#### Emperor 3291

## Chapter 3291: Who Wants To Fight?

The disciples could only stare at these two, unable to do anything else.

The strongest cultivator in the team had the right to choose during the first trial. Their cultivation also determined the realm of the team.

For example, a team wanting to challenge the duo must also be on the same level, meaning that they must have someone at the samadhi level at the very least.

Unfortunately, Gong Qianyue was the only one in this realm among the young generation in Divine Black. It meant that the duo didn't need to fight. They could just keep on moving up and be the first to get through the first trial.

This was definitely favorable for Li Qiye, winning without needing to do a single thing.

"So shameless." Disdainful gazes shot straight at him. In their eyes, he was only relying on Gong Qianyue to get through this.

The elders and Zhang Yue exchanged glances on the platform. Some smiled wryly since this was fine. There was no rule preventing a powerful cultivator from teaming up with a weak one.

In reality, this was actually encouraged. The sect wanted to let the strong disciples lead their weaker peers.

Of course, this was only when their cultivation was relatively close. The truly strong ones didn't want to team up with the weak. Who would want to have someone drag their feet in an important trial? It would affect the battle potential of the group.

"Don't like it? Come fight us." Li Qiye leisurely said while standing shoulder to shoulder with Qianyue.

He lazily leaned against Qianyue's shoulder, acting very intimately with her. She pushed him away but he went right back at it as if this was how it should be.

He definitely looked like a wretch currently enjoying a moment of success, looking very pleased with himself. The spectators found this annoying and nauseating!

"A real man relies on his own power to defeat his opponents!" Huang Ning couldn't stand this and uttered coldly.

"Right, this isn't fair! He's not passing the trial himself." Liu Wenyong also protested; his eyes spewing out fury.

This type of gaze could be seen in virtually all of her suitors. They thought that he was taking advantage of her.

They wanted to do the same but couldn't. In fact, just talking to her or earning one glance from her were enough to make their heart flutter with happiness.

As for standing this close to her? They wouldn't even dare to dream about such a thing. They would certainly enjoy it though.

Now, Li Qiye pressed against her shoulder as if he lacked energy from forgetting to eat breakfast, nearly leaning on her entirely.

Bastard! Shameless asshole! These words were running through the mind of the male spectators.

Huang Ning stared at their touching shoulders and had the urge to chop off Li Qiye's.

"Some aren't convinced by our prowess, what should we do?" Li Qiye asked.

"They're not convinced by you." She has never seen such a bold and shameless man before. She wondered if she should just kick him off the steps.

"Didn't you say you want to beat them up? Go for it." She went on.

"I suppose." Li Qiye touched his nose then stared at the disciples below: "Okay, all come up together, I'll just use one hand."

They glared at him but couldn't actually come up. The strongest among them right now was Huang Ning who was in the manifestation realm. This meant that his team wasn't qualified to challenge the duo.

"Come down here if you dare. I'll knock your teeth out if our teams are eligible to fight." Liu Wenyong said.

"Oh, I see. I'll go down then and find another team." Li Qiye nonchalantly smiled.

The elders didn't know what to say. The guy just did whatever he wanted without a care for anything.

"If someone wants to make a temporary team with you, then it will be allowed." The elders talked among themselves for a bit before giving permission.

They were curious about him because he had lit up thirteen sections before.

"Good, who wants to be my teammate?" Li Qiye smiled.

The disciples exchanged glances. No one wanted to team up with a guy they deemed useless.

"You're asking for humiliation without Senior Sister Qianyue's protection." One guy said.

"He'll lose to a single move, that's when he'll stop being so arrogant." Another added.

"Looks like you're not very popular." Qianyue joked.

"No need to be popular when I'm invincible, others just need to kneel before me." Li Qiye chuckled.

She didn't expect this response and stared at him. These words gave her the illusion that he was an invincible existence, not a lazy jerk. This illusion only lasted for a split second before he became normal again.

The children from the village were willing to team up with him. Unfortunately, he didn't let them since they had their own path. He wanted them to be independent.

"How, how about me, Young Master?" One disciple finally came forward and quietly asked.

It was none other than Lu Daowei. He had teamed up with his friends earlier but was willing to change for Li Qiye.

"The idiot who tried to learn Tortoise Fist?" Someone laughed at him.

"Birds of a feather flock together, don't you know? An idiot and a piece of trash, a perfect pair." Another sneered.

"Good, looks like you have the most potential in Divine Black. Come here, we'll be a temporary team." Li Qiye smiled.

Daowei smiled awkwardly and walked over. He wanted to help Li Qiye but it seemed that he has become everyone's enemy now. It was too late for regrets.

"You first, get ready to lose your teeth." Li Qiye pointed at Liu Wenyong.

Wenyong's expression became unsightly. He joined the sect long ago so he had higher seniority than Gong Qianyue.

His cultivation wasn't bad either so how could this Li Qiye dare to publicly not give him any face?

"May I?" He asked the elders.

"Yes." The elder discussed for a bit before granting permission.

This was an impossible battle. Li Qiye was courting death challenging someone so much stronger. The addition of Lu Daowei didn't matter.

"I alone am enough, no need for a team. Blame no one but yourself for being suicidal." Wenyong went up the stairs and aggressively glared at Li Qiye.

"Can we do this?" Daowei became afraid since his cultivation was far weaker.

Everyone thought that these two didn't stand a chance against Wenyong.

"Of course, your Tortoise Fist is enough to beat him." Li Qiye smiled.

"Real-really? Tortoise Fist can do this?" Daowei stammered.

He wanted to use other merit laws but Li Qiye brought up the fist technique. This made him even less confident.

"I wouldn't lie to you, go on." Li Qiye smiled.

He felt as if he was being used by Li Qiye but he was riding a tiger and couldn't get off. He had no choice but to assume the fist pose.

"Come now, prepare to lose your teeth." Li Qiye told Wenyong.

Wenyong's anger soared after seeing Daowei's pose. He was at the Violet Marquis Corpus realm, how dare this guy try to beat him with this crappy technique? They must be purposely trying to humiliate him.

"I'm not trying to belittle you." Daowei immediately said.

"This is insanity, trying to beat Senior Brother Liu with this?" Many disciples started laughing.

"He's done. This is too insulting, Wenyong won't hold back." A friend of Wenyong snorted.

### Chapter 3292: Behold, The Tortoise Fist

Most of the crowd knew that Liu Wenyong was furious after listening to him.

"This brat is dead, what a shame, he's even dragging another life down with him." One spectator gloated.

"The guy asked for it, only a fool would get so close to this piece of trash." Another said with disdain.

Few felt bad for Lu Daowei because they thought that he was seeking death for joining up with Li Qiye.

"Begin." An elder shouted.

"Please give me pointers, Senior Brother." Daowei had no choice but to close his eyes and go for it after teaming up with Li Qiye. He believed that he was about to get a bad beating.

"Fool!" Wenyong roared and exuded violet energy.

"Boom! Boom!" This energy erupted threefold. Everyone could sense his power increasing three times.

Violet Marquis Corpus - this level would let one go wild and increase their battle potential three times without any side effect later.

Many felt the pressure after this eruption and staggered backward. This realm was quite mighty in the sect.

Even Zhan Hu who was born with a golden spoon was only one realm higher at Conqueror Vessel. Thus, anyone in this corpus realm could be considered brilliant.

"He transformed." Some didn't expect this because it meant Wenyong wasn't going to show mercy.

"The guy is done." A few sneered. They could already see the sad fate of Li Qiye and Daowei, being reduced to meat paste.

"Go, show him what you got." Li Qiye smiled and pushed Daowei's shoulder.

Daowei involuntarily punched forward - the first movement of Tortoise Fist!

It looked like a slow push without any force.

"Wow, so strong!" Many disciples started laughing.

Such a slow and weak punch wouldn't do any damage to someone who was standing still.

"Yeah, this punch can really decide the outcome of a fight, guaranteeing defeat for its user!" More jeered.

The elders themselves were surprised to see this. It probably couldn't hit a three-year-old, let alone someone at the corpus realm.

"I'm going to crush you!" Wenyong took this as a taunt and unleashed a palm strike towards the two.

Meanwhile, Daowei was in a daze. He suddenly had an illusion that he was one with heaven and earth while his fist was moving forward. He completely forgot about his opponent.

He became the sole existence in the world. The myriad dao fused into him and let him borrow their power.

His punch was still as slow as ever but he had entered a zen state. The movement of his fist began dragging the worldly rhythms.

It skirted Wenyong's palm in a natural manner, easily moving through its flaws. The speed and trajectory remained the same. Daowei found the whole thing to be surreal just like a dream.

Suddenly, the elders and Zhang Yue also felt the momentum of the area missing half a beat.

This phenomenon was as subtle as can be. They only noticed for the blink of an eye due to their powerful cultivation. Ordinary disciples didn't feel a single thing.

They still didn't have time to understand before a loud bang. "Boom!" Daowei successfully punched Wenyong's cheek and sent him flying.

"Pluff!" Blood gushed out along with broken teeth to everyone's astonishment.

How could this be?!

The power gap between the two sides was insurmountable. Wenyong should have been able to smash Li Qiye and Daowei to pieces. Alas, he had just lost to Tortoise Fist.

"Impossible!" One elder stood up and yelled.

"Bam!" Wenyong fell to the ground, unconscious.

If the punch and the fall didn't make him unconscious, he would have pretended to be anyway. Losing to Tortoise Fist was just too humiliating. He wouldn't be able to walk around with his head high in the sect any longer.

It took a while for the stunned crowd to calm down. They stared at Wenyong and had no idea what was going on.

"This makes no sense." Some of them blurted out.

Not that many among the crowd were actually stronger than him. Defeating him wasn't an easy task, especially not with Tortoise Fist. This seemed like a dream but they all witnessed it in person.

"What did he do?" An elder glanced at Lu Daowei then focused on Li Qiye.

The change in rhythm happened too quickly so the elders and Zhang Yue didn't have a definite conclusion. One elder even glanced at Gong Qianyue, thinking that she must have gotten involved.

Huang Ning and Zhan Hu weren't doing any better. They had no idea like the rest. Both turned towards Gong Qianyue.

There was only one logical possibility - her involvement. That's the only way for Wenyong to lose.

However, why did a genius like her decide to help a useless person like Li Qiye?

In fact, Daowei himself experienced the same confusion since he knew his own power the best. He started staring at his hand and wasn't sure that he was the one who knocked out Wenyong's teeth.

He glanced back at Li Qiye, thinking that it must have something to do with Li Qiye's push. That brought him to a unique domain.

"Everything was good, precise movements too. Just no more hesitation next time because the enemy won't hesitate from taking your life." Li Qiye chuckled.

The only one here who had a clear idea was Gong Qianyue since she was the closest to Li Qiye. She knew that it had nothing to do with Daowei; Li Qiye was the culprit!

# Chapter 3293: Serve The Young Master Well

She clearly saw Li Qiye touching Daowei before the punch.

The movement and transformation of the fist technique seemed fine. It broke through Wenyong's palm strike's mistake and struck the latter's cheek.

In one sense, this could be construed as changing something simple into magic. This was definitely possible for powerful cultivators.

The real masters could use the simplest techniques and have incredible results - Qianyue knew this.

But Daowei shouldn't have been able to inflict that much damage in spite of its accuracy. Wenyong was in the corpus realm. Daowei shouldn't have had enough force to break through the violet energy barrier.

Thus, Qianyue knew that the crux of the issue was the punch's power, not the punch itself.

It managed to break through Wenyong's innate barrier - something impossible for Daowei.

Therefore, she stared at Li Qiye and thought that he must be stronger than a Violet Marquis Corpus.

Her eyes narrowed, wanting to figure him out. Unfortunately, all she saw was an Iron Skin cultivator.

She believed that she was right. Iron Skin was indeed his current cultivation realm, which made everything even more confusing.

How could an Iron Skin penetrate the Wenyong's defensive lines? She simply had no explanation for what had transpired.

Meanwhile, many disciples and even the elders were suspecting her.

"Why does Senior Sister Qianyue favor this Li Qiye so much?" One guy murmured.

"Poor guy, he won't be able to find all of his teeth." Another said since Wenyong was being carried away.

"Good, you passed the trial." Li Qiye laughed and tapped Daowei's shoulder.

Daowei still couldn't accept this and looked up at the elders.

"Yes, twenty points." The elders had to accept this. It didn't matter how it happened; these two really defeated Wenyong.

"Thank you, Young Master." Daowei bowed towards Li Qiye and returned to his original team despite having twenty points now.

Qianyue glared at the crowd before moving up the steps due to their hushed accusations.

"Okay, take your time fighting, we'll be waiting up there." Li Qiye smiled and waved at his fellow disciples, looking like a favored sycophant. He then followed her up the steps.

The crowd could only watch the two of them leave.

Qianyue found a shady and cool spot to sit down, wrapping her hands around her knees with her hair draping down - looking as attractive as can be.

Li Qiye sat down next to her without any hesitation and leaned on her to sleep.

She became vexed. This was her first time meeting such a jerk, taking advantage of her in public with no regard for anyone.

She tried to push him away but he didn't move at all.

"You want to die?" Her eyes were cold enough to kill.

"What are you talking about? You're my maid. Your responsibility is to take good care of me." Li Qiye responded.

"Since when am I your maid?" She wanted to stomp on his face.

"You forgot our bet already? You'll be my maid when you lose but don't worry, I won't mistreat you." Li Qiye replied.

"Wait until you win first." She thought that he couldn't be any more shameless.

"It's all the same, there's nothing you can do against me." Li Qiye casually answered before shifting his body against her to find a comfortable position to sleep.

"You're really this confident against me?" She had never experienced this before, being the top genius of Divine Black. How could an Iron Skin cultivator defeat her?

Unfortunately, he was already asleep. Only his even breathing could be heard.

She nearly vomited blood from anger. He was the first man who had slept while leaning on her. Moreover, he did it so blatantly too as if she were really his maid.

Plus, he was the first one to see her body...

The more she thought about it, the angrier she became. She got the urge to strangle him right now.

The disciples below also saw all of this, hoping that Qianyue would kick him down the stairs or just kill him outright.

However, the two of them sat below the shade, looking like two lovers.

This made the spectators grit their teeth in anger. How dare he took advantage of their goddess? He deserved more than death.

"Ah!" One male disciple was completely distracted by this and got sent flying by his opponent.

He didn't only lose the battle but also twenty points. Worst of all, the lover in his dream was being courted by someone else.

Many shared the same animosity towards Li Qiye but they couldn't do anything.

"Boom!" Huang Ning and his team defeated their opponents in no time and went up the steps.

He saw Li Qiye sleeping while leaning on Qianyue and became furious.

"Junior Sister, why are you tolerating this scoundrel?" Huang Ning waited for her permission to throw Li Qiye off.

By this point, many have won and moved up the steps. They became envious of Li Qiye's luck and jealous of his taking advantage of Qianyue.

They would love to be in his situation. Losing one thousand years of lifespan in exchange was just fine. They would jump into a boiling cauldron to earn her love.

Thus, they nodded in agreement with Huang Ning while glaring at Li Qiye.

"He's tired." Qianyue said while looking at Li Qiye.

Huang Ning saw that her eyes seemed to be different while looking at Li Qiye. He wasn't too clear and hoped that he was only overthinking it.

A guy like Li Qiye wasn't worthy of Qianyue. She was only being kind.

"He didn't even do anything, how can he be tired? There's no chance of him getting through the second trial." The annoyed Huang Ning said.

"Yes, Senior Sister is the only reason why he made it to the second trial." The others chimed in.

He was the thorn in their side and the source of irritation. They wanted to criticize him in order to make Qianyue dislike him.

"He can't even beat a child with his Tortoise Fist. He'll fall down right after the next gong." Another tried his best to put Li Qiye down.

### Chapter 3294: True Profundity

The sleeping Li Qiye didn't seem to hear a single thing from the taunters. Gong Qianyue also sat there with a cold expression, not minding the rest.

This made them quite awkward since she herself didn't seem to have a problem with it. They were only embarrassing themselves by interfering.

Huang Ning eventually scowled and wanted to kill Li Qiye even more. The others also sent unfriendly stares at him but none made a move in Qianyue's presence.

"Rumble!" The sounds of battle raged below like the drums of war, enough to hurt the listeners' ears.

Even the steps quaked a little bit. Everyone became attracted by a particular fight between two groups.

Both sides had dozens of people but were still relatively weak, consisting of new recruits in Jade Bird.

The children from Liu Village were one group while the others were new recruits without any backing. They joined together for the first trial.

The Liu children fought in an orderly manner with great teamwork and virtually zero chaos. They were young yet had the experienced bearing of generals.

Having too many members might make it tough to arrange everything perfectly. However, they managed to do so with no apparent openings.

This was thanks to the fact that they grew up together and were taught by Fuyou and Li Qiye. The latter wanted to groom them into a powerful team of cultivators.

Normally, they weren't that exceptional, only above average at best. Now, fighting as a team allowed them to display their true qualities.

The elders and Zhang Yue nodded approvingly, impressed by the children's teamwork. Strictly speaking, the kids worked together better than any other group so far.

They realized that with stronger cultivation, this group might become the sect's strongest team. Some elders wanted to recruit all of the children into their peak.

Alas, they asked around and found out that Eight Zhang had taken the initiative. What a shame, they thought.

Zhang Yue thought the same thing. If he had known that these children would be such amazing teammates with each other, he would have taken the initiative and make them stay in Jade Bird somehow. Unfortunately, the mountain king was one step ahead of him.

"Rumble!" The children looked like a tortoise as their chaos true energies stacked on each other, forming a defensive shell.

They let the enemies attack them however while inside. The opponents were a stark contrast because they only teamed up for this trial. There was no teamwork to speak of.

The only thing they had was the numbers advantage. Seventy to eighty members attacked one after another with different weapons.

They smashed and pierced at the shells, mustering all of their strength and turning red in the process. Alas, this defensive line couldn't be broken.

"This is still Tortoise Fist?" The spectators couldn't believe it. This was their first time witnessing the true power of this technique.

The elders and Zhang Yue shared the same astonishment. They haven't cultivated this technique before because, to be perfectly frank, they looked down on it as well.

They thought that there were too many merit laws available in the sect. Just any random one was still better than Tortoise Fist.

However, the ones attacking have trained in the different merit laws. A few even had access to the high-level ones. This didn't matter at all right now. The children hiding in the shell didn't need to expend a lot of energy to keep it up.

They couldn't believe it. They have spurned this merit law only to be amazed at its effectiveness right now.

Keep in mind that when the children were alone, they wouldn't be as effective. Numerous layers stacked together and amplified their power by more than ten times.

The dozens of attackers became tired after several waves of attack. Their chaos true energy gradually depleted, the same with their morale. As a result, their attacks became weaker and careless.

"Now!" The children from Liu suddenly shouted as their opponents were struggling for breath.

They punched at the same time. Each fist left behind numerous after images and began stacking on top of each other.

This was similar to the creation of the defensive shell. Once enough stacks and chaos true energy were formed, a tornado emerged.

"Boom!" The flurry of punches in this tornado form rushed forward.

The startled opponents either tried to block or ran away. Alas, it was too late. All of them were sent flying. They fell on the ground and started seeing stars before losing consciousness.

The seniors on top couldn't believe it and got up on their feet. That power just now far exceeded the children's current cultivation level.

This was far beyond the constraint of one realm so they easily defeated their opponents.

"Is this really Tortoise Fist?" One elder murmured.

"Yes, there's no mistaking it." The oldest and most experienced elder nodded with a serious expression.

"This power is far above a high-level yellow merit law." Another elder found this inexplicable.

"So that's one way to use it, I was the blind one." Zhang Yue admitted.

He vehemently opposed Li Qiye teaching the children this fist technique in the past, thinking that he was ruining their future.

However, these children managed to defeat so many enemies. Maybe other merit laws wouldn't have as good as a result.

Meanwhile, the spectators became slack-jawed. They made fun of Li Qiye and Tortoise Fist. Now, this development had just slapped them on the face.

In fact, some of the defeated combatants have made fun of the Liu children as well. They were utterly defeated now and became awfully embarrassed.

The merit laws they were so proud of didn't stand a chance against this fist technique.

# Chapter 3295: Young Master

The children have successfully proved the power of Tortoise Fist and showed that they were right in picking it.

"That's the real Tortoise Fist." Lu Daowei became emotional and took pride in this.

He had defeated Liu Wenyong a while ago but that was due to Li Qiye's abilities, not him. He knew that much, at least. The whole thing felt like a dream.

However, the children really did it all by themselves. Though they didn't knock their fellow disciples' teeth out, this was still close enough.

Daowei truly focused on learning the technique but never got the chance to use it in battle. Now, he finally saw its true potential.

Zhan Hu who was up the steps had an ugly expression. He had gone to stop Li Qiye and even made fun of the guy for doing so. Thus, the embarrassment was double for him. Too bad there was no way to take back words.

As for Gong Qianyue, she was also surprised at the unpopular merit law's effectiveness.

"Young Master, we did it! We successfully performed Tortoise Fist!" The children went up the steps and shouted with red excitement.

Their loudness woke Li Qiye up. He opened his eyes then yawned and stretched: "It's over?"

"Almost." Qianyue glared at him.

"We won, Young Master." The children happily reported.

"It's good to win, but you all need to train hard and devastate your foes more, break some teeth next time." Li Qiye lazily nodded at them.

He wasn't surprised at this result. How could those trained by him be inferior to others?

"Let's go." He told them.

The kids responsible for the carriage happily carried him up the steps.

"Catch up now unless you want to stay here." Li Qiye waved at Gong Qianyue.

She glared at him before actually following the group. They moved up the steps towards the second trial.

In fact, this trial was so close yet Li Qiye still wanted to be carried up just a few steps? Everyone became speechless at his laziness.

But they did admit that he deserved this treatment from the children since he taught them something so magical.

"Simply incredible." An elder praised.

"There's something about this Li Qiye." Another commented.

Zhang Yue has been observing Li Qiye since his arrival. However, he still didn't know anything about the guy.

"Hmph!" Huang Ning was annoyed to see Qianyue going with Li Qiye up the steps.

"Looks like he has a chance. Senior Sister Qianyue treats him differently." Zhan Hu smirked and told Huang Ning.

"If that's the case, it's not a good thing for your Furious Tiger Peak either." Huang Ning uttered coldly.

"Then we're on the same side, right? I want to see what else he can do, don't you?" Zhan Hu didn't become angry.

They were evenly-matched opponents who have fought both openly and in the shadows. This wasn't a mortal feud or anything and they still maintained certain civilities between them. However, they have never worked together before due to the existing rivalry.

"Hmph." Huang Ning glared at Li Qiye's back.

"Senior Brother Huang, don't underestimate the enemy since nothing good will come of it. As you can see, both the senior sister and Eight Zhang are his backers." Zhan Hu said.

Huang Ning's eyes narrowed and didn't answer. He also suspected Qianyue for helping Li Qiye earlier with Wenyong.

This naturally annoyed him. He didn't know why she treated Li Qiye differently from the others.

He believed that he was far superior compared to Li Qiye. No one was stronger than him with the exception of Qianyue. Plus, Li Qiye was a nobody from a tiny village while he was a descendant of a demon king!

Moreover, he was more handsome with better manners and grace. Li Qiye didn't even come close to him in these aspects. The guy resembled a disgusting cockroach that he wanted to stomp to death.

"Senior Brother, hesitate and you'll lose your chance forever." Zhan Hu added.

"What's your plan?" Huang Ning asked.

"No need to rush. Remember, I have Jade Bird and Furious Tiger behind me, we'll get things done in the future." Zhan Hu smiled.

Huang Ning eventually nodded, confirming their temporary alliance.

Both Furious Tiger and Thousand Demons were the main peaks for the demon faction. However, the bodhi king rarely expressed his stance, never explicitly pick the side of Furious Tiger or South Conch. He normally chose neutrality in many situations.

Zhan Hu couldn't convince the bodhi king to change his view but Huang Ning, as his disciple, had a better chance. That's why it would be very helpful to have Huang Ning on his side in the future.

He had the support of Jade Bird and Furious Tiger right now. Once Thousand Demons was on his side too, he would be able to do whatever he wanted to fulfill his ambition.

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Disciples gathered before the second trial - an old hall. Various emotions coursed through them.

The first two trials were available for all. However, starting in the third trial, one needed to have twenty points.

This meant that those who lost in the first must get twenty points from the second trial. That's the only way for them to participate in the third.

"Creak." The gate to the hall opened. The voice of an elder came from within: "Come have a seat, the second trial will begin soon."

They formed lines and entered the hall. This place was ancient with a majestic aura, large enough to accommodate all of them.

They felt very tiny while inside. This added to the pressure before the start of the trial.

Sets of bells were put up around the hall. They looked quite strange with different engravings - birds and beasts, demons and ghosts...

A protector from Divine Black stood in front of each set. The sect seemingly went all out to prepare this trial. The nervous disciples felt even worse.

# Chapter 3296: Golden Bell

The elders were present along with numerous protectors. This added immense pressure to the participants.

The carvings of beasts and fiends looked quite animated on the bells, seemingly on the verge of flying out and devouring people. This frightened them as well, causing a few to sit far away.

There was no guideline to the sitting arrangement so some strategized, thinking that being far away might weaken the bells' effect.

"Let's keep our distance and the sound might be weaker. We just need to make it past one movement and we'll be good." One disciple said quietly to a junior brother. This wasn't his first time.

Thus, most chose the four corners or the central area. Very few sat in the front.

The reason was very simple. The front had a large golden bell, the largest thing in the hall. It had the carving of a great dragon raising its claws and showing its fangs. Its mouth seemed eager to swallow the ones in the hall.

An elder was in charge of it. Even a fool could tell that this was the main bell. Whoever sat to the front would have to face its power.

However, Gong Qianyue chose the front to face the bell. She knew of its power but still wanted to test herself in a direct confrontation.

Li Qiye naturally sat next to her, still leaning on her shoulder to sleep. She had tried to push him off several times but he feigned ignorance, still blatantly doing his thing to the chagrin of the spectators.

Huang Ning's fury ignited again so he uttered coldly: "This is an examination, how improper it is for him to sit like this! He's ruining the prestige of our sect!" He wanted to kick Li Qiye out or worse, stomp him into bits.

Li Qiye didn't respond to this criticism either. Qianyue didn't know what to do outside of glaring at him. She didn't know why she was showing so much patience either. She should have sent him flying given her temperament.

"Senior Brother, he'll leave after the bells start, this piece of trash won't be able to listen." Other disciples consoled Huang Ning.

Of course, they were telling themselves this to feel better. Everyone shared the same enemy right now in Li Qiye.

"He'll go crazy in a little bit and you can throw him out to stop him from bothering other people." Another said.

They eagerly waited for the start of the trial to see Li Qiye's misfortune.

On the other side, Zhan Hu slightly frowned. The strongest disciples in Divine Black were sitting to the front because they wanted to challenge the golden bell as well.

"Junior Sister, I don't think he'll be able to handle the bell. It'll bother others from protecting their dao heart." Zhan Hu told Gong Qianyue.

He didn't hate Li Qiye out of jealousy like his peers. Nonetheless, he still viewed the guy as a potential problem, a thorn in his side.

"That's right, Junior Sister. Let him scram to the corner so that he won't bother us." Huang Ning nodded.

All in all, Huang Ning was more annoyed with Li Qiye sleeping near her than the actual trial. This was only an excuse for him to not see Li Qiye.

"One's dao heart should be unaffected by external matters in the first place. If they're distracted by others, then what's the point?" She flatly answered.

Huang Ning and Zhan Hu had no response to this. The rest of the spectators couldn't say anything either.

All of them decided to direct their anger at Li Qiye instead of her. Huang Ning, in particular, was extremely annoyed at Qianyue's bias towards Li Qiye.

"Don't blame me for not being polite when he bothers me from going crazy." Huang Ning said. He made up his mind about dealing with Li Qiye once the guy failed to endure the music. He would send Li Qiye flying first before the protectors and disciples. His murderous intent intensified.

Gong Qianyue naturally noticed his bloodlust. She raised her finger and summoned her samadhi flame before declaring: "Senior Brother, there are rules in this hall so you don't need to worry. The examiners will deal with it."

The temperature in the building rose. It seemed that just one spark of her flame could incinerate the entire place.

Everyone took a deep breath while looking at her finger. Even a fool could tell that she was protecting Li Qiye.

Huang Ning had no idea why she was so hellbent on protecting this guy. He scowled and turned his head towards another direction. A sinister glint flashed then as he became determined to kill Li Qiye in the future. Torture first, of course.

The others thought that they would be okay with it if she treated Huang Ning in this manner. After all, Huang Ning was an exceptional cultivator, the most excellent male in the sect.

This wasn't the case for Li Qiye and it drove their jealousy into overdrive.

Needless to say more about Li Qiye's terrible talents, in terms of his background - he came from a tiny village. His looks? As mediocre as can be. In fact, one could grab a random person on the street and the guy would be better looking than Li Qiye...

Qianyue ignored them and maintained a cold expression. She looked at Li Qiye sleeping next to her and found him different.

His free temperament and unrestrained style were unique. He would probably stay calm even if the sky was falling down or if he was stuck in hell...

These things contributed to his mysteriousness. This implicit quality could only be seen with time, eventually becoming an attraction.

She eventually stopped thinking about him, finding her cheeks to be slightly red. She tried to put on a serious expression afterward.

Bah! Bah! What am I thinking?! This bastard even spied on me. I'm already doing him a favor by not teaching him a lesson in public. Let's wait till we're alone and I'll show him...

She gritted her teeth after recalling the unsavory event. On the other hand, the root of her suffering was sleeping well. He seemed capable of sleeping regardless of the time and place.

"Ahem." The elder in charge of this trial saw that the students have found their seat and said: "Since everyone is here, I'll begin by talking about the rules. There will be three musical movements."

#### Chapter 3297: Bells

"Zero points for failing during the first movement, ten points for the second, and twenty points if you can make it to the last one." He continued.

The listeners carefully pondered and wanted to make it to the second set at all costs. That would give them a chance to move on.

"The trial focuses on examining the dao heart which is the root of cultivation. Our patriarch once taught that talents decide your starting point but your destination is predicated on your dao heart, not your talents and merit laws. A firm dao heart means endless possibilities. It means that you can persevere on the long and arduous journey towards the dao." He put on a solemn expression.

The disciples held their breath while listening. Nonetheless, some of them didn't care about the dao heart too much. The whole thing seemed so far away and intangible.

It was better to focus on finding a powerful merit law or obtaining a peerless weapon. However, they still took this trial very seriously. More points meant an easier path for the last three trials.

"Get ready, we'll begin soon." The elder concluded his speech about the dao heart and reminded the disciples.

"Elder, what about the final movement?" Qianyue asked.

"You want to challenge it, right?" The elder laughed and said: "It is not part of the examination but since you made it past the third movement last time, we have discussed and agreed to let you try the final movement if you still have strength. Keep in mind that it is long and complicated, far more demanding compared to the first three. We'll see how well you'll be able to do."

"Yes." Qianyue remained blunt and didn't say anything else.

Others would want to get more out of the seniors if they had her talents and power. She didn't care for anything else other than the challenge itself.

Many became envious of her power. They were only thinking about making it through the first and the second movement. That would be the best result already. The third movement seemed impossible. However, she wanted the final one.

It has been a long time since the final chapter was played during this trial. Some said that when this happened, it was when their current sect master was still a regular disciple.

"Okay, we're starting!" The elder thunderously declared and woke up the disciples.

They focused up and changed their state of mind, separating themselves from the outside world.

"Boom! Boom!" The bells began making indistinct sounds, seemingly coming from the deepest crevices beneath the ground.

Though the disciples tried their best to protect their mind and calm their dao heart, they were still instantly taken to a strange domain.

Mist and fog engulfed the area in a bizarre manner. The bells seemed capable of spiritual evocation, calling the soul from the body with whispers.

Many disciples shuddered as a response. The weaker ones couldn't help opening their eyes.

They were no longer in the great hall but rather, a dark cemetery.

Graves and corpses scattered about. One could see green ghost flames among the engulfing mist and fog.

The individual disciple found themselves to be alone. Their peers were no longer next to them. This was naturally frightening to a new cultivator.

"Shit, where am I?!" One stood up and shouted.

Another turned and fled, wanting to escape from this cemetery.

The moment they lost their cool, the scene before them immediately changed. The warm sunlight returned and the cemetery was no longer there. They were now standing in front of the gate to the second trial.

They have lost control of their dao heart, hence the disqualification.

They came up to look into the hall again. The place was still the same, only that the elders and protectors had begun playing the bells. Some disciples were still there.

The hall was sealed so anyone outside was unaffected. Even if they could hear the bells, it was nothing more than regular noises.

"Sigh." Quite a few have been teleported out before the end of the first movement.

The majority consisted of new recruits. They had shallow cultivation and a weak dao heart.

"I should have picked a spot farther away from those bells." One disciple still didn't realize the problem and said with regrets.

"Same, I wasn't ready. I should have just kept my eyes close the entire time."

As the first movement was approaching its end, several exceptional disciples who stood out in this generation were sent out.

This was their first time participating in this trial so despite their talents, they still couldn't make it through the first movement.

"What about that piece of trash? He ran away, right?" Someone thought about Li Qiye after calming down.

The others started looking around. In terms of cultivation, he was definitely at the bottom, if not the weakest. If these stronger participants have been sent out, so would he.

Unfortunately, he was nowhere to be found.

"Haha, he probably left already out of shame." One disciple gloated.

"No, look, he's still inside." Someone saw Li Qiye still leaning on Qianyue, comfortably sleeping.

"???" The eliminated disciples found this impossible.

"How is he still in there?"

After all, they were far stronger yet still couldn't resist the bells.

"Can't you see? He's deep asleep. That's why he's not affected by the bells." One demon snorted.

"Yes, that's why." The others nodded in agreement.

"The bell melodies are part of the dao. Even a deaf person can hear it." The protector guarding the gate interrupted.

This made the crowd exchange glances of confusion and doubts.

"Then why is he still there? Maybe he's unconscious?" An older disciple didn't accept it.

The protector glanced inside and shook his head: "No." In fact, he was confused as well.

Li Qiye's cultivation was definitely among the weakest in this batch but he still lasted longer than those stronger than him.

"Something is wrong, no way." Another disciple said but couldn't come up with a reason.

The protector didn't say anything while agreeing with the sentiment.

Half of the participants have been removed after the first movement. Some were considered young geniuses.

On the other hand, some of the relatively weaker cultivators were still inside, successfully surviving the first movement.

This made the ones outside skeptical about the result.

"I'm stronger than them, why aren't they eliminated?" One young genius wasn't convinced.

### Chapter 3298: Who Will Make It To The End?

"Why are they still in there despite their weak cultivation?" A few talented disciples began protesting, thinking that something was off.

They were pointing at the children from Liu who were average among the third generation. They were only considered good seeds and still had a way to go before catching up to their seniors.

However, some of the latter have been eliminated after the first movement while the children were still inside.

"I think there's a problem. Why are we out if that Li Qiye is still in?" One of them said.

"Right, deception is afoot. They have to be employing some schemes for this to work." Another joined in.

The protector glared at them and said: "I see, got a lot of concerns here. Go tell the patriarch then since he left the bells behind and personally compiled the musical movements. Do you think you're stronger than the patriarch?"

The unhappy crowd immediately shut their mouth. Saying anything else could be construed as being disrespectful to the patriarch - a serious offense.

Plus, their patriarch was a divine beast with unreal power. The emperors of that ancient era used to visit him to show their respect.

The second movement was no longer a scene of hell but rather the world of mortals. Accomplishments and success, love and feuds along with freedom, beauties and gentlemen... They experienced the various peaks of life.

"Hahaha!" One disciple laughed from all the pleasures and got teleported outside.

Many were sent out at the start of the second movement. The regular disciples who have joined the sect for a while couldn't withstand the temptation and became lost in the movement.

At the halfway point, the senior brothers and sisters started losing as well. They sighed and lamented but it was too late. Nonetheless, this was still far better than being sent out during the first movement.

The children from Liu also lost during the second half of this movement and were sent out.

Only one-third of the young generation of Divine Black still remained nearing the end of the second movement.

"Why?!" A few disciples confident in their abilities couldn't accept this result.

Meanwhile, the Liu children were glad to see Li Qiye still inside.

"Young Master can definitely make it through all three." They idolized him.

"Hmph, just a blind cat coming across a dead mouse." One disciple coldly uttered: "It's because he's sitting near Senior Sister Qianyue. Her chaos true energy is protecting him so he's unaffected."

"You're right, that makes sense." The others found this to be the most logical explanation. That's the only way for that piece of trash to last so long.

"He's just taking advantage of Senior Sister Qianyue. Shameless scoundrel keeps on latching onto the senior sister. She's just too nice. Any other Senior Sisters would have crushed him long ago." A demon's eyes turned red from jealousy and spat on the ground.

"Hmph, there's a reason why Senior Sister Qianyue sticks around our Young Master instead of you all. She clearly likes him." A child from Liu immediately retorted.

They were still innocent and pure with blind confidence in Li Qiye. They thought that the senior sister was lucky to be with their young master.

The demon turned red and didn't really have a response to the kids. He eventually grumbled: "Just wait and see, the senior sister won't be able to protect him forever. The bell will cause qi deviation and he'll turn into an abomination."

Many others shared the same sentiment as they watched Li Qiye and Qianyue being so close. Jealousy burned their mind.

The second movement finally ended. Not too many were left, just Li Qiye, Gong Qianyue, Zhan Hu, Huang Ning, and some older disciples near middle-age.

They have joined for the longest, only a little bit later than Liu Fuyou and Zhang Yue. If they had joined a few years earlier, they would be addressing Fuyou as Senior Brother.

They were the pillars of Divine Black. Some were the First Brother of their peak and began taking on important duties. A few were serving as protectors as well.

Thus, Qianyue's group of four was the youngest here.

The third movement began. A majestic and awe-inspiring dao suppressed the disciples. It felt as if an ancient emperor was here in person.

The seal outside the hall this time couldn't contain its power. The ones outside felt the pressure and needed to back off.

"Boom!" The remaining disciples couldn't withstand it and finally yielded, resulting in them being teleporting out of the hall.

"So strong!" Those waiting outside gasped after sensing this aura.

The ones that were just sent out became sweaty from top to bottom.

"That Li guy is finished! He'll be reduced to blood without any protection." A few disciples glared at Li Qiye.

In their opinion, once Gong Qianyue stopped being able to withstand this power, Li Qiye would lose his protection and die.

"Lucky bastard, he ain't shit without Senior Sister Qianyue's protection." Her suitors spoke up again, fanning the fire.

"Just wait, it won't be long now. He will either die or suffer qi deviation and turn into a mad man. Someone like him can't resist the third movement." An older senior brother expressed his jealousy.

Leaving the whole Qianyue thing aside, they didn't like that he could just sleep and get twenty points. They were so much stronger than him but he ended with the better result? No one could accept this.

The next development surprised many people. Huang Ning was the first to come out before Zhan Hu not long after.

The two of them both got twenty points but this meant that Zhan Hu's dao heart was superior.

"You're better than me, Brother Zhan Hu." Huang Ning reflected while staring at Qianyue.

"No, it's because there's something else on your mind." Zhan Hu shook his head and didn't become complacent.

In reality, the two of them were evenly-matched. Alas, Huang Ning was infuriated with Li Qiye and this affected his dao heart.

At the end of the third movement, even the First Brother of South Conch was sent out.

The hall became empty with the exception of Qianyue and Li Qiye.

She sat there elegantly and fought against the pressure with plenty to spare. On the other hand, Li Qiye was deep asleep with his head on her shoulder.

The elder in charge of this trial couldn't believe it. He stared at Li Qiye and wondered if there was a problem with the musical movement.

However, this shouldn't be the case because all the other ones got eliminated just fine. This perplexed the examiners.

Gong Qianyue was one thing but how could an Iron Skin like Li Qiye have such a firm dao heart?

Was he born with a heart made out of stone?

"Is, is this really happening?" The spectators outside shared the same confusion.

"There has to be a mistake." Another answered.

# Chapter 3299: Idiots

Most wouldn't accept that only two remained after the three movements.

Gong Qianyue was a sure thing but Li Qiye? No way, he was only at Iron Skin.

"What's off about him? How did he cheat?" Zhan Hu's eyes flashed as he stared at the sleeping Li Qiye.

He knew that the bells had no problem because the elders and protectors themselves played the tunes. Plus, the fact that they got teleported out was definitive proof.

There was no way Li Qiye could actually withstand the pressure.

"It's just Senior Sister Qianyue protecting him." Huang Ning said, exasperated. Looking at the two alone in the hall made his jealousy ooze out.

Qianyue's constant protectiveness of Li Qiye drove Huang Ning crazy. He wanted nothing more than to crush Li Qiye into a pulp.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!" The bells resonated again, especially the golden one.

It knocked into space and echoed across the area, forcing many to prostrate as if it was an immortal bell. Everyone must show their respect and reverence.

"This is the final movement! She's really doing it." An older disciple took a deep breath.

All eyes were fixated towards Qianyue in the hall. This final lesson wasn't a part of the regular examination. Ordinary disciples wouldn't get this chance.

Plus, who would want to do so in the first place? Getting to the last movement already meant twenty points - that's already plenty.

For someone like Qianyue, she already had a perfect score after getting through the third movement. She could have ended it here yet still chose to try the final one.

"That's the number one genius, the strongest disciple in Divine Black." Even the older ones that had official positions said with admiration.

They joined the sect long ago. Their cultivation and age were higher than this crowd. Nonetheless, the strongest in this group still wouldn't dare to challenge the final movement nor were they qualified to do so. After all, they didn't get through the third movement.

Gong Qianyue was far younger and joined the sect late. Alas, she had more than caught up and earned everyone's respect.

"Junior Sister Qianyue's dao heart is the firmest too. She'll be able to inherit our legacy." The First Brother of South Conch said, completely convinced by her abilities.

His comment made people look at each other. The successor of their sect hasn't been announced but who else could it be but Gong Qianyue?

"It makes perfect sense for Senior Sister Qianyue to become the next sect master. Both her dao heart and talents are impeccable." The others agreed.

No one among the third generation of disciples objected to this notion.

"Our Young Master's dao heart is impeccable too." One unhappy child from Liu suddenly spoke up.

This ignited a wave of laughter among the crowd. One guy snorted: "His dao heart is impeccable? Then he wouldn't be at the Iron Skin realm. It's only due to luck and the senior sister's protection."

"Hmph, if his dao heart is considered impeccable, then my dao heart is unbeatable." Another jeered.

"You dare to make this claim?" A cold voice suddenly sounded.

Everyone turned around and saw Gong Qianyue standing there since who knows when.

"Senior Sister..."

"Junior Sister..."

They had no idea when she got out and became startled. They then looked into the hall and saw the elders and protectors still playing the final chapter. Only one participant was left - Li Qiye.

He was still deep asleep as if he was laying on the softest bed.

"How can this be?!" Jaws dropped to the ground.

Everyone was at a loss for words. Qianyue couldn't finish the final movement yet Li Qiye remained unaffected.

"There has to be something wrong, right?" One disciple said while staring at Li Qiye.

"Idiots." Qianyue glared at them before moving to a corner and stopped paying attention. She touched her chin, deep in rumination.

The crowd turned red after being called an "idiot" by Qianyue. A while ago, they didn't spare any words when making fun of Li Qiye.

Her comment wasn't actually that harsh in comparison. However, being criticized by their "crush" definitely didn't feel good.

All of this was because of Li Qiye! Thus, they diverted their anger towards him instead of her.

Huang Ning didn't know what to do either. He thought that Qianyue had been protecting Li Qiye but this no longer seemed to be the case.

Though her "idiots" line wasn't directed at him, it was still pretty much a slap on his face.

"Mmm, you're still knocking?" Li Qiye woke up at this moment and stretched before glancing at the elders and protectors.

"You call this an examination? These movements can't test the dao heart, this is nothing more than a game." He shook his head next.

"Don't tell me you know music?" The main elder became awkward and annoyed after hearing the disdainful word from a third-generation disciple.

"I played around for a few days back at my home. Okay, I'll do it and test you guys." Li Qiye smiled and stood up.

"He overestimates himself." One spectator outside scowled.

"This Li guy is just too arrogant, thinking he's all that after listening to the final movement. How is he qualified to test the elders and protectors." The majority criticized.

Li Qiye naturally didn't pay any attention to them. He took the stick from the elder and started smacking the golden bell.

"Clang! Clang!" Loud sounds erupted.

"Damn you, villainous heaven! I'll beat your mother!" Li Qiye shouted while repeatedly swinging the stick like a madman. There was no musical composition in the slightest, only chaotic swinging.

"This is unbearable!" Many immediately covered their ears.

"Boom!" The golden bell itself seemingly exploded with a soundwave spreading across Divine Black.

"???!" The five peak lords became alarmed.

"Raaa!" The roar of a golden dragon suddenly blasted afterward.

## Chapter 3300: Dragon Roar

The dragon roar resembled a terrible storm assaulting Divine Black.

"Shit!" The elders elsewhere in the sect became startled.

"Clank!" With another ring, a gigantic dragon emerged from the hall, flew out then landed on the roof.

It roared again with more intensity than before, enough to frighten the nine heavens and ten earths.

"Noo!" Numerous disciples vomited blood.

The ones near the hall took the full brunt. Their vision turned dark as they fainted and fell to the ground.

The top masters of Divine Black became aghast after hearing the roars. As for the elders and protectors in charge of this trial? They were seeing stars at this point.

After a while, the unconscious disciples gradually woke up and saw some of their peers still laying there.

They got up and looked around, still suffering from dizziness. They had no idea what happened, only that Li Qiye became crazy and drummed the golden bell.

Eventually, a golden dragon came out and its roar rendered them unconscious. Thus, they began looking around for Li Qiye.

The hall was closed as well. The elders and protectors have come out.

Finally, they spotted him beneath an old tree. Gong Qianyue was sitting there and the same with him. He used her thighs as a pillow and was sleeping soundly.

Who knows if he was unconscious just like the rest of them due to the dragon or has been sleeping the entire time. Qianyue let him do so and even helped support his head. They looked awfully intimate like a couple in love.

Her fans naturally didn't like this, feeling their anger rising inside. They averted their gaze and found Zhan Hu and Huang Ning sitting cross-legged on the ground.

Huang Ning had a cold glare at Li Qiye, the same with Zhan Hu. The two of them nearly got blown away by the roar. Fortunately, they reacted fast enough to prevent grievous injuries.

This was all because of Li Qiye for randomly knocking on the golden bell!

"Where am I? What happened?" More woke up and looked around, feeling the same discomfort as the others.

"Is the examination over?" Some didn't know how long they have been sleeping.

"Not yet." An elder answered.

"May I ask what's going on?" One disciple asked the elder: "What happened here?"

"The golden dragon god..." The elder had a strange expression. He glanced over at Li Qiye and slightly opened his mouth, only to swallow his words in the end.

He wasn't the only one with this expression. The other elders and even Zhang Yue found the whole thing bizarre.

This was unprecedented. The golden dragon had never appeared before. It seemed furious after being woken up, hence its powerful roar.

"A dragon god?" A furor broke out.

"Did, did he enrage the dragon god?" One of them speculated. They were still afraid of that mighty divine beast earlier.

"Definitely." They were already mad at him for sleeping on Qianyue's thighs and immediately shouted: "He messed with the divine artifact and enraged the dragon within!"

"It took its anger out on us because of him!" Another directed the blame at Li Qiye. This further increased the already-existing animosity.

They all saw him knock on the golden bell while assuming that this was a blasphemous act. Some started fanning the fire to make the crowd angrier.

"Be suicidal all you want but don't drag us down with you. You messed with the patriarch's artifact and offended the dragon god, this is a serious offense!" The jealous Huang Ning eventually said, coming up with an excuse to eliminate his love rival.

"True, this is being disrespectful towards the patriarch on top of injuring one's peers. This person should be expelled from Divine Black, permanently." Some became rowdy.

"That's not enough, we should sacrifice him to the golden dragon to appease it." A demon had a crueler idea.

"A dragon is our race's divine beast. It's sacrilegious to disrespect one, he needs to be punished!" Zhan Hu stood out and declared.

He felt that Li Qiye was a big threat and wanted to remove the guy, not to mention their little feud.

"Yes, capture and punish him." Others had their own agenda.

"Sacrifice him to the golden dragon!" Many started chanting and calling for his death.

"Shut up! Useless fools!" Gong Qianyue who was looking at Li Qiye finally exploded. Her eyes became chilling as she roared thunderously.

The frightened disciples staggered backward after seeing this.

Her cultivation realm far exceeded anyone in the young generation, hence their fear.

"Junior Sister, you saw him disrespecting the ancestral artifact. Don't side with him over this serious sin." Huang Ning's expression became unsightly since Qianyue picked Li Qiye time and time again.

"We can't let him do as he pleases and must punish him for violating the sect's rules." Zhan Hu nodded and took advantage of the opportunity.

"Poof!" Qianyue raised one finger and let out some samadhi flame. The temperature nearby became scorching.

"Come, both of you, if you disagree with me. I just need one hand to beat you both." Qianyue uttered coldly.

Domineering and overbearing - the style of the number one genius of Divine Black.

Huang Ning and Zhan Hu naturally didn't like this, especially the former. Alas, there was nothing they could do against her since she was telling the truth.

The two of them combined had no chance of winning even if she was only using one hand.