

Emperor 4311

### **Chapter 4311: I Want You**

The disciples looked rather awkward and confused after hearing this. Some stole a glance at the aunt and couldn't help shaking their head.

She was on the verge of being called a grandma instead of an aunt. This was her hour of twilight yet she never had any exceptional qualities in the first place. Even the lowliest cultivator would refuse her advances.

Now, their sect master claimed to be interested in her. His heavy taste left them speechless.

If he were lecherous and preferred pretty girls, even mortals, that's still acceptable. But liking this old and ugly aunt? They could bear to watch no longer.

"Young Noble, please stop joking." The aunt shook her head, looking a bit awkward.

"I'm not joking in the slightest, I am indeed interested in you." Li Qiye flatly responded.

"Sect Master..." A few students winked at Li Qiye, hoping that he would think about the sect's reputation.

Elder Hu smiled wryly, wondering why the sect master was acting so strange. He surely had his reason for doing this.

"You're being serious, Young Noble?" The aunt appeared a bit bashful.

"Of course." Li Qiye smiled: "Follow me if you wish."

"Sect Master, I don't think this is necessary..." An older disciple quietly said.

"I'll really believe you if you keep this up, Young Noble." Meanwhile, the bashful aunt lowered her head while touching her braids, looking like a little girl. This scene was naturally not a sight for sore eyes.

"Yes, follow me. I need a maid anyway." Li Qiye smiled.

The group suddenly realized something - their sect master didn't have a servant.

"Sect Master, if you need one, we'll take care of it when we get back." Elder Hu whispered.

It was normal for a sect master to have a maid taking care of his daily essentials. However, it should be a female disciple, not this aunt.

In fact, given his young age, numerous girls would be willing to take this position.

"Who would want to be your maid?!" The aunt became angry and slammed the teapot against Li Qiye's table.

"Don't tell me you were talking about marriage?" Li Qiye teased.

"Pah! So shameless, how dare you tease me? My son is older than you!" The aunt snorted.

"Are you sure? Plus, I don't think you have a son." Li Qiye smiled implicatively at her.

The aunt didn't bother responding this time.

"Being my maid is an honor." He added.

She stared back at him for a while before sighing and shaking her head: "I'm old and faded now, running this shop for the rest of my life is satisfactory."

Her tone completely changed this time. The others found her voice to be rhythmic and interesting.

Wang Weiqiao and Elder Hu exchanged glances, thinking that there was more to this woman than meet the eyes.

"Everyone has trauma and problems as they cross the endless dao. Those who stop either do it for personal reasons or because of emotional ties. Which one are you?" He asked.

The aunt became frozen; her eyes pierced back to the past - a better day than now.

Li Qiye took a sip of tea and patiently waited. As for Weiqiao, he felt something special after seeing the flash in her eyes. It was as if this body of hers couldn't contain her soul.

On one hand, her bag of skin was at the bottom of any scale but as for her soul, it appeared to be extraordinarily beautiful and moving.

This was such a strange feeling. How could an old lady possess this quality? Nonetheless, Weiqiao truly felt it.

Once he calmed down and looked again, her eyes lost their luster, akin to two pearls being covered in dust.

"I've forgotten." She finally answered.

"If one can forget everything in the world, that would be a great thing. Ignorance is bliss, but this does not apply to your case. There is no happiness here, only guarding." Li stared at her and said.

"I'm not guarding anything. I have no ambition or fantasy beyond what I'm doing right now." She disagreed.

"Not guarding the world means guarding the heart and mind. That's the thing keeping you alive and sane." Li Qiye said.

"..." She didn't say anything.

"No? Do you believe that your fate is preordained or does it belong to you alone, not the heaven?" He continued.

"Well..." She couldn't come up with a response right away.

He took another sip of tea and gave her time to digest.

Elder Hu has been paying attention but still felt completely lost. Weiqiao did the same, appreciating every word in this dialogue. He seemed to be grasping something but it was mere feelings. He couldn't describe it with words.

“Not letting go means ending here, the result is death. Letting go means potentially moving forward, shining for one last time.” Li Qiye smiled.

“What did you let go of?” She took a deep breath and asked.

“Everything outside of that faraway place.” Li Qiye’s eyes became profound for a split moment before returning to normal.

“Is it worth it?” She asked.

“Live free while moving forward, that’s the best memory. Otherwise, you might live until the sea becomes land but that’s only a life filled with resentment.” He answered.

“Holding on like this isn’t beautiful. Remembering that you never gave up after billions of years is far more worthwhile.” He went on to say.

“I see.” She murmured.

Meanwhile, the audience was completely lost. At first, their sect master seemed to be teasing the old woman but the conversation became philosophical all of a sudden. This naturally caught them off guard.

Only Wang Weiqiao seemed to be benefiting from this confusing exchange.

#### **Chapter 4312: Two Girls**

No one understood why their sect master had so many things to say to this street vendor. He seemed to be enjoying himself, eating wontons and sipping tea.

“Ladies, come, have a bowl of wontons.” The noodle shop’s brief peace was interrupted as the aunt noticed something. She rushed to the street and pulled two female pedestrians inside.

The moment they came in the door, a sweet breeze and a pure aura greeted members of Little Diamond. They were akin to spring bringing life back after a long winter.

One wore a fur coat, seemingly unaffected by the seasons. The other wore a black dress, clearly a maid of the other but still looking quite lovely.

Their face was hidden behind a thin veil. Nonetheless, the first girl was obviously noble due to her innate aura. She was born with a golden spoon.

They were just passing by and had no idea how the aunt managed to pull them into this shop. They were rather strong, especially the fur-coat girl. Alas, they were helpless before the aunt.

Members of Little Diamond were surprised by the aunt’s aggressive advertisement.

The two girls were actually busy but now, confusion struck. How did this woman overwhelm them so quickly?

“Ladies, here.” The aunt brought over two bowls of wonton noodle soup during their moment of confusion.

The fur-coat girl observed this woman but failed to notice anything. She then scanned the rest of the shop and saw the disciples of Little Diamond.

The latter felt as if something had just pierced through the depths of their heart. There was nothing she couldn't see.

Elder Hu became frightened. That glare just now clearly suppressed them. This girl had enough power to kill them in the blink of an eye.

When her sight fell on Li Qiye, she couldn't believe it and became ecstatic.

"It's you!" She rushed over to the front of Li Qiye and said: "It's really you! Are you doing alright now?" She took a closer look at him.

He looked up and smiled at her.

She thought that he didn't recognize her and hurriedly pulled down her veil: "It's me, we met at the Ice Plateau before."

The entire shop lit up after her face was shown - ivory skin with impeccable features and a hint of nobility.

She had met Li Qiye during his astral projection and even took him back to her sect. This time around, she became more mature and imposing - enough to intimidate others despite her young age.

Her golden pupils were particularly impressive, capable of taking down any threat. The light on her forehead made her look both holy and authoritative.

The young ones from Little Diamond were stunned to see how beautiful she was. They thought that she was a goddess from above. There were pretty girls back in Little Diamond as well. Alas, they paled in comparison.

Elder Hu was more knowledgeable and recognized these visual hints, realizing that she was a top dog even in the cultivation world. How did she know their sect master?

They suddenly felt the urge to gossip and started exchanging glances. She was being too familiar with their sect master. There was obviously history between them.

"Looks like you had comprehended enough to enter the phenomena." Li Qiye said.

"Yes." The shy and reserved girl couldn't contain her excitement and grabbed Li Qiye's hand: "I have finished thanks to your guidance."

"Congratulations, this shows that your comprehension isn't too bad." Li Qiye nodded.

"I would have been lost otherwise." She felt great gratitude because his guidance allowed her to finish her cultivation and became the chosen one.

She had searched for him for a long time to no avail, eventually having no choice but to give up. Who would have thought that she would be able to coincidentally meet him in this place?

"What a development." One disciple whispered to his peers.

"Dao enlightenment relies on the individual, for the most part. I merely showed you the way." Li Qiye said.

"I have so many things to talk to you about." She had no problem displaying intimacy with him for some reason. After all, she had numerous private discussions with him during his dazed state.

"No rush, have a seat and chat while eating." The aunt seemed amused by this development. She looked as if she was staring at her own daughter.

The fur-coat girl found her expression rather strange. Nonetheless, she chose to focus on Li Qiye.

"Miss, we have to go." The maid reminded her.

"Wait a bit." She frowned slightly. There was indeed business on the agenda today but she wanted to stay with Li Qiye for longer.

"But the elders are waiting. If we are tardy, the trails will turn cold." The maid whispered.

"Go, I'll still be in Bodhistavva in the incoming days." Li Qiye smilingly told her.

"I have a residence in the city, I'll be waiting for you, Young Noble." She told him her address and left begrudgingly, still waving as she was leaving.

"Come more often, haha." The aunt waved enthusiastically at her.

"The thought is there, why do you still want to use someone else?" Li Qiye glanced at the aunt.

She sighed and said: "My old bones will dry up in this place, I can't compete with the youths."

"Is that so?" Li Qiye chuckled.

"Well, you're an exception. I'm sure this is the best choice anyway." She said.

### **Chapter 4313: Myriad Sect Mountain**

"Well, I'm full now, time to go." Li Qiye smiled and placed a coin on the table before heading for the door.

His fellow members gave chase right away, thinking that this departure was rather sudden.

"Visit more often!" The aunt remained enthusiastic and came to the door to wave. This looked rather strange, similar to a madam bidding the guests goodbye at a brothel.

The young ones thought that this was the strangest meal in their life. They weren't aware of the intricacies.

Some were confused, some benefited, while one person needed to deliberate further... Nonetheless, the wonton bowls had decided many things, even the fate of certain sects.

Along the way, they saw the old man again. He cupped his fist towards Li Qiye and didn't say anything else.

This old street was still filled with pedestrians. It looked rather common and could be seen in many cities during this prosperous era.

Alas, it was buried with numerous unreachable secrets. They were shocking legends; some could eradicate a sect if spread.

Li Qiye ignored them and continued moving forward. Wang Weiqiao paid more attention than he did.

The street was filled with the aura and atmosphere commonly seen in the mortal world. Nonetheless, he thought that it was special somehow. He eventually stopped looking and caught up after being left behind.

Li Qiye and his group strolled aimlessly around the city with no destination in mind. This was the young ones' first time visiting a big city. They were filled with curiosity and looked everywhere.

It didn't let them down. They saw treasures and manual scrolls for sale everywhere. Some were extremely valuable and expensive.

They couldn't purchase anything but at least they broadened their horizon. In a sense, one could find whatever they wanted here. The only limiting factor was money.

They eventually gained more insight into the resources and power of the top sects in the world. This made the gap rather obvious. Their Little Diamond was only a speck of dust in the grand scheme of things.

After a while, Elder Hu suggested: "We need to go register at Myriad Sect Mountain or we won't have a spot."

In the past, they came rather early to the conference. After all, there were too many tiny sects in Southern Desolace. Being late might result in not having a spot at all. They weren't important enough to have a reserved location.

This wasn't Elder Hu's first time so he led the way. Myriad Sect Mountain was a mountain range filled with buildings.

The Supreme Monarch held the first conference in this place and it became the permanent spot subsequently.

The great powers had built buildings and palaces on top of the peaks. This made each trip rather convenient since they would already have a place to stay.

The mountain range resided to the north of the city. When standing from a distance, spectators could see how magnificent it was. Each peak towered all the way to the sky.

However, the largest ones were notably broken. Something from above had descended and crushed them. There were still chaotic maelstroms in the air. They have lasted for eras now and fortunately, were weakened. Nonetheless, dust still drifted in the air.

Those with better vision could also see lightning flashing by the main peaks. This must have been caused by the great calamity.

The conference has also lost its splendor. There were thousands and thousands of buildings here once. Alas, many have been abandoned and were reduced into ruins.

When the group arrived, they still saw many cultivators from all races gathering by the base. They mainly consisted of weaker sects; the big shots were far and few in between.

The Myriad Sect Conference was no longer as influential as before. Even the host, Lion's Roar, didn't send important characters here.

Only the weaker sects took it seriously. This was their best opportunity to potentially interact with the great powers. Leaving the big shots aside, just meeting the disciples from Lion's Roar or Dragon Sect was enough. These relationships could improve their status and future.

The young ones from Little Diamond were in awe to see the mighty peaks, especially the broken ones deeper inside.

"So this is Myriad Sect Mountain." One of them gulped.

"What happened over there? Why are those peaks broken?" Another was in awe.

Due to the height of those peaks, they were visible even from afar.

"Legend has it that this is the devastation from the sky falling down." Elder Hu still became emotional every time he saw this sight.

"The sky falling down?" One disciple asked.

#### **Chapter 4314: Legend**

"Tell us more about this legend." They crowded around him.

Elder Hu stared at the broken peaks and cleared his throat before starting: "This happened a long, long time ago, before the existence of our Eight Desolaces. Heaven fell and the earth shattered, the start of a great calamity..."

"I've heard of this before." One disciple interjected: "Heavenly corpses fell down and crushed everything during the calamity. Fortunately, the Supreme Monarch appeared and stopped the calamity..."

"You want to tell the story?" Elder Hu glared and playfully knocked on this disciple's forehead, stopping his attempt at showing off.

The others knocked his head as well and said: "Elder, ignore him, keep going."

"As I was saying, the great calamity was happening with raining colossal corpses. Keep in mind that this was the golden age of cultivation. Unfortunately, the calamity destroyed the mythical nine worlds..."

He then glanced at the disciple earlier and said: "You're right, the Supreme Monarch took action indeed. However, she wasn't the only one..."

"Ooh, I know!" The big gossip couldn't help but interrupt again: "An Immortal Emperor was there too and shouldered the weight of the calamity. This emperor was peerless and brilliant, even the Supreme Monarch pales in..."

He didn't know how to hold back and said something he shouldn't have.

"Do you have a death wish?!" An older senior immediately shouted.

"Watch your words." Elder Hu smacked his head again.

He finally realized what he had just said and shuddered.

There were disciples from Lion's Roar at this conference. If they had heard him, the consequence would be unimaginable.

The Supreme Monarch was a revered existence in Lion's Roar or rather, all of Southern Desolace. That comment could have been viewed as sacrilegious, ending with the destruction of Little Diamond.

He became pale and kept his mouth shut henceforth.

Elder Hu coughed and continued: "The shocking battle did indeed include many brilliant existences. The Supreme Monarch was a combatant, the same with Immortal Emperor Zhan. In fact, someone right over there joined as well." He then pointed at the broken peaks.

"Is that from fighting the heavenly corpses?" One disciple asked.

The elder shook his head and elaborated: "No, rumor has it that this place had a different name, Heavenguard Mountain or something like that. During the calamity, not only did the corpses come but also the darkness..."

"Darkness?" The disciple shuddered and asked: "Like a devil king?"

"No one is sure." Elder Hu replied: "It is written that a dark hand came down from above, instantly crushing an entire continent."

The listeners couldn't believe it. One swing took down a continent? That's akin to being able to crush all of Sky Border. They would piss their pants if they were stuck in that hellish scenario.

"During this moment, a big shot from Heavenguard took action and bombarded the hand with a special cannon. Deafening blasts occurred as the shells pierced the dark hand..."

The disciples weren't there to see a top-level fight and the cannon. Nonetheless, they could tell that the cannon must have been incredibly destructive to be able to pierce that hand.

"What happens next?" They were immersed in the story.

"It goes on to say that the dark hand was defeated but before death, it unleashed one last smash right here, killing millions by reducing them to ashes. This place was saved due to a mighty barrier, otherwise, it would have been decimated instead of just being left with a few broken peaks." Elder Hu took a deep breath and revealed.

This was nothing short of a legend for weak cultivators like them. They simply couldn't fathom the sheer destruction since their own power was too little.

"No wonder why there are so many ruins." One disciple noticed broken architectures deeper into the mountain range.

"I've heard that this place used to be protected by a matchless lineage. This lasted for eras but the dark hand ended it all." Elder Hu became sentimental.

The mythical lineage known as Heavenguard was extremely powerful. Otherwise, it wouldn't have been able to defeat a being capable of untold destruction. Nonetheless, it didn't survive the great calamity.



Spatial chaos remained in the current epoch. Smoke and gales still ravaged the sky above the broken peaks. It took a long time before these maelstroms died down.

“How scary.” One disciple murmured.

“Once the calamity ended, the Supreme Monarch led a great coalition to clear out the battlefields. She then started Myriad Sect Mountain here and summoned the world for a conference. This became a tradition that has lasted all the way to our era.” Elder Hu went on.

They then stared at the buildings belonging to the various sects. Just one peak was enough to accommodate all of Little Diamond.

They were glad to learn the land’s history. Each had a different thought about the destruction that once happened here.

One, in particular, was impressed with Heavenguard Mountain and its valiant defense against the darkness. Alas, there weren’t that many records about it. That’s why it was their first time hearing its name.

“Still defending to the very end.” Li Qiye didn’t interrupt their conversation and murmured to himself afterward.

He sighed and didn’t say anything else. Heavenguard Mountain was the name remembered by future generations. This wasn’t entirely accurate. They only had the “Heavenguard” part correctly.

These men never forgot their mission, still fighting bravely during the darkest hours. Though they had ample resources and blessings from top beings, this was still not enough.

“Your death will not be in vain.” Li Qiye continued with a profound gaze: “There will be altars and ceremonies in your honor, just wait.”

### **Chapter 4315: Carp Climbing The Dragon Gate**

While those from Little Diamond were gazing at the broken peaks and talking about old legends, others started clamoring about someone arriving.

“What is happening?” They became curious and turned around.

They saw a rather diverse group approaching closer, consisting of both sexes, humans, and demons...

They looked rather exceptional. One youth stood out like a crane among a flock of chickens. He wore a blue robe and was tall and handsome. However, his expression looked rather fierce instead of friendly.

“That’s Gao Qixin.” The crowd talked among themselves.

“Long time no see, Young Noble Gao.” Many came forward to greet him.

“Young Noble Gao, it’s been a while since our meeting in Green Water, you’ve improved again.” Even older cultivators wanted to please him.

“When are you visiting our Cloud Fortress? My daughter has been eagerly waiting.” A relatively well-known cultivator hinted.

“Who is that, why is he so popular?” A Little Diamond member wondered.

“He is from Maple Ravine. But hmm, that alone shouldn’t warrant this level of flattery.” Wang Weiqiao recognized him.

“Right.” Elder Hu was a sociable man with ample knowledge: “He’s a genius from Maple Ravine. This sect isn’t impressive in the grand scheme of things but he’s definitely somebody in our region. So young yet is already an enlightened being. His future is bright.”

“An enlightened being, I see.” The youths were startled because Elder Hu was only in the samadhi realm. It seemed that this genius should have no problem reaching the yin yang realm or even the myriad-form realm. [1]

“That’s still not enough to warrant this.” Weiqiao shook his head.

After all, Gao Qixin wasn’t that strong right now. There was potential but this was not enough for older cultivators to flatter him.

Elders and sect masters cared about their image and reputation, always acting accordingly in public. Though they were from minor sects, they shouldn’t be flattering a junior. Alas, it was happening right now.

“It’s because he has a chance of joining Dragon or Lion’s Roar.” Elder Hu explained: “They might take him in as an external disciple.”

“!!!” The youths became emotional. This was akin to a carp turning into a dragon even though it was only an external spot. One’s reputation would increase a hundredfold overnight.

“I’ve heard that the notion is there.” Elder Hu went on: “His talent is exceptional and his sect master has been asking for a lot of favors. There’s a good chance of him joining Dragon Sect.”

The young ones exchanged glances again and thought about a particular character - Deer King, the uncle of Du Weiwu.

“Deer King was a minor character just like us once. He eventually joined Dragon and became an expert. If Gao Qixin can do the same, his achievement should be even higher.”

Given his potential, perhaps he would become a regional lord in Southern Desolace. This was the reason why many threw away their face to flatter him, hoping to build a relationship.

“So the conference is his chance to join?” One disciple asked.

“Yes, if it’s an actual thing, it’ll happen here. The conference is a recruitment opportunity for the behemoths.” Elder Hu nodded.

Despite the conference’s faltering significance, Dragon and Lion’s Roar still sent experts here to recruit decent prospects and to assign duties to smaller sects.

These duties didn’t give them actual authority. Nonetheless, carrying them out properly could earn them the good grace of the behemoths.

“If the opportunity arises, think about joining as well.” Elder Hu encouraged the youths. Little Diamond could benefit from this just like all the other sects.

The young ones actually shrugged and didn’t care too much. They never thought about joining a different sect before. Staying in Little Diamond was just fine.

“We don’t have the talent.” One of them responded.

“In my opinion, our sect master has the best chance.” Another stared at Li Qiye, prompting Elder Hu to do the same.

For the young generation of Little Diamond, Li Qiye did have the best chance of joining Dragon or Lion’s Roar.

Though they didn’t know his exact cultivation, they absolutely believed that he was the most gifted in Little Diamond.

“No, we’ll lose our sect master then.” Someone else protested. Li Qiye has been rather popular ever since assuming the post.

“We should be happy for him and take pride in it, it’s definitely a promotion.” Elder Hu sighed but would still want Li Qiye to go.

He thought that Little Diamond would prosper under Li Qiye’s guidance. Nonetheless, he thought that Li Qiye could achieve great things by joining the behemoths. Perhaps he could stand at the apex later on and Little Diamond would have an amazing story to tell.

“Not interested.” Li Qiye withdrew his gaze from the broken peaks and smiled, finally joining the conversation: “Come, we’re going to Myriad Sect Ward.”

“Very well, we need to enter now or there will be no more spots.” Elder Hu regained his wits and immediately followed.

He warned the youths: “Don’t do anything silly after we enter. Watch your words because members from Dragon are presiding over the conference. If something happens, I’m not sure you’ll be able to keep your head, understand?”

“We understand.” They respectfully responded.

The ward was built by the great powers, serving as a place for guests to stay. Their disciples were responsible for its operation.

Though they didn’t have an elder or an ancestor in charge of this conference, certain powerful disciples were still here.

### **Chapter 4316: Myriad Sect Ward**

In the past, the ward took care of important cultivators from all over Eight Desolaces. This time around, it had guests from minor sects such as Little Diamond.

The disciples from the big sects weren’t that enthusiastic about the guests this time around. In fact, it would be polite enough for them to try to hide their disdain.

Because of this, the visitors needed to register and wait in line. Nonetheless, it wasn't for nothing since the behemoths also gave out items and resources despite the short length of the conference. This was another reason why many participated.

Little Diamond's group came rather early but there was still quite a line in front of them. Nonetheless, Elder Hu knew what to do and led the disciples to the correct places.

"Why are we assigned to the grass section?" However, there was a problem when it came to their temporary residence. Even the friendly Elder Hu complained to the disciples.

"That's the only place left." An administrative disciple uttered coldly.

Even external disciples from the behemoths were considered prestigious. Thus, they didn't need to give Elder Hu any face.

"No yellow rooms are left?" Elder Hu didn't buy it. He looked back and saw there was still a long line behind them.

The conference has always paid attention to detail. The more power, the better the treatment. For example, the lodgings were divided into five levels: heaven, earth, black, yellow, and grass.

Elder Hu had participated before and knew that according to the rules, they should be eligible to stay in yellow rooms. The grass rooms were meant for vagabonds and sectless cultivators.

Though they were weak, they were still a sect thus this was the wrong accommodation. Moreover, they weren't late either so there should be plenty of rooms left.

"There are really no yellow rooms left?" The sects waiting in line behind him had members asking as well.

The grass rooms were tiny and meant for single occupants. On the other hand, the minor sects usually had a dozen members or so.

The administrative disciple didn't answer and only sat there.

"Brother, could you check again?" Elder Hu realized that something was off and said: "We have more than ten members and can't stay in a grass room. Please, do us a favor." He bowed afterward.

Despite realizing the intentional insult, he couldn't act out either. Insulting this administrative disciple might result in being kicked out.

"There are five grass rooms, either stay or leave." The disciple flatly answered.

"Only five?" The elder's expression soured. They couldn't fit in five rooms and they couldn't erect temporary buildings in this place. He hesitated, not knowing what to do.

"Brother, what's going on? Is there a problem?" Loud laughter could be heard from someone heading over.

Elder Hu and the disciples looked around and saw that it was none other than the sect master of Eight Demons along with his fellow sect members.

“Looks like you have to stay in the grass rooms. Too bad, you must have arrived late and there isn’t any room left. Is this your new sect master? How about this, your sect master can stay with us, we still have room.” Eight Tiger tried to look generous and familiar, going as far as wanting to place his hand on Li Qiye’s shoulder.

Alas, Li Qiye glared at him so he pulled back awkwardly.

Elder Hu understood that this was the continuation of their feud. Eight Tiger lost half of his members but didn’t dare to retaliate due to the massacre last time. The conference was their chance to fight back while not assuming high risks.

Eight Tiger’s brother-in-law was Deer King from Dragon Sect. Perhaps the latter was here right now and had ordered the administrative members to cause problems for Little Diamond.

If Little Diamond couldn’t endure and bark back, that might give Deer King enough justification to eliminate them.

Given his power, it wouldn’t be hard for him to eradicate Elder Hu and the others since they were away from their sect.

“Okay, stop being a hindrance, there are people waiting behind you.” The administrative disciple became impatient and told Elder Hu, no longer caring about his decision.

“We’ll be going ahead.” Gao Qixin led his fellow sect members here and said.

“Junior Brother Gao, you can stay in the black rooms.” The administrative disciple’s mood changed and said: “Deer King said that if you need anything, just let us know. An elder from Dragon might come in the next two days.”

“An elder from Dragon?” Those from smaller sects clamored upon hearing this.

Elders were big shots in their eyes, no different from deities. Any elder could easily destroy them with a single hand wave.

Thus, it was surprising to hear one coming to the conference. Was there something important happening this time?

“Gao Qixin wants to follow an elder’s tutelage?” Someone boldly speculated.

Becoming an elder’s disciple was akin to a carp turning into a dragon.

“He has even more potential than Deer King.” Someone else said. After all, Deer King wasn’t qualified to become an elder’s disciple back then.

Elder Hu, on the other hand, confirmed that Deer King was here. The guy wasn’t a grand character in Dragon but still proved to be a big threat to them.

“Let him know that I appreciate it.” Gao Qixin bowed and looked rather calm.

“His future is so bright.” Many were jealous and envious since Qixin was assigned to a black room. Some found it imperative to please him in order to climb up his branch.

Remember, Maple Ravine wasn't stronger than the minor sects here but they only got assigned to yellow rooms while the former had a black room. This showed how much Deer King care about Gao Qixin.

"Enter the yellow section." Once Gao Qixin left, the smaller sects were assigned to yellow rooms.

Meanwhile, Elder Hu felt humiliated by the blatant disdain. As for Li Qiye, he still had a smile on his face and didn't bother interfering.

### **Chapter 4317: Antagonizing**

The members of Little Diamond were naturally annoyed since those behind them got yellow rooms.

Elder Hu remained relatively calm but the young ones were too hotheaded.

"What is going on?!" One of them shouted: "Why are those after us getting yellow rooms but not us?!"

The administrative disciple had a cold expression and ignored the comment.

"So unreasonable!" Another from Little Diamond shouted: "You are purposely mistreating us, something unbecoming of Myriad Sect Mountain!"

Meanwhile, members of the smaller sects shook their head or simply wanted to watch. None was willing to help Little Diamond.

After all, nothing good would come from helping them while the risk was substantial. Provoking this administrative disciple was one thing, but risking antagonizing Dragon and Lion's Roar? That would end in a disaster.

It was apparent that this administrative disciple was in the wrong. Alas, they kept their mouth shut.

"Trying to cause trouble here? Are you tired of living?" The administrative disciple had enough and glared at them.

Elder Hu was emotional as well, albeit he took a different route. He spoke calmly in response: "Brother, this is not our mistake. We are on the list for this year's conference and we have participated for generations now. We came today with respect while not committing any mistake. We are clearly qualified to stay in the yellow rooms in accordance with the rules yet you insist on sending us to the grass rooms. Is this your idea or someone else's? I hope you will remain impartial since the ward represents the great powers. I'm sure they can tell right from wrong. Therefore, if you want to put us in the grass rooms, we deserve a reasonable explanation."

He elaborated with logic and a tone neither servile nor overbearing.

"Well said." The listeners were impressed despite their hesitance to get involved.

"Right, they need to give him an explanation for doing this." Someone nodded.

The administrative disciple's expression became ugly. He naturally couldn't reveal the one behind this. Being called out by this nobody was also humiliating.

Though he was just an external disciple, the sect masters coming to this ward still showed him respect.

“Haha, Elder Hu, be careful with your words.” Eight Tiger responded instead: “The ward represents Dragon and Lion’s Roar. Your critical remarks won’t end well for your sect.”

His threat poured salt on the wound and reminded the audience to not pick the wrong side. There was a non-zero possibility of a disaster happening.

“What’s going on here?” An older cultivator came over. He looked to be a leader-level character in the ward.

The crowd members hurriedly cupped their fist towards him since he was higher-ranked than the administrative disciples.

This leader should be well-known even in the larger sects, hence their need to be respectful.

“Those from Little Diamond won’t go to their grass rooms.” The disciple avoided the important detail.

The leader glanced at the group and spoke with a firm tone: “We get a high number of visitors every year. Please excuse us for any inadequacy. If you have been assigned to a grass room, please empathize with the difficult logistics and go to the grass room.”

Despite his polite wordings, he immediately confirmed Little Diamond’s grass rooms.

Elder Hu’s expression soured; even the young ones understood that this person was not on their side.

Those in the audience realized that Little Diamond had offended a big shot, hence their current treatment.

“Is it over for Little Diamond?” One of them whispered.

His sect master quietly responded: “Little Diamond has an unbelievably rich history, that would be a shame.”

If Little Diamond had offended an expert from either Dragon or Lion’s Roar, they were in grave danger.

“Senior, our sect is qualified to stay in the yellow rooms, why assign grass rooms to us when there are still yellow rooms available.” Elder Hu retorted.

“Stay where you are assigned, enough asking.” The leader said.

“Such arrogance over nothing in this crappy place.” Li Qiye who has been spectating finally shook his head.

“What did you say? Explain yourself.” The leader’s expression soured.

“I didn’t make myself clear enough? Forget it, I forgive you since this is just a trivial matter. Prepare the heaven rooms for us.” Li Qiye waved his hand.

This astounded all listeners, causing them to open their mouth wide in disbelief. Heaven rooms were meant for big shots. Back during its golden age, they were the place for dao lords to stay. Now, only elders from the big sects were eligible, hence the ridiculousness of Li Qiye’s statement.

“You want a heaven room?” The leader regained his wits and narrowed his eyes.

“Arrange it.” Li Qiye ordered.

At this point, even Elder Hu wanted to cover Li Qiye’s mouth. The sect master was acting as if he was a big shot from Lion’s Roar or Dragon.

“Are you insane? Who do you think you are?” A crowd member blurted.

“Who is he anyway?” Another sect master asked: “Does he want Little Diamond to be destroyed? Think before you speak.”

“Just an ignorant fool.” One more joined in: “He must have a death wish.”

“Hahaha!” The leader couldn’t believe it. This guy was treating him like a servant: “You want a heaven room, right?”

“What are you waiting for?” Li Qiye responded.

“Look in the mirror first, you fool...” His eyes gleamed with murderous intent. This horrified the spectators, especially Elder Hu.

A disciple from a large sect could actually destroy Little Diamond alone.

“Arrange heaven rooms for Young Noble Li’s group.” A pleasant voice interjected.

#### **Chapter 4318: Miss Ming**

Everyone saw a young woman standing nearby. She wore a green dress and had just the right amount of makeup on. Her hair was tied to a bun and in spite of her maid uniform, she still looked exceptional and seemingly high status.

“Miss Ming.” The disciples of the ward and even the leader saluted her.

Everyone else immediately did the same despite not knowing who she was. Just the reaction from the ward’s members alone indicated her prestige.

“Miss Ming...” The leader hesitated: “I don’t think I have the authority to make this decision...”

Not even Deer King could assign a heaven room, let alone him. Remember, heaven rooms were currently reserved for elders and ancestors from the big sects.

Little Diamond could only stay in yellow rooms. In fact, giving them a black room would be the maximum.

“Just do it.” Miss Ming didn’t bother explaining herself.

“Yes, this lowly one will arrange it.” The leader had no choice but to obey.

He was only an external disciple, nothing compared to this girl or her master. Offending them would be the end of him.

Moreover, this wasn’t his decision either so the blame wouldn’t fall on him.

“Heaven-level rooms...” Everyone became astounded. This included those from Little Diamond.



They all thought that Li Qiye's arrogance and ignorance would result in his death. But now, this group actually got the heaven rooms?

"This doesn't make any sense! On what ground does Little Diamond get this treatment?!" Eight Tiger Demon roared.

Most agreed with this since the heaven rooms represented status and power.

"We got a good sect master." One Little Diamond disciple decided to vent.

They knew that Eight Tiger and Deer King were the ones behind this. Plus, the guy had attacked their sect before. There was no need to maintain a veil of friendliness.

"Your sect master?" Eight Tiger stared at Li Qiye with disdain.

He still wasn't afraid because his sect still had powerful backers. There was no need for him to be threatened by a nameless junior.

"You're not impressed with me?" Li Qiye lazily smiled.

Eight Tiger was annoyed by Li Qiye's dismissive attitude. He snorted and said: "You were a nobody who suddenly became Little Diamond's sect master. I heard that the previous master came across an ancient manual by chance but suddenly passed away afterward. Your sect didn't let anyone know about this, how interesting."

Elder Hu's group became alarmed. They didn't want anyone to know about their ancient immortal physique law.

"Eight Tiger Sect Master, words can't be taken back. You have to take responsibility for your lies." Elder Hu shouted.

"I take responsibility for what I'm saying. I was friends with your previous sect master. His death was untimely and unnatural and now, you have a new sect master that no one else knows about. Seems like a conspiracy to me." Eight Tiger sneered.

"Malicious slander!" A junior from Little Diamond ignored seniority and shouted back.

"Did something like this happen?" The crowd discussed among themselves.

"Yes, I don't think they announce their previous sect master's passing." A sect master quietly said.

It was indeed strange for Little Diamond to have a new sect master who was so young and unknown.

"Well, I'm more interested in the ancient manual." One disciple brought this up.

"Most likely something amazing." Her elder speculated.

"My clear conscience laughs at your accusation." Eight Tiger was ready to go all the way: "If your previous sect master didn't die of an indignant death, then why did you hide it from everyone? This should be a public case for everyone else to decide. We should judge whether your new sect master is legitimate or just a murderer."

Others took a deep breath after hearing this. Though their sects were under the jurisdiction of Lion's Roar, this behemoth never interfered with internal matters.

In this particular case, once external forces were to get involved in the form of a tribunal, Little Diamond would become helpless.

Some turned towards the members of the ward to see if they would interfere. Alas, they completely ignored the quarrel.

"So noisy." Li Qiye yawned and said: "Shut your mouth before I wring your neck."

"Sounds like you want to silence me to hide your crime." Eight Tiger wasn't afraid because the guy wouldn't dare to kill him here.

There were many disciples from the ward present and he wasn't weak either. He loudly continued: "How dare you threaten with violence in this place? Do you not respect Dragon..."

"Crack!" Li Qiye broke his neck before he could finish then decapitated him.

"Fuck!" Blood splashed those nearby, causing them to scream.

"?!!" Many were caught off guard by this development.

Eight Tiger's eyes were wide open. He didn't know what the hell happened during his last seconds.

"It's a murder!" The crowd members shouted.

"How dare you?!" The leader of the ward unsheathed his weapon.

"Clank!" The other members did the same and surrounded Li Qiye.

The atmosphere became tense right away since killing others was forbidden at the ward.

Those from Little Diamond couldn't believe it either. Everything happened so quickly during the decapitation.

"Shit..." Elder Hu murmured. Li Qiye had done it now.

### **Chapter 4319: As One Wishes**

Everyone watched with bated breath because they knew the consequence of killing here. The beehive has been disturbed.

The ward belonged to the great powers so Li Qiye's wanton disregard for the rules was contemptuous, to say the least.

Elder Hu became afraid because this was unprecedented. No one from a smaller sect had dared to kill in this area, lest they provoke the behemoths.

"It's over." He turned pale after seeing Li Qiye surrounded.

Sure, the sect master was probably strong enough to bring them out of here unscathed. Alas, even in this case, the ward would report their crime and stronger experts would pursue them later on.

Only Li Qiye remained calm as if this was no big deal.

“This is the end for Little Diamond.” The audience whispered.

Such impudence would not go unpunished. A light punishment would be merciful. The worst-case scenario would be sect destruction.

“Surrender now!” The leader roared.

The audience didn’t dare to breathe loudly after hearing the furious leader.

“What are you doing? Sheath your weapons.” Miss Ming interrupted and surprised everyone.

“Miss Ming.” The leader said: “Little Diamond Sect Master killed someone just now and broke our rules.”

This was indeed disrespectful to the ward. Moreover, Eight Tiger was related to Deer King, a member of Dragon.

Both the ward and Deer King couldn’t take this sitting down.

“Do you think I need a refresher course of the rules from you?” She said.

“But...” The leader was in a tough position. How could he answer to the higher-ups?

“Looks like Deer King did a terrible job with training. You should change your post.” Miss Ming’s expression darkened. There was something about her aura that intimidated the entire ward.

“My mistake, please excuse my stupidity, Miss Ming.” The leader realized that he had messed with the wrong person and lowered his head.

He received this position after being recommended by Deer King. Thus, he had no choice but to make life hard for Little Diamond’s members.

Deer King thought that he didn’t need to be involved in this mess. Just an order was enough to take care of Little Diamond.

Alas, this situation changed drastically the moment Miss Ming got involved. Though she was technically a maid, her master was a big shot and it wouldn’t be difficult for them to kick him out of his current position at the ward.

Thus, the leader didn’t dare to go against her despite wanting to curry favor with Deer King. He immediately put away his weapon and bowed towards Li Qiye.

The scene was strangely quiet since spectators were dumbfounded. Of course, Little Diamond’s members knew that she was doing this out of consideration for their sect master, not their sect.

But why would she do so? They couldn’t come up with an answer.

As for the rest of the audience, they wondered if Little Diamond had managed to climb up the right branch. Could they be carps swimming up the dragon gate?

First, they were assigned to the heaven-level rooms. Now, Miss Ming protected Li Qiye even though he had just killed Eight Tiger Sect Master.

"I apologize for our fellow disciples' disrespect." Miss Ming slightly bowed towards Li Qiye.

Li Qiye smiled and stretched: "It's no big deal. I'm tired now and need to rest. Let's hurry this up."

His attitude surprised them once more. He was speaking to her as if she was a maid to be commanded.

Elder Hu thought that if they were in Li Qiye's shoes, they would be enthusiastically thanking her for saving them.

"The audacity of this brat." One crowd member whispered.

They didn't know who she was. Nonetheless, given the reaction from the ward's members, she was clearly someone important. Li Qiye's attitude was overly haughty and borderline suicidal.

Strangely enough, she didn't have a problem with this and ordered: "Prepare everything for the young noble."

The leader didn't dare to say no. Miss Ming had no problem with the guy's attitude, let alone a nobody like him.

"Young Noble, just let us know if you need anything else." Miss Ming added.

Everyone wondered how Li Qiye was receiving the best of treatments. He seemed to be an esteemed guest even at a prestigious place like the ward.

"Who the hell is backing Little Diamond?" This became the main question.

An elder speculated: "This new sect master must have a relationship with someone important. That's the only explanation for this. Just who is he?"

Little Diamond had participated in numerous conferences in the past but this was unprecedented.

Meanwhile, Li Qiye's group was led to the heaven-level area. They had their own courtyard as a result.

The grand style of this place showed that it was meant for big shots only. Not to mention the youths, even Elder Hu had never seen a place so extravagant before. Everything inside was expensive and precious.

"I think this courtyard is worth more than our sect." An older disciple stared at the jade pillars inside.

### **Chapter 4320: Power Opens All Paths**

The extravagance here was justified since this place was meant for dao lords and top masters during the golden age of the conference.

Alas, the peerless beings no longer participated once the conference was deemed unnecessary. The scale gradually declined and the courtyard and rooms were reserved for elders and ancestors from the big sects instead. Nonetheless, the quality of this place remained.

Of course, this was relative. The decorative items that were considered priceless by members of Little Diamond could be seen everywhere in the behemoths' main branch.

The youths saw everything being embedded with diamonds and jades and were amazed. They looked like mortals standing in front of a golden mountain.

The pillars, gem screens, and tiles... these things alone were worth more than their entire sect.

"This is the resource of the top powers." Elder Hu smiled wryly. His sect was inferior to a single courtyard meant for guests.

This made the youths realize the immense disparity between them and the top cultivators of this world.

Li Qiye didn't care about this and told them: "Go rest now."

They didn't need to be told since they were already tired from the long day.

Once they settled down, Li Qiye wasn't interested in the ward. He rested for a bit before deciding to enter the broken-peak area for a look.

"You must be Sect Master Li." The moment they got out of the door, another group came and greeted them.

It was none other than Gao Qixin and his entourage. Due to him potentially being able to join Dragon, he has been enjoying warm reception everywhere. In fact, the sect masters greeted him respectfully, hoping to earn his favor.

Therefore, it was rare for him to take the initiative to greet someone. Elder Hu and the youths weren't used to such treatment and became surprised.

"What is it?" Li Qiye glanced at the youth and said with an indifferent tone.

"Your fame precedes you, Sect Master Li. I would love to have a drink with you when you have time." Gao Qixin cupped his fist.

Some nearby took note of this. An elder whispered: "Gao Qixin is trying to get close to Li Qiye."

"It's because Li Qiye has a strong backer, that's why he's perfectly fine after killing Eight Tiger Master." A sect master responded.

The death of Eight Tiger caused quite a stir among the weaker sects. This went double for Li Qiye's immunity. They believed that he must have a stronger backer in one of the great powers.

Otherwise, he would have been punished severely for killing someone at the ward.

"This makes sense then." Another elder said.

Gao Qixin might join Dragon in the future but he wasn't a member of that sect now. Nothing bad could come from befriending Li Qiye who had more connections.

"No time." Li Qiye refused right away.

This response caught everyone off guard. They thought that Li Qiye was being too blunt and didn't give Gao Qixin any face.

After all, the guy politely asked so even if Li Qiye was actually busy, he should have been more tactful.

"That's alright, Sect Master, it doesn't have to be right now. Another day will be..." Gao Qixin looked a bit awkward. He coughed and tried to give Li Qiye a way out.

"No need." Li Qiye waved his hand and interrupted him again. He then moved on with the group.

Gao Qixin's expression changed drastically after the second offense. A disciple from Maple Ravine was furious and shouted: "You!"

However, Gao Qixin stopped this disciple and shook his head. He then stared at Li Qiye's departing figure for a while without saying anything.

The other sect members thought that Li Qiye was unreasonable.

"This new sect master is too arrogant. There's no need to be so rude." One of them said.

"Right, it's one thing to say no to Young Noble Gao." Another youth felt bad for Gao Qixin: "Does he think he's actually from a great power?"

The elders and sect masters refrained from commenting because they didn't know Li Qiye's backer. Thus, they didn't want to offend Li Qiye or Gao Qixin.

\*\*\*

"Sect Master, Young Noble Gao was just being nice." Elder Hu said softly after they left the ward.

As a member of a small sect, he always tried to avoid trouble when possible. Offending people was out of the question.

Li Qiye stopped and stared at the group. He preached: "We cultivate the dao, not relationships. Being friendly with everyone doesn't guarantee a smooth path towards the apex."

He let them digest this for a bit before continuing: "Have you ever seen a polite dao lord or a humble master?"

"Well..." Elder Hu and the youths couldn't respond.

Li Qiye smiled and concluded: "A strong dao opens all paths. As long as you're strong enough, relationships will flow in your favor."

"Thank you for your guidance, Sect Master." Elder Hu understood and bowed.

Gao Qixin didn't come to Li Qiye today because he wanted to befriend a common sect master. He only cared about Li Qiye's hidden backer.

The group kept this in mind as they moved forward, wanting to focus on the dao more instead of unnecessary things.

By this point, they had delved deeper into the mountain range. The ward was built near the base to receive guests. Now, this was the real Myriad Sect Mountain.

Though the geography was magnificent and grand, the vegetation seemed to be withering and suppressed.

There were still tiles and bricks scattering across the valleys and cliffs, meaning that this place was extremely prosperous once. Alas, the great lineage had fallen during the calamity.

“So this is Heavenguard Mountain?” One disciple asked.

“Yes, an extremely powerful sect in the legends.” Elder Hu said. He didn’t have a good grasp on the actual history and only heard a few legends about it.

Li Qiye only sighed while looking at the ruins and didn’t reply.

He then asked Wang Weiqiao: “Notice anything strange?”

Weiqiao has been following right behind him. He was a man of few words and only spoke when spoken to.

He pondered for a moment before answering: “Master, I have a strange feeling. This place, hmm, everything here seems to be withering.”