

Emperor 2901

[Chapter 2901: Death Of The Emperors](#)

“Boom!” Space crumbled before the all-out blows from three emperors.

Though they have expended the majority of their vitality on top of being grievously wounded, they were still emperors with incredible power not to be trifled with.

The world changed from their attack - the sky turned pale, the winds and clouds dissipated, the sun and moon lost their brilliance. All spectators trembled as a result.

Everyone knew that they would lose for sure. Nevertheless, these attacks from them were still enough to crush any student present.

“As you wish.” Li Qiye chuckled and raised his hand.

This slight movement of his made the area quake. It felt as if this dimension couldn’t withstand his power.

“Boom!” Grand dao hovered around his arm - his own supreme one. It made his arm look like a heavenly pillar with enough might to shoulder the entire world.

“Break!” Li Qiye roared and punched forward with a force resembling a rainbow traveling through the domains, capable to pierce anything.

The world turned dark since the punch reverted everything back to the origin including the grand dao. Only a fuzzy expanse was left behind.

The spectators viewed it as a supreme grand dao residing above, not just a punch breaking through space. This dao was suppressive and prime to annihilate.

They felt a painful thunk on their chest as if they were the targets.

“Boom!” It crushed everything like dried branches. Defensive measures and other affinities failed to stop it.

“Crack!” The emperors’ weapons, treasures, and armors instantly disintegrated.

“Poof!” The three didn’t even have the chance to scream before being rendered into bloody mists by this absolute force.

A while later, the primordial chaos created by the frightening punch dissipated. The bloody mists also scattered to the gentle wind.

These breezes were rather refreshing, akin to the coming of autumn. The spectators that have regained their wits pulled down their collars.

Serenity returned to the area as if nothing had happened. The terrible realization of the emperors’ death slowly set in. People started having cold sweat; some sat butt-first on the ground.

“That was enough energy to devour everything...” One student murmured. Having said that, he bowed his head towards the battlefield where the emperors were last seen.

The others felt the same way and started showing their respect. The emperors knew that they would die for sure but instead of begging for mercy, they chose to defend their dignity and pride with death.

It didn't matter whether the emperors were good or bad. This final action of theirs showed that they were exceptional and had qualities not seen in others.

"Dying to my grand dao is not shameful at all." Li Qiye smiled and pulled his hand back.

The crowd felt suffocated while looking at Li Qiye hovering in the sky. Killing three emperors didn't move him in the slightest, no different from killing three random people.

"Do you think only progenitors can take him on?" One spectator said.

"Maybe only Orchid Sage and Luminous Master can right now." Another student stared at Li Qiye in a daze, completely intimidated.

"Not maybe, it's definitely the truth." One more took a deep breath and said.

Meanwhile, Li Qiye landed in the valley of the crystal crab.

Everyone else started leaving while having different emotions rampaging in their mind. Too many shocking things happened in such a short time, especially the death of three emperors.

The name, Li Qiye, would definitely frighten people now.

"Something big will happen soon." One paled student commented.

"Orchid Sage might seek to avenge his fallen disciple, that battle will be apocalyptic." His friend speculated.

"Nothing will be the same afterward." The group shuddered after hearing this.

Zhou Qiushi and his peers felt extreme reverence after meeting Li Qiye again.

Just think about it, Goldtypha and the others were invincible and unreachable in their eyes. Now, Li Qiye alone easily killed them all.

They shuddered after thinking about how they previously viewed him as a friend or even a little brother a while back.

They didn't know what to do and could only lament their lack of insight for treating this supreme existence as an equal. Some even tried to look after him. Thus, the sudden change left them awkward.

Fortunately, Li Qiye didn't mind it at all. Another imperious being would have killed them all long ago.

Their eyes had nothing but respect now while staring at Li Qiye, no longer daring to view him as another student like before.

The black bull was calm, unlike the students. Killing three emperors wasn't a big deal at all for someone of Li Qiye's level.

"Sir, you are truly unbeatable." The crystal crab praised, emotional after witnessing Li Qiye's power.

The awkward students were saved because the missing Du Wenrui returned just in time.

“We need to leave right now, the ancient courtyard is closing.” He told them.

“Sigh, peace again, I will have to slumber once more.” The crab complained. Nevertheless, it had no intention of leaving this place. It was safe and cozy here with no bothersome intruders.

“The play is over, it’s a shame that no progenitors joined the fun.” The black bull gloated on others’ misery and wanted to see even more chaos.

“You guys go back, it’s time to go our separate ways.” Li Qiye smiled.

“You’re leaving, Student Li?” Du Wenrui asked. This was within his expectations.

He knew that Li Qiye was only a passerby at Repentance Institution and would eventually move on.

“There’s nothing else to do here at Academy of Light.” Li Qiye said.

“Haha, I know other fun areas here with a lot of treasures.” The bull hurriedly said.

[Chapter 2902: Another Goodbye](#)

Li Qiye ignored the bull and took out the Sword of Repentance then handed it to Du Wenrui: “Take it back, this is still your institution’s defining treasure.”

“You should give it to me instead.” The greedy bull’s eyes lit up and reached for it.

“Boom!” The moment it touched the sword, it got blown away with all four hooves pointing upward.

The sword didn’t accept it, perhaps it hated this creature resulting in an instant attack.

“Bah! Just a broken sword, nothing’s special about you. You used to be impressive when Desolate Saint was around but he’s dead now, we’ll see how long you stay cool for. Come, get out of your sheathe and I’ll teach you a good lesson by stomping you into pieces! No, I’ll refine you into molten metal too then pour the rest down the abyss so that you will never see the sun again!” The bull jumped up and angrily shouted.

“Why bother arguing so much with a broken sword?” Li Qiye gave it the side-eye.

“Right...” The bull found this logical and stood up straight to look down at the sword: “Yeah, I won’t stoop down to its level, it can’t get into my sight at all. Go ahead and stay at a crappy place like Repentance, no one wants you anyway.”

“Clank!” The sword hummed back in an imperious manner, seemingly looking down on the bull too.

These two must have had a prior feud unknown to outsiders.

Li Qiye chuckled and told Wenrui: “Leave it to a fateful one in the future.”

“...” Wenrui hesitated for a moment: “Student Li, since the sword has accepted you as a master, it is yours now.”

He could tell that the sword was very happy to follow Li Qiye if he were to bring it along.

"I was only testing. It is a good sword though and a gentleman doesn't take someone else's treasure. A gentleman I'm not but I still won't take your academy's treasure." Li Qiye smiled.

"Then I'll have to shamelessly accept it, thank you." Wenrui pondered for a bit before bowing and accepting the sword.

"Clank!" The sword quietly hummed this time, expressing its unwillingness.

"Go now, this world will be changing soon. Academy of Light is your real home and you will meet a suitable master eventually." Li Qiye stroked it and said.

The sword calmed down after hearing this, allowing Wenrui to put it away. He bowed towards Li Qiye once more.

This sword was the defining treasure of their academy and extremely precious. Of course, Wenrui had no problem with Li Qiye taking it away.

This didn't mean that he didn't appreciate Li Qiye's generosity by giving it back. This was a kindness similar to Desolate Saint leaving it there.

This sword was powerful but not to the level of absolute necessity. Li Qiye had several similar weapons, some even more powerful.

He only took it along out of sheer curiosity and boredom, not to take it away from Repentance.

"Students, let's thank Young Noble Li for taking care of us on this trip." Wenrui told the students.

They bowed respectfully towards him with utmost sincerity. Li Qiye had indeed taken care of them along the way and gave them many fortunes.

"I pray for your success in the future, Student Li." Wenrui became slightly emotional and told Li Qiye.

"Yes, and I'm sure the light will shine on Repentance one day too." Li Qiye chuckled.

Wenrui then took the students away. They waved nonstop at him until they disappeared past the valley entrance.

"Hehe, Sir, where are we going now?" The bull was ready for more fun: "Should we go on a rampage and defeat everyone?"

"No, we'll head deeper inside for a look." Li Qiye glanced at the far reach of Sacred Mountain.

"Shit, really going to that place?" The bull was slightly afraid: "The truth is the area past Beast Garden is not under the jurisdiction of Sacred Mountain. I believe it is a prison, a terrible place for all intruders. The praises about the light and conversion are all lies, it will put shackles on people to strengthen the dao foundation."

"I thought you were fearless." Li Qiye said.

"He...hehe... I just don't know that much about that place, you know? It's not that comfortable there either." The bull had an awkward smile.

"I know you're afraid of that tree demon." Li Qiye casually revealed.

“Nonsense!” The bull jumped up and put on a haughty posture: “How can I be afraid of that old geezer? Hmph! I simply respect elders enough to go easy on him. In a real contest...”

“Yes, you will win if the contest is about boasting.” Li Qiye chuckled.

“Sir, it’s really not like that. The truth is that... we only have a minor misunderstanding between us.” The bull said.

“Minor understanding? I’m sure you’ve done something despicable.” Li Qiye looked at the bull with contempt.

“Hehe... it’s nothing, I only ate a few leaves of his.” The bull seemed to be bragging.

Judging by its past, it must have done more than just eating a few leaves.

“Hmph! He’s just too stingy, you know? What’s the point of getting angry at a neighbor over nothing?” The bull’s expression quickly shifted to one of annoyance. It must have suffered quite a bit to be looking like this.

“What’s in there?” Li Qiye ignored its rambling and got to the point.

“I don’t know since I’ve never really cared.” The bull shrugged: “To put it simply, I avoid having anything to do with Desolate Saint and what he’s trying to do. Hehe, I only want Sacred Mountain. But, the old demon should know. I believe that he will go all out very soon, he has been waiting for a long time now.”

“Let’s go so I can end this trip.” Li Qiye concluded.

“Then I won’t be accompanying you, Sir, I just remembered that I got other stuff to do, see ya later.” The bull ran out of the valley before finishing the sentence.

“Oh right, if Desolate Saint left some crappy stuff in there, please stomp on them for me, that hypocrite definitely didn’t leave anything good.” The bull blabbered on after being so far away.

Li Qiye started leaving too with the crab and the two birds sending him off. The latter didn’t want him to leave since he had saved them twice.

“Can’t follow me forever, we’re about to leave the ancient courtyard now, go back.” Li Qiye eventually told them.

The three bowed towards him and returned to the valley.

“Creak-” A while after he left the courtyard, it started to close. The seniors told the students to leave.

The place closed entirely and disappeared from sight after all the students have left.

[Chapter 2903: Vast Plain](#)

Li Qiye didn’t leave Sacred Mountain after leaving the ancient courtyard. He directly cut through Beast Garden to reach an area not under the jurisdiction of Sacred Mountain.

Nevertheless, it still belonged to the Academy of Light. This was a route less traveled due to the danger within.

During the opening of Sacred Mountain, the academy had warned all students to not risk passing through Beast Garden. Of course, they wouldn't stop the suicidal ones from trying either.

Ordinary students heeded this warning. Plus, they have never heard of anyone coming back alive after going there.

The strong ones didn't want to take the risk either. The light power there was too strong and made it virtually impossible to leave after entering.

As time went on, one would stop thinking about leaving too. It culminated with death and truly returning to the system.

Of course, this was a nice way of putting it. To be frank, it was a brainwashing process. At the last stage, those affected would be willing to offer themselves to be part of the system.

As the black bull put it, dying there was akin to strengthening the dao foundation of the academy, adding another support brick. Or, to put it inelegantly, they would become fertilizer for the dao source.

A vast plain came after Sacred Garden. The weak wouldn't notice anything special here. However, after a certain power level, some would see that this entire plain felt like an illusion. The grass swaying to the wind and the mountains scattered about were fake.

With a supreme gazing technique or enough power, they would see that they were standing on a planet of light.

Light emanated from the bottom and has manifested into reality. They turned into the various entities seen here.

There might be an unbelievably powerful heart of light at the bottom of this place. Its beats derived everything here.

Walking on this plain meant walking on the surface of this light planet. This was the reason why the bull said it didn't belong to Sacred Mountain. They were indeed two separate worlds.

However, if one couldn't see this reality, they would just think that they were walking on a peaceful plain. The breezes were so pleasant and comforting as well.

Something out of place was the presence of bodies. However, there was no fear or astonishment.

Some kneeled on the grass; others meditated in the caves or below the cliffs...

They died in a very peaceful manner and faced the same direction. It seemed that they died during their happiest moment and left the world without any regrets.

Who knows how long ago they have passed away? Perhaps millions of years. Nevertheless, these corpses didn't decompose. Their clothes and flesh remained intact. In fact, not even a speck of dust got on them.

Maybe that they carefully washed and prepared for death in a ceremonial fashion before departing this world. That's why they looked like statues right now instead of corpses.

Upon closer inspection, those strong enough would find that these corpses have turned to light. Their clothes and flesh were made of light particles.

“The extremes of both light and darkness are evil, only an art to entice others and turn them into followers. They only serve to push one’s own goal.” Li Qiye sighed and shook his head.

He clearly saw through the mysteries and profundities of this place. It was the same as Buddhist Funeral Plateau in essence; only the forms are different.

They weren’t that different from the darkness since their final goal was to strengthen themselves.

The biggest difference was that the light and Buddhism, at least in the beginning, represented mercy and compassion. Who knows if this goodness served to make the mastermind feel better or for the sake of everyone else?

On the contrary, the darkness was filled with cruelty and greed resulting in blood and murder.

“Ultimately, the two affinities are pathways for one’s ambition. They won’t save the self or everyone else. It doesn’t matter if his title is Desolate Saint or Samsara Wild Ancestor, he is still fundamentally the same.” Li Qiye murmured. [Ref] Finally, confirmation about this. Looks like there was an error with my raw then which created a lot of confusion[/ref]

The long trek on this plain didn’t move Li Qiye at all. The illumination of the light was ephemeral compared to his dao heart.

A peak eventually appeared before him, not that majestic and grand in appearance. Strangely enough, its very presence diminished the qualities of everything nearby.

The great mountains and lofty rivers around this place didn’t matter at all. This peak was the real master of this world.

It could look down on the ages despite its humble height. It seemingly experienced millions of years of torments while being strengthened by immortals.

This was the toughest peak of them all. The sky could fall down and it would still pierce through the firmaments. The strongest merit laws and sharpest treasures couldn’t leave a single dent.

A True Emperor couldn’t stand straight before this peak and would need to droop down.

“Incredible.” Li Qiye praised, able to tell that this was a peerless dao foundation.

In front of this mountain was an old tree. Time has left its mark on the barks. Unfortunately, this land seemed to be infertile so it didn’t grow much at all through the years.

It looked normal enough but a powerful emperor with their heavenly gaze would notice that it was a supreme bodhi tree, freed from the limitation of time.

Each leaf and branch emitted the holiest light. This particular light had similarities and differences compared to the light of the system.

The light of the system was actually full of enticement, wanting to convert others. The light from this tree seemed so calm and benevolent, capable of embracing everything.

It didn't matter if one was a worshipper of the light or not, it would still embrace them. This tender embrace didn't discriminate at all against betrayers or those wanting to leave.

Two words would pop up in one's mind after seeing this light - compassion and forgiveness.

Only the real masters could see through this bodhi tree's nature. An ordinary cultivator or mortal would only see an old tree.

"Click! Click! Click!" One could hear chiseling sounds disturbing the serenity of this place. A careful listener would notice its special rhythm and order.

[Chapter 2904: Old Man](#)

The repeated knocking was actually very pleasant and calming. It became a natural sound to decorate this serene place, making it less boring and dry and instilling a sliver of life into it.

The sound came from an old man on top of the cliff. He wore a cheap robe with wrinkles covering his face. Time has left its mark on his appearance but not his determination.

His eyes were bright and spirited, not muddled like an old man at all. They were profound and visionary after having seen the ups and downs of the world.

Seeing his eyes would give the impression that they could encompass everything.

His hands were filled with calluses and wrinkles. Alas, their grip on the hammer and chisel seemed so firm and strong. Nothing could stop him from grinding it down.

He slowly knocked on the peak and despite the slow speed, he was still making clear progress with words.

"Click, click, click." The rhythmic sound seemed to be eternal as it echoed across the plain.

Remember, this peak was unimaginably hard, capable of piercing a falling sky. No weapons could leave a single mark on it.

However, the old man was successfully chipping off pieces from the top with his chisel. He was carving ancient and inscrutable runes. From their markings, one could see that the earlier ones have been done very long ago.

This meant that each rune on this cliff required a thousand years or even ten thousand years to finish.

Just think about the time it took for each rune. To have so many would require an entire epoch. This didn't seem to be a problem with this old man, or at least time wasn't.

He probably didn't feel time passing by while carving. The only thing changing to him was the formation of the runes, not the vicissitudes of time.

He didn't care about any changes in the outside world either, devoting his entire physical and mental focus on his hammer and chisel.

Once again, the weak would only be able to see an old man carving on this peak.

This wasn't the case for someone like Li Qiye or emperors at the right level with their heavenly gaze. They would be able to see that the carving process and the runes weren't that simple.

Furthermore, only progenitors and up would be able to see through the fundamental mysteries. The profound runes here were part of a supreme scripture with a merit law of the light affinity.

This merit law was superior to all of the arts in Academy of Light. Each rune was carefully chosen and upon closer inspection, the runes themselves encompassed various scriptures.

In other words, numerous scriptures existed here. They have been polished and perfected throughout the years. Moreover, they weren't just carved on this particular peak.

A master could see the dao source of the system right now when looking down. They would notice that these runes were actually carved on this system's dao source, meaning that this old man was adding his various scriptures to it.

Remember, a system's dao source was refined by the progenitor's own arts. It shouldered their supreme grand dao.

Thus, this carving process meant that his runes were erasing and replacing Desolate Saint's runes in this dao source.

As time went on, Academy of Light would change and one day, the old man would finish carving his supreme dao into this dao source. The system would become his as a result.

This has been ongoing for millions of years yet the inhabitants of the system knew nothing about it.

This was quite illogical. A powerful master, especially progenitors, wouldn't find it particularly difficult to destroy a system. Plus, they could create their own systems after reaching this realm.

However, changing the ownership of an established system was an arduous task if not impossible.

It required an incalculable length of time and enough power to change the merit laws. No one would want to do something like this even if they were capable of doing so.

Masters of this level had other things to do - things of greater importance. There was no need to waste their time and effort on this nonsensical task.

The old man reached a state of zen and total focus while carving. Nothing else existed in his mind.

Li Qiye leaned on a tree nearby and watched the whole thing, not seeming to be in a hurry.

He forgot about time itself while the old man continued on with his task.

After a while, the latter finally took a break for a drink beneath the same tree.

"The runes are beautiful." Li Qiye casually sparked up a conversation.

"Indeed." The old man seemed to be appreciating his own work and recognizing their perfection as a smile appeared on his wrinkly face.

"If I have the chance against an enemy, I would definitely destroy him and turn all of his legacies to ashes." Li Qiye said.

“This is a bet.” The man took a sip of water: “If I win, his light dao is the incorrect path while mine is the orthodox path.”

“But his path is more direct and effective with faster cultivation speed.” Li Qiye said: “Your light dao is slower and requires more cultivation. The start is like an old ox pulling a carriage, as slow as can be.”

“Don’t try to run before you can walk since that can only result in turning towards the wrong path.” The old man didn’t mind the criticism since he had full confidence in his dao.

[Chapter 2905: The Right Dao](#)

“Taking the wrong path yet is the most loved by all. The common men, none of them would be willing to carve this rock. They believe they are smart and that the lofty grand dao is what they should seek, wasting time on this rock is foolish.” Li Qiye chuckled.

“That’s why only a selected few can last despite the abundance of geniuses.” The old man smiled.

“Only an immovable heart can become eternal.” Li Qiye smiled: “It has nothing to do with light and darkness, the orthodox or wrong paths.”

“If one’s dao foundation isn’t true, then how can they have an immovable heart?” The old man sincerely replied.

Li Qiye nodded in agreement: “Sounds correct, people only gaze at the horizon and forget what’s beneath their feet. Can’t even take half a step forward while still thinking about the destination.”

The old man nodded and said: “Why are you here, Fellow Daoist?”

“Only to take a look at what Desolate Saint left behind but after seeing you here, I guess it doesn’t matter anymore.” Li Qiye smiled.

“Might as well take a look since you’re here already to have peace of mind.” The old man was amicable like a kind senior.

“True, let’s go take a look then to see what the saint was like back then.” Li Qiye said.

“He came from the darkness so even though there is a spark of light in his heart, he is still darkness all the same and will return there.” The old man said: “That’s why I told him that he can’t represent the light. Unfortunately, my dao was shallow back then and couldn’t beat him.”

“Light and darkness can be created with a single thought of his.” Li Qiye shook his head: “He’s not like you who is devoted to the light and will end with the light.”

“I see.” The old man agreed: “I also told him that his search for the light is an attempt at self-consolation. Greed still loomed deep in his heart and the light was nothing more than just another technique to him. He couldn’t escape the shackles of greed.”

“To be exact, he couldn’t escape the shackles of fear.” Li Qiye elaborated: “He still remembered the fear during the moment of destruction and the defeat suffered. Thus, he wanted nothing more than to survive or have a move strong enough to fight back. That’s why he continued wanting to grow stronger. Eventually, after reaching a certain power level, greed overwhelmed him and influenced his plan. He

stopped caring and wouldn't mind burying his own world and epoch to prepare the right strategy. Finally, when he wanted to return to the light and find his own time once more, he realized that he was only trying to make himself feel better while apologizing to the lost souls and those disappointed in him." Li Qiye sighed after finishing.

"The only thing I seek is my own dao." The old man pondered before replying.

"Simplicity is good." Li Qiye smiled.

"And you? Are you trying to comfort the lost souls too?" The old man asked.

"No, I don't need that for myself or for anyone else." Li Qiye had a firm gaze: "From beginning to end, I have nothing to do with the light and darkness. I walk forward without caring about the prosperity of the world. It doesn't need me to shoulder or to bury it. Same with the living beings. They shouldn't place their hope in me."

"Right, a savior doesn't exist." The old man said.

"Exactly! There is no savior in this world. If there seems to be one, then that person is actually a devil in disguise, more often than not. That's why I will only be me." Li Qiye chuckled.

"Well, your path won't be easy then. There is still a long way to go." The old man sighed: "This is all I've accomplished after so many years, only a dao comparable to a progenitor. If you can go further and escape the bounds of the myriad worlds, I won't reach the level where I can actually witness your accomplishments."

"Maybe that's a good thing." Li Qiye said: "If I succeed, then everything will change. If I fail, nothing will be left. People might not be ready to accept this and rather maintain the status quo."

"A capsized nest won't have an unbroken egg." The old man said: "My dao is limited so I can't see the full picture. However, Desolate Saint told me that it is inevitable. Not a single world will be able to escape. It's only a matter of time."

"Insects only live in the present. One summer and one fall and that is it for them. Thus, they don't give a damn if a world-ending tsunami happens right after their death." Li Qiye said: "Same with people. A million years later is so long after, they only live in the present while wanting to grow stronger."

"True, regular people can't understand the aspirations of a saint." The old man commented.

"It's a good thing that I'm not a saint since that loneliness is unbearable." Li Qiye said.

"Is that so? Only the future will tell if you're a saint or not. Or on the contrary, you may suffer eternal infamy." The old man smiled.

"It won't be the first time." Li Qiye answered: "From the ancient past, plenty of people have cursed me for being evil as a dark hand behind the curtain. If one wants to have a good reputation, then don't do anything. If one wants to be loved by all, then copy Desolate Saint."

"But you don't wish to be either type." The old man smiled.

"I'll just be me, who cares what the world thinks? That has nothing to do with me." Li Qiye chuckled.

“That has nothing to do with me. Hmm, I didn’t have this mindset when I was younger, always worrying about gains and losses. Now, I realize that all of that was completely insignificant. How ridiculous.”

“Just be yourself, let them say whatever they want.” This was Li Qiye’s style.

“Unfortunately, I realized too late. If I was only one step faster, Desolate Saint might not have existed.” The old man nodded.

“No, it is not too late. One day, your light will shine in this world. No Desolate Saint in the future, but you will be there.” Li Qiye remarked.

“I hope so.” The old man gazed at the horizon.

“The black bull said that you have a particular idea...” Li Qiye looked at him.

“That little one is too shameless and stubborn.” The old man laughed and shook his head: “It embodied all the fortunes possible, good background and incredible bloodline. Boundless potential... It could have become an incredible sage.”

“That’s not who it is.” Li Qiye said: “It wouldn’t be able to sit still on a supreme throne and rather just run around in the wilds. Freedom is its aspiration, to be unshackled and not care about its reputation or anything else.”

“It needs sharpening and a few chains or it’ll flip the world over.” The old man said.

“That’s why you didn’t kill that nightking phoenix - an attempt at keeping the bull down a notch.” Li Qiye smiled.

“That little one would dare to do anything. It came asking me before but couldn’t hold back from eating, so I sent him flying.” The old man revealed.

Li Qiye could easily imagine what had happened. It wasn’t as simple as the bull put it, just sneaking in a few leaves.

It must have done something really bad to warrant the old man taking action. No wonder why it was afraid and didn’t dare to come here, clearly having a guilty conscience.

“Leave it up to fate, I’m sure something good will happen to it eventually.” Li Qiye said.

The old man chuckled in response. He didn’t look like a petty person. Otherwise, he wouldn’t have let the bull play around in Sacred Mountain and only taught it a little lesson.

“Alright, let’s go take a look now so you can understand, Fellow Daoist.” The man said.

“Okay.” Li Qiye nodded and got up. He looked forward and took the first step.

The old man continued sitting beneath the tree, seemingly asleep.

“Are you prepared for what’s coming?” Li Qiye stopped after a few steps and asked.

“Those stronger than me in the past still couldn’t escape so I can only do my best. The future is up to you.” The old man lamented.

[Chapter 2906: Ocean Of Light](#)

The next location consisted of a seemingly bottomless abyss. No one could climb out after falling inside.

This didn't stop Li Qiye from jumping down there and turning into a freefalling meteor. This descent had unbelievable speed.

After an unknown period of time, he finally landed on both feet and reached his destination.

This place was the nethermost area of Sacred Mountain and the system. Even powerful emperors couldn't necessarily reach this place.

A pulsing light greeted him near the entrance. After entering, he saw a boundless ocean ahead.

It hid deep beneath Sacred Mountain. There was no way for one to reach the other side.

The most shocking thing was that this ocean contained all the light of the entire system. It was the dao source of Academy of Light.

No one would believe this at first sight due to the sheer ridiculousness of the whole thing. A dao source of a system could grow to this size?

In reality, this wasn't only the light power left behind by Desolate Saint. It consisted of millions of years of accumulation from the sages, experts, and all living beings in the system.

Normally, most systems would start to decline after years of prosperity. The power of the dao source would also wither as a result.

This was not the case for the academy. For the inhabitants, it didn't matter if they had cultivated a light merit law or not as long as they believed in the light.

The stronger their faith, the more light power would be within them. After death, this light force would return to the earth. Those who were completely converted would send this power to the dao source without wasting any.

This was the reason why those who died in Sacred Mountain looked so peaceful. They were fully converted and thought that they were one with the light and would live on with the system. Thus, death wasn't that scary.

This served as the scariest part of the academy. Its inhabitants toiled for a lifetime and after death, their everything would become the light and join the dao source.

In other words, the dao source would take everything from them - their vitality, energy, and all of their fortunes.

It was no wonder why the bull mocked the saint as a hypocrite, thinking that he was nothing but a dark existence. Most would share this thought after finding the truth about its dao source.

Of course, one couldn't refute the saint's amazing abilities for doing something like this. It's just that those on a similar level would look down on his choice.

Just imagine how many lives have lived in the system through the ages. They worshipped the light and continuously strengthened the dao source after death.

This number was simply incalculable. This eventually culminated in the great ocean of light before Li Qiye. He smiled and started flying over it.

Most would never be able to reach the other side despite trying for a lifetime. Moreover, this ocean wasn't calm either.

It had tidal waves and dangerous gales in all places; some reaching far enough above to knock down the stars. These light storms were truly frightening.

Nevertheless, the size and dangers of this ocean didn't deter Li Qiye in the slightest. He crossed through them without any difficulty and was very close to the source.

"Badump, badump, badump..." He could hear a sonorous noise similar to a powerful heartbeat from a distance.

He found that it was the source of this ocean - the heart of light! It has been beating the entire time, only heard by those managing to get this far.

This heart made of peerless light was different from a regular one. All the light affinities in the entire world gathered in this place.

Each beat absorbed and released light forces. Each release resulted in a purer version of the light, meaning that any light force getting in the heart would be refined to perfection by the heart.

Strangely enough, the heart seemed to have a strand of darkness rotating around it just like a dark halo.

This was astounding because this dao source could be said to be the gathering of the strongest light power in the entire world.

A strand of darkness should be insignificant in comparison. Just one wave from this ocean should be able to incinerate it.

However, the light didn't have any intention of burning the darkness away. The intertwining rotation of the heart and darkness looked like a dance between two lovers, never wanting to separate.

How could these two eternal enemies stay so close? When one side was strong enough, it would definitely take down the other and in this case, the light was far superior. Nevertheless, the darkness still hovered around like a moth drawn to the flame.

"What a sight to behold." Li Qiye became slightly emotional after seeing this bizarre scene.

He opened his eyes and his gaze crossed through the ages in order to look at the past of this heart.

The heart of light also felt his terrible gaze and shrank slightly. However, its beats still continued with the same rhythm. It still looked as holy as ever with no hidden intention.

Of course, his gaze was pervasive and all-seeing, able to see the true essences of the heart.

He found that it was indeed a heart of light and truths and nodded approvingly.

"I see, regardless of your methods, you still left behind your conscience and knowledge of the light after returning to the darkness. Maybe you were trying to make your darkness even more perfect by removing all traces of light. Or... is this an attempt at leaving a substantial legacy for future descendants, a mark of your existence after falling completely?" Li Qiye shook his head, pondering.

[Chapter 2907: Desolate Saint's Legacy](#)

This particular action was quite pure regardless of Desolate Saint's actual intent. No other schemes and plans were present. The heart seemed to be left behind as an inheritance for the system.

Maybe the old carver was right - that Desolate Saint chose the wrong path. One thing was for certain - he meant well when he left this heart behind, not for personal gains or to be used as a backup plan.

This wasn't the case for the palace up in the stars. Desolate Saint indeed left behind several hidden plans there.

As for this extremely powerful dao source, he didn't leave anything behind to siphon this accumulated power for himself.

"Are men fundamentally good? Maybe, maybe not, but he was indeed good once." Li Qiye said: "Everyone might have tried to be a good person once but eventually chose the other path. This is what he left behind before embarking on this path."

Of course, it was difficult using conventional morality to judge someone like Desolate Saint. At the very least, he tried his best to be as good as can be before giving up.

Finally, Li Qiye turned his focus on the strand of darkness. Those who have seen it before would recognize this power right away.

It was the affinity that escaped from Repentance Institution, once suppressed by the statue and sword of Desolate Saint. Li Qiye freed it the moment he took out the sword.

This power was filled with dark affinity among many other things. Only the strong could spot this.

He fixated and grabbed the strand. It had no chance of escaping from his grip despite being so mighty and stopped rotating. His eyes narrowed as he carefully gazed at the things contained within.

He found that this wasn't a power of darkness. To be exact, it consisted of negative sentiments and records of darkness, plenty of sadness and separations too...

These negative memories eventually turned into the current dark form.

This could serve as an argument for men being fundamentally good, at least during the start.

This person tried to protect their loved ones and friends along with his world. However, fear of the unknown, dread of death, trepidation regarding destruction...

These various fears in combination with greed started eating away at his heart.

At the start, he wanted to grow stronger in order to protect the things he cared for. He strived and struggled, ultimately growing stronger. Alas, with power came more desires - reputation, authority, and more power...

At the apex, he found that everything else seemed insignificant. Others were nothing more than ants. He realized that the work he had put in was meaningless. Everything would turn to ashes anyway due to the inevitable calamity.

All of his hard work seemed useless now. He needed something stronger to cope with reality. Thus, his dao heart began to change. His previous noble obsession became twisted.

Facing the inevitable calamity and the unknowns changed his goal from protecting to growing stronger.

He wanted to survive. This was the only way to defeat the calamity and the unknowns. After reaching this step, he found that nothing else mattered but eternal life.

By then, greed successfully pulled him into the darkness. The only thing on his mind was to survive the calamity and gain immortality.

The once noble protector began destroying his own world because he needed more power to fulfill his desires. He initiated steps to rob his beloved world of the various affinities.

This was the origin of his darkness. It didn't stem from an external source, just from the greed deep in his heart.

It contained his undesirable past - faces of those who became disappointed in him, those who hated him, and the desperate grimace of his victims. He once wanted to protect them but the real destroyer was him.

It was impossible to forget these deep-rooted memories carved into every fiber of his being. The only thing he could do was bury them deep in his heart.

Thus, this darkness wasn't banished and destroyed by the light for it was a symbol of his guilt and conscience.

"If you have chosen to abandon it, then let it disappear." Li Qiye shook his head, knowing why he didn't want to destroy it. He didn't want to remember these faces but couldn't bear to forget them either.

"Buzz..." He began burning this darkness with his dao flame.

"Pop!" The burning process went on for a while before a very familiar face appeared in the flame - Desolate Saint.

"You wish to erase my legacy?" His voice echoed.

"No, you still have another one - the light." Li Qiye smiled: "You tried to erase it as well but you couldn't. Forgetting these faces would mean a true death to your heroic self in the past."

Desolate Saint didn't reply.

"You made your choice the moment you left them at Repentance Institution. However, you didn't do it thoroughly enough, let me help you erase them completely." Li Qiye said.

"Fine, they're ephemeral anyway since nothing can escape." The saint sighed.

"As long as my heart stays the same, I am eternal." Li Qiye smiled.

"I had such thoughts once but unfortunately, you will find one day that this is just not true. Only immortality is eternal." The saint chuckled.

"And that's precisely you're you. Your highest level will only be this Desolate Saint while I will be me, Li Qiye." Li Qiye answered.

"I hope so." The saint sighed once more.

"Buzz." The flame finally finished burning this dark power and Desolate Saint's ethereal face turned into smoke.

Li Qiye turned towards the heart of light and said: "Success because of the light but also failure. Light and darkness, both are the same, interchangeable from a single thought with a wavering dao heart."

He then left the dao source. This was the end of his journey here after seeing the heart of light and the memories of darkness. Nothing else at the academy warranted his attention.

He climbed up the abyss and returned to the plain. He saw the tiny peak in the distance.

"Click, click, click." The old man continued the arduous chiseling process, inch by inch.

This would go on even after the seas run dry and the stones go soft. It was the eternal melody of this world.

[Chapter 2908: Seeing Three-eyed Prodigy Again](#)

Someone was staring at the old chiseler with a serious expression while Li Qiye was leaving.

It was Three-eyed Prodigy. He didn't even dare to breathe at this moment.

His golden eye could see things unclear to others. Other half-steps didn't have the same vision. Because of this, he realized just how mighty the old man was.

Prior to this, he has seen powerful characters like Luminous Master and Orchid Sage. However, these two couldn't compare to this old man.

This was someone truly standing at the apex. Why was he here, just chiseling away?

The prodigy has always been arrogant as the current youngest half-step. He was indeed a great genius even from a historical perspective.

Now, he trod carefully and didn't want to bother the old man. A half-step like him wasn't worth mentioning because that old man could turn him to dust in no time at all.

His golden eye shifted around, able to see through a few things from the chiseling process. This shook him to the core. How many other people could do something so heaven-defying right now?

"It's not good to spy." A voice suddenly broke his concentration like an unwelcome thunder blast.

He became startled and instinctively jumped back to keep a distance. This strong reaction was warranted because this place was prohibitively difficult to reach.

He had numerous treasures allowing him to infiltrate this place, albeit with extreme caution.

He didn't see a single person, not even a ghost during this trip in this vast land.

Thus, someone being next to him naturally made him jump from fear. Moreover, he was powerful too and should have been able to detect anyone getting close.

This guy got next to him despite him being on guard, meaning that he was so close to death while being unaware.

He put on a defensive stance and summoned a treasure while looking towards the direction of the voice.

He saw a man standing leisurely where he used to be - Li Qiye.

Seeing Li Qiye for a second time gave him chills all over the place. He staggered backward in shock: "You again!"

This was the person who he didn't want to see again the most. Why?

He has seen plenty of masters including the current two progenitors. However, he could still gauge them and know of their abilities.

The next step up was the old chiseler. He believed this old man far surpassed the two progenitors.

Yet, he could still have a general idea of this old man's power. It was still within the realm of speculation.

This wasn't the case for Li Qiye who truly frightened him. His golden eye was capable of dispelling all illusions and seeing the truths.

Li Qiye remained unfathomable even though he used his eye to its utmost. The guy seemed to be a limitless entity. The world was small compared to him, unable to contain his true might.

The previous meeting was his first time seeing someone beyond his understanding. That's why he ran for his life after coming up with an excuse, no longer able to put up the usual haughty act.

Reputation and dignity didn't matter at all. He believed that opposing Li Qiye would result in certain death.

After escaping, he swore to himself to stay as far away from Li Qiye as possible, never appearing in the same place.

Unfortunately, he didn't expect to meet Li Qiye here. Thinking about how close they were together just now left him with cold sweat.

It would only take the blink of an eye if the guy wanted to kill him just now.

"Hey now, I'm not a ghost and I won't eat you either, no need to be so afraid." Li Qiye glanced at the youth.

"No, of course not, Senior is the grea-greatest in history..." The youth let out a forced smile while feeling extremely embarrassed.

This was also another first for him - needing to boot-lick. He sounded so awkward, unlike the black bull who could spew out lines after lines.

“Don’t call me a senior when I’m only eighteen. It makes me feel old.” Li Qiye said.

“Right, right, Honorable One. only eighteen, I see, so amazing...” The youth shifted his attitude right away, still sounding awfully unnatural.

“You’re no good at flattering but at least you’re smart enough to put your pride aside and flatter me.” Li Qiye shook his head and smiled.

The youth has grown used to listening to others flattering him, not the other way around. He didn’t feel good right now and wanted to run away.

“Your golden eye is not bad at all, very useful.” Li Qiye praised with a nod.

This casual comment could be considered a peerless honor. Alas, the youth became afraid after hearing this.

He felt as if Li Qiye could reach and dig out his eye in the next second so he moved back another step.

Li Qiye naturally saw this and shook his head: “Don’t worry, I won’t be taking your eye or I would have done it long ago.”

The youth heaved a sigh of relief and said: “My ordinary eye can’t get into your sight, Honorable One. It’s not worth mentioning compared to your great vision.”

“Wow, your talent is good indeed, ten times better at flattery already, no wonder why you’re a half-step Everlasting despite being so young.” Li Qiye chuckled.

The youth didn’t appreciate the empty praise but there was nothing he could do outside of smiling along.

[Chapter 2909: True Fardao](#)

Li Qiye turned his attention towards the old man before shaking his head.

The youth did the same thing. In fact, he had plenty of questions regarding this mysterious fella but didn’t dare to ask.

Li Qiye also didn’t seem to be hostile so he started calming down. Curiosity struck next.

“Sir, why does he want to stay here? He can start his own sect given his cultivation and fortunes.” The youth eventually asked Li Qiye.

“Honorable One” didn’t feel that right to him so he changed it to “sir” instead.

“It is an obsession that can make his dao heart even firmer. Everyone has a different pursuit in life. Invincibility and power aren’t his. He considers them ephemeral.” Li Qiye said.

“Obsession.” The youth murmured.

“Go, don’t bother him anymore. Just a waste of time.” Li Qiye turned and left.

The youth hurriedly gave chase, no longer afraid of Li Qiye unlike before.

Li Qiye didn't seem to care about his previous transgression so the youth felt much better and wanted to find out more.

"Unaffected after making it this far means that your talents are great." Li Qiye glanced back at him: "However, your dao heart would have been affected by this light power if it wasn't for your treasure."

"You're right, Sir." The youth smiled wryly, putting his pride aside and recognizing this truth.

"Your dao heart needs more sharpening before it is a match for your great talents. That's when your future will truly be bright enough to reach the apex." Li Qiye said, wasting more breath than usual since he appreciates the youth's talents.

"I, I should be able to." The youth scratched his head and said humbly, not exuding the same bravado as before.

After all, everyone thought that he could reach the apex. He believed this as well.

"Not necessarily, there were plenty of geniuses in history yet so few true masters. Not to mention the True Fardao level, just Fardao Everlastings were rare enough. Waste your youth away and you will accomplish nothing!" Li Qiye said flatly.

"The real Fardao realm..." The youth was shaken.

He didn't have a good idea of what constitutes as the apex, only a general understanding. As the youngest half-step in this generation, he thought that reaching the top would only be a matter of time.

However, Li Qiye's criticism made sense too. There have been geniuses in the past that rival him. How many of them actually became a progenitor or reached the Fardao realm? Very, very few.

Fardao Everlasting was the one after the supreme level. The first to reach this level was Fardao himself, hence the name.

However, Fardao himself didn't stop at this level. This was someone who had killed progenitors before. Future people who reached this level couldn't compare to Fardao. [1]

Therefore, another belief and one word were added - True Fardao.

The youth only had a general outline for his future aspirations. Now, Li Qiye woke him up and gave him a concrete goal - becoming a True Fardao!

This realization left him out of breath. Though his talents were amazing with few peers in history, one could count the number of True Fardao with their fingers.

He thought that he could reach the peak in this generation but this goal was far loftier. He understood that he wasn't excellent enough to make this a sure thing.

Li Qiye's comment also served as a warning, telling him to stop being so confident and conceited.

No one else would dare to say this to his face. They weren't qualified to do so. Plus, he wouldn't have taken them seriously but Li Qiye was a different story.

“You still have a chance.” Li Qiye said: “Youth and arrogance come together, you just need to stabilize your dao heart and then you can be arrogant all you want. A firm dao heart will take you to your goal and as for your style, that doesn’t matter, just act as you please.”

The youth listened carefully and memorized the sound piece of advice. It greatly affected him, seemingly coming from a teacher or a good friend.

“Thank you for your guidance and for correcting my mistakes, Sir.” The youth eventually bowed towards Li Qiye.

“Good boy.” Li Qiye accepted the gesture.

The youth was in a great mood right now after getting a clear goal and becoming “enlightened”.

Li Qiye didn’t say anything else and moved on with the youth right behind him.

“Sir, my, my golden eye witnessed your boundless grand dao, but there’s one thing. I don’t know if I’m just seeing things but it seems... that there is a dark existence inside you...” The youth thought about something and hesitated for a while before asking.

He wasn’t sure of what he saw since he was scared out of his mind during the observation process. That darkness could easily crush the firmaments and all else.

“Just a supreme overlord, that’s all, consider it an apex existence of the dark affinity. I’m destroying it right now.” Li Qiye casually smiled.

“An overlord? How strong...?” The youth became afraid and blurted out.

“Killing a progenitor is as easy as eating a meal for it.” Li Qiye chuckled.

“...” The youth turned cold.

Progenitors were considered unbeatable regardless of their level. Now, Li Qiye was suppressing a being capable of massacring them?

Just how strong was Li Qiye then?!

He celebrated the fact that he was smart enough to run away. Li Qiye would have killed him with a single finger back then if he had kept on provoking the guy.

“From this, we can see that there is more potential to be forced out from your golden eye.” Li Qiye added while the kid was trembling with fear.

“Thank you, Sir. I will definitely keep on experimenting.” The youth regained his wits and said.

He has been very satisfied with his golden eye, thinking that he had trained it to its maximum potential.

Now, it sounded like he could still take it to a higher level.

[Chapter 2910: Disaster](#)

The youth followed Li Qiye and left this vast land before he knew it.

When they got back into Sacred Mountain, Li Qiye suddenly noticed something.

He looked up towards the deepest part of the sky with an all-seeing gaze.

Meanwhile, the prodigy didn't know what was going on. Nevertheless, he realized that it should be a big deal and used his golden eye as well.

"Rumble!" Loud explosions detonated.

In the beginning, everyone didn't care too much, thinking that it was just another battle.

As time passed, the explosions became increasingly louder. Immortal Lineage started shaking and the atmosphere had ripples. Something seemed to be assaulting the realm.

Powerful beings took note of this. Everlasting Eternals, powerful progenitors, and living fossils started looking towards the source of the explosions. Their eyes lit up like divine lamps.

"Rumble!" The world could hear this next set clearly. A calamity seemed to be coming after numerous earthquakes.

"Boom!" Something broke through the world barrier and made it to Immortal Lineage.

A ray cut through the deepest crevice of the sky and started heading for the other side.

"Rumble!" The sky quaked as a result. This ray was massive just like a falling planet.

Numerous broken pieces started falling down along its trajectory. "Broken pieces" sounded small but they were as large as meteors.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!" The explosions emanated across the entire world now, no longer limited to the upper atmosphere.

Only the powerful existences with their heavenly gazes saw the ray at first. Later on, the blinding ray was too conspicuous and everyone else noticed.

"Look, is that a shooting star?" Many yelled after seeing it.

It was still too far away and others didn't realize its colossal size. Only the masters noticed this and were frightened. It could easily destroy numerous systems after landing.

"It came out from Uncrossable Expanse!" A True Emperor gasped in astonishment.

"How can this be? No one goes there and nothing comes out, what is wrong with this generation?" A being old enough to be considered a living fossil has never seen anything like this before.

"Rumble!" The ray drew closer so the earthquakes intensified.

Everyone could see the thing looming above them now, just like a monster ready to devour their world!

Any system seemed tiny in comparison. It could instantly crush a dozen systems with one move and torn Immortal Lineage asunder.

"I... can't believe this! It wants to destroy the world!" Numerous people became frightened.

People brought up the old prophecy many years before - the heavenly change heralds a monster!

“It’s close to the sky moat now!” A master shouted while looking up.

“Can it handle this?” An Everlasting wondered.

“Go send a message to Tai Yinxi!” A True Emperor ordered.

“Boom! Boom! Boom!” One could hear drum beats echoing across all of Immortal Lineage right after.

A massive light from the world’s frontier surged to the sky and illuminated all directions. A great wall emerged - the famous sky moat. It exuded divine flames and looked just like a dragon.

“Sky Pass is activating its defense now!” An Eternal roared.

“It’s finally Sky Pass’ time to shine, we’ve never seen these walls being used before outside of training!” A “living fossil” shouted.

The ray and its shattered pieces began the offense.

“Will Sky Pass and the sky moat make it?” People started praying that this line of defense would work.

For millions of years, no one cared about this defensive line. The walls were nothing but a symbol in their mind. Only Sky Pass carried some significance.

Now, it looked like the walls were actually useful. They hope that it was tough enough to withstand the attack.

Everyone held their breath as they placed their palms together: “You can do it, Sky Pass.”

“Boom!” Immortal Lineage shook violently again, enough for tsunamis to form in the seas.

This ray was extremely close to the border of Immortal Lineage right now but it suddenly changed direction and only skirted by the walls.

“It’s not slamming into us.” Many celebrated at this sight.

Some calmed down and finally noticed that the ray was only flying by. Immortal Lineage wasn’t its destination.

“Rumble!” The explosions still continued but its figure gradually shrank up above.

“That’s good.” They heaved a sigh of relief. Some dropped to the ground in fear after recalling the crisis earlier.

The next target of the shrinking ray became clear. It was heading for the other side of space.

“It’s going towards Sky Ruins.” A keen observer murmured.

“That’s a boundless world, why is it heading there, what is it?” One True Emperor wondered.

“Boom!” Something deep in Sky Ruins erupted and released red smoke. This seemed to be a defensive measure, an attempt to protect something. The smoke then dissipated and disappeared from sight.

Even the sharp gaze of the progenitors crossing through space couldn’t tell what was going on. No one was allowed to spy.

“Rumble!” The massive ray slowly disappeared into the vast expanse of Sky Ruins.

“Well, at least nothing happened to us.” The rest of the world didn’t care about this and started celebrating.