

## **Domination 381**

### **Chapter 381: Immortal Emperor Fei Yang's Inheritance**

The place that Li Qiye occupied was a self-contained space, and it was tightly linked together with the Soaring Remembrance Village. If the village was one side of a coin, then this space that contained Li Qiye was the other; the two of them were one and the same.

Li Qiye visited this place for a very specific reason; it was created by Immortal Emperor Fei Yang, and the emperor had left a lot of things behind.

That year, that woman gave birth to Immortal Emperor Fei Yang's offspring in a secluded part of the mortal world, then the village was created from this. From then on, his future descendants lived on in prosperity, but they didn't know that their ancestor was the famed Immortal Emperor Fei Yang of the Desolate Era.

A powerful spell was created by the emperor to protect his descendants, and it encompassed the entire village. However, the origin of this spell was on the other face of the village, the spatial realm.

Because of this, many people came to the village throughout many eras, but they couldn't understand the true profoundness of the village.

This spatial realm was a chaotic place that was unable to be clearly discerned by anyone. There were ancient temples, jade pavilions, and jeweled palaces amidst the chaos as if this location was hiding countless secrets.

Li Qiye sat upright at this location with the Fragmented Spatial Disk in front of him while the Yin Yang Refining Immortal Mirror poured down an endless amount of immortal radiance as the Yin Yang fishes protected him.

At this time, the disk in front of Li Qiye became an illuminating mirror, but the reflection was not Li Qiye. Instead, it showed many strange runes. Under the control of Li Qiye's will, these runes intertwined together to form universal laws; he wanted to create a sacred chapter.

This was the reason for Li Qiye's visit to this place. This was an ancient technique from the Legendary Era that was obtained by Immortal Emperor Fei Yang before his ascension.

This technique was named Resplendent Break, the emperor's technique that paved the way towards his imperial domination. It was an amazing secret technique!

Immortal Emperor Fei Yang traveled to the corners of the world without a fixed abode. Although he became an emperor, no one had heard of a lineage left behind by him. Even though his tales were memorized by members of the future generations, there were many things that were related to him that were unknown to the rest of the world.

For example, why didn't the emperor want to return to the Nantian Clan? Why didn't the emperor pass down his imperial lineage? And where were his emperor weapons?

As the Dark Crow, Li Qiye had researched for a very long time regarding the emperor's deeds. In the end, he was certain that the emperor left many things behind at the spatial realm of the Soaring Remembrance Village.

Inside this space was a grand creation that was left behind by an Immortal Emperor that used his invincible means. Outsiders essentially could not come in; otherwise, others would have already exposed this secret.

After Li Qiye entered, even the Realm God's pine branch was thrown outside. If Li Qiye didn't have the Fragmented Spatial Disk, then he wouldn't have been able to enter either.

This disk had a lot to do with the emperor. The world believed that this treasure was refined by the emperor using the Space Scripture's mantra.

However, Li Qiye knew for a fact that this disk was not created by the emperor, but it definitely had something to do with the Space Scripture.

As one of the strongest Immortal Emperors, Immortal Emperor Fei Yang left behind many of his secrets behind a frightening barrier.

In order to get here, Li Qiye used an amazing scheme. As he was entering the Sacred Nether World from the Mortal Emperor World, just before he reached the Sacred Nether World, he jumped directly into the chaotic space that the emperor created. Of course, this was with the help of the Fragmented Spatial Disk. Otherwise, he would not have even been able to make it from the worldly pathway.

Despite the numerous secrets and treasures, Li Qiye only wanted one secret technique instead of being too greedy.

Under the absolute suppression of an emperor, Li Qiye still had methods to take the other treasures from this chaotic space. However, he chose not to do so and only wanted the Resplendent Break that was left behind at this place.

Li Qiye's location inside this chaotic space was coincidentally the village head's backyard. At this time, Li Qiye could only use the mirror and the disk to stay at this place since he could not harmonize with it. Because of this, his image would sometimes faintly appear in the backyard.

This was the famed ghost that haunted at the village head's place. Inside this chaotic space, Li Qiye and the backyard was only separated by a thin wall, so he could clearly see what was happening in the village head's backyard.

He noticed Monk Dazhi using the excuse of exorcising the ghost to eat, and he couldn't help but become amused.

Nonetheless, Li Qiye was too lazy to care about this trickster of a monk eating and drinking. He looked at the mirror-like disk and repeatedly calculated the runes inside in order to turn it into a law that would eventually become a complete immortal chapter.

In reality, a long time ago, Li Qiye already had the Resplendent Break. But at that time, it was only an incomplete version with many defects. In spite of this, he still chose to spend a long time to research this particular move.

Today, within this chaotic space, Li Qiye used the mirror to find the runes that were left behind by Immortal Emperor Fei Yang. Although the emperor purposely mystified the order of the runes, Li Qiye could still manipulate their countless transformations into the complete Resplendent Break. Of course, it

was not an easy task to come up with a perfected version of an ancient and mystical technique like this without taking a long time.

While Li Qiye was preoccupied in the chaotic space, Monk Dazhi was putting on a show and created quite a commotion. Sometimes, there were ghastly yells and howls that eventually culminated into the sounds of a battle...

This scene actually caused those who were outside to think that something was happening. The husband and wife truly thought that the monk was fighting against a ferocious ghost.

It was not until the next day did the village head enter his own backyard. He no longer saw any more shadows since Li Qiye was coincidentally being blocked by the chaos right at this time. This caused the backyard to seem fine as it was without the intrusion of any ghosts. Once the old man saw the remaining scraps of the feasts, he couldn't help but suck on his teeth in surprise. Was it really a hungry ghost messing around?

"Amitabha, oh merciful Buddha!" After seeing the old village head, Monk Dazhi — once again — became a dignified monk. Who could possibly connect his current appearance to that of him eating like a storm from earlier? If anything, he was the real hungry ghost!

The monk placed his hands together once more and spoke in an upright manner: "Do not worry, Benefactor. The hungry ghost was finally driven away by me. It won't come back again!"

"Thank the heavens, Sir Monk is truly great. I didn't expect you to chase the hungry ghost away so easily!" The village head happily exclaimed.

Inside the chaotic space, Li Qiye didn't know whether to laugh or cry when he witnessed this scene. He watched Monk Dazhi pretending to be a wise sage and chuckled with the intention of destroying the monk's play. At this time, he reached forward with his hand. In the blink of an eye, a gigantic hand came out from the chaotic space as a powerful breeze blew by.

At this time, a dust storm swept through the backyard as a ghastly gigantic hand faintly appeared as if it wanted to capture humans.

"The hungry ghost is here again!" Seeing this scene, the old village head was completely startled.

"Sinful creature, you dare!?" Monk Dazhi shouted as the buddhist beads around his neck flew forward. In an instant, these beads enlarged to the size of mountains, blocking the sky in order to stop Li Qiye's hand.

Inside the chaotic space, Li Qiye was taken by surprise at the sight of the mountainous buddhist beads. This treasure was indeed unfathomable, but Li Qiye simply wanted to tease him a bit and didn't actually unleash a move. He smiled and quickly withdrew his hand.

After Li Qiye canceled his maneuver, the backyard became peaceful again. The village head frightenedly exclaimed with some amazement: "Sir Monk is so formidable, you can scare the hungry ghost away so fast!"

Monk Dazhi placed his palms together again without any sign of arrogance. There was only the countenance of an accomplished sage as he said: "Amitabha, oh merciful Buddha. This hungry ghost is

indeed fierce. I shall stay behind for several days to fight against this evil spirit. This time, it successfully escaped and I believe it won't come back anytime soon. Could Benefactor prepare another feast so that I can lead it here again?"

The village head did not question this request at all and immediately went to prepare another feast. As for Li Qiye, he was dumbfounded and couldn't help but shake his head.

Not too many things in this world could escape Li Qiye's sight. In his opinion, although Monk Dazhi appeared to be a swindler, he actually had real abilities. And yet, he still chose to run around in the mortal world to play pretend as a trickster for food!

Several days passed, and the monk continued to stay behind in the backyard of the village head. The rowdy sounds of battle continued on, causing the couple to be frightened out of their minds since they really thought that the monk was fighting against the hungry ghost inside.

How could the ones outside possibly know that Monk Dazhi was only hiding there, spending all of his energy stuffing his greasy face? Where was the respectable appearance of a high monk? This was only a monk that was completely enamored with meat and wine!

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### **Chapter 382: Ghost-expelling Monk**

The battle sounds were created by Monk Dazhi's illusion spell so that those who were outside would think that he was fighting against the hungry ghost!

For the next few days, Monk Dazhi stayed in the backyard only to eat and drink. Meanwhile, inside the chaotic space, Li Qiye was about to finish deriving the Resplendent Break. Eventually, he managed to obtain the full version of the attack. He then couldn't help but take another look at this chaotic space as he murmured: "The suppression of an Immortal Emperor True Treasure is indeed amazing!"

He didn't continue to stay in this space and used the Fragmented Spatial Disk to open an entrance to instantly go outside to the backyard.

At this time, many luminous stars were hanging amidst the skylight above the quiet, small village. The gentle breeze from the mountains caused the villagers to take deep breaths on their strolls.

In the meantime, Monk Dazhi seemed unable to ever be satiated. Even after all the meals, it was as if he was the reincarnation of a hungry ghost.

“Are you here to chase away a ghost, or are you here to eat and drink?” Li Qiye slowly said while standing right behind Monk Dazhi.

Right now, they were in the middle of the night. If someone suddenly appeared behind one’s back, they would have been scared to death. However, that would only be the case if it was someone else; Monk Dazhi was not startled at all. His two hands held onto a fat pig’s leg as he crazily devoured it with his greasy mouth. He saw Li Qiye and cheerfully smiled: “Fellow Daoist, sit down and have a taste. Old Lin is really skillful.”

“So you are just a thief.” Li Qiye smiled and sat down as he gazed at the monk before continuing: “You came here to chase away a ghost, but are you not afraid that a hungry ghost will possess you while you are acting like this?”

These words only induced a smile on the monk’s face as he cheerfully replied: “These words might scare people somewhere else, but this is the Sacred Nether World. There are more ghosts running around on the surface than there are in hell. Even if there were ghosts here, it wouldn’t scare anyone.”

Li Qiye smiled as the monk told him to sit down and eat. However, despite his courteous proposal, he didn’t wait for Li Qiye as he instantly consumed a roasted chicken and a big fish just like a hungry ghost.

Compared to Monk Dazhi’s table manners, Li Qiye was countless times more refined since he was only trying out a few things.

“Hehe, which treasures did Fellow Daoist manage to grab in there?” The monk asked with a grin while eating.

Li Qiye gave him a look and asked: “Oh? Are you also here because of the Soaring Remembrance Village?”

Monk Dazhi put his palms together and laughed: “Amitabha, this village contains treasures — this is not a big secret at all. Many people in the past came here, but no one could pinpoint the treasures. There is a great spell here so all the people who arrive do not dare to act presumptuously. Even Virtuous Paragons would die a pitiful death here!”

Li Qiye only chuckled and didn’t say anything else. It was just as the monk said, the protection of the village was crafted by Immortal Emperor Fei Yang’s supreme grand dao, so even a Virtuous Paragon would suffer a miserable end if they messed around here.

“This monk travels around the four oceans. My current trip took me to the Soaring Remembrance Village. I noticed that there was a great creation here, but unfortunately, I could not see through this place.” Monk Dazhi cheerfully explained.

Li Qiye smiled and shook his head with an answer: “It is all meaningless even if you could see through it. This place is reserved for the fateful ones; those who weren’t meant for it will never be able to obtain the great creations in this place. If one wished to seize them by force, then that would be the beginning of their demise!”

“Amitabha, amitabha.” Although he was reciting buddhist chants, the food never stopped going into his mouth.

On the second day's sunrise, the village head quickly came to the backyard and was surprised to see another person.

"Amitabha, merciful Buddha!" Monk Dazhi chanted, then he explained to the village head: "Don't be alarmed, Benefactor. This person is a friend I've invited. Luckily, with his great skills and our combined efforts, we were finally able to slay the hungry ghost last night. Benefactor can finally be at ease, there will be no more ghastly things intruding your residence now that the hungry ghost is gone."

After hearing the explanation, the village head took a sigh of relief and quickly praised: "Sir Immortals have amazing magics. To be able to vanquish the hungry ghost... Amazing, simply amazing!"

Seeing the monk acting again, Li Qiye was at a loss, but he didn't expose the monk's trickery. Despite him running here for free meals, he was without malicious intentions. With his abilities, he didn't need to swindle in order to eat in front of mortals like this.

Even though the hungry ghost had been eradicated, the village head and his wife still tried to keep the monk and Li Qiye around. The monk agreed to stay at the village for several days, and Li Qiye also stayed behind since he wished to check out the village a bit longer.

Many villagers visited them after hearing about how Monk Dazhi eradicated the hungry ghost. In a short period of time, Li Qiye and the monk were like monkeys at the circus; they were constantly being pointed at by all the enthusiastic and curious villagers.

A powerful cultivator disguised as a swindler — this left Li Qiye with an unexplainable feeling while Monk Dazhi very much enjoyed this situation. His interactions with the villagers were very natural and free, just like a real revered monk, to the unsuspecting crowd.

Li Qiye and Monk Dazhi stayed behind at the village head's house while the couple treated them with unparalleled hospitality.

They were especially enthusiastic about Li Qiye. Sometimes, they would even ask him: "Where is your immortal grotto located? Do you have your marriage planned out yet?"

Li Qiye felt a bit strange in the face of these questions while Monk Dazhi, who was standing to the side, cheerfully replied: "Since Benefactors are asking so many questions, could it be that you want to betroth your daughter to my fellow daoist friend?"

The village head smiled and then shook his head: "We aren't in charge of that little girl's matters. However, if Immortal is interested, you two can get to know each other first."

Monk Dazhi laughed and said: "Amitabha, Benefactor's idea is actually not bad. Your daughter is as pretty as a fairy, my friend will definitely like her after they meet."

Li Qiye didn't know whether to laugh or cry after hearing the monk speak. He only shook his head and politely smiled without saying anything. He then left the house and took a stroll outside.

Right after Monk Dazhi courteously said goodbye to the village head with a smile, he then chased after Li Qiye and spoke: "You don't know how many people want to marry the village head's daughter."

"If you keep sticking your tongue out, do you think I won't pull it out?" Li Qiye looked at him with one eye and lightly said.

Monk Dazhi immediately shut up and chanted: "Amitabha, how sinful. I just won't speak then!"

The Soaring Remembrance Village was neither overly large nor small. It had many great characters coming and going, including cultivators, but none of them managed to leave their personal marks on this village.

The unwitting would find this quite strange, but those who were keener and knew the secrets would not find it strange at all. Who could actually withstand the protecting will of an Immortal Emperor? The paradisiacal village had small bridges and flowing water, natural mountains and verdant forests; the entire village was immersed in tranquility.

Li Qiye and Monk Dazhi did a circle around the village. In fact, it was not Li Qiye's first time here since he had visited a long time ago as the Dark Crow.

After so many long years and countless generations, despite people coming and going, the beautiful scenery remained due to the protection of the emperor!

"Truly a wonderful spell!" Walking inside the village, Monk Dazhi was also looking at the situation of this place and couldn't help but praise with admiration: "What kind of heaven-defying being would be able to break the tranquility of this place?"

Li Qiye simply smiled without adding to the conversation. Of course an Immortal Emperor's means were marvelous. He had once gone against the heavens and calculated a taboo matter. Perhaps, Immortal Emperor Fei Yang was buried in this ordinary village.

Of course, this was only a possibility and its authenticity was hard to prove. Throughout the ages, many Immortal Emperors left behind lineages and continued their bloodlines, but no one heard of an Immortal Emperor burying themselves in this world! [1. This world here might be talking about the mortal world and not the cultivation world.]

So whether Immortal Emperor Fei Yang was buried at the village or not was a mystery. Unless someone was able to release the emperor's powerful seal, none would be able to find the answer.

In fact, the path of all the previous Immortal Emperors had been a riddle. Many believed that even Immortal Emperors were not true immortals and that they could not stay in this world forever. One day, they would have to meet their impending doom.

Despite this belief, the burials of Immortal Emperors were mysteries as well.

There had been Immortal Emperor lineages who swore to the world that their progenitors were buried in their ancestral lands, but even now, not everyone believed this.

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### **Chapter 383: Dream Wishing Tree**

Li Qiye and the monk inadvertently walked to the entrance of the village during their stroll. There was an old tree that was basked in countless streaks of moonlight. It required several people to hug the tree completely as its branches emanated outward like one big umbrella.

Because this tree had existed for so many years, a lot of moss was growing on its trunk.

Although it appeared to be very ordinary, even Li Qiye couldn't help but to emotionally sigh as he looked at it: "Dream Wishing Tree, a rare sight in this world ah!"

"Only an Immortal Emperor would be able to do such a thing!" Monk Dazhi also muttered: "Such a small village having a great divine tree protector at its entrance — how grand is this sight!? With this Dream Wishing Tree protecting it, even Virtuous Paragons have to behave well when they come here!"

Li Qiye had nothing to say as he stared at this divine tree. Even though it was only an ordinary village in the mortal world, it had the secret backing of an Immortal Emperor. Not to mention, it was something never used before. Wasting the resources of an Immortal Emperor on a regular village might have never been done before in this world!

While the two of them were standing underneath the tree, the village head came by and saw them. He quickly greeted them, then stood in front of the tree and put his palms together as if he was praying.

After he whispered a prayer, he then prostrated before the tree.

"Legends state that a Dream Wishing Tree could grant the wishes of other people, could it be that Benefactor is also wishing on a dream before the tree?" Monk Dazhi said with a smile after the village head stood up.

The village head shook his head and replied: "No, I am praying for my little girl. Back then, she stood here and made a vow, so I come here every day to pray for her!"

"Your little girl made a vow?" Monk Dazhi exclaimed in astonishment: "This can't be... Your girl is quite surprising!"

The village head wryly smiled and said: "This is all because us old people have been pressuring her nonstop. She is not young anymore, so my wife and I had been hoping that she could find a suitable husband to pass down our lineage. However, this girl would not listen. After all of us constantly tried to convince her, she undertook a vow beneath the Dream Wishing Tree; that is, if the tree picked a suitable husband for her, then she would marry right away. But if not, then she would remain single!"

Li Qiye couldn't help but smile after hearing this. The Dream Wishing Tree was indeed rumored to have wish-granting abilities, but this Dream Wishing Tree in front of them had formed its own consciousness and was not just a regular Dreaming Wishing Tree! It seems that the little girl had been pressured too much by her parents, so she had to make a vow in front of the tree!

"Crash!" An item from the Dream Wishing Tree fell down and suddenly hit Li Qiye in the head. He then conveniently took it down from his head.



With a glance, he found that it was a piece of jade. This jade ornament was very warm and had the word "Zhu" carved on it. It was easy to tell that it belonged to a girl. [1. Zhu means bamboo. Most likely the owner's name.]

"This is my little girl's jade ornament!" As Li Qiye was still wondering about it, the village head happily shouted and told him: "This is the jade ornament left behind by my little girl. After she made her vow, it was taken by the divine tree. And today, today... it appears once more!" He was very excited at this point.

"Haha, the divine tree has answered and finally found the perfect groom for my little girl!" The village head tightly grabbed Li Qiye's hands and exclaimed: "Haha, I will go and tell all of my old friends!" With that, he turned around and ran back to the village.

"Old friends, old friends, it is a day to rejoice!" The old man screamed while he ran back to the village.

Looking at the jade piece in his hand, Li Qiye felt a bit dumbfounded. He looked at the Dream Wishing Tree and suddenly had the urge to uproot it! Earlier when the village head was talking about his daughter, the tree suddenly hit his head with this jade piece. He believed that the tree must have done this on purpose because it had its own awareness!

"Hehe, congratulations, congratulations, you are about to become a groom!" Seeing Li Qiye standing there in a daze with the jade piece in his hand, Monk Dazhi happily laughed.

Li Qiye glared at him and said: "Congratulations my ass, who said that I wanted to be a groom!?"

"Heh, I'm afraid it is no longer up to you to decide. Even though Old Benefactor Yang is only a mere mortal, his daughter is quite a character. Moreover, a lot of amazing people came from this village. Hah, now that you are carrying her jade piece, if you don't want to be a groom, then I'm afraid you will have to die." Monk Dazhi happily laughed and said.

Having said this, the monk turned around, wanting to leave. Li Qiye noticed this and curiously asked him: "Why do you want to run? You aren't the one who will be the new groom here!"

"Heh, you don't know this, but Old Man Yang's little girl is a great character. If she finds out that she suddenly has a fiancée, maybe she will go crazy and flip the sky upside down. Hah, the even more pertinent thing is that if she finds out that I was also here, then I wouldn't be able to wash my crime clean even if I jumped into the Yellow River! It is better for me to leave first!" Having said this, the monk quickly fled.

Li Qiye became speechless again. He wasn't clear on just how great the village head's daughter was, but seeing the fleeing monk, he could imagine that this girl was indeed extraordinary.

However, Li Qiye had never been afraid of anyone in his entire life. This matter was indeed very strange; he suddenly became someone else's fiancée and he couldn't explain this even if he tried.

Around this time, he noticed the village head and his wife coming from afar along with a group of villagers. There were both the young and the old in this crowd, and it was clear that they were ecstatic.

Li Qiye couldn't help but become afraid after seeing such a battalion. When would I run if not now? Having thought to this point, he quickly turned around to run.

When the group of villagers came to the Dream Wishing Tree and didn't see anyone, the village head's wife became angry and complained: "Look, this is all because of your old self. You're so excited that it scared away our new groom."

"No, definitely not!" The village head jumped up and said: "Quick, quickly send news to the girl and tell her to quickly come back, her fiance has run away!"

Li Qiye escaped from the village and saw a little temple that was built right outside. At this time, Monk Dazhi came out from the temple while carrying a big bag of stuff.

"The little girl of Old Man Yang is about to return home. Take care of yourself, I'm gonna run now. Heh, you better deal with it well because if you want to escape this marriage, maybe an army will chase after you at that time." The old monk swiftly fled all the way to the horizon. Although he was reminding Li Qiye, his words carried a gloating tone.

Li Qiye could only helplessly shake his head. Although he ran away from the village, compared to the monk running for his life, he had an unhurried appearance.

After Li Qiye calculated the right direction, he also shifted his body and quickly disappeared from sight.

This time, Li Qiye came to the Sacred Nether World with a goal, so he jumped to the south and took out the Ghost's Origin Ancestral Key and murmured: "I want to unravel a few mysteries in this generation!"

He was searching for a particular thing, so he kept on going south towards a familiar location. Nevertheless, he was still inside the Thousand Carp River's territory.

Speaking of this name, it was a sect as well as the name of a river. In the Sacred Nether World, cultivators would certainly first think of the demonic gate that was passed down by Immortal Emperor Qian Li! In fact, the Thousand Carp River was a huge body of water not just in the Distant Cloud region, but the entire Sacred Nether World. It spanned for millions of miles like a coiling dragon around the region before streaming off straight into the ocean.

The Thousand Carp River's territory encompassed the millions of miles on the two banks of this river. There were many sects and countries that were tributaries to an Immortal Emperor lineage like the Thousand Carp River!

The monstrous river, perhaps the biggest river of the Sacred Nether World, originated from an extremely high mountain. Some people tried to trace it all the way back to the Prime Ominous Grave.

And so, there was a theory in the Sacred Nether World: the Thousand Carp River starts from the Prime Ominous Grave and ends at the Thousand Islands! Because of its relationship with the Prime Ominous Grave, this huge river was filled with colorful legends and tales!

For millions of years, the river had always been shrouded in a fog of mystery as if there were many secrets in this river that wished to remain hidden from outsiders.

Many had tried to find out the river's secrets, but very few were successful. Even so, people believed that if there was someone who was privy to the secrets, then it had to be Immortal Emperor Qian Li.

This phrase was not an arrow shot without aim since the mysterious Immortal Emperor Qian Li was rumored to also come from this river!

Li Qiye went south along the river. He was not in a hurry to reach his goal, so he took his time and indulged in his memories as he trod on this land.

Li Qiye had come to the Sacred Nether World many times in the last few hundreds of millions of years. He had also come to this river several times, especially during the generation of Immortal Emperor Qian Li. Li Qiye's footprints were left all over the banks of the Thousand Carp River!

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### **Chapter 384: Lu Baiqiu**

For many eras, if a group of people claimed to know the secret of the Thousand Carp River, then Li Qiye would definitely be a part of this assembly. Moreover, within the current generation, Li Qiye might be the person who understood this river the best.

He would sometimes see ancient cities and declined clans along the river while he headed south, and he could only respond with a sigh. He saw the ruins of the magnificent and prosperous sceneries of the past. He gazed into the misty river for a long time in silence. O how many heroes, glories, and beauties passed away... None were able to withstand the test of time!

However, as the mulberry fields turned into blue seas, this surging river still remained the same as if nothing in this world could affect its torrential flow. It was like a dragon entrenched in this land.

Li Qiye's southward journey had almost reached the estuary of the Thousand Carp River as he entered the territory of the Static Stream Country. Li Qiye became emotional after recalling such a familiar name as he gently bemoaned: "Static Stream Estuary — it is still the same after so many years!"

The Static Stream Country at the Distant Cloud region was an average-sized nation and its power could only be considered second-rate.

Moreover, it was a tribute to the Thousand Carp River for the millions of years till now. There was a reason for this; the progenitor of this country was a general under Immortal Emperor Qian Li. Legends state that after becoming the emperor and ruling over the Nine Worlds, he erected the sect next to the Thousand Carp River.

And as his general, the Static Stream Progenitor had always followed after the emperor. Eventually, the emperor bestowed the southern region of the river to the general so that he could form his own country!

This was why the Static Stream Country had always been attached to the Thousand Carp River. The truth was that the country used to be very powerful in the past; it was classified as a first-rate power. Unfortunately, after so many years, the country had fallen and lost its previous prestige. Despite this,

because of its attachment to the Thousand Carp River, no other lineages dared to seize its territory in spite of its contemporary weakness.

As long as the Thousand Carp River remained standing, a lineage like the Static Stream Country could live in peace even if it was not as strong as before. [1. I know it is confusing because both the sect and the river have the same name. I tried my best to use river alone when applicable.]

Stepping into the Static Stream Country and seeing that his destination was close, Li Qiye remained unhurried on his journey down south along the grand river.

As he leisurely strolled downstream, a thunderous rumble suddenly came from above. Li Qiye looked up and saw a flying ship in the sky that was also heading south!

Li Qiye did not find this matter strange at all and paid it no mind while the giant ship kept on flying south. However, not much time passed before it suddenly turned around and hovered above Li Qiye, only to slowly land beside him.

“Where are you going?” A girl who stood on the ship’s deck asked Li Qiye.

Suddenly being approached by a girl slightly took Li Qiye by surprise. Of course, he wasn’t narcissistic enough to think that he was handsome to the point where it caused girls to hit on him.

“Me?” Li Qiye pointed at himself and then said: “I’m going to the Thousand Islands!”

“Come up.” The girl said: “We are also going to the Thousand Islands, so we can give you a ride.”

Li Qiye was quite amused about his first time hitching a ride. He laughed and jumped on this gigantic ship. After he boarded, the ship made a loud bang and flew towards the south.

The moment he boarded, he found that there were more than ten cultivators already sitting on the deck. Some were young and some were old. All of them wore the same colored clothing. It was easy to tell that they were all from the same sect.

The cultivators onboard nodded their heads at him as a friendly greeting.

The girl who called for him to board said: “Just sit anywhere. The Thousand Islands is already very close so we’ll be there in a flash.”

Li Qiye sat down and couldn’t help but to take another look at this girl. She was around the age of twenty, the spring of her youth — beautiful and alluring.

Li Qiye had seen so many beauties that it was too many to count, but this girl ahead of him was still enough to brighten people’s eyes.

Her short hair was down to her shoulders — this was quite an eye-catching sight. It gave her the appearance of a straightforward and decisive woman.

Although her beauty was not overly supreme, her bright eyes and full lips gave others the impression of purity. The armor she wore also accentuated her air of valor.

Despite being young, she carried the aura of a big sister. It was apparent that she was the leader of this group.

“My name is Li Qiye, how should I address you, Miss?” After looking at her, Li Qiye introduced himself with a smile.

“Lu Baiqiu.” The girl was also very straightforward and said: “Region Lord of the Static Stream Country’s Thousand Islands!”

Li Qiye had not seen this type of girl in a long time and couldn’t help but smile: “I am truly grateful to Miss for giving me a ride.”

“Heh, our Region Lord fancies you, Little Fella, and wants to take you as her husband!” A middle-aged man on the ship joked.

The other disciples on the ship, both young and old, couldn’t help but explode in laughter after hearing this.

“Dazhu, you feeling itchy?” Lu Baiqiu rubbed her fists and gazed at this man with her pretty eyes as if she intended to beat him up.

“Oh, Region Lord, I was just joking, just joking!” Seeing those fists, the man thought about how his Region Lord would ruthlessly beat people up and quickly forced a smile.

The other disciples were all just loudly laughing with gloating expressions. Despite their difference in age, they were very close to each other.

Lu Baiqiu ignored the other disciples and spoke to Li Qiye: “At the Sacred Nether World, we humans should unite and help each other.”

Li Qiye smiled and thought that her ideal was not bad. Alas, reality was cruel. No matter which world it was and no matter what race one was from, killing would always exist.

“What are you going to the Thousand Islands for?” Lu Baiqiu was the Region Lord of the islands. The area was under her jurisdiction so her curiosity was piqued.

“To pick up some medicinal herbs.” Li Qiye answered with a smile: “I heard that the Ghost Locust Tree grows at the Thousand Islands. Recently, I have been crafting a new medicinal paste so I need the resin from these trees. This is the reason for my trip.”

“Ghost Locust Tree?” Lu Baiqiu immediately replied: “There really are a lot of Ghost Locust Trees at the Thousand Islands. It is an indigenous tree at our islands.”

Although many lineages did not allow outsiders to harvest the resources of their territories, Lu Baiqiu didn’t mind after hearing Li Qiye’s goal of taking some tree resin.

At the Thousand Islands, the estuary of the great river, the torrential current started to flow into the ocean.

Gazing ahead, one could see a misty scene with surging ocean water while little islands emerged one after another. Some were big, some were small; the large ones were the size of a continent while the small ones were only akin to a small hill. Above them were bustling cities with tens of thousands of mortals!

Although this place was called the Thousand Islands, someone had calculated that there were only ninety-nine islands here. There was also speculation where there used to be one hundred islands, but one of them sunk into the sea.

This was the limit of the Thousand Carp River's jurisdiction; if one went any further beyond this place, they would find the endless southern sea. The Thousand Islands was also the southernmost territory of the Static Stream Country. The Azure City was on the largest island, thus the island was also named as such.

The Azure City's isle spanned for one thousand miles and had more than one hundred thousand inhabitants!

The main establishment of the Static Stream Country presided on this island, and Lu Baiqiu, being the Thousand Islands' Region Lord, meant that she was the person with the most authority! Being a Region Lord at such a young age meant that her own abilities were not shabby.

Once the ship flew above the islands, Li Qiye told her: "I'll get off the ship here."

Lu Baiqiu ordered for the ship to halt. After Li Qiye got off, she told him: "If there is any trouble, you can come find us! We will help you to the best of our abilities!"

"Young Man, try a bit harder!" An older cultivator on the ship winked at Li Qiye and said with a smile: "Our Region Lord has been single for a very long time now. Maybe you have a chance, we are very optimistic about you!"

These misleading words only left Li Qiye silent while Lu Baiqiu glared at the laughing disciples.

As the giant ship flew into the Azure City, Li Qiye took a look around. He went to a high peak that overlooked the Thousand Islands in the far distance.

"The Static Stream protects the Thousand Islands... What a shame, he didn't build the capital at this place." Li Qiye lamented as he looked at the scenery ahead.

During the era of Immortal Emperor Qian Li, the Static Stream Progenitor established his country after listening to Li Qiye's advice. Unfortunately, he only founded the country and didn't build its capital right on this spot!

[spoiler title='384 Teaser']For many eras, if a group of people claimed to know the secret of the Thousand Carp River, then Li Qiye definitely would be a part of this assembly. Moreover, within the current generation, Li Qiye might be the person who understood this river the best.

He would sometimes see ancient cities and declined clans along the river while he headed south, so he could only respond with a sigh. He saw the ruins of the magnificent and prosperous sceneries of the past. He gazed into the misty river for a long time in silence. How many heroes, glories, beauties passed away... They all could not withstand the test of time!

However, as the mulberry fields turned into blue seas, this surging river still remained the same as if nothing in the world could affect its torrential flow. It was like a dragon entrenched in this land.

Li Qiye's southward journey had almost reached the estuary of the Thousand Carp River as he entered the territory of the Static Stream Country. Li Qiye became emotional after recalling such a familiar name as he gently bemoaned: "Static Stream Estuary — it is still the same after so many years!"

### **Chapter 385: Collecting Tree Resin**

Thousand Islands' location was not strategically important to the Static Stream Country nor the Thousand Carp River. This was the estuary that connected the vast ocean with the great river.

Although there were sea demons that inhabited the ocean, neither the sea tribes nor the sea demons were a threat to the country, the Thousand Carp River, or the Distant Cloud Region.

In the past, Li Qiye had recommended for the Static Stream Progenitor to establish the capital at the Thousand Islands, but unfortunately, he abandoned this idea and erected his capital in a more fertile land, thus letting go of a great fortune for many generations.

Standing on the hills that overlooked the ninety-nine islands, one would find that some were big and some were small, and none of them appeared to be special from a quick glance.

However, Li Qiye knew that there was a big secret hidden in this place. The research that he did in the past had not been fruitful until he obtained the Ghost's Origin Ancestral Key from the Eastern Hundred Cities. It was then that he understood the key's mysteries, leading him to solve the secret of the Thousand Islands.

This was also why he wanted to go to the Sacred Nether Realm, and why the Thousand Islands was one of his goals.

He explored one island after another before stopping on the one farthest to the south. This particular island didn't have many good points compared to the others, but if one had to name a particularly unique characteristic, then it would be that this island looked like a palm from a bird's eye view.

Li Qiye looked down from the highest point of the island and murmured: "So it is indeed this place. One of the things that remained incalculable for eras!"

There was a withered tree at the highest point of this island. To be more exact, this withered tree had already died. Its body was burnt to a crisp black; it seemed to have incited the heavenly wrath and got struck by lightning till death. In the end, only a three-foot stump remained above the ground.

This stump was also hollow, the hole reaching deep into the ground. It was pitch black as one looked down into this tree hole.

This stump that was killed by lightning seemed to be a black hand reaching out from the ground, inviting unsuspecting visitors.

"Thunk, thunk, thunk." As Li Qiye tapped on the stump, it issued a clear metallic sound as if it was not made of wood, but divine iron.

"So this really is it!" After carefully observing it and comparing it to the Ghost's Origin Ancestral Key in his hand, Li Qiye couldn't help but mutter. He finally revealed a smile and said: "Let me see if the legend is real or not. Allow me to solve this eternal mystery!"

Since his arrival, Li Qiye conveniently built a hut and began to live his life as a mortal. During his stay on the island, he started to harvest the resin of the Ghost Locust Trees as if he had become a resin farmer.

However, he did not limit himself to the Ghost Locust Trees on this island, he wanted to harvest resin from all of the islands.

Not only did he require a large amount of resin, he also needed to leave behind a unique mark on all of the trees on the islands.

If it was something as simple as harvesting, then he could have just hired some mortals to do so to save himself the trouble. It was obvious that Li Qiye required more than just the resin alone.

Ever since his stay at the islands, day after day passed by as he performed farming duties, cutting the tree bark, then harvesting the resin! He did so over and over again from sunrise all the way until sunset.

Despite being so close to the sea, there were still hundreds of thousands of mortals that lived on the islands with cities that were no less grand than the inland ones.

It could be said that the Thousand Islands was quite a bustling place. The mortals here mainly fished for a living; there were not too many farmers because the resin of the Ghost Locust Tree essentially had no use.

The mortal inhabitants found it quite strange to see Li Qiye going around the islands to harvest the resin from the trees. Nevertheless, the islands belonged to the Static Stream Country, and the highest authority of the islands was the Region Lord, Lu Baiqiu.

Since Lu Baiqiu allowed for Li Qiye to harvest resin on the islands, other people didn't bother to interfere with him.

Later on, Lu Baiqiu also came to see Li Qiye. It had to be said that Lu Baiqiu was indeed a good lady. As long as human cultivators who came to the islands didn't cause any trouble, they would receive help from the islands' authority.

Of course, Lu Baiqiu was also surprised to see Li Qiye collect so much resin: "What are you going to do after harvesting so much?"

Keep in mind that the resin of these trees had always been useless, so despite there being a lot scattered across the islands, it was not very valuable.

"I am mixing together a particular medicinal paste that requires a large amount of tree resin, so I plan to take a lot now in order to avoid running back here in the future." Li Qiye answered with a smile.

His answer was quite reasonable, so Lu Baiqiu didn't probe any further. She had already allowed for him to do so, so as long as he didn't cause any trouble, he would remain under her protection.

In the beginning, some people felt that a farmer like Li Qiye was indeed a bit different, but after a while, they got used to it and no one paid attention to such a farmer.

Li Qiye spent his time on the island by following a very strict schedule. During the day, he would harvest the resin, during the night, he would cultivate. Despite doing such an important job, he was not in a rush



at all. He aimed to carve gigantic runic outlines on the islands; these markings were part of the rune arrays!

But as all the residents on the islands got used to Li Qiye, someone began to notice him.

An invited guest came to his hut; it was a lady, a very beautiful lady. She wore a blue dress and had a transcendent aura. Her beauty could shame the moon and flowers and cause the birds to fall while the fishes would dive since they found themselves unworthy. Her figure was amorous and had a charming style. All of her gestures were filled with a transcendental air as if she did not belong in this mortal world.

With a spirited pair of eyes, her body seemed to be filled with worldly essence. At the same time, her breath was as refreshing as a pure bamboo forest.

After she came to the Thousand Islands, she immediately took note of Li Qiye and watched him for two to three days as if she wanted to find a clue.

Two days later, as Li Qiye was harvesting the resin, he lightly said to this lady: "Little Girl, don't stand behind me and watch all day long. My temper is not very good, so you better watch it, lest I throw you into the sea to feed the sharks."

It was quite strange to see someone younger than her speak as if he was an experienced old man. However, the lady did not become angry and slightly chuckled instead: "Uncle, I just wanted to warn you."

"Uncle?" Li Qiye gave her a look and said: "If you wish to get close to me, calling me uncle won't do. If you call me Young Master or Young Noble, then I can consider taking you in."

The lady in blue didn't know whether to laugh or cry. This guy in front of her was a little too much. Who in the entire Distant Cloud would dare to boast about taking her in?

"Uncle, watch out or you might bite your tongue!" The lady in blue said with a wide smile. Her spirited smile was like the blooming of a hundred flowers or the singing of an oriole — warming the heart and delighting the eyes.

She continued to say: "If you want to brag, then make sure you can back it up. Otherwise, it won't do."

Li Qiye glared at her and said: "What does a little girl like you know? Don't interfere with my business, or I'll really throw you into the sea no matter how great your origin may be." Having said that, he started to ignore her and kept on harvesting the resin.

The lady in blue was astounded. She had met many arrogant people, but not one this outrageous.

However, she did not give up and continued to follow Li Qiye as he harvested and said: "Uncle, I'm giving you a warning out of kindness!"

"What warning?" Li Qiye said as he was collecting the resin.

The lady in blue also put on a demeanor similar to Li Qiye's and nonchalantly smiled: "Do you know the origin of the Thousand Islands?"

“The Thousand Islands’ origin?” Upon hearing this, Li Qiye couldn’t help but smile, then he looked at her to say: “I actually want to hear about the origin of these islands.”

The lady in blue said: “Legends say that during a very ancient time, ninety-nine fierce ghosts once caused chaos at the Sacred Nether World and turned it into a ghastly world. The high heavens was enraged by the actions of these ninety-nine ghosts and unleashed their supreme wrath to kill the ninety-nine ghosts. In the end, the bodies of these ghosts drifted down the Thousand Carp River and eventually reached the estuary before sinking into the ocean. In the end, their bodies turned into the islands that you see here.”

### **Chapter 386: Mysterious Lady In Blue**

“The Sacred Nether World is essentially a ghastly realm. Perhaps there are monstrous ghosts buried beneath the ground, so even if the Thousand Islands are made from the ninety-nine ghosts, it is nothing too special.” Li Qiye replied with a smile.

There weren’t many in this world that knew more about the Thousand Islands’ origin than Li Qiye; of course, the existence lying below the earth did not count!

“This is not the scariest part!” The lady in blue blinked her spirited eyes and softly said: “Their bodies became the islands, and their hair turned into the Ghost Locust Trees. The resin of the Ghost Locust Trees is actually the cursed blood of these ghosts, so anyone who is infected with this blood will have to suffer the curse.”

“Uncle, you have to be careful because if you get cursed, the legend says that you will turn into stone.” The lady gently smiled and said.

Li Qiye couldn’t help but chuckle at the lady’s story.

The lady in blue couldn’t restrain herself: “Uncle, why are you laughing? This is a real legend, not just some made-up tale that I thought up on the spot.”

Li Qiye looked at her and leisurely said: “Curse... Do you know what the most terrifying curse in this world is?”

“What is it?” The lady in blue curiously shifted her head and looked at Li Qiye.

Li Qiye pointed at his face and cheerfully said: “The most terrifying curse in this world... is me! The curse of the ghosts is nothing. Even the curse from the high heavens — to me — is just like the drifting clouds, nothing more.”

“Uncle, you really can’t deviate from your main profession. Just a few words and you have started boasting again.” The lady in blue couldn’t help but reveal a very beautiful chuckle as she narrowed her pretty eyes. [1. She is saying that he is a braggart by profession.]

Li Qiye smilingly shook his head in response and stopped paying attention to her again. How could she know the secret regarding this matter?

“Uncle, what are you harvesting so much resin for?” The lady did not give up and kept on following Li Qiye. She was clearly older than him, but she wanted to tease him, so she kept on referring to him as “uncle” over and over.

Li Qiye stopped and looked at her: "Do you really want to know what I want to do?"

"I'm all ears!" The lady in blue took a dignified pose, causing her to look very elegant. Others would not dare to bear impure thoughts in her sight.

Li Qiye narrowed his eyes to glare at her. This caused the lady's heart to jump since she felt a dangerous aura. Right now, her intuition was warning her about the danger that emanated from Li Qiye. It was as if he was a wild prehistoric beast and she was only a helpless lamb being preyed upon by him!

"It is not too difficult to find out the secret!" Li Qiye said with a smile: "I am a very benevolent individual that will happily share secrets with others. How about this, I am in need of a faded old wife to cook for me. You can stay behind as a cook, then you might be able to find the mysteries within." [2. A faded old wife is an older married woman who is letting go of herself for a multitude of reasons. Whether it be age or because she is already married so she no longer cares about her appearance or even just the burden and stress of housework. This phrase also implies an unhappy marriage due to the fault of the woman. Husbands would use this term to describe their wives as their love fades. Their complexion would turn yellow instead of the more desirable white.]

Upon hearing this, the lady couldn't help but touch her face a bit. Girls were always sensitive about appearances, so she coquettishly said: "I am not a faded old woman!"

"There's not much difference." Li Qiye casually said: "Even if you aren't one now, your age isn't too far off. Stay behind and be a nice housewife. Cooking for me is not unbecoming of you."

The lady in blue suddenly became speechless and also felt an impulse to become crazy! Even though a heaven's proud daughter like her didn't care for her appearance too much, she was nearly driven mad by Li Qiye's words today.

With her face and her figure, even if she was not number one in the Distant Cloud region, she was still among the top ranks. She was absolutely a great beauty that was capable of toppling kingdoms and cities, but now, she was only a faded old woman in Li Qiye's eyes.

The more enraging matter was that Li Qiye essentially didn't think anything of her. With her talents and background, she was definitely the most famous heaven's proud daughter right now.

At the Distant Cloud, she was absolutely number one amongst the younger generation; it didn't matter what characteristic people would rank the young ones with. Normally, countless young prodigies would wish to accompany her during a trip. Many of them desperately tried their best just to have a chance to see her face.

Today, Li Qiye spoke as if she was nothing and even wanted her to cook like a mortal. And the worst part was that he made it sound as if cooking for him was an honorable deed!

"It is fine if you don't want to." Li Qiye then continued his business without giving her any consideration.

"Fine, I'll just stay then!" The lady in blue took a deep breath and finally managed to endure her anger.

Li Qiye gently waved his sleeve and said: "It is getting late, so you should go back first. Make a good lunch for me so that I can eat once I'm back."

The lady in blue was shivering with anger; a heaven's proud daughter like her was now his servant! But she still managed to contain her impulse to go mad.

'Have to endure, must endure... It won't be too late to slowly teach this brat a lesson later on. Then, we'll see if he can still be so arrogant!' In the end, she went back to cook for Li Qiye. If outsiders knew of this matter, eyes would definitely roll on the floor.

At noon, Li Qiye went back to his island and immediately smelled something burning. After noticing that there were a few burnt dishes on the table, he shook his head and said: "Oh my, your cooking skills are much worse than a faded old woman's."

The lady almost vomited blood from anger. A proud girl like her actually had to cook for someone. Doing such a lowly thing was not something she wanted to do.

Nevertheless, the food might be a little burnt, but at least it was still made with her effort! Not to mention that she couldn't be blamed. Ever since she started cultivating in her sect, she never had to participate in such trivial duties. It was already excellent that she could make something like this.

"Little Brat, if you don't want to eat, then throw it away!" She could no longer bear it and shouted.

Li Qiye looked at her. He calmly tapped on the table and said with a leisurely smile: "Pay attention to your image, your image. What kind of girl screams like a tigress all of a sudden when something goes wrong? Maintain the appearance and attitude of a lady... Do you even know what a lady is? I hope I don't have to teach you this!"

The lady in blue almost died from exploding as she angrily glared at Li Qiye.

"Well, it seems that you did put in some effort, so I will have a taste of your dishes. Get the rice." With this, Li Qiye handed his bowl over to the lady in blue.

The lady in blue felt like beating this brat who thought way too highly of himself.

Meanwhile, Li Qiye looked at her and smiled: "So? You are the one who's willing to stay behind and be a housewife; a cultivator should have a firm will, don't give up halfway."

The lady in blue angrily fetched some rice for Li Qiye. If outsiders saw this scene, they would be in a state of disbelief. This was the fairy in the dreams of countless handsome young men who would fight each other just to earn her favor. However, their fairy, right now, had to cook for someone else and do all the tasks a housewife had to perform. She was even being bullied!

As Li Qiye was carefully chewing, the lady in blue had some expectations as she looked at Li Qiye. In the end, it was her first time cooking so she felt quite accomplished and wanted to ask Li Qiye about the taste.

"It is okay, it's not hard to eat!" Eventually, Li Qiye smilingly evaluated her meal.

"Throw it away if you don't want to eat it!" The lady's temper flared up again as she gave him a stern glare. She then ignored Li Qiye as she sat to the side with the appearance of a wronged daughter-in-law. [3. One of the most common Asian tropes is that new wives would be bullied by their husband's mother/family.]

Li Qiye couldn't help but chuckle. Then, he shook his head: "Little Girl, don't think you are being treated unfairly. I'm only keeping you around because I think highly of you! If I wished to recruit maids, then forget about the great powers in the Distant Cloud, even the goddesses and fairies of your Ancestral Domain would have to be my maids."

The lady in blue lifted her head and glared at Li Qiye before she snappily retorted: "Hey, Uncle, your boasting is becoming even more outrageous. Do you even know what the Ancestral Domain represents in the Sacred Nether World?"

"What does it represent?" Li Qiye lazily said: "It's only a bunch of things that are neither human nor ghost hiding underground, not daring to come out. If their real great ghost could come out, then it might be a bit amazing. If not, then they are no big deal in my eyes!"

"Less bragging please!" The lady in blue angrily said.

Li Qiye only smiled and didn't say anything else as he continued to eat in a carefree manner.

The lady looked at Li Qiye and didn't know what to say for a while. Now, she was completely lost. Her initial intention of judging his identity was now completely muddled with confusion.

There was nothing strange or special about this brat. Regarding geniuses, talents, and prodigies, she had seen many of them.

However, this brat before her simply could not compare to geniuses. His arrogant tone was just out of this world! It was as if nothing could get into his sight despite this world being so vast.

Right now, she didn't understand where this guy's confidence was coming from at all.

He didn't seem to be ignorant to the point of being arrogant, but if he wasn't ignorant, then he should know better and not have so much self-confidence.

### **Chapter 387: Nine Celestials Enlightened Being**

The lady in blue became a housewife and cooked for Li Qiye. She never revealed her name and background, and Li Qiye never asked.

She didn't ask for his origin as well, not even his name. It was as if the two of them preferred to keep it mysterious.

In this way, the two of them stayed together in a strange and mysterious atmosphere. Others would actually think that they were husband and wife. The male was hard at work while the girl maintained the house; a talented groom and a beautiful wife — a match made in heaven that was living in seclusion on this small island.

The lady in blue staying with him didn't affect Li Qiye at all. He still harvested the resin in the day and cultivated at night.

The lady in blue acted like a virtuous young wife. The meals were always ready for her husband when he came back home.

This peaceful lifestyle continued for a short time. The two had a tacit understanding to maintain this harmonious and mysterious situation.

During one night, the lady in blue was deep in her meditation, but she suddenly heard loud explosions. In this instant, energy crazily surged as if a monster in the shape of a man was devouring the worldly essence in this area.

With a shocked expression, she immediately dashed outside and saw an astonishing sight. Li Qiye was sitting in the meditative pose on a hill with his Fate Palaces out in the open. The Kun Peng True Fate had its wings opened and covered the entire island as it frantically swallowed worldly essence.

Moreover, Li Qiye's True Fate was not the only thing sucking up worldly essence. His six Fate Palaces turned into a vast domain that was filled with primordial chaos and, like a god opening its mouth, they sucked in all the energy of this world.

"A six palaces Royal Noble!" Seeing Li Qiye's six Fate Palaces, the lady in blue was quite amazed. Having six palaces at this realm meant that he was a genius amongst geniuses.

"Ommm—" Amidst her daze, the nine heavens suddenly became bright. The starry sky promptly ushered forth countless celestial lights in the form of a magnificent galaxy onto Li Qiye.

However, these lights were not absorbed into his body. Instead, a supreme universal law chained them down. The surging tide-like lights were locked by Li Qiye's dao foundation in the sky as his True Fate used an unparalleled technique to craft them into stars.

After some crisp sounds, nine dazzling stars were suddenly created and hovered around Li Qiye.

At this time, Li Qiye carried a majestic air like the ruler of the universe as he emitted a peerless aura.

"Nine celestials!" Seeing the nine stars, the lady in blue lost her colors. She then took in a deep breath and murmured: "Impossible! Nine celestials Enlightened Being — someone like this has not appeared for a long time!"

Above Royal Noble was the Star Plucking realm, and cultivators of this realm were called Enlightened Beings. This realm directed the stars from the nine heavens in order to craft one's own stars. Only when one could seize the stars would one be able to also seize the universe!

For ordinary cultivators, seven stars were the limit.

If one could create eight stars, then it didn't matter if this person only opened three Fate Palaces in the Royal Noble realm. A Royal Noble with only three palaces had a very limited potential and couldn't reach Ancient Saint, let alone Heavenly Sovereign and Heavenly King. The more palaces, the greater the potential.

Of course, if one couldn't open the fourth palace in the Royal Noble realm, then there was still a chance to surpass this limitation if they could create the eighth star in the Enlightened Being realm!

This eighth star was the key to unlocking the door to Heavenly Sovereign, Heavenly King, and even Virtuous Paragon. Thus, Enlightened Beings with eight stars were also called Heaven Riders.

In fact, crafting the eighth star was far more difficult than opening the fourth palace. Many people with four palaces could not create this eighth star. As for those who couldn't even open the fourth palace, don't even dream about creating the eighth star.

Naturally, through the endless ages, there would be exceptions. Some lost their chance in the Royal Noble realm, but they suddenly showed their talents in the Enlightened Being realm.

An eight celestial Heaven Rider was an amazing miracle; they had a key to unlock their path towards Virtuous Paragon.

One shouldn't even think about nine stars. Very few since time immemorial were able to create the ninth star.

Nine stars meant Eternal Prestige! Having nine stars was a very terrifying thing. Legends say that those with nine stars could easily pick either the Path of the Heavens or the Path of the Grand Era and would have a high chance of becoming a tyrannical Immortal Emperor or an invincible God!

Currently, Li Qiye had six palaces and also created nine stars. Thus, this suddenly shook the lady in blue. She was an incredible genius that was matchless in the younger generation, and she was very confident in her gifts and cultivation. However, with Li Qiye reaching six palaces and nine stars, she suddenly became eclipsed since there was an uncrossable gap between them!

"Even if I am too handsome, don't swoon over me so much like this!" While she was still in a daze, she suddenly heard a nonchalant voice ringing by her ears.

With a shiver, she immediately calmed down and saw Li Qiye standing before her. He revealed his white-as-snow teeth and smiled: "I know that I am unreasonably handsome, but it is wrong for you to be so obsessed with me like this."

The angry lady suddenly had the urge to stomp this egomaniac to death as she bitterly said: "Bah, your face makes me want to die. Who would ever want to look at you!" Finished speaking, she stormed back into the hut.

Li Qiye couldn't help but laugh after seeing the lady's attitude, and the lady who had just gone inside ground her teeth after hearing this laugh. There would be a day when she teaches this brat a good lesson!

This kind of life lasted for half a year. At this time, Li Qiye finished collecting resin, so he laid out his runic arrays across the islands. His supreme formation was finally created.

At this time, he began to refine the harvested resin. Collecting this resin was not just an excuse, he actually needed it. It had a magical effect unbeknownst to others besides Li Qiye.

Although the old tale from the lady in blue seemed a little ridiculous, it indeed had some secrets that were purposely hidden to outsiders. These secrets had something to do with both the Thousand Islands and the Ghost Locust Trees.

At the time of refinement, Li Qiye took out the Myriad Heavenly Cauldron and shouted, causing the cauldron's flame to furiously burn as it turned into a gigantic cauldron. This giant fire seemed to be able to melt everything in an instant.

“Pour all the resin inside.” Li Qiye commanded his assistant, the lady in blue, who was standing to the side.

She immediately poured all of the resin in. After such a long time of harvesting, the resin weighed more than ten thousand pounds.

The lady who was assisting him felt a bit confused. She had never heard of any effects that this resin may have, so she was full of curiosity.

“Zzzz—” A melting sound appeared. All of the resin instantly melted away after it was poured in.

Right after everything was melted, Li Qiye activated the cauldron and, in just a split second, the powerful fiery contraption suddenly turned into a tornado of flames, causing the wind to fiercely howl. All of the resin was spun up high as the fiery dragon-like tornado crazily flung them about, resulting in a spectacular scene.

The lady in blue had seen many alchemists, including Legendary Alchemists, but she was stunned when she saw Li Qiye’s technique. This alchemy style was a bit too violent.

However, such a brutal technique instantly separated the impurities from the resin. These impurities were instantly brought to the primal flame and became incinerated in just a moment.

The separated resin was now clear with a faint smell of wood. At this time, they seemed to be condensing into a jewel-like stone.

Li Qiye had a serious expression as he took out a box. He very carefully took out a leaf that was surrounded by golden lightning.

“What is that?” Seeing this young leaf that resembled a jewel surrounded by golden lightning, the lady in blue emotionally asked.

“This... this is the legendary young leaf of the World Tree!” After a long time, she finally managed to identify the origin of this young leaf and was instantly rendered breathless. Even her sect would not be able to come up with such an item.

In fact, it wasn’t just her sect. Any other faction in this world would not be able to take out such an item because the young leaf of the World Tree only belonged in the legends. Essentially, people had never seen it before.

### **Chapter 388: Thousand Islands’ Mystery**

The lady in blue was very knowledgeable since she came from a renowned sect. She had only seen this young leaf from an ancient scroll. Moreover, it didn’t have a picture of the leaf, there was only a description stating that there was golden lightning circulating through it. It was definitely rare, and rumors say that only Immortal Emperor Hao Hai had gotten ahold of one.

Even in her wildest dreams, she wouldn’t expect for such a mythical young leaf to appear in Li Qiye’s hands, let alone to be able to see it on such an ordinary island.

Meanwhile, Li Qiye carefully placed the young leaf into the refined resin as he controlled the cauldron to refine the leaf as well.



The flame appeared to have its own sentience as plumes of flame tenderly encompassed the leaf. In just the blink of an eye, the leaf turned into a liquid. The golden lightning entered the resin like calligraphy ink spilling onto a piece of paper inside the cauldron.

The entire process was quite time consuming. After a long period of time, the resin slowly boiled as the cauldron created different universal laws that were as thin as silk strings to surround the resin.

Slowly, the initially transparent resin suddenly transformed into a golden liquid concoction.

Meanwhile, the lady in blue became a bit speechless as she watched this scene. A young leaf of the World Tree was an invaluable item that could reverse life and death. However, Li Qiye actually used such a priceless item to refine this resin — truly too extravagant and irrational.

“This is too wasteful!” She couldn’t help but utter.

“A good item has to be used correctly; if utilized incorrectly, then no matter how great the item is, it would still be worthless.” Li Qiye looked at the golden liquid concoction in the cauldron and couldn’t help but smile.

Next, he also threw the Ghost’s Origin Ancestral Key inside the contraption. Once it was inside, Li Qiye kept on fueling the flames, causing the medicinal concoction to boil even more!

As the medicinal concoction started to bubble, the key was like a piece of dried ink releasing a black substance. Not long after, the entire golden concoction took on a pitch-black color like ink.

“You, you are being too wasteful!” The lady in blue had the urge to stop Li Qiye. Such a peerless young leaf from the World Tree was wasted in such a manner, could there be an even more prodigal son than he in this world? None of them were worth mentioning in his presence!

However, something very weird happened at this time. Waves of ghostly screams started to emanate from inside the cauldron, followed by countless ghosts rushing out.

All of these ghosts started to bear their fangs and claws, instilling fear in all spectators.

“Omm—” While the lady in blue was being creeped out, the key that was immersed in the medicinal contraption emitted a light that was filled with an immortal presence as if it was everlasting.

“Success!” Seeing this scene, Li Qiye became excited and murmured: “So it really was like this!”

At this time, the contraption became calm again, and the scary ghosts from earlier all disappeared. The happy Li Qiye then took the key from the medicinal contraption and poured the liquid into a jar.

Seeing Li Qiye finishing the refinement process, the lady in blue couldn’t help but ask: “What, what medicinal paste are you refining?”

In her eyes, Li Qiye wasn’t simply refining any ordinary immortal or divine pill. But despite this, he actually used an eternally rare young leaf of the World Tree. This was too irrational! With such a leaf as the leading ingredient, one could probably concoct the rarest kind of immortal elixir in this world. And yet, Li Qiye just used this rare leaf on a black concoction with an unknown use. Such wastefulness deserved criticism from everyone.

“Ghost Attracting Medicine!” Li Qiye cheerfully smiled and said: “Little Girl, because you have been acting as my housewife for so long, I will give you a chance to broaden your horizons. Follow me!”

Finished speaking, he carried the medicine jar and walked away.

Full of curiosity, the lady in blue immediately chased after him. Li Qiye didn't go very far. He went to the highest location on this island and stopped three feet before the previously mentioned tree stump.

This already-dead tree stump no longer had any signs of life. The center was just a palm-shaped void.

A wooden stump like this in the middle of a forest was something that didn't warrant attention from anyone. However, at this time, Li Qiye carefully opened the medicine jar and poured the concoction that he just refined onto the stump one layer after another. In just a moment, the stump was filled with layers of medicine, and the moment it dried, it was as if a layer of black residue was covering the stump.

Seeing this scene, the lady in blue felt like murdering someone. This was the medicine that was created with the World Tree's young leaf, yet Li Qiye was pouring it over a dead stump. Who in this world was more wasteful than him?

At this time, Li Qiye suddenly became nervous as he held the Ghost's Origin Ancestral Key and gazed at the dead stump that was covered in medicine. Just for this dead stump, he already invested a young leaf from the World Tree. If this didn't work, then it would truly be a waste.

A while later, the entire estuary suddenly shook. Many cultivators on the island felt this change in the earth, including Region Lord Lu Baiqiu. There was no follow up to the initial tremor.

Many cultivators felt that it was an illusion, that it was only a small tremor, thus no one paid it any mind. However, real masters like the lady in blue didn't have the same opinion.

At this moment, she felt that something popped at the deepest parts beneath the Thousand Islands. It was as if a heart had just jumped, followed by a calm heartbeat that suddenly vanished without a trace.

Despite the disappearance of this sound, she still felt that something was awakening in the depths of the earth. Maybe the strongest creature since the start of time had been sleeping beneath these grounds.

In this instant, anyone that could see the blade marks left by Li Qiye on the Ghost Locust Trees around the islands would find that these cuts were coming alive. The runes began to move, and they suddenly shifted underground.

This was the great spell that Li Qiye crafted! Keep in mind that his research regarding the islands was not something he recently started. He had already researched these islands a long time ago, and despite having menial returns, he still found a thing or two regarding the secrets of this place. Alas, he had been missing two key things — the young leaf of the World Tree and the Ghost's Origin Ancestral Key!

Especially during his sudden revelation when he looked at the key. At that time, he immediately answered a few questions that had been haunting his mind, a few secrets that were unsolved in the Sacred Nether World!

He stood there with bated breath as he watched the dead stump. An unknown amount of time passed by before a slight popping sound gently rang. At this time, the withered stump suddenly gave birth to a

young green leaf! This young leaf had a magnificent green color and sprouted from the thick layer of medicinal paste, signifying that it was healthy and growing.

“Yes!” Li Qiye rejoiced after seeing this faint green leaf! Amidst this moment of jubilation, the dried stump suddenly spewed out a thick mist as black as ink. This mist was like a cloud of nether energy that caused others to shiver with their hair standing on end.

Li Qiye immediately threw the key in his hand into the mist. With a buzzing sound, the key actually hovered in the mist and emitted many waves of light that carried an everlasting energy.

These strands of light suddenly penetrated the stump and drilled into the ground from that spot.

Next, the lady in blue heard a series of sounds that resembled cheers, but she also felt as if this was merely an illusion and couldn't tell whether they were real or not.

Amidst her confusion, little ghosts — one after another — suddenly jumped out from the empty tree stump. These little ghosts were all shrouded in mist, and all of them had different figures and expressions.

One of the little ghosts wore a golden robe as if he was the king of the ghosts, another had two fangs while a third had two wings...

These ghosts suddenly rushed into the Ghost's Origin Ancestral Key. The three foot long key initially had ninety-nine little ghosts carved on it, so the ghosts that jumped out from the tree stump found their corresponding carvings and became one with the key.

The lady in blue was speechless and in a daze, but she still managed to count the little ghosts that came out from the ground. After the last one emerged, a total of ninety-nine little ghosts could be seen on the key.

The ninety-nine little ghosts all successfully found the carving that corresponded to them on the key and became one with it.

It was as if the ninety-nine engravings on the key were crafted from the figures of these ninety-nine little ghosts from underground.

After all the little ghosts entered the carvings, the key seemed to have a life of its own and emitted a divine mist-like aura. In a short period of time, a ghostly energy covered the key, but it was no longer ominous. Instead, it was filled with a divine aura as if it was the breath of a Ghost Immortal!

[spoiler title='388 Teaser']The lady in blue was very knowledgeable since she came from a renowned sect. She had only seen this young leaf from an ancient scroll. Moreover, it didn't have a picture of the leaf, there was only a description stating that there was golden lightning circulating through it. It was definitely rare, and rumors say that only Immortal Emperor Hao Hai had gotten a hold of one.

Even in her wildest dreams, she didn't expect for such a mythical young leaf to appear in Li Qiye's hands, let alone see it on such an ordinary island.

Meanwhile, Li Qiye carefully placed the young leaf into the refined resin as he controlled the cauldron to refine the leaf as well.

The flame appeared to have its own sentience as plumes of fire tenderly entered the leaf. In just the blink of an eye, the leaf turned into a liquid. The golden lightning entered the resin like calligraphy ink spilling onto a piece of paper inside the cauldron.

### **Chapter 389: Lady in Blue's Departure**

This ghastly scene astounded the lady in blue. She didn't know what the ninety-nine little ghosts represented nor did she know what the key that resembled a ruler was!

However, her intuition was telling her that both of these things were extraordinary. Otherwise, they would not have been worthy of Li Qiye spending a young leaf from the World Tree.

Seeing the ghosts entering the key, Li Qiye couldn't help but become happy as he took a deep breath. He held up the key and carefully looked at it before finally confirming that his theory was correct: "It is indeed so... My efforts were not in vain."

This wasn't something he had planned overnight; instead, it was set in motion a very long time ago. The Thousand Carp River, as an emperor lineage, and the Static Stream Country that ruled one direction both contained his shadow.

After putting away the key, he looked at the dead stump and the little green leaf that sprouted from it. He focused and then "boom," his Fate Palaces opened as he uttered: "Today, I bestow a new life upon you. Follow me!"

The moment these words came out, a buzzing sound came about as the Pillar of Life inside his Fate Palace suddenly turned bright. Runes emerged on the pillar and turned into universal laws. Then, a series of orderly chains appeared and locked this dead stump.

Seeing these universal chains from Li Qiye's Pillar of Life, the lady in blue was taken by surprise. These chains seemed to be able to build myriad worlds as if they were the basic laws of the three thousand worlds, as if they were able to turn into anything. She had never heard nor seen anything like this before.

In fact, not seeing something like this before wasn't anything strange because these chains from Li Qiye's Pillar of Life were refined from the Void Gate's ancient runes, thus they had an unbelievable origin.

"Go!" With a loud cry, the dead stump was suddenly lifted up high by the universal chains. Its underground roots went far beyond anyone's imagination. All of these old roots were so lush and long that it would make people think that they took root all over the Thousand Islands.

As this process was occurring, these roots didn't seem to be dragged out by the chains. Instead, it was as if they were serpents emerging from the ground.

The universal chains carried a root into one of Li Qiye's Fate Palaces. At this time, the four images of life inside his palace welcomed the arrival of this root as they bestowed their blessings on its body...

In a short period of time, the young green leaf that was growing on the dead stump became even more verdant as if it had obtained nourishment from the Tree of Life and Spring of Life.

“Not a bad harvest.” Li Qiye happily murmured after closing his Fate Palace and returning it to his Neigong meridian.

Even a knowledgeable person like the lady in blue was sent into a daze. She had seen many things before, but the events of today exceeded her comprehension.

Despite her great background, she didn’t know what any of these things were, let alone Li Qiye’s goal.

A critical step had finally been accomplished within his grand plan, so Li Qiye joyously patted his palms clean. This step meant that all of his previous foundations weren’t for naught.

“Little Girl, are you still interested in being my faded old woman for a bit longer?” Li Qiye glanced at the dazed lady in blue and said with a smile.

The lady came back to her senses and couldn’t help but ask: “Where do you want to go?”

Li Qiye narrowed his eyes as he looked at the vast ocean in the distance and replied: “Hard to say. Maybe I will go out to sea, or maybe I will make my way back to the mainland, but I will most likely go out to sea first. Do you want to broaden your horizons?”

Li Qiye rarely invited others, so this act was indicative of how he appreciated the lady in blue. Not everyone was qualified to stay by his side.

The lady in blue hesitated for a moment before finally shaking her head as she replied with a gentle smile: “Uncle, you go by yourself. I don’t want to cook for you anymore, I have to go back and cultivate!”

Li Qiye didn’t force her and nodded his head: “Very well. You have trained your Heaven’s Will Secret Law correctly. Keep trying and you will make great progress. After the current Heaven’s Will becomes stronger, you will have great achievements compared to others.”

While horrified, the lady in blue instinctively took a step back and gazed at Li Qiye with caution. She believed that Li Qiye didn’t recognize her, but he actually just disclosed her main cultivation method!

“Don’t be shocked!” Li Qiye shrugged and said: “There are very few laws in this world that I haven’t seen before. Even though a little girl like you hasn’t told me who you are, I can tell what you are cultivating with a single glance.”

Not to mention, her secret law was far too familiar to him. How could something that he knew so clearly escape his sight?

The lady thought that she hid her identity very well, but it was still not enough to elude Li Qiye’s eyes. Under his gaze, she felt the sensation of being completely exposed!

“Don’t look at me like that.” Li Qiye nonchalantly said: “If I bore ill intent towards you, you would have died countless times already. Of course, those who are malicious towards me will suffer an ugly death.” He finished with a serious countenance.

His narrowed eyes caused the lady in blue to feel the creeps. Although his appearance at this moment seemed to be harmless, her intuition told her that Li Qiye was filled with danger! It was as if he was a terrifying black hole, and none of his enemies could escape his grasp.

“Well then, let this be goodbye!” Li Qiye gently patted the lady’s cheek and smiled: “Don’t miss me too much, I am only a legend!”

The lady in blue stared at Li Qiye’s smile that invited a beating from others, so she felt like beating him up. This brat that didn’t know life from death actually dared to flirt with her!

In the end, she held back her anger and left without a care for Li Qiye.

However, at this time, Li Qiye’s teasing laughter rang: “Little Girl, even though you didn’t grow up to be extremely pretty, this Young Noble is very benevolent. If you miss me in the future, you can come back to my side. I can consider taking in a faded old woman like you any time.”

The lady in blue almost stumbled from rage as her chest intensely swayed up and down due to her uncontrollable anger.

She was not pretty enough?! This was too much; even though she didn’t care about her appearance, she was definitely on the forefront of the beauties list in the Sacred Nether World. How could this brat use these words to describe her without inciting her anger?

“Bah, egomaniac!” Eventually, she expelled some of her anger as she gritted her teeth and used her fastest speed to leave. If she stayed here any longer, maybe this brat would say some even more unflattering things.

After she left, Li Qiye couldn’t help but grin. He didn’t pay too much mind to the matters of the lady in blue.

He looked towards the far sea and pondered for a moment before deciding to leave. But first, he wanted to say goodbye to Lu Baiqiu.

In fact, he had a high evaluation of her. Although her talents were not peerless, they were not bad. The important part was that he enjoyed her attitude!

Although he didn’t need her assistance, after living at the Thousand Islands for so long, she did make it convenient for him.

He left his island and went to the Azure City.

The Azure City was built on the largest island, and it was also the largest city in the Thousand Islands as the main portal city of the Static Stream Country.

It was very bustling as many merchants would come to the Azure City for business. Although it was a bit lacking compared to the large inland cities, anything could be found here.

Humans made up the majority in this city, but there were quite a few demons, members of the blood race, and others entering the Azure City. Even some of the sea demons from the far oceans would come to the Azure City to trade.

The Region Lord held the greatest authority in this place, so her mansion had many guards. However, the reality was that, as the Region Lord, Lu Baiqiu was very popular in the Thousand Islands because she was very approachable. Not only did she take care of the human race, but also the other races. It could be said that her leadership skills were quite amazing.

She came from an ordinary background as a regular disciple of the Static Stream Country, but step by step and through putting in great efforts, she eventually became a Region Lord. It was a great feat that displayed her abilities.

She was not a genius, but her personal aptitudes were not bad. Not to mention, she trained very hard, which was why she became a lord at such a young age.

### **Chapter 390: Corner of Mourning**

This achievement was quite amazing for a disciple from an ordinary background in a regular country.

When Li Qiye went out to the edge of the Thousand Islands to see if Lu Baiqiu was there, a sea guard said: "Regional Lord Lu brought experts to fight out at sea!"

"Battle?" Li Qiye couldn't help but grimace. The Thousand Islands faced the vast ocean, and although there were a few demons and sea demons out there, they all lived in the far sea and would not start a war against inlanders.

"Recently, the Mollusk Tribe has started a war!" The guard knew about Li Qiye, so he immediately explained: "They recently appeared in the waters right outside of the islands and stole our sea farms. In the last two to three months, a large amount of our sea jewels have been taken by them."

There were many industries for the Thousand Islands since they were so near the sea, and the largest of them were the sea farms at the bottom of the ocean.

Sea jewels were a type of refined jade; although they could not completely replace refined jades, there were instances where it served as an acceptable substitute, especially in the Static Stream Country. The spirit energy contained inside these sea jewels was still a part of the worldly essence.

"Regional Lord Lu and many experts had forced the Mollusk Tribe back many times, but they appeared again yesterday, so the lord wanted to catch them all in one fell swoop." This guard explained.

Right at this moment, Lu Baiqiu returned along with many wounded people that had to be carried back.

"Lord Lu?" Seeing her injury, the guard was alarmed and quickly went to greet her.

"I'm fine... go treat the others." Lu Baiqiu was very decisive and ordered for the guards to bring the wounded back inside for treatment. Li Qiye looked at their wounds and also followed them inside.

After returning, Lu Baiqiu fortified the defensive perimeter and sent disciples to treat the injured with resolution befitting a general.

After dealing with everything, she finally found Li Qiye sitting silently in the main hall, so she immediately asked: "What prompted Dao Brother Li's presence here?"

"Nothing." Li Qiye said with a smile: "I planned to go out to sea so I'm here to say goodbye."

"The sea?" Lu Baiqiu slightly furrowed her brows. Among all the girls Li Qiye knew, she was not the prettiest, but her short hair and valiant air had a remarkably cool charm.

Lu Baiqiu gently shook her head in response: "Dao Brother Li, I'm afraid the outer sea is not very stable right now due to the constant disruption of the Mollusk Tribe. Recently, it has gotten to the point of robberies. I think that it is better for you to wait until the storm passes before going out."

Lu Baiqiu and Li Qiye didn't have a deep connection, but she still looked out for him because he was part of the human race.

"Mollusk Tribe?" Li Qiye replied: "I know of them, the Mollusk Tribe is not a warmongering tribe among the sea demons. Plus, they are also very territorial and normally wouldn't leave their ancestral ground, let alone come to the shore to plunder others."

"That is the strange part!" Lu Baiqiu let out a wry smile and said: "It is too strange. We originally planned to ambush them at the Corner of Mourning, but I don't know how they suddenly appeared right behind us. They even ambushed us instead."

"Inside the Corner of Mourning is our Thousand Islands' waters where a defensive perimeter has been set up. If they used a dao gate to teleport their warriors inside, then we would have found out right away. However, there were no signs of an ambush!" Lu Baiqiu continued on with a slightly bitter grimace: "I might have to report this to the capital since it is a bit odd!"

"Corner of Mourning?" Li Qiye squinted and then revealed a smile to say: "Where is the Mollusk Tribe right now?"

"After the ambush, they took the sea jewels from our farms and retreated. If Dao Brother Li doesn't have anything else to say, then I have to take my leave for now."

Li Qiye then answered with a smile: "I have a method for you to repel the Mollusk Tribe. But as for why they suddenly appeared inside the Corner of Mourning, you will understand when the time comes."

"You have a way?" Lu Baiqiu couldn't help but to take another look at Li Qiye. In her eyes, Li Qiye was very normal, but this did not mean that she looked down on him. He had to be an ordinary disciple of some sect that came out to pick medicine, so his cultivation must be limited.

However, this sudden revelation of a method to defeat the Mollusk Tribe left Lu Baiqiu with some hesitation.

"The reason why the Mollusk Tribe appeared inside the corner without any warning is very simple. Your corner has a certain pathway." Li Qiye explained.

"Pathway, what kind of pathway?" Lu Baiqiu expressed with some surprise.

Li Qiye continued on with a smile: "To the left of the corner, about one hundred meters down, is a trench with a lot of seagrass. If you pull the seagrass out, you will find a pathway underneath. Although it is only a hundred meters long, it can reach thousands of miles to other places in the ocean. If my hypothesis is correct, they must have come from this place. It is not difficult for you to defeat them if you set up an ambush right at this particular trench."

"A one hundred meter pathway capable of extending a thousand miles to sea?" After hearing this, Lu Baiqiu was quite skeptical. How could she not be privy to this when it was part of the Thousand Islands' territory?



“Just go and see for yourself!” Li Qiye noticed her skepticism and said with a smile.

She then looked at him again and couldn't help but ask: “How do you know about this pathway?”

“That is a secret.” Li Qiye simpered while speaking: “If you don't believe me, you can take people to check.”

How could he not know about this particular pathway? It was he who opened it in the past! He aimed to find another island undersea, so he opened many pathways in this region.

Later on, the search was unfruitful, so many pathways became destroyed and some were abandoned.

Lu Baiqiu remained wary as she looked at him. It was not because she didn't believe him, but rather, this matter was a bit too sudden. If it was anyone else, they would be wondering if he was a spy sent by the enemy right now.

“Very well, I will stay at your port for a few days. Come tell me once you find something.” How could Li Qiye not see through her, thus prompting his response.

“Since Brother Li puts it this way, we'll have to give it a try.” Lu Baiqiu nodded her head and said: “If Brother Li is willing to stay as a guest in our port, we will sincerely welcome you.” Having said that, she arranged for Li Qiye's accommodation.

She didn't make things difficult for Li Qiye and treated him like an esteemed guest.

And Li Qiye, on the other hand, didn't pay it any mind as he leisurely strolled around in the port. He was not in a hurry to go out to sea.

Three days later, Lu Baiqiu excitedly came back. The moment she saw Li Qiye, she couldn't help but to say with delight: “Brother Li is indeed magical and your prophecies are godlike. The Mollusk Tribe truly came from that pathway, so we had an ambush set up in the trench and completely defeated them in one blow. They might not be able to recover in a short period of time so they won't dare to come and plunder us again.”

This was within Li Qiye's expectations, so he simply smiled a bit and said: “Congratulations, Region Lord Lu. You have achieved a great merit for the Static Stream Country. Maybe you could even be promoted to a protector. With your future potential, maybe you could even take charge of the country in the future.”

“Brother Li is too kind!” Lu Baiqiu revealed a fresh and beautiful smile as she shook her head: “Talents are plentiful in our Static Stream Country, so it won't be my turn to take charge!”

The hegemony of the Static Stream Country was not passed down from father to son. Instead, it was for those who were capable. Even till now, the throne of the country was handed to the disciple with the most contributions and the best cultivation.

“Now that Region Lord Lu has driven away the enemy, I must be going!” Li Qiye told Lu Baiqiu with a smile.

His assistance was simply to return her hospitality in the past.

“Brother Li is going out to sea...” Lu Baiqiu pondered for a moment before asking: “We discovered a few things during this battle. Brother Li is a very well-informed person, so maybe you can go take a look and dispel our confusion?”

“A discovery?” Li Qiye was a bit surprised.

Lu Baiqiu quickly added: “We captured a group of experts from the Mollusk Tribe alive and found out that they have found some old ruins. They were stealing our sea jewels because of these ruins. I have checked it out once, but I didn’t understand its mysteries.”

“Old ruins?” Li Qiye stroked his chin and cheerfully continued: “If this is the case, then I don’t mind going to check it out.”

Lu Baiqiu’s mind suddenly rang with excitement and immediately dealt with some administrative duties before leaving with Li Qiye to the sea.

She controlled a flying ship in the sky, heading for the ocean. In fact, these ruins found by the Mollusk Tribe were not far away from the Thousand Islands; they were only about one thousand miles apart.

With the flying ship, it was not long before they arrived.

The ruins were under the sea and inside a marina trench that had an architectural style that resembled an ancient temple.

This ancient temple had been under this sea for who knew how many generations; it remained eternal in this place.

It was once covered with a countless amount of seagrass, but now, it had been cleaned up.

“This place!” Li Qiye couldn’t help but stroke his chin after seeing this ancient temple because he had been to this place a long time ago.