

### Chapter 1031: Invincible Dharma

At the peak of Spirit Mountain, the Radiant Bodhisattva was illuminating the sky. Many people held their breaths while watching from the horizon. Meanwhile, worshippers were kneeling on the ground on the mountain. There was no way to return from Buddhism under the shining radiance of the Bodhisattva.

Who could know how the debate was going? Though the temple allowed anyone to spectate, no one was willing to go inside due to its great influence. Even those with powerful dao hearts like Zhan Shi would be converted, unable to defend their beliefs.

“Buzz—” One second passed by after another. With a soft sound, the light above the temple disappeared along with the Radiant Bodhisattva’s reflection.

“How did it go?” Someone couldn’t help but ask after seeing the lights disappear.

No one could answer him. Everyone watched the Buddhist gate of the temple with bated breaths. Time felt particularly slow to the nervous spectators. One second lasted a century.

Eventually, a person walked out of the gate, causing many eyes to widen. He had long hair with a leisured expression. It was Li Qiye, or rather, Chu Yuntian.

“The Radiant Bodhisattva lost.” Someone murmured after seeing Li Qiye.

“How can that be...” The monks at the plateau were aghast and had to take several thumping steps back.

“Even the Radiant Bodhisattva couldn’t defeat this young man in the debate. This is so incredible...” The monks glanced at each other in shock.

The Radiant Bodhisattva was considered the one closest to being a Buddhist Lord. Many people were certain that he was next in line at the Buddhist kingdom. But today, he was defeated by a nameless practitioner who still had his hair. Such a scene left these monks in disbelief.

To cultivators who knew about the dharma and the monks at the plateau, defeating the Radiant Bodhisattva with merit laws and combat was one thing and perhaps understandable. After all, he had only studied the dharma since youth.

However, a scripture debate was a monk’s strong suit, especially someone like the Radiant Bodhisattva who should be peerless in this aspect. However, he lost at his own specialty — this was quite difficult to believe.

Even those who didn’t understand the significance of his defeat trembled. They felt that Li Qiye was too heaven-defying for being able to defeat the Bodhisattva in a dharmic debate.

“What kind of treasure will he get?” Many people wanted to know. Some looked over at Zhan Shi.

Zhan Shi won the scripture hark, so there were those who wanted to know what he received from the temple. The crowd knew that the Four Buddhas Temple was the top among the eighteen. A treasure from there was definitely supreme.

Li Qiye slowly walked down from the mountain. The worshipers here all prostrated with their heads touching the ground. They didn't stand up for a very long time, for they were lost in Buddhism and couldn't turn back.

The cultivators in the distance watched quietly as Li Qiye left the mountain. This meant that he didn't wish to train in this area.

A youth looked on and curiously asked: "If this person with his boundless dharma enters the world, what will happen? What if he competes for the Heaven's Will as well?"

Many quietly contemplated this issue. An older cultivator answered: "Hmm, I'm afraid there is no precedent for that."

Competing for the Heaven's Will was the business of cultivators. If a monk that only trained in the dharma came to compete for it, what would be the result? Would the Heaven's Will recognize such a person?

It appeared to be an unanswered question. In just a moment, the crowd looked around at each other. Although there was no answer, people like Jikong Wudi and Lin Tiandi looked quite solemn.

"Can he actually compete for the Heaven's Will? He is a monk, not a cultivator, how can his dharma fight for it? Maybe he will be killed by another expert. The competition for the Heaven's Will is ruthless and will only be decided when there is a single man left standing. It is not a merciful ordeal, chanting and singing Buddhist hymns won't do." A young cultivator spoke with disdain.

In the eyes of many youths here, someone who trained in the dharma couldn't compete with cultivators in this aspect, especially the most brilliant cultivators.

"Not necessarily." A Virtuous Paragon shook his head: "Don't look down on Buddhist practitioners. If that was the case, the Buddhist Funeral Plateau wouldn't have stood strong for so long. Through the ages, many Immortal Emperors have appeared along with imperial lineages. They kept on replacing one another across the river of time. Some were destroyed completely, but the plateau remained standing."

The paragon's words struck the crowd. Both young and old felt a chill. Everyone knew that the plateau, especially Spirit Mountain, had untold treasures. Countless invincible people, including Immortal Emperors, had come to this place, but the plateau still continued to exist until now. If it wasn't strong enough, it would have been destroyed by someone already.

"If he comes into this world, would he be able to compete against geniuses like you guys?" Someone saw Li Qiye leaving the mountain and murmured.

No one wanted to answer this question because the most promising geniuses for the Heaven's Will were all in this place — Zhan Shi, Jikong Wudi, Lin Tiandi, and the Jewel Pillar Mortal King...

"I also want to see this peerless dharma of his." Someone spoke with a powerful tone at this time. Even though he didn't emit his frightening aura, his voice alone was quiver-inducing.

The crowd looked back and found that it was the Jewel Pillar Mortal King. His eyes were quite profound at this moment as he gazed at Li Qiye walking away.

Everyone became excited upon seeing his expression. He was known as the War God as well as the War Fanatic. They knew about his great belligerence, so it would be a great show if he were to challenge the youth with the boundless dharma.

After leaving Spirit Mountain, Li Qiye took his time walking away. His Buddhist light was hidden in his aura of normalcy. He felt quite carefree, as if he wasn't a Buddha or Li Qiye but only Chu Yuntian.

He was quite relaxed. The duel against the Radiant Bodhisattva was using a butcher's blade to kill a chicken. His goal was not the eighteen temples or Nalanda, it was the Nihilism Temple!

No matter what, he must grab that item from the Nihilism Temple. However, the old monks in that temple were not so easily trifled with. Alas, in this generation, he was confident in his ability to defeat them in scripture debates.

He headed for the Buddhist City afterward. Wo Longxuan, who ran to the horizon earlier, also came to meet up with him.

However, before she could make contact, she was blocked by a group of people. They all had the same uniform with powerful blood energies. They were quite young, and it was clear that they were from the same sect.

"Robbery? This is the sacred ground of the Buddhist faith." She was not afraid and cheerfully smiled at the group that blocked her.

An expert slowly stated: "Girl, take off your veil. We're performing a routine check."

She batted her eyes and leisurely said: "Routine check? For what?" Then she smiled at Li Qiye who was coming closer: "Master, there is a group of bandits here wanting to perform a routine check, should you enlighten them? Don't you Buddhists have this saying, relinquish your knife to become a Buddha?" [1. Idiom; repent and be absolved of one's crimes.]

Li Qiye glanced at the group and idly said: "Since when did the Nantian Clan mingle at the Buddhist Funeral Plateau? With just your clan, you think you are qualified to perform routine checks here?"

These people were disciples from the Nantian Clan. It was located very far away, yet they came all the way here to perform these checks.

"This king is the one giving permission, that's their qualification." An arrogant voice resounded as a young man approached with a confident stride. He wore a crown and showed an imperious expression.

Many people noticed them the moment Wo Longxuan was stopped by this group. They saw this young man, prompting one to whisper: "Isn't that the new crown prince from the Nantian Clan?"

Back then, Nantian Young King from the clan died to Li Qiye. Later on, they selected a new crown prince.

"Their clan is reaching too far above their own abilities. They dare to perform inspections at the plateau?" Someone from the previous generation frowned. A lineage from the Grand Middle Territory running to the Barren Earth and daring to perform these checks? This couldn't be justified.

"Ancestor, you have just come out so you aren't aware of the current situation. The circumstances are different now." A sect master softly spoke to his ancestor. He glanced over at the Mortal King in the

horizon and continued: "In the present times, the Nantian Clan, the Jiangzuo Clan... and the Jewel Pillar Mortal King are very, very close. So close that the disciples from these clans have pledged allegiance to the Mortal King."

Such a thing was not strange at all. The Mortal King was very famous at this moment. These clans were optimistic about him and thought that he could compete for the Heaven's Will.

The ancestor gently shook his head and said: "Just this alone is not enough for them to interfere with the Barren Earth's business."

### **Chapter 1032: Enlightening**

"Ancestor, you still haven't heard about it." The sect master lowered his voice by quite a bit: "Recently, the Nantian Clan has clung onto an even thicker thigh; they made contact with the Soaring Immortal Sect."

"Soaring Immortal Sect..." After hearing this, the ancestor felt a chill and had a shocked expression. He didn't dare to say anything else.

On the other side, Li Qiye smiled at the new young king of the Nantian Clan: "I actually am surprised to see the Nantian Clan's authority grow to this level."

"I am representing the Soaring Immortal Sect, not the Nantian Clan!" The new king had a fearlessly smug expression.

"Clank!" He threw a banner down to the ground with the words "Soaring Immortal" embroidered on it. The level of calligraphy was flawless; it depicted a soaring dragon and a dancing phoenix, resulting in an oppressive atmosphere.

"I am working for the Soaring Immortal Sect. This banner is the proof!" He made a fist towards the sky with complete confidence and pride.

"Soaring Immortal Sect!" Everyone was astonished to see this banner. Even experts from imperial lineages trembled with apprehension.

The Soaring Immortal Sect was an untouchable giant in the Mortal Emperor World. No one knew where it was located, but none could deny its great influence.

It was the only lineage with five emperors in all of the nine worlds as well as the most ancient one. It was created by Immortal Emperor Fei and continued to stand strong to this day.

Immortal Emperor Fei was not the first of the emperors nor the first human emperor. The title of the first emperor belonged to Immortal Emperor Gu Chun from the Charming Spirit Race while the first human emperor was Immortal Emperor Jiao Heng. [1. Fei = Soaring; Gu Chun = Ancient Purity; Jiao Heng = Overbearing/Arrogant.]

However, Immortal Emperor Jiao Heng, as the first, did not leave behind any lineage for the human race. Its second emperor, Immortal Emperor Fei, left behind a monstrous lineage.

There was a particular belief in the nine worlds. If one was to talk about the greatest emperor out of them all, then many people would think of Immortal Emperor Jiao Heng first and then Immortal Emperor Fei Yang and Empress Hong Tian. [2. Fei Yang and Fei are different emperors.]

However, when it came to the most influential emperor, Immortal Emperor Fei would be the first one to pop inside anyone's head.

He created the Soaring Immortal Sect, the strongest human lineage and the only one in all of the nine worlds to produce five emperors.

Its mysterious location didn't affect its status in the nine worlds. Legend states that the sect had ruled over the nine worlds for several generations.

Thus anyone, even powerful imperial lineages, would feel apprehensive when talking about this sect!

And so, when the new young king of the Nantian Clan placed down the Soaring Immortal Banner, the crowd was shocked. They understood why he was acting so haughtily. It turned out that he found a great backing.

Li Qiye glanced at the banner on the ground. He couldn't be any more familiar with this banner.

"Fellow Daoist, you are a foreigner so it is better if you don't become involved in mundane matters." Nantian Young King laughed proudly and assumed that Li Qiye was frightened by the banner.

He then looked over at Wo Longxuan and spoke: "I am someone in a high position, so I won't bully the weak. As long as you take off your veil, my clan won't make things difficult for you."

"Why is it that I have to take off my veil?" She smirked in response.

The young king replied: "I am searching for an enemy in place of my friend. He has an enemy lurking around while you are acting very suspicious."

After hearing this, she understood who had asked him to do so.

"Sacred Teacher, should I run?" She blinked her pretty eyes and affectionately latched onto Li Qiye's arm.

Many people saw this and glanced over at the Mortal King real fast. They all wanted to see how this situation would play out.

Li Qiye smiled and glanced at the young king: "I am merciful. Go back from whence you came."

The young king lost his patience and coldly uttered: "Monk, don't interfere with this feud or even if you sever your mundane ties later, you will still have an ineradicable shadow."

Li Qiye cheerfully replied: "What if I insist on interfering?"

"Those who violate the Soaring Immortal Order are heretics, they are to be executed without mercy." The king chillingly declared.

Such words were truly overbearing. Even though the majority of the spectators didn't agree with the statement, they didn't dare to say anything since the banner was right there on the ground.

They understood that the young king was a fox borrowing a tiger's might; he was intimidating people with the soaring sect's prestige!

"Soaring Immortal Order?" Li Qiye nonchalantly laughed: "What kind of rubbish is this? An order that was put together with a bunch of scraps? How hilarious."

The young king and the spectators were shocked to hear this. Some even gasped in response.

"This monk is a bit confused. I think he doesn't know how frightening the Soaring Immortal Sect is." Someone from the last generation shook his head.

"You bald donkey, unthinkingly speaking!" The young king shouted and pointed at Li Qiye: "Capture him, I will interrogate them!" [3. Just a note, the young king always refers to himself with an "imperial I" because he considers himself to be higher than Li Qiye and Wo Longxuan. Li Qiye has met kings before and they would never use this "imperial I" before Li Qiye after learning his abilities. It is a problematic type of pronouns for translation.]

The young king was dauntless at this time, not placing anyone in his sight since he was clinging onto the Soaring Immortal Sect's thigh.

The experts from the Nantian Clan immediately surrounded Li Qiye and Wo Longxuan. One of them coldly spoke: "Monk, out of respect for you being a venerable practitioner, just obediently give up."

"Sacred Master, what do we do now?" Wo Longxuan pulled his arm with a very cute and delicate appearance. It seemed as if she was very afraid.

Li Qiye chuckled and glanced at these Nantian disciples. He slowly placed his palms together and a buzzing noise came out. In the blink of an eye, his body emitted a Buddhist radiance. It surged from his body in a blinding manner, giving him the appearance of a Buddhist Lord.

A golden lotus bloomed below his feet, accompanied by Buddhist hymns and golden springs. Bodhisattvas and Arhats were chanting for him. The eight races of deities were protecting his well being. Under the luminance of this Buddhist light, all kinds of strange phenomena emerged.

At this split second, Wo Longxuan instantly disappeared to get far away from Li Qiye.

"Amitabha, slaying a devil is boundless beneficence." Li Qiye recited a Buddhist phrase. The rhythm continued and a Buddhist affinity came down to enlighten and convert all living beings.

His radiance bloomed even more. The Nantian disciples surrounding him turned silly as if they were being controlled like puppets.

As the Buddhist chants continued, the eyes of these disciples turned red. They suddenly became agitated and quickly stabbed those closest to them.

There were no merit laws, techniques, or even any attempts at defense. The white blade swung forward and out came a blood-stained edge. All of these disciples stabbed each other without any screams or signs of pain. All of them fell down afterward.

This bizarre scene happened too quickly. Just one chant was enough to make the Nantian disciples kill each other in such a swift and decisive manner.

“No...” Nantian Young King’s eyes were crimson red as well. However, his dao heart was stronger than the other disciples. He struggled to resist the dharmic control.

“Sinner, repent!” Li Qiye spewed out another mantra with a majestic Buddhist might. It was impossible to resist.

“Ah—” After a shrill cry, the young king actually split himself into two halves with his blade. Blood spurting out while his body fell to the ground.

The crowd was stunned by this devilish scene. They trembled while feeling creeped out.

From start to finish, Li Qiye didn’t move at all, not even a single finger. The young king and all of the disciples from his clan were now dead, either from suicide or by killing each other.

Someone shivered and asked: “Is that, is that a demonic art?” [4. A couple of options here for this particular word. Demonic art/devilish art/magic/wizardry/devilry. The usage of this particular word in Chinese can be used to express disbelief more so than stating the nature of the spell. He knows it is Buddhism, but he is expressing how astonished he is by making this statement. I do think magic is the most fitting when localizing to English. However, in a world of cultivation, I’m hesitant to use the word magic since it is more western and the word is slightly different from the real word for magic. In a xianxia with both western and eastern elements, there will be conflicts between western magic and eastern cultivation. Using magic so carelessly can be problematic. We probably won’t have this problem in ED since it has no western elements. Demonic art is the most literal translation. Or, he could just be asking a dumb question after seeing Li Qiye at the plateau.]

“No, it is a Buddhist law.” A monk from the plateau saw this scene and gently shook his head while speaking: “When the Buddhist Lord is angry, shields shall flow above the endless tides of blood.” [5. An idiom for blood flowing like a river. It is a very abrupt idiom, so it is hard to put in English to make it look nice or understandable right away. It is an image of war about the aftermath of carnage. There is so much blood that even the shields used by the soldiers started to flow on the ground.]

“Isn’t the Buddhist doctrine about mercy and kindness?” Another shivered and spoke: “It looks just like devilry though.”

It was normal for cultivators to kill each other. The law of the jungle was a truth everyone knew. However, in a cultivation battle, the enemies would at least be able to see one move before being killed. However, this Buddhist law didn’t require any such thing. Just one phrase was enough to make them kill each other and commit suicide!

“This is what the Buddhist doctrine is capable of when subduing evil.” A big shot who understood Buddhism gently sighed and murmured: “I finally understand why Immortal Emperor Yin Tian warned his generals back then. It was not because of the conversion, but because Buddhist laws can kill as well!” [6. The first sentence is a complete localization. The raw would be “Vajras subduing evil.” It is a phrase talking about Buddhism’s ability to fight/ward off evil. It wouldn’t make sense to keep it raw here.]

Until now, Buddhism gave off a benevolent and peaceful impression. Many felt that if they could handle the conversion, then the dharma would be harmless to them.

However, Li Qiye shattered that image today in one fell swoop. One phrase instantly killed several dozen cultivators in an incredibly cruel manner.

The crowd understood that the dharma was not as harmless as they'd imagined. Its offense prowess was quite terrifying.

"No, it's an evil art..." A youth quivered and had to throw up.

He was not the only one who felt nauseous. For the cultivators here, they could only blame themselves when killed by their enemies. It would be attributed to their own lack of skills.

However, a single Buddhist chant could make them slash themselves into two. This type of death was too terrorizing. It was indeed a type of evil magic!

### **Chapter 1033: One Thought To Become Buddha**

The scene turned quiet as the crowd stared at Li Qiye with fear. A practitioner who still had his hair as well as an unfathomable dharma — such a person was even more dreadful than unstoppable geniuses.

"Capable of enlightening beings as well as subduing evil." A Virtuous Paragon gently sighed: "This person is capable of defeating the Radiant Bodhisattva, just how frightening is his dharma? If he enters this world, it will set off many waves."

The first reaction of many people to this paragon's comment was to look at Jikong Wudi's group.

At this time, Jikong Wudi, Zhan Shi, and Heavenly Emperor Lin looked quite alarmed, especially Zhan Shi. He knew just how frightening the monks inside the Four Buddhas Temple were, let alone its Bodhisattva.

But now, this nameless monk was actually able to defeat the Bodhisattva. It was easy to imagine just how profound his dharma was!

Prior to this, the group probably thought that since they had strong dao hearts, they were still confident in competing against this practitioner for the Heaven's Will. However, after seeing his ability, the group became quite apprehensive. They realized the dharma was more terrifying than they expected.

"Buzz—" At this point, the Mortal King's body emitted a bright light. These bright waves made it seem like he was a god oppressing this world. Each ray was profoundly heavy.

He activated the mighty power of his Immortal Physique. All of the universal laws protected his dao heart. At this second, even someone as great as him couldn't afford to be careless and was readying his defense.

"Fellow Daoist, you are going against the natural order." The Mortal King came forward and spoke gravely towards Li Qiye.

Li Qiye lazily looked at him and responded: "I'll go against the natural order and it's none of your business. Come bite me if you don't like it!" Li Qiye's current appearance dazzled everyone since he was emanating a Buddhist light and accompanied by all the other visual phenomena. No matter how one looked at it, Li Qiye resembled either an Arhat or Bodhisattva.



However, his vulgar words completely contradicted his holy appearance; his words sounded at home in a street market. This attitude was completely different to when he was subduing his foes.

“Is this what a sacred monk looks like?” Someone became slack-jawed from the ridiculousness of the situation.

“This is a dharma in accordance with one’s heart.” A monk who truly understood Buddhism murmured: “This is the legendary one thought to become Buddha, another to become Devil. He has reached a level beyond our grasp. If he were to stay back at Spirit Mountain, he would definitely become the next Buddhist Lord!”

Even the Mortal King was jolted for a second. He was ready to fight against the terrifying dharma, but he didn’t expect Li Qiye to speak like a thug. This contrast was a little too exaggerated in his eyes.

“I am the Jewel Pillar Mortal King, I wish to try your supreme dharma.” He shouted and emitted a frightening aura capable of suppressing the heavens. At this moment, his physique had erupted to its maximum level.

“The Immortal Physique is quite frightening.” The crowd shivered at the physique’s might.

“Amitabha, excellent, excellent...” Li Qiye’s Buddhist light lit up as well and illuminated the area. He spewed out mantras and affected the location with his own rhythm. [1. Some Buddhist terms and concepts lack direct translations to English that cover the breadth of the original term. “Excellent” here is one of them. There is no word for this since it is the 2nd most repeated word in Buddhism outside of Amitabha, at least from my exposure to Buddhist literature. It is an expression of praise and approval. A Buddha or a Buddhist teacher might use this word when praising or expressing approval, usually towards a disciple. In Buddhist scriptures, this word is often repeated for emphasis, appearing in English translations as “Excellent, excellent!” or “Well done, well done!” Another usage is to express some type of sentimental regret or emotion at a particular deed, both good and evil.]

“Thump—thump—thump!” The Mortal King immediately took several steps back and shattered the ground below him after the mantra came out. The light on his body was actually being tinted with a Buddhist shade.

“Conversion...” Someone shouted while countless others trembled after seeing this.

The Mortal King didn’t say another word and immediately disappeared into the horizon. His speed was extremely fast. It seemed that he made his decision in a split second!

“You dared to challenge me at such a level.” Li Qiye shook his head and smiled. He dispersed his light and all the phenomena disappeared along with it. His appearance at this moment didn’t resemble a venerable monk at all, let alone someone who could convert others with just one phrase.

The crowd couldn’t be any quieter. One could even hear the sound of a needle dropping. The Mortal King instantly lost after a quick exchange — this was too scary.

In the present times, the Mortal King along with Zhan Shi, Jikong Wudi, and Heavenly Emperor Lin were famous. Though the Mortal King’s talents were worse than his peers, he firmly took each of his steps and eventually reached his current level. His accomplishments were paved by one battle after another.

Even if his dao heart was not as firm as Zhan Shi's, it was still very formidable. He had experienced defeats and victories so he wasn't so easily deterred.

However, he had to immediately escape at the start of the fight. Without a doubt, he couldn't handle Li Qiye's unbearable power of conversion.

"Challenging the dharma at the Buddhist Funeral Plateau?" In the far away Buddhist City, a young man gazed into the distance. It was South Emperor who wowed the world with a single battle!

He shook his head and continued to say: "What an unwise decision! The dharma is invincible here at the plateau! Even an Immortal Emperor wouldn't want to compete in a dharmic contest."

"One thought to become Buddha; another to become Devil. The juniors can't grasp the real terror behind this." Eventually, he smiled and entered the Buddhist City.

Many people who entered the plateau had heard of Godkings being converted with just one phrase. However, they considered it to be a mere exaggeration — not enough to reach the apex.

However, after seeing Li Qiye defeat the Mortal King with just one phrase, they understood that there was a real chance that it was true!

"So terrifying!" A young genius took a deep breath and murmured: "Will we even have a chance to attack such a person? He can defeat us by just opening his mouth."

Ordinary geniuses wouldn't dare to challenge such a terrifying person when even the Mortal King had to run away after one phrase.

"Brother Zhan, can you withstand his Buddhist mantra?" A saint child from a great sect couldn't resist asking Zhan Shi.

The crowd quickly glanced over at Zhan Shi after hearing this question. He was the only one who participated in the scripture hark back at the Four Buddhas Temple. They also wanted to know the extent of its terror.

Zhan Shi didn't answer this question. He only stared at Li Qiye with a profound glare.

On the other side, Jikong Wudi, didn't say anything either. He looked at Li Qiye for a bit before leaving. He had countless methods beyond one's imagination. It could even be said that he didn't care for the Mortal King. If he actually used all of his aces, he could still destroy the Mortal King no matter who was behind him!

Thus, he didn't consider the Mortal King to be his strongest rival on his path towards becoming the Immortal Emperor. But today, he had no choice but to consider this unknown monk as his greatest obstacle.

A spirited glimmer flashed in Heavenly Emperor Lin's eyes. He gently sighed and murmured to himself: "One thought to become Buddha; another to become Devil — this is too amazing. Who can oppose him at the Buddhist Funeral Plateau?"

Li Qiye ignored the crowd and waved at Wo Longxuan. They headed for the Buddhist City afterward.

Others noticed that nothing else was going on, so they dispersed as well. Some went to other temples, others left the plateau, and a group headed for the Buddhist City...

The Buddhist City was the largest city in the plateau. It was very prosperous and was occupied by many races. There were mortals, cultivators, monks... Humans, demons, and Bloods were everywhere as well...

Some were born in the city while others came from the distant Eastern Hundred Cities. Some came quickly and left just as quick while there were those who stayed for the rest of their life...

There might not be another location in this world with a stronger Buddhist temperament than this city. There were temples everywhere. One could hear chants coming from all four directions. Even the ordinary families who weren't Buddhist still chanted the scriptures.

It was a harmonious and peaceful city, full of life and prosperity.

Someone once said that there wasn't another location in the nine worlds that was as peaceful as the Buddhist City for one to settle down in.

Though the city was quite mundane in nature, some people thought that it was under Nalanda's jurisdiction. The temple sent Bodhisattvas here to maintain the tranquility.

Li Qiye and Wo Longxuan went right outside of the temple. He sighed while looking at the city in the distance. There were things here that made him worry.

At this time, a young man could be found standing by the entrance. He had a heroic aura; even though he was under a disguise, people could still tell that he was a powerful expert.

"That's my junior brother. I think the reinforcements from my sect have arrived." Wo Longxuan told Li Qiye after seeing the youth.

After being injured, she sent out a distress call to her sect. However, the dragon cliff was located all the way in the north. Even if the ancestors there were very fast, they still needed a long time to reach the Buddhist Funeral Plateau!

#### **Chapter 1034: Beneficence Bodhisattva**

Li Qiye glanced at the youth and told Wo Longxuan: "Go ahead and go back to train in peace. You won't be able to compete against the Mortal King in your current state."

Wo Longxuan bowed deeply towards him and said in a dignified fashion: "Words cannot express my gratitude for your kindness. You saved my life. I, Wo Longxuan, will definitely repay you. Just say the word when you need me or the dragon cliff in the future."

Li Qiye casually nodded. He didn't really pay it any mind since he wasn't expecting a reward from saving her. He had merely done so in passing.

She bid her farewell and left with her junior brother. Li Qiye slowly entered the Buddhist City afterward.

Li Qiye trod through this bustling city and saw people coming and going. He noticed all the civilians here were worshipping Buddhism and chanting Buddhist scriptures. This made him sigh with emotion.

“Di Shi... What will you bring to the ultimate battle in the future... There are billions of creatures here...” He lamented.

He felt the Buddhist rhythm in this place. This rhythm was all over the plateau because this was the largest congregation of monks, especially at Spirit Mountain and Nalanda.

However, Li Qiye knew that the plateau hadn’t become the sacred ground of Buddhism due to the number of monks.

“Evil Buddha is here.” His arrival to the city caused quite a stir.

Today, he had received a new moniker — Evil Buddha! No one knew where this hair-keeping monk came from or what his identity was. However, they had seen his evil-subduing art, so they gave him this title!

“It’s not just Evil Buddha, South Emperor came before him too.” A knowledgeable person spoke.

Many people glanced at each other after hearing about South Emperor being here as well. Not too many had heard of this South Emperor before, but with just one battle, he amazed the world by fighting against the eighteen great vajras alone. His prestige had completely surpassed Jikong Wudi’s group.

“Why is the plateau so strange this year? It is one thing that the geniuses gather here, but this devilish Evil Buddha comes out of nowhere and then this mysterious South Emperor. Evil Buddha and South Emperor simply render the younger generation out of breath.” Someone murmured.

“No, South Emperor is not so mysterious. He is an Era Evader from the Mysterious Bamboo Mountain!” A paragon from the southern region knew his identity. To paragons from the previous generation, the title of South Emperor was not unfamiliar at all.

“An Era Evader? What is that?” A youth didn’t know what it meant, so he asked his seniors.

A senior answered: “An Era Evader is a supreme genius. In order to avoid a great loss from competing for the Heaven’s Will, they would seal themselves early and abandon their generation in order to wait for a different, more opportune one, to seize the Heaven’s Will for the throne.”

“South Emperor isn’t an ordinary Era Evader. He was once the most brilliant genius of the bamboo mountain. For tens of millions of years, he is the only one to truly claim the moniker of South Emperor.” The paragon who knew his identity continued: “Unfortunately, he was born in the wrong generation. Despite being so exceptional, he was in the same era as Empress Hong Tian. It was destined to be a disaster, so he chose to avoid that generation rather than compete with her to the end!”

“Competing against Empress Hong Tian for the Heaven’s Will...” Anyone would quiver after hearing this. The paramount empress had always been praised by the world.

“Even the last Immortal Emperor of the bamboo mountain, Immortal Emperor Yin Tian, was only his junior.” The paragon explained.

“No wonder why he is so heaven-defying.” Anyone would be stunned after hearing this. A terrifying and unparalleled genius having to evade Empress Hong Tian’s generation; they understood why he dared to challenge the eighteen vajras. It was because he absolutely had the power to do so.

After hearing the South Emperor's tales, not to mention others, even the Jikong Wudi's group of geniuses went quiet for a very long time. This South Emperor appearing out of nowhere brought tremendous pressure to them. Someone who had competed with the empress... No matter the time or place, this type of character was definitely invincible.

"An Evil Buddha and now an Era Evader." Heavenly Emperor Lin murmured to himself: "This generation will definitely be exciting. It seems like Senior Brother won't be lonely. He will finally have rivals to compare himself with."

Eventually, Li Qiye arrived before an old temple inside the city. It was not grand, only old from being around for too many years.

In the minds of the people living here, the doors of this temple had always been closed. They didn't know what kind of monks were training inside either.

He quietly stood in front of the temple, calming the indescribable tinge of emotions threatening to rise. For millions of years, groups of followers kept on leaving him. Very few were able to live until now.

Eventually, he gently sighed, not wishing to think about it any further. He turned around to leave.

"Click—" The shut doors suddenly opened. An old nun ran outside and placed her palms together then told Li Qiye: "Sacred Teacher, the Bodhisattva wishes to see you."

Li Qiye stopped and returned the gesture: "Please lead the way."

He followed the old nun into the temple. It was very quiet. Apart from the nun, there were no signs of anyone else. Time seemed to have stopped the moment he walked into this place. It was a realm apart from the mundane world. Everything was eternal here.

There was nothing besides muffled footsteps. The rowdiness of the outside world was far from this place.

Li Qiye told the old nun: "Let me bathe and light some incense before meeting the Beneficence Bodhisattva."

She had no objections and led him into a room so that he could wash himself and burn incense. After doing so, with a dignified yet natural expression, he followed the nun to see the Beneficence Bodhisattva.

Who was Li Qiye? He was someone who was indifferent even before Immortal Emperors. However, he was particularly solemn today. This showed the Beneficence Bodhisattva's special status in his heart.

The nun led him to a Buddhist building before leaving. He stood outside and calmed his emotions before entering.

Buddhist lights filled the building like flowing mercury to every inch and corner of this place. It gave off an indescribably mystical sensation.

There was a golden lotus in full bloom with a woman sitting on top of it. She was barefoot and had long hair flowing down her yellow dress. Her hands were forming mudras with an air of serenity. The

peaceful and gentle rays coming from her body resembled the warm sunlight during winter. These hands would be incredibly gentle when caressing one's face.

She was a supreme beauty with a kingdom-toppling figure. However, she was now a Bodhisattva and had transformed in accordance with the Buddhist doctrine. Both her supreme face and figure were nothing more than a bag of skin in her eyes.

Li Qiye looked at this all-too-familiar woman ahead. He didn't say anything and sat down on a cushion.

Rumors were circulating in the Buddhist City that Spirit Mountain had sent a Bodhisattva here for protection. However, no one had seen this Bodhisattva before. This Bodhisattva was the one in the rumors. She was also an old friend of Li Qiye.

At this time, the Beneficence Bodhisattva opened her especially pretty eyes. One could easily imagine how enchanting she must have been before becoming a nun.

"You are finally here." The Beneficence Bodhisattva spoke. Her voice was still pleasant and gentle even after her transformation.

Li Qiye gently placed his palms together and revealed a dignified expression: "I didn't want to disturb your meditation."

"Let me look at your real body for a bit." The Beneficence Bodhisattva requested.

He wordlessly turned back into his true form and revealed the face of Li Qiye.

The Beneficence Bodhisattva carefully stared at him with her hands still performing mudras. She spoke: "Waking up one day to find millions of years have passed. Time lasts forever."

"You have been enlightened and can have eternal life in the future. Millions of years are but the blink of an eye to the Buddhist Funeral Plateau." Li Qiye gently spoke.

Her mudras continued to emit an overflowing Buddhist aura. She was still calm while talking about the past. Today, she was a Bodhisattva, a mortal no more.

She softly said: "I know you didn't fully agree with us joining the Buddhist faith."

Li Qiye gently shook his head: "No, this is something that you deserve. Back then, you personally led the legion to calm the era for me. During the tough times, you were next to me. With one writ of mine, you left several times to carry it out. No matter what it may be, you deserve everything."

"In the past, each life that followed me, every warrior whose blood washed the battlefield, they were all living beings..." The Bodhisattva spoke with her Buddhist rhythm. The past was now gone with the wind.

Long ago, she was the leader of one of the four great legions under Li Qiye. She went on several expeditions for him. From north to south, her illustrious fame was a great deterrence to everyone in the nine worlds.

### **Chapter 1035: Farewell Forever, Young Master**

She remained calm while talking about the past and maintained her mudras: "I didn't join Buddhism and enter Spirit Mountain for eternal life. The only thing I want is peace in my heart."

"I know." Li Qiye nodded quietly: "War has always been cruel. If you can't even sleep well at night, I will always feel guilty. I am happy that you are able to find peace at the plateau."

"I chose to escape... I have let you down." She answered softly.

He shook his head in response: "No, you should have had a normal and happy life. This was all because of me, I was the one who brought you into a world of killing. It is full of fate, karma, and grievances. All of this should have been my responsibility, my hands were already stained with blood. I should have shouldered it all."

The Beneficence Bodhisattva slowly said: "Just let past causes and effects go."

Li Qiye smiled and said: "Just let it go. Leave it all to me, I will go to the very end at the final world where I shall have my answer."

The Bodhisattva didn't say anything from on top of her golden lotus. She was peaceful and distant for she had severed her ties with the mundane world.

"Today, this will be our last meeting, so I will tell you something." Eventually, she spoke: "The Buddhist Kingdom has a new Buddhist Lord."

Li Qiye was caught off guard: "This is actually surprising. There should only be two candidates for the new Buddhist Lord. One is the Radiant Bodhisattva and the other is you. If the new lord isn't one of you two, then who can it be?"

She replied: "I haven't been back to the kingdom so I haven't seen the new Buddhist Lord. I only received the message from there."

Li Qiye finally bowed his head then got up to leave. He walked very slowly with a solemn air. The Bodhisattva also quietly watched each of his steps.

"Farewell forever, Young Master..." She gave him one last look before closing her Buddhist eyes.

Li Qiye's heart fluttered. He finally turned back to look at her and imprinted her image into his memories while softly speaking: "Farewell forever, Zhan'er." [2. Zhan'er was a name he mentioned before; I think the ultimate universal law said Zhan'er as well. She must be a lover.]

With that, he left the room and gently closed the doors.

Before he knew it, the corners of his eyes became a little wet. Time was insignificant; millions of years was only a blink of an eye. It felt as if it was just yesterday.

There had been many people by his side, but not many were with him for as long as the Beneficence Bodhisattva. No matter what, he still respected her choice. After generations of bloody battles, it wasn't easy and peaceful for her.

Throughout the eras, she had paid a great price. If she wanted eternal life, Li Qiye would have exerted all of his efforts to grant her her wish. However, everlastingness was not her wish, she only wanted peace of mind.

“Death is not the most painful thing. Only extrication would bring about peace.” Li Qiye sighed softly after leaving the shrine.

He couldn’t describe his current emotions. He had sent away many friends in the past. In his eyes, death was not the worst thing. The most insufferable emotion came from separation, especially seeing someone off that was still alive, only to never be able to meet each other again!

He transformed back into Chu Yuntian and blended in with the bustling streets of the Buddhist City.

There had been too much pain and separation in the past. He didn’t want to look back, so he could only move forward on this long and winding path!

The Rainflower Terrace was a very famous inn at the Buddhist City. Many prominent cultivators would stay in this place after arriving.

Li Qiye quietly sat on the terrace and drank in silence. He watched the clouds in the sky and felt the wind. He was staying here to wait for Li Shuangyan’s group because they had made plans. If the girls wanted to come to the plateau, he would stay at the Rainflower Terrace to wait for them.

Today, Evil Buddha was very famous, so when he was drinking by himself, many cultivators at the terrace looked at him from the distance. They quietly whispered about him. Of course, no one dared to disturb him.

It was a notorious title. One Buddhist phrase could cause the new young king of the Nantian Clan to commit suicide, so who would dare to come and talk to him recklessly? What if he started with a chant, then they wouldn’t even realize how they died.

“Pop!” A stomp shattered the sky as a person arrived with a clear battle intent. His body emitted strings of lights carrying massive weight.

“The Jewel Pillar Mortal King is here.” A few cultivators on the terrace shouted after seeing this person crushing the void.

His aggressive demeanor made it clear to many what he was here to do.

“Unbeatable War God! Never utters the word defeat!” His supporters couldn’t help but loudly cheer.

Even his non-supporters nodded their heads and murmured: “The Mortal King indeed has the ability to compete for the Heaven’s Will. He does not mind defeat and will stand up from where he fell. As long as he stays alive, there is always the hope of victory.”

Supreme cultivation geniuses were quite vain and prideful. This was because this type of genius always had a smooth road and almost never tasted defeat. Therefore, their first defeat would easily become their inner demon. From then on, they wouldn’t be able to get up again.

There were too many examples of this across the ages. Some supreme geniuses couldn’t handle defeat and suicide became their ultimate end.

“The Mortal King will have a way to suppress Evil Buddha for sure this time.” Another commented.



From his past records, others could tell that he would normally lose the first match, but he would reverse the tides on the second challenge and defeat the enemy.

At this time, he seemed to be full of confidence in challenging Evil Buddha, so everyone assumed that he had found a way to suppress him.

Li Qiye didn't even bother to look at the Mortal King. He continued to pour his own drink and gulped it up with a relaxed demeanor.

"Sir, come out and fight." The Mortal King stood outside of the terrace and shouted gravely. His voice was immense. Each resonating word was full of power. [1. "Sir" here is a respectful "you", but it is not quite at the "sir" level. It is more of a polite "you" of two people at the same level. It is interesting that if we still use the informal "thou", then "you" can be the formal version. But it seems like in modern usage, "thou" has the impression of being formal compared to "you". So if we were to be weird and use an archaic vernacular in the modern sense, "thou" would be appropriate here to show a higher level of respect.]

At this second, he resembled a divine mountain — majestic and immovable. His pair of eyes were extremely sharp, capable of cutting the world apart. The aura that emanated from his body was a cause for fear.

Li Qiye slowly sipped his wine. Today, he was in no mood to play with a junior like the Mortal King.

The majority of the cultivators were holding their breaths anxiously in anticipation of this battle. However, they noticed that Evil Buddha was still calm and didn't even glance at the Mortal King. They looked at each other and felt that this Buddha was being too contemptuous.

The Mortal King's expression turned cold. Today, he was able to deter the world. No one dared to look down on him regardless of who they might be.

However, this Evil Buddha was too lazy to even look at him. This was even more humiliating than his defeat last time.

"Sir, do you dare to fight or not!" The king's voice was as sharp and cold as the edge of a blade.

Li Qiye simply ignored him. In his eyes, the king was an insect shouting at a behemoth. He was in no mood to listen.

"If the Sacred Teacher doesn't care for you, then go cool off to the side." A slightly languid voice came about. A person suddenly appeared in the sky.

"South Emperor..." The sudden emergence of this person caused people to cry out. Everyone inside and outside of the terrace was startled.

"Era Evader from Mysterious Bamboo." Anyone would tremble after seeing South Emperor.

Even the proud Mortal King's expression sank after seeing him. An Era Evader was not an empty title. The South Emperor had competed with the empress for the Heaven's Will before. Even Godkings would dread this existence no matter which generation it was.

The king looked at South Emperor. He took a deep breath and spoke with great momentum: "If Era Evader wants to give me some pointers, I am willing to test your supreme arts."

South Emperor glanced at him and said dismissively: "You? Wait until you are recognized by the Heaven's Will, then you can challenge me. Right now, you are not qualified. The person behind you, on the other hand, is barely qualified to fight me."

This remark was uttered in such a plain and carefree manner that it made the king change his expression. Such blatant contempt was humiliating to a genius like him. In his mind, it was an intentional insult.

The king was determined and spoke solemnly: "I would like to see Era Evader's supreme arts!"

"I said, cool off." South Emperor didn't want to bother with the king. He casually reached out with his finger. However, this simple gesture crushed the stars in the sky.

The king was shocked at this oncoming finger strike. He shouted and wanted to use his strongest attack to stop it. However, he was too slow compared to this finger attack that soared across the sky.

"Bang!" The crowd watched as the Mortal King was blown away by a single finger.

"Boom!" People in the distance saw the king slam into a mountain. The impact shattered it while the king continued to fly before disappearing into the horizon.

Such a scene astounded everyone. The Mortal King was among the most outstanding talents in this generation. Even a Virtuous Paragon from the last generation would treat him with some respect. However, just one finger from South Emperor was able to push him thousands of miles away!

### **Chapter 1036: South Emperor Seeking Guidance**

The crowd took a deep breath from astonishment. They were quite perplexed by the gigantic gap between the two.

"How are people in the current generation going to compete for the Heaven's Will?" A powerful youth lost his confidence right away. The Mortal King was strong enough in the eyes of the younger generation, but he was not worth mentioning when it came to South Emperor.

"The word 'emperor' alone is enough to tell the tale. Not just anyone can claim to be an emperor!" Another murmured.

"That's an Era Evader for you." A paragon spoke: "If the current geniuses don't grow to the point where they are recognized by the Heaven's Will, they simply can't compete with him."

One person even went as far to say: "Is that an Emperor Assailant? To blow the War God away with just one finger, truly unstoppable."

Li Qiye didn't look twice at what was happening. He was still nonchalant in his own world.

South Emperor approached and sat in front of him. He smilingly said: "Let this junior drink with you in this busy mundane world."

With that, he casually flipped his palm and they instantly teleported away.

In the blink of an eye, the pavilion that Li Qiye was sitting on disappeared. Many people on top of the terrace looked over and realized that the South Emperor had teleported the entire building.

Somewhere in the southern region, there was a waterfall running with green pine trees everywhere as if it was a paradise.

At this time, the emperor took some of Li Qiye's wine and began to drink even faster than Li Qiye, as if he wanted to compete with him.

Li Qiye sat there in contemplation. After a while, his mind returned and he glanced at South Emperor who was gulping down cups of liquor.

"Little Guo, if you want to drink, go take out your imperial brew from your mountain, don't steal mine." Li Qiye said slowly.

South Emperor's name was Gu Guo. In the present times, no one knew his name and of course, no one would ever dare to call him "Little Guo". Even Immortal Emperor Yin Tian was his junior, so who at Mysterious Bamboo would dare to call him Little Guo?

South Emperor didn't really want to put the aged wine down. He felt the urge to pull on his hair with a suffering grimace.

"What's wrong, Little Guo." Li Qiye revealed a rare smile after looking at the emperor.

The emperor let go of his hair and waved his hands in front of Li Qiye: "I want to suicide, Sacred Teacher. You, you are pushing me to the edge right now."

"Pushing you to the edge? I don't think it has anything to do with me." Li Qiye looked at the fella and laughed.

South Emperor reluctantly explained: "Can I get any unluckier? At fifteen, I met Empress Hong Tian. Fine, I accepted defeat. I evaded one era and came out at twenty. Oh well, I met Immortal Emperor Bing Yu. I'll just attribute that to bad luck again, so I evaded another generation. At thirty, I made another debut only to meet Immortal Emperor Qian Li, so I hid again and finally came out now. My god, Sacred Teacher, you are personally doing it this time."

"Teacher, are you purposely doing this to ruin me? Empress Hong Tian was your direct student, Immortal Emperor Bing Yu was given a new fortune by you. And as for Immortal Emperor Qian Li, you were her dao protector!" South Emperor bitterly spoke: "Every time I come into being, I just happen to come by you. I should just buy a bunch of noodles so I can hang myself already."

South Emperor was indeed very unlucky. The first time he came out, he met Empress Hong Tian. Even the most brilliant geniuses would be finished, so he chose to run.

The second time, the Dark Crow granted a great fortune to the young Immortal Emperor Bing Yu. Others didn't know about the existence of the Dark Crow, but South Emperor did. This was because the second emperor of Mysterious Bamboo was groomed by the Dark Crow!

At a certain level, the Dark Crow granting a fortune was akin to determining Immortal Emperor Bing Yu's right to the Heaven's Will, so South Emperor hid again.

The third time was even worse. The Dark Crow personally became the dao protector of Immortal Emperor Qian Li. South Emperor knew better than everyone else that no one would be able to bar the Dark Crow's path. Thus, he evaded another generation.

This was his fourth time coming out, and worse turned to worst. The Dark Crow himself came out! Even if he was stronger, he wouldn't have the chance to become the Immortal Emperor.

Having to evade four generations was a kind of torture to South Emperor, enough to drive him crazy.

Li Qiye laughed and gently shook his head: "Little Guo, this has nothing to do with me. It is all about your inner demon." Li Qiye pointed at his heart: "If you don't come out from the shadow of Empress Hong Tian, how are you going to compete for the Heaven's Will?"

"Sacred Teacher is right, I do have a shadow looming in my heart." South Emperor bitterly smiled: "But this inner demon is not from losing to Empress Hong Tian, it is you, Sacred Teacher. I cannot defeat this inner demon, so when you take action, I can only retreat!"

Li Qiye chuckled and stated: "If that's the case, it isn't hard for you to defeat it. Just kill me, then it will no longer loom over your conscience."

"Sacred Teacher, please don't scare me." South Emperor shook his head: "Even if I wanted to, it wouldn't be my turn. I wouldn't be among the top ten of those who want to kill you, no, not even the top fifty. The number of giants across the ages that want you dead is too numerous to count."

South Emperor was very powerful and he went very far back. It could even be said that he was extremely close to being an Immortal Emperor. However, he knew himself very well. It was impossible for him to kill an existence like Li Qiye. Otherwise, the Dark Crow would have disappeared from this world long ago, there wouldn't be a need for him to take action.

He became quite sad at this point. He wanted to drink more aged wine to become drunk. Alas, he failed at this too.

"Sacred Teacher, I'm so sad right now." He said helplessly: "I have evaded four generations, should I do it again or just be satisfied with this one?"

Li Qiye smiled in response: "That depends on what you want. Your chance of becoming an emperor is greater than anyone else. If you give up this generation, there will be bigger opportunities later. Avoid me and you can definitely become emperor in the next generation."

He spoke forlornly: "Sigh, but I have given up on so many already."

Li Qiye replied: "Era Evading isn't anything to be ashamed of. Immortal Emperor Mu Zhuo, Di Yu, and Qing He all evaded eras. If you manage to evade four generations and come out in the fifth, then it can be considered a miracle. It is not your dao heart that is lacking, and the same is true for your talents. The only thing I can say is that your luck is quite bad."

"Sigh, this is why I'm sad, it's as if I was born to be hapless." The emperor smiled wryly: "Unlucky for four generations."

“Who told you to do so well in your youth? You nearly reached the Heaven’s Will at fifteen years old, what more do you want? If we were to make a list of all the top geniuses across the ages, you definitely would be among the top ten. Consider this as a test from the heavens.” Li Qiye laughed.

With a painful expression, he moaned: “It was indeed smooth early on, but do you need to torture me like this?”

“What do you think? Even though you are among the top ten geniuses, look at the list. How many of them actually had an easy life or peaceful ending?” Li Qiye shook his head: “The heavens granted you such great talents, so it has to harden your willpower first.”

“Fine then, the old villainous heavens can continue to torture me.” South Emperor complained before becoming serious: “Sacred Teacher, I came this time just to listen to your opinion.”

Li Qiye looked at the guy and laughed: “Gu Guo, I know you are very arrogant. The truth is that you had a chance of becoming the Immortal Emperor, but you couldn’t let go of your pride and were too reluctant to come ask me.”

“I know.” The emperor chuckled weakly: “I know that Sacred Teacher would remember old sentiments. If I asked you on my ancestor’s behalf, you would become my dao protector. Just like you said before, I nearly reached the Heaven’s Will at the age of fifteen, how could I not become arrogant? Even though the empress was more heaven-defying than me, in terms of our accomplishments at a young age and cultivation speed, she was not my match...”

“So, I couldn’t resist my pride. I always thought that I could still become the emperor without relying on you. Sigh, who would have thought that I would have to evade one generation after another. It seems like you are right, I have to let go of all posturing to come and ask you!” South Emperor was very honest at this moment.

He didn’t need to hide anything before an everlasting existence like Li Qiye. Moreover, as the Dark Crow, Li Qiye had always watched over their Mysterious Bamboo Mountain.

“You are right this time. In fact, even now, you could still become an Immortal Emperor without my help. However, due to your bad luck, you always chose the wrong generation.” Li Qiye smiled.

South Emperor took a deep breath and solemnly asked: “Sacred Master, I have seen through the past. In this generation, I am sincerely asking you, should I evade this generation or go all out?”

“That depends.” Li Qiye chuckled: “Do you want to live brilliantly for one generation, or do you only want to become an Immortal Emperor?”

“If you only want to become an emperor, then evade this era and you will definitely become one in the next after I leave. No one will be able to stop you. However, if you want to see this generation’s brilliance, then go all out.” Li Qiye looked at the emperor and said: “Remember, Immortal Emperor is only the beginning.”

“I know that.” South Emperor gently nodded: “Emperor is only the beginning. However, Sacred Teacher, if I can’t become an emperor, how can I even talk about starting...”

“There is another choice.” Li Qiye revealed a mysterious smile: “You don’t need to become an Immortal Emperor since you can be an Immortal Monarch instead! This is another option.”

### **Chapter 1037: Mythical Immortal Monarch**

“Immortal Monarch..” South Emperor’s eyes flashed for a moment before he looked at Li Qiye and murmured: “I’ve heard of it before.”

Li Qiye gently sipped his wine and leisurely said: “What kind of generation do you wish to see? Do you just want to become an Immortal Emperor, to be at the starting point?”

South Emperor stared at Li Qiye with disbelief: “Sacred Teacher, are you really commencing the plan? You aim on going all out to the very end in this generation?”

“We have been waiting for this day for too long.” Li Qiye continued to drink: “The truth is that I’m a bit tired of living. I want an answer.”

South Emperor batted his eyes and became a bit excited. There were a few secrets that others did not know. They were not qualified to know. However, he, who was so close to Immortal Emperor, knew these secrets that even Godkings couldn’t touch.

After a while, he couldn’t help but ask: “That place, what is it like?”

Li Qiye chuckled in response: “Immortal Emperor Yin Tian is your junior so you should have learned a little bit when he was at his peak. Others aren’t qualified to watch, but you were definitely an exception.”

South Emperor was a bit dazed as he replied: “That moment, it was indeed a big storm...”

He sat there absent-mindedly. Those who were allowed to watch back then would never forget that shocking scene. It gave people an entirely new goal.

After seeing that, they would come to understand the phrase — Immortal Emperor is only the beginning!

Li Qiye grinned after seeing the dazed emperor: “What do you think now? Do you wish to fulfill your dream of becoming an Immortal Emperor or fight above the nine heavens?!”

“Immortal Monarch...” South Emperor pondered for a moment. Immortal Monarch was not a title of the nine worlds; no one here knew what it was. However, he had always wanted to become an Immortal Emperor, so he was hesitant on the prospect of becoming a monarch instead.

“Little Guo, you were a bit arrogant before, but after being polished by the river of time, your value has increased. You are now over thirty; just like the polishing of jade, your gloss will become eternal.” Li Qiye spoke.

“Is it possible?” South Emperor wondered. If Li Qiye wasn’t here, then he was certain of becoming the Immortal Emperor. However, before going to an unknown place, he needed guidance.

“It wasn’t possible in the past, but it is now. I can guarantee this.” Li Qiye drank more wine: “However, you need to be prepared. Becoming an Immortal Monarch is different from becoming an Immortal Emperor, so you need to be sure. Let go of your pride and I can show you the way.”

“This particular shift is allowed?” He asked Li Qiye. After growing older, he no longer had a rash and willful temperament. In the past, even though he didn’t act arrogant, he felt it inside. He was confident that he could become an emperor even without the Dark Crow as his teacher.

Because of this, he never asked the Dark Crow for help. Otherwise, he could have been an emperor already by letting go of his pride.

“Oh? You are not confident this time?” Li Qiye laughed and shook his head: “Even though you were wrong for four generations, things really aren’t that serious. Remember, you are among the top ten of all the geniuses across the eons. You satisfy all the conditions right now — firm dao heart with an understanding of the grand dao’s origin as well as being recognized by the Heaven’s Will. No matter which generation it may be, you are still the most outstanding genius.”

He looked at South Emperor to say: “As long as you are willing, you will definitely be able to do it. The only question is your own desire. To test your might in this generation, or to become an Immortal Emperor. Of course, each has its own merits. They are different paths leading to different worlds.”

“I will test my might in this generation then!” South Emperor took a deep breath and said solemnly: “I’m also tired of evading one generation after another, so this generation it is! Just like Sacred Teacher said before, I’m also tired of living!”

“You are only thirty years old, what is there to be tired of!” Li Qiye smilingly shook his head: “You are at your prime, so you should be high-spirited. To tell the truth, I’m a bit envious of you. Unburdened and without restrictions, this is how one should be when seeking the grand dao.”

South Emperor chuckled awkwardly after hearing this. Even a top character like him became a bit embarrassed: “Not loving anyone and having nobody to love me, is this still considered lucky?”

“It’s because your standards are too high. Back then, countless fairies and goddesses adored you, but you simply didn’t like them.” Li Qiye smiled and paused for a moment: “Not knowing love is also a kind of blessing.”

He gently sighed: “When you live for a long time, you will have to watch some people leave, both those whom you love and those who love you. The real pain is never being able to see each other again!”

“I no longer care too much after my master’s death...” South Emperor replied: “That’s good, I suppose. No regrets when it is time to part.”

“Let us not talk about this sad topic.” Li Qiye gently shook his head and smiled while drinking.

South Emperor took a deep breath and bowed like a junior: “For this journey towards the grand dao, Sacred Master, please show this junior the way.”

“How can I refuse if you put it this way? Even without being considerate of Xue Xi, I can’t say no after you have asked, considering your talents.” Li Qiye smiled.

In this undisturbed location, the two of them talked for a long time about many secret matters unknown to the world!

After the talk, Li Qiye smiled and told South Emperor: "I asked the Radiant Bodhisattva earlier, they will open that place soon. If you are interested, you can come take a look. It is absolutely a fun and interesting location."

"One thought to become Buddha, another to become Devil — this is definitely worth taking a look." South Emperor praised.

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Outside of the Rainflower Terrace, many people were waiting for Evil Buddha and South Emperor to reappear. In the present times, these two were the most famous at the Buddhist Funeral Plateau. They even overshadowed Jikong Wudi's group.

"Buzz!" Before the eager crowd, space finally shook and the pavilion reappeared on the terrace. Both Evil Buddha and South Emperor were still sitting there.

Many people held their breaths and were curious about the conversation between the two and whether a battle would occur or not.

However, contrary to their expectations, neither attacked. There were no wounds on either of them. Both had natural expressions, so it didn't seem like they fought at all.

Eventually, they saw South Emperor getting up; he clasped his fist towards Li Qiye before disappearing. As for Evil Buddha, he continued to sit there, drinking his wine.

"They didn't fight at all? Maybe they are acquaintances?" Many people whispered in private.

Someone speculated: "Perhaps Evil Buddha is also an Era Evader?"

Regardless of the speculations, no one bothered Li Qiye during the next several days at the terrace. Outside of Jikong Wudi's group, other people would need to think twice about their own abilities before provoking Evil Buddha.

Li Qiye waited several days at the terrace, but Li Shuangyan's group didn't come. He gently shook his head and said: "It seems like there is some trouble."

However, he was not worried. Li Shuangyan and the others were quite skilled now; it wouldn't be easy to kill them. If something big had happened, they would have already asked him for help.

He paid for the drinks then left the terrace to enter the streets of the city once more.

The Buddhist City was large. Even if it wasn't the largest in the Barren Earth, it would at least be among the top three. It spanned for tens of thousands of miles with countless temples.

Li Qiye walked along the streets before finally arriving at a huge Buddhist temple. It was quite magnificent with a grand atmosphere.

It was not particularly eye-catching in this city, however. There were many temples that were even more extravagant than this one.



"I want to see Vedas Vajra." Li Qiye casually stated outside of the temple.

"Amitabha, Benefactor, the Vajra is not seeing guests." The monk at the door shook his head.

"Amitabha." Li Qiye placed his palms together, causing his Buddhist light to bloom. He turned into a Buddhist Lord.

The monk couldn't stand straight anymore and immediately prostrated on the ground, kowtowing.

"Please excuse this little monk, I didn't know Bodhisattva was coming." He bowed three times before going inside to report.

Soon after, the monk came out and placed his palms together to say: "Bodhisattva, the Vajra will see you, please come inside." With that, he led the way for Li Qiye.

Li Qiye recalled his Buddhist light, making him resemble an ordinary man again, and followed the monk inside the temple.

Eventually, the monk took him to a building and quietly left. Li Qiye gave it a quick glance before entering.

A vast Buddhist aura could be found inside the room, an aura that would drown any newcomer in an ocean of Buddhism. They would instantly have the urge to convert and become a Buddhist themselves after feeling this aura.

Of course, this aura had no effect on Li Qiye. He leisurely walked inside.

### **Chapter 1038: Vedas Vajra**

A Vajra adorned with a monastic robe was sitting inside the room. He exuded a scintillating brilliance as if his body was not made of flesh but was rather a statue cast from gold.

His very long brows were as white as snow. The monk markings on his head were especially conspicuous. Each of them emitted light, like little lanterns.

Li Qiye sat down on a cushion and only smiled while looking at the Vedas Vajra.

The Vajra opened his Buddhist eyes that were as sharp as blades. In the blink of an eye, people could feel his evil-subduing power. His eyes were shiver-inducing; no one would dare to act presumptuously before him.

Alas, this had no effect on Li Qiye; he still sat there leisurely.

"High Monk must be the recently famous Evil Buddha?" The Vajra placed his palms together. Despite his great status, being rude was not part of his nature.

Li Qiye smiled and casually said: "Let them call me what they want. I am here not to talk about the dharma or to debate, I just want something from you."

The Vajra spoke: "A monk only has the four great tribulations and a cushion to sit on, nothing else."

Li Qiye gently shook his head: "I'm not asking about your other possessions. Vedas, I am here for the item that you obtained from the Lesser Imperial Devil World."

The Vajra's eyes turned sharp for a split second before turning back to normal. He gently shook his head: "I do not know what High Monk is talking about. A monk has nothing besides the tribulations."

Li Qiye calmly uttered: "Vedas, my patience is limited. I must have that item today."

The Vedas Vajra didn't become angry in his refusal: "High Monk, you are making this difficult. I don't have anything, nor do I know of the item you are talking about!"

"Vedas, I am sitting here talking to you. This means that I do not want to fight. If you don't hand it over, the consequences will be unimaginable." Li Qiye spoke.

"High Monk, is that a threat?" Vedas' eyes turned fierce as he exuded an oppressive aura: "A monk should be free of anger. However, when a Vajra is furious, they shall subdue all evil."

"Subdue evil?" Li Qiye smiled: "My Vedas, tell me, who is evil here? Letting go of the butcher's blade to become Buddha? Haha, it's pretty funny saying it out loud." He looked at the Vajra and continued: "Vedas, I almost burst out laughing, hearing you say the words 'subdue evil'. It doesn't matter whether you are Vedas Vajra or Vedas Devil right now, I only want to take that item then leave. I don't want to waste time here."

"Who are you!" The Vajra stared at Li Qiye with a glare capable of suppressing the hearts of others.

"Who I am is not important. Even if I say it, it will only make you jolt in horror." Li Qiye said dismissively: "Hand that item over and I'll pretend that nothing happened. Otherwise, not to mention that you are only a Vajra, even if you were Buddha, I could still banish you to hell!"

"Amitabha, I shall subdue evil today!" With a chilling glare, the Vajra emitted an aura capable of crushing all things. Even if a Godking was here, they would still immediately fall to their knees.

"Vajra, my patience is limited. Brace yourself for the consequences if you don't comply." Li Qiye lightly said: "Back when I destroyed your Vedas Kingdom, blood flowed for three years! If you think that was a disaster back then, you haven't seen anything yet. If I take action now, I will show you a real calamity, I will banish you to hell with no chance of reincarnation!"

"You..." The Vajra stood up with his eyes wide open! A terrifying Buddhist aura erupted as he harshly shouted: "You, you are that devil... the Dark Crow!"

"Devil?" Li Qiye smiled: "Vedas, you are not one that can call me a devil. Yes, I massacred your kingdom, but if I am a devil, then what are you and those from your kingdom? You weren't even qualified to be called devils. At the very least, I, as a devil, slew all of you openly so that your kind would never rise again!"

"But you all..." Li Qiye glanced at the Vajra dismissively: "All of you are just a bunch of wretched abominations. Your kind drank blood and flay skin for pleasure. You built your kingdom upon the belief that humans were mere ants and treated them as food, using their bones to build your palaces. To tell the truth, Vedas, you don't even have the right to be part of the human race. In my eyes, you are only the lowest of abominations. The human race doesn't have such disgusting creatures as you!"

In an instant, the Vajra's chest was shaking with anger. He was quite emotional despite being a Vajra who had severed all mundane ties! His mood was swinging intensely.

“Dark Crow! You killed my wife and slaughtered my children as well as my entire family!” The Vajra shouted.

“So what?” Li Qiye was too lazy to look at him: “Vedas, I don’t care who you are now. Back then when you rampaged across the nine worlds as an invincible Godking, no one dared to touch you. But in my eyes, you were only an ant!”

“That’s right, I destroyed your sect and slaughtered all of your family!” Li Qiye calmly said: “I won’t say that it was for justice or retribution in the heaven’s stead. I will just say that maggots like your kind were not eligible to be included in the human race. Thus, I deemed you an eyesore and killed all of you!”

He paused for a moment and glanced at the furious Vajra: “Vedas, did you really think you managed to escape my grasp? How amusing, you were only a lost dog forced into a corner, crying in despair. Then all of a sudden, you finally wanted to become a good person, throwing away your butcher’s blade and repenting!”

“Isn’t this hilarious, being a devil for your entire life only to suddenly want to become a good person?” Li Qiye coldly glared at the guy: “Are you aware? If the Buddhist Lord didn’t guarantee me that you had truly repented and would never kill again, not even an ant, I would have crucified you down in hell so that you would never reenter samsara. Even the Buddhist Funeral Plateau wouldn’t have been able to protect you!”

After hearing this, the Buddhist light from the Vajra pulsed in an unstable manner. His expression changed unpredictably as he stood there.

Eventually, he sat back down on the Buddhist cushion. He placed his palms together and chanted: “Shanzai, Shanzai, Oh Merciful Buddha, how sinful...” [1. Remember that one word meaning good/excellent? That is shanzai, but imagine putting excellent in the beginning. It is a bit jarring, so I’ll just use the pinyin here.]

Suddenly, his eyes shed tears.

Li Qiye looked at the vajra and spoke: “The Buddhist Funeral Plateau is indeed unfathomable; it even managed to convert an evil heart into a Buddhist heart. It seems like you have repented, so I won’t kill you today.”

The Vajra sat there and continued to chant scriptures over and over again. His pulsing radiance began to stabilize. Once it lit up again, he turned back into a Vajra like before.

“Because the Buddhist Kingdom gave its assurance, I will spare your life.” Li Qiye spoke: “But if you don’t hand that item over, not to mention the kingdom’s assurance, even the high heaven’s assurance won’t do!”

“Amitabha.” The Vajra chanted and finally relaxed. He opened his eyes to say: “High Monk, the thing you desire is no longer in my possession.”

Li Qiye narrowed his eyes and repeated: “Not in your hands?”

The Vajra placed his palms together in response: “A monk does not lie. Vedas Devil is dead, so I don’t need to trick you. A few days ago, a young miss from the Eternal River School traded an old item for it.”

“That girl.” Li Qiye knew who it was. He looked at the Vajra and said: “I trust that you wouldn’t dare to lie to me.” He stood up to leave.

“Your Excellency Dark Crow...” When Li Qiye reached the door, the Vajra stood up then kowtowed on the ground.

“What?” Li Qiye looked at him: “Thanking me for sparing you?”

“No, Your Excellency, even dying a hundred times over wouldn’t be enough to atone for my heavy sins.” The Vajra prostrating on the ground spoke: “I thank you for sparing my newborn great-great-grandson back then.” [2. Chinese has a word for great-great-grandson, so it flows better in the raws.]

Li Qiye answered: “Those who deserve to die were completely killed off, both men and women alike. However, for those who didn’t deserve to die, I wouldn’t bother staining my hands with their blood. I didn’t spare him, he was not guilty from the start.”

“I know that even suicide wouldn’t allow me to redeem myself. After becoming enlightened, I only want to stay and train at the plateau in hopes of saving mortals in agony to make up for my crimes back then.” The Vajra spoke with piety.

“Interesting.” Li Qiye glanced at him: “You left Spirit Mountain as well as your Buddhist heart at the Buddhist Kingdom while they branded you. Truly interesting.”

“I wish to reduce the suffering in this world and bring about kindness and light. Once my beneficence is enough, I want to return to my homeland and spend my final moments there to purify the grievances in that place. Just like you said, I am not qualified to become Buddha.” The Vajra spoke.

“That is your Spirit Mountain’s business. You being able to live for so long and become a Vajra is indicative of your will to change for the better.” Li Qiye spoke insipidly: “I don’t care for the Buddhist Kingdom’s matters. Just keep in mind that Vedas Devil and Vedas Kingdom are no more. Otherwise, I will show you what eternal damnation is!”

“Amitabha...” The Vajra’s forehead met the ground: “My sin is immense...”

Li Qiye didn’t say anything else and left the temple.

### **Chapter 1039: Seeing Mei Suyao Again**

After leaving the temple, Li Qiye went to another part of the city. It seemed to be quite impoverished.

It seemed to be a mortal town without anything special. Li Qiye entered a house with no one trying to stop him.

After taking the first step inside, the scene immediately changed. In this place was a vast realm with bridges and green sceneries that belonged in poems.

His intrusion was met with the eruption of several powerful auras. One of them was even of the God-Monarch level. Without a doubt, this inconspicuous little house had extremely powerful Virtuous Paragons protecting it.

“Immortal Emperor Xiu Shui is truly amazing. Not only did she establish a heavenly grotto here, she also managed to shield it from the Buddhist affinity of the plateau. Such keen insight is truly admirable.” He took his time walking through this place to enjoy it fully.

The powerful auras surged; their owners wanting to attack Li Qiye. However, a voice that resembled an immortal hymn resounded: “He is a guest, do not be rude.”

Li Qiye only smiled and strolled through the place to reach a particular pavilion. It was built in the middle of a lake with a woman sitting on a stone chair. She was looking at the pretty view of the lake.

Anyone would marvel at the sight of this woman ahead. She was beautiful beyond words. It was not enough to call her a goddess.

Mei Suyao! The woman praised as a goddess in the Mortal Emperor World. She was sitting quietly with an indifferent demeanor, like a fairy detached from this mundane world. She also had this appearance in the past, but the current Mei Suyao was completely different from before.

In the past, her steps were accompanied by visual phenomena like a deity descending to this world. But now, she had returned to the origin and held a simplicity far from striking visuals and hymns of the grand dao. Nevertheless, she was still a goddess removed from the pollution of the world and was about to fuse together with nature.

Her core remained unchanged, but she now used a different attitude to deal with the world, resulting in a different style.

She stood up the moment she saw Li Qiye walk into the pavilion. She looked at him and, with a slightly surprised expression while her forehead flashed with a glimmer, she inquired: “Is it you, Young Noble Li?”

She was not completely sure of this either.

“Not bad, an Immortal Bone is worthy of its prestige. To be able to see the truth and communicate with true gods.” Li Qiye nodded his head and praised. He revealed his true form and freely sat down on another stone chair.

After seeing his form, Mei Suyao bowed her head gently with a respectful demeanor: “Please excuse me for not personally greeting you.”

He waved his sleeve and interrupted her: “Okay, little girl, there’s no need for cumbersome formalities.”

Goddess Mei Suyao was always the focus of the show regardless of the time and place. Even peerless geniuses like Jikong Wudi’s group would always show their best side in front of her. Only Li Qiye didn’t pay her any mind.

She was not angry and sat down. She poured some tea into a jade cup for him while speaking: “Please have this simple cup of tea.”

He accepted her jade cup and took a sip before commenting freely: “It seems like you have finally understood, this is Immortal Emperor Xiu Shui’s Alaya Heavenly Fragrance Dao.”

“This is thanks to you. In recent years, I was enlightened and spent time meditating before understanding the profundities within.” She spoke with sincerity: “If you didn’t wake me up from my dream, my path would have been even longer.”

Li Qiye smiled and enjoyed his tea as well as the charming beauty before him. He was relaxed and carefree; everything else became insignificant.

She didn’t speak and only quietly kept him company, pouring more tea for him in a demure and natural manner.

He closed his eyes to feel the calm rhythm. After a while, he gently nodded: “Mmm, it is this feeling. You have truly understood the core of the fragrant dao and will be able to enter the heavenly dao. This will be a grand dao that belongs to you, allowing you to eventually embark on one that is unique to yourself.”

Mei Suyao subtly smiled like an apricot bud slowly blossoming. It was quite a scene to behold. [1. Mei is apricot/plum flower.]

She was neither arrogant nor proud; everything was natural and in accordance with her will.

“May I ask the reason for your visit? This little sister is all ears.” She softly asked while pouring more tea.

Li Qiye lazily glanced over and spoke: “Girl, can you confirm that you are here for the ascension of your school’s senior?”

She answered his inquiry calmly: “I understand your skepticism. The truth is that I am indeed here for my senior’s ascension.”

“And then what?” He tasted the tea once more while freely looking at her.

“Young Noble must have met Vedas Vajra.” She was extremely smart. At birth, she received a soulbone of the immortal level and was capable of seeing through everything directly to their essence. This was amplified after she truly understood the fragrant dao.

“Mmm...” Li Qiye hummed in agreement. He waited for her to continue.

She went on: “I won’t hide it from Young Noble. The real reason for me coming to the plateau is for the ascension. Obtaining the treasure from Vedas Vajra was a spur of the moment idea.”

“What happens next?” He smiled leisurely.

She replied: “I thought that you would surely come to the plateau, and if that was the case, the Lesser Imperial Devil World would open for sure, signaling the appearance of the Nihility Temple. After being guided by my ancestor, I learned the language of this lesser world, so I went to the Vajra to trade for his treasure.”

“Kind of interesting.” Li Qiye laughed: “It seems like an old geezer from your school has finally appeared. What else do you know besides this?”

Mei Suyao looked at him and spoke: “The truth is that I want to know more about you. Your battle at Godwar Mountain made you famous, so my school’s ancestor immediately ran here.”

“Among the old geezers in your school, I know very well that only one of them knows the runes from the Godwar Mountain.”

He narrowed his eyes to stare at her: “What did he say to you?”

“Not much.” She gently shook her head: “I know that the ancestor knows something about you. I am very curious as well, especially about your identity. Unfortunately, the ancestor didn’t want to reveal it.”

“Is that right?” Li Qiye smiled as if he was at home.

She met his gaze in a straightforward and natural manner and spoke without guilt: “I wouldn’t dare to hide it from you.”

After looking into the deepest depths of her eyes for a long time, Li Qiye finally nodded satisfyingly.

“Your school’s old geezer is still not senile. I suppose this wiseness will last forever.” Li Qiye withdrew his gaze and spoke calmly: “Girl, since I am here, I don’t need to say more.”

Mei Suyao took out an old box and slowly handed it over to him: “One half of the treasure is here, please take a look.”

Li Qiye opened it and glanced at the item inside before nodding his head: “Where is the other half?”

“It was taken back by the ancestor.” Mei Suyao calmly answered: “My Immortal Bone still has difficulty understanding this thing, so I asked the ancestor to bring back one half so that the other ancestors could take a look. Maybe they will be able to see through its mysticisms.”

“I have consulted Vedas Vajra as well about this issue. He didn’t know either, the only thing he said was that the item is extremely unfathomable.” Mei Suyao told the truth.

“If Vedas Vajra could comprehend it, then he wouldn’t be Vedas Vajra.” Li Qiye said dismissively: “This thing is connected to an ancient mystery. People who don’t know about the ancient legends would never be able to understand the item’s secrets.”

She asked curiously: “Young Noble is referring to the era before the Desolate Era? The mythical Legendary Era?”

Coming from the Eternal River School, a sect with three emperors, she was an erudite person with few peers. However, she didn’t know if the item came from the Legendary Era.

“It may be even older.” Li Qiye only smiled without saying much.

Mei Suyao was dazed for a moment. In the minds of common cultivators, the Desolate Era was the oldest. She knew about the existence of the Legendary Era that came before it, but what kind of era was even older?

Li Qiye put away the box and said: “I want the whole thing. Half of it is tantamount to trash.”

“Don’t worry, Young Noble. I have sent a message to the ancestors and told the school to immediately bring it to you without delay.” She was very open and agreed right away.

Li Qiye looked at her and chuckled: “Girl, if I didn’t know that you have understood the fragrant dao’s essence, I wouldn’t believe it either. Such a great change in a short period of time, you can even call it a metamorphosis! Before coming, I expected you to make bargains. It seems like I have underestimated you.”

#### **Chapter 1040: Mei Suyao’s Beauty**

“Would any attempt at negotiation be useful?” She smiled wryly and slightly shook her head: “Do I have any room to bargain?”

Li Qiye couldn’t help but smile while looking at her to leisurely say: “I’m actually curious, what did the old geezer tell you?”

She smiled without responding like a flower bud on the verge of blossoming. It was of transcendent beauty and boundless charm.

Li Qiye stood up and wanted to leave, but Mei Suyao spoke: “If you don’t have a place to stay, you can stay here. Our school is willing to offer our humble abode to you.”

He looked back at her and smiled before sitting down again to say: “Girl, what ideas are you having? What are your plans?”

Mei Suyao chuckled. She spoke in a playful tone: “It seems like you are still cautious of me. I suppose I can’t really blame you. It is my fault for being naive back then and leaving you with a bad impression.”

Li Qiye gently shook his head: “Girl, you are a beauty capable of causing disasters. Of course, I understand what the old geezers from your school are thinking. However, I’m even more curious about your thoughts.” [1. Femme fatale, Helen of Troy — these would be the localization for this common idiom.]

The alluring beauty smiled in response: “I am not someone who is unduly humble. Of course, I am not saying that I want to marry you and seek the position of Imperial Queen either. In my mind, I am more than happy to be friends with you; whether it be as a close female friend, a friendship without taking age into consideration, or just an acquaintance.” [2. The last line seems really silly in English, but they are all idioms that flow much better in Chinese. Basically, she is saying that she is content to be his friend in a flowery manner.]

Li Qiye stared at her while she directly met his gaze in a frank and natural manner.

“I believe you.” Li Qiye slowly said: “However, your old geezers are counting their chickens before they have hatched.”

“I don’t blame them. As the main descendant, I have the great responsibility to implement a plan of paramount importance for the growth of the school.” She spoke in a serious manner: “The ancestors do hope to arrange a marriage between us, regardless of your identity. In short, he values you much more than me.”

Li Qiye smiled. He knew the old geezer from the school. After he reclaimed the emperor formation, this old man should have guessed his identity. It was understandable that he would try to curry some favor.

“Do you want to marry me?” He directly asked with a smile towards the peerlessly beautiful Mei Suyao.



Her face flushed. She was already pretty enough, but she now became even more enchanting with this shade of red. People would become intoxicated with a single glance.

She smiled and met his eyes to speak frankly: "I trust that you have no lack of women. If I marry you or if you are willing to marry me, I'm afraid the position of wife is not for me to take, am I right?"

"Smart girl." Li Qiye smiled and didn't say anything else.

She smiled back to say: "No matter what, I don't hope to trouble you with this matter. Let it be up to fate, I'm confident that you will have a different view of me in the future."

"There's no need to wait for the future." He looked at her to say: "I have a new view of you now. If, say, you were a smart woman before, then you are definitely a wise woman now."

"I'm honored to hear such praise." She was graceful and natural as she gave him a feminine blessing. [3. This will be dependent on the era/dynasty, but women have special gestures that they would perform in China. One example is having both hands placed before their chest then a bow. A lot of examples are shown in the period dramas.]

Li Qiye was quite pleased. The past was now gone with the wind. He was not a petty person; since Mei Suyao had maintained a humble posture today, it was more than enough to show her sincerity.

"I think you already know, but the people from the Soaring Immortal Sect are coming." She told him as he was about to leave.

"What level of character?" He nonchalantly asked since he didn't really care.

The Soaring Immortal Sect was a monstrous behemoth to anyone, no matter who they may be. Anyone would be alarmed after hearing about it.

"I don't know what will happen in the future, but right now, it is someone of high status, an emissary." With that, she looked at him with an implicative stare and said: "I heard this emissary has deep ties with the Heavenly God Sect."

"Deep? What do you mean?" He asked with a smile.

Mei Suyao explained: "Rumor has it that this emissary married the saintess of the Heavenly God Sect when he was younger back in the Difficult Dao Era."

"A bit interesting." Li Qiye rubbed his chin amusingly. The Heavenly God Sect and Cleansing Incense used to be mortal enemies. Back then, the Heavenly God Sect defeated Cleansing Incense and took its territory.

Mei Suyao went on: "The current saintess of the Heavenly God Sect is called the Soaring Heavenly Saintess while her aunt is the first wife of this emissary." She looked at him at this point and added: "A while ago, the young king of the Nantian Clan formed a great relationship with the Soaring Heavenly Saintess as well."

"I hear you." Li Qiye smiled and narrowed his eyes: "These old geezers from the Soaring Immortal Sect can't handle the boredom anymore."

“There is a chance that the Soaring Immortal Sect might descend in this generation.” She seriously nodded and spoke with gravity: “I heard the sect managed to groom an extremely heaven-defying descendant.”

“The descendants from Soaring Immortal have always been extraordinary.” Li Qiye did not refute this point. For many generations, the sect’s descendants had always been exceptional.

“The ancestors in my sect also received some secret information.” Mei Suyao’s expression turned austere: “They speculate that this descendant’s Immortal Physique is not yet at grand completion, but it might be within a few years.”

Grand Completion Immortal Physique — this was a very heavy topic. Rumor has it that at grand completion, its user could assail an Immortal Emperor. If anyone could reach this level in the contemporary times, it would be quite frightening.

“I see, grand completion.” Li Qiye only smiled and didn’t comment.

Mei Suyao looked at him and continued: “I know Young Noble is unbeatable, but I wonder if I should say one more thing.”

“Go for it.” He gently nodded.

She maintained her austere demeanor: “It doesn’t matter whether you are Evil Buddha or Li Qiye, a few people consider you to be a thorn in their eyes. Some even invited me to join them to eradicate you for a simpler future. I hope you will be careful.”

“I can count those who are qualified to work together with you with my fingers. Maybe just two are enough.” Li Qiye couldn’t help but laugh.

Mei Suyao chuckled in response. She didn’t say who it was, but any discerning person could figure it out.

“Girl, I won’t take your item without giving something back. Since you have given it to me, I will give you a creation.” Before leaving, he told her: “Before entering the lesser world, come find me. I will point you to the right path.”

“Thank you, Young Noble.” She charmingly bowed: “I speak on behalf of my ancestors when I say: just say the word if you ever need my school for anything. We will assist you at any moment.”

“Your old geezers indeed have a little foresight.” He laughed and left.

Mei Suyao watched him leave then ordered an elder from the school: “Elder, please go back to the school and bring the other half of the treasure here for Young Noble Li as fast as possible.”

The elder acknowledged this command and immediately went to carry it out.

Because Li Shuangyan and the others hadn’t come, Li Qiye stayed behind at the Rainflower Terrace again. The moment he arrived, he sent Sikong Toutian a message.

In the shortest amount of time, Sikong Toutian appeared before Li Qiye and immediately spoke: “Boss, you have an order? Is it about the Heavenly God Sect?”

He looked at Sikong Toutian and asked: “Heavenly God Sect? What’s going on with them?”

Sikong Toutian answered right away: "Boss, I received a direct message that there has been some friction between Cleansing Incense and Heavenly God. This news has yet to reach the Barren Earth."

"The Heavenly God Sect is quite brave now. They finally can't stay patient anymore." Li Qiye smiled.

"Boss has probably heard about it too. Right now, their backing is even stronger than before. It was the Azure Mysterious Ancient Kingdom back then, and now it's the Soaring Immortal Sect." Sikong Toutian spoke: "Right now, even the Azure Mysterious Ancient Kingdom has to show the Heavenly God Sect some consideration."

"Not to mention the Soaring Immortal Sect hasn't descended yet, even if they did, I still wouldn't give a damn." Li Qiye freely smiled: "They have already started sharpening their blades before Soaring Immortal is even here. Wait until I return to the Grand Middle Territory, the first thing I will do is destroy their Heavenly God Sect!"

Li Qiye was not worried about Cleansing Incense at this moment. Because of Peng Keng's group, nothing big should happen.

"Just give me the command and I shall be your vanguard, the first to kill my way into the Heavenly God Sect." Sikong Toutian smacked his chest loudly three times.

Li Qiye gave him a look: "Will you be there to kill or to grab the treasures? I definitely believe that you will be the first to charge into the Heavenly God Sect. Their treasury, to be specific."

"Hahaha, Boss, I will be killing and plundering, not stealing!" He didn't blush at all and spoke with incredibly thick skin.

Li Qiye smiled and didn't scold him: "This time, I didn't call you to tell you to go kill the Heavenly God Sect. I want you to do something else."

"Boss, just say the words. Tell me what you want and I shall carry it out perfectly. You can rest assured when I am the man doing the job." He smacked his chest loudly again and confidently assured Li Qiye.