

Emperor 4401

Chapter 4401: Gentle Wind, Spirit Saber

“Prepare yourself.” Celestial Tiger took off his top robe again and cracks appeared with eyes inside them.

The spectators had no choice but to get the hell away from the battlefield again. They had witnessed the power of the Omniscient Eye already. Those affected were traumatized by the event.

Even the top demons here had a hard time dealing with it since his cultivation was quite impressive now.

“Buzz.” Countless eyes opened and shot their rays towards Jian Qingzhu. The largest eye also opened and released a ray more resplendent than anything else.

Their brightness made the rest of the world seem dark - quite a fascinating phenomenon. This was because they began absorbing all other lights so they became the only light left in the region.

“Boom!” The strengthened beams could tear the world apart like paper.

“Screech!” Jian Qingzhu attacked with her saber, releasing a phoenix hymn.

The slash was accompanied by myriad dao, changing the fundamental structures of everything in its path using dao laws.

It swayed back and forth like a willow branch. A phoenix could be seen flying around the dao of the saber, capable of shifting the cosmo.

“Willow-born Slash!” She roared and the phoenix screeched alongside her, ready to offer her its service.

It spread its wings and unleashed an inferno along with the myriad dao in order to stop the incoming beams of light.

The world shook once the two forces collided. The combined effort of the inferno and the saber dao actually stopped the brilliant beams.

They created an eternal barrier consisting of worldly dao and laws with no gap to speak of.

“Rumble!” The beams had to directly break through, resulting in continuous explosions. Even the all-penetrating beams couldn’t take it down in a short time.

“She stopped it, she actually stopped it!” One spectator shouted after seeing her finally being able to stop the beams.

“Is this the power of a phoenix bloodline?” The crowd was shaken because a secret dao lord law was stopped.

This wasn’t the end. Celestial Tiger continued to use all of his power to channel the beams for an unending barrage.

This was still not enough to break through the fiery dao barrier. His vitality and energy were depleting because this technique required a monstrous amount of chaos energy and dao power.

Beads of sweat formed on his forehead and the beams weakened.

“Gentle Wind, Spirit Saber.” She stated the name of her next move.

As she raised and swung her saber, the phoenix also closed its wings and dispersed from sight along with its flames.

This slash was gentle and seemingly powerless. However, it could cut the yin and yang along with the reincarnation cycle.

Spectators felt themselves being cut into two pieces and shuddered in horror.

“Activate! Dragon Ascension!” Celestial Tiger felt a mortal danger and thrust his tyrannical spear again. An energy dragon soared upward and destroyed the sky vault.

“Clank!” Everything came to a halt in the next second. The crowd became frozen as a result; even the wind stopped blowing.

The slash decapitated the dragon and severed Celestial Tiger’s favorite spear. It could have also split him into two halves but it stopped just after making contact with his hair.

No one had anything to say, especially not the members from Dragon. Celestial Tiger had lost to this single slash and was shown mercy.

The victor between the two geniuses was clear - Jian Qingzhu was now number one after her bloodline evolution.

“I’ve lost.” Celestial Tiger was pale and devastated. Nonetheless, he composed himself and said: “You can finish it now.” He didn’t beg for his life after losing and accepted the outcome.

“Clank.” Qingzhu returned her saber to the scabbard and shook her head: “You went easy on me, I’ve only won by one move with luck.”

Though she was humble, everyone knew that Celestial Tiger had no chance of overcoming the newly-evolved Qingzhu.

“I wholeheartedly accept this defeat. You may continue, Junior Sister.” Celestial Tiger bowed slightly and left without delay.

Members of Dragon exchanged glances and also left. None dared to stop her any longer.

Chapter 4402: Phoenix’s Innate Gift

This battle had more significance than just deciding the number one genius of Dragon. Jian Qingzhu seemingly obtained a phoenix bloodline - something with unmatched potential.

If she could cultivate this bloodline to the apex, she could absolutely become a demon god.

This made many think about the strongest existence of Dragon - Nine-tailed god.

For many eras now since his appearance, Dragon hasn’t produced a similar being. Even if Jian Qingzhu wasn’t going to become a dao lord, it still didn’t diminish her importance to Dragon.

Moreover, Nine-tailed God was missing as well. Who knows if he was still alive?

If Qingzhu could become a demon god in the future, she would be able to fill the vacancy and make Dragon stronger.

Thus, although many of them criticized her action before, they didn't dare to say anything now. Even the top demon seniors couldn't speak up.

"If her bloodline is truly phoenix, what will happen once it reaches grand completion?" An outsider asked.

"Isn't that what Sacred Luan had? His bloodline evolved and reached the phoenix level, I'm not quite sure on the grand completion part." An ancestor responded.

Sacred Luan was the Jian's peerless ancestor who was competitive against the dao lords despite not being one. The Jian rose under his leadership and gained an everlasting foundation. It became the strongest clan in Dragon and was in control for a long period of time.

In the present, it still had an influential position on top of being in control of Phoenix Ground. This was mainly due to Sacred Luan's legacy.

One thing to note was that his bloodline evolution came after a lifetime of effort. As for Jian Qingzhu, she had gained it during her youth. Thus, it wouldn't be impossible for her to surpass the ancestor.

The rivalry between Dragon and Lion's Roar was no secret. However, most thought that Dragon was still missing something. The appearance of a new demon god might shorten the gap.

"Dragon has to keep a disciple like her around." A high elder from another clan said softly.

In reality, the demon experts felt the same way about Jian Qingzhu.

In everyone's opinion, unless she has committed an unforgivable sin, they should do everything to salvage the situation. A future demon god could take Dragon to the next height.

As for Jian Qingzhu, she and Li Qiye entered the village since no one else tried to stop them.

As the crowd thinned out, she bowed deeply and said: "Young Noble, my life is yours. I would jump into a boiling cauldron if you wish me to."

The gift was truly priceless and changed her fate entirely, hence her deep gratitude. Most importantly, she had enough sense to understand the implication - Li Qiye was able to casually give away this fate-changing opportunity.

The crowd assumed that she was close to an evolution already. They didn't get to witness the internal process at all.

However, she knew exactly what happened inside her body. His gift was something their clan pursued for eras now. Only one ancestor was successful - Sacred Luan.

His ability to do so was more astonishing than the incredible gift itself.

“My gift is one thing but how far you go is up to you.” Li Qiye said: “No one else can help you on this path.”

“I understand, I will train without complacency and bring this bloodline to grand completion.” She said respectfully.

“If that’s all you’ll do, it’s rather unambitious.” Li Qiye shook his head.

“...” She was surprised to hear this and asked: “Could you elaborate, Young Noble?”

From her point of view, becoming a great demon similar to her ancestor was amazing enough. In the past, she was a top genius of Dragon but her talent wasn’t considered supreme. She didn’t have a chance of becoming a demon god.

There have been plenty of geniuses like her in the long history of Dragon. However, with her new bloodline, becoming a demon god wasn’t particularly difficult. This made her a supreme genius, not an ordinary one.

Thus, her next goal was to perfect this bloodline and become an apex existence. Strangely enough, this didn’t seem to be enough for Li Qiye.

“What did I give you?” Li Qiye stared at her.

She answered right away: “You gave me a bloodline evolution, from an azure luan to a phoenix bloodline.”

“The bloodline evolution is supplementary.” He smiled: “For example, learning the arts and techniques of Buddhism is supplementary to Buddhist cultivation, merely byproducts of the process.”

“Only a byproduct?” She became stunned again. The bloodline evolution would probably be her crowning achievement - the defining legacy of her life.

Now, it was only a byproduct in his opinion?

“You-young Noble, what did you gift me then? Please excuse my foolishness and guide me.” She broke out in cold sweat since she found her assessment to be inaccurate. She didn’t understand the true meaning of the gift.

“What I gave you is the innate gift of the phoenix.” He explained.

“What would that be, I have never heard of it before, Young Noble.” She inquired again.

“It’s not your fault, the world has never seen a phoenix before, let alone knowing more about it.” He chuckled.

Chapter 4403: Truth Of The Gift

“So what is this innate gift?” She asked again.

“Divine beasts do not exist in this world so you haven’t seen them.” He said.

“Yes, true dragons and phoenixes.” She had heard about the divine beasts before.

“There are different names for them, dragons, phoenixes, kun penguins, and many others. We simply don’t see them in Eight Desolaces but they are around. Where do you think their power comes from?”

“Their bloodline?” She blurted out the most obvious answer before correcting herself: “Ah, you’re referring to their innate gift?”

He nodded and said: “That’s one way to put it when we’re talking about their source.”

“So the innate gift of the phoenix is...” She murmured.

“It is rebirth. It is not limited to the bloodline, it’ll serve as the source of your dao and power.” He elaborated.

“So this innate gift is greater than the bloodline.” She seemed to be understanding more and more.

“The power of the bloodline stemmed from this innate gift. It is everything, the source of what is considered a phoenix. If you were to only learn the grand completion bloodline, that would be a superficial level of knowledge.” He nodded.

“Superficial?” She shuddered after hearing this. The grand completion bloodline alone was enough to make her a peerless demon god. How could this be superficial?

“What would be the result of actually learning the gift in totality?” She asked.

“I’m sure you haven’t met a divine beast.” He brought this up.

“No.” She shook her head: “I don’t think anyone has seen them before.”

“They are considered the strongest beasts, far beyond the reach of this world. Can you imagine how powerful they are?” He elaborated.

This was something she couldn’t answer due to a lack of knowledge. However, it seemed that just obtaining a bloodline was incredible enough.

Their ancestor had accomplished so much by obtaining the phoenix bloodline. What about the real divine beast with all of its arsenal ready?

“They must be unbeatable.” She said.

He chuckled in response: “The innate gift is in your mind, a treasure awaiting your excavation. You don’t need to focus on anything else, just this alone is enough.”

She gradually understood that her phoenix bloodline right now was not worthy of pride. It was only the beginning; there was still a long way to go in the future.

“It is a blessing of three lifetimes to receive your grace, Young Noble.” She prostrated, thinking that words weren’t enough to show her gratitude.

He accepted her grand gesture and said: “I fancy those with intelligence and wisdom, they allow one to reach the dao. Talent and power alone do not elevate one above the rest.”

She memorized his guidance and led him into the village. It only had several dozen households or so.

There must be countless villages like it around City of Demons. They walked around and searched the houses for Ancient Pheasant.

Strangely enough, the villagers didn't find the presence of their saintess surprising. They acted rather indifferent toward her. It was because these mortals have seen demons and disciples of Dragon before. However, they didn't know anything about Ancient Pheasant.

Thus, the duo searched the entire village to no avail.

"What should we do? Father was certain that we would be able to find him here." Qingzhu mused.

"Try his method." Li Qiye smiled and wasn't in a hurry at all.

Qingzhu then remembered the monkey king's advice - follow the rooster's crow.

"I'll give it a shot." She sat down in the meditative pose and focused.

She entered a state of zen and everything became silent. As for Li Qiye, he closed his eyes with a smirk on his face; he didn't care if they could find Ancient Pheasant or not.

After a while, she suddenly heard a crow. It didn't come through the ear but rather, through the mind.

"Over there!" She stood up and pointed over yonder.

"Let's go take a look then." He opened his eyes and agreed.

Suddenly, war horns interrupted them. It wasn't overly loud but everyone in the city could hear them.

"Hmm?" Qingzhu stared in the direction of the city and became startled.

Other disciples felt the same way and stopped their tasks.

"It's a summoning horn." They calmed down and assessed the situation.

This was a unique horn to Dragon. Its purpose was to summon all nearby disciples. They were required to run back regardless of their current mission.

"What is happening?" This question was on everyone's mind.

"It's been decades since the last summoning call." One expert said.

"Are we under attack?" A junior asked around for information. However, this certainly didn't seem to be the case.

"Dragon is recalling its members." Outsiders took note of this as well.

"Something big must be happening." One disciple said as he ran back to the sect.

Chapter 4404: A Rooster

Jian Qingzhu was stirred as well because it has been several decades now. For a powerful sect like Dragon, only an all-out invasion or an unprecedented crisis would necessitate this summoning call. For example, the death of an ancestor or the coronation of a new sect master.

Hesitation arose because her current perspective didn't align with the sect's. However, she was still a member of Dragon and would support it if necessary.

As disciples speculated while running back, another war horn sounded along with drums.

Lights appeared among the three branches and the city became illuminated. This felt like a celebration more than anything.

"Wait, it's something good?" Returners became curious after they saw colored banners and lanterns.

"A prestigious guest is coming." Someone spread this message.

Everyone became curious right away. The three branches were working together for the reception? This was rather astonishing.

Given Dragon's current status and power, few were qualified for this treatment. Prestigious sect masters were usually only taken care of by one branch at a time. Not even the king of Lion's Roar warranted this reception.

"Who is it?" Outsiders became curious.

"A top master is coming?" Even disciples from Dragon couldn't find the answer.

"I think it has to be the king of Lion's Roar." An older cultivator stated.

"I don't think so, a big shot from True Immortal, Three Thousand Dao, or Central Ground is more likely."

"I'm sure it is someone exceptional for Dragon to put so much effort into the reception." This was the consensus. Dragon, one of the strongest sects in Eastern Desolace, has hosted plenty of top masters before. Ordinary ancestors couldn't enjoy this treatment.

Jian Qingzhu heaved a sigh of relief after seeing this. She didn't need to worry since no invaders were attacking.

"Over there." She headed deeper into the village.

The duo arrived at a hill at the end of the village. It had verdant trees but didn't look special otherwise. It lacked spirituality and an impressive appearance.

However, she noticed an old hut on top of it. It has been there for who knows how many years. There was no lock and it was creaking to the wind.

She entered and didn't see anyone, only a kitchen stove made out of clay. She went back out and saw a few chickens.

Some were searching for food in the grass; others rested beneath a tree's shade; more were just playing around. They were certainly having a good time.

"There's no one here." She released her divine intent throughout the hill and couldn't find anyone.

"But this is the right place." Though disappointed, she still didn't give up and tried to search again.

"I'm sure this is the right place." Both the monkey king and her father had guided her to this village.

“Phoenix Ground is in a crisis. I, a member of the Jian, respectfully ask for an audience, Ancestor.” She got on her knees and bowed in all four directions.

She was certain that he was in the village and watching. He just didn’t wish to interact with them.

It wasn’t a rare occurrence at all. Most top ancestors were buried in the sect; only the big shots could come to visit them.

However, a few roamed freely in the sect and didn’t interact with anyone. Not even the strongest members of the sect had a clue.

For example, this was the case for Nine-tailed God. Dragon had lost contact with him completely. Fortunately, the three ancient demons weren’t so elusive.

The demon monarchs still knew their current whereabouts. The issue was whether Ancient Pheasant would take the time to talk to disciples.

“Ancestor, please grant me an audience.” Qingzhu didn’t give up.

Li Qiye eventually lost his patience and said: “Enough, let me do it.”

“Boom!” He raised his hand and released the power of the grand dao. Laws manifested around his palm as he reached for a rooster sitting on top of a tree branch.

“Boom!” The rooster suddenly pulsed with five different colored lights.

“Alright, alright, stop!” The rooster suddenly spoke with an ancient voice.

“Ancestor!” Qingzhu immediately kneeled again.

“Rise, no need for formalities.” The rooster shook its head.

Chapter 4405: Ancient Pheasant

The three ancient demons were the strongest sovereigns in Dragon right now, putting Nine-tailed God aside.

One came from each of the three branches, forming a balance of power for eras now.

Ancient Pheasant naturally came from Phoenix Ground. Some believed that he was from the Jian and had an azure luan bloodline. Though it wasn’t at the phoenix level, it was still immensely mighty.

These turned out to be false rumors. He was not from the Jian nor was he a descendant of the phoenix bloodline, just a simple pheasant born on a treasure peak.

However, there was an ancient bloodline sealed within him. Because of this, an old ancestor from Dragon brought him back to Phoenix Ground and taught him the dao.

This went on for several generations and the pheasant’s bloodline eventually awakened. He became intelligent and gained a human form.

He didn't let down his natural constitution and the effort of the demon ancestors. His cultivation soared instantly and he swept through his peers. After he made his dao debut and left Dragon, he defeated numerous masters.

Eventually, his title became Ancient Pheasant - one of the three ancient demons of Dragon.

Jian Qingzhu had heard about his legends before. She thought that he would have an impressive appearance and aura. For example, her father had a divine and intimidating glow with many colors.

However, this ancestor looked like a regular rooster. There was no surging vitality and energy.

No one from Dragon would think that he was their ancient ancestor, only livestock belonging to a villager.

This was a testament to how well Ancient Pheasant hid his aura. Nonetheless, Li Qiye still spotted him.

"Come inside, everyone." Ancient Pheasant invited the two back into the hut.

The rooster spoke while strutting forward. Jian Qingzhu who followed right behind found this rather amusing.

After they were inside the hut, Ancient Pheasant waved its wing and the hut suddenly changed position.

Once Qingzhu regained her wits, she found that they were standing on a peak with clouds, fog, and ample spirit energy just like a paradise.

"Wow, this place is..." She murmured.

"It's my true home, the hut was only an entrance." Ancient Pheasant said.

Without Ancient Pheasant's guidance, Qingzhu wouldn't have been able to find this place.

The peak was refreshing and bright. The occasional breezes made it quite pleasant and carried the aroma of the freshly brewed tea prepared by Ancient Pheasant.

Qingzhu hurriedly poured the tea for both Li Qiye and the ancestor. This was her duty as a junior.

"The tea might not be up to par, but please still give it a taste, Sir." Ancient Pheasant invited.

Li Qiye didn't show any reservation and took a sip. He then nodded approvingly.

The two of them enjoyed the tea for a bit before Qingzhu spoke: "Ancestor, my father is imprisoned..."

"I'm aware." The demon waved his sleeve and said: "He only lost his freedom and isn't in any danger."

"You knew?" Qingzhu was surprised at first but then again, Ancient Pheasant was still staying in the sect. He had enough power to know everything that was going on in Dragon.

"Ancestor, do you mean that we can't save him right now? He is absolutely loyal to the sect and has contributed greatly for years now." She wasn't exaggerating his accomplishments. Phoenix Ground has prospered under his reign without facing any danger.

"It's not a big deal to release him." Ancient Pheasant said: "Sir, what do you think about this?"

“This is your sect’s problem, I’m not interested in offering advice.” Li Qiye smiled and took another sip of tea.

“Ancestor, you’ve figured everything out already?” She asked.

“Don’t flatter me, little one. I know you’re smart already.” The demon smiled wryly.

“What should we do to solve the current conflict then?” Qingzhu bowed.

The imprisonment of Goldbird Monarch has created a rift between Phoenix Ground and Dragon. It appeared that Dragon was challenging its sovereignty and this could escalate at any moment.

In order to prevent needless bloodshed, Goldbird Monarch willingly put himself under house arrest, hoping to quell any potential issue for now.

“Goldbird is wise, it’s just that Peacock has been too famous and ambitious recently. He’s reckless and arrogant, not knowing that there is always a higher mountain.” Ancient Pheasant said.

“Only wisdom can maintain peace.” Li Qiye interjected.

“You’re right, Sir, it’s just that Goldbird can’t influence Peacock, sigh...” The demon smiled wryly.

Qingzhu could tell that Ancient Pheasant held her father in high regard, maybe going as far as supporting him to be their sect master.

It’s just that he wasn’t as strong as Peacock. His talent exceeded the other three demon monarchs.

He had power, talent, and even contributions to the sect. If Goldbird had been chosen as the sect master, Peacock and many other disciples wouldn’t accept it.

Moreover, Dragon Platform certainly had supported him in the past.

“Everything about Peacock is excellent, with the exception of pride and arrogance.” The demon said: “The sect has high hopes for him since he is the most likely among the young generation to break myriad dao.”

“Myriad Sovereign?” Qingzhu asked.

“Yes. I don’t think Goldbird has a chance.” The demon responded.

Myriad was the level above Golden. Ten dao were originally perfect, hence the name “golden”. The difference between these two levels was immense - the difference between ten and ten thousand.

Most sovereigns could never reach this level despite trying for a lifetime.

Chapter 4406: I Want It

There was no end to Peacock Monarch’s grand dao currently. He still had plenty of years left, unlike most ancestors. Their vitality weakened, hence an inability to improve their cultivation.

On the other hand, the young monarch still had plenty of room for improvement. There was a chance for him to reach the myriad or even the supreme level.

He would live longer than the three ancient demons and would assume this position later on. The sect master post was only temporary.

Because of these advantages, the upper echelon held him in high regard. He became virtually untouchable in Dragon.

Jian Qingzhu naturally understood this as well after listening to Ancient Pheasant.

“So we should leave my father be for now?” Qingzhu asked. She didn’t care about the political contest, only wanting to save her father and preserve his reputation.

“It’s not a pressing matter right now.” Ancient Pheasant said: “Taking him out is easy but it’ll escalate the situation.” He shook his head after saying this.

He then stared at Li Qiye and asked: “What should we do, Sir?”

“As I’ve said, I’ll just be killing whoever is in my way. I’m here with matters to take care of and don’t mind killing a few.” Li Qiye smiled.

Ancient Pheasant smiled wryly, not knowing what to say.

“The juniors were blind and have offended you. Could you forgive them?” He asked.

“It’s just a peacock. Just kill him, talents are useless if he’ll bring nothing but trouble to the sect.” Li Qiye smiled.

“Well...” Ancient Pheasant didn’t expect such a blunt response.

As an ancient ancestor, the demon didn’t agree with everything Peacock Monarch did. Nonetheless, he still considered Peacock to be a good seed and a pillar for the future.

However, Li Qiye was right. Pride and arrogance could be a source of downfall not only for Peacock but all of Dragon.

In this split moment, he also got the feeling that Li Qiye was unstoppable. They or any other behemoth had no chance of stopping him.

“A peacock has limited future. I like her more.” Li Qiye pointed at Jian Qingzhu. Just this one phrase alone has changed Qingzhu’s fate.

The demon started thinking. In terms of raw talent, Qingzhu was obviously inferior. However, she had gained the peerless phoenix bloodline. This might be enough to influence the current train of thought in Dragon.

“Kill him and let the girl take his spot.” Li Qiye concluded.

This nonchalant comment sounded as if he was talking about the weather. Alas, it prophesied a potential massacre and would change everything about Dragon.

Only those who understood his power would know that he was not messing around.

For the larger sects, changing the sect master was a monumental event. In Dragon's case, it required the approval of numerous ancestors. The balance of power was rather delicate so such a thing wouldn't be easy.

This didn't stop Li Qiye from being decisive in changing Dragon's future direction. It was either to obey or face destruction.

"We-we musn't!" Ancient Pheasant became startled.

Killing Peacock would create an unfixable rift. Dragon would suffer serious losses, being unable to rise for a long period of time. Of course, this didn't matter to Li Qiye.

"Young Noble, please don't." Qingzhu joined in. She had no ambition of wanting to replace Peacock; her only goal was to save her father.

Moreover, she didn't want to embark on a path filled with bloodshed. One could say that becoming the sect master required stepping on the bones of fellow sect members.

"I've been rather patient with your sect's internal problems. I'm only here to take what I want, no question." He said.

"What do you want, Sir?" Ancient Pheasant asked.

"Outside of entering Tiger Pond's secret area, I also want the thing left behind by your progenitor in Dragon Platform. Oh, and the palace as well." He revealed.

"..." Ancient Pheasant was at a loss for words.

Entering the secret area was acceptable. However, the legacy left behind by their progenitor was the ultimate treasure of Dragon. They would never share it with an outsider.

Furthermore, Li Qiye even brought up the palace. This was another unreasonable request. Such demands could be considered a declaration of war.

"I, I think this will be difficult." He shook his head and smiled wryly.

"As I've said, I will not be negotiating." Li Qiye responded, making his point clear. If Dragon were to refuse, he would kill his way in.

Either way, Dragon was about to suffer heavy losses.

"Young Noble, could you let the ancestors talk it out?" Qingzhu said.

"Yes, it pertains to the foundation of the sect, I alone can't decide. Please give us time to deliberate, no need for violence." Ancient Pheasant took a deep breath: "How about this, please go see the geezer from Tiger Pond with me so we can negotiate."

"Sure, negotiate all you want." Li Qiye chuckled.

Chapter 4407: Future Potential

"I can certainly give you more time. Just be aware that my patience is limited. Once it runs out, don't complain that I didn't give you a chance." Li Qiye smiled.

“Perfect, perfect.” Ancient Pheasant heaved a sigh of relief after seeing the situation taking a turn for the better.

“Keep in mind that things might happen with the palace, this is an early warning.” Li Qiye added.

“Sir, please don’t take our palace away...” Ancient Pheasant’s heart skipped a beat.

Demon Realm Palace, in a sense, served as a spiritual totem for Dragon. If it were taken away one day, it could signal the decline of the sect.

Its value was impossible to gauge. Numerous top existences had tried before but for a myriad of reasons, Dragon was able to keep it in the sect.

Now, he wasn’t sure whether Li Qiye was strong enough to take the entire palace away. However, this was terrible news for the sect. If possible, he would try his best to prevent Li Qiye from doing so.

“The palace has an incredible background. Your progenitor was very lucky to obtain it. However, I don’t need to take it with me, I’ll just be taking a look.” Li Qiye elaborated.

Ancient Pheasant felt much better. Curiosity also took over.

“Sir, you actually know its origin? What is it?” He asked.

There were ample explanations and records regarding the palace. Alas, not a single one was considered to be the truth.

The palace was mentioned repeatedly as the cause of the fight between Feng Qi and Jiu Bian, resulting in mutual destruction.

The ancestors of Dragon only knew that their progenitor had sealed it in the sect. No knowledge was left behind on its actual origin, only that the progenitor had dragged it back from a different dimension.

“It does not belong to this world.” Li Qiye kept it vague then added: “This girl, let her enter.”

Jian Qingzhu heard this and immediately responded: “Young Noble, I’ve received the love of the sect and had entered before already.”

She had obtained a dao bone during the previous entry and crafted a saber with it. She was very satisfied with this result.

“You can’t compare the present with the past, try again.” Li Qiye said.

“I see.” She agreed because she felt a great change after receiving his gift.

“That’s fine. We can absolutely arrange this.” Ancient Pheasant agreed right away.

In his opinion, Jian Qingzhu was already a top talent. Moreover, her recent transformation would make her a future pillar. They needed to put more effort into grooming her so it was fine to let her enter the palace again.

In fact, Li Qiye didn’t even need to ask. The ancestors would have deliberated this issue and let her come in again.

“Ah, Sir, didn’t you bring disciples from Little Diamond with you?” Ancient Pheasant laughed and suggested: “If you don’t mind, they can also enter the palace and give it a shot.”

He wanted to please Li Qiye and make the guy owe them a favor. It would make it awkward for Li Qiye to do anything overly drastic later on.

Furthermore, the members of Little Diamond were just common cultivators. They might not get anything from the palace so, in reality, Dragon would lose nothing while Li Qiye would owe them one.

Thus, Ancient Pheasant made this decision himself without informing the other ancestors.

“One becomes quite crafty after living long enough.” Li Qiye commented.

“You’re too kind, Young Noble.” Ancient Pheasant naturally knew that Li Qiye could see through his plan. There was no point in denying it.

“Your disciple must be unique as well, he should also enter.” Jian Qingzhu suggested.

“It doesn’t matter that much.” Li Qiye smiled.

“Mmm?” Qingzhu found this strange. Li Qiye was acting rather nonchalant about his own disciple and didn’t give him anything special. On the other hand, he gave a stranger like her an incredible fortune.

“He’s different from you.” Li Qiye explained: “An unsculpted grand dao embarking on an endless journey, all he needs to do is maintain his conviction and dao heart, his future achievement will be far greater than yours.”

“A disciple of yours must certainly be a true dragon.” Qingzhu had no problem with this assessment.

However, she was still confused because she had seen Wang Weiqiao before. He was only a regular cultivator at best.

She didn’t understand why he recruited him as a disciple. Other top masters only picked the best possible geniuses, not Li Qiye.

Others might criticize him for mistreating his own disciple while favoring outsiders more, that he wasn’t performing his duty as a master.

Furthermore, she wondered about Li Qiye’s assessment. How successful would Wang Weiqiao be in the future?

She believed that she had a chance of surpassing her ancestor - Sacred Luan. No one else would think that Wang Weiqiao could outdo Jian Qingzhu.

“I hope to see your disciple soon.” Ancient Pheasant became interested as well.

Li Qiye only smiled in response.

“Sir, do you wish to go to Tiger Pond to see the old geezer now?” Ancient Pheasant ordered Jian Qingzhu to return to the sect and wanted to travel to Tiger Pond with Li Qiye alone.

The older geezer was known as Ancient Lion. With his permission, Li Qiye would have no trouble entering the secret area of Tiger Pond.

Li Qiye agreed since he had no problem with this arrangement.

Meanwhile, the grand ceremony was still commencing back in the city.

Clouds appeared in the sky along with fluttering banners. They came together to form a path spanning a thousand miles above and stretching towards the horizon.

Disciples of Dragon stood to the side while holding their sect's banner.

Spectators became emotional after seeing this. Dragon was truly going all out with this reception.

"The esteemed guest is coming." Someone murmured.

"That's putting it lightly, I've been here for a century and never saw anything like this before." An expert said.

"Must be a prestigious big shot." A high elder commented.

"I think less than ten people deserve this type of treatment in all of Sky Border." Another counted with his fingers.

"I know who it is!" A cultivator with a good information network found the answer.

Chapter 4408: Five-sun King

"Five-sun King is the guest." He revealed this to the group.

"Five-sun? From Eastern Desolace?" The group became emotional.

"Seriously?" Disciples from Dragon shuddered as well.

"We get to see Five-sun King today?" The youths became excited.

This went double for the female disciples. One of them nearly jumped up and shouted: "We're going to see Five-sun King! He's one of the most brilliant geniuses right now, a true conqueror of this generation!"

"A true dragon among men. Why is he here, maybe he wants to pick a queen from Dragon?" Another female disciple's eyes turned into hearts.

Gossips could be heard everywhere. The members of Dragon were truly ecstatic and considered this a great honor.

"Why is he visiting Dragon?" A last-gen expert from another sect became startled.

"Is he that strong?" Someone from a small sect didn't know anything outside of Southern Desolace.

"He can be considered the supreme in Eastern Desolace." An ancestor explained.

"Yes, he is the rising sun there right now." A clan member added.

A cultivator from Eastern Desolace became sentimental: "He is absolutely unmatched right now. He has united the fragmented land once more."

“Many ancient clans from there have decided to support him in becoming the next dao lord.” A member from a clan there added.

Eastern Desolace was the oldest continent in Sky Border. It used to be the most prosperous with numerous behemoths and dao lords.

For example, the Pure Yang Clan had dominated for eras. The Three Schools of Void Imperfection were invincible as well. Then there was Skyvine Citadel and Eternal River School...

The golden age of this continent belonged to the Pure Yang Clan and its founder - Pure Yang Dao Lord. They protected the world from many ominous events and entities. This clan had the same position in the east as Lion’s Roar did in the south.

As time passed, it produced fewer and fewer insightful descendants. Later on, the clan suddenly decided to close its doors and stopped interacting with the outside world. They fell into obscurity as a result. The other behemoths eventually followed suit and disappeared from sight.

Keep in mind that this continent was once known as the Continent of Mortal Emperors. Alas, the disappearance of these behemoths caused quite a blow to this old land.

Though more talents and sects rose up afterward, none could compare to the Pure Yang Clan. This meant that the land was divided and lacked a central authoritative figure.

The rise of Five-sun King gave them hope again. He came from Five-sun School, a lineage with two dao lords.

Rumor has it that he was blessed with a peerless constitution, possessing the legendary Sky Eagle bloodline at birth on top of a heaven-level true fate. He was certainly the heaven’s favorite and he lived up to these gifts.

At a very young age, he was already in the golden avatar level and became a potential heir to the throne of the dao lord. Moreover, he visited many ancient clans in Eastern Desolace and impressed them with his intelligence.

Many ancestors appeared to support him. Because of this alliance, it didn’t take long before he became the lord of Eastern Desolace.

“Is he here to form an alliance with Dragon?” One expert analyzed.

“That’s a possibility.” One high elder responded: “The east and south are connected and he’s here with many ancestors too. Looks like he is representing Eastern Desolace on this trip...”

Others agreed with him. The current force of the king could certainly represent Eastern Desolace.

“An alliance would solidify Dragon’s status in the south.” Another elder whispered.

Others exchanged glances. This alliance could boost Dragon’s influence enough to potentially replace Lion’s Roar. In fact, this has been a relatively popular opinion in recent years.

“So we got ourselves a fun show.” One spectator concluded.

“I heard some big shots came along too.” A member of Eastern Desolace said.

“The three saints?” A clan member asked.

“Not sure about the three saints, but I know some from the eight paragons are here.” The member had good sources.

Three saints, eight paragons, thirty-six sovereigns - these were the strongest groups under Five-sun King.

The three saints were three ancient ancestors from the various clans. The rest also belonged to the top powers in Eastern Desolace. This was a testament to his popularity.

“Well, if any of them are here, then something big is definitely happening.” Everyone in the city was talking about this event.

“How many in all of Sky Border can actually compete with Five-sun King?” A young fan said with full admiration.

“Well, he’s one of the five young conquerors right now. He does have rivals and might not become the ultimate victor. For example, True Immortal Conqueror is matchless.” A knowledgeable expert responded.

“O-” A loud horn in the three branches sounded. This was the greeting horn.

Three battalions from the three branches emerged and lined up in a magnificent manner. Thousands and thousands of demons floated in the air at the end of the pathway to greet their guests.

“What a grand ceremony.” Outsiders were in awe, especially those from smaller sects.

“It’s not just Five-sun King but many other big shots from Eastern Desolace too. This welcoming ceremony makes sense.” One of them said.

“Look, the ancestors from the three branches are up there.” Another whispered, realizing how big of a deal this was.

Chapter 4409: Esteemed Guests’ Arrival

“Rumble!” Continuous detonations came from the horizon.

Flames and lights took over along with billowing clouds. An expedition appeared before the spectators.

They looked like they were moving slowly but in actuality, they were traveling at astonishing speed.

The vanguard consisted of eight rows of cavalries. The horses galloped and crushed the sky, leaving behind hoof prints.

There was only a thousand or so cavalries but it still gave the appearance of being a tsunami of steel, capable of crushing all resistance.

Next came the main force. They were accompanied by auspicious clouds and green mists while marching in a classical style.

It consisted a hundred thousand troops hailing from various sects, evident by the diverse banners blotting out the sun.

There were fierce beasts and birds, ancestors with incredible auras, chariots with ultimate offensive potential...

One unique group had elephants with pagodas placed on their back. White-haired men could be seen sitting on the balconies.

Another had a gigantic red hawk. The gaze of its red eyes resembled crimson rays. The gales emanating from its flapping wings could tear the flesh off bones. Five red-robed ancestors stood on its back, looking rather intimidating.

One group of auspicious clouds had a great demon king meditating in the center. A treasure sword was placed on top of his knees. It had a chilling aura, always ready to pierce the heart.

“So many representatives from Eastern Desolace.” The spectators below were shocked to see the force.

This was grander than their expectation. Moreover, these powers brought influential characters and ancestors, not just regular disciples.

It became apparent how important this visit was and the reason why Dragon took it so seriously with the ceremonious reception.

“Rumble!” One particular chariot was pulled by nine pairs of radiant auspicious beasts. Their glow fully radiated the surroundings.

One could tell that they were incredibly powerful. The chariot itself had countless engraved runes and jeweled tassels. The laws echoing from it were harmonious just like a dao melody, enough to make others immerse in it and forget themselves.

On top was an old man sitting cross-legged. His outfit was a golden robe with a five-clawed dragon.

His expression was dignified and commanded respect.

“That’s the previous master of Five-sun School.” Someone from Eastern Desolace recognized him and said softly.

“Five-sun King’s father.” Another added.

He wasn’t an exceptional sect master at all, not one worth remembering. However, there was one thing he did that would be remembered by everyone - fathering Five-sun King.

He had great pride in his matchless son. Thus, he abdicated his position and let his son take over instead.

The boy didn’t let him down and the sect prospered under his leadership for the last several decades, looking to become the top dog of the east.

“What an entourage, there can’t be a greater representation of the east than this.” Many spectators were in awe.

“This is Five-sun King’s brilliant charisma. Even the ancient clans are willing to send their members southward.” A demon said with admiration.

Even the reclusive high elders and ancestors from the ancient clans have shown themselves in public for the king's sake.

"Where is Five-sun King?" One spectator asked.

"He's coming later." A clan member in the know answered.

The atmosphere brimmed with excitement due to the rare event.

"Screech!" A colorful radiance appeared and a peacock flew out of it. It had a long tail and spread its wings, leaving behind an afterimage.

The bird then turned into a middle-aged man with rays behind him arranged in the shape of a peacock spreading its tail.

He had an imposing gaze and a billowing regal aura, looking as if he was the only significant person in the world.

Everyone took a deep breath after seeing this wondrous cultivator.

"Peacock Monarch!" Many shouted his title.

"Sect Master!" The members of Dragon kneeled.

No ancestors dared to look down on this rising genius. Though many of them were stronger, he was far younger and more talented. It was only a matter of time before he surpass them.

He personally appeared to greet this envoy. The ancestors from the other side also got out of their carriages and stood straight up. Even the previous sect master of Five-sun did the same.

"It is an honor to be your host, fellow daoists." Peacock Monarch cupped his fist, acting quite appropriate to the occasion.

They returned the gesture. The previous sect master of Five-sun came over and grabbed the king's hand: "My horizon is broadened after seeing you, Monarch. You do live up to your reputation."

"You're too kind, Ex-master. Five-sun King is the peerless genius of our time." Peacock Monarch said.

The sect master became spirited after hearing such praise. He arched his chest and said: "No way, he is far from being peerless since he's only one of the five conquerors."

"He has the disposition of a dao lord already." Peacock added.

The sect master was ecstatic to hear such a famous cultivator praising his son and pride.

Chapter 4410: Five-sun King's Arrival

The force of the east received a grand reception from Dragon and Peacock Monarch. Spectators have seen something unprecedented before but unfortunately, they still felt unsatisfied.

"We haven't seen the conqueror yet, what a shame." One youth complained.

"Yes, the future dao lord, it would be nice to catch a glimpse." Even a last-gen cultivator agreed.

After all, Five-sun King was an official heir - qualified to become a dao lord in the future. Seeing a dao lord during his youth would be the topic of a lifetime.

Alas, it seemed like he wasn't part of the current convoy.

"Don't worry, something good will happen soon." A crowd member said.

"What are you talking about?" Those nearby became confused.

"The king wants to preach the dao." The guy revealed, causing the crowd to clamor.

Sure enough, a message came from Dragon Platform a while later - Five-sun King will preach the dao in the front square. All guests are welcomed.

A storm immediately took over the city after this.

"A public dao lecture? The whole world will benefit from this." One cultivator became excited.

Everyone in City of Demons became eager to come and listen.

"Is this actually worth it?" One skeptic said.

An expert nearby immediately retorted: "Absolutely, this is an heir of a great power, a being capable of becoming a dao lord in the future. You will benefit from listening, no doubt about that."

"Yes, It's not just that, Dragon is very generous this time too." One big shot from the last generation said.

First, Five-sun King was qualified to perform a public dao preach. He had surpassed the young generation and many ancestors in terms of grand dao comprehension.

Most wouldn't want to share their enlightenment with the rest of the world. Thus, this was rather selfless of him.

Furthermore, Dragon was letting him use the square in front of Demon Realm Palace. This square was large enough to accommodate countless cultivators.

It was completely packed before the start of the lecture. Spectators could see the palace floating in the air.

The area was perfect for a dao lecture - a combination between a priceless treasure and a peerless genius.

This dao lecture was too tempting so everyone came early in order to grab a good spot, awaiting the event.

It included members of Dragons and even outsiders, whether it be those from large or small sects. The latter didn't want to miss this opportunity and tried their best to come. This was a rare chance for them to learn.

"Clank!" On the right date, a ceremony also started with Peacock Monarch leading the way. The esteemed guests from the east followed right behind him.

Powerful auras swept through the square and made everyone put on a serious expression.

It was incredible for so many big shots to come only to listen to Five-sun King. The crowd no longer dared to speak loudly.

Of course, this wasn't an issue of giving face. Five-sun King's lecture could actually benefit them. Many ancestors were far older than him but he might actually be stronger.

Time passed slowly and the sun rose. However, Five-sun King was still nowhere to be found.

Initially, everyone waited patiently due to the dignified nature of the event and the big shots present. Alas, some started becoming impatient.

"Why isn't he here yet?" One youth asked.

"Be patient!" A senior pushed his head down and glared at him.

The junior knew better than to test the wrath of his senior so he kept his mouth shut afterward.

Peacock Monarch frowned slightly after seeing this. Though Five-sun King was one of the five conquerors, Peacock Monarch was also a supreme genius worshipped by many.

He asked the previous sect master of Five-sun: "May I ask when Virtuous Nephew is coming?"

"Soon, very soon." The sect master responded despite not actually knowing the answer.

"Boom!" Suddenly, the sky was treated like a golden gong. Something massive struck it, resulting in a blast waking everyone up.

Space rippled and a dao portal manifested into reality. Several dozen armored men appeared and lined up like an impregnable wall of steel. They were tall and completely covered in plates. Only their eyes could be seen. Their weapon of choice was the sword.

Though they simply stood there, their aggression and bloodlust were palpable. They resembled heavenly soldiers and demanded others to look up at them.

"Five-sun Iron Guardians!" One cultivator shouted in astonishment.

"The king is coming!" Others knew what was going on.

These men were personal guards of Five-sun King. They had accompanied him to numerous battlefields. Their presence meant that he was here as well.

The area in the center of the formation became engulfed in lightning bolts. This made it hard for people to keep their eyes open.

"Boom!" Eventually, a great figure landed on the square, causing a violent quake.

A devastating aura blew away the clouds and shocked the audience. Everyone felt an unbearable pressure pressing down on them.

"Five-sun King!" All eyes were on this figure.