Emperor 3531

Chapter 3531: Dragon-phoenix Commander

The mythical bird above was unique. Its long tail had a golden brilliance; its chest had special runic lines to form the character "Virtue" filled with a venerable dao aura.

Its five-colored feathers were resplendent, looking as beautiful as can be from a distance. It was abundantly clear that this bird was special, not inferior to the Silver-carapace Lin.

"That's five-colored luan, right?" A spectator became startled. [1]

This luan had an extremely thick and pure bloodline, close to being a divine bird.

Two people were standing on its back - a peerless woman and an old man.

The latter had a human body and a chicken head with four eyes. These eyes were extraordinary, most likely one of a kind.

They looked like unmatched stars; each could see and illuminate Eight Desolaces. People didn't dare to look straight at them even in their dormant state. They would feel their soul being drawn in.

The eyes seemed capable of killing anyone at a glance or even refining an entire world. The old man resembled a true master; each action could cause untold destruction.

One could faintly hear the roars of his plentiful vitality and power as if there was a true dragon hiding in there.

He was definitely a top ancient ancestor. Other cultivators would feel the urge to bow or even prostrate before him.

Strangely enough, he wore an out-of-place cloak with numerous colors.

This could make people burst out laughing if worn by someone else. No one dared to laugh at this old man due to his frightening eyes.

"Dragon-phoenix Maiden!" Everyone recognized the beauty standing next to him.

"What about him? Don't, don't tell me he's that old ancient ancestor? The forefather of the maiden's clan?" An ancestor took a deep breath and speculated after seeing the bird.

"You're right, he is Dragon King Commander. I was lucky enough to see his portrait next to Dragonphoenix Matriarch's portrait at the valley." A demon master said before kneeling on the ground. [2]

"Commander..." The demon then shouted with reverence.

"That's Dragon King Commander?" Everyone was shocked, especially the demons.

This title struck the crowd just as hard as Heavenly Sovereign Chan Yang.

"The younger brother of Dragon-phoenix Matriarch, a forefather of an ancient race." Some demons were unbearably excited; a few were moved to tears.

Dragon King Commander's clan was a great demon race with an old and noble bloodline. They haven't shown up for a long time now.

As for the commander, he dominated his era long ago. According to one legend, he petrified a first-rate sect with a single glance.

Furthermore, some records indicated that he was from the same era as Yin Yang Gate. It's just that his clan always kept a low-profile. Others would only talk about it in passing when the topic was Dragon Phoenix Valley.

That's why he wasn't as famous as Heavenly Sovereign Chan Yang and Yin Yang Gate.

However, a few old ancestors knew that he was just as strong as Heavenly Sovereign Chan Yang.

"Heavenly Sovereign Chan Yang is here, Dragon King Commander too, is it all because of Li Qiye?" These two men were the most influential cultivators in the north now. People were shocked to see the two of them in the same place today.

"No way, Li Qiye can't handle both of them." One spectator said after noticing that the commander was staring straight at Li Qiye too.

Li Qiye could be the strongest genius in existence and that still wouldn't be enough to take on two supremes at the same time.

"Seems like today is a good day." Li Qiye let out a natural smile after seeing the commander: "Everyone's here."

The commander almost became hysterical but managed to stabilize his emotions. He then looked over at Heavenly Sovereign Chan Yang.

"Bastard, what are you waiting for? Come out and greet His Excellency." The commander shouted.

While the crowd tried to digest this statement, he rushed over to Li Qiye and got on his knees: "This little one never thought that I would be able to see you again, Your Excellency. I am moved to tears." His four eyes were actually moist.

Dragon-phoenix Maiden who was standing next to him got on her knees as well. The crowd became stupefied.

"Shi Zhongtian greets you, Your Excellency." The colossal golem outside of Ancestral also got on his knees. His massive frame made it look like a mountain range was collapsing.

"Shi Zhong, Zhongtian... he's the great-grandson of Stone Monarch Dao Lord!" Another revelation took the crowd like a storm.

Very few people knew his origin, not even the disciples of Ancestral. Now, it turned out that he was Shi Zhongtian.

Most importantly, he also kneeled just like the commander.

"Chan Yang greets you, Your Excellency. I've never had the honor of meeting you before so I do not dare to be presumptuous and act familiar, please forgive me." Heavenly Sovereign Chan Yang got off the carriage and also kneeled before Li Qiye. His head touched the ground.

These three were absolutely the top cultivators in the north. All of them were showing absolute respect towards Li Qiye. Even a dao lord wouldn't receive this level of ceremonious treatment.

Thus, everyone's mouth was wide open. They have never seen such a shocking scene before.

Once they calmed down, they knew that it was time to prostrate as well.

"Greetings, Your Excellency!" The chant echoed across the nine heavens and ten earths.

No one knew the importance and significance behind "Your Excellency". However, since these top dogs were doing so, they had to follow the trend. This was absolutely the right choice.

Chapter 3532: Unrestrained Tears

Everyone was kneeling on the ground regardless of who they were, not daring to breathe loudly and disturbing Li Qiye. That would be disrespectful.

No one knew who he was but since Dragon King Commander, Heavenly Sovereign Chan Yang, and Shi Zhongtian were kneeling, his background and identity no longer mattered.

Nonetheless, the question still lingered in their mind. Just who was Li Qiye? How heaven-defying could his background be? No one dared to ask, of course.

Some didn't even have the courage to steal a glance at Li Qiye or it might bring a calamity to their sect.

They knew one thing for certain - that Li Qiye was a supreme existence, one far exceeding dao lords. This was obvious given how those three beings were treating him.

The next question became - what kind of existence is above dao lords? They couldn't come up with an answer while trembling with fear.

"Can it be..." One or two wisdom masters lived long enough to see clues in the shrouded history. They thought about a few particular lines in the records.

According to the legend, there used to be a master reigning over the eras, a supreme emperor, a monster sweeping through all opponents...

Historians had contrasting opinions on whether these figures were the same person or otherwise.

They didn't fully understand the vagueness of the records. Rumor has it that someone had disrespected the figure and ended up with total sect destruction. From then on, it became a taboo subject.

Another camp stated that a certain group purposely hid these events from the river of time...

No one knew that exact reason but the forbidden nature made future generations forget.

"It has to be him..." The wisdom master thought about these legends and became overwhelmed. The legends were actually true.

He secretly looked up to see Li Qiye before lowering his head right away, not wanting to be spotted. It was difficult to control his emotions right now. This was truly an honor.

Unfortunately, this was also a curse. He couldn't share this with anyone else, not even to his juniors. This was a defining moment of his life yet he had to keep it a secret forever.

Ultimately, the ones feeling the full brunt were still those from Yin Yang Gate. They thought that their sovereign was the strongest, not inferior to any dao lord. They were so sure that Li Qiye was a dead man and that they were saved.

Alas, their ancestor was now kneeling in front of Li Qiye to display total subservience. This was beyond their most terrible nightmare. They realized that they have messed with the wrong person, the worst possible man.

The five ancient ancestors couldn't believe it either, especially the Celestial Trinity.

They have been following Heavenly Sovereign Chan Yang for some time. They knew more about him and his supremacy more than anyone else. How could their ancestor bow next to Li Qiye's feet like this?

It became obvious how much trouble they had brought upon their sect. They were now eternal sinners of Yin Yang Gate.

"Rise." Li Qiye smiled and gave the command.

Everyone felt as if they have just been pardoned from a serious crime. The commander was an exception.

However, the sovereign and Shi Zhongtian waited until the commander stood up first before they did. The rest of the crowd was smart enough to wait for these three as well.

"Your Excellency." The commander had tears in his eyes.

Li Qiye also felt a sense of familiarity. He smiled and said: "I thought that turtles live the longest, it looks like you live longer than them."

The listeners felt as if only Li Qiye would dare to compare the great cultivator with a turtle. Anyone else would be trembling with fear when talking with Dragon King Commander.

"It is thanks to your blessing, Your Excellency." The commander said excitedly.

"You're old now, no longer the young chicken like before. However, you may still call me Boss." Li Qiye said.

"Deference is no substitute for obedience, Boss." The commander happily rubbed his palms together and said.

Ye Yaoling standing nearby felt as if her forefather has become a million years younger, reverting back to being a youth.

The commander was an old friend - the four-eyed basilisk!

He survived the long years and became a supreme ancestor with a cool title. He used to call Li Qiye "Boss" when they were together. Thus, Li Qiye told him to do the same for sentimental reasons.

"You still look the same, always eighteen." The commander said.

"Time moves so quickly, so many people are gone now." Li Qiye stared at the commander and said.

The basilisk sighed because loved ones have left him. This included his closest sister, Venerable Basilisk. Only a selected few were alive from his generation.

He didn't expect to see Li Qiye again. In the past, he saw Li Qiye tear the sky apart and left. Words couldn't describe his feelings regarding this reunion.

In fact, when Ye Yaoling reported this back to him, he suspected that it might be an imposter. When he actually saw Li Qiye again, he found the guy to be the same. His temperament and style couldn't be duplicated.

Chapter 3533: Apologies

The crowd remained silent, standing with both hands straight down and their head lowered.

The only one eligible to speak was Dragon King Commander. Heavenly Sovereign Chan Yang could only wait aside just a junior waiting to be reprimanded. The others had to watch from a distance.

Meanwhile, those from the coalition trembled with fear. Anxiety struck them deep since they could only wait for a sentence from Li Qiye. They have offended Li Qiye so the result seemed rather obvious.

"Your Excellency." The sovereign saw that Li Qiye and the commander had finished speaking and politely jumped in.

In the past, others tried their best just to have an opportunity to bow and greet him. Now, he had to stand waiting; this wasn't easy in the slightest.

"You're putting me in a difficult position by bowing." Li Qiye chuckled at him.

"The young ones were foolish enough to offend you, Your Excellency, please do as you please." The sovereign said with sincerity in a calm manner. He didn't go around in circles nor beg for mercy.

He had lived long enough to know about Li Qiye. If this existence wanted to kill someone, asking for mercy was useless.

"We had no grievance between us, just the wrong time and place." Li Qiye said.

The sovereign smiled wryly. He indeed had bad luck because he didn't do anything to Li Qiye. His only fault was being Ancestral Realm's successor. Alas, he had to watch his sect, Ancestral Realm, be destroyed by Li Qiye.

Now, he was a supreme ancestor but his descendants decided to provoke Li Qiye. He had no choice but to come out.

"Seems like I'm very unlucky." The sovereign said. He didn't expect to face something so problematic after reaching this old age.

"As I've said, there is nothing between us. Since you have acted with respect, I won't make it difficult for you. Tell me, what do you want?" Li Qiye said.

"Your Excellency, it is entirely up to you. It's my fault for not educating them well." The sovereign said.

He was prepared for the worst because nothing good would come from provoking Li Qiye. Even the strongest sects all ended with destruction.

Remember how powerful Soaring Immortal used to be? It still became dust. The Ancient Ming also dominated for eras. Where were they now?

His Yin Yang Gate had dominion over the north and could be considered a first-rate sect. However, they were still nothing compared to Soaring Immortal and the Ancient Ming.

The truth was that Li Qiye himself didn't need to do anything. Just one message from him would summon numerous top existences to come and destroy Yin Yang Gate.

The disciples from Yin Yang heard their ancestor and lowered their head, not daring to utter a single word.

Resistance was futile because their strongest ancestor was accepting his fate, let alone juniors like them. They were nothing more than ants compared to Li Qiye.

"I suppose you're stuck in the middle even though it is no fault of your own." Li Qiye shook his head: "It would be unreasonable for me to kill you. As for the other juniors, I'll spare them and leave it to you."

Li Qiye was in a good mood after meeting an old friend and decided against a massacre.

"Bastard, hurry up and punish those fools as an apology to His Excellency. Don't wait for someone else!" The commander shouted at the sovereign, seemingly using his connection to intimidate others.

However, he was actually doing the sovereign a favor. After all, they were from the same era; not many of them were left. The sovereign himself actually didn't do anything wrong. His unfilial descendants simply poked the beehive so the commander helped him out by ending the issue here.

"Thank you, Your Excellency." The sovereign lived long enough to recognize the situation and bowed towards Li Qiye.

"We'll end it with this." Li Qiye nodded and agreed with the commander's suggestion.

The sovereign took a deep breath and turned around, staring straight at the five ancient ancestors.

"Ignorant fools, you have done something unforgivable and become the sinners of your sect. Apologize to His Excellency via suicide." He coldly uttered.

The five exchanged glances. They have already prepared for death but were still shaken when truly facing it.

This was already a great result. They would be able to protect their sect by dying - the most merciful outcome for Yin Yang, Skylight, and Firmaments.

"Everyone has to die. Your Excellency, my mistake. I'll be going now." Blaze Blade Heavenly Sovereign bowed his head towards Li Qiye and laughed loudly.

"Clank!" He raised his sword and decapitated himself. Blood gushed out as his body fell to the ground.

"Your descendant has failed you, Ancestor. Farewell, may Yin Yang Gate prosper." The Celestial Trinity bowed towards the sovereign first then Li Qiye: "Your Excellency, we humbly apologize."

"Boom!" They destroyed their meridians and true fate, causing their body to tremble and blood to drip out of the corner of their mouth. They then fell to the ground, lifeless.

"This is it, I hope future descendants won't make the same mistake. My fault, Your Excellency." Azure Dragon King got on his knees before also destroying his true fate.

The five ancient ancestors committed suicide in order to protect their sect.

Heavenly Sovereign Chan Yang didn't say anything and watched with a cold expression. In his opinion, this was already the slightest punishment. He knew that it would take zero effort from Li Qiye to destroy the three sects. Li Qiye was being immensely merciful already.

"Your Excellency." The sovereign then turned back to Li Qiye.

"Go, cherish the time that you have left." Li Qiye waved his hand and said while dropping the issue with his opponents.

"Thank you, Your Excellency. May you live forever." The sovereign bowed.

"Scram already!" He then turned towards the armies and shouted before leaving.

The members of the armies left quietly with great dejection. They didn't dare to turn around once.

When they got here, they were domineering and in high spirits, confident in destroying Ancestral City. Who would have thought that they end up running like dogs without their master?

They would all be dead now if it wasn't for their forefather coming out to ask for forgiveness. No one expected this outcome at the start.

Chapter 3534: Chan Yang's Decision

Translator Note: I'll be mass changing Yin Yang Gate into Yin Yang Zen Gate when an admin is available.

It didn't take long before no one from the coalition was left. The sovereign has successfully saved them all.

The atmosphere became eerily silent afterward. The spectators still didn't dare to stare at Li Qiye whom they deemed to be the apex existence of this world on the same level as heaven. Looking up at him still required immense courage.

He lacked the same ferocious aura and bite as other masters due to his ordinary appearance. However, in their eyes, he was as extraordinary and unreachable as can be.

"Welcome back to the city, Your Excellency." Pearlstone Saintess led thousands of disciples outside the gate and prostrated on the ground to welcome him back.

The disciples and ancestors - even the reclusive ones - all came out for this ceremony.

"Good." Li Qiye nodded and stepped up the palanquin.

"The descendants of Ancestral City didn't throw away their ancestors' face." Dragon King Commander praised after seeing this.

Meanwhile, the neutral spectators outside the gate lowered their head with their hands hanging downward in order to bid him goodbye.

"I took pride in my intelligence and being able to read people. Seems like I'm clearly inferior to a junior today, how embarrassing." One wise master commented.

Those nearby didn't say anything. The knowledgeable ancestors felt the same way.

Not long ago, many found it astounding that Pearlstone Saintess supported Li Qiye and annulled the marriage agreement with Yin Yang Zen Gate. They considered her choice to be unwise and irrational.

Moreover, the youths thought that a junior like Li Qiye wasn't worth her antagonizing Yin Yang Zen Gate.

Nonetheless, the saintess still made such an unbelievable decision. Most thought that she would herald a calamity to Ancestral City.

In hindsight, she had the best insight and chose the right person. In fact, her decision saved Ancestral City.

Just think about it, if she had acted like everyone else and valued Bai Jianchan highly, the result would have been obvious. She would have died just like Bai Jianchan and Skylight Princess. Even her sect might have been destroyed.

Now, she had the chance to invite Li Qiye inside the city and could serve him. This was a godsend opportunity. Even Heavenly Sovereign Chan Yang wasn't so lucky.

Realizing this made the wisdom masters among the crowd think that they were nothing more than frogs under the well, truly shameful.

"It'll be hard for Ancestral City not to rise with her leading the way." One ancestor commented.

She earned the favor of a supreme existence like Li Qiye. This was a true fortune and opportunity unavailable to others who failed to see it.

So many youths and geniuses felt embarrassed as a result. They were the loudest bunch in questioning Pearlstone Saintess and Dragon-phoenix Maiden. By this point, it became apparent that Li Qiye wasn't the lucky one but rather, the two girls.

"Go back and stay in the sect, stop causing trouble." An ancestor eventually yelled at his juniors.

This was duplicated in multiple groups. They eventually left Ancestral City and returned to their sect.

The powers in the north closed their door and stopped their disciples from traveling after this event. They were afraid of the young ones causing unnecessary trouble, especially something foolish like provoking Li Qiye.

Yin Yang Zen Gate and its allies were the best examples. They nearly got destroyed from the debacle.

The ancestors also ordered their disciples to not talk about Li Qiye. This was another potential source of trouble.

Heavenly Sovereign Chan Yang didn't immediately return to the void after bringing back his sect members. He stood at the highest peak there and gazed at the world in silence for a long period.

Yin Yang Zen Gate has been around for a long time. It had a similar name in the past - Yin Yang Gate. It was created by the invincible Immortal Emperor Yin Yang, becoming one of the strongest imperial lineages. [1]

Later on, the sovereign during his youth was chosen by Ancestral Realm as its successor. Unfortunately, he didn't finish learning his arts before the realm was destroyed by Li Qiye.

This power was extremely strong and has lasted for millions of years, capable of commanding the world. Unfortunately, it stood no chance against Li Qiye.

This experience left a deep impression on Chan Yang. Thus, he later changed the name of Yin Yang Gate to Yin Yang Zen Gate.

Unfortunately, the sect was nearly destroyed again under his leadership. He nearly became an eternal sinner as well.

He watched the land in silence. He has always been here and guaranteed its prosperity and survival. Though it grew stronger with him around, it eventually became his shackles; the descendants became a source of worries.

Most importantly, it seemed that his protection caused future generations to become inferior, filled with pride and a sense of indestructibility.

He eventually made up his mind - it was time for him to leave. After all, he had protected Yin Yang Zen Gate long enough.

The descendants had their own path and fate. He chose to follow the path of the Immortal Emperors and the dao lords. It was time for him to leave and be free to his own desires.

He couldn't keep on being the sect's guardian. Otherwise, declination would be inevitable.

"Ancestor, that, that Li Qiye..." The ancestor in charge of guarding the coffin quietly said.

"Silence!" The sovereign shouted with unquestionable authority: "Never bring this up again. It is a forbidden matter that might result in total destruction."

"My mistake." The ancestor's legs became weak as he dropped to the ground and apologized.

"It is time for me to go. I leave Yin Yang Zen Gate to you all." The sovereign added.

"?!" The ancestor became startled and said: "Ancestor, where, where are you going?"

"The ends of the world or wherever I want to." The sovereign had an unprecedented sense of freedom after making this choice.

"Ancestor, if, if you leave, what is the sect going to do?" The ancestor was scared out of his mind.

The sect has always been under his protection. This allowed them to be confident, rising above all obstacles and defeating their foes.

"They have their own fate, no need for me to worry." The sovereign casually responded, no longer caring about the sect and future generations.

Chapter 3535: Instruction

"Ancestor..." The young ancestor prostrated and begged: "Please reconsider for the sake of the sect." He then smashed his head onto the ground, aware of the great blow to the sect in the absence of their sovereign.

"No need to say more, I have made up my mind." The sovereign waved his hand.

"If one day, Yin Yang Zen Gate is in danger..." The ancestor knew that further persuasion was futile, only hoping that his ancestor would care about old ties.

"Invite troubles? Deal with them." The sovereign flatly said.

"But... what if the sect goes down..." The ancestor didn't expect this answer.

"So be it." The sovereign had made up his mind and said: "Countless sects have gone down in history. What's one more?"

"Ancestor!" The ancestor shouted but the sovereign was already walking out toward an unknown destination.

From then on, no one ever saw Heavenly Sovereign Chan Yan again.

Li Qiye looked down at Ancestral City from a high pavilion reaching the clouds. Everything else seemed tiny like insects.

He didn't say a thing while Dragon King Commander and the others remained quiet.

After a while, he sat down with a natural expression, staring at the group.

"Years went by in the blink of an eye but I still remember everything clearly." The commander sobbed.

He used to be the four-eyed basilisk back then and enjoyed his youth - one worthy of remembrance.

Today, he stood at the top and looked back at the past. It would never come back.

"Indeed. I remember how you ran for your life while being chased by your sister." Li Qiye chuckled.

"Please don't make fun of me, I only cared about playing around then and didn't sympathize with her good intention." The basilisk smiled and felt warmth: "It's a shame she's no longer here."

Venerable Basilisk was also a top genius in that era. She lived quite long and left her clan to start Dragon Phoenix Valley. Alas, her power wasn't enough to withstand the withering of time.

"I wouldn't mind being chased around by her right now." The basilisk's expression became sad.

He had experienced numerous years and goodbyes. However, this particular memory still overwhelmed him with emotions.

"That's time, there's no going back after it passed." Li Qiye said.

The basilisk nodded and took a deep breath. He stared at Li Qiye and said: "Look at how old I am now compared to you, Boss."

"I'm always eighteen." Li Qiye chuckled.

"I also want to be eighteen every year but I don't have your dao heart. That's the difference between us." The basilisk said.

Of course, "old" here wasn't about physical appearance. At their power level, they could always reshape their body at any moment. However, his dao heart was the thing that was old in this case.

"I've been growing bored recently, the grand dao is too long and lonely. Maybe resting in peace is better. On the other hand, you're still moving forward in a heroic fashion, that's why we can't compare to you. Our dao heart probably would shatter if we experience the same things as you." He went on to say.

"I'll always be invincible regardless of the long path." Li Qiye said: "There must always be a pursuit in life. A fish still wants to turn over, an insect still wants to bare its fangs at the high heaven. That's what I want to do."

"Your pursuit is beyond my imagination. If you're a fish or an insect, then everyone else in the world is inferior to these things." The basilisk said.

Li Qiye only smiled and didn't respond.

Shi Qingjian and Ye Lingyao didn't join the conversation since they haven't reached the right level yet.

"Your clan's girl is not bad." Li Qiye glanced at Ye Lingyao and smiled.

"Not too stupid." The basilisk said: "She was scared by you and immediately reported it to me. In the beginning, I thought someone had the audacity to pretend to be you."

Ye Lingyao smiled wryly, recalling the first meeting with Li Qiye. That was truly a frightening experience.

She found him to be too arrogant and careless. It was a good thing that she didn't try anything disrespectful because not even her ancestor would be able to save her.

"Good talents, same with her bloodline, boundless potential." Li Qiye nodded approvingly.

"What are you waiting for? Thank Boss for praising you." The basilisk had a happy expression and told Yaoling.

She came forward and bowed towards Li Qiye.

"Your next line is, please grant your junior a fortune?" Li Qiye glanced at the basilisk.

"Haha, Boss, you're the lord of the world, bestowing one fortune or two isn't a problem. Plus, you're always generous to smart juniors." The basilisk laughed.

"Very well, your bloodline is special enough. I have a phoenix art here, perfect for this occasion." Li Qiye smiled and said.

"A divine gift." The basilisk was excited for his junior and said: "Peerless indeed, thank Boss again."

"Thank you, Young Master.' Ye Yaoling got on her knees, as moved as can be.

Being taught by her ancestor was already incredible enough. In reality, very few members in the clan have been this lucky for millions of years.

Today, she got something even greater - a gift from an existence treated with reverence by her ancestor. This would exceed anything else.

Once she stood up, Li Qiye raised his finger and metallic clanks could be heard. A dao law emerged along with a phoenix screech. A light flashed once before disappearing.

This dao law has entered her mind. Numerous runes and characters appeared within.

"Poof!" A phoenix trueflame oozed from her body.

She became ecstatic but didn't forget to bow again. This supreme art was enough; she didn't need anything more in life.

Shi Qingjian was envious but didn't dare to ask Li Qiye.

"Since you have followed me recently, I do have something to give you. This is a garment made from phoenix feathers." Li Qiye noticed this and said.

He took out a garment burning with phoenix flames. Hymns and visual phenomena of other birds bowing to a phoenix manifested.

Li Qiye personally created this garment after obtaining the feathers.

"Thank you, Young Master." The emotional Shi Qingjian continuously kowtowed after seeing the present.

Li Qiye sat there and accepted the gesture while glancing towards the horizon.

"You want to leave already, Boss?" The basilisk said. He spent enough time with Li Qiye back then to understand his expressions.

"Hmm, I'll be taking a look at the abandoned land, have to figure it out." Li Qiye nodded.

"That place used to be the Buddhist ground, it's all ashes now. Too many things happened and the world shattered. I didn't pay enough attention to see what happened. I came to take a look later but that place was bizarre and inscrutable." The basilisk said.

"A few things will always surprise." Li Qiye smiled: "Heaven is omnipotent, or so they say. However, in this case, the villainous heaven couldn't get everything right."

"When will you ascend, Boss?" The basilisk pondered for a bit before asking.

Chapter 3536: Old Information

Ascension was a serious topic, or at least this was the case for juniors like Shi Qingjian and Ye Yaoling right now.

In fact, they were very curious about it. For millions of years, dao lords after finishing their cultivation would go up to the sky and disappear.

The question for regular cultivators became - what kind of world was up there?

Unfortunately, the answer eluded them because dao lords never came back again or sent down messages. That's why they could only speculate.

"No rush." Li Qiye smiled and told the basilisk: "I'll do it when the time is right."

The basilisk didn't know when the time was right. However, he was sure that he would be able to witness another incredible ascension from Li Qiye - the second one as far as he knows.

He hesitated for a moment before sighing with envy: "Ascension is the lifelong pursuit of many."

This was the reason why people wanted to become a dao lord. It was so that they could see the legendary world above. Unfortunately, those who weren't dao lords would find going up there prohibitively difficult.

Of course, there were exceptions. For example, Space Dragon Emperor made it up there.

"It's not impossible for you to go up there." Li Qiye smiled.

"Boss, you want to take me up there?" The basilisk became happy and hurriedly responded; its eyes brightened with eagerness.

During Li Qiye's coronation, he didn't go up alone but also brought thousands of people with him. This became one of the greatest legends in the nine worlds. No one has ever been able to surpass this.

"The crux of the issue is that you don't want to go up. If you did, you wouldn't be waiting till today." Li Qiye said.

The basilisk opened his mouth but decided to reflect on this quietly. Back then, his cultivation was weak. Even if Li Qiye had allowed him entry, he wouldn't have chosen to go up because he would only be holding Li Qiye back.

Today, he was a supreme ancestor. It was no problem going up there. Alas, actually doing it made him hesitate.

"Looks like you can't go." Li Qiye could read his mind.

"Maybe I'm too old now, can't deal with the trouble or my heart is too soft. There are too many things to worry about." The basilisk shook his head.

It was perfectly fine to ascend with Li Qiye's protection but what about his race and descendants? Their race and Dragon Phoenix Valley would lose a strong backing.

"I've promised Big Sis to take care of them, looks like I can't go." He let out a bitter smile.

Venerable Basilisk was even more talented than him. She eventually became the matriarch of the valley but ended up dying before him.

During her last moments, she told him to protect the valley. That's why no one dared to do anything to the valley in the past.

"Let the children carve out their own path. Otherwise, they'll be your shackles and chains." Li Qiye said.

"I understand." The basilisk said: "I suppose I only said it so easily because I knew I wouldn't go."

He was similar to Heavenly Sovereign Chan Yang in this regard. They were their sect's protector but to put it in a different perspective, they were prisoners.

"Rise and fall are normal and inevitable, nothing lasts forever, the same with sects. If your descendants are incapable, just leave them alone. Each person will live differently." Li Qiye smiled.

"For old people like us, maybe dying is the best result. We come into this world without worries and will leave without any as well." The basilisk reflected. He suddenly thought that his sister's death might be a good end for her. She no longer needed to worry about their race and descendants.

"As one grows older, they'll usually become more emotionless." Li Qiye said.

"What about you? Can you let go?" The basilisk said.

"I have never been shackled or stopped for anyone. The dao path is still ahead and I'll keep walking forward." Li Qiye shook his head.

"True, I lack this mentality. That's why you're the boss." The basilisk fell into silence for a bit before speaking.

"No need to force it. Do what you wish." Li Qiye said.

The basilisk knew that on the path of the dao, a single thought could change one's fate and their sect's fate.

The two of them chatted for a bit while the two girls politely listened.

"Princess showed up once." The basilisk eventually brought this up.

Numerous shocking things have happened in Li Qiye's absence but the basilisk didn't talk about them. However, this made him put on a serious expression.

The girls became curious due to their ancestor's appearance. Who was this princess?

"I know, sounds about right." Li Qiye stared at the horizon; his mind drifted back into the past.

"She brought someone with her. Very few knew about this." The basilisk added.

"A helper is necessary indeed." Li Qiye eventually responded.

The basilisk knew that in order to be chosen, this helper was extremely capable and worthy of trust.

"Are you not worried at all, Boss?" However, he found Li Qiye's aloof expression surprising.

"Why should I? A child can't be a dog with a tiger for a father. Plus, there's nothing they can't do in Eight Desolaces." Li Qiye chuckled.

"You're right, Boss, I worried for nothing." The basilisk put on a smile after realizing this. Li Qiye was right not to worry. Plus, the princess was there too. Nothing in Eight Desolaces could trouble them.

To put it bluntly, one word from her alone would summon numerous supreme masters to protect them.

Li Qiye's prestige and supremacy as the dark crow remained in Eight Desolaces. His invisible hand was still here to grasp the world.

"The burial grounds are gone now." The basilisk reported.

"Right, now that's a surprising matter. Even the heaven can't control everything perfectly." Li Qiye said softly.

"What is your opinion on this?" The basilisk said.

During the great disaster, the top masters and sects only worried about their own survival. They had no time to care about other matters.

A long time after the event, they found that certain things have vanished into thin air.

Chapter 3537: Seven Laws Of The Golden Age

"No opinion, I'll just sweep through whoever stands in my path and reach the end in due time." Li Qiye answered.

The basilisk smiled wryly, this was indeed the proper answer from someone like Li Qiye.

"So wise, Boss. It looks like I've grown cowardly too." The basilisk said.

During his youth, he didn't fear anything and always acted arrogantly. Now, he was so many times stronger but his action became prudent, no longer as impetuous as before.

After all, he had nothing to think about before. Now, he shouldered the wellbeing of his clan. Thousands and thousands of lives depended on him so he had to act carefully.

"It's not necessarily a bad thing, just a different perspective." Li Qiye smiled and said. He could sympathize from his own experience.

"Boss, may I go with you to the abandoned land? I might not be of much help but I can still run errands or make you tea. You need someone to serve you when going out." The basilisk said.

Despite being one of the top existences in the north, the basilisk knew that his cultivation wasn't enough to enter Li Qiye's eyes. He wasn't that useful and could only be an errand boy.

"No, just stay home. As you said, you're old and it's time to relax. Your clan might be your shackles but being there will still make you happy. Enjoy having the little ones run around or rest on your knees." Li Qiye shook his head.

Of course, the basilisk didn't mind. He has accomplished many things in his life and reached the top of the grand dao. His branch was populous and capable. He had no regrets in life outside of not being as untethered as Li Qiye.

"I do envy you, Boss, always able to move ahead." He said.

"The path is endless. One shoulders more than people can imagine." Li Qiye said.

"True, my dao heart can't make it that far since I'll falter eventually." He didn't find it shameful to admit this.

There have been plenty of geniuses, Immortal Emperors, and dao lords in history. However, only Li Qiye reached this level.

"Okay, this is a rare opportunity. Feel free to ask His Excellency any question regarding cultivation. Ancestors or whatever's teachings can't beat a few words from His Excellency." The basilisk eventually bought another chance for the girls.

Li Qiye didn't refuse out of consideration for the basilisk. It was alright to give the juniors a better chance too.

The two girls exchanged glances. Ye Lingyao was the first to speak: "Your Excellency, you cultivate the Seven Laws of the Golden Age and still have immense power despite only being a Violet Marquis. What is the mystery behind this?"

"This has nothing to do with the seven laws." The basilisk answered instead while shaking his head: "Any merit law, even the most basic one, will be extremely powerful when utilized by His Excellency. He has exceeded the boundary of techniques."

"You're half right." Li Qiye smiled: "It's true that I can exert any technique to its fullest potential. However, the seven laws are unique. They're simply misunderstood by others."

"So the seven laws are actually strong?" Shi Qingjian was interested in this topic as well. The seven laws when used by Li Qiye could suppress anything else - virtually invincible. However, she thought that might be because of the user.

"That depends on what you're talking about." Li Qiye said: "Are you referring to the seven laws passed around the world or the real ones?"

"The problem has to be related to that brat, Blessed. There's something off here." The basilisk joined in: "The duck egg buyer and Puresun Dao Lord have learned the seven too. It's just that these laws changed after the brat..." [1]

He rubbed his chin, not directly calling foul play. It's just that he thought that there was more than meets the eyes here.

"Didn't the world benefit after learning the explanation of Blessed Dao Lord?" Ye Lingyao said.

The seven were known as Laws of the Blessed as well. They existed long ago and didn't have the current names. The old names weren't part of the record.

In the past, people had a hard time cultivating with varying methods. Cultivation was far from its prosperous self today.

This changed with the appearance of Blessed Dao Lord. After proving his dao, he established a sect named True Immortal and spread the seven laws. He investigated the seven and simplified them then gave everyone his unique interpretations.

Henceforth, people had an easier time cultivating. It was easy for mortals to start so the era of cultivation began, hence the "golden age' moniker.

The dao lord's contribution couldn't be refuted; it was a magnificent achievement. When future descendants talked about him, they thought that he was a great man despite not being the strongest.

The next era became known as Myriad Dao. Others also called it the Era of the Blessed due to his teachings. Other widely-used names included Era of the Seven Laws and Era of Dao Doctrination.

True Immortal Sect propagated the seven laws to every corner in Eight Desolace during this era.

"Hard to say. The simplified seven laws changed greatly afterward, no longer as pure as during the Chaotic Era." The basilisk answered: "I remember my skepticism back then. However, the brat also stopped the unrest and chaos, allowing people to live in peace. Couldn't critique that."

He was older than any dao lord since he was from the previous epoch. If he himself didn't question Blessed, juniors like the two girls absolutely couldn't.

During the late stage of the Chaotic Era, the wise sages worked hard with expeditions to the forbidden zones.

Unfortunately, the stability didn't last long because the various races started to fight each other for domination. The flames of war ravaged Eight Desolaces once more. Rivers of blood were a common sight.

Finally, Blessed Dao Lord flattened the chaos, and people could finally live in peace. They then cultivated the seven laws and this heralded the next era.

Future descendants would always talk about dao lords but few dared to curse the meritorious Blessed Dao Lord. Most had nothing but respect when talking about him.

Only someone at the level of Dragon King Commander was qualified to question him.

"These matters have dispersed like smoke." Li Qiye said: "Whether it be sincerity or ulterior motive, it doesn't matter anymore." He had a good idea about the seven laws but didn't care too much.

"Rumor has it that the brat talked about being enlightened by an immortal. I actually thought he was talking about you." The basilisk glanced over at Li Qiye.

Chapter 3538: Take Leave

At this point, not just the basilisk but even the two girls stared at Li Qiye.

There were plenty of legends about Blessed Dao Lord. One of them told a story about his youth and his dao search. He came across an immortal and was taught by this great being.

It made the dao lord's background and stories even more mystical. Some believed that he was only an ordinary youth before meeting this immortal.

They went on to say that the seven modified laws were passed down to him by the immortal. This made it easier for everyone else to cultivate.

"It's not me." Li Qiye shook his head.

The basilisk knew that it wasn't Li Qiye after hearing this. He rubbed his chin and said: "A bit interesting. It's as if they're trying to be mysterious. Heh, true immortal? They don't exist here."

Others might not wonder about this so-called "true immortal". However, the basilisk has been around Li Qiye in the past. Li Qiye had brought this up and he completely trusted Li Qiye, hence his skepticism.

There were two possibilities in his mind previously: that it was either Li Qiye or the guy was a fake. Of course, he has never seen this person before and didn't know the location of the meeting between Blessed and this person.

On the other hand, the majority of future generations believed it. Blessed Dao Lord went on to create a sect and named it True Immortal.

"I wouldn't mind a meeting if there's a chance." Li Qiye smiled.

His expression made the basilisk's heart skip a beat. If Blessed was telling the truth, then Li Qiye would eventually meet this true immortal. It wouldn't be a pretty meeting for the immortal.

"I wonder if it's on purpose." The basilisk had bold speculations because things seemed to change too much due to the changes of the seven laws.

The future generations haven't seen the real ones but he did. Thus, he was aware of the disparity.

He didn't dare to say that there was a nefarious plan behind this because cultivation certainly prospered afterward. It became easy for everyone to start training.

As time went on, the seven laws were abandoned for other forms of cultivation.

Therefore, the cultivation path started to diverge after the era of Blessed Dao Lord. They became more distant from the original dao start.

He wasn't at the level where he had a good grasp of the myriad dao. However, he could still tell that there were minute changes. It wasn't as connected as before.

In a sense, the ease of cultivation with the seven actually lowered its floor and power. Cultivators picked private merit laws instead. They began hiding these secrets and cultivation became segmented.

He had no comment on this particular direction. There was only one thing he was sure of - that the power of the grand dao weakened as a result.

Of course, he never said any of this publicly. He was a man of status now and needed to be responsible with his words.

"Anything is possible." Li Qiye didn't care for this and nonchalantly said: "People can make their own choices. There are pros and cons."

"And you, Boss?" The basilisk asked.

"I serve as a spark for this world." Li Qiye said: "However, this present can extinguish in the wind and rain. It requires fuel and future generations need to handle the supply."

"I understand." The basilisk nodded.

"Your Excellency, is it possible for me to cultivate the seven laws?" Shi Qingjian eventually took a deep breath and asked seriously.

Li Qiye glanced at her and chuckled: "You want to start over? It requires immense courage and determination. The grand dao isn't easy and your expectations won't always be met."

Shi Qingjian was powerful enough already. Starting over meant paying a great price. Moreover, this path was full of unknowns.

She glanced over at Ye Lingyao before answering: "I want to experiment."

"Let's see if it's the right one." Li Qiye smiled.

Li Qiye began instructing the two girls in a brief session. He was able to easily explain profound issues. The two girls became immersed in the lesson.

He didn't stay for long afterward and departed for the abandoned land.

He didn't have thousands of disciples for the departure ceremony, only a top ancestor like Dragon King Commander. This was more than enough.

The city became silent and everyone made way from him on the street. The crowd stood with their head lowered, not daring to breathe loudly.

Some didn't have the courage to look straight at him; knees also buckled and they dropped to the ground. He still looked as ordinary as ever; the commander didn't exude his aura either. Nonetheless, fear still permeated the atmosphere.

People only stopped being nervous after he was long gone. They stared in his direction and saw that he was heading to the deep south of northern West King.

It was a barren land filled with golden sand. One couldn't see the end of it.

"Go back, can't go with me forever." Li Qiye smiled at the basilisk.

"Boss." The basilisk got on his knees and said: "I think this will be our last meeting. My old bones will turn into dust soon enough and won't be able to pay respect anymore." He performed a full kowtow rite afterward.

Tears streamed down his cheeks. It wasn't easy for people from his generation to live till now, let alone meeting someone else.

He believed that meeting Li Qiye again now was a miracle. There wouldn't be a second one because he wouldn't be able to live for that long. Plus, he didn't need to live for that long. When Li Qiye returned once more, he would be nothing more than dirt underground.

"Take care." Li Qiye sighed; his hardened heart felt some emotion once again: "May you have fortune and peace."

"May you never stop on your path, Your Excellency." He bowed again.

Ye Lingyao and Shi Qingjian standing in the back also prostrated.

"Goodbye, my old friend." Li Qiye helped the basilisk up.

"Goodbye, Your Excellency." More tears streamed down the basilisk's cheeks.

Li Qiye smiled and turned around. He headed towards the yellow land without looking back.

Chapter 3539: Abandoned Land

The dried atmosphere made people parched, wanting to leave this place. A terrible heat must have ravaged this area, turning everything into sand.

It was impossible to stay here for long. The moment one set foot in this place, it would feel as if they were walking into the gates of hell.

This place didn't use to be known as the abandoned land. Those in Eight Desolaces didn't know of its glory days.

It was still famous because it separated the south and north of West King. Normally, the two sides had no contact due to the distance.

Crossing this land was exceedingly hard for any person. Only a dao lord could do so. Someone like Demon King Commander didn't want to try because the trip would take too much effort.

Using a portal was rare as well. Some powers certainly had the ability to do so but it required an exorbitant number of chaos stones. No one wanted to do this.

Thus, only a big event or the activation of a dao lord would connect the two sides of West King.

The size of this abandoned land remained unknown, only that it served as a separating distinction.

The actual conditions inside were a mystery as well. Dao lords and supreme ancestors have entered but rarely talked about it. The most they would say to their juniors was to not go there.

Of course, many didn't listen to these seniors and still gave it a shot.

They were confident and prideful, the rulers of their domain. Thus, an adventure to this place should be just fine. Unfortunately, they never returned after coming in.

These disappearances added to the legends. Some stated that there were ferocious fiends or the land itself was perilous. Others said that there were treasures from the older epochs waiting for the fateful ones.

The dao lords and top masters didn't say anything about these rumors. They only warned their juniors to not enter this dangerous place.

This wasn't enough to deter future generations. Otherwise, why did dao lords such as Blessed and Buddha travel there?

In fact, all of the dao lords from Buddha Holy Ground have traveled there - Buddha, Dhyana, and Vajra. This garnered more attention to the land and the belief of old treasures became widely believed.

One thing was quite strange. The land was considered dangerous by the top existences and people didn't leave after coming in. However, it wasn't considered one of the seven forbidden zones. This meant that it still wasn't as dangerous as the seven.

At first, travelers would only sense the scorching dryness. However, as they delved deeper, they would feel a mysterious power seemingly summoning them. This affected all travelers, no exception.

It was as if there was a gentle hand in front waving at them. Peace and warmth awaited; people couldn't help moving forward.

Li Qiye sensed it from the very start. With the first step, it seemed to be illusory, shifting in and out of existence like feelers trying to explore and scout. As one moved deeper into the land, they would get closer and completely wrapped around the person.

Once the traveler figured it out, they would already be wrapped like a cocoon. Escaping was futile.

Li Qiye had a smile on and didn't mind the intrusion during his path. The layers of this power wrapped around him didn't affect him in the slightest due to the power of his dao heart. They were as feeble as spiderwebs before a giant.

While standing outside, people had the impression that this land was endless with nothing but emptiness and sand.

This wasn't the case. If they got far enough, the sand completely disappeared. The ground wasn't dead any longer and became pleasant like a beach.

Li Qiye saw flashing lights of the Buddhist affinity, seemingly emanating from the soil.

The mysterious power at the start was dense and powerful, making others feel close to it. Now, with the flashing lights, one would feel as if there was a Buddha on the horizon chanting supreme mantras. He was the one waving, wanting to lead travelers towards a kingdom of salvation.

This was awfully tempting and virtually impossible to escape, akin to a bug trapped in a spider's webs. The more it struggled to break free, the tighter the bind.

The lights also didn't affect Li Qiye. Just think about it, he was someone who could turn into a Buddha with a single thought. How could this affinity tempt him at all?

As he got farther, he started seeing some corpses from various eras.

The newest ones were only several years old. The old has been here for millions of years. They were dried now but still had vivid expressions.

All of them had the same pose too - sitting like a meditating monk. All of them stared in the same direction - deeper into this land. It appeared that the summoning force was still calling them during their last moment.

There was no pain and suffering on their face, no struggling either. This seemed to be a peaceful death. They went to the other side without any worries and unwillingness. Death seemed to be the gateway towards the supreme kingdom. This would naturally frighten any spectator.

Li Qiye moved on and saw shrines and temples. They were no longer as magnificent as before; the walls and sides were broken.

Nonetheless, one could still imagine the original splendor of this place. It was definitely a holy kingdom of Buddhism.

Chapter 3540: Buddhist Funeral Plateau

The Buddhist lights became denser as he delved deeper into this land. After reaching a particular threshold, the light became a layer on the ground.

It was as if a treasure bottle had broken and the Buddhist serum inside had spilled out. This golden serum looked quite magical.

Moreover, the summoning force became stronger. The supreme Buddha was virtually standing in front of him now for the enlightenment process. Others would suddenly want to join Buddhism.

Fewer bodies were seen in this area. Judging by their appearance and clothes, these beings were far more powerful than the ones in the outer area.

Monks' corpses could be seen now. They had a reverent expression and wore an old-styled robe. It was abundantly clear that they were from an older age. The ravage of time didn't destroy their body.

They certainly didn't belong to this epoch. Their hands were still clasped together to form a mudra. It seemed that during their last moment, they continued to chant Buddhist mantras in an attempt to prove their belief to the heaven.

There was a clear difference between these monks and the corpses outside given the various clues. The latter were outsiders, forced to come in and die by the summoning force.

As for the monks, they were natives that have reached the height of Buddhism. They gave everything - their powerful Buddhist affinity and ultimate faith for this land.

"Buddhist Funeral Plateau." Li Qiye sighed while looking at the monk: "One of the twelve burial grounds, gone."

Yes, it turned out that the so-called abandoned land was the Buddhist Funeral Plateau from the previous epoch.

Though it was considered a burial ground, it was still a place of worship - a holy land in the mind of many.

Alas, something happened during the great disaster unbeknown to outsiders. The place suffered destruction and numerous wise monks died.

Remember, this area has survived an entire epoch and gathered the power of faith from trillions of living beings. This resulted in immense Buddhist affinity seeping into each inch of the land and every blade of grass.

This affinity remained till the present day. Anyone who came here would be affected by this summoning call. The longer the stay, the stronger the calling.

Eventually, they became prey to the affinity and were forced to stay here till death. They turned into part of the land, another brick for its foundation.

This didn't apply to Li Qiye who still had a natural expression. During his previous visit to this place, even Di Shi couldn't affect his dao heart, let alone this remnant affinity.

He started seeing cracks and holes. Something seemed to have torn the ground apart - truly a shocking scene.

He looked up and noticed that even the sky vault was torn apart with numerous jaw-like black holes meant for devouring.

Further up were stars that have been dragged down or were completely broken. One was split in two, another tough one had a hole from one side to the other. Another star made of ice became reduced to continental masses of glaciers...

The sun itself seemed tilted and its flames ravaged this area, heralding an apocalypse.

Old shrines and temples were still floating in the air despite being damaged beyond repair. Nonetheless, they still exuded Buddhist affinity. Some had wise monks sitting in the meditative pose. Of course, they were already dead.

The destruction took one back to the monstrous event of the great disaster. All living beings wailed in lamentation.

If someone from the Nine Worlds Epoch were to see this, they would be left aghast. Buddhist Funeral Plateau, one of the twelve, was definitely among the strongest domains. Even an Immortal Emperor couldn't touch it.

Alas, the entire place was finished now. Its old prosperity was no more. The great Buddhist Lords and their followers have disappeared.

No one could come up with a good explanation for this result.

"Di Shi... what happened?" Li Qiye murmured.

Few had a better grasp on the true might of Buddhist Funeral Plateau than him. It has existed for countless years, always refining Buddhist power and faith. Moreover, it had someone like Di Shi as well. In addition, one of the nine Heavenly Treasures was here - Myriad Thoughts Pot.

Li Qiye marched silently onward and saw untold destruction, enough to frighten the most courageous men

He didn't support Di Shi's actions back in the previous epoch. He believed that this path wasn't possible but it could still be considered a worthwhile experiment.

Numerous supreme overlords have tried things like this in the past. No one could be sure of the result.

However, they haven't even embarked on the journey and already faced destruction. Thousands of possibilities popped up in Li Qiye's mind but he didn't come to a conclusion.

He eventually reached the deepest area of this forsaken place - the core of the plateau. It contained the power of faith and Buddhist affinity. These two things manifested into a supreme ocean of Buddhism.

The ocean had shattered. Its light leaked onto the fragmented ground like a golden serum. After more time, perhaps golden lotus flowers could bloom from the serum. This place would be considered a holy ground once more.

Above was a large black hole with cracks emanating from it. The Buddhist serum was oozing through all of these cracks.

Li Qiye carefully observed the scene. It could have been a shocking battle or a plundering contest. Something tore apart the sky and dragged up everything.

It must have been a destructive process. Other cultivators were nothing more than ants.

He squatted down and touched the soil, trying to sense this broken land for a full scout.

"Myriad Thoughts Pot..." He frowned because this treasure wasn't here any longer.

The plateau should have been untouchable with this pot but they have lost.