Emperor 3731

Chapter 3731: The Ring

"Just here for fun, don't worry about it." Li Qiye chuckled.

"I see..." Ye Mingshi forced a smile. He thought that there was no way a ring bearer would be so willy nilly. There must be a goal.

But in the case of Li Qiye telling the truth, someone of his power and authority right now would still cause quite a storm wherever he went.

"Do you want to go to Minor Sacred Mountain?" Ye Mingshi asked again.

"Climb up there?" Li Qiye looked over at the mountain in the distance.

"The kings in each generation go up there to offer their respect to heaven and earth. You naturally don't need to do this, Young Master, but the ring requires an additional seal before reaching its true potential." Ye Mingshi glanced at the ring that was more than just a status symbol.

It had unbelievable power, a reason why it was able to pass down for millions of years.

"That doesn't matter, this cheap ring is fine the way it is right now." Li Qiye nonchalantly said.

Others would think that Li Qiye was crazy for his assessment of the ring. On the other hand, Ye Mingshi knew that Li Qiye had a full understanding of the ring.

That made it even more terrifying. He thought that Li Qiye was quite frightening and decisive.

"You're unfathomable, Young Master." Mingshi hesitated before speaking: "But, Young Master, if you want to pass it down, it'll still need the seal to exert its true power. Not everyone can be as carefree as you."

Ye Mingshi shouldn't be the one to say this but he chose to do it due to his connection with the paragon.

"Pass it down?" Li Qiye rubbed his chin and smirked: "It can be a raffle, whoever wins gets the ring. Or, I can just throw it on the street. How's that for picking a successor?"

"Absolutely not!" Ye Mingshi started sweating and waved his hands: "Young Master, you mustn't. The ring pertains to the prosperity of the land and its people. Just one mistake and wails of lament will come. Please reconsider."

"It's fine, even if I throw it away, the fake monk will come and pick it up." Li Qiye shrugged.

Ye Mingshi took a deep breath and wiped the sweat off his forehead. This guy seemed like he would actually do something like this on a whim.

"Young Master, you're a virtuous person." Ye Mingshi said: "I'm sure you'll pick another person who's just as virtuous as you for the sake of the land..."

"Stop, don't flatter me, I don't care about Buddha Holy Ground's survival and it wouldn't be my turn anyway." Li Qiye interrupted him.

Ye Mingshi remained silent. The entire thing was just too ridiculous to him.

"You appear to care about the holy ground a lot." Li Qiye smiled.

"Yes, Young Master, a toppled nest can't have whole eggs. If the holy ground goes down, so will Fallen Leaf and Vajra."

"Then what do you think about becoming the successor?" Li Qiye's smile grew wider.

"No, I can't, I am weak and can't shoulder the responsibility. You're joking, Young Master." Ye Mingshi panicked and refused.

"You haven't thought about this at all?" Li Qiye stared at him.

Ye Mingshi realized that Li Qiye was being serious. He solemnly responded: "Young Master, I won't lie to you. Everyone desires an item with so much power but, I can't take it. It'll bring a personal calamity on top of chaos across the holy ground. I'll become a sinner then."

This response came from the heart. He didn't come up with excuses. To others, he was certainly powerful and on the same level as the four grandmasters. He himself knew that he was far from sufficient.

His cultivation path stopped here. If he were to have the ring, it would end with his death and the holy ground's destruction.

"Your mindset is rare." Li Qiye nodded: "So many others want the ring."

Ye Mingshi didn't say anything. His position at Vajra made it a sensitive topic. Since he had more information at his disposal, he knew better than to comment carelessly.

"What happens when the ring has a new successor?" Li Qiye asked.

"Not you, Young Master?" Ye Mingshi knew that this was an unnecessary question but he asked anyway.

"Right, but I can pick the next successor, right?" Li Qiye chuckled.

"Yes." Ye Mingshi nodded: "That makes the sealing process essential because just the ring alone isn't enough to deter others. Its empowered form will make things smoother."

"That depends on who has the ring. For me, empowered or otherwise, doesn't matter at all." Li Qiye answered.

"I don't quite understand." Ye Mingshi said.

"It's nothing, a few people are courting death so I'll do them a favor." Li Qiye's eyes brimmed with amusement.

Ye Mingshi shuddered after hearing this, already imagining the potential carnage and massacre.

Li Qiye was saying that even without the empowerment, the next successor would still have no problem.

The reason was simple - Li Qiye would massacre whoever tried to stop them. Ye Mingshi knew that Li Qiye would be able to keep his words regardless of the powerful foes.

This would definitely change the holy ground. Blood would flow like rivers. The stench of blood would be unbearable.

"Young Master, you don't have to do this. The sealing process isn't a bad choice." Ye Mingshi smiled wryly.

He didn't wish for brutality to overwhelm the holy ground. The loss would be immense.

"How many people do you think will accept in a peaceful manner?" Li Qiye replied.

Ye Mingshi thought that supreme authority was too tempting. No person or sect would be able to resist. It was only a matter of who would start first.

"What about you?" Li Qiye interrupted the silence.

"I am a disciple of Buddha Holy Ground and will listen and obey without any ulterior motive." Yingshi prostrated without any hesitation. He was smart enough to understand Li Qiye's implication.

"Rise, I was just asking." Li Qiye smiled.

"I will do my very best." Mingshi respectfully expressed his allegiance. Li Qiye might not need his help but he could be very useful during the next successor appointment.

"Smart people like you are rare nowadays. Those who know propriety and their place are even rarer." Li Qiye said.

Ye Mingshi stood with a respectful pose and didn't respond.

"Fine, I'll take a look when there's time." Li Qiye eventually concluded.

"This is a blessing for the citizens, thank you for your mercy, Young Master." Ye Mingshi heaved a sigh of relief.

Chapter 3732: The Third Prince

Li Qiye wanted to leave after the conversation but another visitor came along.

"Young Master, this is my third brother." The crown prince standing nearby introduced.

The third prince looked grander compared to the crown prince, wearing a tight noble robe. He had sharp features with bright eyes. There existed an air of nobility and ferocity from the battlefield around him.

This imposing aura was understandable. He spent years fighting by the border and led his legions to numerous victories.

On the other hand, the crown prince resembled a weak scholar, possessing elegance instead of fierceness. This meant that his aura was inferior compared to his younger brother.

Moreover, the third prince's cultivation was stronger due to his superior talents. He garnered more resources as a result. Some even said that Archaic Sun King favored him more than his older brother.

This culminated in the crown prince being at a disadvantage. It made sense how many civic and military officials chose to support the third prince.

He was objectively outstanding on top of being an accomplished leader. He might be able to lead Vajra towards further greatness.

"Greetings, Saber Messenger. Please excuse my lack of reception since I didn't know of your arrival." The third prince bowed his head.

He immediately came after hearing about Li Qiye's presence. The guy simply played a pivotal role right now.

Moreover, they had an antagonistic relationship. First, Li Qiye was too close to the crown prince but most importantly, he wiped out two factions and killed the second princess.

Remember, the Li and the Zhang were firmly on the third prince's side. Due to their support, the prince was able to win more support from the nobles at Metropolis. This established a good foundation for his future.

Unfortunately, both clans were in decline after the death of their leaders. This, in turn, dealt a great blow to the third prince.

Furthermore, as the saber messenger, Li Qiye had a fortified status in Vajra. Now, since he seemed close to the crown prince, many in the court believed that he should be supporting the crown prince.

This caused the neutral nobles to begin picking the crown prince instead. A sudden shift occurred between the two candidates.

The third prince felt an incoming crisis as a result. Thus, he immediately came to see Li Qiye and acted in a deliberate manner in order to show his goodwill.

Prior to this, he wanted to be in charge of Li Qiye's reception. Unfortunately, this responsibility was given to the crown prince instead by the prince.

The crown prince naturally knew the third prince's intent but couldn't stop him.

"No need for formality." Li Qiye glanced at him and nodded.

"Messenger, I have prepared a feast in order to rid you of traveling fatigue..." The third prince enthusiastically said.

The crown prince smiled wryly but there was nothing he could do. It was up to Li Qiye.

"No need." Li Qiye interrupted the third prince.

The latter didn't give up and insisted: "I'm sure you're not used to the imperial palace yet. If you don't mind, I can..."

"I appreciate your goodwill but it's best for you to fulfill your duties as a prince." Li Qiye waved his hand.

The third prince was intelligent enough to understand Li Qiye right away. This wasn't the answer he wanted.

Li Qiye ignored him and left, leaving behind the prince whose expression kept on changing.

The crown prince, on the other hand, heaved a sigh of relief and followed Li Qiye.

Ye Mingshi saw this and shook his head. He laid down on his chair and closed his eyes.

The third prince's expression became ugly. He took a deep breath and left as well.

Li Qiye couldn't be clearer - for him to stay as a prince and stop thinking about the throne.

Not long ago, he wouldn't care about this nameless junior. Alas, the guy was the saber messenger of Vajra now.

Alas, he didn't heed Li Qiye's warning. How could he be willing to stay as a prince? He didn't allow an inferior man to take his throne.

He came in order to make peace with Li Qiye and thought that he acted as humbly as can be. Unfortunately, Li Qiye didn't give him any face. This was blatant contempt; a man of his status couldn't accept it.

After he left the garden and once no one was around, a strategist whispered: "Your Highness, looks like this saber messenger has made up his mind about helping the crown prince."

Li Qiye's nonchalant attitude could only be construed as such - a clear bias for the crown prince.

The third prince snorted, still vexed at how his enthusiasm and sincerity were met with disdain. He used his warm face to warm someone's cold buttocks and wasn't appreciated.

"This is an unfavorable development." The strategist continued: "The saber messenger represents the temple and the will of the ancestors. I believe His Majesty will keep his original decision."

Rumor has it that Archaic Sun King has long been wanting to replace the successor. He didn't send the order because he didn't wish to break the tradition.

The king's attitude was a source of motivation for the third prince. He thought that he had a chance of seizing the throne.

Now, this saber messenger might be swaying the king and stopping him from doing so.

"Ancestral Temple isn't the only thing that matters." The prince scowled: "Don't forget about War Camp and Martial Hall."

In Vajra, outside of the king, these three branches had great influence over the direction of the dynasty.

Thus, if the third prince wanted the crown, he needed the branches' support.

"Hmm, what is your plan, Your Highness?" The strategist asked.

"Accelerate." The prince said seriously: "Is Brother Hu Ben back? I want to see him in person."

A successful coronation in Vajra required the approval of the three branches. Next came the approval from the five divisions, or at least a clear majority. Finally, this candidate would be announced to Sacred Mountain for the final say.

Normally, this last step was only a formality since Sacred Mountain virtually always approved. Sacred Mountain didn't care for mundane matters. It would only interfere if Vajra were to lose its grasp over the holy ground. A mistake by the king or Vajra could also be another catalyst.

Chapter 3733: The Third Prince's Ace Card

The third prince stared solemnly deeper into the palace. For him, the arrow had been drawn and couldn't be stopped.

"Your Highness, what about the temple?" The strategist was slightly worried.

Sure, Ancestral Temple, Martial Hall, and War Camp were the three pillars of Vajra. They have been holding Vajra together for generations.

However, in terms of the succession process, Ancestral Temple still had the biggest influence.

Martial Hall focused on training talents in order to produce experts for Vajra. The majority of nobles and royal guards came from this institution. They were loyal on top of being mighty.

As for War Camp, it was the strongest legion of Vajra - absolutely crucial in dealing with foreign enemies and defending the land.

Nonetheless, these two lacked the same weight compared to Ancestral Temple when it came to the direction of Vajra. This was especially true for the successor decision.

Without the temple's approval, having the support of both War Camp and Martial Hall was still not enough. After all, the ancestors in the temple were the true fighting force of Vajra.

That's why the strategist remained worried for the third prince. Li Qiye had the saber so to a certain extent, he represented the temple.

The third prince was excellent but he lacked one thing - seniority. His older brother had a stronger claim to the throne according to the rules of Vajra. This could only be overturned by the temple. Even the king himself lacked this authority.

Prior to this, the third prince's advantages were clear due to his meritorious achievements. He had the support of court officials and nobles. Many sects in Divine Ghost Division were on his side.

On the other hand, the crown prince seemed ordinary in comparison. Others remained neutral about him.

That's why many thought that the possibility of him being replaced by the third prince was immensely high.

It's just that the recent developments caused by Li Qiye changed everything. The neutral parties began joining the crown prince's faction due to Li Qiye.

"We'll see who'll be the victor in the end." The third prince narrowed his eyes and uttered coldly: "Just wait, it won't be long now."

He had no way out the moment he embarked on the competition for the throne. The winner takes all either becoming the king or losing his head.

After all, everyone knew about his ambition. Even if he wanted to give up, his followers might not necessarily agree.

Plus, his life wouldn't be easy after the crown prince officially became king due to suspicions. That's why this could only end with either his or the crown prince's death.

"What do you mean, Your Highness?" The strategist remained puzzled.

"Li Qiye is nothing more than a saber messenger." The prince scowled: "He can't represent the entire temple. Say, we have some support from an ancestor, it renders him meaningless."

"Which ancestor?" The strategist became lively again.

"You'll find out soon enough, that Li Qiye won't be able to act haughty for long. He's nothing without the saber." The crown prince's eyes became murderous.

In the history of Vajra, as geniuses grew older and stronger, they would have an opportunity to enter Ancestral Temple. It seemed that the prince had obtained some help from there.

"I'm at ease now after hearing this, Your Highness. We'll be victorious for sure." The strategist said.

The third prince had everything, just missing the easterly wind. The throne would be his with the help of Ancestral Temple. [1]

"We'll have an answer soon." The prince planned to kill Li Qiye first. The guy was a threat in all circumstances. It was better to be sure.

"Yes, everyone will be waiting for your order." The strategist felt assured. The prince must have heard something from an ancestor in the temple.

The appearance of the saber messenger changed the political landscape and the undercurrents in Vajra. Even the calm borders had activities.

Recently, Vajra didn't worry about the borders. Only minor skirmishes happened at best.

Today, on the side of Righteous Sect, a massive image of divine beasts illuminated the region. It encroached on Vajra's territory.

"What's going on?" Many became startled.

"It's Righteous!" Everyone took a deep breath.

The image continued spreading with no end in sight.

"Are they mobilizing?" Others became afraid.

Righteous and Vajra were the two strongest powers in the southern West King. They had control over two-thirds of the available land.

Righteous was formed later but rose just as quickly. It had three dao lords and actually surpassed Vajra in certain generations.

A mountain can't have two tigers. Thus, the two sides have been fighting. Minor skirmishes never stopped.

However, Buddha Supreme and Righteous Supreme fought side by side once. This brought peace to the land for a period of time.

Now, this visual phenomenon seemed like a blatant provocation.

"Boom!" The image became larger and larger, nearly covering all of Buddha Holy Ground.

"Is war coming?" The court of Vajra became increasingly nervous.

"Impossible." One timeworn big shot said: "After the two supremes fought Black Tides together, we're pretty much an alliance now. It can't be a declaration of war."

Finally, the image turned into a massive shadow and spoke: "I shall journey eastward to climb Minor Sacred Mountain. Do not disappoint me, geniuses of the holy ground."

The voice was domineering and confident. It felt as if a young tyrant was standing among the clouds, looking down on the holy ground and its geniuses.

The members of the holy ground became emotional. It wasn't a declaration of war - just a direct challenge from one person.

Chapter 3734: Challenging All Geniuses

This challenge came unexpectedly. The geniuses from the various powers in Vajra had no idea.

In previous years, due to the two supremes working together, the relationship between Vajra and Righteous was closer than ever before.

Now, they weren't as close but peace was still present. Minor skirmishes only happened between the smaller sects and countries by the border. It had no effect on the grand scheme of things.

This provocative challenge wasn't a declaration of war. Nonetheless, it could sour the relationship between the two.

"Who is it? How dare they look down on us?" Someone said with indignation.

"It's Righteous Scion." Another took a deep breath after hearing the prideful voice.

Those who heard this name were startled, whether it be the top geniuses or the powerful cultivators - the young and old alike.

"He wants to challenge our holy ground?" The angry geniuses started contemplating.

This title was dreadful and intimidating in the south. In fact, even those from Wild East Eight Kingdoms have heard of him.

He was a direct disciple of Righteous Supreme. Rumor has it that he had fought against three thousand geniuses or so without losing a single match. He became the undisputed genius in his region.

This wasn't even the most shocking thing. Later on, he defeated the sect master of Righteous as well. This made him renown across Eight Desolaces.

Most believed that he was absolutely the number one among the young generation of the southern West King.

His power made his peers lower their head. The older generation who fought him had nothing but praises, even the ancestors. Some went as far as stating that he would definitely become the fourth dao lord of Righteous.

All of this culminated in an oppressive atmosphere for the young members of the holy ground. Even the most talented and prideful ones kept their mouth shut. Their confidence wavered at the thought of facing him.

Who knows if anyone in the holy ground could actually best him right now?

"It's unfair." One young genius said: "His master is a Supreme. We don't have any."

Logically, Righteous Scion's opponent should be Buddha Supreme's disciple. The problem was no one has heard of Buddha Supreme having a disciple. Thus, the responsibility fell on everyone in the holy ground.

"What's unfair about it? He's challenging our entire holy ground. If not one genius dares to answer the challenge, Righteous Sect will seize all the limelight." One older expert shook his head.

The young geniuses became frustrated after hearing this. The scion boldly challenged all of them. If not one could contend, the holy ground's reputation would be thrown away.

In the historical struggle between the holy ground and Righteous, the former usually had the upper hand. This generation might be different if the holy ground lacked a comparable talent.

"Who will fight him?" The young and old started looking around for a candidate that could hoist the holy ground's banner.

"The four geniuses." Everyone immediately thought of this group.

Vajra's Hu Ben, Golden Cicada Buddhist Child, Phantom Sacred Child, and Dugu Lan of Duality Academy.

These were the strongest geniuses of the holy ground. They had the highest chance of competing against Righteous Scion.

"Can they do it?" Some still felt hesitation about their ability.

This wasn't a slight towards their abilities. However, everyone still thought that they were missing a certain something compared to the scion.

"I think there's a chance if they fight together." An old cultivator said with uncertainty.

"Will they actually team up?" The group thought that this was unlikely. Top geniuses were prideful and arrogant due to their innate gifts.

"It's time for them to shoulder some responsibilities." A senior thought that this was a good opportunity for the four to train.

One ancestor nodded in agreement: "True. If any of them could stop Righteous Scion, that person might inherit the legacy of the holy ground later on.

The crowd became startled. Since Buddha Supreme still didn't have a disciple, most believed that he was still looking for a suitable candidate.

This could be a great opportunity for the young generation. A commendable display against the scion might result in becoming the disciple of Buddha Supreme.

In a slightly worse scenario, they would still be able to join Sacred Mountain and have a bright future.

"Who among the four will grasp this chance?" Everyone in the holy ground started talking about this topic.

The four geniuses haven't truly fought each other. No one knew their power ranking.

"It should be Hu Ben." Someone living in Metropolis and working in the court hoped that Hu Ben would be able to overcome this crisis.

After all, Hu Ben represented Vajra - the current leader of the holy ground. Vajra was under the most pressure to deal with this matter.

"In terms of military strategy and battle, I'm sure there's no problem listing Hu Ben as number one. This might not be the case in a duel." A different ancestor disagreed.

"What about Golden Cicada Buddhist Child?" Someone else said: "He's the youngest but should have the most talent and Buddhist affinity. Maybe he'll be able to make the most out of the Buddamization Scripture."

"I do agree." Others nodded in agreement.

"Buddhamization versus Evil Devourer, how interesting." One ancestor said.

Dhyana Dao Lord of the holy ground obtained Buddamization from the Four Supreme Truths, allowing one to become a Buddha. He had incredible accomplishments on this path.

Coincidentally enough, Righteous Dao Lord possessed another supreme scripture of the same source-Evil Devourer.

Buddhamization and Evil Devourer have been competing for millions of years through geniuses learning the respective art.

Currently, Righteous Scion was studying Evil Devourer. If Golden Cicada Buddhist Child could use Buddhamization, he would have a chance.

"Has he learned it?" This became the next question.

"I believe so, being from Golden Dragon Temple is as good a background as one can hope for. He has all the privileges in this regard." Many others had this assumption.

Chapter 3735: Who Will Fight?

Debates and discussions sprung up in all of the holy ground - who would be able to stop Righteous Scion?

The answer focused on the four great geniuses. However, people had different opinions regarding these fours.

Some said that Hu Ben should be able to do it, others thought more highly of the other three.

"The strongest has to be the First Sister of Duality, Dugu Lan." One cultivator stated.

This won some support, especially from the students of Duality. They thought that their senior sister would be able to handle Righteous Scion.

Another was brought up by someone: "Gentlemen, don't forget that outside of the four geniuses, we have a miracle creator."

"Who?" A crowd member couldn't come up with anyone on the same level as the four geniuses.

"The so-called son of miracles, Li Qiye. He's also called Fierce by people." The first speaker elaborated.
[1]

"Hmm..." Another shook his head and disagreed: "That's a high evaluation of him. He shouldn't be compared to the four great geniuses, let alone Righteous Scion."

"Did you forget that Li Qiye destroyed two mansions a few days ago?" Li Qiye's supporter went on: "Who can match this battle record? Certainly not the four geniuses."

The crowd exchanged glances. Sure, Li Qiye did really trample two factions by himself.

"Let's not forget about his numerous miracles before that. Maybe another one will happen and he'll defeat the scion." The guy had absolute trust in Li Qiye.

"No way." The majority didn't feel the same way: "It was the armor from Wish Ward that did the job, not his personal power."

"Right, Li Qiye is only a conqueror or at best, an Enlightened Being. That's trivial, the scion can kill him with one finger." Prejudice remained due to Li Qiye's cultivation.

This was a case of generational nobles looking down on the nouveau riche. They thought that Li Qiye only relied on external help.

"I heard Wish Ward wants to sell this armor, he's nothing without it. Any student from Duality can defeat him." One young expert gloated.

"We shouldn't place our hope on something so intangible and uncertain. To challenge a supreme genius like the scion required the same level of talent." One ancestor also disagreed.

This battle pertained to the holy ground's reputation and prestige. A weak cultivator like Li Qiye couldn't shoulder this responsibility.

During the debates, another news came from the border - the official written challenge has arrived.

"The challenge letter is here now." This stirred the members of the holy ground since it made the challenge official.

"Who will accept the letter?" Someone thought about this issue.

Various powers remained silent, the same with the top geniuses.

Everyone knew that only defeat would come from this. Their strongest geniuses weren't confident against the scion. They would be intimidated before the start of the battle.

"It's at Buddha Emperor Plateau now." The letter traveled across the holy ground, uncontested.

"The challenge letter has arrived at Minor Sacred Mountain under the command of the great scion. Do the heroes of the holy ground wish to accept?" The messenger carrying the letter loudly announced.

"It's at Minor Sacred Mountain now..." The situation was heating up. Some people started becoming restless.

The holiest location was naturally Sacred Mountain. Unfortunately, no one had a clue where it was so it was impossible to send the letter there.

Most chose to go to Minor Sacred Mountain instead for various purposes. This imitation location was only second to the real thing.

It had plenty of prestige since all four dao lords had stayed there and used it as their base. Important ceremonies from Vajra were carried out there as well, including the coronation.

All in all, Minor Sacred Mountain had a special and sacred status in everyone's mind. Thus, this letter being there was a blatant provocation to all the geniuses in the holy ground.

"We have to fight! We can't sit idly by and watch this transpire!" One genius declared despite knowing the inevitable defeat.

"How dare he look down on Buddha Holy Ground. Let's spill our blood instead of being turtles hiding in the shell!" Another stepped up.

"Right, we might lose individually but another hundred, no, another thousand can come. He challenged three thousand geniuses back at Righteous, right? Then let's gather thirty thousand geniuses to fight him. The more sticks, the stronger the flame. I'm sure we'll be able to stop him." Some started planning.

The young ones expressed their indignation. However, no one has accepted the letter just yet. Doing so meant carrying a serious responsibility. Losing meant throwing away the face of the holy ground and becoming a sinner recorded in history.

"The current holy ground still lacks a leader that can handle this level of responsibility." A few ancestors could see their hesitation. Of course, it was hard to blame them given the stake.

"Excuse us for the lack of reception even though you have traveled so far to get here." An answer finally came from Duality Academy. The speaker had a pleasant yet sharp voice: "If you wish for a spar, I, Dugu Lan, will entertain you. I accept the challenge letter."

The voice was unflustered and majestic like the flow of the ocean. The listeners felt their heart boiling.

"First Sister!" The students of Duality roared.

"First Sister is finally out of her isolated training!" Another said.

"She'll be able to proudly raise the banner of our academy!" Some were nearly moved to tears.

The same emotion could be found across the holy ground. It was truly frustrating and humiliating for its members that no one dared to accept the challenge.

Now, Dugu Lan stepped up and accepted the responsibility, successfully winning the heart of the people.

Chapter 3736: Minor Sacred Mountain

Dugu Lan stepped up during the crisis and accepted the challenge letter, earning the mass' support in the process.

She alone shouldered the great responsibility - a testament to her decisiveness.

"She's as brave as any man. No, even braver." One big shot said emotionally: "Duality Academy lives up to its fame."

"It's tough for any peer to compare to her." One ancestor gave her a thumbs-up.

"Solidarity during the rain and winds." She spoke to the rest of the world: "The battle draws near, heroes of the holy ground. It's time for us to face it together."

Her clarion call resonated with many geniuses.

"Fairy Dugu, we will do our best to follow your command." A genius said.

"We will stand with you shoulder to shoulder, until our last drop of blood." Another declared.

"That's right, we will never falter, we need to let Righteous know that Buddha Holy Ground isn't one to be trifled with. We are ready to die for this cause!" Most felt their blood boiling and uttered heroic words.

"I will be there at Minor Sacred Mountain to aid you, Fairy Dugu." Violet energy billowed from Divine Ghost Division as a calm voice answered the call.

Many recognized the voice. One said: "That's Phantom Sacred Child, he's joining this fight too."

"The fairy will be a tiger with wings after he joins." Others became excited.

After Phantom Sacred Child revealed his intent, golden light pulsed from Martial Hall of Vajra Dynasty. It seemed as if a golden avatar was flying up in the air to reign over the nine firmaments.

"Vajra Dynasty will not stand idly by before this impending crisis." A fierce voice sounded: "Hu Ben hopes to inspire the troops by being the vanguard of Fairy Dugu. I will not allow Righteous Sect to look down on us. Our holy ground is filled with hidden dragons and crouching tigers, victory is ours!"

This person spoke with confidence; each word was as sharp as a blade. People couldn't help believing him.

"Hu Ben is joining too, we have a chance!" Many knew the speaker right away.

Three of the four great geniuses have expressed their stance, fully invigorating the young generation.

They saw hope now in beating the scion and wanted to be a part of history.

Righteous Scion was simply the top dog at this moment and humiliated the holy ground, suffocating other geniuses.

Dugu Lan and the other two gave them a fighting chance. Their morale ignited once more.

"To Minor Sacred Mountain! We need to help Fairy Dugu! Never relent!" One genius traveled towards the mountain and said.

"Yes, we'll fight to the bloody end no matter how strong he is, the reputation of the holy ground is on the line." Another added.

The older generation couldn't take part in this generation. Nonetheless, many ancestors traveled to the mountain in order to watch the fight.

In reality, some ancestors wanted to benefit from watching. Despite their position and age, not that many in the holy ground could actually defeat the scion. There was no way they would miss it.

Minor Sacred Mountain occupied a large area in the floating capital despite having the character, "Minor", in its name. It was majestic with steep precipices and green forests. Lakes could be seen everywhere along with gurgling noises.

Graceful stone steps paved the way to the pinnacle. On top was a throne hall reaching the clouds.

While standing at the base, one could feel an immense pressure hitting them right in the face, nearly suffocating them. This was expected because four dao lords used to stay here.

The particular hall contained their supreme intents and marks. Few could handle this pressure long enough to make it to the top.

The four sides of the hall had one statue each depicting the dao lords. They faced the world and were ready to give commands. This incredible location was the reason why many made a pilgrimage.

The steps looked like a dragon laying on the mountain. Some have counted the steps before - a total of 999 divided into three sections.

Empty space occupied the three dividers. As one climbed higher, the pressure would intensify. There was no skipping.

Numerous geniuses were present and stared at the stone steps leading to the throne hall. The verdant hills and rivers also attracted their attention.

They suddenly felt the urge to kneel and offer their respect.

"The pressure is unreal, can we get up there?" A genius wondered.

"Getting up to the Virtue Rank is amazing enough, getting to Saint Rank is impossible." His friend shook his head.

The three sections had 333 steps each. They were named from bottom to top: Conqueror Rank, Virtue Rank, and Saint Rank.

A conqueror should be able to handle the first section. Virtue Rank had a stricter requirement along with a ceremonial altar. The leader of the holy ground would have their ceremonies here.

For example, Archaic Sun King's coronation took place at this altar.

As for Saint Rank, only a few managed to get there - the four dao lords along with some selected Heavenly Sovereigns.

Because of this, the gate to the hall has remained shut for a long time now.

"Where will the letter be handed off at? Virtue Rank?" Someone became curious.

"That gotta be it, right at the altar of authority. That should be the battlefield." An ancestor nodded.

Everyone understood the implication. A fight at the altar meant that the scion was challenging the holy ground's authority and dominion. A loss would be far more disgraceful.

That's another reason why no one wanted to accept the challenge. Losing would mean going down in infamy.

"We absolutely cannot lose." Someone clenched his fists.

Another ancestor smiled wryly. Those who have seen Righteous Scion before knew just how strong he was.

"What's in the hall?" Others were curious about the building.

His friends looked up at the pinnacle and wondered.

Chapter 3737: Ancient Empress

The hall's gate was shut tight, defended by four statues. It felt as if the dao lords were there in person to protect both the hall and the holy ground.

The spectators felt this aura and found themselves to be at peace. There was nothing to worry about as long as the statues and hall were present.

Thus, during stressful days, some would look up towards the horizon to see the hall. This allowed unrest to be replaced with serenity.

The mysterious nature of the hall also made everyone curious. It has been closed for numerous eras.

"What's actually inside?" One spectator asked a question with no answer.

Even the older cultivators who have read plenty of historical texts couldn't answer this question.

"Who knows? Could be powerful weapons from the four dao lords or their manuals. Some also disagreed with this and believed that there was a massive secret hidden inside." One old expert said.

"A secret? What do you mean?" The crowd became puzzled.

"I don't know, rumor has it that it should pertain to the origin of our holy ground." The expert answered.

"What? Buddha Dao Lord started the holy ground, everyone knows this. He was taught by a supreme Vajra during his youth and learned top Buddhist laws." A youth fascinated with learning said.

"It could be secrets regarding the Vajra, or maybe the Vajra passed away in there." Another said.

"No, the supreme Vajra should have eternal life. There's no way one would die in there." Most became skeptical.

"Eternal life doesn't exist." One knowledgeable soul added: "If it does, they would be called an immortal, not Vajra."

"Everything is possible." The expert earlier smiled mysteriously: "Our imagination can be limited."

These conversations increased everyone's curiosity. Unfortunately, reaching Saint Rank was hard enough, let alone opening the hall.

"Did anyone else make it up there beside the four dao lords?" One youth asked.

"Of course, they're all famous characters in Eight Desolaces. The most recent one is our supreme." A senior answered.

"Buddha Supreme..." The crowd put on a solemn expression after hearing this title.

Buddha Supreme was the highest existence in the holy ground, akin to a god respected by all.

He fought against the Black Tides at the border - something the future generations would always keep in mind.

No one was surprised to hear this answer since he was one of the top two candidates. The other would be Righteous Supreme.

However, Righteous Supreme was old and rarely showed up nowadays.

"In this world, the two supremes are the only ones who can make it up there." A young man said with pride.

"Don't be a frog under the well." His ancestor disagreed: "Not to mention Eight Desolaces, there are more capable of doing so in our region."

"Who?" A person close by immediately asked.

"I know there are two more right now in the south." The ancestor stared towards the east and said.

"Which two?" More and more became curious.

"The Ancient Empress of Wild East Eight Kingdoms." The ancestor slowly answered.

This title was unfamiliar to most. However, those who have heard of it before became shaken.

"What about the other?" A young cultivator asked since he had no idea about this empress and simply didn't care.

"The other is Worldly Immortal from the Ancient Kingdom of Immortals!" The ancestor said with reverence.

The crowd became stirred. This being seemed more famous than the empress.

Worldly Immortal showed up three times, shocking all of Eight Desolaces each time.

"Three dao lords lost to the immortal, this is a peerless existence." Virtually everyone found this being marvelous.

This being was also from Wild East Eight Kingdoms. The Kingdom of Immortals was mysterious and shrouded in fog.

In the past, outsiders knew very little about the eight kingdoms, especially this one.

However, when Worldly Immortal showed up for the first time, Eight Desolaces trembled as a result.

That era belonged to True Immortal Sect, dubbed by future generations as the Era of the Blessed.

True Immortal had three dao lords at this point, the third being All-things Dao Lord, Li Daoer. This was an unprecedented golden age for them. The dao lord had three thousand disciples on top of being the strongest.

No other sect could be compared to True Immortal at this point. Li Daoer continued to spread his teachings and beliefs across West King, wanting to subjugate it.

The sects in this region had no chance of resisting him and became vassals.

Worldly Immortal didn't accept this degeneration and descended from above, wearing an immortal robe. The immortal absorbed the five elements and spewed true mantras. All-things Dao Lord knew well enough to retreat.

From that point on, the dao lord never visited the southern West King again. Members of True Immortal also stayed away from Wild East Eight Kingdoms.

The world realized that the region was under the protection of Worldly Immortal and shouldn't be provoked.

The second appearance was against Righteous Dao Lord and his Evil Devourer Scripture. The dao lord launched a campaign against the east, wanting to unify West King.

Many ancestors from the east lost to him. It wouldn't be long before the fall of the eight kingdoms.

Worldly Immortal appeared again with one strike crossing the sky, reaching the dao lord back in his kingdom.

The dao lord acquiesced and recalled his armies afterward, putting an end to the invasion. This time, Worldly Immortal didn't even show up. Just one technique alone bested Righteous Dao Lord.

As for the last appearance, it happened during the era of Dhyana Dao Lord. His Buddhism had reached the apex. Some believed that he has surpassed Buddha Dao Lord in this regard.

He then decided to spread Buddhism to the east as well. Buddhism was immensely popular during this point and surpassed other cultivation doctrines.

Worldly Immortal showed up and challenged Dhyana Dao Lord to a dao discussion on top of a mountain.

Outsiders didn't know the outcome of this discussion, only that henceforth, Dhyana Dao Lord left the east and stopped trying to spread Buddhism there.

Thus, Worldly Immortal never lost against any dao lord. The title echoed across all of Eight Desolaces. Everyone felt nothing but respect when uttering this title.

"Worldly Immortal and Ancient Empress, are they still around?" One listener said softly.

"Right, Ancient Empress last appeared during the foundation of Duality. She came to listen to Duality Master's speech. I don't think anyone saw her again." A historian said.

"True, they might have passed away." An expert said.

"Drop this foolish notion. Beings of their level can't be speculated by regular people like us." The ancestor who spoke earlier disagreed.

The skeptical members of the audience stopped talking. These two beings were on the same level as dao lords. They weren't qualified to make comments on this topic.

"We need to get going, I'm sure the letter will reach this place soon." Someone looked up and began climbing.

Chapter 3738: Hu Ben Of Vajra

Climbing up Minor Sacred Mountain was no easy task due to the innate pressure found here. The lowest steps still required the conqueror level.

Many began the ascend. The moment their feet made contact with the step, they felt the pressure pressing down on their shoulders - akin to carrying ten mountains.

The higher they went, the heavier the force - causing their bones to creak.

Nonetheless, they tried their very best. This served as a pilgrimage to pay their respect for the dao lords and sages. Furthermore, one would be hard-pressed to find a better spot for training.

333 steps, normally, were nothing for cultivators. This wasn't the case here. Each step was akin to walking barefoot across a thousand miles within a desert.

For some, they would find it impossible to go further. The steps served as an uncrossable wall.

For example, starting at Virtuous Rank, the pressure more than doubled. The conqueror-level cultivators had no choice but to stop.

Conqueror and Virtuous Rank also served as a measurement of sorts. The youths capable of reaching the latter were definitely geniuses.

The successful ones had a joyous and prideful expression after reaching Virtuous Rank. After all, this was their time to show the world what they were capable of.

They looked back and saw many peers unable to move upward, unlike them. This was an achievement equal to Dugu Lan, Phantom Sacred Child, and Hu Ben.

"Rumble!" The world suddenly quaked; the loud explosions startled the ascenders.

After listening closely, the noises sounded like a cavalry galloping across a paved street, loud enough to hurt the eardrums.

They looked over and saw billowing dust. Indeed, it was a cavalry rushing forward like a tsunami.

The shine of their golden armor was blinding. The members looked mighty and sharp like thrusting spears.

"Boom!" They stopped at the base of Minor Sacred Mountain.

Just a second ago, the troops were moving at full force yet they stopped at the same time. These riders seemed to be one entity, capable of moving freely as a whole. The spectators couldn't help becoming impressed.

"War Camp of Vajra." The banners made the background of these troops obvious.

This was Vajra's largest and strongest legion - one of their pillars.

"This particular group is Hu Ben's." Someone noticed the markings on the auxiliary banner.

"He's finally here." Another expert noticed him leading the group.

The leader wore golden armor and had an impressive stature, looking extremely gallant. His helm had a special symbol, looking like a thunderbolt descending from above.

Despite his young age, he had plenty of accolades on the battlefield. Many fell victims to his blade.

Vajra Dynasty took his development and training quite seriously due to his talents. He spent his youth training in Martial Hall. After sufficient mastery, he entered War Camp and became the youngest general there in no time at all on top of having the most potential.

His focus was on maintaining peace at the border, defeating enemies time and time again. Eventually, Archaic Sun King bestowed him with an official title - Peacekeeper Grand Commander.

Next to him was the third prince of Vajra. This wasn't surprising at all because when the third prince was at the border, he received a lot of help from Hu Ben.

Hu Ben was clearly supporting the third prince. This played a large part in War Camp's support for him.

Hu Ben jumped off his horse and looked around. As a battle-hardened general, he always had a fierce and murderous air around him - a stark contrast to his age yet felt perfect on him.

"The members of the holy ground have the responsibility to uphold its prestige even if it means death." Hu Ben's eyes flashed with lightning.

"Worthy of being one of the four geniuses." One youth was moved.

"Not just that, he's the disciple of a grandmaster." A cultivator from Vajra quietly said.

Hu Ben was considered the best genius in Vajra. Rumor has it that he was the guardian's disciple. This remained unconfirmed by the court.

Hu Ben made it past Conqueror to Virtuous Rank in no time at all without stopping once, impressing the crowd in the process.

"I'll wait here for the letter." He then sat down on the step and said.

Those nearby didn't dare to disturb him and only nodded their head to greet him.

"Three of the four geniuses are here today." One spectator said.

With the exception of Golden Cicada Buddhist Child, the rest expressed their view and would certainly come here.

Phantom Sacred Child arrived a bit later. His arrival was far more low-key since he came alone, only accompanied by a purple fog.

No one saw how he got there; it was as if he emerged from the fog.

"Phantom Sacred Child is here now." Numerous shouted after seeing his figure.

The lack of fanfare didn't stop the crowd from noticing him. He had the most potential among his tribe on top of being a direct disciple of a grandmaster. Any of this was enough to make him stand out among his peers.

"Phantom Sky Step." Someone from the previous generation had to praise: "What an amazing movement technique, few can keep up with it."

The sacred child was famous for his agility thanks to this technique. Many ancestors stronger than him still couldn't catch him.

His figure shook once and he made it to Virtuous Rank right away, not far from the altar.

The third prince immediately greeted him along with the other geniuses. He was far more amiable compared to Hu Ben.

A moment later, a clear voice sounded: "I apologize for making everyone wait."

The crowd became excited after hearing this voice.

Chapter 3739: Dugu Lan

Everyone knew who it was right away after hearing the voice. A figure flashed into existence at the base of the mountain.

Eyes turned bright due to her presence, especially the young male cultivators. They couldn't avert their gaze.

A dragon seemed to be visiting this region; immortal light scattered and commanded attention. This gorgeous woman obtained the spotlight just by merely existing.

She wore a white dress and had her hair rolled up in a topknot, looking like she had just come out of a painting. The way she held her sword made her look heroic. Her eyes stirred the spectators, rendering them unable to be arrogant.

Instead of a feminine air due to her beauty, she exuded the temperament of a solitary dao seeker. The duality of her appearance and aura charmed the men.

"Dugu Lan..." Even the older cultivators were in awe.

"Her beauty matches her name, so gorgeous." One youth became enamored.

"First Sister!" The students from Duality shouted.

Dugu Lan - one of the four geniuses of the holy ground and Five-colored Sacred Sovereign's disciple.

The reason for her fame was more so her power rather than her beauty. There was a reason why she was the First Sister of Duality.

It had nothing to do with seniority and age. There were obviously older students than Dugu Lan. Nonetheless, they still had to call her "First Sister".

There were always unconvinced geniuses and students who came to challenge her position. Thus, battles were relatively common even though she never actively sought them. The result was always the same - ending in her victory.

Nonetheless, she kept a low profile and didn't shine like Phantom Sacred Child in his tribe.

The latter also had to fight repeatedly in order to maintain his position as the successor of the Divine Ghost Tribe. Being the disciple of Eight-tribulation Blood King didn't deter others enough from challenging him. This allowed him to train and polish himself through actual battles.

This was the same for Hu Ben. Martial Hall was a place where the strong ruled and the weak were eliminated. Hu Ben had to defeat his peers in order to be at the top.

The only idle one among the four geniuses was Golden Cicada Buddhist Child. Of course, this didn't mean that his cultivation was lacking.

Due to his love for traveling and eating, he visited many temples and proved his Buddhist attainment there. The young generation had no chance of out-debating him. As for the older generation, perhaps only his master - Wisdom Sacred Monk - could best him.

Ultimately, Dugu Lan fought in public the least compared to the other geniuses. This still didn't deter her position. Most considered her the strongest out of the four.

There were rumors of Golden Cicada and Phantom coming to Duality for a spar. The outcome remained unknown to outsiders.

Her lack of battle records didn't diminish her status. The other three geniuses respected her enough to never dispute the rumors.

Her arrival caused quite a stir. Many cupped their fist to greet her since she was the first to answer, saving the holy ground's face.

Just imagine, if no one had dared to do so, the holy ground's reputation would be in shambles. Its young generation would have no prestige left to speak of.

Most importantly, she was actually qualified to accept the challenge from the scion due to her power.

It only took the blink of an eye for her to effortlessly appear on the steps of Virtuous Rank.

"Fairy Dugu." Both the arrogant Hu Ben and the prideful Phantom Sacred Child came to greet her.

She sat down beneath a tree in the meditative pose with her sword resting on her knees. She looked at the crowd and said: "No need for me to say how strong Righteous Scion is. I alone am not his opponent."

The crowd felt as if she had just poured cold water on them with her words. This killed their enthusiasm.

"But, the holy ground must fight." She added: "We are on the same boat now and I need your assistance. There are plenty of talented cultivators in our land, let's try our best."

She spoke in a matter-of-fact tone instead of some persuasive rhetoric. Hearts became heavy afterward.

Nonetheless, she knew how strong the scion was. Making a bold statement to increase confidence wouldn't be effective. The only way they could win was through actual power.

Having said that, she glanced over at a creek nearby for some reason. She looked back at the crowd after seeing a lack of response.

"We have your back, Fairy Dugu." Phantom said: "If one-on-one doesn't work, we'll all go together. Righteous Scion didn't ask for a one-on-one duel."

"Yes. I have one million men ready to start a grand formation. It'll be enough to delay him at the border to buy time for everyone." Hu Ben added.

"It's a good idea." Phantom replied: "If we just let him come straight to Minor Sacred Mountain without any resistance, it would be too shameful. Some have to at least slow him down."

"Just give us the command, Fairy." Other geniuses nearby expressed their stance.

The older experts shook their head. Numbers didn't actually matter against someone like Righteous Scion. The truly effective fighting force was still the four.

Maybe if they fought together, they would have a chance to win.

"Let's invite a dao lord weapon. It'll give us a better chance to win." One genius said.

Most thought that this wouldn't be too effective since the scion would surely have one too.

"Let's prepare to the fullest extent. We must do our best." Dugu Lan said. She knew that relying on a weapon wasn't enough to make up for the gap. It had to be an insane ace card.

"Is there really no hope?" Another felt her pessimism and quietly asked.

"No, I'm sure there are hidden masters at the holy ground capable of stopping him." She calmly said, not offended in the slightest.

Chapter 3740: A Little Difficult

Dugu Lan's words made the crowd ponder. If she had only said it once, it could be coming from humility. Alas, it seemed that she was merely telling the truth.

"No one else is stronger than your group right now, Fairy Dugu." One genius said.

The four great geniuses stood at the top in the holy ground. The internal ranking of these four remained unknown.

"I do not dare to accept this praise, there are higher peaks in the holy ground that just aren't known." Dugu Lan shook her head.

"Really?" The genius and his friends were perplexed.

"I think that's impossible. Only the other three geniuses might be a match for her in the holy ground." A fan of Dugu Lan didn't believe it.

"Yes, Fairy Dugu, your group working together will definitely stop Righteous Scion." The other chimed in.

"Well, I'll be the first to admire someone who can push Righteous Scion back. I wish to broaden my horizon and see such an expert." Hu Ben laughed.

He wasn't being sarcastic since very few in the young generation in the holy ground were stronger than him. He didn't care for the rest and also doubted Dugu Lan's comment.

"It would be the holy ground's blessing to have someone like that around." Phantom Sacred Child nodded, feeling skeptical as well. After all, he had fought most of the famous geniuses in the holy ground or at least knew about them.

With the exception of Golden Cicada Buddhist Child, no one else was on the same level as the three present.

Moreover, all the top geniuses in the holy ground have virtually gathered here. None fitted her description.

"There's always a miracle creator." Dugu Lan calmly said and glanced at the creek nearby again: "If we can't stop the scion, I hope someone else will do so."

"Fairy, no need to boost the enemy's morale." Hu Ben smiled and said: "We won't know the true victor until the very end. Our holy ground's talents can't be inferior to Righteous Sect."

Hu Ben rarely lost during his debut. Due to his experience in battles, he was confident in fighting against Righteous Scion.

He was certainly aware of his foe's ability and reputation. Nonetheless, this was limited to Righteous Sect. The guy could be strong just like the legends but he still wanted to give it a shot.

"We should be the ones creating a miracle instead of waiting for someone else." Phantom said, being relatively confident.

"Miracle, huh?" This word immediately made people think of the same person.

"Yes, that guy might actually be able to defeat that monster." One youth murmured.

"No one can do it outside of Fairy Dugu's group, don't be ridiculous." The fans of the four immediately refuted this belief.

"Who are you talking about?" A young cultivator asked.

"Li Qiye, the guy dubbed as the son of miracles. He has done some ridiculous things so far." The youth answered.

"He trampled the two mansions at the capital, right?" Some nearby said.

"That's him." The youth said.

In reality, the crowd's impression of Li Qiye wasn't that positive. They had nothing against Li Qiye but simply thought that he lacked a certain something compared to Dugu Lan's group.

These four came from prestigious clans and had brilliant talents. Moreover, they trained hard in order to earn their current prestige.

On the other hand, Li Qiye was only a woodchopper who somehow became the saber messenger of Vajra. Maybe he was an Enlightened Being now but this was far from enough.

This cultivation level was only decent at best and had nothing to do with the word "genius". Plus, it seemed that most of his feats were done with external help.

"This Li Qiye is devilish indeed, maybe he can be of use against Righteous Scion." An older expert became interested in this development.

"Should we invite him to the coalition? I think it will heavily increase our chances." One youth suggested.

"I haven't seen him recently though. He might not be interested at all or he would be here right now." Someone else who has been staying at the capital said.

"Not interested? More like he's afraid or he would be here if he is as magical as you all claim. Isn't defeating the scion a great opportunity for him to be famous?" Another who disliked Li Qiye snorted.

"That makes sense." A few nearby nodded.

"Our foe is truly strong. We should still try and invite any ally that we can." The opposition suggested.

"If Young Master Li is willing to assist the holy ground, nothing can be better." Dugu Lan smiled.

"I want to see this Li Qiye without that invincible armor. We'll see if he's really magical." Hu Ben laughed, clearly revealing his disdain.

His animosity towards Li Qiye was understandable. He supported the third prince while Li Qiye killed several allies of his. There was no way he would like Li Qiye.

"We should welcome this young noble into our alliance. It's just that the fight will be very dangerous, he needs to think about it." Phantom said. His attitude was better than Hu Ben's but there was still a veiled contempt towards Li Qiye.

"There's no way this Li guy stands a chance." The majority agreed with the two geniuses.

"Li Qiye has numerous ace cards up his sleeve, don't forget this." The other side thought that everything came easy to Li Qiye for some inexplicable reason.

"Don't forget that Righteous Scion has even more ace cards as the successor of Righteous. He has dao lord weapons capable of destroying everything." Another snorted.

"No, I have no doubt that Li Qiye would be able to repel Righteous Scion." Dugu Lan expressed her stance and silenced the crowd. They didn't dare to argue against her.

"Alright, let's invite Li Qiye. Time to see his divinity." Hu Ben said.

"It's not a bad idea." Phantom agreed.

Some members of the audience thought that these two might be using this battle to kill Li Qiye with a borrowed knife.

"The letter is at Buddha Emperor City now!" A message interrupted the conversation.