

Emperor 3461

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The princess calmed down her group and separated them. She then told Li Qiye: "It's understandable that anyone would want to take the treasury for their own. However, this place is perilous, Young Noble Li, can you get through it by yourself?"

She paused for a moment before continuing: "That's why it's better to try together in a group. We need to get through the domain first before talking about the spoils. It's just a waste of time otherwise."

Her actual thoughts prior didn't matter because this line contained actual sincerity and directness, leaving no room for critique. More and more people thought that Young Lord Bai was lucky to have a fiancée like her.

It also painted a stark contrast to Li Qiye's overbearing attitude. He seemed even more unreasonable to the point of being muleheaded, truly deserving of scorn.

"Li, be smart already. Know that you're lucky to meet someone reasonable like the princess or you would be dead right now." A hater snorted.

"True." Another young cultivator backed the princess and said: "He wants to get to the treasury by himself? Hmph, even if he were lucky enough to get there, how is he going to leave this place alive?"

The crowd was certainly against Li Qiye. However, he has never cared about how others viewed him.

"It's just Fire Domain, not difficult at all." He chuckled.

"You think you can handle the heat there? Stop it." The godchild snorted.

Most of the crowd snorted as well. Even the ancestors who tried earlier couldn't withstand this heat. Now, Li Qiye spoke with such triviality on this object. How could people trust him?

"Well, just wait and watch him die there, less work for us." Another sneered.

The princess didn't make fun of Li Qiye. Her eyes narrowed as she said: "So you're saying that you can travel effortlessly through this place, Young Noble?"

"Of course." Li Qiye smiled and entered the domain in a casual manner.

"Burn him down to juices..." One spectator mumbled with malice.

All eyes were on Li Qiye now. Unfortunately, their expectations were betrayed because Li Qiye wasn't harmed at all by the temperature during his saunter.

"Impossible!" Some yelled.

"See, just a tiny flame." Li Qiye chuckled and raised his hand, revealing a tiny spark in his palm.

"That's the flame of the domain?" Eyes widened after seeing this.

With loud sizzles, the spark increased in size and became a powerful flame. One could suddenly hear the screech of a phoenix as the flame danced in his palm.

This feeling was as real as can be. It felt just like the true flame of a phoenix.

The temperature from it was unbearable, capable of melting everything in the world, just not Li Qiye.

“Hey... this flame looks like the one deeper inside.” One ancestor murmured.

He compared the flame by the torch and the one on Li Qiye’s hand. They seemed to be the same type.

“This doesn’t make any sense!” The spectators couldn’t believe their own eyes. Some started to rub their eyes.

No one in this place could dare to travel through this place with confidence, not even the princess and the ancestors. Now, Li Qiye stood there, completely unaffected.

The strangest part was that he seemed to be able to summon a flame from the domain as well.

Remember, the only bright flame that could be seen here existed in the deepest region of the domain. No other places had visible flames.

The shocked crowd thought that he could actually summon the phoenix flame after seeing this.

Firmaments Godchild, Skylight First Prince, and Wu Zhongtian were shocked. They looked down on him earlier and were forced to eat their words now. This was akin to being slapped in the face.

Even the princess could no longer stay calm like before while looking at the flame.

Once again, the most unmoved person was Pearlstone Saintess. Li Qiye was omnipotent in her mind by this point.

“How, how?” One spectator asked.

“Only a dao lord can do this... is he...?” Another started speculating.

“No way or everyone would know.” All thought that this was impossible.

“Maybe he’s a disciple from Divine Stone Ridge?” A powerful golem guessed: “People from there could travel through the domain as well. He might know the secret behind avoiding the heat.”

“That’s plausible, wait, the successor of Divine Stone Ridge came, right? Maybe he’s the one.” Someone responded.

“No, he’s a human, not a golem.” One ancestor shook his head and was certain that Li Qiye couldn’t pretend to be a human.

“There’s another possibility.” An older master stared at Li Qiye and added: “Perhaps he has a phoenix bloodline flowing through him.”

“A phoenix bloodline?” The crowd became startled.

“We’ve heard that the domain was the place for a phoenix to rebirth and was created by its true flame. Thus, if he has this bloodline, no matter how thin, he would still be close to this flame. That’s why the domain doesn’t hurt him at all. It’s actually beneficial for him to stay here.”

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Many nodded in agreement while staring at Li Qiye.

“Yes, maybe a really thin phoenix bloodline, we just can’t notice it.” One murmured.

An older expert carefully observed both Li Qiye and the domain. He agreed as well and added: “The phoenix trueflame and a phoenix bloodline are from the same branch, it makes sense that he isn’t afraid of the heat here.”

If this was actually the case, then this heat was actually beneficial to Li Qiye.

“No wonder why Dragon-phoenix Dragon favored him, the same with Pearlstone Saintess. Looks like they noticed his bloodline. Remember, they have amazing bloodline too.” Another extrapolated.

“That’s possible.” Some agreed with this, especially the young geniuses.

Otherwise, how could someone as regular as Li Qiye win the two women over?

In reality, Li Qiye being impervious to the heat had nothing to do with a phoenix bloodline. The spectators simply didn’t know what was going on and chose to come up with a plausible explanation.

“So what if he has a phoenix bloodline?” An expert regained his wits and snorted: “He’s still not powerful, not at the sacred level, so this bloodline isn’t special right now. Only power will lead to victory.”

“True, he’s not stronger than Young Lord Bai. He doesn’t have long to live either after offending the young lord and Yin Yang.” Another chimed in.

This bloodline was astonishing and made people envious. However, they still dismissed him because of his weak cultivation. Opposing the princess’ group right now would only end in death.

As for Wu Zhongtian and the others, they were afraid because Li Qiye might be the only person in history to be unaffected by the heat here, as far as they know.

They agreed with the ancestor’s speculation. A phoenix bloodline was the only explanation for this.

Only Pearlstone Saintess thought that Li Qiye could still do this regardless of his bloodline.

“Poof.” The flame in his palm disappeared. He walked out of the domain and smiled at the princess: “See? You don’t need to worry about me traveling through there.”

All eyes were on the princess now. They knew that this alliance wouldn’t easily abandon the treasury.

“Young Noble Li, you are truly incredible. Looks like you have the mythical phoenix bloodline and will definitely soar to the nine firmaments in the future. My horizon was broadened today...” The princess didn’t hold back on praising Li Qiye.

This would be considered a great honor, especially for the younger generation. They would definitely be elated but Li Qiye was unaffected.

“Okay, you no longer have any business here. Leave and stop being an eyesore.” Li Qiye waved his hand and said.

This wasn’t his first time telling them to leave but as the adage goes - never slap a smiling face. No one else would be so blunt when the princess was so generous with her praise.

Moreover, this alliance was extremely powerful. Putting aside Li Qiye’s bloodline, this alliance and their armies were unbeatable in this place.

Thus, the blatant disdain was impossible to take. Zhongtian and the others had an ugly expression. Even the princess’ eyes turned cold. She remained calm and told Pearlstone Saintess: “Sister Shi, I am sincerely asking everyone to join us, I hope for your sympathy. Will you put in a word or two?”

The princess made it clear, wanting Pearlstone to convince Li Qiye. She remained patient with these two.

“Her Highness can’t be any nicer.” The crowd thought, still thinking about the contrast in attitude between Li Qiye and the princess. They also thought that Pearlstone Saintess would make a compromise.

However, Pearlstone shook her head and said: “Princess, I say this with nothing but goodwill, our young master is wanting the best for you, he’s being merciful right now. Leave with your followers or face his wrath with terrible consequences. Think about it.”

Pearlstone had no ulterior motive this time. She knew that Li Qiye would stop playing nice soon and rivers of blood would start flowing. The princess and her men wouldn’t be able to escape death.

Alas, others didn’t appreciate this. They were shocked that she would still support Li Qiye, an outsider instead of her fiance’s sect and future sister.

“Biting the hand that feeds you!” One disciple from Yin Yang couldn’t help raising his voice.

“Clank!” A ray flashed and he was instantly decapitated. Blood gushed from the severed body.

“You deserve death.” Li Qiye had a sword in his hand now. He gently blew away the blood pearls on the blade.

The crowd’s expression instantly changed after seeing his nonchalant murder.

“Such impudence!” Both the godchild and the first prince stepped forward. The former shouted!” Brat, you brought this upon yourself!”

Li Qiye answered by tossing the sword back to Pearlstone Saintess. He raised his hand and a crack suddenly appeared in the domain. Lava oozed out from that spot.

People finally realized that there was an ocean of magma underneath. The lava that came out suddenly flew and coiled around Li Qiye’s hand.

He came into possession of the destructive fire affinity, enough to destroy an army.

“Come together.” He smiled and swung his hand down.

“Boom!” Terrible destruction blasted across the area.

“Die!” The first prince and the godchild didn’t believe in Li Qiye’s power.

“Clank!” The godchild used a sword slash while the first prince performed a draconic punch.

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“Boom!” Many shook back and forth from the impact of Li Qiye hitting the sword and draconic punch.

“Thump! Thump! Thump!” The godchild and the first prince were pushed backward; their vitality churning from the force.

Both of them became startled, having far underestimated their opponent.

“So strong, isn’t he just a Silver Carapace?” Most were in disbelief.

“It must be the power of the phoenix trueflame.” Another murmured.

“That has to be it.” They saw his hand covered in lava. It seemed to be encompassing a limitless weight, hence his ability to repel his foes.

“Just a useless bunch.” Li Qiye stood there, staring at them and chuckling: “All of you, come.”

He clearly wanted everyone on the other side to come together, not just these two.

“We’ll see about that!” The easily-agitated godchild roared.

“Boom!” A majestic brilliance and strands of dao light emanated from him.

He looked like a supreme dao blooming outward, capable of controlling all things under heaven.

“Inborn Dao Physique!” Many shouted in response.

“Indeed, an incredible gift.” An older expert confirmed in astonishment.

The activation of this physique made his vitality several times greater.

“Clank!” He summoned a thick and large sword, black from top to bottom. It looked like a bone with a golden streak. This streak was there with the sword material from the very beginning, not added later.

“Buzz.” The sword glowed black and released a visual phenomenon - a massive beast with four legs and a horn. It had black scales all over but the horn was golden, seemingly made from an ancient immortal metal.

“Raa!” The beast heralded a bestial aura. Its ferocity made others shudder.

“Primal Onyx Lynx!” The older experts recognized the beast.

“That sword is a high-level heaven sword.” Someone knew enough about Firmaments to recognize the sword.

“The previous sect master of Firmaments used it.” Another person said with envy.

“It’s made from the dao bone of a Primal Onyx Lynx.” People felt both its bestial aura and grand dao power.

This was one of the strongest swords in Firmaments. Their Heavenly Sovereign was fortunate enough to obtain an expensive dao bone from an ancient lynx. The outcome was a sword possessing this beast’s power and dao.

The previous sect master gave it to the godchild not long after he joined the sect because he had an inborn dao physique. He became its successor later.

This dao physique allowed him to control weapons without any limitation even at the Mortal Shell realm, perhaps the best advantage to having it.

“Boom!” Visual phenomena manifested behind him - a rotating sun, moon, and the stars. He seemed to be the ruler of an entire realm.

“Firmaments Art.” An expert became startled: “He really managed to finish it. That’s the future sect master for you.”

Using Firmaments Art boosted the godchild’s power several magnitudes higher.

Inborn Dao Physique, Primal Onyx Lynx Sword, and Firmaments Art - these three things took the godchild to the next level.

He clearly used everything he got to kill Li Qiye in order to wash away the humiliation earlier.

“Count me in!” The first prince didn’t want to miss out and shouted.

“Clank! Clank! Clank!” Individual plates attached themselves to him, forming a full golden armor. He looked like a king ready to speak to his subjects. Their lives were up to a single whim of his.

“Skylight Draconic Bulwark!” A spectator recognized the armor and said: “The king gave it to the first prince.”

According to the legends, this armor was made from the scale of a mature flood-dragon, allowing its user to be impervious to weapons and elemental attacks. It belonged to the king. It seemed that it was passed down to the first prince, meaning that he would be the next in line.

“Boom!” He then channeled his merit law. A royal energy rushed up to the sky. Numerous regal signs gathered around him, culminating in the image of a great kingdom.

Within it, his followers and citizens prostrated and offered him all of their power and vitality. This naturally took him to the next level. He turned into a peerless king, capable of sealing gods and slaying devils.

People couldn't help but stare in admiration.

"Regal Draconic Secret." The crowd knew that this was the secret technique of Skylight. Only the royal family was allowed to learn it.

The two surrounded Li Qiye, intending to kill him with their best techniques.

"They're not messing around anymore, it'll be to the death." One spectator murmured.

Everyone watched with bated breath, wanting to see the duo take down Li Qiye.

"I can't be missing this." Wu Zhongtian suddenly joined the fray with a serious tone.

He didn't care about his status and reputation, joining the other two. This showed that he viewed Li Qiye as a mighty foe.

By this point, most realized that Li Qiye was far more powerful than he let on. Otherwise, Wu Zhongtian would never join others to take him on.

"It's starting." The atmosphere became excited.

Wu Zhongtian was an incredible genius. If it wasn't for the brilliant Bai Jianchan, he might have been the next successor of Yin Yang Gate.

To be able to see him in action was a blessing for the spectators.

"Buzz." The yin and yang emerged behind him. His shadow became long and stretched across the realm, the same with his actual figure. Just one stomp could crush the land.

"An avatar, he's in the Myriad-form Sanctity realm." His current cultivation realm became obvious.

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Wu Zhongtian's current cultivation was expected. Nonetheless, seeing in action was still startling.

After all, Zhongtian was still quite young. Many ancestors in their old age were still in this realm. Thus, his achievements far exceeded his peers. Even the older cultivators paled in comparison.

Nonetheless, he cultivated before Bai Jianchan but the guy was at the sacred level right now. From this, one could see just how incredible Bai Jianchan was - a genius among geniuses.

"Clank!" He actually put away his sword and summoned two different weapons, one in each hand.

They looked quite unique, resembling two long translucent needles. They had indelible dao runes distinguishing them as artifacts or weapons. Otherwise, one might mistake them for being two crystal needles.

The faint, flashing glow coming from them added an ethereal nature. They seemed to be pulsing in and out of existence.

They lacked murderous intent and powerful dao force. However, everyone could tell that they could take their opponents' lives in the blink of an eye.

"Shadowless Divine Needles." An ancestor recognized them.

"Those mythical weapons from Yin Yang?" Others took a deep breath.

"Yes, according to the rumors, they're created from the dao bone of a Shadowless Divine Bee by Ancient Zen Dao Lord, the best at assassination." Another older expert said.

This dao lord once met a bee lord, an extremely powerful chaos primal beast. The dao lord pursued it several times yet still couldn't kill it. Later on, Heavenly Sovereign Chan Yang came to help and they were able to slay it at last.

The dao lord used its dao bones to create these two needles - a perfect tool for killing, virtually impossible to escape.

"Rumble!" Wu Zhongtian channeled his yin yang energy into the needles. Their glow pulsed at an increasing pace.

Once they left his hands, they would deliver the fatal blow to the enemy's chest in the blink of an eye.

"Let's get started." Li Qiye looked relaxed despite being surrounded by three cultivators, fully showing his contempt.

"Boom!" The lava surged out again and roared like a dragon to the horror of the crowd; its target was Li Qiye.

Anyone else would be reduced to ashes in no time at all due to the temperature. Alas, Li Qiye was unaffected.

The lava immediately condensed on him, forming a thick layer of armor with flames on the surface with the image of a phoenix. One could hear a faint screech as well.

"He really does have a phoenix bloodline." The experts thought that their prior suspicion was correct.

The other spectators felt the same way.

"Kill him!" The godchild and the first prince didn't give Li Qiye time to prepare after seeing the lava armor. They leaped towards him like tigers descending from the mountain.

"Raa!" A massive lynx blotted out the sky and tore out space with its unstoppable claws. Its mouth could devour all living beings.

“That’s terrifying.” The spectators felt as if their souls were being targeted by this black lynx, on the verge of being swallowed at any moment.

“Boom!” The first prince sent down his kingdom, crushing everything in its path. He resembled a god in charge of his own domain.

Everything crumbled before the might of the lynx and the kingdom, especially the spatial area around Li Qiye.

“It’s a sure kill!” One spectator said while his legs buckled.

“Break.” Li Qiye laughed before commanding. His armor lava exuded a harrowing torrent of flames, akin to the eruption of a million volcanoes.

Everything started shaking as a result. At this exact moment, Wu Zhongtian made his move. The two needles disappeared from sight before emerging right in front of Li Qiye’s forehead, ready to drill through his skull.

The crowd didn’t have time to gasp, thinking that he was finished.

However, all three attacks still couldn’t contend against the eruption of the lava armor.

“Boom!” A deafening explosion blinded everyone. Once they could see again, they saw the trio being blown away.

The domain broke down; the sword was sent to the horizon.

“Look at the needles! It’s just like the legend, so deadly!” Meanwhile, some were focused on the needles.

“No.” A keen observer noticed that the lava still managed to stop the needles from penetrating Li Qiye’s forehead.

The heat from the lava could burn anything. The needles actually melted into liquid dripping into the ground.

“How can artifacts refined by a dao lord be melted... this has to be phoenix fire...” People took a deep breath. Power types of true flames wouldn’t be able to do so.

“Ugh...” All three opponents vomited blood and smashed into a mountain.

They were grievously wounded. Standing up again made them vomit blood again due to their chaotic internal vitality.

People couldn’t believe it. That combination attack was insanely powerful and Li Qiye should have died. The opposite actually occurred.

“So this is the power of a phoenix?” One spectator stared at the lava armor.

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Everyone got chills after witnessing the previous exchange.

“The power of a phoenix.” They truly believed that Li Qiye had a phoenix bloodline. This allowed him to control the flames here.

“This brat is too lucky.” Some became jealous because a phoenix was one of the most powerful divine beasts. This ordinary guy actually had the prestigious bloodline.

The trio kept on puking several times before stabilizing their vitality. Nonetheless, they were as pale as can be, staggering backward in fear because of the lava armor.

“So weak, I didn’t even do anything yet. You all would die after a single stomp then.” Li Qiye casually remarked.

The casualness worsened the blow on the three. They nearly vomited blood again from anger while their expression darkened. Unfortunately, the three geniuses had no retort because Li Qiye was telling the truth.

There was an invisible palm grasping their throat, stopping any anger from coming out. They have never felt this level of frustration before.

The spectators felt the same way, speechless. Even those who hated Li Qiye or were jealous of him had nothing to say.

He really just stood there and didn’t do a single thing. The lava armor did it all; the eruption of its power sent the group flying, going as far as grievously injuring them.

“How?!” The first prince shouted, unable to accept this.

He once loomed above everyone. Now, his opponent didn’t move a finger and he lost completely. This was as humiliating as can be.

Worst of all, he lost to someone he completely looked down on. In his mind, Li Qiye was nothing more than a piece of trash.

“You all said that I have a phoenix bloodline. Consider it that. And it is true that this place used to be the nest of a phoenix, a place for rebirth.” Li Qiye smiled and said.

Everyone exchanged glances, thinking that he had confirmed this speculation.

Only the latter half was actually true. Because this place used to be the rebirth area of a phoenix, Li Qiye had full control over its power.

At this point, the princess raised her hand. The ancestors from Firmaments and the armies of Yin Yang and Skylight moved forward.

“Rumble!” The cavalry of Skylight surrounded the first prince.

“Get in formation!” An ancestor shouted at the first prince. He immediately joined the group.

Firmaments Sword Formation also activated above with loud clunks. Divine Swords emerged to form a great formation.

“Get back!” An ancestor from Firmaments pulled the godchild back in to complete the formation.

As for Wu ZHongtian, he also returned to the army of Yin Yang. One wouldn’t be able to notice him anymore since he became a part of it.

“If you wish to challenge all of us alone, Young Noble Li, we will do as you wish. It will be an honorless victory and I apologize for it.” The princess politely said.

“Honorless victory? Whatever, you can come too. I’ll kill all of you to prevent further annoyance.” Li Qiye smiled and did a hand gesture, telling them to come.

Everyone took a deep breath since they no longer viewed Li Qiye as arrogant. He had shown himself to be worthy of speaking like this.

“Is it possible? Those armies probably have one hundred thousand men.” One spectator whispered.

“Wait and see.” An older expert didn’t know the answer.

After all, the other side had an overwhelming force with actual ancestors. Though not that many were here, they were the strongest characters in their sects.

They no longer cared about seniority and actually worked together with their fellow members to fight a junior.

“Okay, please broaden our horizon, Young Noble Li.” The princess solemnly nodded. Their foe was invincible right now due to his bloodline and the area.

Of course, she also thought about escaping but it seemed that he wouldn’t just let them leave.

The two sides have broken all facades of friendliness. A fight to the death was in order.

“Firmaments Sword Art!” An ancestor shouted and the swords up above started spinning to form a terrible hurricane. It tore the sky vault apart and was enough to drag a star down and crush it to pieces, the same with a sect.

People shuddered after seeing this. Being stuck in there meant being crushed. Merit laws and treasures were useless.

“Raa!” Skylight’s army turned into a golden dragon. This was their famous Regal Draconic Formation that had saved their country many times from invaders.

“Boom!” It landed on the ground and created cracks everywhere. It roared and released its torrential aura, showing off its destructiveness.

“The king of Skylight once presided over this formation and killed a Heavenly Sovereign near the border, or so they say.” One spectator commented.

Both Firmaments and Skylight have made their move. Only Yin Yang's army stood still. Because they were shrouded by chaos true energy of the yin yang affinity, no one could see what they were doing. This made them look even more dangerous.

"What will Yin Yang Gate do?" Someone wondered.

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Firmaments Sword Formation, Regal Dragon Formation, and Yin Yang Gate still waiting - all of this created an unbearably tense atmosphere.

"Who's gonna win?" This became the key question.

Even the experienced ancestors didn't have a good answer. They stared at Li Qiye then at the armies on the other side.

In terms of troops, the princess naturally had an overwhelming advantage. They had around 100,000 capable cultivators or so with high morale.

On any other day, the ancestors would bet on this side. The formations from these three sects have been famous for their prowess, not to mention the waiting Yin Yang Gate.

However, it was difficult because Li Qiye possessed the mythical phoenix bloodline with a home-court advantage.

"He might be strong but not that strong." Someone's first intuition was to pick the princess' side.

Those three sects together would be unstoppable. No sect could oppose them, let alone an individual.

"I don't agree." An expert was still afraid of the eruption earlier. The trueflame of a phoenix was mysterious and left a deep impression on them.

He went on with a hushed voice: "This place is filled with phoenix trueflame and he has that bloodline. No one should be able to contest this."

According to the legends, even Skylight Dao Lord couldn't reach the deepest part of Fire Domain. This showed the might of the flames found here.

"Hmph, maybe his bloodline is extremely thin." A fan of the maiden and the saintess scowled, showing off his jealousy.

"He might only be able to borrow a small amount of the domain's power, we'll see if he can stop the three behemoths." Another sneered.

The young ones nodded in agreement. Firmaments Sword Formation was this sect's strongest; the regal formation has been unstoppable for Skylight as well.

Few ancestors from the big sects could hang on, let alone defeat them.

On the contrary, the princess took this very seriously. She calmly said: "We'll have to try our best and use everything we have as a showing of respect. I also apologize for the lack of respect shown prior in our words."

She made it clear that her allies would swarm him and use all means necessary.

"That's fine. Use everything you have since this will be your last opportunity." Li Qiye smiled.

"I'm glad to hear that." The princess took out a treasure. It issued a buzzing noise.

"Poof!" Li Qiye's armor immediately reacted by sending out flames towards her.

However, her treasure wasn't for defensive purposes. It flew above Li Qiye and started rotating. It opened a portal releasing extreme coldness, enough to freeze the radius of ten thousand miles.

"Zzz-" It tried to turn Li Qiye into a statue but his lava armor had reacted earlier with the flames to stop this process.

It became a battle between fire and ice. The portal didn't relent and continued sending the chilling affinity towards him. This was enough to freeze an entire ocean and the fabrics of reality.

Li Qiye's flames weakened despite several attempts of surging back. The cold seemed to be having the upper hand, successfully chaining the armor.

People saw a mirror made of ice above him. On the other side of the mirror was a world of extreme yin - the origin of the cold affinity. Everything there including dao laws were frozen and Li Qiye became its prime target.

"Heavenseal Frost Mirror! A supreme weapon left behind by Skylight Dao Lord." A golem expert became startled.

Most didn't expect the princess to use a dao lord weapon at the start to suppress Li Qiye.

"The dao lord used this mirror to enter the domain back then." An ancestor shuddered and felt the bone-biting chill despite the far distance.

"Impressive start, aiming for the weak spot." A spectator saw that she didn't waste time in using a fatal move right away. The phoenix trueflame seemed to have met its nemesis.

This mirror was one of the ace cards in treading this domain. However, she used it now to kill Li Qiye.

She spoke politely and elegantly with Li Qiye as if they weren't enemies, completely different from the first prince. However, she wanted to kill him from the very start and hid it quite well.

It had nothing to do with her brother, only for Bai Jianchan. Intuition told her that Li Qiye would be a great threat.

"Attack!" She ordered.

The members of Yin Yang Gate obeyed. A fog of chaos emanated as they moved with lightning speed, too fast for the naked eyes.

“Clank! Clank! Clank!” Chains coiled around Li Qiye in the next second. They were made from five-colored divine metals, extremely resilient and impossible to be cut even by the sharpest swords.

The chains came from all directions and were too fast to dodge, completely locking Li Qiye in place. Chains from underground wrapped tightly around his legs as well.

The chains also had blade-like barbs so all of his weak spots were struck. Thus, the goal was to stop his veins and energy channeling.

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Li Qiye was immobilized as if his veins had been sealed, unable to muster any strength.

“Fiendish Confinement!” A horrified spectator shouted.

“Yin Yang’s terrible imprisoning technique.” Someone had heard of it before.

This was meant for capturing evil villains or traitors. A large-scale version of this technique could capture thousands of enemies on the battlefield in one swoop.

If all the chains were focused on one person, it should be enough to capture a heavenly Sovereign. This technique was both effective and cruel.

Once trapped, the victim’s muscles and veins were finished. They would become crippled and be stuck on a bed for the rest of their lives.

“He can’t move.” The spectators thought that Li Qiye was a fish on the chopping board now.

“Kill him!” A shout came from Firmaments Sword Formation. The divine swords started rotating into a circle, forming a massive drill of immense destruction. It intended to reduce Li Qiye to bits.

“Raa!” The golden dragon formation also roared. The scales on the creature shot out like the sharpest blades in existence.

This torrential attack could add a thousand holes onto a mountain. Li Qiye wouldn’t fare much better.

The dragon didn’t stop there and slashed at Li Qiye’s throat with its ten claws, wanting to decapitate him right away. After a single flash, the claws were already next to Li Qiye’s neck.

The triple attacks came in unison with the greatest urgency.

Escaping was impossible. Of course, the victim was immobilized anyway.

“There’s no avoiding this.” Everyone thought that it was over.

“Right.” They knew that it would be a terrible death - exploding to dust.

“That’s what he gets for opposing Yin Yang Gate. Nothing good can come from it. Arrogant people like him will always be killed, it’s an honor to go down to the princess and the others, what more does he want.” Another coldly gloated.

Quite a few people here wanted Li Qiye to die so they were applauding.

“Boom!” In this crucial moment, an ocean of lava came out of the domain and drowned Li Qiye entirely. It became a cataclysmic scene akin to the end of the world.

The fight with the geniuses earlier had some erupting flames but this was on another scale entirely. The shockwaves from the influx of lava sent the spectators flying.

“Screech!” A screech could be heard - one that could frighten even the cruelest devil king and tear apart the azure.

“A phoenix!” Someone saw the image of a phoenix within the flame. The rest became stunned.

Just its image was enough to intimidate the nine firmaments. Even the gods would run away since struggling was futile.

“A mythical divine beast...” Some dropped to their butt or their knees.

This wasn’t a real phoenix but the image of one alone was unbeatable.

“The legends are all real, this was really a phoenix’s nest.” One ancestor became amazed. He didn’t think he would be able to witness something like this in his lifetime.

The image spread its fiery wings and blotted out the sky. It flapped once and unleashed the flames, ready to annihilate everything.

The chains around Li Qiye, the chilling mirror above, the countless divine swords - all were melted in no time at all.

The wings of the phoenix severed all affinities in its path. Just a tiny touch immediately cut down the massive golden dragon and dissolved the formations.

“Ahh!” Blood rained down along with severed heads. The ground became red in no time at all.

The armies of all three sects were immediately killed. The several ancestors along with the trio of geniuses weren’t spared either.

Their eyes were wide open while their head was separated from their body. They only managed to see the wings of the phoenix as the last thing.

They finally learned what could be considered a sure-kill move and total despair. Their merit laws and treasures were useless against this great bird.

The bodies finally fell to the ground, resulting in loud thumps. Blood flowed like a stream in the domain. The alliance was massacred like insects.

A while ago, Wu Zhongtian and the other two geniuses thought that they were untouchable. Now, their corpses were becoming cold on the ground.

This result was as shocking as can be.

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Bones and corpses piled up like hills above the streams of blood to the horror of the crowd.

These three sects were the strongest lineages in the north. How could an individual take them down so effortlessly and brutally?

The crowd's stomach churned after hearing the stench; their palms became sweaty as they stared at Li Qiye.

He didn't think twice before massacring them. Just think about it, it meant that all three sects would be pursuing him with everything they got. Heavenly Sovereigns themselves would join.

Yin Yang Gate was the worst to have as an enemy among the three. Nonetheless, Li Qiye simply didn't think about the consequences.

"How domineering." An expert from the previous generation took a deep breath.

"More like brutal, no one is more brutal than him in the north..." An ancestor smiled wryly, feeling chills coursing down his back.

"Too weak." Li Qiye smiled as if he didn't just kill 100,000 men.

No one but him would dare to say this given the tough future ahead with three behemoths after him.

"The princess left." A meticulous spectator noticed this during the fight.

Of course, he didn't dare to say that she had escaped in order to give her some face.

The moment she saw the true power of the lava, she immediately knew that the situation was grim and escaped without any hesitation.

Most thought that this was a wise decision. It didn't affect her reputation and prestige in the slightest.

"That's indicative of her vision and insight." The older cultivators praised her.

Others wouldn't have been able to escape in time or they would care about their sect's reputation and their own to do so.

She was quick and decisive - good qualities to have for a general.

Li Qiye had no intention of pursuing her since she didn't affect the grand scheme of things in the slightest.

"She won't let this go." One spectator quietly said.

"Even if she wants to, the others won't. Yin Yang? No, the same with Firmaments and Skylight. They will want blood for blood." An ancestor shook his head.

Plus, the three sects had no choice. Swallowing this anger would destroy their status in the north. How could they intimidate their rivals and tributaries from then on? How could they remain at the top?

Swift vengeance was essential in keeping their spot. This was especially true for Yin Yang. It has gradually grown to become the leader of the north, influential enough to give commands to the others.

As long as Li Qiye was alive, they wouldn't be able to walk with their head held high. Others would laugh at them for being cowardly turtles.

"Okay, the show's over, back to your own business, everyone." Li Qiye shrugged and told the crowd.

Some were actually happy to see this. At the very least, they could return to the domain to find some more treasures.

He went back to the domain while Pearlstone Saintess and Shi Wawa stayed outside.

He had no fear of the domain in the slightest during this saunter.

"The phoenix bloodline is incredible." The easy journey made others jealous.

People from Divine Stone Ridge, despite their success, needed to exercise prudence with every step. Their path was meticulously planned.

The ancestors from that sect were afraid of the heat because one wrong step meant becoming smoke.

This wasn't the case for Li Qiye since the heat didn't seem to affect him. Everyone believed that this was due to the phoenix blood flowing through him.

Pearlstone Saintess didn't say anything because she knew that it had nothing to do with the phoenix bloodline. He could still do so without; this was just a repeat of what happened in the beetle valley.

Miracles were common when Li Qiye was around. The only real question she had were the mysteries regarding his identity.

"Is he not here for the treasury?" People became surprised because Li Qiye wasn't heading for the dao portal.

He walked towards the depth of the domain where the terrible flames resided.

"What does he want to do?" The crowd started clamoring.

"Don't forget about his bloodline." An ancestor brought this up.

They had a moment of realization and thought that this made sense. The guy was tracing back to the source.

“So what’s actually there?” One person asked.

The ravaging flames in there frightened all of them. Nonetheless, they remained curious.

The flames have been there for who knows how many years? What else was there?

“Maybe an extraordinary treasure, that’s why Skylight Dao Lord tried to go there.” Someone said.

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The raving flames reached the sky and created a terrible storm seemingly hellbent on annihilating everything that got close enough. No force could withstand the heat, becoming insignificant in comparison.

Everyone outside the domain watched with bated breath; their eyes wide open. They wanted to see how he would face that terrible flame.

Even Skylight Dao Lord had to give up in the end. How could a junior at the Silver Carapace realm do better?

“Will there be a phoenix nest within that flame?” Someone boldly speculated. The rest felt the same way.

Li Qiye had a smile on his face while standing at the border of the fiery tempest.

Remember, no other places in the domain had visible fires. It was strange because this tempest ravaged everything yet it didn’t spread beyond this point. It seemed that it was content to stay in this place, performing its responsibility as a protector.

Perhaps this wasn’t a regular flame that came into being the normal way. Perhaps the phoenix itself created it for a purpose.

“He’s going into that inferno!” One spectator shouted after keeping a keen eye on Li Qiye.

Li Qiye took the first step and everyone thought that he could be annihilated by the inferno, either torn to shreds or reduced to ashes.

This was based on the fact that the invincible Skylight Dao Lord chose against trying to enter this place.

However, a miracle occurred since nothing happened to Li Qiye. The flames erupted but it didn’t rush towards him.

A gap emerged at the bottom of the inferno, akin to an entrance or a giant spreading its hands, wanting to embrace Li Qiye.

“How can this be?!” Everyone became astounded, unable to trust their own eyes.

Alas, this was reality. Li Qiye then disappeared into the ravaging flames. Its merciless destruction didn't affect him at all. Not even a hair of his was hurt in the process.

"I believe everything now, this has to be a phoenix's nest and he has the right bloodline." Someone said with absolute confidence.

This speculation seemed to be all but confirmed.

"What a noble and rare bloodline, even the thinnest type will still let him have boundless potential." Other geniuses became jealous.

Phoenixes being ancient divine beasts was a well-known fact. They existed in a time beyond tracing. Someone with this bloodline was meant for greatness, regardless of the quality of their blood.

"The first prince and the others got really unlucky. Li Qiye is invincible here, fighting him in this place was unwise." Another couldn't help but comment.

"Yes, they should have waited until he left this place and tried to kill him." Another added with hindsight.

Li Qiye most likely had the power to control the inferno. This would allow him to be unbeatable in the domain.

Li Qiye calmly observed the area inside the inferno. The internal region didn't have the same destructive affinity and the scorching heat. It was warm like a child sleeping in their mother's embrace.

The flames served as the walls and the roof but they were as pleasant and comfortable as can be.

No existence and powers could enter this place. The barrier was perfect in separating the external world from this one.

This was indeed a phoenix's nest, true to everyone's expectation. It was created in an exquisite and meticulous manner. The entire place could be considered a grand dao.

The materials consisted of the precious phoenix-roost wood beams. Each was carefully placed in a particular order. Their length, age, and grains were unique. This allowed them to culminate into a supreme grand dao.

When people look at it, they would think that it was the dao of a phoenix, not its nest.

"The final masterpiece during the last moment of a phoenix's innate gift - rebirth." Li Qiye sighed and praised.

This was their innate grand dao, completely unique. Li Qiye was one of the few who could actually understand it.

He had seen one again back in Stone Medicine World. Its corpse emerged again and Li Qiye let it fly towards the horizon.

The nest had a feather with a divine glow, as beautiful as can be. Once the faint, embedded runes on it were combined, the ancient character with the meaning of “virtue” came to be. This was the phoenix’s most precious feather.

Moreover, the center had an egg around the size of a large bowl, too magnificent to be described by words.

It looked as if it was made from snow-white jade, also pulsing with various runes depicting space, time, and the myriad ages.

It was surrounded by a gentle flame as if its mother was caressing it. Millions of years have passed but the incubation process still hasn’t been completed.

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The egg has been here all along. If others were to see it, they would be driven to insanity.

Its value was immeasurable. In fact, it wouldn’t be an exaggeration to say that it was far more precious than a dao lord.

There have been plenty of dao lords in history, the same couldn’t be said about this egg. The thing was real; a phoenix might come out of it with a pure bloodline.

Unfortunately, years have passed and it still didn’t finish the incubation stage.

Others might not know the reason. Some would assume that a lengthy period was required for the beast of a divine egg.

This wasn’t the case for Li Qiye since he let this phoenix roam free back then.

“Still not enough.” He shook his head: “A fiery rebirth isn’t that easy. The villainous heaven doesn’t allow it.”

This phoenix roamed through space back then, seeking a way to reach rebirth. It experienced numerous tribulations and accumulated wondrous resources. In the end, failure was still the result.

Of course, when strictly speaking, this phoenix still didn’t fail. At the very least, it still left behind an egg.

This was an opportunity eager to strike when everything lined up perfectly. It would be able to break out of the shell and soar above the nine firmaments once more.

Alas, fiery rebirth could be considered a great tribulation. The process back then invited a disaster, resulting in flaws in the egg. Otherwise, it would have hatched long ago.

Li Qiye stopped looking at the egg and focused on the entire nest instead. The profundity of this place was endless and complicated, on the verge of being inscrutable despite trying for a lifetime.

However, it was continuously evolving and being derived in Li Qiye's eyes. He became immersed while appreciating its beauty.

"Click, click, click..." He gently knocked the entire nest, also in a special rhythm. An unknown power firmly took root in the area.

The nest seemingly came back to life. In the next second, it disappeared from sight, replaced by a massive cosmos. Each star here had a unique glow and an eternal mystery.

A light flashed on Li Qiye's forehead. This radiance turned into a dazzling maelstrom.

The stars in the cosmos started flying towards Li Qiye's forehead as if they had finally figured out their end destination.

A portal appeared there and absorbed in all the magical essences. Loud clunks sounded as the dao laws as big as gigantic veins twisted together to form a supreme grand dao inside his brain.

"The innate grand dao of a phoenix, rebirth." He took a look and sighed: "Unfortunately, this isn't the path I'm looking for, not what I want."

Each divine beast had a unique gift, allowing them to be mighty and peerless. Others would be ecstatic and jump up and down after obtaining one.

Li Qiye remained calm. Rebirth in this manner was brilliant but not part of his pursuit. It simply didn't matter to him.

After the cosmos disappeared, the nest still looked the same as before. An outsider wouldn't be able to figure it out.

Li Qiye put away the feather since it could be used to create an amazing outfit. He then looked at the egg.

Only a fool would leave it here but Li Qiye had no intention of taking it away. This place was the most suitable for its incubation.

The entire domain served this purpose, especially the raging inferno. Taking it out of this place would remove the favorable circumstances, resulting in greater difficulties.

"Fine, since we have met again, I shall grant you a fortune." Li Qiye said.

He became serious and raised his hand. A force enveloped the entire egg.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!" He sent out lightning bolts towards the phoenix.

The thing lit up, not because of the bright bolts but because something in there was activating, seemingly reacting to the incoming currents.

The power of the heavenly tribulation continued to pour into the egg. Li Qiye seemed to be the high heaven unleashing its supreme wrath to destroy this egg.

A phoenix screech could be heard inside the light within the egg. A tiny phoenix flapped its wings and attacked the sky with its endless flame, wanting to stop the terrible tribulation.

Alas, how could this little phoenix contend against the almighty Li Qiye? It cried out in pain as its wings were broken by the bolts.

Alas, it didn't give up and healed its injuries, flapping its wings to meet the tribulation head-on. This seemed to be rather futile.

"Activate!" Li Qiye raised his other hand and grasped the universe along with the little phoenix, protecting it with chaos energy.

This empowerment allowed the divine bird to survive and bathe in the tribulation.

"Screech!" The revitalized bird flew up and attacked the tribulation again.

This contest lasted for quite a while. The continuous battles and surpassing the tribulations matured the bird.

Li Qiye's clothes were drenched in sweat during this process. Of course, efforts were always rewarded.

The little bird gradually turned into a full-fledged phoenix capable of soaring above the skies. Its feathers radiated an amazing glow, enough to deter anyone. It looked divine and unbeatable. Once it broke out of its shell, a true phoenix would come out.

Li Qiye put his hands down and sat in the meditative pose to recover.

The supreme phoenix inside the egg stared at Li Qiye and let out a screech of gratitude. The light within slowly dissipated.

Everything returned to before as if nothing had happened.