

Emperor 4621

Chapter 4621: Who Else But Me?

“That’s the qualities of someone from a prestigious sect. Such wisdom at an early age, he will become someone great.” A high elder praised.

“True.” A sect master nodded in agreement: “Even if he won’t succeed the valley, he’ll still be a commendable lord of a region.” Divine Dragon Valley reigned over hundreds of sects and kingdoms. The most likely successor was none other than Tian Feng, a potential dao lord.

Given his current talent and power, the majority of his ancestors supported him to be the next leader of Divine Dragon. In reality, the official succession wasn’t far away.

Jadedragon Monarch should be proud of his own abilities and achievements. He was only slightly inferior to the five conquerors.

For example, Voidburn Godchild was a famous cultivator but still couldn’t compete with Jadedragon Monarch. Alas, the conquerors were just on another level.

When people talked about Divine Dragon Valley, they couldn’t help talking about Tian Feng. This didn’t mean that Jadedragon Monarch was incapable.

Since the crowd has spoken, this left the first elder of Voidburn in a tough situation. He wanted to avenge their godchild in order to answer to his sect. Alas, doing so would invoke the scorn of everyone here, damaging both his and the sect’s reputation.

“I would have no grievance if it was an even fight. However, you have cheated to kill our godchild, this is an unforgivable offense.” The first elder threatened.

“We cheated? Who was the first to use the Skyburn Flame to empower your godchild? How shameless.” Jian Ming retorted.

“You!” The first elder turned red with no response.

“He’s right, you were the first to interfere.” An expert in the crowd said: “Then they get to do it too. You broke the rule first.”

“At least lose gracefully, you’re ruining Voidburn Court’s reputation.” Others chimed in since they weren’t afraid of this sect.

“First Elder, the fight was indeed fair earlier.” Jadedragon Monarch nodded: “To dwell on this disparages Voidburn and Divine Dragon Valley’s reputation.”

The crowd was silenced after hearing this. They stared at the first elder, awaiting a decision. It was better not to comment now that Divine Dragon Valley was dragged into the mess.

The first elder’s expression soured. He wasn’t in a position to go against the monarch. Moreover, due to their alliance, Divine Dragon Valley’s reputation could be hurt as well.

“Fine.” He swallowed this anger and went with the flow. He then utterly coldly at Jian Ming: “I will remember what happened here today. Come to Voidburn if you dare in the future, this isn’t over yet.”

He needed to have the cool last words before leaving or it would be too pathetic.

"I'm so scared." Jian Ming said this but his appearance was anything but.

The first elder scowled once and then left the battlefield.

"Young Noble Jian, your sword technique earlier was enlightening." Ye Tingrong sincerely praised.

"It's no big deal, it's no big deal." He smiled awkwardly instead of bragging about his skills.

"Brat, where is this sword art from? Also, what is this bloodline?" The daoist became curious.

"Don't you know everything?" Jian Ming said proudly: "I dare you to read my fortune."

His attitude toward the daoist was a stark contrast to how he responded to Ye Tingrong.

"You're not worth it." The daoist didn't give him any face.

These two have always quarreled and Jian Ming never gave a damn regardless of what the daoist said. However, it was different in Ye Tingrong's presence.

"Let's go inside." Li Qiye smiled and shook his head: "Times are different now, just about any random can come and propose a marriage alliance. Even if they want the treasure, they need to take a look in the mirror first before embarrassing themselves."

This casual yet loud comment offended everyone but Jian Ming clapped and added: "You're completely right, Young Noble. Randoms don't know their place anymore."

He fanned the fire and infuriated everyone. The latter was about to leave since the battle was over but now, they had a new enemy.

"Brat, what did you say?" One genius glared at them.

"Was I not being clear enough? You all are not worthy of the treasure." Li Qiye calmly responded.

The crowd was furious, wanting to stomp him down.

"Trouble comes from the mouth, watch it." Someone else uttered menacingly.

"Join the long line of those who want to kill me, I don't mind." Li Qiye smiled.

"Hah, you speak as if you're the only one worthy of the treasure." A saint child sneered.

"Yes, who else but me?" Li Qiye replied.

"Ignorant fool, True Immortal and Three Thousand Dao are here too. They can obliterate you." A genius angrily said.

"I would like to see them try." Li Qiye nonchalantly said.

The atmosphere became silent again after this declaration.

Chapter 4622: True Immortal Spirit

The conversation stopped since they didn't wish to gossip about the behemoths. These sects were unbeatable and could destroy just about anyone.

It was best not to antagonize them, let alone oppose them. No one wanted death or even worse, clan or sect extermination.

Some cultivators might be fearless enough to take the risk personally. Alas, they had to think about their families and fellow sect members.

Therefore, they exchanged glances after hearing Li Qiye's overbearing comment.

"Why would he offend two behemoths together?" One expert calmed down and whispered. Just one alone was problematic enough.

"Friend, you have quite an attitude." A dignified voice echoed in waves and suffocated listeners.

Just the words alone showed how powerful the speaker was. It seemed that he could roar and take down a city wall.

Radiance pulsed in and out and eventually, a youth walked out from the center. He wore silver armor with flowing runes on the surface. The shoulder plates resembled wings. He had a seal between his eyebrows, one belonging to the charming spirit race.

The seal was rather obvious as if it has been carved into the bones and the soul. This was proof of his power, enough to contend against anyone in the young generation.

"True Immortal Spirit!" The mass recognized him.

"One of the Six Stars of True Immortal." One youth blurted out.

"Wow, look at him..." A female disciple couldn't hide her admiration.

There was no doubt that True Immortal Spirit's fame, power, and likeability far exceeded Voidbur Godchild.

"So he's the candidate for marriage from True Immortal." Everyone understood right away.

"That shows that they're rather sincere with the proposal." Old experts admitted this.

Other suitors saw him and became dejected. One of them said: "Looks like it's decided already, Golden Gate can't refuse."

The current True Immortal had plenty of geniuses. The most brilliant were referred to as the Six Stars and True Immortal Spirit was one of them.

"He's a direct disciple of Heavenseal Ancient Ancestor, a higher-ranking member among the six too. His master adores him so he is a prominent member of the sect. The fact that he is here in person speaks plenty." Another said.

Among the Six Stars, True Immortal Young Emperor was naturally at the top. The master's disciple, Six-winged Emissary, didn't even make the list. From this, one could see how exceptional their young generation was.

True Immortal Spirit wasn't an ordinary disciple either. He was a direct disciple of Heavenseal Ancient Ancestor.

Just this alone indicated greatness. He didn't let his master down either and eventually surpassed his peers.

"I have to admit that True Immortal Spirit is more than enough to be a good candidate, Miss Ye." The daoist told Ye Tingrong.

"Right." She admitted because this was objectively true.

"True Immortal is serious about this." Paramount Scion said.

She only sighed and smiled wryly. In terms of power, her sect would be climbing up True Immortal in a potential marriage alliance. Nonetheless, they sent one of their Six Prodigies, not a regular member.

In fact, numerous female disciples would love to have a similar marriage situation. Alas, Ye Tingrong felt rather conflicted.

She didn't hate True Immortal Spirit since they had only met a few times. She only hated being used as a tool and not having control of her own fate.

Most importantly, True Immortal was scheming for her ancestor's treasure so the matter was more complicated and sinister.

If they were to refuse to hand the treasure over, their in-laws might no longer be friendly and would choose to speak using the blades.

On the other hand, Jian Ming didn't like the comment. He laughed and said: "What makes him so special? He's just another tool in this marriage proposal."

"If Golden Gate doesn't have a better option, they'll most likely pick True Immortal. He is a good candidate for a son-in-law. No matter how you look at it, he is in the lead." The daoist instigated.

"Hmph, not necessarily. Miss Ye won't necessarily pick him." Jian Ming snorted.

Ye Tingrong opened her mouth but eventually refrained from speaking. She didn't want to tell others how inconsequential her opinion was in this decision. In one sense, the decision was up to Golden Gate but given the current circumstances, it was even beyond their control.

Meanwhile, True Immortal Spirit approached. His aura still pulsed like the relentless waves of an ocean hitting the face, making it hard for others to endure.

Chapter 4623: Contemptuous

True Immortal Spirit stopped and perused the scene before focusing on Li Qiye.

Everyone scanned by his gaze felt their scalp tingling. His vision alone seemed to have cut off a layer of skin from their head - not the most pleasant sensation to have.

His sharp gaze nearly had physical reactions. This was even before the activation of his power or most would be immobilized right now.

His eyes became intense as they latched onto Li Qiye. Many trembled in fear after sensing his wrath. Alas, the heart-piercing gaze didn't affect Li Qiye in the slightest. The latter patted his chest as if wanting to wipe off some dust.

This act seemed disrespectful as if implicating the True Immortal Spirit's gaze was somehow dirtying him.

"You insulted True Immortal earlier?" True Immortal Spirit's calm voice was commanding and oppressive.

"And?" Li Qiye smiled.

True Immortal Spirit narrowed his eyes, only increasing the pressure. Some of the weaker cultivators nearly dropped down on their knees. It was solely focused on Li Qiye. Otherwise, it might have made others vomit blood.

"Insulting True Immortal is a serious offense." There was something menacing about the genius' voice, reminding listeners of how death could happen at any moment.

"Doesn't seem like a big deal." Li Qiye casually responded.

Listeners took a deep breath and talked among themselves.

"Insulting True Immortal and then doubling down on it in public, that's suicidal." A youth whispered.

Li Qiye's arrogance was truly unfathomable. No, at this point, it had to be described as "contempt" for the behemoths.

Everyone here chose their words carefully when talking to members of True Immortal, not wanting to offend them. Now, Li Qiye chose a more cavalier approach.

"Does he not care about his clan?" A clan member said.

"This is nothing for him. Do you not know that he killed Six-winged Emissary in front of True Immortal Sect Master?" Someone who visited Yin Yang Crossing said.

Those nearby heard this and became astounded. True Immortal would never let this go. Who could endure the humiliation and the direct challenge to one's authority?

"He'll die a graveless death." Someone speculated: "They'll massacre his clan too."

"It's not that simple. Li Qiye has Lion's Roar and Ancestral Divine Temple behind him." A big shot whispered.

This was worthy of ponderance. It seemed that the two sides were rather competitive.

"No wonder why he's so bold." An expert realized.

True Immortal Spirit's expression was as cold as can be. Even a mud Buddha could become angry once pushed enough, let alone a member of True Immortal having been subjected to this level of contempt.

It was commendable enough for him to hold back. Someone else in the sect might have screamed and tried to obliterate Li Qiye.

"I will give you one last chance, apologize to True Immortal." He uttered coldly.

All eyes were on Li Qiye. This wasn't an unreasonable request - just a mere apology. True Immortal was showing mercy by allowing Li Qiye to do so.

However, Li Qiye waved his hand as if swatting a fly and said: "You think too highly of your sect. Leave before I send you to hell."

Gasps could be heard among the crowd afterward.

"This is more than just offending them now." One cultivator was shocked.

"How arrogant for Li Qiye to make this claim. True Immortal Spirit is one of the six prodigies." An expert said.

"He can do it, I'm sure. He killed Six-winged Emissary without exerting that much effort." Someone else said.

"He might be strong but True Immortal has ancestors and most importantly, monarchs. Why would one be impetuous enough to go against them for no reason?" A last-gen member added.

Virtually everyone agreed with this. True Immortal had plenty of geniuses and no lack of experts. Their monarchs were unstoppable as well.

"I see." True Immortal Spirit's eyes became cold enough to freeze people.

Spectators couldn't bear this chilling aura; their teeth started chattering. Weaker cultivators dropped down on their butt.

"Let's see what you can do then." He said menacingly.

"Buzz." Rays appeared behind him, each seemed capable of starting and illuminating a new world.

"Worldraiser Scripture." An ancestor recognized the merit law right away.

"He actually mastered a dao lord merit law?" A high elder found this surprising.

This scripture was left behind by the second dao lord of True Immortal - Worldraiser.

Chapter 4624: Worldraiser Dao Lord

Worldraiser had numerous tales, one being Blessed Dao Lord's disciple. However, one would be mistaken to think that the dao lord had supreme talents.

In fact, this couldn't be farther from the truth. Blessed Dao Lord had plenty of disciples and Worldraiser was completely average.

Worst of all, he couldn't cultivate Blessed Dao Lord's merit laws. This was unheard of during that generation.

This was rather strange because such a great being wouldn't recruit disciples without careful consideration. His other disciples either had supreme talents, prestigious bloodlines, or something unique. They were geniuses among geniuses.

At the peak, his ten disciples were virtually invincible regardless of the time and place. They could compare to anyone in history.

Worldraiser was the exception. If he were in a crowd of pedestrians, he wouldn't stand out in the slightest. His being recruited as a disciple was one thing, but he was even appointed as the successor of True Immortal.

This naturally shocked the world back then. Other disciples of Blessed Dao Lord and the masters of True Immortal couldn't believe it. He could have picked any of them and they would be ten thousand times stronger than Worldraiser.

Of course, when Worldraiser was chosen as the successor, he was yet a dao lord. Some of the losing candidates became angry, thinking that this person had no right to inherit the most coveted position in Eight Desolaces.

Nonetheless, Blessed Dao Lord's words couldn't be challenged. None dared to disobey.

After his departure, there were a few who thought about taking over the position and or even killing Worldraiser. However, these treacherous plots ended with failure because ultimately, the majority of True Immortal still maintained solidarity.

Since Worldraiser was chosen, they fully supported and helped him rule over the sect. As time passed, the brilliant disciples of Blessed Dao Lord couldn't obtain a dao fruit to prove themselves.

The next dao lord took everyone in that period by surprise - Worldraiser in his old age. He finally surpassed his peers and seniors then.

Future generations praised Blessed for having such wonderful insight, to be able to recognize Worldraiser's ability to become a dao lord. No one else could have made the same choice.

Another lesson to be learned was perseverance. Worldraiser was an underdog his whole life but managed to succeed in the end.

This gave cultivators hope for the future. After all, geniuses were rather rare and always overshadowed common cultivators. The tale of Worldraiser sparked hope - that as long as one tried hard enough, they could become successful in due time. This was the right choice instead of giving up early on.

"True Immortal really has too many dao lord merit laws." One spectator became envious and whispered while staring at the genius' radiance: "All talented disciples have a chance to learn one. Even a third-gen disciple like him has access to this ultimate scripture."

Their envy was understandable. Back in their own sect, a dao lord merit law was the prized treasure and a top secret. Putting the upper echelon aside, only those with peerless talents or official successors were qualified to learn them. Moreover, they would only learn a particular technique, not an entire scripture.

This wasn't the case for True Immortal, hence everyone becoming emotional. They fantasized about joining True Immortal.

"If you insist on being stubborn, don't blame me for being merciless." True Immortal Spirit uttered.

"I hope you've bought yourself a coffin already since you seem to be suicidal." Li Qiye waved his hand again.

"He speaks as if he has full confidence in victory." A young listener whispered.

"Well, he took down one of their geniuses so far. It's not an empty threat." A big shot answered.

The crowd recalled Six-winged Emissary. He was a direct disciple of their sect master and shouldn't be that much weaker than True Immortal Spirit.

"We'll see about that." True Immortal Spirit's expression became austere.

Chapter 4625: Worldraiser Scripture

"Be ready!" True Immortal Spirit's chilling aura became unbearable as if he was a continental glacier.

He came from a great sect so despite his rage, he still acted in an acceptable manner. Killing Li Qiye still required a process - a fair duel.

He raised his right hand and made a half-fist. "Buzz." He became radiant with ancient rays from an older period.

They gave the impression that he was a god from the primordial times, capable of constructing worlds out of nothingness. The power of creation was also destructive, enough to murder anyone here.

"What an aura." A last-gen cultivator shuddered, thinking that she wouldn't be able to beat the genius.

"Clank!" Suddenly, everyone felt as if his hand has turned into a hatchet capable of killing gods and devils.

"Worldraiser Hack." An ancestor recognized the move after seeing the initial variation.

"Die!" The genius roared and swung his hand downward.

Though there was no actual weapon, the crowd was still horrified by the impressive attack. It left behind a deep scar on its path and even affected others outside of Li Qiye. They felt their grand dao being split into two halves. Some fell to the ground and twitched with pain despite suffering zero external injuries.

"Be careful!" Ye Tingrong herself shouted, not knowing whether Li Qiye would be able to stop it.

Once it struck the ground, dust flew everywhere and a chasm was left behind. It nearly severed the entrance area into two pieces.

This was just a casual swing from the genius. He certainly didn't go all out.

Once the debris settled, they couldn't find Li Qiye anywhere.

"Where is Li Qiye?!" Someone shouted.

"Did he die?" One youth murmured, thinking that not even a bone was left.

"I didn't see it clearly but that shouldn't be the case." An ancestor shook his head.

“If he’s actually dead after one move, that would be rather amusing, the proper end for his arrogance.” A younger cultivator sneered.

True Immortal Spirit scanned the chasm after the first move. However, unlike the rest of the crowd, he had a bad feeling about this.

“Too slow.” He heard a voice right behind him.

The mightier ancestors also noted this right away. They saw Li Qiye standing behind True Immortal Spirit in the same pose. It was as if he was there in the beginning and didn’t move an inch.

This wasn’t an issue of speed. The top masters got a strange sense that space and everything else shifted around Li Qiye. This would be a frightening thought because it showed immaculate spatial manipulation.

The alarmed genius reacted quickly by shifting away from his original position. His speed was commendable indeed for someone his age.

However, it didn’t matter how fast he was. Li Qiye always kept up as if he was his shadow.

Li Qiye then raised his hand for a gentle tap. It didn’t release any light or divinity, more like a tap on a good friend’s shoulder.

Nonetheless, the genius became aghast since he felt a tsunami of power coming for him.

“Worldraiser Sphere!” He intertwined his fingers with incredible speed and created a dao barrier.

Alas, this wasn’t enough to stop Li Qiye’s hand. The barrier collapsed and he fell down like a meteor.

“Boom!” He smashed into the ground and started a dust storm.

As for the spectators, they had no idea what was going on. They only saw Li Qiye pressing his hand forward without using any merit law. How did this break the genius’ dao defense?

“Impossible!” Some wiped their eyes in disbelief due to how illogical it was.

True Immortal Spirit was strong enough to beat some ancestors now yet he lost to a single move, looking as feeble as a speck of dust. The outcome was the opposite of their expectation.

Chapter 4626: Easy

The most frightening thing about this exchange was how easy Li Qiye made it. He didn’t resort to using a dao lord merit law or another top technique. This felt like a gentle push at best.

It would be difficult to describe this event to anyone who wasn’t here. A brilliant genius from True Immortal got sent flying after the first exchange? No one else in the crowd could have done the same thing.

“There is no way that push was strong enough to do so.” One expert said.

An ancient ancestor could have made it look effortlessly like that. However, Li Qiye didn’t have the appearance of one, lacking divinity and an oppressive aura.

“Boom!” Debris went flying and a figure leaped back into the air.

It was none other than True Immortal Spirit who still looked rather imposing and radiant. Of course, there were injuries and blood too. The attack left its mark, just nothing fatal.

“You cheated!” The genius glared at Li Qiye. He shared the same sentiment as the rest of the crowd - disbelief.

How could he be pushed down like a mortal? Only their monarchs could do something like that to him; even his master wasn't strong enough.

He had met the monarchs before but Li Qiye didn't have the bearings and aura of one. Therefore, it must have been trickery.

“Just accept defeat gracefully.” Li Qiye smiled and said.

The genius turned red and embarrassment seemed to be turning into anger. He uttered coldly: “You have a hidden treasure that nullified my cultivation.”

He thought that this was rather likely - Li Qiye winning with the help of a hidden treasure.

“What kind of treasure is this?” The crowd agreed with the genius and began speculating about the treasure. Some fantasized about its wondrous ability. It might make them unbeatable.

“Insufficient strength yet a vivid imagination.” Li Qiye said: “Leave already, don't embarrass yourself any further.”

The genius' patience was growing thin after being insulted several times. He glared at Li Qiye and said: “So be it, get ready. Let's see if you're strong or just relying on a treasure.”

He slowly raised both hands and it felt as if the earth was being lifted up. His hands pulsed with starry lights during the process.

“Rumble!” Loud quakes could be heard. Everyone felt tense since his hands became all-encompassing.

“Ugh...” They felt suffocated as if his hands were gripping their neck. This naturally horrified them.

“What is this technique?!” A pale spectator screamed.

Weaker cultivators felt helpless before the channeling even though the target was only Li Qiye. They found themselves to be fish on a chopping board.

“Raise the worlds, grasp the heavens!” The genius roared and then reached for Li Qiye.

“Crack!” Buildings nearby shattered with haste along with a mountain from the shockwaves alone.

Everything between the genius and Li Qiye suffered a terrible compression force, spatial fabrics included.

“Incredible!” One expert roared.

The sky suddenly turned dark. It seemed that even the sun was a victim to this grasping technique.

Spectators thought that it would be near impossible to escape from this move intact. Once becoming the target, being crushed was the most likely outcome. The move was domineering indeed, worthy of being from the Worldraiser Scripture.

“Boom!” Suddenly, a golden light illuminated the darkened battlefield.

It was a golden fist that could break the nine firmaments. It wielded a tyrannical and overbearing presence.

“Golden Fist Dao!” A spectator recognized its origin.

Chapter 4627: Golden Mad Fist

This fist dao focused on absolute power. One punch could break heaven and earth along with the four oceans. Its energy rampaged like wild waves, instantly sending anything along the path on its way.

Crowd members were shocked after sensing it. They believed that it wouldn't be inferior to any fist merit law of the dao lord level.

“Bam!” The punch smashed into True Immortal Spirit's grasp technique.

The emanating shockwaves were violent and ferocious. Trees and buildings nearby crumbled in the blink of an eye.

This exchange ended with True Immortal Spirit staggering several steps backward - clearly losing the exchange.

“Please stop here, gentlemen.” An old man appeared in the air, speaking with a dignified voice. He had gray hair and wore a golden cloak, looking fierce. His arms, in particular, brimmed with martial strength.

“Golden Mad Fist.” An ancestor said.

The majority recognized the old man since he was the current leader of Golden Gate and Ye Tingrong's grandfather.

He was relatively famous among last-gen cultivators. He didn't dominate as much as Golden Fist Emperor but his prestige was comparable to sect leaders and rulers.

“Senior Mad Fist.” Others came over and cupped their fist. This applied to some ancestors as well since they were guests.

“Senior.” True Immortal Spirit slightly bowed. He had an unhappy expression as he spoke: “Your punch was incredible.”

He didn't appreciate being stopped by Golden Mad Fist. Nonetheless, due to his upbringing, he exercised enough restraint to not act out. Nonetheless, his tone indicated dissatisfaction.

“You're too kind.” Mad Fist cupped his fist back and said: “Your attack was gasp-worthy, my art compared to yours is akin to a firefly trying to outshine the moon.”

Being praised by a contemporary master made the genius happy. His dissatisfaction disappeared with haste.

“Thank you, Senior.” Though his expression remained normal, he was actually elated inside.

Mad Fist then spoke to everyone else: “Heroes from the various regions, you are guests here at Golden Gate. If there is something lacking in our hospitality, please let me know so I can rectify the problem. As for personal feuds and conflicts, please settle them elsewhere. Our disciples are weak and can’t handle your might.”

He spoke properly and with sincerity, prompting the crowd to exchange glances. It was hard for anyone to speak out against Golden Gate right now since he had won the crowd over.

“Senior, we will act with propriety.” Many experts stated their stance.

The seniors and the big shots also nodded in agreement.

“What do you think, Virtuous Nephew?” Mad Fist then asked the genius.

The latter looked around and read the crowd. Refusing wasn’t an option currently since it would offend everyone. Moreover, the current pretense was that he came as a guest, seeking a marriage engagement.

“I do not dare to disobey.” He bowed slightly before glaring at Li Qiye and snorting. He didn’t add any fierce words and left right away. From beginning to end, he acted in a manner befitting of his status and background.

With his departure, it seemed that causing trouble here was not possible. Golden Mad Fist might interfere and subdue any problem.

“We appreciate everyone for being considerate.” Golden Mad Fist spoke again: “Please enjoy your stay.”

Everyone cupped their fist before leaving. Though they wanted to see a fight to the death between Li Qiye and Paramount Scion, the situation didn’t allow it right now.

Nonetheless, some left while having many things to think about. The most popular question was Li Qiye’s push. How the hell did he do it? Was it really a peerless treasure?

“Please follow me, Young Noble.” Ye Tingrong led the way for Li Qiye’s group.

They came to Golden Peak; she clearly had high regard for them since only a few were eligible to come to the main peak.

“Do you want to meet your father-in-law?” The daoist elbowed Jian Ming and whispered.

“Not this nonsense again.” Jian Ming turned red and glared at him.

“I wasn’t joking around. You may propose under my protection.” Li Qiye said flatly.

“Young Noble...” Jian Ming awkwardly stole glances at Ye Tingrong.

“This is a great opportunity if you fancy this arrangement. There will be no other so don’t regret it later.” Li Qiye said.

“Brat, the young noble is right.” The daoist said: “She’ll have to marry someone else if you keep on wasting time. I don’t think it is possible to delay a marriage arrangement this time.”

Ye Tingrong didn't refute this comment since it was true. The circumstances forced her to marry someone regardless of her wish.

"Brother Jian, go for it." Paramount Scion voiced his support. Though he was a suitor, he was only here to fulfill a mission and didn't actually want to marry Ye Tingrong.

"I..." Jian Ming stammered, unable to speak.

Chapter 4628: Fancy

Jian Ming looked to be in a tough position while he occasionally stole glances at Ye Tingrong. He was no longer his normal self, losing his shameless and fearless nature.

"Are you still a man? Can't even speak properly now, how shameful." The daoist said with disdain, prompting Jian Ming to glare angrily at him.

"Be manly and propose since the time is right." The daoist went on.

"This is the best chance indeed, that's why all the other sects are doing it." Paramount Scion agreed.

"When if not now? Do you want to watch Miss Ye marry someone else?" The daoist continued.

"That's not my intention..." Jian Ming felt bashful.

"Then what is it?" The daoist pressed on.

"I..." Jian Ming couldn't come up with a response again.

As for Ye Tingrong, she didn't mind and arranged a place meant for important guests before leaving.

Once she was gone, Li Qiye smiled and told Jian Ming: "There's nothing embarrassing about liking someone. No need to hide it."

"Young Noble..." Jian Ming turned red.

"Why the hell are you still hesitating? Even a blind man can tell that you like her." The daoist laughed.

"She can tell too." Paramount Scion smiled.

Jian Ming's embarrassment only increased once the others exposed him.

"Don't tell me this is the first time you've liked a girl, hehehe, no one else before? Are you a virgin?" The daoist teased.

"You're the virgin!" Jian Ming barked back and gritted his teeth.

His strong reaction only served to further amuse the crowd.

"It's fine to be embarrassed and awkward, just realize that if you actually want to win the beauty's hand, take advantage of this opportunity." Li Qiye said with a serious tone.

"Right, don't be so indecisive." The daoist said: "If you like her, show her. Just a marriage proposal isn't a big deal, be your normal self."

"Even if I like her, s-she might not like me back." Jian Ming eventually said.

“How do you know she doesn’t like you? Remember, she doesn’t mind if you propose.” The daoist said.

“Everyone can propose right now though. And only one will get picked.” Jian Ming replied.

“Give it a shot at least.” Paramount Scion said: “If you don’t do it, you will never know her feelings toward you.”

“What if she really doesn’t like me?” Jian Ming hesitated.

“Then that’s the end of that, no big deal!” The daoist became impatient.

“This is your chance to turn a crush into something fruitful, don’t keep it one-sided.” Li Qiye chuckled: “The alternative is to quietly watch her being in someone else’s embrace while telling yourself that it is okay as long as she is happy. Is that what you want?”

“Haha, there must be something wrong with him.” The daoist laughed.

“Wh-what should I do then?” Jian Ming smiled wryly.

“What else but to compete for her heart? Show her your sincerity through your action. If she doesn’t like you now, work hard until she does, you’ll be rewarded and so would she with happiness.”

Jian Ming didn’t respond.

“Do you still have doubts? The young noble is right.” The daoist said.

“I don’t want to take advantage of her.” Jian Ming said awkwardly.

“It is no longer up to her, her feelings do not matter since her fate is not under her control.” Li Qiye said: “She won’t be able to marry the person she likes, it’ll be True Immortal Spirit or maybe our young scion over here.”

“Even if she happens to like her fiance, the whole thing is just a scheme.” Paramount Scion said: “It is no secret that everyone is here for the peerless treasures. The sects will pressure the two lovers greatly and use all potential methods for their ultimate goal. Their relationship will crack afterward because of this fundamental conflict.”

“Therefore, your goal is purer than anyone else. You simply like her and have no ulterior motives. There is no sect pressuring you either.” Li Qiye said.

“I see...” Jian Ming murmured.

“That’s why you shouldn’t worry so much. There is no one else she can marry who will make her happy under these circumstances. She will be treated as a tool, there is no happiness there for there is a lack of sincerity in the first place.” The daoist said: “Let’s put it this way, do you like her enough to want and make her happy?”

“Yes.” Jian Ming nodded.

“Then don’t you think that you’re the best option versus all the other suitors?” The daoist asked.

Jian Ming was moved after hearing this.

“Put in the effort in order to avoid regrets. Fear no one and be confident in what you can bring to the table. Otherwise, you will do nothing but make excuses for passivity.” Li Qiye smiled.

Jian Ming’s blood started becoming hotter. He said: “Well, how should we propose to Golden Gate? What if they do not pick me?”

He had enough self-awareness to realize the lack of advantages. Putting Ye Tingrong’s feelings aside, his background, talent, and cultivation couldn’t compare to those from the behemoths.

“We’ll just have to kidnap her then.” Li Qiye smirked.

Chapter 4629: Golden Gate’s Decision

“K-kidnap her?” Jian Ming hasn’t thought about this before despite being a villain in the past.

“Don’t pretend to be a nice guy, you’ve done plenty of stealing and swindling before.” The daoist said.

“But in this case...” Jian Ming still hesitated.

In reality, honest and moralistic cultivators were rare in this dog-eat-dog world. Nonetheless, Jian Ming had qualms about doing it to Ye Tingrong.

“Do you have a better idea?” Li Qiye asked.

“Well...” Jian Ming knew that the odds were against him since so many great powers were involved.

“Do you want to wait until she loves you before doing something? Her kids would be learning how to walk by then.” Li Qiye joked.

Given the precarious situation, Golden Gate had no chance of delaying this. The only question was who they would pick. Therefore, this was absolutely the last chance.

“You need to win first before caring about feelings. If she has to marry someone anyway, why not you? She has no say in this matter either way.” Li Qiye continued.

Jian Ming took a deep breath after hearing this.

“Unfortunately, her feelings aren’t taken into account here.” Paramount Scion reminded.

Jian Ming obviously understood this. It’s just that he was an involved party and couldn’t see things objectively. Moreover, he cared too much about her feelings.

“The others such as True Immortal Spirit won’t treat a tool like her well. The only way for you to help her is to marry and protect her, giving her all the love possible.” Li Qiye said.

“Just listen to the young noble.” The daoist said: “Win her first then talk about love later.”

“All of this is predicated on a successful engagement. Otherwise, your feelings will forever be one-sided.” Li Qiye concluded.

As the conversation went on, Jian Ming gradually recognized his feelings for Ye Tingrong. Moreover, he also realized the only possible path. He clenched his fists and made up his mind.

“Will Golden Gate pick me even if we propose?” He asked sincerely.

"It is not up to them once I say the words. No one else can interfere." Li Qiye chuckled.

"Hear that?" The daoist became excited: "What the hell are you waiting for? It's just a matter of time before you marry and have kids. Don't worry, I'll be there for your wedding regardless of the date. You will need to show your appreciation for your matchmakers then."

Jian Ming glared exasperatingly since this daoist was claiming contribution already.

However, before they could go propose, Ye Tingrong came on the same night with new information.

"My grandfather has decided." She said.

"Already? What's the result?" Jian Ming became anxious since he has yet to propose officially.

"Which sect, True Immortal?" Paramount Scion asked. Among the candidates, True Immortal Spirit was certainly the top dog.

"No." She shook her head and said: "Grandfather chose to have a martial tournament."

"I see, a tournament to decide the groom." Jian Ming murmured.

He exchanged glances with the daoist. The latter said: "Brat, don't think about it. You won't be able to last until the very end. Plus, we don't know who'll show up later."

"The victor will gain more than just the marriage. Mmm, not a bad plan from that Mad Fist." Li Qiye smiled.

The great powers would certainly go all out for the sake of winning.

"When one disciple loses, another can try instead. There is still a chance for everyone but the advantages remain for the behemoths." Paramount Scion said.

Initially, all the great powers only selected one candidate for the marriage proposal. Now, for this tournament, they could have many more. For example, if True Immortal Spirit were to lose, this sect could send out the other geniuses. Maybe even True Immortal Young Emperor could show up.

This was the better plan for Golden Gate since it didn't have to offend anyone. The losers could only blame themselves and this would buy more time for Golden Gate. Moreover, it created animosity between the combatants so it also served as a distraction, preventing a coalition from being formed against them.

"True Immortal probably has the best odds." Jian Ming said.

"I'm afraid you have no chance of winning this battlefield. Even if you beat True Immortal Spirit, they still have five more." The daoist laughed.

"You don't need to remind me." Jian Ming glared at him.

"Brat, you have a chance too." The scholar then stared at Paramount Scion.

"I probably won't go up because I'm not that strong and True Immortal might even send out True Immortal Young Emperor eventually." Paramount Scion shook his head.

“Three Thousand Dao has people as well.” The scholar added.

The scion nodded. Three Thousand Dao had more than just Paramount Gate as vassals. Other geniuses were certainly around to take his spot.

“What is your opinion on this, Miss Ye?” Jian Ming mustered the courage to ask.

She took a deep breath and then said: “I naturally don’t appreciate being used as a trophy.”

This gave her a sense of helplessness, being unable to affect her own outcome.

Jian Ming wanted to say something else but he was also powerless in this case. There was no hero saving the beauty here.

Chapter 4630: I’ll Marry You

He wouldn’t be able to defeat everyone regardless of his effort. This was just reality, not a lack of confidence.

The great powers had virtually unlimited challengers, especially the behemoths. Just the young generation of True Immortal, Three Thousand Dao, and Divine Dragon Valley could sweep through the crowd. Most importantly, even the conquerors might show up.

Therefore, Jian Ming couldn’t keep his spot on the battle stage forever. He knew the gap between him and Shen Juntian or True Immortal Young Emperor.

His heart wanted to fight for Ye Tingrong but the lack of ability meant that failure was imminent.

“Young Noble, would you be able to protect my sect?” Ye Tingrong made up her mind and asked with a serious tone.

Doubts overwhelmed her because they were up against the behemoths. Li Qiye was certainly not the favorite but her perspective had changed. She thought that he could be reliable in this scenario.

“It’s a simple request.” Li Qiye said nonchalantly.

“In that case, please grant us your protection, Young Noble.” She bowed her head deeply and beseeched. She chose a third path, not the marriage alliance or the battle competition.

“Young Noble.” Jian Ming stared at Li Qiye, hoping for him to accept.

He knew more than anyone that with Li Qiye’s involvement, Golden Gate would be saved. The behemoths and the other great powers coveting the treasure would be repelled.

“There is no free lunch for exchanges always exist. Of course, some couldn’t be seen by others.” Li Qiye smiled and shook his head.

“As long as you are willing to repel the enemies and protect Golden Gate, I will offer you my service.” She bowed again, not wanting to miss this chance.

“The priestess had said the same thing but I have no lack of followers.” Li Qiye said.

This shook the listeners to the core, especially Ye Tingrong. Currently, the title “priestess” usually referred to one being - the successor of Ancestral Divine Temple and the brightest jewel of the world.

This priestess had as much prestige as the five conquerors yet she still wanted to follow Li Qiye? Ye Tingrong thought that she was nothing in comparison.

In terms of background, Golden Gate was not a match for Ancestral Divine Temple. In fact, she couldn't compare to a regular disciple from the temple, let alone its priestess.

If Li Qiye refused the priestess, why would he accept her? This left her in a difficult position.

“You don't necessarily need to follow me, there is another compromise.” Li Qiye smiled.

“What I ask what it is?” She calmed down and asked.

The daoist and Paramount Scion naturally understood the implication.

Meanwhile, Li Qiye glanced over at Jian Ming who was standing there in a daze. Ye Tingrong was quick enough to catch on.

“Brother Jian, would you be willing to marry me?” She said with determination in her eyes.

Marriage was often a sensitive topic for ladies yet she didn't mind. This was her way of deciding her own fate.

She understood that Li Qiye didn't want her but Jian Ming did. Since Jian Ming was Li Qiye's follower, this became the compromise.

“I...” This caught Jian Ming off guard. He liked her enough to put her wish above his own. However, he hasn't had time to tell her his feelings or propose to Golden Gate yet. Now, she became the one to take the initiative and rendered him speechless.

“Why are you so slow? Say yes already.” The daoist elbowed him.

He regained his wits and stammered: “No, it shouldn't be like this...”

“I see, you don't want to.” She sighed in response.

“Wha-what I meant is...” Jian Ming had a hard time expressing himself.

“Go on, Brother Jian.” She asked for elaboration.

The quick-witted Jian Ming seemed clumsy right now as he spoke: “Miss Ye, it's because you don't love me, this isn't fair for you.”

“I understand and appreciate you being so considerate of my feelings, this is why a marriage between us will be fine. It is better than the alternative, being forced to marry the winner of the battle stage, whether it be True Immortal Spirit or someone else. That is not what I want.” She said.

Ultimately, marrying Jian Ming was the best choice for her given the tough circumstances.

“Th-this matter affects the rest of your life, Miss Ye.” He still hesitated.

“Indeed, but I have lost control over my own life. Marrying you is the only decision I can call my own.”
She stared intensely at him.