

Emperor 3801

Chapter 3801: Lightning Fiend

The circling temporal diagram emitted a peerless regal aura, providing a defense consisting of the past, present, and future.

Those who knew of this treasure were astounded.

“From what I’ve heard, Hu Ben came to the ancestral temple to ask for help after losing to Righteous Scion. This seems right, they actually gave him the temporal diagram. How surprising.” A court official quietly revealed.

Hu Ben found confidence with this treasure and the advice from Sword Hero.

“Buzz.” Phantom also summoned his own treasure.

People felt space trembling as a result. This treasure seemed to be coming from another deep dimension.

After the vibration, they saw him wielding a great spear with the aura of a grand emperor. Its radiance bathed and made him look holy, instantly curing the rest of his wounds.

Within the holy radiance were lightning crackles, capable of piercing through space and all foes. This turned Phantom into an emperor of lightning. Just one thrust would be enough to inflict a massacre on both heaven and hell.

The imperial aura was especially majestic and suppressive. It seemed to be from an emperor of an ancient age.

“What is this weapon?” The majority of the spectators had no idea, only that it was from an emperor due to its aura.

“Lightning Fiend.” An ancestor’s expression changed after seeing it: “Myriad-blood Sect only has a few, it’s so strong.”

“!!!” The crowd became startled after hearing this.

Myriad-blood Sect consisted primarily of blood fiends and ghost members. Rumor has it that during its early days, several ancestors came from an imperial lineage of the ghosts. This lineage was among the top two of this race but eventually succumbed to the great calamity.

Nonetheless, it still passed down some of its legacies and treasures. Myriad-blood Sect became the new owner.

This sect hasn’t produced a dao lord yet but absolutely didn’t lack resources. Some thought that it was even greater than Vajra in this regard.

Thus, some expected to see an imperial weapon after hearing about Phantom asking for a treasure to deal with Righteous Scion. However, seeing Lightning Fiend still caught them by surprise.

People didn't know how to feel when this was going to be used against a member of the holy ground instead of Righteous Scion.

"Let's do this, Li Qiye!" Hu Ben's furious roar echoed across the area.

His newfound confidence wasn't only because of his treasure nor the advice from Sword Hero. Most importantly, Sword Hero has shown his support.

Li Qiye could be powerful but there was no way he could match Sword Hero. Thus, Hu Ben believed that even in the case of defeat, Sword Hero would still save them.

"Stop shouting, just go." Li Qiye glanced dismissively at him.

"Perish!" Hu Ben turned red and swung both hands forward, activating the diagram.

However, the three gates flew downward instead, pinning into the ground not far from Li Qiye. It formed a formation to block his path.

"What is he doing?" The spectators assumed that Hu Ben would be trying to seal Li Qiye. This seemed like a low-level mistake.

"Temporal Heavenly Seal!" Hu Ben roared and channeled his vitality into the three gates.

"Buzz..." The three gates immediately lit up; the star formations were activated.

Stars appeared beneath Li Qiye and shot up beams, illuminating the surroundings. The arrays severed the ground and the power beneath.

"I see, a containment." One ancestor realized Hu Ben's intention.

"The temporal diagram's sealing power is peerless, it's trying to block Li Qiye from connecting with the holy ground." Another big shot elaborated.

Sword Hero told him that Li Qiye's power originated from the holy ground, culminating in the Buddhist tree. It wasn't his own power. Therefore, once Hu Ben cut off this source, Li Qiye would no longer be able to borrow external power.

"Boom!" Three massive planets eventually emerged from the formations carved on the gates. Now, they finally aimed for Li Qiye, not leaving any room for him to escape while intending on reducing him to a bloody mist.

As they drew closer and exerted their pressure on him, they became blindingly bright. The crowd couldn't keep their eyes open.

"Die!" Phantom immediately joined the fray. Loud crackles could be heard as his Lightning Fiend released numerous terrifying bolts.

"Rumble!" The tsunami of lightning seemed disastrous for the area.

He then threw the spear towards Li Qiye along with its lightning affinity. The bolts gathered together to form a single beam with enough destructive potential to kill a god.

The young spectators gasped while the older ones took a deep breath for composure.

With one loud blast, the formations and the spear struck Li Qiye at the same time. Starry lights and the lightning beam detonated. No one could see the result clearly due to the blinding explosion.

Chapter 3802: Having Fun?

Nothing else should result from this attack outside of certain demise. The ground cracked and exploded from the impact.

Li Qiye's spot was replaced by a crater with debris showering to all sides. Once vision returned, they saw the crater being filled with rocks and dirt.

Li Qiye and the tree were nowhere to be found. He might be buried beneath the mess or was blown into bloody mist scattering to the wind.

The spectators remained dazed while looking at the crater and thinking about the sure-kill move earlier. The top ancestors thought that they would have died to it as well.

"What an attack, it's definitely fatal." One high elder became emotional.

"Right, it blocked the grand dao so the opponent became helpless." Another big shot added.

The seal created by Hu Ben's treasure was nothing short of impressive. The ancestors didn't have a solution for it. Anyone would become helpless and die to Phantom's spear afterward.

"He gotta be dead, right?" A youth murmured.

Others exchanged glances, thinking that this should be the case. They saw how Li Qiye's power was primarily from the holy ground. Thus, once this source was severed, he had no chance of surviving the fatal attack.

"Yes." One ancestor agreed with a touch of reluctance.

The lack of confidence was due to Li Qiye who had performed numerous miracles before. There was a chance that he could be completely unscathed. Why? Because he was Li Qiye.

Phantom and Hu Ben remained nervous. They obviously wanted Li Qiye to be dead. But what if the guy managed to survive? They didn't dare to think about this possibility.

"A mighty move indeed." The scion nodded approvingly.

To earn his praise showed the might of the combination attack earlier. However, he thought that Li Qiye was still alive.

As for Xu Cuimei, she chuckled and wasn't too interested. The result was obvious to her.

In her eyes, these two unwisely overestimated themselves and were suicidal. The two sides weren't on the same level in the slightest. The strongest weapons and merit laws couldn't make up this gap.

Even for someone as powerful as her, she thought that she wouldn't be able to block half a technique if he truly wanted to slay her.

"We got him." After a long wait, Hu Ben and Phantom heaved a sigh of relief.

The other spectators thought the same since there was no commotion around the crater.

The youths who were fans of Phantom and Hu Ben became excited. One shouted: "The temporal diagram and Lightning Fiend are invincible weapons. No one in this world can stop them."

"Damn right, Phantom Sacred Child and Hu Ben of Vajra's combination attack is unstoppable. Li Qiye stood no chance in the first place." Another fan chimed in.

"I can stop it." A domineering voice interjected. It was none other than Righteous Scion.

The youths turned red and didn't dare to respond. He had earned the right to be haughty.

Nonetheless, they felt as if he had just slapped them - a truly frustrating feeling.

Suddenly, a loud blast sent the debris flying and interrupted the tense atmosphere. Buddhist light pulsed once more, resulting in earthquakes.

Next, a figure soared to the sky.

"Li Qiye!" Everyone recognized him right away.

He floated in the air with the Buddhist tree next to him. Beneath the tree was an undamaged landmass.

He then landed on the landmass, looking calm and indifferent. The Buddhist light emanating from the tree remained comforting.

Most importantly, he was undoubtedly uninjured.

"Impossible!" Both Hu Ben and Phantom staggered backward in astonishment.

Killing Li Qiye might be pushing it but they were still confident in inflicting some damage. This didn't seem to be the case at all.

"What the hell? I thought the diagram severed Li Qiye's connection with the holy ground." One spectator was perplexed.

Due to the severing, Li Qiye shouldn't have been able to withstand the attack. Now, not even one strand of hair looked to be missing.

"Having fun?" Li Qiye patted the dirt off his shoulders with a smile before the speechless crowd.

"Buzz." The tree's roots then connected with the land again just like tentacles. This scene was quite bizarre.

"Rumble!" The dirt and rocks outside suddenly returned to the crater as if time was reversing.

Li Qiye was no longer in the air. He stood in the same spot as before with the tree next to him.

People looked down at the ground and couldn't find a single crack. They felt as if this was nothing more than a dream.

The suppression and fatal blow along with the crater might as well didn't happened, or that they were just part of a dream. But now, everyone has woken up.

“How did he do it?” One youth felt his legs trembling.

A high monk placed his palms together and chanted: “Amitabha, Amitabha. This is the reconstruction power of Buddhism. Benefactor, you have obtained the samadhi. I am in the presence of a wise monk.”

He became quite confused because Li Qiye wasn't a Buddhist. How could he turn himself into a venerable user of Buddhism in no time at all? The whole thing didn't make sense.

Chapter 3803: Eternity Bulwark

People had no words to describe the scene ahead. The high monk of Heavenly Dragon Temple was the only commenter.

However, it was hard to look at Li Qiye and think that he was an enlightened monk. Nonetheless, all evidence pointed at him being able to use Buddhist arts originating from the holy ground.

This made them think that he had obtained an art left behind by Dhyana Dao Lord.

“Is Buddhism this easy to learn? One can switch halfway and still have this result?” One cultivator wondered.

Some thought about potential shortcuts existing for Buddhism. Could it be easier to learn versus cultivating the grand dao?

“I don't think so.” One big shot disagreed with Li Qiye changing into a great monk versed in the samadhi in such a short time. He mused for a bit before continuing: “This still has to be the power of holy ground. I think the severing process earlier was incomplete so Li Qiye managed to borrow some power.”

Many agreed with his assessment. They also saw how the roots of the tree drilled into the ground like tentacles. This resembled a connecting process.

Ultimately, it should be impossible for Li Qiye to learn Buddhism in such a short time. Many monks spent their whole life trying to understand their religion yet this might not be enough to reach Li Qiye's height.

“That wasn't a bad attempt. Unfortunately, it is insignificant before me, doesn't even tickle.” Li Qiye smiled.

The domineering statement made people smile wryly. That move earlier was nothing short of terrifying yet Li Qiye thought nothing of it.

Alas, the crowd knew to keep their mouth shut at this point lest they want further embarrassment.

As for Hu Ben and Phantom, they had an ugly expression due to a total failure of their prized techniques. His lack of injury dealt a heavy blow to their confidence.

“It's a shame that you're not as strong as the rumors.” Li Qiye continued: “There are no more chances, the next move will end you.”

Some became frozen after hearing this. An invisible hand seemed to be grasping their throat and causing everything to go black.

This casual declaration was a death sentence for both Hu Ben and Phantom. They thought that the moment Li Qiye uttered these words, the two became dead men walking. This oppressive pressure caused them to shudder in fear.

"I'm about to start. Get ready to accept your fate." Li Qiye smiled and continued.

The two frightened opponents retreated several steps backward, intimidated.

In this blink of an eye, they felt the god of death approaching closer and closer. They now stood before the gate of hell while Li Qiye was raising his scythe with a twisted grimace.

They have experienced plenty of battles in their life, some brought them close to death. Alas, this was an unprecedented dread, their first time fearing death since it was so close.

"Activate!" Hu Ben shouted and used his temporal diagram again.

The three gates returned to him and inserted themselves into the ground, creating a starry formation.

"Rumble!" They created a fortress the size of a mountain, looking like a pyramid reaching the clouds. It seemed to be cast from precious metal with immense toughness.

Under the empowerment of the formation, runes and halos materialized to create the perfect blockade.

"Eternity Bulwark!" An ancestor took a deep breath and explained: "A famous defense of Vajra Dynasty. A forefather there relied on it to protect his citizens for three months from a relentless assault. The enemies eventually gave up."

Hu Ben was inside the fortress with 3,800 halos rotating outside. This should be enough to stop the most terrifying attack.

He refused to accept death thus he channeled his vitality to use this ultimate defensive technique.

As for Phantom, he could get extremely far away with his Phantom Skyshift. However, he didn't think he would be able to get away from Li Qiye. Plus, he would rather fight to the death instead of running away.

He channeled his vitality as well. "Boom!" A violet aura manifested around him with loud crackles.

The sky turned dark and an oceanic maelstrom appeared above. Countless lightning bolts swam with the currents.

They looked like gigantic dragons assaulting the sky. The spectators shuddered in fear.

These bolts raised their claws, seemingly launching an offense. However, they swam towards Lightning Fiend instead of Li Qiye.

"Rumble!" With that, Phantom lit up and became connected to the lightning maelstrom. Lightning currents flowed around him.

The remnant bolts and beams destroyed everything nearby as he transformed into a true god of lightning.

"Lightning God Possession!" One spectator shouted: "The invincible move from an ancient emperor! Hmm, when one isn't in the proper cultivation realm, forcefully using it will result in being crippled."

This technique was left behind by a great emperor of Myriad-blood Sect and required Lighting Fiend to set up. However, the consequences were grave for weaker cultivators.

Alas, Phantom had no other choice. He would rather try and take Li Qiye down along with him.

“A bit interesting but it won’t end in mutual destruction.” Li Qiye was amused by their effort. He continued: “Get ready to witness the original Buddhist art of the holy ground.”

Having said that, he formed a mudra and started chanting. This caused him to be engulfed in a bright radiance, achieving the dao and becoming a holy Buddha.

Chapter 3804: Eight-tribulation Buddha Dragon

A plethora of Buddhist runes appeared on the ground to resonate with Li Qiye’s radiance. They then floated around him, bathing him in a world of runes.

A grand dao became activated next, turning Li Qiye’s location into the ruler of a Buddhist kingdom that was created solely for his sake.

The runes flowed continuously; each individual rune seemingly contained a supreme scripture of Buddhism, ready to manifest into reality at any moment.

Everyone heard echoing chants as if there were thirty million Buddhas blessing Li Qiye. From the chants came a surging Buddhist power instantly drowning everyone.

Numerous felt an innate urge to worship so they got on their knees.

“He’s really an enlightened monk?” Both the young and old found this astonishing.

The ordinary Li Qiye was nowhere to be found. He looked like a great monk wearing a treasure kasaya and holding a holy bowl - a Buddhist Lord above the nine firmaments.

They began to believe the comment from the monk earlier, that Li Qiye had mastered the samadhi.

This should be impossible because Li Qiye wasn’t a monk in the first place with no knowledge of Buddhism. He possessed a mortal shell without an inborn religious connection.

Thus, the metamorphosis from a mortal to a Buddhist Lord shook the crowd to the core.

“Buddhist Dao, heed my call.” Li Qiye chanted, causing the affinity to intensify.

“Raa!” A dragon roar shook the area.

“Boom!” The ground cracked open and a golden dragon flew out and showed the world its majestic claws and unstoppable aura.

Numerous cultivators were sent flying. Some ancestors turned pale from fear and screamed: “What is this dragon?!”

An ancient character focused his gaze and noticed something peculiar about this dragon.

“This is an eight-tribulation Buddha dragon, born with the Buddha of the western paradise and capable of sending down eight mythical tribulations.” The high monk from Heavenly Dragon Temple became startled.

Only the old ancestors have heard of this type. One took a deep breath and said: “I heard Buddha Dao Lord underwent eight tribulations too during his dao search, he nearly died in this process.”

“Yes, this isn’t the real thing but it does have the power of Buddhist calamities. It’s not something we can handle.” The monk responded.

Thus, those not in the know became frightened all the same, aware of this dragon’s power. It possessed the power of the calamities that nearly killed Buddha Dao Lord in the past.

“Raa!” The dragon lunged downward with both claws at the ready. Clouds and winds disappeared along with space.

The two claws instantly appeared before Hu Ben and Phantom. There was no technique and merit law at work here - merely an ultimate suppression stemming from the power of a calamity.

“Go!” Phantom roared and became one with his spear. He leaped upward while being surrounded by an incredible lighting current, wanting to take the dragon head-on.

The ancestors were amazed to see this. Phantom’s attack far exceeded his cultivation and limit.

Meanwhile, Hu Ben poured the rest of his energy and vitality into the temporal diagram. The halos circled around him like three thousand planets.

The spectators felt as if he could withstand any attack under this condition.

“They should be fine taking one move.” One said.

“Rumble!” The heaven seemed to be falling due to the emergence of a terrible storm. It sent most of the spectators flying.

“Boom!” The Eternity Bulwark’s halos shattered beneath the dragon’s claws. Next came the entire fortress.

Hu Ben was forced to the ground; his bones shattered and blood splashed everywhere.

As for Phantom, his spear couldn’t penetrate the claws. The weapon was pushed away and the ocean of lighting exploded in this blink of an eye. Alas, the explosion couldn’t reach Li Qiye.

Phantom dropped to the ground, suffering the same fate as Hu Ben.

The battle ended with just one move from Li Qiye, thoroughly defeating the duo. As he had said from the start, they didn’t manage to withstand one attack from him.

The spectators trembled in fear. These were top geniuses possessing peerless weapons. This should have been enough to fight against anyone from the young generation.

“Who is stronger, Li Qiye or Righteous Scion?” Someone eventually calmed down and became curious about this topic.

Li Qiye was on a different level compared to Hu Ben and Phantom. Thus, Righteous Scion became the next point of reference.

They all saw Li Qiye's might just now but didn't dare to underestimate the scion.

"Should be enough for a good battle." One ancestor didn't have a clear answer.

"Li Qiye absolutely got this when the battlefield is here. The power he can borrow has a higher concentration on top of being purer compared to Golden Cicada Buddhist Child. The scion is strong but he can't compete against the entire holy ground. As for fighting outside? That's hard to say." An older ancestor revealed his analysis.

Li Qiye's cultivation was clearly inferior. Nonetheless, he should have some devilish methods outside of the holy ground. The answer for this scenario wasn't clear either.

"Time to go now." Li Qiye said flatly.

The crowd became frozen, realizing that some generational geniuses were about to die. Nonetheless, the winner takes all so they didn't say anything. Li Qiye wouldn't have been shown any mercy.

"Royal Uncle, save me!" Hu Ben dropped his pride and bellowed for help in this key moment.

Chapter 3805: Opposition

All eyes turned towards the direction of the imperial palace after hearing Hu Ben's cry for help.

Supreme Brother or Sword Hero - many instantly thought of him. Others speculated about another person from the court getting involved.

Hu Ben was a prized genius of Martial Hall and a general of War Camp. He was both an important seed and an efficient pillar for the dynasty. It wasn't easy to groom another.

Moreover, the third prince was a member of the royal clan. No matter how one looked at it, they wouldn't let Li Qiye kill these two.

There was a chance that the guardian, one of the four grandmasters, would show up as well. It would truly be a shocking battle.

Some turned their attention towards National Teacher Ye Mingshi. Logically, he shouldn't sit idly by and watch this development.

Strangely enough, that's precisely his choice. He showed no emotional fluctuation while watching this.

"Hmph!" A scowl swept through the area.

"Sword Hero!" People knew who it was right away and had a hard time standing straight. Just this scowl alone showed his incredible power.

"Clank!" A sword intent soared towards the firmaments and illuminated the entire capital. The individual rays were unbearable and seemed like real swords, more than enough to cut down the stars.

The swords nearby started hymning as well. Their masters became afraid and hurriedly gripped the hilt in order to stop them from flying out of the sheath.

This was a harmonization of swords. The weaker ones would be summoned to the strongest sword intent.

“Buzz.” The pressure exerted by the intent caused everyone to feel pain from top to bottom as if they were being pierced by thousands of swords.

“So strong!” Most immediately escaped the radius of the sword intent.

“Invincible with the sword.” People thought of this phrase.

Though Sword Hero has yet to show up, his sword intent alone intimidated the spectators.

Next, the sword rays above gathered together to form a path connecting the palace and Minor Sacred Mountain. It looked like a rainbow, only one pulsing with sword flashes instead of the seven colors.

Loud footsteps could be heard, akin to the approach of a great giant. Accompanying sword energies emerged in a torrential manner.

Someone began walking from the royal palace towards Minor Sacred Mountain using the dao path.

“Sword Hero!” Most were surprised to see this great master for the first time.

Sword Hero was a spirited youth with an oppressive pressure. His eyes seemingly contained countless swords.

Sharp glints emanated from his fluttering robe. He looked just like a divine sword, still sheathed for now. Once it left its sheath, it would shock the world.

He didn't have a sword on him but still looked primed to fight and take down his enemies whenever.

People were surprised because he looked way too young. Sword Hero was from several generations ago.

Today, both Archaic Sun King and Five-colored Sacred Sovereign had gray hair, looking like a mortal elder. Ye Mingshi was from the same generation and looked like a middle-aged man now. On the other hand, Sword Hero looked as if he was in the same generation as Righteous Scion.

Of course, powerful cultivators could change back to their youthful appearance. Nonetheless, some signs of aging would still be there. This was absent for Sword Hero since he looked vigorous and brimming with energy.

“So that's Sword Hero.” Everyone found this title to be suitable for him.

“We're old while he's still young.” An expert from the same generation became sentimental.

“Vajra Dynasty isn't your playground, arrogant one!” Sword Hero shouted and raised one finger, shooting out numerous sword rays.

Just this sword technique alone was superior to Hu Ben and Phantom's ultimate attack. Many thought that this would be enough to stop the calamity dragon and save the duo.

“Boom!” However, it was stopped before making contact with the dragon.

“?!” The spectators were astounded by this development.

“The national teacher!” The big shots gasped as well.

“Why is the national teacher stopping Sword Hero?” One person regained his wits and asked.

No one could come up with an answer. It was one thing for Ye Mingshi to ignore the event, but to actually interfere?

“Political struggles are hard to understand.” One important ancestor calmly stated.

“Ye Mingshi!” Sword Hero’s eyes turned fierce.

“Long time no see, Sword Hero, still enjoying your spring, I see.” Ye Mingshi responded.

“You must stand in my way? I suppose our fight back then didn’t have a conclusion.” Sword Hero’s sword intent intensified.

Terrible sword energies manifested and made the crowd shudder. The top masters realized that he was very close to being as strong as a grandmaster.

“If you wish to fight, you can pick a time and place, just not today.” Ye Mingshi remained unmoved by the pressure.

Many exchanged glances, thinking that Ye Mingshi was quite fierce as well, not relenting in the slightest.

Of course, both of them were students of Duality in the same class. The stronger of the two remained unknown. Moreover, they also had similar status in Vajra Dynasty.

Chapter 3806: Only Death

The spectators would certainly love a battle between Ye Mingshi and Sword Hero. It would absolutely be brilliant, a top-ranked match in the holy ground.

After all, both of them were extremely close to being at the level of a grandmaster.

Ye Mingshi showed no reaction to Sword Hero’s aggressiveness. They used to be top students at Duality; this wouldn’t be their first fight.

“And if I pick today?!” Sword Hero remained arrogant like before, always ready to fight after a slight argument.

He resembled a tempestuous youth rather than someone who has lived for thousands of years. This created a stark contrast between him and the calm Ye Mingshi.

“Can’t be today. Pick another date and place, Sword Hero.” Ye Mingshi refused again.

“What if I insist on it being today?” Sword Hero’s murderous aura intensified.

“His Majesty has issued a decree.” Ye Mingshi said stoically, taking out and raising a badge into the air: “Sword Hero, His Majesty commands you to see him first after leaving your isolated cultivation. Go now.”

This badge had a golden dragon carved on top, pulsing with a regal aura. It brimmed with power and authority, causing others to want to prostrate.

“Vajra Dracobadge!” The officials in the court got on their knees.

The other experts in Vajra who weren’t officials lowered their head to show respect.

This was a badge representing the highest authority in the dynasty. Ye Mingshi wasn’t faking the king’s intent if he had access to this.

“What a king...” Sword Hero’s expression darkened as he sneered.

“Sword Hero, leave now. The matter here has nothing to do with you.” Ye Mingshi repeated.

“Ye Mingshi, must you oppose me?” Sword Hero glared at his opponent.

“If you have a problem with this, please go talk to His Majesty instead of wasting breath on me.” Ye Mingshi shook his head.

Sword Hero scowled in response.

The crowd exchanged glances and felt animosity between Sword Hero and Archaic Sun King. These two brothers didn’t seem to get along to say the least.

Of course, this was rather expected. The two were competitors for the throne in the past; the conflict could have reached a life or death level.

The strangest part was that Archaic Sun King seemed to have Li Qiye’s back regardless of the issue. Now, the question became whether Sword Hero would obey or otherwise.

“Fine, I’ll deal with you another day!” Sword Hero uttered coldly but didn’t garner a response from Ye Mingshi who simply put the badge away.

In the end, Sword Hero acquiesced and obeyed an official order. Ultimately, he was still a member of the royal clan regardless of his power. He had to obey the rules of Vajra and the badge of authority.

To do otherwise meant challenging Vajra’s sovereignty itself. At that point, not to mention the king, even the ancestors would pursue his insolence.

He then turned towards Li Qiye and threatened: “Brat, I don’t care who you are but only Vajra can deal with our descendants. If you dare to harm them-”

“Ahh!” Li Qiye added more power before Sword Hero could finish. One claw came down and turned Hu Ben into a bloody pulp.

“No!!!” The third prince also felt death coming for him and bellowed.

It was too late. Li Qiye waved his hand and the pagoda annihilated him.

“Did you say something? I missed it.” He then picked his ear with his pinky and nonchalantly asked.

The crowd gasped after seeing this. Li Qiye still killed the duo despite Sword Hero’s warning. This was akin to slapping him twice in public, treating him as nothing more than trash.

Remember, Sword Hero was awfully close to being as strong as a grandmaster. Prideful geniuses from the young generation needed to show respect and kept their mouth shut. Li Qiye didn't follow this tradition.

"Is he courting death?" A youth was astounded, the same with his peers.

"True to his fierce style." One expert murmured with an awkward smile. Li Qiye's haughtiness never decreased despite the increasing stake each time.

They then stole glances at Sword Hero. The guy must be livid right now after the blatant humiliation. Characters like him were always prideful.

Sure enough, terrible sword rays emanated from his eyes. Each was capable of killing Li Qiye a thousand times over.

The crowd already trembled before he made a move.

"Sword Hero, leave." Ye Mingshi said indifferently one more time.

"We'll see how long you can keep this up!" Sword Hero glared at Li Qiye before returning to the royal palace. He came without warning and left just as quickly.

The biggest question for the crowd now became Archaic Sun King's intent. Why did he keep on protecting Li Qiye?

"I'm afraid no one will step up for you." Li Qiye spoke to his last enemy - Phantom.

"The winner takes all, I don't care." Phantom had an ashen complexion and knew that he wouldn't be able to escape.

He kept a strong showing to not disgrace Myriad-blood Sect instead of begging.

"How unyielding. As you wish." Li Qiye smiled.

"Why not keep him alive, let him help with the external enem-" One spectator shouted.

"Ahh!" Alas, the claw came down and sent Phantom on his way before the guy could finish speaking.

The result of this battle wasn't easy for the crowd to digest. Putting the third prince aside, Hu Ben and Phantom were two of the four great geniuses. This was a serious loss for the holy ground.

Chapter 3807: Not Interested

Various emotions surfaced in the spectators' mind. Numerous geniuses were fans of Phantom and Hu Ben while looking down on Li Qiye, thinking that the guy relied on a non-traditional path...

Now, their stars and pride have been killed by Li Qiye. Those who hated Li Qiye before felt their hatred extinguished like a candle in the wind out of necessity.

Hell, two top geniuses stood no chance against Li Qiye, let alone them. It was better to swallow their indignation and grievances instead of courting death.

Of course, some also celebrated. For example, the crown prince.

Who benefited the most from this battle outcome? The crown prince, not Li Qiye.

His strongest rival, the third prince, was now dead - the same for his supporters. It couldn't have gone any better for the crown prince. One could say that it was only a matter of time before his coronation at this point.

An old servant behind him became excited since they could ride his coattails as well.

"Congratulations, Your Highness." The servant celebrated.

"Watch yourself!" The prince shouted. Even though this was a joyous matter, expressing joy was improper.

"My mistake, Your Highness." The servant realized it and slapped himself twice.

The prince watched quietly, not expecting this day to actually come. The third prince has been truly successful so he felt great pressure.

Now, Li Qiye alone changed the entire direction of Vajra Dynasty. The crown prince was glad that he had made the right choice. Just one misstep could have resulted in unimaginable consequences.

Meanwhile, the crowd had no criticism regarding the trio's death. Li Qiye beat them fair and square.

"Anyone else wants to rid Vajra of evil or stand on the side of justice?" Li Qiye laughed heartily and asked the crowd.

No one responded since they preferred to keep on living. Most only wanted to watch since this was the court's internal affair. There was no need for outsiders to worry themselves, not to mention the risk in doing so.

In fact, some of the larger sects actually wanted an escalation so that Vajra would weaken as a result. They have been coveting Vajra's position for so long now.

"If no one wants to play, I'll get going then." Li Qiye smiled.

With that, he handed the statue of Dhyana Dao Lord over to Wei Qianqing.

The crowd didn't expect this because he thought that Li Qiye and Xu Cuimei were accomplices, wanting to betray the holy ground.

Now, he gave the statue to Wei Qianqing, one of the five geniuses of Duality but most importantly, the commander of Black Wood Cliff. They didn't know why but it looked better for Li Qiye now.

"Thank you, Young Master." Qianqing bowed deeply to show her gratitude before leaving with the statue.

Li Qiye was no longer interested in staying at Minor Sacred Mountain and planned to leave.

"Young Master, why not spar with Righteous Scion?" Someone in the audience suddenly suggested.

Everyone else became interested and agreed right away. All eyes were on Li Qiye.

"Yes, spar against Righteous Scion and show him the might of the holy ground." Another said.

Prior to this, most thought that he wasn't qualified to fight the scion due to his non-traditional path. Now, it became abundantly clear that he might be the only one among the young generation that has a chance of winning.

Thus, the disdain and prejudice of the past disappeared into smoke. They hoped that he would be able to beat the scion and regain some face for the holy ground. Otherwise, it would be too vexing for the younger generation.

"You'll win for sure, Young Master." In fact, some shameless souls began to flatter Li Qiye despite having made fun of him not long ago.

He suddenly became useful to them so a change of attitude was necessary.

Unfortunately, Li Qiye didn't bite. He looked back and flatly responded, "not interested", before going on his way.

Some were annoyed at his departure but didn't dare to say anything to him.

After he was long gone, one youth finally spoke: "Hmph, he has to be conspiring with Righteous..."

"Shut up!" A senior immediately reprimanded.

The older ones could see that something was going on. Li Qiye had killed three important youths and yet, Sword Hero was still called back.

Thus, this matter wasn't simple. It must have something to do with a broader picture, perhaps political conflict within Vajra Dynasty. This might spread to all the five divisions soon since Phantom was from Divine Ghost Division.

If that's the case, they needed to stay away from this quagmire, waiting for the right moment to take advantage of the chaos.

"Buddha Holy Ground is indeed full of hidden dragons and crouching tigers." Righteous Scion finally spoke, not holding back his rampant aura at all.

Everyone felt the pressure once more.

He looked at them and said: "Unfortunately, no dragons and tigers here, only a bunch of fools."

They angrily glared at him but were powerless to retaliate. The truth was that some of the ancestors present might not be able to beat him.

"What a shame, no pointers from the young master." The scion murmured to himself before walking towards the stone steps.

The experts of the holy ground could only watch him do whatever he wanted.

"Whatever battle comes next can't compare to the previous, a worthless sequel to a masterpiece. Nonetheless, all beginnings must have an end, so time to finish this." The scion spoke while walking up the steps. His haughtiness didn't change despite being on sacred ground.

"Anyone else wishes to fight?" After getting up high, he turned back to look at the crowd.

His momentum and aura didn't diminish despite facing the mass. He had no intention of relenting.

To challenge the holy ground while standing on top of Minor Sacred Mountain seemed like a blatant insult. This was truly humiliating for the young generation. Alas, no one stepped up to face him.

Chapter 3808: Standoff

The atmosphere became suffocating after the challenge. The holy ground's reputation was at stake.

If no one dared to take on the scion here, the young generation of the holy ground would never be able to keep their head up high when seeing a member of Righteous Sect.

"I have already accepted your challenge and will not miss it for anything." A pleasant voice replied.

The youths from the holy ground became excited right away after hearing this voice.

"Fairy Dugu!" Some couldn't help shouting.

Dugu Lan walked over while embracing her sword, looking like an ethereal fairy.

In reality, she was indeed a fairy in the youths' eyes now, coming to save them from this mess.

The tense atmosphere was alleviated and people could breathe again. At the very least and regardless of the outcome, at least there was someone willing to fight the scion at Minor Sacred Mountain. The entire world wouldn't laugh at them for being cowards now.

Dugu Lan captivated all the male spectators due to her beauty and unique temperament. She walked up the steps and faced the scion.

He looked respectfully at her and remarked: "You are worthy of the character, Fairy, a woman yet inferior to no man. There are only one or two people who can compare to you in the entire holy ground."

Some felt proud to hear such a high evaluation from the scion, especially the students from Duality. After all, she was the prized gem of their academy.

Nonetheless, others became embarrassed with a hint of bitterness within.

The holy ground had plenty of male geniuses yet ultimately, they had to let a girl face the scion alone. They felt ashamed to let her bear the responsibility all alone.

Was there no one else who could fight the scion? They thought of another - Li Qiye. This was the only male in the young generation who could take on the scion.

However, there were mixed views on him. Some admired his unfathomable mysteriousness. Others looked down on him for being non-traditional. More had no favorable impression or even hated him due to his lack of background, unlike other geniuses.

Moreover, he chose against helping the holy ground - this was the biggest reason for their distaste.

Dugu Lan showed no sign of complacency despite the praise. She nodded and said: "You're too kind, Scion. Your eastward journey has been unstoppable, we have plenty of talents yet none are your opponents. Your power is unbeatable."

“Unbeatable? That’s an overestimation.” The scion laughed and said: “I’m nothing more than a famous brat. The holy ground has numerous capable cultivators. The existence of the young master alone shows how inadequate I am.”

The scion clearly accepted his inferiority compared to Li Qiye. This made people exchange glances.

On one hand, they should be happy to hear this but most remained silent.

“Hmph, so what if he’s strong? It’s useless because he refuses to stand up for the holy ground.” One youth quietly complained.

“If that guy is so capable, he should be helping Fairy Dugu instead of letting her fight all alone, what a disgrace.” Another genius mumbled.

Some started cursing and chastising Li Qiye due to his refusal to fight the scion. They thought that he chose disgrace instead of glory with his choice.

“The young master is a true dragon flying on the horizon, we can’t reach him.” Dugu Lan smiled.

People were surprised to see her saying nice things about Li Qiye after he abandoned her.

“Fairy Dugu, you’re the real pillar of the holy ground, powerful and benevolent. Others can’t compare to you.” One youth said, putting down Li Qiye in the process.

However, the scion and Dugu Lan ignored them. There was a clear difference in level at work here.

“This will be the final day of my trip.” The scion said: “Being able to fight you will make it worthwhile, so please, let’s start our duel.”

“I’m sure I’m not a match because you have learned four chapters out of the seven. My merit laws can’t compete.” She calmly said.

Her surrendering before the start of the battle took the crowd off guard and frustrated them. Alas, this was understandable and they needed to accept reality. The scion was simply too strong.

Nonetheless, Fairy Dugu spoke in a direct manner without finding it humiliating.

“It’s all thanks to the wise sages.” The scion shook his head: “It doesn’t mean that I’m powerful. If you had access to similar merit laws, you wouldn’t be weaker than me.”

“Thanks. Though I know that I’m not a match, I will wish to see your peerless merit laws. Plus, a student of Duality still needs to fight before yielding.” She smiled.

“Good, I have heard great things regarding your sword dao. I believe it is a peerless art passed down by an Immortal Emperor from the ancient era. I would love to see it.” The scion happily responded.

“I’m afraid to say that my comprehension of this peerless sword dao is at an elementary level, not enough to show its true might. Plus, the great Immortal Emperor said that there is no strongest merit law, only strongest cultivators.”

“Wonderfully put. That’s an Immortal Emperor for you.” The scion agreed.

Dugu Lan admitted that she had learned a legendary sword art during this conversation. The scion was powerful and his seven chapters were magnificent. However, he still called her sword dao "peerless".

"What kind of sword art is it?" The experts nearby became curious.

"Can it be stronger than the seven chapters?" Another wondered.

Chapter 3809: The Winner

All eyes were on Dugu Lan and Righteous Scion.

"Let's begin, please give me pointers." Dugu Lan wielded her sword and spoke with composure.

The scion's eyes became resplendent. The rays from there swept forward like divine swords, causing people to shudder uncontrollably. He was powerful enough to intimidate members of the previous generation.

"My grand dao is the way of the spear. I hope it won't let you down." The scion said.

"I have heard of it before. Make your move." Dugu Lan nodded.

"Good. Well then, ready your sword, Fairy." The scion didn't waste time and channeled his power.

However, Dugu Lan still embraced her sword in her bosom without activating her vitality and energy - truly a gorgeous spectacle.

Others couldn't help but become swooned by her wondrous appearance and courageous style, unable to forget for the rest of their life.

"My sword is ready." She said despite still holding the sword in the same defenseless manner.

The spectators were confused. The stronger cultivators regained their wits first and realized something while noticing her aura.

The weaker ones weren't at the right level and couldn't see anything, akin to a monk trying to find some hair on top of his head. In their eyes, she seemed to be giving up already.

As for the big shots, they considered her to be the sword right now so the actual stance didn't matter. As a sword, she was without a scabbard. That's why there was no need to unsheath.

She stood there as part of the sword dao. As long as she was around, so would the way of the sword. Thus, she has already made her move despite being passive and stationary.

The weaker cultivators thought that she was trying to be mysterious since they didn't understand this dao phenomenon.

This was not her intention. Her goal was to defeat his technique by using none.

The problem for them was - how would she attack without a basic technique. There was no murderous intent nor battle spirit.

Strangely enough, her attack was invisible and has started inside the scion. A sword seemed to be growing inside his heart right now - a feeling impossible to describe adequately.

The scion retaliated right away. There seemed to be numerous suns exploding in his eyes. A terrible power immediately assaulted the actual world, sending numerous spectators flying.

The rest took a deep breath and hurriedly retreated, aware that this fight would be destructive.

“So strong.” Those who felt his rampaging power again still felt the same dread.

“Clank! Clank! Clank!” The lights from his eyes transformed to dao laws in the shape of golden spears.

These materializations of energy contained immense murderous potential, capable of piercing through anything. Their glint instilled fear into the spectators.

His eyes turned into an eternal and endless source of golden spears, culminating into an ocean of weapons. Thousands and thousands of spears were ready to fly forward at any moment.

Though the spears weren't aimed at them, numerous spectators screamed since they felt as if they were being stabbed all over their body. These spears seemed eager for crucifixion.

This was only the activation of his power. Once he released it, the destructive potential would be far worse. Thus, the crowd smartly retreated another time.

The spears began to rotate in an intimidating manner. Nonetheless, Dugu Lan stood still in a calm manner.

As his power grew stronger, she seemed to become more and more distant from the actual battlefield.

She wasn't the only one flowing through time. The area around her seemed to be affected as well.

Not all could sense the temporal changes taking place. Even the older experts had a hard time noticing.

Dugu Lan and her sword have traveled a million years away, changing the momentum of heaven and earth.

Meanwhile, Righteous Scion's golden spears tore apart time itself, aiming to make up this gap.

The fight has already started, unbeknown to the weaker spectators. They still thought that the scion was building up his move and power for an ultimate release. As for the fairy, she was brave enough to give him time.

As for the powerful ancestors, they watched this temporal contest with a solemn expression. One side was pursuing while the other side chose to evade.

They thought that once the scion caught up, Dugu Lan wouldn't be able to stop the golden ocean.

Suddenly, the golden spears dissipated along with the rays coming out of his eyes. His power was nowhere to be found.

The spectators exchanged glances, bewildered at the lack of action.

“I've lost.” Righteous Scion shook his head, seemingly disappointed.

“What?!” A clamor erupted among the crowd.

“Is this happening? First Sister won?” Even students from Duality found this astonishing.

Chapter 3810: Heavenseize Spear

No one expected the scion to suddenly surrender. Most thought that they still hadn't fought.

Furthermore, the scion was winning in terms of aura and momentum, hence the illogical development.

Of course, they would want nothing more than a win for Dugu Lan. It just didn't seem right for him to give up under these circumstances.

"We won?" A spectator remained skeptical.

Only the older experts were able to see the details of the exchange earlier.

"That depends on your definition of victory." One powerful ancestor remarked while still thinking about the fight. He didn't directly state a clear winner.

"You're being humble." Dugu Lan disagreed as well: "If this is considered a win, then I'll be embarrassed."

"I can't catch up to your sword dao when it's millions of years away. In that case, how can I even think about winning?" The scion laughed.

The ancestors then realized that the scion didn't have a way to reach her with his spear. Thus, his power became useless on the temporal scale, hence his swift admission of defeat.

"So it is a win..." Most only had a vague concept of what had transpired but this was still a victory confirmation.

"That's why First Sister is number one in our academy!" The students from Duality started celebrating.

Other young experts raised their fist and shouted: "No, she's the number one genius in all of the holy ground!"

Her victory earned crucial points for the holy ground, hence the celebration.

"I wouldn't call it winning, just using a trick for the upper hand." Dugu Lan said: "If this is a win, it will be an honorless one. I would rather have a direct fight to see your cultivation."

"Your mindset is commendable, Fairy Dugu." The scion was in good spirits as he replied: "If you wish to continue, then I'll be more than happy to entertain you. It'll give me a chance to see the rest of the sword art from the ancient emperor."

The cheers abruptly stopped as the crowd exchanged glances. Since Dugu Lan herself said that it wasn't a clean victory, it would be silly for them to continue cheering. They felt rather awkward as a result.

Of course, Dugu Lan didn't care about this trivial matter. She continued: "I need to rely on the wise ones of the past in order to make up for my current inadequacies."

"I can say the same because my cultivation is thanks to the help of the sages and ancestors." The scion solemnly responded.

"Either way, let us continue to see the actual victor." Dugu Lan smiled.

“So be it!” The scion’s eyes became fierce and bright again.

He summoned his weapon, a resplendent spear. The individual rays could pierce through eyes like needles. It had seven engraved orbs, looking like seven planets.

The orbs then started floating around the spear, releasing a domineering aura just like a primal beast. This terrible aura came from the spear itself; the scion has yet to empower it with his own energy.

“I named this spear Heavenseize.” The scion elaborated: “It is made from the dao bone of a resplendent god crow infused with gold star metal ingots. If I ever get to prove my dao in the future, I shall make it my patrimony weapon.”

“The dao bone of a resplendent god crow?!” A few ancestors were surprised to hear this.

“This dao bone is that amazing?” One youth became curious.

“It’s a high-level heaven dao bone of a king beast, extremely precious and valuable.” One ancestor nodded.

The listeners took a deep breath after hearing this. This material grade was often only used by dao lords. No wonder why the scion said that he would keep it as his signature weapon.

Moreover, the gold star metal ingots were precious as well. Thus, the result was nothing short of extraordinary.

“It’s a fine weapon.” Dugu Lan praised before releasing her vitality and fate palaces.

“Rumble!” One palace emerged after another. They poured down eternal dao laws.

“Two-twelve fate palaces!” Everyone was stunned, including the students from Duality.

“She really has twelve palaces!” Some needed to do a recount.

Prior to this, they were sure that she was at the very peak of the grand dao sacred level with eleven palaces. Now, with twelve palaces, it meant that she was an heir, ready for the next step.

“Will she pick the path of the dao lord or sovereign?” This became the next question.

“First Sister is the best!” The students from Duality became excited again.

Since Righteous Scion was an heir, people assumed that she was at a disadvantage. This was an immense gap that couldn’t be made up.

Now, hopelessness was replaced by excitement. It didn’t matter which path she would pick. At the very least, the two was on a level playing field now.