

Emperor 4341

Chapter 4341: Treasures

The surface of the lake became shiny with numerous colors after the buzzes.

“What is happening?” The waves of light indicated that something was floating beneath, most likely a treasure.

“So there is really a peerless treasure underground?” A disciple from a large sect shouted.

“Don’t you mean at the bottom of a lake?” A friend interjected.

The atmosphere became tense right away. Groups exchanged glances; some became eager to give it a shot.

“Impossible. This place has been visited by countless people. They came and searched the entire mountain range, this included dao lords as well. Any treasure would have been taken away long ago.” An old cultivator disagreed.

“Hard to say.” A clan expert politely responded: “It’s been a long time yet these souls still remain until today. Why didn’t the top masters who visited ferry them away?”

Others didn’t disagree with this point of view.

The light from the lake became brighter and brighter. Pillars of light of different colors manifested into reality.

“It really does look like a top artifact.” Someone else said.

“I wonder what it is.” Some began gripping their weapon, ready to compete for this treasure.

They all knew that fierce competition was inevitable and it’ll get bloody too.

Visual phenomena started showing themselves amidst the radiance - an eagle soaring in the air with wings large enough to blot out the sun.

“Raa!” A wolf of unimaginable size howled at heaven. Its tail was as long as a mountain range.

Many more phenomena shocked the crowd.

“I’m absolutely sure that there is a divine treasure down there!” Someone shouted.

Even a fool could tell that the thing down there must be incredible.

“Splash! Splash!” The surface of the lake had violent waves and bubbles, further tempting the crowd.

Many immediately dived into the water and swam for the bottom.

“Activate!” One activated his heavenly gaze. His eyes shot out two rays in order to see through the water.

“Get ready for the treasure.” One group standing on the shore watched with their weapons drawn.

In reality, it didn't matter who got the treasure first. The one who could leave this place with it would be the true winner.

"There's nothing!" A diver got out and shouted.

Many more left the water and had the same conclusion.

As for Li Qiye, he seemed amused by their enthusiasm and raised his hand.

"Boom!" The next light pillar eclipsed all the previous, seemingly piercing the firmament itself.

A tsunami was started in the lake and blew all the divers out. They fell to the shore, looking confused like fish out of the water.

"Clank!" The treasure they have been waiting for finally showed up. There were five gates with unique totems. To the center was an ancient lamp.

The gates looked ancient and made of a material resembling bronze. They must have been underground for a long time now.

The totems consisted of various mythical creatures - giant eagle, divine bird, god mouse... They looked vivid and animated, seemingly ready to fly out of the gates.

The lamp was even older than the gates. It had green rust everywhere from being submerged in water for so long. There was nothing to light up inside; only the shell was left.

There was a clear difference between the lamp and the gates. All of them were old but due to the visual phenomena and radiance on the gates, they were clearly special treasures. The same couldn't be said for the old lamp.

"This is it..." Spectators became emotional and immediately summoned their weapons.

As for Li Qiye, he was the closest and reached for the lamp and the five-sided gate.

"Leave it alone!" The golden daughter of Soaring Feather was the first to attack. She swung her sword without showing any mercy, wanting to kill Li Qiye.

She had no qualm against killing him for this divine artifact. Many others felt the same way. For example, the young lord of Flow joined as well.

"They're mine!" The whip in his hand soared forward, wanting to coil around the five gates in order to pull them back.

Li Qiye simply waved his hand and one of the gates turned into an impregnable wall.

"Boom!" It easily blocked both the sword slash and the whip.

Other experts from the great powers initiated their attack as well. Li Qiye became surrounded in no time at all.

"Stay back." Not everyone joined the first wave. Some remained patient and observed the situation.

As the saying goes - the mantis stalks the cicada, unaware of the oriole in waiting.

“Back off for now and wait for an opportunity.” An elder from a small sect ordered his fellow members to make some distance.

He knew that they had no chance in an outright battle. They would be slaughtered in the blink of an eye. However, there might be a chance if they waited outside the battlefield.

The atmosphere became extremely tense as Li Qiye was surrounded with nowhere to go.

The combatants glared at Li Qiye while remaining vigilant of those around them. There were no friends here, only enemies.

Chapter 4342: Greed Is Innate

“Hand over the treasures!” A cultivator loudly demanded.

Countless eyes - red from greed and desires - were fixated on Li Qiye. Many were willing to cut Li Qiye to pieces in order to take the treasures.

“Hand over them right now if you want to stay alive!” A disciple from a large sect shouted.

A clan member kept it less aggressive and said: “This treasure belongs to no one alone. Monopolize it and risk the wrath of the world.”

“You’re not leaving this place with it.” An expert raised his saber at Li Qiye.

The treasures were obviously precious. Thus, no one wanted to let them go.

“I see. Who should I hand it to then?” Li Qiye smiled at the crowd.

This caught them off guard. They exchanged glances and didn’t want to relent. Who would Li Qiye hand it to? This didn’t matter because a skirmish would break out right after.

“Give it to me!” The young lord of Flow insisted: “I will guarantee your safe departure.”

“Young Lord, don’t be so sure, you can’t represent everyone. In terms of seniority and status, you wouldn’t be next in line.” The golden daughter said.

“As if you’re next in line.” The young lord barked back.

“Fine, we need to come up with a decision.” She mused and said.

Both understood that no one right now could monopolize the treasures. The first to seize it from Li Qiye would risk being attacked from all sides.

Thus, she thought about teaming up with Flow. Two great powers working together would greatly increase their chance.

“Give it to me! We, Grand Metropolis, will leave you alone.” One expert lost his patience.

“Why should your sect get it? Treasures belong to the virtuous!” Another member of a great power shouted back.

“Yes, treasures belong to the virtuous, hand it over!” The crowd became rowdier.

“Brat, don’t let your life end in this silly manner, just give it up! It belongs to the virtuous!” Some tried to make it not look like a robbery.

“So who among you is the virtuous?” Li Qiye scanned the crowd.

“Give it to us for now, we’ll definitely find the right master for it.” A disciple from a small sect suggested.

“I’m the virtuous, give it to me now!” A thick-skinned expert roared.

“Pah, have you taken a look at yourself in the mirror, shameless brute?!” Someone nearby scowled.

All in all, the crowd wouldn’t stop yelling and demanding Li Qiye to give it to them.

“Enough, silence!” A thunderous shout interrupted them successfully.

They saw Crystal Dragon Young Lord approaching closer. His status and power were enough to be the top dog here.

The ones surrounding Li Qiye made way for him to come before Li Qiye.

“Be smart and hand the treasures over.” The young lord raised his hand.

Li Qiye glanced at him and smiled: “You’ve disgraced your ancestors, the young lord of a sect acting like a bandit.”

“How dare you?!” His expression darkened as he shouted. A sound wave rushed forward but Li Qiye was unaffected.

“Masterless treasures due indeed belong to the virtuous, don’t think about leaving with them.” He uttered coldly.

“Are you claiming to be virtuous?” Li Qiye smiled.

“Whether I’m virtuous or otherwise cannot be assessed by a worm like you. Hand over the treasure, Dragon Sect will take care of it.” The young lord said.

The smaller sects didn’t say anything but the ones from the great powers weren’t happy at all.

“All of that talk and he still just wants to monopolize it.” A great power’s disciple muttered.

“He’s definitely not virtuous.” A clan member complained quietly.

Most certainly feared Dragon Sect and the young lord. However, the treasure was too tempting so they still wanted to give it a shot.

Only a few members of the last generation weren’t afraid of him since they were just as strong.

The problem here for them was that if Li Qiye were to hand over the treasure to the young lord, it would be exceedingly difficult to demand it from him.

“And if I don’t hand it over?” Li Qiye asked.

“Then let’s ask the crowd whether they’ll agree or not.” The young lord uttered coldly.

The eyes staring at Li Qiye resembled those of ravenous wolves. They all believed that they were the chosen ones and that the treasures were meant for them.

“Don’t be an idiot now.” A clan elder’s eyes gleamed with murderous intent.

“Monopolizing it will result in death.” An expert added.

“That’s right, don’t think about keeping it to yourself!” Others started shouting, wanting to finish this as fast as possible.

“Young Lord, if you believe that the virtuous deserve the treasures, then who else but Sir Li is worthy? He was the first to make contact, meaning that they have chosen him.” The heir of Chi Jinlin finally showed up.

Jian Qingzhu was next to him but didn’t want to be involved in this matter. As for Jinlin, he didn’t come closer in order to express his intention of not wanting the treasures.

No one else retorted so far in order to give him some face.

Only the young lord of Dragon spoke up: “Your Highness, how do you know that he’s the chosen one? He only got lucky to be here first and was the closest to the treasures. The virtuous are special and can’t be any random cultivator.”

Chapter 4343: Wanting The Treasures

“If you consider yourself virtuous, you would act dignified and stop here. A virtuous person wouldn’t use force to take someone else’s treasures.” Chi Jinlin smiled.

“You!” The young lord’s embarrassment turned into rage. This was a lose-lose situation. Admitting that he’s virtuous would mean giving up on the treasures.

A brief hush took over but he didn’t want to give up so easily.

“Sigh, if no one is going to do anything, then go back home. Otherwise, let’s get this over with so I can leave early.” Li Qiye suddenly spoke.

“You’re not going anywhere until you hand the treasures over!” An expert shouted.

Most found this man too infuriating. How dare he spoke to them contemptuously despite being the leader of such an insignificant sect?

“I already asked, who do I give it to?” Li Qiye smirked.

No one could answer because they didn’t want to become the next target. Directly taking the treasures right now would be the wrong move.

“Fine, here, enjoy.” Li Qiye casually offered one of the gates to the closest cultivator.

In a different scenario, the person would pocket the treasure and run away. Alas, this wasn’t possible so he staggered backward, astounded.

He immediately looked around and was on guard of those around him. He wasn’t stupid and knew that he was in a perilous situation.

“Looks like he doesn’t want them. How about you?” Li Qiye chuckled and offered it to someone else.

This clan member hesitated, not daring to accept the gate. He could feel eyes staring at him.

“Sigh, all of you were so demanding earlier and now, no courage to even take the treasures.” Li Qiye shook his head: “What’s the point of cultivating when there’s so much cowardice? Go be turtles instead and hide in your shell.”

“Enough! Who says I’m a coward?! Give it to me then.” A mighty cultivator furiously roared.

“Really now?” Li Qiye smiled and pushed a gate towards him.

“Yes, it is mine.” He mustered enough courage and reached for the treasure.

He immediately became the center of attention or to be exact, his hand. Countless thought about severing his hand and grabbing the treasure.

“Hmph!” Someone scowled as he was about to grab the gate.

A mighty force pushed the expert away, causing him to stagger to the side.

“What are you doing, Young Lord?!” The expert stabilized and looked around. His expression soured as he roared.

The ambusher was none other than the young lord of Dragon. He naturally didn’t want anyone else to obtain these treasures.

“These are treasures bestowed by the heaven. Dragon will be in charge of dispatching them.” The young lord firmly responded, stating his intention of monopolizing the treasures.

“Young Lord, you are being unreasonable right now.” One disciple became agitated.

“These treasures have no masters, everyone deserves a piece of the pie.” The young lord of Flow commented.

“Whoever can get them deserves them.” The daughter of Soaring Feather joined in.

Though these two supported the young lord a while ago, it was no longer beneficial to do so.

“Hmph!” The young lord waved his hand and suddenly, a cavalry battalion of Dragon immediately rushed onto the scene.

They separated and then surrounded the crowd. When they readied their weapons, the sheer momentum caused ripples in the lake.

The young lord didn’t come alone. He had gone to gather his men, hence his late arrival.

The crowd naturally didn’t like this development. Members from the small sects, in particular, trembled with fear.

Just a moment ago, the young lord tried to be the leader of the young generation. Alas, his attitude shifted the moment these treasures came into play.

“What are you trying to do, Young Lord?” A disciple from a mighty sect questioned.

“Nothing, just trying to calm everyone down. No need to cause bloodshed over a few treasures.” The young lord coldly responded.

This response was rather reasonable and benevolent. Of course, no one believed him.

“Boom!” suddenly, a loud explosion came from the bottom of the lake.

It startled everyone but nothing happened afterward.

“Alright, those who want to stay alive should get as far away as possible from here. Don’t blame me for not warning you all.” Li Qiye glanced down at the lake and told the crowd.

They became irritated. It was one thing for the young lord of Dragon to be arrogant because he could back it up. The same couldn’t be said for this sect master.

They were already livid since the young lord was pressuring them. Now, this became unbearable.

“Ignorant fool, don’t you know that you have one foot in the grave already?! I can push you down if you like!” An expert shouted.

“Let’s just kill him first.” A clan disciple joined in.

“No, I agree with him. Everyone should leave right now before anything unsavory happens. Swords do not have eyes.” The young lord actually agreed with Li Qiye this time since it served his purpose.

“Hmph!” One cultivator stomped the ground and begrudgingly left.

“Let’s go.” A minority didn’t want to fight Dragon directly so they left.

Nonetheless, many remained. Though they didn’t want to fight the young lord, they still wanted to stick around.

The young lord ignored them and gazed at Li Qiye: “So, are you going to hand them over or do I have to make you?”

Chi Jinlin who was standing far away frowned. He wanted to speak up but noticed how relaxed Li Qiye was.

“Finally got to the point. Will you try alone or everyone together?” Li Qiye smiled.

“Hahaha.” The young lord laughed from being too annoyed: “So courageous. Let’s see what you can actually do then. I doubt you can survive more than three moves.”

His eyes flashed murderously as he declared. The crowd shuddered as a result.

Chapter 4344: Dark Creatures

The young lord’s intimidating gaze resembled a sharp blade thrusting at the heart.

“I’ve said enough, if you all wish to die, I will entertain you since it’s been a while since I last exercised. Come together, don’t waste my time.” Li Qiye lazily stretched.

The members of Dragon were infuriated by his overbearing and disdainful attitude.

Remember, they were second in the south, capable of changing the continent's direction. All small sects trembled before them. Li Qiye was the only exception and he took it to the extreme.

"He's so arrogant." The weaker members of the crowd were frightened.

"I, I hope that he doesn't drag us into this mess." One sect master murmured.

They thought that Li Qiye was tired of living, going as far as provoking Dragon. Most were afraid of Dragon's wrath. If Li Qiye was annoying enough, Dragon might decide to wipe out all the small sects nearby to make examples out of them.

"He just doesn't know." A great power's disciple scowled.

"Brat, I will make you wish for death then cut you to pieces!" Someone from Dragon bellowed.

"How embarrassing." Li Qiye shook his head: "I will send you down to see your ancestors, I hope you will change your way down there."

"Fool, die!" An older disciple could stand this no longer.

"Boom!" He turned into an ape and reached for Li Qiye with a massive, muscular hand.

"Let the show begins." Li Qiye chuckled and stomped on the water surface.

The entire lake shook violently before cracking noises were heard. Cracks appeared everywhere at the bottom of the lake and from them came the billowing black fog.

The ape couldn't catch Li Qiye before stopping because he saw the fog morphing into something strange.

They were dark creatures with an oval shape, only possessing a pair of claws sticking out of the fog.

One of them moved with lightning speed and pierced through the ape without any resistance. It seemed to be formless and didn't leave any wound behind on this demon.

"Ahh!" Nonetheless, the demon ape screamed in pain.

"Zzz..." Next, decaying noises could be heard as his body lost its vitality and blood, being reduced to a dried corpse. His mouth was still wide open since he screamed before death.

The dark creature became stronger after devouring the ape and grew a little larger.

More shrill screams came right away. A dozen or so creatures began devouring the members of Dragon.

It seemed that after the success of the first wave, more creatures buried beneath the ground felt something and more of them emerged.

"Formation!" A senior roared after seeing the incoming waves.

"Clank! Clank!" The vanguard formed a draconic formation. The dragon head took on the waves directly while the tail prevented them from being surrounded.

"Out of my way!" The young lord formed a draconic seal. A loud roar could be heard as energy dragons appeared and rushed towards the nearest dark creature.

The thing exploded from the force but then, the strands of smoke gathered again into the same creature. It began attacking the young lord.

He wasn't afraid and roared: "Come, I'll take you all on!" His aura swept through the scene as he rushed forward.

"What are these things?" The spectators gasped while watching the battle.

"They're creatures of darkness?" A large-sect member took a deep breath.

"Don't tell me, this Li Qiye can control them?" One expert speculated.

"Maybe the accusation was not baseless, he really conspired with the darkness." A clan member said seriously.

They stared intensely at Li Qiye who seemed rather amused.

"Villain, hand the treasures over!" A member of a large sect came closer and threatened.

"Hand it over or die!" Another did the same.

A while ago, they kept a distance since they were afraid of the young lord.

Now, the members of Dragon were busy so greed controlled them once more.

"Rumble!" Numerous treasures flew towards Li Qiye, ready to push him to the brink of destruction.

"Blinded by greed." Li Qiye shook his head and stomped the water again.

More and more dark creatures rushed out and attacked those near him.

"Ahh!" The victims were drained of vitality and became dried corpses.

The number of dark creatures had only increased thus far.

"Boom!" Meanwhile, the fierce battle raged on.

Despite their draconic formation, Dragon was having a hard time stopping the relentless horde.

Eventually, once the dark creatures found themselves unable to break the draconic barrier, they started devouring themselves.

The eaters became larger and stronger. Finally, only one was left - a true monstrosity with massive claws.

It smashed down on the formation with an unstoppable force, successfully crushing it and sending the disciples from Dragon flying. A massacre ensued.

Chapter 4345: Peacock Monarch

The majority of disciples from Dragon were either killed or grievously injured. The fallen combatants were devoured by the dark creature.

Jian Qingzhu could stand idle no longer and wanted to join the battle. Alas, Chi Jinlin stopped her and shook his head: "Miss Jian, you will only be throwing your life away needlessly, unable to change anything."

She stopped and contemplated before asking: "Your Highness, what do you think this is?"

"I do not dare to speculate due to my shallow knowledge." Jinlin gazed at the monstrosity and said: "Perhaps it is related to the legend back then, a remnant of the fallen darkness."

Jinlin's guess was correct. This was indeed a remnant of a darkness entity that had descended during the calamity. Though Heavenguard managed to kill the original entity, it was too powerful with tenacious lifeforce. It certainly died but certain things still remained.

They were pushed below ground from the explosions but the strands still remained. This was a reason why the spirit soldiers couldn't move on. They stayed here with mighty treasures in order to suppress the darkness.

As the years went by, they were gradually corroded by the darkness. It wasn't until Li Qiye's purification process that they were freed. Nonetheless, this also freed the darkness from suppression as well.

Now that they were out, they just needed to devour life and vitality. Once they had enough, they could even return to their initial state of invincibility.

"Ahhh!" Members of Dragon and the greedy bunch were massacred by the darkness.

"Run!" The lucky survivors were scared out of their mind and fled with all of their might. Some pissed their pants and felt their legs trembling, unable to flee.

"Die!" The young lord of Dragon kept on fighting. Dragons coiled around him while he glowed brilliantly with his sovereign aura.

He managed to repel the dark creatures nearby and forced them to the ground. He displayed combat prowess worthy of his status.

The spectators in the distance were impressed by his power.

"Not bad at all." Chi Jinlin saw his abilities and nodded approvingly.

"Raa!" The largest creature roared and became engulfed in a dark radiance.

The creatures hunting everyone were suddenly summoned and flew back towards their largest brethren.

The monstrosity became colossal; its claws could even reach the celestials above. The surface of the lake only reached where the ankles would be if it had them.

Everyone gasped after seeing its size and billowing aura.

"Raa!" It raised one claw and released dark laws. Buzzing runes appeared around the young lord and immediately sealed him.

Next, darkness rushed towards it, ready for the devouring.

“Activate!” The young lord looked up at the sky and roared. He sent draconic energies outward; dragons danced and roared against the incoming darkness.

This was proven to be futile. Even his strongest arts and heirlooms were eaten by the darkness.

The dragons protecting him were immobilized at first then turned into dark dragons. They began attacking him instead.

“Nooo!” In this crucial moment, he felt the darkness latching onto him and sucking his lifeforce and vitality at a rapid rate.

“He’s finished...” A spectator couldn’t believe it.

“Open!” The young lord crazily shouted, prompting a crack to appear on his forehead.

A blinding light rushed out, capable of splitting heaven and earth. Spectators couldn’t keep their eyes open.

“What is that?!” They closed their eyes and were astounded.

“Boom!” His power erupted by tenfold. A tsunami of energy rushed out and destroyed the darkness corroding him.

The seal was destroyed as well while the dark monstrosity staggered several steps backward from the blow.

Once people could see again, they saw a majestic figure made out of light standing behind the young lord. The latter was bathed and protected by the light, making him look like a child of god. His eyes brimmed with fiery divinity.

This light had five colors, looking as holy and sacred as can be. It resembled a peacock spreading its tail, treating the sky as its canvas.

The aura of this being crushed the area. Not to mention those from the small sects, even disciples from the great powers were forced down on their knees.

“Sect Master!” Jian Qingzhu cried out.

“Dragon Sect Master, Peacock Monarch!” Some survivors prostrated before this being.

Even Chi Jinlin let out a sentimental sigh after seeing this. Peacock Monarch’s prestige was at an all-time high right now.

Though Sky Border had countless hidden masters, Peacock Monarch still stood out in the current generation.

Some even believed that he was stronger than the ancestors of Dragon.

Normally, the sect masters and kings of the behemoths weren’t their strongest characters. Their real ace cards were the slumbering ancestors.

Dragon, being one of the strongest sects in the south, naturally had powerful ancestors as well. Nonetheless, Peacock Monarch was not inferior to them.

Chapter 4346: Peacock Monarch's Power

The appearance of a top master shocked the lucky survivors.

His aura was too much for the smaller sects to take. In their eyes, the young lord was already untouchable enough. They resembled insects in his presence.

Now, the monarch was countless times stronger in comparison. This made the pressure intolerable and discomforting. His title was known across the land since he has been leading Dragon towards greatness.

"Is he coming?" A member of a small sect didn't dare to look straight at him.

Most of his peers lowered their head and couldn't move at all.

An expert remained relatively composed and answered: "It is just an intent embedded in the young lord's true fate. Whenever there's a fatal danger, the intent would release a force strong enough to protect him."

"Just one intent is already this strong? What about the monarch himself?" An elder from a small sect couldn't believe it.

This avatar alone could sweep through all of their sects without an issue. This was as plain as day. Thus, the actual power of the monarch was immeasurable.

"Raa!" The monstrosity didn't appreciate the resistance and started running forward.

"Rumble!" The world spun with each step and the land, ravaged.

It gathered enough momentum to leap up in the air, crushing the sky vault in the process and preparing for a downward smash with its claws clasped together.

"Bam!" The blow could pierce through the earth. Space shattered as a result.

Spectators gasped and shouted after seeing the sheer destruction.

"Buzz." The five-colored light spewed out endless flames in retaliation. The flames traveled in harmony with all the lights in the world.

The image of the monarch then recalled this power into his palm and created a seal, slamming it onto the dark monstrosity without any mercy.

The five-colored seal contained numerous phoenixes. They had a unique color and seemed to be alive, possessing a matchless bloodline. Others wouldn't dare to look straight at them since they resembled the mythical divine birds.

"Boom!" The seal pulverized everything as if it wanted to return the world to its original state, obliterating the monstrosity.

Alas, this dark creature didn't have blood and flesh. Its body was made from black fog so though it was momentarily dispersed, it gathered once more.

"Good!" Nonetheless, the crowd still cheered.

“The monarch is truly unbeatable.” One elder from a small sect became emotional while kneeling.

“He lives up to his reputation.” The members of the great powers thought that the move earlier was unblockable.

Someone from the last generation who had met plenty of masters before added: “He’s the best in his generation. Just his intent alone is already so mighty.”

“Buzz.” More dark rays came out from the bottom of the lake. However, they immediately fused with the monstrosity instead of becoming their own entity.

Space had a difficult time accommodating the creature, on the verge of crumbling. This time, it didn’t grow larger but its form became increasingly physical. It looked like a black giant now instead of an amalgamation of fog. Power erupted with each breath.

“Perish!” The intent of the monarch unleashed the same fiery seal again.

Spectators were sent flying despite being far away. Some were suppressed and vomited blood from the pressure.

This time around, when they could see again, they noticed the monstrosity able to stop the five-colored seal with its muscular hand.

“!!!” They took a deep breath to calm down.

“Raa!” It retaliated by punching the seal and sending it back to the monarch.

“Boom!” The seal exploded and the young lord became a victim. He shot through the air like a rainbow while vomiting blood.

Keep in mind that this intent was special. The monarch only had one son so he pampered the child. It possessed his strongest blow whenever his son was in real danger.

The foe was just unreasonable this time. The punch damaged the intent and grievously injured the young lord.

“How is it growing stronger still?” The crowd didn’t like this development.

If the monarch were to fail, no one here would be able to stop the dark creature.

Chapter 4347: Dark Existence

“Boom!” The monstrosity leaped in the air and smashed with both hands again. It didn’t rely on the grand dao or flashy techniques. Space became as feeble as porcelain before its attack.

The majority of the crowd had never witnessed a power of this level before. Some younger disciples fainted from the pressure.

Even the elders and sect masters were utterly intimidated and dropped down on their butt. That smash earlier could destroy any smaller sect in Southern Desolace, replacing them with a bottomless crater.

They were afraid that the avatar wouldn’t be able to stop the smash and bellowed in horror.

They calmed down and focused on the battle - a five-colored radiance propped up numerous worlds behind the avatar.

They were worlds ruled by the sword dao. Swords flew out from the worlds and formed massive walls as a defensive measure.

Alas, the smash made it through all of them except the very last one. Nonetheless, it was still a successful block.

“Yes!” The crowd cheered again.

“He’s even stronger than expected.” One disciple from a great power praised the monarch while those from small sects were left speechless.

The avatar shifted towards the offensive. The worlds sent out a tsunami of swords to cut the dark creature.

It raised its hands to block the incoming swords. Fiery sparks splashed everywhere. The body resembled the toughest rock in existence, capable of handling the barrage.

Just when everyone thought that the swords were useless, a gigantic sword manifested into reality behind the creature. It exuded five colors as it pointed upward at the sky. Dao laws and chaos energy were in rotation, making it look like the source of the world.

“Clank!” Everything seemed dimmed compared to its radiance.

The slash came faster than the clank of the sword. It severed the yin and yang before the spectators could scream. They felt as if their body was being dismembered into two halves just from watching.

In the front was a relentless tsunami of blades. To the back was a five-colored divine sword with unstoppable power.

It finally cut the creature and made it bellow in pain. The hardened body was split vertically from the head down.

“Rumble!” The two halves fell down on the ground and caused an earthquake.

Next came silence as everyone stared at the bright avatar. They then looked down at the corpse, thinking that it was dead.

“No one can beat him!” The members of the small sects were still paralyzed on the ground.

For most of them, they could train their entire life and only get to the level of Deer King at best. The young lord and Chi Jinlin were certainly above their reach.

As for someone like Peacock Monarch? It was an honor just to see his avatar in person, let alone ever catch up. This could become the most memorable story in their life.

For the great powers, they realized that the monarch was stronger than their sect masters and kings. He should almost be comparable to their ancient ancestors.

“What an amazing cultivator.” Chi Jinlin couldn’t help but praise.

He had met plenty of masters before. His father was the current king of Lion's Roar and a capable cultivator. Alas, there was a considerable gap between those two. The monarch had firmly established himself as a frontrunner of this generation.

"Crack! Crack! Crack!" The lake water was repeating the cracking phenomenon again, akin to glaciers breaking apart.

"What's going on now?" An ominous feeling took over.

More darkness oozed from the cracks but this time, they didn't soar to the sky and remained one meter above the lake. Nonetheless, the sky suddenly turned dark.

This prompted everyone to look up. It was still blue but something was covering the area above them. No, this was a psychological phenomenon - an unknown entity was drilling into their mind and soul.

They found themselves to be standing before an abyss. Falling down would mean eternal damnation. Eventually, they lost their sight altogether and only saw darkness. This naturally horrified them.

"Something is coming out." Chi Jinlin was startled as well.

Chapter 4348: Monstrous Power

A transcending aura instantly appeared and swept through the region, seemingly devouring everything in its path and leaving behind only darkness.

The water was blown away and the bottom of the lake became exposed; it had countless cracks at this point.

"Is this the end..." Both the weak and strong cultivators were scared out of their wits. Some lay paralyzed on the ground, pale.

"Buzz." A figure emerged at the bottom.

It appeared to be a creature of darkness but it wasn't black from top to bottom. It actually exuded bright rays instead. Its eyes, in particular, exuded red rays.

No cultivator wanted to be the target of its attention. Being stared at by this creature would instantly freeze them, making them feel as if their heart has been pierced and their blood fully drained. The fear made them want to scream but no sound came out of their throat.

They no longer wanted to watch the show and only wanted to run as far away as possible. Alas, they have lost control of their body.

"Rumble!" Explosions occurred continuously. The appearance of this being suppressed all affinities in the world.

The aura from Peacock Monarch was certainly mighty. Alas, it was instantly crushed, appearing feeble like a fried potato.

"What the hell is this...?" Even the cool disciples from the larger sects nearly soiled their pants after seeing the figure.

“Buzz.” The figure immediately gathered the two broken halves of the monstrosity and fused with them. The initially colossal frame became smaller and smaller until it was the size of a regular person. This new being possessed a level of destructiveness surpassing the previous.

Just one hand wave could obliterate the region. One finger flick could take down numerous stars above. It resembled a crownless king. All cultivators in the world must prostrate before it.

The crowd thought that they were silly for thinking so highly of Peacock Monarch’s aura a while ago. His imperious aura was as weak as a candle flickering in the wind versus this dark existence.

“Is this a devil king...?” The crowd became overwhelmed with horror and confusion.

This dark existence made the creatures earlier seem like cute puppies. Even the giant monstrosity was not worth mentioning.

“Finally.” Li Qiye smiled and said: “Saves me a lot of effort.”

He knew about this dark existence underground from the start. The suppression spell from the spirits of the legion across the era failed to destroy it.

This spell weakened with time and couldn’t take it down. Nonetheless, this was an extremely weakened state.

Since Li Qiye removed the spell, this dark existence saw a glimpse of freedom and immediately took it.

The little creatures a while ago were only the scouting parties created by this being. Since the monarch killed the monstrosity, it finally decided to come out.

Li Qiye has been waiting for it while hiding his aura. If it didn’t come out, he would need to spend considerable time and effort to drag it out from underground. Now, it decided to jump into the net.

“Clank!” The intent of the monarch fell threatened and immediately attacked. Swords rained down from the sky with enough power to pierce to the core.

Unfortunately, they couldn’t injure the dark being even though it was just standing there.

Spectators gasped after seeing the failed attack.

“It’s too strong.” An expert couldn’t believe it.

“Clank!” A loud hymn could be heard as the five-colored divine sword appeared again for an ultimate slash. This was the move that took down the monstrosity earlier.

“Boom!” The dark existence simply punched the slash and reduced all affinities to ashes. The five-colored divine sword blew up into scattering particles, prompting the crowd to bellow in astonishment.

In the next second, the dark existence disappeared with a speed that could only be described as the fastest in the world.

When people could see it again, the situation had completely reversed. It stood before the young lord and the intent of the monarch.

There was only one yet people saw it gripping the young lord's throat and another afterimage sealing the monarch's intent.

The second image released dark flames from its hands while the other gripped tightly. The young lord's eyes turned white as a result.

Chapter 4349: My Turn

"Go!" The intent roared and released a supreme radiance to combat the dark version. It empowered the swords and lit them ablaze.

The new fiery swords tried to cut and burn the existence at the same time. Alas, they only managed to shake it once.

There seemed to be a dark domain around the existence, capable of freezing everything whether it be the radiance or the swords.

The light dissipated and the flames and swords crumbled into pieces. This existence seemed capable of breaking down defenses and reducing everything into a brittle state.

The intent's defense was extinguished, leaving both it and the young lord vulnerable. The dark existence began burning both of them.

"Ahh!" The young lord's cries echoed.

Though it was only an intent, everyone felt as if the monarch was actually dying as well.

"Nooo!" The young lord bellowed but it was too late. With the intent gone, his death was all but assured.

In the next second, the hand of the dark existence pierced his chest and robbed him of his vitality and blood. He became a dried corpse in the next second.

His eyes remained wide open, not expecting this end. He had a bright future and plenty of ambition to carry out. Alas, he would never be able to fulfill them. He couldn't accept dying to an unknown entity and in such a helpless manner as well.

The crowd watched the whole thing in disbelief. The dark existence didn't seem like it put a lot of effort into destroying the monarch's intent.

"A lord of darkness?" Chi Jinlin knew that this being was above the level of ancestors.

"It is insane." Jian Qingzhu realized that no one here could stop this dark existence. If it wanted to, it could murder all of them right now.

"We, we need to r-run..." The leader of a small sect stammered. Unfortunately, his legs didn't obey his command.

They were fear-stricken and paralyzed before this unbeatable existence.

"We have to, to get back and report this... None of us can subdue it..." An expert turned pale.

"Your Highness-" Another turned towards Chi Jinlin.

Everyone thought that he was the strongest here right now - their sole hope.

Jinlin smiled wryly. Though he was rather capable among the young generation, he knew that fighting this existence would be suicidal.

“Boom!” Just when everyone thought that they were finished, a divine gate suddenly flew over and blocked the dark existence.

“Raa!” It pulsed brightly and released the image of a gigantic wolf howling at heaven. It carried enough force to push the dark existence back.

The latter sensed a threat and turned around right away; its gaze fixated on Li Qiye. Blood rays shot out as it scanned the target.

“Whoosh!” It lunged towards him with unbelievable speed, crushing the fabrics of reality along the way and leaving behind numerous afterimages.

It aimed to pierce Li Qiye’s heart with its claw. Alas, another gate appeared and released the image of a world-sealing mouse.

The claw struck the gate but couldn’t pierce through it, only leaving behind deep fingermarks. However, they gradually disappeared; the gate seemed to have an automatic healing property.

The other three gates joined the fight with their spirit animals - a sky eagle, an earth ant, and a divine bird.

Dao laws echoed and were turned into chains. These five gates created an absolute domain, sealing the dark existence in the center.

“Raa!” The existence attacked the domain with thunderous power and lightning speed.

The resulting shockwaves sent spectators flying for a long time. They became dizzy and lost their composure.

Alas, regardless of the existence’s frenzy and destructive attacks, it couldn’t break through the five gates.

The containment domain not only contained the power of the treasures but also Li Qiye’s own. How could this existence ever escape?

“Bam! Bam! Bam!” Deep prints on the gate disappeared with haste.

“My dao, eternal. My art, heaven sealed...” Li Qiye chanted while forming mudras with both hands.

He then twirled his finger on the lamp and ignited it, revealing its dark nature. The flame was feeble, on the verge of extinguishing.

However, it gave the impression of being able to incinerate the gods and even immortals. The lamp left his grasp and entered the domain of the gates, releasing its flame on the dark existence.

The being became engulfed in a black radiance that was not its own.

“Ahh!” It actually bellowed in pain.

The five gates then closed and sealed the area, imprisoning the being inside. They resembled a great cauldron and no one could see what was happening within.

“Boom! Boom! Boom!” Numerous palm prints protruded on the exterior - a sign of the existence struggling to break out.

Sizzles could be heard as the cauldron became red and molten from the heat, on the verge of melting away as well.

Chapter 4350: Refinement

Explosions detonated unceasingly within the molten gates. The waves of assault were unending, the latter stronger than the previous.

“Raa!” The existence inside simply didn’t give up and left behind thousands and thousands of prints on the exterior of the gates.

However, this seal was absolute, and an escape seemed impossible.

Though spectators couldn’t see the scene inside, they could imagine the thing being burned by the dark flame from the lamp. It couldn’t extinguish this flame and had no choice but to try and break the walls.

“Boom!” One strike made a section of the wall protrude outward but it was still not enough.

The punch was insane. The gates blocked the brunt but remnant aftershocks still got out and swept everyone flying.

“How monstrous...” They were pale from witnessing the sheer power of the dark existence. Their sect wouldn’t be able to block a single move.

“Raa!” The totem of a gigantic wolf above one of the gates howled. It stomped down on the wall and activated more runic chains to improve the seal.

“Whoosh!” A sharp gust seemingly came from the world’s sharpest blade. It was an ant pulsing with celestial radiance pushing its mandibles against its gate. The radiance spread to the gate and gave it immense power and weight.

“Screech!” The great eagle on another appeared divine. It spread its wings and soared upward before coming back down with full momentum, pushing its scaled claws against the gate. Loud metallic clanks could be heard.

A total of five totems appeared and formed an unbreakable alliance, rendering resistance futile. All the palm prints gradually became smaller until they disappeared completely.

“What an extraordinary treasure.” One expert sang praises of the gates.

Both members of weak and strong sects saw just how mighty the dark existence was. Alas, Li Qiye managed to imprison it.

“They are invincible.” Another sentimentally said.

They attributed Li Qiye’s success to the gates, not knowing that there was more to it.

“Boom!” The five gates became blindingly resplendent. A massive lock appeared above the cauldron-like prison and it suddenly became quieter inside.

The new suppression and the continuous burning weakened the dark existence. As time passed, the strikes became inaudible.

“Ahh!” As people watched with bated breath, they heard a scream filled with rage and indignation... This was the last sound of the battle.

“Creak...” The gates slowly opened again.

“Be careful!” The lucky survivors became startled and backed off, afraid that the dark existence was still alive and might try to feast on their vitality.

However, there was no sign of the invincible existence, only ashes. A gust of wind came in and blew them away.

“Phew.” They heaved a sigh of relief after seeing this.

They then took a closer look at the gates and the floating lamp. The latter looked old and still had a feeble black light within, only the size of a soybean. They found it hard to imagine that this lamp could burn the existence to ashes.

Those from the great powers had a better grasp of that existence than the ones from the smaller sects. This was a testament to the lamp’s destructive potential. Moreover, they also believed that this wasn’t the lamp’s fully activated state - the light in there right now appeared to be on the verge of extinguishing. There was a possibility of it being much more powerful.

Imagine if it’s mine - this was a thought shared by many and could be seen from the greed in their eyes.

Of course, they weren’t stupid enough to carry it out. After all, they saw what happened to the dark existence and didn’t want to follow its footsteps. Moreover, Chi Jinlin was on Li Qiye’s side as well.

“This isn’t over. Surrender and confess your crime or your sect will be responsible too.” Suddenly, a dignified voice erupted from above.

An invisible hand seemed to be crashing down and leaving everyone breathless.

The crowd members who had only enjoyed freedom for a moment were forced to the ground again.

“Who is it...” An elder from a small sect trembled with fear.