scrolls there and then left without a care. One record states that he was there for an entire year.”

“What a magical person.” Xiao Xuan said, impressed.

“He’s out of this world.” The daoist smiled wryly: “Being in there is torturous, not only by the energy and intent but also from external threats such as the dynasty, always under watch before turning into a fist slave. This didn’t happen to Duality Master. The dynasty treated him like an esteemed guest. The officials there welcomed him and discussed the dao with him, it’s nothing short of a miracle.”

“No regular cultivator is allowed to read the scriptures, the chamber will not allow it. To try to do so is suicidal. Dao lords themselves probably couldn’t force their way in but Duality Master was given permission to stay in the chamber and read the scrolls.” Jian Ming added.

“Reading those scrolls will absolutely result in learning the fist dao, that should lead to becoming a slave.” The daoist continued: “But Duality Master did all of that and still left easily.”

“So how did he do it? Maybe he’s from Worldbreaker in the first place?” Xiao Xuan became surprised.

“No one knows.” Jian Ming shook his head: “Duality Master is always an abnormality. People say that there is an exception for all absolutes, Duality Master is this exception. Common sense and rationality don’t apply to him.”

“Duality Master.” Li Qiye said sentimentally and didn’t give an evaluation. He gazed into the distance and saw the other shore of time. There existed a leisure figure but the whole thing was blurry.

“What is causing the transformation after learning the fist dao? What is preventing them from leaving too?” Xiao Xuan was curious.

The two couldn’t answer her question.

“Well...” Jian Ming pondered for a while.

“There is a legend.” The daoist took his time thinking before revealing.

“Go on.” She became enthusiastic.

“It states that in the deepest region of Worldbreaker, there is an immortal specialized in the fist dao.”

“An immortal.” She said.

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“This is just a legend, impossible to verify.” The daoist said: “Before the Chaotic Era was the great calamity. Tribulations and disasters descended. They were considered to be the wrath and punishment of the heaven but either way, it was a terrible day. Nothing in this world could stop them but before the last moment, an immortal punched the sky vault and broke the high heaven, leaving a void...”

“... Alas, the supreme will of the high heaven destroyed the mighty immortal, instantly reducing the being into dust. Nonetheless, the ultimate hand was left behind, so did the immortal dao of the fist. It withstood the passage of time, melting the fabrics of reality and turning the region into its own. Those who enter will be converted by this dao and become slaves to the region, or rather, dao runes and symbols.”

“Human dao runes.” Xiao Xuan concluded.

“Yes, that’s one way to put it.” The daoist admitted.

“Breaking the high heaven? Ridiculous.” Li Qiye chuckled and shook his head.

“Is this not right, Young Noble? There is another theory?” The daoist’s eyes lit up.

“It’s all far-fetched nonsense.” Li Qiye stared at him and said: “Or maybe someone tried to flatter themselves through blatant lies. If one punch can break the high heaven, then the current world won’t be like this. True immortals would have appeared already. No one can do so, not in the past or in the future.”

“Then what is the truth?” Jian Ming asked.

“It’s just a severed hand. “Li Qiye smiled: “It is hard indeed, still not fully rotten after so many years.”

Chapter 4594: Severing

The duo was astonished to hear about the severed hand.

“Who did the severing?” The daoist gasped.

“That’s insane.” Jian Ming shuddered.

Worldbreaker - a fist crushing the sky and transforming the world for eras. Just looking at the massive fist was enough to see how powerful it was. Its master must have no equals; even the invincible dao lords have yet to reach this level.

However, the real monster here was whoever severed the hand. One could imagine the final fate of the loser in the battle; the hand’s master most likely fell in battle.

This was beyond the comprehension of anyone in Eight Desolaces. The peak in their mind consisted of dao lords. Whatever above was unfathomable.

“I can only think of the word immortal here.” Jian Ming felt fear.

“The existence must possess unimaginable power. This world probably won’t accept such power and can’t birth one either.” The mighty Xiao Xuan sighed and took a deep breath.

Li Qiye smiled and said: “But there is truth to that story. Becoming a slave does have something to do with the fist dao. It is still around, unwilling to disperse. It encompasses and converts living beings for the sake of life prolongment.”

“Are you saying that the master of Worldbreaker can return to life?” The daoist became startled.

“No way.” Jian Ming blurted: “Who would be able to stop that monster then? Just one punch would reduce everything to ashes, maybe the world will face another great calamity.”

“This world can’t accommodate this being.” Xiao Xuan thought that this was indeed a frightening possibility: “In order to live again, this being must devour heaven and earth along with all creatures in order to replenish vitality and lifespan.”

Currently, only generations with ample energy can produce a dao lord. If this master were to return to life, how much natural energy would be required?

The duo thought that Xiao Xuan was right. Everything would be treated as meals and devoured.

This made them recall something Li Qiye had said in the past, that if there was an immortal in the world, run as far away as possible. Now, the meaning of this phrase became obvious thanks to Xiao Xuan's comment.

"It's a good thing that immortals don't exist." The daoist was glad about this matter.

Most lamented the fact that they wouldn't be able to see an immortal - the apex of cultivation. But now, the existence of one might be calamitous.

"It's only a hopeless dream." Li Qiye stared at the hand and said: "Rebirth won't happen regardless of how much this remnant intent wants it."

"Good, good." The duo heaved a sigh of relief.

"We're almost there." Xiao Xuan commented as the ship drew closer.

Suddenly, a buzz could be heard from deeper into Worldbreaker. Everyone heard it clearly regardless of the distance.

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Space trembled afterward and then came an outburst of blinding rays. Each ray contained endless essence, capable of illuminating the entire world and chasing the darkness away.

While everyone was still taken aback and temporarily blinded, a pleasant whoosh could be heard. Something crossed through the air like a meteor and left behind a magnificent trail.

"What is that?" Spectators didn't expect this at all.

"It looked like a diamond, no, a gemstone." A powerful cultivator managed to see some clues.

"What?" Those nearby had no idea what was going on.

"Boom!" In the next second, a golden radiance erupted. The waves of light emanating from the source seemed as if they had a physical form and were made from gold.

A majestic figure could finally be seen - an old man in bright golden armor looking like a supreme god.

"Break!" He roared and punched forward - releasing a golden tsunami that can engulf the world.

"Rumble!" A gigantic fist of energy manifested into reality, piercing through the void and aiming for the great hand.

"Golden Fist Emperor!" Jian Ming shouted after seeing the armored old man.

"Hasn't he been missing for a thousand years now?" The daoist took a deep breath.

"Who is it?" Xiao Xuan asked.

"An amazing big shot." Jian Ming said with a smile: "Quite powerful, not weaker than any of the six heavenly monarchs. I believe he is Golden Divine Fist's descendant."

"Decent strength." Xiao Xuan glanced at him and said. This was high praise coming from such a powerful being.

“He’s from Golden City too. He once tried to become Golden Divine Fist’s disciple but was refused.” The daoist murmured.

Golden Fist Emperor was indeed from Golden City. However, whether he was Golden Divine Fist’s descendant was up for debate initially. [1]

As a powerful genius, he came to Worldbreaker to see out his ancestor, wanting to join him and learn the supreme fist dao. Alas, Golden Divine Fist refused.

No one understood the reason why but there were theories. One explanation stated that the ancestor didn’t think highly of his talent. This didn’t seem plausible because he was renowned for his abilities, an exceptional cultivator compared to his peers.

Another said that he didn’t wish for his descendant to become a fist slave. Therefore, he refused to teach the emperor anything relating to the fist dao. This was a logical explanation since no ancestor would want to watch a descendant being imprisoned forever. Remember, Golden Fist Emperor was young and had a bright future ahead of him.

A third possibility included Golden Divine Fist believing that the merit laws of Golden City were superior. There was no need to teach his descendant his own dao, wanting the emperor to focus on the ancestral arts instead. This also made sense since Golden City was an everlasting behemoth. Its merit laws were more than enough for its members.

Regardless of the reason, Golden Fist Emperor didn’t leave after the refusal. Of course, he didn’t stay in Worldbreaker but rather, a broken city known as Sky’s Demise in the outskirt.

He focused on learning the legendary fist dao, wanting to absorb the fist energy and sense the intent from afar. Eventually, he made some progress. Who knows if his ancestor had helped him out after seeing his dedication or did he simply rely on his supreme talent and comprehension?

His fist style became strong enough to be similar to his ancestor’s own. This was the origin of his title - Golden Fist Emperor.

With fame came enough clout to start his own sect in Sky’s Demise. He never returned to Golden afterward.

All in all, the emperor successfully learned a great fist dao and continued to study Worldbreaker while being outside.

“Boom!” In the next moment, another punch contended against his attack.

A blast wave swept through the region and astounded the crowd. Both attacks were strong enough to wipe out a sect. The result was the emperor being sent flying into the air.

“Who sent him flying just now?!” A spectator shouted.

People believed that he was just as strong as any of the six monarchs from Three Thousand Dao. It seemed that he had lost after this first exchange.

Sure enough, he relied on the momentum and disappeared into the mountain range. He was fast enough that people only saw a flash akin to the shine of a diamond.

“He made it out.” Everyone saw his successful escape.

“Who beat him with a single move?” Jian Ming took a deep breath.

“Don’t forget, the dynasty has countless unbeatable fist slaves.” The daoist replied.

“True.” Jian Ming said: “The dynasty has survived countless expeditions from dao lords, a miracle indeed.”

“As long as the immortal fist dao is there, there will be enough slaves to protect the dynasty. It’s so devilish.” The daoist added.

“Who can destroy that fist dao? I’m afraid numerous dao lords have tried already.” Jian Ming shrugged.

In fact, there were periods when the dynasty was completely wiped out but eventually, a new dynasty would form, populated by new slaves.

“At least they can’t leave Worldbreaker. Otherwise, it wouldn’t be Three Thousand Dao’s turn to dominate the world.” The daoist sentimentally said.

No one would deny this statement because there existed some incredible fist slaves in Worldbreaker. They were living reclusively since they couldn’t leave anyway. Otherwise, just Dao Sanqian alone wouldn’t be able to stop them from taking over.

“That punch just now was outstanding. Maybe I should give it a shot.” Xiao Xuan became eager to try.

“My Lady, please tell me you’re joking. Don’t tell me you want to fight the dynasty...” Jian Ming became startled.

“You think I can’t?” She glared at him.

He got goosebumps from fear and coughed wryly: “That’s not what I meant, My Lady is surely unbeatable, there’s no need for you to stoop yourself down to these slaves’ level.”

“Right, right, the slaves aren’t worth your time.” The daoist added right away.

They were afraid of her taking on an extremely tough opponent. It seemed rather suicidal.

“Hmph.” Xiao Xuan was very unhappy with these responses.

“All of you didn’t notice the key point.” Li Qiye smiled.

“What do you mean, Young Noble?” Jian Ming immediately asked.

“Did you see the flash earlier?” Li Qiye said.

“The flash?” Jian Ming thought about the blinding flash and then said: “Ah, the emperor wasn’t there to fight. He obtained something just now?”

Chapter 4596: Gemstone

“What did he get? It seemed that he risked his life just to get it.” The daoist became curious.

“Something incredible, I’m sure.” Jian Ming calmed down and responded: “He has seen plenty of treasures before. Even a dao lord weapon isn’t worth him being so reckless. Remember, he knows how frightening Worldbreaker is more than anyone.”

The daoist agreed. The emperor came from Golden City - a place with matchless resources. As a previous member of Golden and a sect master, he must have seen wondrous artifacts previously.

He also knew the danger in opposing the fist dynasty yet he chose to risk it all. This was a testament to the item’s value.

“What is it to be worth the gamble?” Jian Ming stroked his chin and said.

“A gemstone.” Li Qiye saved their time and revealed.

“A gemstone? What type?” Jian Ming repeated.

The daoist had a faster realization and raised his voice: “That gemstone in the legend? Remember, the duck egg buyer destroyed a gauntlet with embedded gemstones, is this what we’re talking about?”

“?!” Jian Ming was shocked as he shouted: “The immortal gemstones from the divine gauntlet?!”

“So the legend regarding the duck egg buyer is true...” He murmured: “He really did remove the gemstone and destroy the gauntlet back then.”

“There are five gemstones, not just one.” Li Qiye corrected.

“Yes...” The daoist shuddered after hearing this.

Jian Ming stared at the fist and said: “That gemstone is priceless, just how powerful will it be too...?”

The fist intent still remained after countless eras. That hand was nothing but terrifying. Therefore, its gauntlet and its embedded gemstones must be proportionally impressive. It was tough for the young ones to conceptualize its worth and power.

“No treasures in the world can compare to a complete gemstone, not dao lord weapon, patrimony weapon, or even paragon artifacts made by dao lords. In short, nothing created in this world is comparable.” Li Qiye said.

“It’s that strong? Wouldn’t it be unbeatable against anything...” Jian Ming murmured.

“Seems that way.” The daoist took a deep breath.

If Li Qiye was right, then even the rare paragon artifacts created by the dao lords stood no chance against the gemstone. Remember, it was only one of five gemstones and this wasn’t including the gauntlet itself.

“Well, I was only talking about weapons created here. There are exceptions.” Li Qiye smiled.

“Exceptions?” The daoist took his time ruminating about these special weapons.

“Why didn’t the duck egg buyer take the gauntlet away, or at least the gemstones?” Jian Ming thought about something else.

“He is the only one who knows. Maybe he doesn’t think highly of the gemstones or that they were lost after the gauntlet was taken down...” The daoist said.

“Shit, how can that be? If he doesn’t think highly of the gemstones, what else can move him?” Jian Ming complained.

“Once again, exceptions. The duck egg buyer might just not care about anything.” Li Qiye said.

The two exchanged glances and thought about it. This cultivator never left behind anything or any trace, at least as far as the world knew. This being was shrouded in fog. No merit law and treasure were known to have originated from him.

Suddenly, Xiao Xuan interrupted their conversation: “I feel something from the past.”

“From the past?” This woke Jian Ming and the daoist up from their daze.

“It’s a familiar feeling, an aura that is lingering here.” She said.

“Give it a shot. Use your mantra to observe, if it’s there, there will be a reaction.” Li Qiye suggested.

Xiao Xuan took a deep breath. She focused up and formed a mudra with both hands. Dao laws instantly appeared around her.

Though she has yet to cultivate a merit law, her mudra was formed perfectly. The flow of the mantra was also natural.

“Buzz.” More dao laws emerged as she channeled her mantra.

Jian Ming and the daoist were shocked while staring at the ancient and mysterious laws. They seemed to be from an immemorial period.

They seemed impossible to create via cultivation alone. Her bloodline seemed to be the main driver.

“Clank!” They came together to form something resembling a heavenly plate. The plate started rotating and more laws attached themselves to the surface, creating a mirror of sorts.

It took in the entire world but most importantly, Worldbreaker Fist. In the reflection of the mirror, the mountain ranges were nowhere to be seen, replaced by large chasms instead.

“Over there!” She then pointed at a particular corner of the plate.

Chapter 4597: Sky’s Demise

“What is that place?” Jian Ming asked.

“Open!” Xiao Xuan shouted and increased the power of the dao laws, prompting them to pulse with a strange light.

The mirror-like plate started shining where Xiao Xuan wished it to. Visual phenomena emerged and were filtered by the mirror. They disappeared without a trace after being eliminated.

After a while, a phenomenon finally left behind a mark with a mystical rhythm. It seemed to have a heartbeat of its own.

She raised one finger and sucked up all the light from the mirror. Everything turned into darkness as she returned to the past.

Jian Ming and the daoist couldn't see a damn thing after her act. Nonetheless, they noticed her aura disappearing even though she was still nearby. They wouldn't be able to touch her now.

"Young Noble, what is going on?" Jian Ming hurriedly asked.

Li Qiye glanced in her direction and said: "This is a mark of memory for tracing purposes. Only extremely powerful cultivators can leave these behind for themselves."

"Would it work through reincarnation?" The daoist has heard something similar before.

"As long as you're strong enough to leave one, you'll be able to get some memory back." Li Qiye said.

"Isn't that the same as rebirth then." Jian Ming said: "A second life while retaining memories, that's heaven-defying, especially for someone as strong as her. She was already unbeatable in her previous life, she'll reach a new height this time around."

Being able to be reborn with memory was frightening. It was akin to being undying on top of gaining more experiences and resources each time. A being capable of this would reach an insane level.

"It's just a fantasy." Li Qiye said: "It's virtually impossible to live again and to do so with memory intact, that's prohibitively difficult. A rebirth will have flaws, one must pay a price to go against the heaven."

"Over there!" Xiao Xuan returned to their current dimension and pointed forward. The duo could sense her once more.

"Lady, did you get your memory back?" Jian Ming became curious while staring at her.

He imagined her with all of her memories back and wondered if her mood would be even fouler.

"What memory?" She glared at him.

He heaved a sigh of relief and smiled: "From your previous self."

"No." She shook her head and said: "But I saw a path, seemingly one that leads to home."

"Do you remember what you left behind after seeing the mark?" He inquired again.

"Not yet, I know how to find it now." She responded.

"That's great." He nodded.

"Let's go take a look then." Li Qiye interjected.

"Yes! Let's go to see the lady's hidden ultimate item!" Jian Ming became excited after hearing this.

He has been itching all this time because she was so strong. Something left behind by her should be wondrous.

Sky's Demise City was situated on the outskirts of Worldbreaker. Numerous cultivators from all over Eight Desolaces gathered here. Some even started their own sect.

It wasn't a conventional city but rather, a general area encompassing all the enclaves surrounding Worldbreaker. It could be an established city or one built in the mountain range, a village, or a tiny town...

All in all, anywhere outside of Worldbreaker with inhabitants, whether populous or otherwise, would be considered a part of Sky's Demise.

Many eras ago, this place used to be desolate. Later on, more cultivators came and founded sects, resulting in the current landscape.

The group saw buildings and huts everywhere. Smoke from kitchen stoves could be seen. The inhabitants came to learn the dao of the fist while not wanting to turn into slaves. All in all, they weren't willing to give up and decided to take roots here.

The population continued to grow. Sky's Demise didn't belong to any other great power. Because of this, it served as a safe haven for those hiding from enemies or merchants wanting free trading. Some merely visited out of curiosity...

A sect of note was Golden Gate. Its founder was none other than Golden Fist Emperor. Given his talents and family background, he should have been the lord of Golden City.

Alas, his love for the dao of the fist changed the trajectory of his life. Perhaps this calling stemmed from his bloodline, being the descendant of Ye Zuodao.

Others wanted nothing more than to inherit the legacy of Golden City. In his case, he left without ever looking back. He abandoned his previous merit laws and focused on the dao of the fist only. This obsession granted him success.

Though Golden Gate didn't have the same level of foundation and resources compared to the behemoths, it wasn't weaker than most great powers due to his presence.

Normally, the sect didn't have dealings with other powers due to its remote location. Moreover, it had no ambition of increasing its territory.

This changed recently with more guests arriving from the strongest sects around. Rumor has it that even True Immortal Sect wanted a marriage alliance with Golden Gate. This naturally surprised all listeners.

Chapter 4598: Marriage Alliance

"Are you serious?" One listener couldn't believe it.

Golden Gate was a brilliant power but it lacked history and completely relied on its founder - Golden Fist Emperor.

In a sense, it could only be considered a second-rate sect or one step away from the next level. As for True Immortal, this was a behemoth at the apex, virtually peerless.

They always took marriage alliances rather seriously and had stringent requirements. Otherwise, intermarriage between their sect members and outsiders was considered to be personal and not representative.

Entering this alliance meant gaining True Immortal's support and becoming a true ally. Few in the entire world had this privilege.

"What is in this for True immortal?" Another wondered after receiving this news.

"Which genius from True Immortal is a candidate?" A young one wanted to gossip.

"Don't tell me it's True Immortal Young Emperor." His friend boldly speculated.

"No way." An expert immediately denied this possibility: "Who do you think the young emperor is? Unbeatable and peerless, his wife might become the prestigious future queen. She can't be from a sect like Golden Gate. This is a very serious matter."

"In my opinion, the young emperor will probably marry someone from Three Thousand Dao, or maybe Lion's Roar. The priestess of Ancestral Divine Temple is a good match." A last-gen cultivator added.

As people thought about the reasoning behind True Immortal's choice, another piece of news came out from Sky's Demise - Three Thousand Dao sent a messenger to ask for an engagement as well.

"Are you serious?!" The crowd became stupefied for a long while.

"Why is Three Thousand Dao doing this?" One expert murmured.

"Something has to be going on in Golden Gate." Another realized that something was up.

Prior to this, people didn't quite believe the news regarding True Immortal's intention. Now, two behemoths have come asking for the same thing.

"What is Golden Gate selling, why do both True Immortal and Three Thousand Dao want this marriage alliance? They have a fairy there or something?" A youth wondered.

Golden Gate became lively in no time at all. Many powerful sects and big shots appeared; some came seeking the same goal.

Putting True Immortal and Three Thousand Dao aside, there were also the Sima, Godwhip School, Grand Citadel...

The entrance was completely packed to the astonishment of neutral spectators. They thought that Golden Gate might have a gorgeous female cultivator.

Older cultivators didn't think so because the behemoths didn't care about appearance alone. Golden Gate must have obtained something recently.

No secret lasted forever. Someone finally spread the information regarding Golden Fist Emperor obtaining a peerless item from Worldbreaker.

"That's why he was getting chased by the dynasty." Another recalled watching the emperor fighting the other day, realizing that it might have been the start of this development.

“So the behemoths are here for that peerless item, it must be special.” An expert murmured.

“I can’t possibly think of what it is.” One more took a deep breath.

Everyone knew about the behemoths’ resources and wealth. They had countless treasures including paragon artifacts. This didn’t stop them from still desiring this particular item.

“What did the emperor get?” This became the main question but those aware of the answer held their tongue.

All in all, Sky’s Demise became packed with cultivators who had different motives. Li Qiye’s group finally arrived as well.

They saw both bustling areas and ruins. This was due to the withering of time. No sects could last forever. They entered a small town under Xiao Xuan’s direction.

It had some small sects and cultivators, just nothing notable. However, Li Qiye smiled after coming across a small shop and entered the door.

“Gentlemen, please come inside, this is our grand opening so everything is seventy percent off.” A worker enthusiastically greeted them.

It seemed like they were some of the earliest customers.

However, once the workers actually saw the group’s face, they became startled.

“You again?” Jian Ming and the daoist felt the same way.

The workers, shopkeeper, and boss were none other than the Improper Four. The duo didn’t expect to see them again.

“Please come in.” Puresword excitedly invited them inside.

Li Qiye smiled and sat down. The others also did the same and looked around. This was a new shop indeed; everything was completely new.

“What are you all doing here?” Jian Ming asked.

Chapter 4599: Bitter Tea Grounds

“Life has been tough so we started this small business in order to keep up with expenses and buy some household goods.” Puresword answered with a smile.

Jian Ming naturally didn’t buy this story. These four were clearly from prestigious clans.

“Must be some really expensive household goods.” Jian Ming said sarcastically.

“Well, we wouldn’t mind buying a really good pot to make a stew with.” Puresword didn’t mind the tone.

“Your thick skin has no bounds.” Jian Ming concluded.

“Sirs, are you in the mood to drink or eat anything?” Puresword asked: “We have some fine merchandise right now, puncture vines from the northern sea, dragon eye from the cold west, hmm, sky-summit sesame...”

“You have everything?” Jian Ming tried to cause trouble.

“Let me know what you’re looking for, maybe we can procure it.” Puresword didn’t mind.

Jian Ming rubbed his chin and then said: “I’m thinking about a seven-star abyss stone marrow in combination with an eight-treasure celestial snail, served cold with darkmoon ice.”

“That stone marrow is rather rare but coincidentally, we do have some in store.” Puresword thought about it and shouted: “A’han, do we have any eight-treasure celestial snail meat left?”

“Not a lot, just enough for one meal.” A’han who was inside shouted back.

Jian Ming was utterly impressed. He glanced at Puresword and then the other members: “You all are really just operating a shop here? Seems like you’re taking it seriously.”

The ingredients he mentioned earlier were rare delicacies meant for big shots, not regular cultivators. Nonetheless, the shop was ready to accommodate him, meaning that Puresword’s group had an impressive stock.

“Life’s tough so we have to go all out.” Puresword smiled.

“Tough my ass, if you are having a tough time, then the rest of the world is really struggling.” Jian Ming retorted. The word “tough” shouldn’t come out of his mouth when he had these expensive ingredients.

“The wealth of ancient clans is unimaginable to most.” Li Qiye said: “Even their breakfast are all delicacies.”

The daoist and Jian Ming exchanged glances. It seemed that the ancient clans were truly rich. If Puresword were to open a store, he would naturally have the “common” ingredients available.

“Goddamn it, I hate rich people.” Jian Ming complained before muttering under his breath: “I’m going to be just as rich...”

Puresword smiled and asked Li Qiye: “Sir, how about you?”

Xiao Xuan interrupted before Li Qiye could answer. She sniffed and said: “What a familiar smell, are you grinding tea?”

“Miss, you are right. We are making some bitter tea, a delicacy from our hometown.” Xiao Yan was surprised to hear this.

“I want a cup.” Xiao Xuan asked: “Bitter ground tea, oceanic spice soaked in spirit grain water with abyss zoysia pungens sauteed three times.”

“This is definitely our dish.” The Improper Four became surprised.

This wasn’t a simple dish. It contained ancient secrets and was a part of their clans’ history. Only members of their clans knew how to make it, not outsiders.

In this case, she knew the process so well. She herself didn't know why she knew this dish.

"Meeting neighbors in a distant land." Li Qiye said. [1]

"We will prepare it for you right away." Puresword's group exchanged glances before he spoke.

After a long while, a stone bowl of hot bitter ground tea was presented. This wasn't just regular tea.

The stone bowl was exquisite, having been made from an ancient magnetite metal, possessing both cold and hot surfaces. Waves and splashes could be heard emanating from the tea.

The liquid had the color of a jasper. As it moved, it resembled a maelstrom that could drive the rotation of the stars. It contained essences of the ocean and ample life force.

A bitter taste lingered at the tip of the tongue even before sipping it. It contained the various emotions of the mortal world.

Three more bowls were brought to the table, one for each of the guests. Jian Ming hurriedly drank while Li Qiye took his time.

Jian Ming couldn't stop drinking. Once he finished, he smacked his lips and savored the taste: "What a strange taste, I feel the human experience streaming down with one sip."

"Well said." Puresword's eyes lit up: "That's a great way to describe this."

"Haha, I just said what was on my mind." Jian Ming enjoyed being praised.

Though he had a big and foul mouth, one couldn't deny his rich knowledge and abilities.

"Mmm..." The daoist took his time appreciating the tea before saying: "Seems to be related to the charming spirit, a drink meant for certain ceremonies, perhaps."

"Your knowledge is incredible." Puresword was surprised: "Not exactly the case but you're very close."

"It's because our clan had ancient ceremonies with something similar. Maybe your clans are even older than mine, not a part of this epoch."

Puresword didn't say anything. He and his peers didn't want to reveal their background.

"I've drunk this during my youth." Xiao Xuan finished her bowl and looked rather satisfied.

This shocked Puresword and the others since only their clans had access to this drink. They have been watching her the entire time ever since she talked about this drink.

This meant that she might be a member of their clans. However, they had no idea who she was. After all, they knew all members who were out and about because normally, they remained in their clan.

"May I know your name, Miss?" Puresword bowed.

"I do not know. Young Noble, what is my last name?" Xiao Xuan shook her head.

"You'll remember later." Li Qiye smiled at her and then told Puresword: "No need to ask, you will know when the time is right."

Chapter 4600: Void Imperfection Tea

The four stopped asking despite being curious after hearing this.

“Sir, do you want anything else?” Xiao Yan asked respectfully.

“Boil a pot of tea with gale leek using Void Imperfection’s purifying method and use Windchaser’s technique to fan the flames. The liquid need to be correct but most importantly, the flame mastery. Don’t mess it up.” Li Qiye ordered.

The casual comment shocked the youths because it revealed virtually everything about Xiao Yan. Moreover, it was strict as if she was a maid.

Though they chose to hide their identity, they were naturally important figures. Even the big shots from the great powers didn’t have the authority to order them.

“Your request is unreasonable.” A’han protested: “Xiao Yan doesn’t need to make this tea, we can offer some White-brow Tea instead, is that alright?”

“No, Void Imperfection Windchaser Tea.” Li Qiye demanded.

“We don’t have that available.” A’han shook his head.

“Not available.” Woodman said bluntly. He wasn’t a man of many words.

They were very unhappy with Li Qiye’s attitude. Xiao Yan was their martial sister yet he dared to order her like a maid.

Puresword winked at them, not wanting their group to clash with Li Qiye. Xiao Yan shook her head and told them to ignore it.

She then stared at Li Qiye; her brows slightly furrowed. She had no idea who he was but one thing was certain - he knew her background.

Despite being aware of how prestigious it was, he still ordered her without any qualm. This was truly strange.

“I will prepare it for you then, Young Noble.” She bowed deeply and addressed him with respect.

She went to the backroom while Jian Ming and the daoist became curious. They also wanted to know the origin of these four. Li Qiye clearly knew; he just didn’t wish to tell them.

A while later, she carried a teapot over with steam oozing from it. Who knows if it was due to the boiling tea or this was the nature of the special pot?

One could hear dragon roars coming from the liquid. As she poured it into a cup, images of wind dragons could be seen from the vertical stream.

The steam had a comforting and purifying fragrance. Those nearby found themselves void of any impurity and imperfection. All of their pores became unobstructed.

“Brilliant...” Jian Ming murmured, realizing that this was the finest type of tea even before drinking it.

Xiao Yan offered the cup with both hands to Li Qiye: “Young Noble, please enjoy.”

He accepted the cup for a sip, tasting the transcending purity and smoothness.

“Good, the flame mastery is acceptable but Void Imperfection and Windchaser were not fused perfectly. More training is necessary.” He assessed.

Xiao Yan became startled because he understood her flaws right away after a single sip. Keep in mind that outsiders with weak cultivation wouldn’t notice this.

The three became emotional and exchanged glances. Xiao Yan lowered her head and asked: “Please point out my mistakes, Young Noble.”

“I don’t have anything to teach, your clans’ fortunes are just fine. However, I will point out a path and it is up to you whether to take advantage of it or otherwise.” He said.

“I am all ears.” She focused up.

He took his time enjoying another sip before speaking: “You still have an ancient ancestor in this world, do not miss this chance.” [1]

“An ancient ancestor?” Xiao Yan became surprised.

Due to their rich history, they had plenty of ancient ancestors, some of whom were old beyond imagination. They didn’t know who he was referring to.

“A magnificent ancient ancestor who had gone missing.” He elaborated.

They thought about a particular legend right away - a mighty being who disappeared without a trace.

“I, I can meet the ancient ancestor?” She stammered.

“Nearby, let’s see how lucky you are.” He smiled and glanced at the distance.

“I understand.” She calmed down and bowed.

He accepted the gesture and drank more tea. Of course, his two followers couldn’t contain their excitement and wanted to know who the figure was. They refrained from being noisy because it might annoy Li Qiye. As for Xiao Xuan, she ignored all of this and continued to eat and drink.

At this time, another guest came into the store. A pleasant fragrance like a ripe fruit permeated the air.

It was a girl around twenty years of age. She wore a yellow pleated dress that was immaculately crafted.

She was elegant and beautiful with a hint of playfulness flashing in her eyes. Alas, there seemed to be something on her mind.

She noticed the aroma of the tea and asked: “Owner, may I purchase a pot of this tea?”

Puresword came over and shook his head: “My apology, Miss, there is only one pot. Is there anything else I can get you?”

“Just another dish then, anything will do.” She sat down and said.

“Very well, four snacks from the eastern sea.” Puresword suggested and she nodded in agreement.

She glanced over at Li Qiye’s group, especially him. Unfortunately, he was leisurely drinking and she didn’t notice any clue.

Jian Ming elbowed the daoist and whispered: “She’s from Golden Gate.”

“Indeed.” The daoist replied.

The shameless Jian Ming walked over and cupped his fist: “Miss, you must be the lady from Golden Gate.”

She was surprised to see a stranger boldly approaching. She nodded and said: “I am Tingrong, what is your name, Fellow Daoist?”

“I am from the Jian.” He smiled and said: “I heard that the fist emperor obtained a treasure from Worldbreaker, the entire city is in a furor about it.”

Her expression turned cold after this. She became cautious and said: “I apologize but I haven’t met the ancestor and don’t know what you are talking about, Brother Jian. These are just rumors.”

“What about the marriage proposal?” Xiao Xuan asked: “So many people are at the gate asking, who do you want to marry?”

Tingrong didn’t like the intrusive question but after seeing that Xiao Xuan was only a little girl, she wasn’t offended. After all, children never minded their words.

“I do not know right now.” She shook her head and then stared at the group: “Fellow Daoists, are you here because of the rumors too?”

“That’s not the case.” Jian Ming smiled.