

Emperor 5041

Chapter 5041: On The Right Track

The presence of these two masters would shock and intimidate anyone. One nearly had seven sacred fruits while the other had four dao fruits.

The youths became nervous and didn't dare to breathe loudly.

"Fate brought us together again, Fellow Daoist." The duo didn't expect to see Li Qiye either.

"Is that so?" Li Qiye smiled.

Meanwhile, the thousand faces of the sovereign focused on Li Qiye. Being gazed upon by this being was an inexplicable feeling.

The youths felt as if they have become transparent. Everything about them could be seen clearly - whether it be their pores or veins. Even the slightest movement was detected.

In fact, he could even derive their merit laws and origins. Secrets and flaws were as clear as day.

Despite the intrusive nature of the gaze, Li Qiye didn't seem to mind at all.

"I apologize." The sovereign bowed and said: "It's a terrible habit but I couldn't help myself after seeing your cultivation fortunes."

“Saw anything interesting?” Li Qiye smiled.

“I only saw a chaotic expanse, nothing else.” Thousand-faced Sovereign was embarrassed.

Truth Conqueror was surprised because he should have been able to see at least some clues. Few could hide everything from him.

“I’m just a regular cultivator, that’s why there is nothing to see.” Li Qiye said.

“If you’re a regular cultivator, then where do the rest of us stand?” Truth Conqueror smiled and shook her head.

He was famous at this point for killing the various dragon lords. In fact, most believed that only Conceal Conqueror was a match for him.

Due to his insane battle potential, everyone speculated that he was from the upper continents.

“Fellow Daoist, you must be from the upper two or even the immortal continent, right?” Thousand-faced Sovereign asked.

“No, but I do plan on going up there to take a look soon.” Li Qiye shook his head.

The two masters exchanged glances and had a sense of foreboding, that this guy would cause a lot of trouble up there.

“If there’s nothing else, goodbye.” Li Qiye said.

The sovereign hesitated for a moment before asking: “Fellow Daoist, I do not question your strength. It’s just that there are dangers hiding here right now, please be careful.”

His sincerity amused Li Qiye who continued the conversation: “What danger do you speak of, Sovereign?”

Truth Conqueror answered instead: “We have been thinking and researching it. A villain is lurking in the shadows to ambush others.”

The youths heard this and wanted to talk about Phenomena Conqueror. However, would he believe them at all?

“I hope that it’ll happen to me since it’ll be entertaining.” Li Qiye said.

The two exchanged glances again. The sovereign said: “You are strong enough to be fearless.”

It was up to the guy to heed his warning.

“Your Majesty, have you figured out anything?” Ming Shi asked nervously, truly wanting to spill the beans.

Despite being a genius from Untethered, she was just another disciple when standing in front of the two masters.

Truth smiled and appreciated her courage before answering: “Nothing concrete, only a few speculations.”

She was modest and open-minded, not displaying a hint of arrogance.

Ming Shi was truly tempted to bring up Phenomena Conqueror but managed to keep her mouth shut.

“Do you have something on your mind, Little Sister?” The conqueror asked.

Ming Shi shook her head and didn’t respond.

“If I were you two, I would just stay in my sect.” Li Qiye smiled and said.

“What makes you say that, Fellow Daoist?” The sovereign said.

“You two are looking for someone who has a penchant for devouring cultivators.” Li Qiye had no qualms.

The two were stirred after hearing this despite their experience.

“Could you elaborate, Dao Brother?” Truth hurriedly said.

“There’s nothing much to say since you lack information.” Li Qiye waved his hand before finishing: “But, I can say that you’re on the right track. From my estimate, he has reached a power level where ordinary dragon lords aren’t enough. However, a six-fruit dragon lord or a four-fruit conqueror, that’s another story.”

They didn’t have proof before but Li Qiye’s words seemed to serve as confirmation.

“Old man, you aren’t as delicious, not a real target.” Li Qiye glanced at the sovereign first before speaking to Truth: “The same can’t be said about you. Four dao fruits are one thing but most importantly, you are nobility so your bloodline is the finest delicacy.”

The listeners present shuddered after hearing this.

“Do you have any evidence at all, Dao Brother?” Truth asked.

“Well, we have found the missing people or rather, their corpses. Void Saint Child, Sword Lord, all of them. Need I say more?” Li Qiye nodded.

“Fellow Daoist, who do you think the culprit is?” Thousand-faced Sovereign took a deep breath before asking.

Chapter 5042: Trust In His Disciple

The youths stared at Li Qiye, wondering if they should tell him the answer. How would he react after knowing?

“Who do you think it is?” Li Qiye answered with a question.

The two didn’t answer since they didn’t wish to harm anyone’s reputation. Their words carried immense influence so people would take them seriously.

“We do not know right now.” Truth shook her head.

Li Qiye smirked and said: “I’m sure you have your suspects. Who was the first to pop up in your mind?”

Truth glanced over at the sovereign who remained silent.

Li Qiye stared at him and said: “Sovereign, I feel like you have a suspect already, and for a long time now.”

The youths became as tense as can be, awaiting a response from the sovereign. The sovereign only sighed because Li Qiye was right.

“I’m sure we both know I am talking about your disciple.” Others didn’t dare to break this veil of pretense but not Li Qiye.

The sovereign staggered backward since this was another piece of clue pointing at Phenomena Conqueror.

“Dao Brother, this is a serious accusation.” Truth said softly but wore a serious expression.

The youths didn’t dare to say anything, wondering if Thousand-faced Venerable would either become furious or try to hide his disciple’s crime by attempting to silence everyone here.

“Fellow Daoist, please watch your words.” The sovereign closed his eyes and placed his palms together.

“I didn’t say that he was the culprit.” Li Qiye smiled: “I’m just asking if you are suspecting him.”

“I saw him grow up and he is not the one, I stake my life on it.” Thousand-faced solemnly answered.

Li Qiye was moved to see this: “It is a blessing of three lifetimes to have a master such as yourself.”

“But Phenomena is missing indeed, that’s why I am searching for clues.” Thousand-faced responded.

“We did not see Phenomena Conqueror among the corpses.” Ming Shi finally spoke.

The sovereign stared at her and she lowered her head instantly.

“Are you certain that he did not go up?” Li Qiye asked.

“Yes, I would have known for certain.” The sovereign nodded.

“Interesting. Could be good or bad.” Li Qiye commented on the circumstances.

“Good in what way?” Truth asked.

“Good as in he was still here and has been consumed.” Li Qiye said.

“...” The youths didn’t know what to say. How was that a good outcome?

“How is this good?” Thousand-faced Sovereign asked.

“If the culprit had eaten your disciple, it means that their taste will be more selective. Ordinary dragon lords won’t be worth the time, meaning a long hibernation might be necessary first.”

The two masters exchanged glances.

“What about the bad possibility?” Thousand-faced asked.

Li Qiye stared at him and said: “You know the answer to this already.”

Thousand-faced paused for a moment before letting out a sigh.

Li Qiye then told Truth: "If I were you, I would ascend to the upper continents right now. Staying here isn't the solution, you need to face it."

The youths have heard of her background before. Wouldn't ascending make her a target for the alliances up there? Celestial Court still wanted retribution.

"I will keep your advice in mind, Dao Brother." She bowed slightly.

Li Qiye didn't say anything else and left with the youths.

After they were gone, Truth asked: "Sovereign, what is your plan?"

"Fellow Daoist Li is right, you are in danger." Thousand-faced responded: "You should go back now, I will let you know immediately if I gain new information."

"That's fine." She said: "Maybe it is truly time for me to leave."

Shadowrider led the group into a forest with massive trees and blinding fog. This prevented the majority of cultivators from entering since it resembled a labyrinth.

"Here?" Goldcrest became serious.

"You know where this is?" Yunyun asked.

"I believe this is the base of Mist." Goldcrest said.

"Is the founder god around?" Ming Shi was curious.

"No, the founder god is not in Demon." Goldcrest responded.

"I thought the founder gods couldn't leave Demon." Both Ming Shi and Yunyun were surprised.

"Remember, this is just what I've been told, I haven't met any of them before. But the only exception to this rule should be Demon Conqueror." Goldcrest said.

"Wait, you're not making sense. If they can't leave Demon, where else can they be but here?" Ming Shi said.

"One theory is that they are staying in the divine nest." Goldcrest said.

"I see, so founder gods can enter?" Ming Shi asked.

"This is all beyond my level." Goldcrest said.

At this point, they were taken to the entrance. Shadowrider said: "My mission is complete, this is it."

“Good.” Li Qiye nodded.

With that, Shadowrider gradually dispersed and disappeared from sight. Next, someone came out of the fog and scared the youths.

They were surprised due to his appearance, especially the striking similarity to Shadowrider. However, he chose to reveal his form.

“Nightwalker.” Goldcrest blurted out the title.

“Y-you look really familiar to Shadowrider, are you brothers?” Ming Shi asked with uncertainty.

Chapter 5043: The Dao Of Assassination

“That was his dao avatar.” Li Qiye smiled.

“Really?” The youths stared at Nightwalker in disbelief.

Nightwalker was the king of assassins, rumored to be a human from an assassin organization. In reality, he was one of the six commanding gods of Demon.

“I knew it.” Goldcrest said. He had suspected this back at Golden Cicada Palace when the assassin was saved by the dark fog.

He didn't say anything back then due to a lack of evidence. He would become the enemy of an entire branch for besmirching their leader. All of Phoenix might be destroyed as a result.

"I apologize for the lack of reception." Nightwalker bowed slightly at the group.

"I wish to take a look." Li Qiye said.

"Please follow me, Young Noble. But I have to tell you first that you might be disappointed. There is nothing left of our branch outside of some treasures that you probably don't care for."

"Keep your assassination tools, I want to see your founder god's place." Li Qiye said.

"Very well." Nightwalker led the way.

They traveled through a path hidden by fog. As they looked down, it felt as if they were walking in space.

"Your founder god isn't here." Li Qiye sensed the area and said.

"Nothing can hide from your eyes, Young Noble." Nightwalker sighed and said: "Everyone believes that only Demon Conqueror can leave the Ten Great Mountains but our founder god can leave as well. It makes Mist rather special since subsequent commanding gods inherit two different legacies, one in the open and one in secrecy. Normally, the next god is always chosen ahead of time."

“Who is your founder god, why so mysterious?” Ming Shi was curious. It seemed that the creator of Mist was not inferior to the majestic Demon Conqueror at all.

“We don’t know either.” Nightwalker shook his head.

Their founder god didn’t leave anything behind so the subsequent commanding gods didn’t even know of their progenitor’s title or name.

“Really?” Yunyun was surprised.

“It’s the same for your Primal Lineage.” Li Qiye chuckled.

She had no response because this was indeed the case.

Eventually, they made it to their destination and saw numerous trees reaching the clouds. A wooden house could be seen on each of the trees. All the doors were shut tight.

Ever since the group got here, they felt that they were being observed by something. Occasionally, they sensed someone running in the back and turned around - only to see nothing.

Goldcrest was at the dragon lord level so he knew that this was real. They were just too slow to spot anything.

“Your lineage is still going strong.” Li Qiye said while looking at the trees.

“It will keep on going as long as Mist is around.” Nightwalker said.

Li Qiye chuckled and shook his head: “Times are always changing. During special moments, a new lineage is created for a particular reason, perhaps a noble goal. Today, your lineage is only meant to train assassins for money, there is no goal or mission to speak of. It has lost its once majestic inspiration. There is no need to keep it going, it is fine to just be a regular sect of Demon.”

“Well Nightwalker was surprised to hear this: “Isn’t it still better to keep it going?”

“Hard to say. Living in the shadow is already a form of torture, not to mention that it is only for money, how meaningless. All the other sects and lineages are brilliant in some way on top of getting to enjoy the sun, the same can’t be said for yours. Your members are nothing but murderous tools trapped in the darkness, lacking a mission capable of illuminating your lives.” Li Qiye responded.

“I understand your point, Young Noble.” Nightwalker thought about it for a bit before bowing.

Chapter 5044: What Was Left Behind?

The group was finally brought to one particular wooden house. It looked simple yet mysterious, seemingly one with the tree itself so it was rather hard to spot.

“This is the house left by our founder god, we have been paying our respect from the outside for generations now.” Nightwalker didn’t enter and told Li Qiye.

Li Qiye stared at it and let out a sigh.

“Wait for me out here.” He said before opening the door, entering, and closing it.

The group exchanged glances after seeing this. Ming Shi innocently commented: “Why is the young noble interested in this little house?”

She had followed him for a while and rarely saw him interested in anything.

“There’s a reason, I’m sure.” Yunyun said because at the very start, Li Qiye became interested after seeing Shadowrider in action. In fact, this took more of his time than the matter of the missing cultivators.

“Why are you just standing there?” Ming Shi then turned her attention to Goldcrest.

He smiled wryly and said: “I’m just thinking about how strange the six deity branches are.”

“What do you mean?” She asked.

“I’m not sure, they’re just different from the other lineages.” He shook his head.

Demon might be one of the twelve lineages but it seemed so different than the rest, especially in terms of scale.

“If you want to know the answer, you must enter the divine nest. I’m sure all of your questions shall be answered there.” Nightwalker told him.

“You’ve been there before?” Ming Shi acted familiar and asked.

“Only the luckiest beings and founder gods. As for commanding gods across the eras, Vine God is the most likely one to have entered.” Nightwalker shook his head in response.

“Vine God Goldcrest murmured the title of the oldest commanding god.

The oldest branch was Serpent but the oldest commanding god was Vine who has been in charge after Demon Conqueror created Wood.

“Are there any known methods for attempting to enter?” Yunyun asked.

“First is just luck, as I’ve said. The probability is pitifully low and few had done so in history. Second is to possess a complete god source but it is not a guarantee. The probability is still low.” Nightwalker replied..

“So mysterious and elusive, I wonder what’s in there.” Ming Shi said.

Nightwalker only smiled.

“As far as I know, it is the origin of our dao.” Goldcrest said while staring at Nightwalker.

"I don't know." Nightwalker shook his head: "There is one person who does though."

"Who is it?" Ming Shi asked.

"Demon Conqueror who came from the divine nest." Nightwalker said.

Goldcrest shuddered after hearing this. There were rumors of the conqueror entering there, but that's an entirely different issue than actually being from there.

"You and that assassin, no, your dao avatar, are so different." Ming Shi said.

Nightwalker was amicable while Shadowrider brimmed with murderous intent on top of being stoic all the time.

"Because I am not an assassin, I am a commanding god." Nightwalker replied.

"What is it like being an assassin?" She was curious but he didn't respond.

The wooden house was empty - no bed or table, and not even a piece of hair could be found.

Li Qiye looked around and murmured: "For what, silly girl? Why in such a hurry?"

He knew the progenitor of this lineage but the motive eluded him. He slowly sat down in the meditative pose and closed his eyes.

His body became increasingly ethereal as it fused with the wooden house. This transformed the house into a dark world only seen by him.

Ultimately, this lineage and legacy were actually started by him. Though it had changed drastically over the years, the fundamentals remained.

After a long exploration, he opened his eyes and started drawing on the floor with his finger. His movement was as agile as a soaring dragon while following a mystical pattern. Once he was finished, the inscrutable traces disappeared completely.

"Buzz." Bright dao runes appeared on the food next.

"Pop!" A sound similar to splashing water could be heard as something gradually emerged from the spell.

Li Qiye grabbed it and the room became normal again. He was surprised to see it - a wooden block.

This was actually a storage box but it was stuck together. There was no way to open it.

“Hmm, what happened to you?” He gently rubbed it and contemplated. She clearly left it here for him to find.

Something shocking must have happened, requiring this step from her.

“I’ll resolve it.” He said and put the box away.

The group has been waiting a long time before Li Qiye came out of the house.

“Did you find anything?” Ming Shi asked.

“I found what I needed to find.” He smiled before ordering Nightwalker: “The lineage is naturally important but it has lost its meaning. There is no need to continue and live in the darkness.”

“Young Noble, we will think about it.” Nightwalker bowed.

Li Qiye didn’t mind either way and said: “We’re leaving.”

After Nightwalker took them out of Mist, he glanced at Goldcrest and said: “If you can leave the ten mountains, do it.”

“What?” Goldcrest didn’t understand.

Chapter 5045: Sleep And Pollen

“Demon is dangerous right now.” Nightwalker elaborated.

Goldcrest thought about it briefly and didn’t know why.

“Peacock Monarch is about to pass.” Nightwalker continued.

“I don’t understand.” Goldcrest said respectfully. Everyone in the world knew about this.

After all, commanding gods didn’t live forever. This wasn’t an unprecedented event at all in Demon. It was no different from other lineages losing their ancient ancestors.

“Something else must be happening.” Li Qiye smiled.

“Yes, Vine God is facing his disaster soon too.” Nightwalker nodded.

“Vine God? Isn’t his lifespan unlimited?” Goldcrest took a deep breath. Alas, it shouldn’t be surprising since he had lived for so long already.

“This is different.” Nightwalker shook his head: “Vine God maintains his original form and experiences one tribulation after another. As long as he surpasses them, he can keep on surviving with a new cycle.”

“What do you mean by a new cycle? Like reincarnation?” Ming Shi had heard legends about this before.

“No, he has been keeping one form all this time.” Nightwalker said: “This is akin to a tree with fruits. They will mature and fall every season but this won't repeat forever.”

“But why is this an issue?” Goldcrest asked.

“Dream Monarch will hibernate for sure.” Nightwalker said with a serious expression.

Goldcrest took a deep breath and said: “According to the legend, if the monarch sleeps, so will the rest of Demon.”

“It depends on the length.” Nightwalker said.

“What are you guys talking about? Who is Dream Monarch?” Ming Shi asked.

“The commanding god of Serpent.” Goldcrest said.

“Well, I don't understand the connection between Vine God's looming disaster and Dream Monarch's hibernation.” She said.

“It's because Dream Monarch was born on Vine God's branch and has a nest there. Its true form is a sleepy worm, that's the connection between the two.” Goldcrest explained.

“Because of this, so many in Demon will sleep as well.” Nightwalker said.

“What is going to happen next?” Ming Shi asked.

“Dream Monarch rarely appears, always in a drowsy state. That’s why Wild Dragon is usually in charge.” Goldcrest said: “If it actually sleeps for a long time, no one will be able to stay awake.”

“Yes, that is part of it. Vine God will also open his flowers to release vine pollen in an attempt to stop the disaster.” Nightwalker added.

“Pollen?” Yunyun was confused as well.

“It causes paralysis on top of decreasing cultivation. If this disaster lasts for a long time, the pollen will stop everyone in Demon from improving since it would seep deep inside the body.” Nightwalker said.

“So it’s similar to a chronic poison.” Ming Shi took a deep breath.

“That’s right.” Nightwalker nodded.

Ming Shi realized something and smiled at Goldcrest: “Rooster, sounds like you have to run back to Abroad then.”

“What about Phoenix City? I’m still the city lord and can’t just abandon it.” Goldcrest smiled wryly.

Ming Shi didn't see it from this angle because she was just a regular disciple, not having the same pressure and responsibility as her friends.

"I still worry about Bug the most. Your unsealing that tablet is rather ominous, Young Noble." Nightwalker said.

"It's fine, it'll only make things more exciting." Li Qiye smirked.

"I did feel something off about that tablet." Ming Shi said.

"It should have something to do with that branch's deity spot." Nightwalker said.

"You're referring to their founder god?" Goldcrest asked.

"Yes, the legends aren't good ones. I've had a bad premonition ever since the unsealing event." Nightwalker nodded.

This was not an empty statement because commanding gods were sensitive to the changes in Demon.

"Tell me more about this founder god." Yunyun said.

"Rumor has it that he is a golden mosquito, extremely ferocious and leaving only skeletons in his path. This is before he became a founder god, of course." Goldcrest said.

The girls shuddered after hearing this.

“Why would people worship this evil god then? There are other branches.” Ming Shi said.

“Remember Bloodfly God? Bug is the right branch for them.” Goldcrest said.

“Bug consists primarily of poisonous creatures.” Yunyun said.

“That is correct, Miss Jian.” Goldcrest nodded.

“The return of Golden Mosquito would be a disaster to Demon.” Nightwalker speculated while staring at Goldcrest.

“I still can’t leave.” Goldcrest said because he wouldn’t be able to face his ancestors after abandoning Phoenix and its inhabitants.

Chapter 5046: Peacock Monarch’s Death

Nightwalker stopped convincing Goldcrest since it was up to the youth to decide.

As he was about to say farewell to Li Qiye, he suddenly gazed at the horizon.

“Peacock Monarch is about to die right now. Young Noble, I’m afraid I can’t see you off.” Having said that, he started flying away.

“Peacock Monarch is about to die?” Ming Shi murmured.

“It’s about time, the god source had been shattered for so long.” Goldcrest sighed.

“Buzz.” Light began illuminating the Ten Great Mountains. Next came a tsunami of power.

All living beings sensed it clearly and took comfort in it. There was no sense of suppression. They relaxed as if they were in a hot spring.

It contained five colors and spread like a peacock spreading its tail. The light was also as gentle as feathers.

“This feels amazing.” Ming Shi said with admiration.

“When a commanding god passes away, their power, vitality, and dao will return to the land.” Goldcrest explained.

“Look at how many of them are showing respect.” Yunyun gazed into the distance and saw the animals and beasts laying on the ground while facing the direction of the light.

“They know a great monarch’s life is about to end.” Goldcrest said.

“Can we go take a look, please?” Ming Shi asked Li Qiye.

He has been looking in that direction and answered: "Very well, trouble is coming too."

With that, he started walking and the three gave chase right away, not having enough time to worry.

This was a monumental event in Demon. The death of a commanding god meant the emergence of another.

Demons also lamented this end. The powerful ones came to visit Peacock Monarch during his last moment, wanting to see him one last time.

He has done a commendable job during his reign, minimizing conflicts and living in relative harmony with the other branches. Thus, he had the heart of the people.

He chose to spend his last moment at the deity symbol itself - a tree taller than any other. It exuded a five-colored light just like him.

As he sat there, he seemed to be full of life and energy. How could he be on the verge of death? He had no fear in his eyes either and calmly faced the inevitable.

Next to him was Chillgaze Hawk, one of the strongest monarchs in Demon. The two of them were completely different in terms of aura - one gentle and the other ferocious.

A little girl was kneeling next to the monarch. She tried her best not to weep while wiping the tears away.

A large gathering of demons surrounded the tree and paid their respect. Humans and outsiders have also arrived, wanting to see the death of a commanding god.

Li Qiye's group came as well. They stood on top of a peak nearby to watch the moment.

"Isn't that Lil' Freckle?" Ming Shi was surprised to see the little girl next to Peacock Monarch.

Goldcrest and Yunyun felt the same way.

"Could she be his disciple or daughter?" Yunyun speculated.

"Rooster, and here I thought you know everything in Demon. How disappointing." Ming Shi said.

"I never said that." Goldcrest chuckled, recalling the days of the academy. He didn't sense any hint of Demon from her previously. Plus, how was she able to leave Demon?

"The time is near." Peacock Monarch smiled and his aura became even more radiant.

"Rumble!" The divine tablet appeared behind him.

This was his own, created from a seal imprinted on the marking spot of Feather in the real tablet.

Five more tablets appeared around the tree, each with a throne right in front of them. Only three thrones were occupied.

Chapter 5047: Surrounded

Two had human forms while the third was a rabbit.

“Bloodfly God, Nightwalker, Lunar Rabbit.” The demons bowed before the commanding gods.

Each had their own unique seal that would only go away at death. Most demons also had their own tablet. However, they chose to keep it secretive for many reasons.

Only the commanding gods had no qualms in displaying theirs. This was a symbol of authority and power.

The crowd took advantage of this moment and analyzed each one.

Bloodfly God was still intimidating as ever; his red eyes instilling pain and fear.

Nightwalker, on the other hand, appeared more reasonable. Nonetheless, he had a serious expression right now given the circumstances. No one would ever connect him with Shadowrider due to his gentle demeanor.

The third maintained its original form - a gray rabbit that looked smooth and shiny as if it was made from jade - smooth and chilly to the touch.

Despite this tiny form, it looked rather inspiring with the image of a moon behind it. The area around the moon rotated the entire time. Its eyes were also different, seemingly made from the darkest jade in the world instead of the regular red.

A lunar rabbit was a rare species, precious and powerful. This one assumed the role of a commanding god, meaning that it was rather frightening.

Two other thrones were present but they were empty.

“Vine God and Dream Monarch aren’t here.” Others whispered among themselves.

Other commanding gods should be here to bid farewell to Peacock Monarch. Their inappropriate absence was duly noted.

“The situation looks bad. They should have been here.” Goldcrest spoke with the group.

“You’re saying that Vine God is really in trouble?” Ming Shi recalled Nightwalker’s warning.

“I hope not.” Goldcrest shook his head. Potentially losing three commanding gods would deal a great blow to Demon’s prestige.

“Boom!” Suddenly, someone appeared above the great tree. People felt as if they had just been stomped on the chest.

Two more figures accompanied him and released their threatening auras.

“Skystomper God!” Everyone recognized the leader and his two junior brothers.

They didn’t have time to think because another mighty aura emerged as well, frightening both humans and demons.

Four more giants landed. They were also dragon lords, far stronger than the majority of cultivators present.

“Pagoda Guardian and the three giants too?” Someone else said.

Most could tell that something big was happening. This group definitely didn’t come to bid farewell to Peacock Monarch.

“I am here just in time to pay my respect, Peacock Monarch.” A charismatic voice sounded and light engulfed the forest.

It was none other than Radiant Monarch who had just teleported onto the scene.

“Radiant Monarch too?” Spectators had a bad feeling about this.

“What are they doing?” Ming Shi wondered: “Are they trying to steal the deity spot? Can outsiders do this?”

“It’s impossible, at least in theory.” Goldcrest responded: “It’s just the monarch passing away, the god source isn’t there.”

He found this rather strange as if there was a sinister plan behind it.

“Then why are they here?” Ming Shi asked.

Li Qiye glanced at the sky and said: “We got a show.”

The group consisted of eight dragon lords, three of whom had six sacred fruits. The others all had five. Such a force was enough to sweep through the lower continents.

They clearly had other intentions than just paying respect to the monarch. This was clear with their aggressive entrance.

“Hahaha, the heroes of the world are so kind, to travel so far for a visit before my death.” Peacock Monarch laughed and said.

The dragon lords didn’t answer and stood there patiently.

“Screech!” Chillglare Hawk let out a cry piercing through space. Others trembled in fear but the dragon lords weren’t afraid.

Chapter 5048: Chosen Successor

All eyes were on the dragon lords. If they dared to do anything to Peacock Monarch, it would be a declaration of war.

Nightwalker gazed intensely at them but didn't say anything. Lunar Rabbit did the same; its eyes had a chilling effect on the crowd. As for Bloodfly God, no one could tell what he wanted as he sat motionlessly on his throne.

"Deity and Heaven Burial must be scheming something, right?" Yunyun asked.

"Eight dragon lords aren't enough. There are still five commanding gods left for Demon, they have no chance of winning." Ming Shi said.

Goldcrest was also perplexed: "Right, and plus, they have nothing to gain here."

The crowd members felt the same way. It was obvious that the eight dragon lords harbored malice. What was the reason? Treasures and vengeance weren't on the table.

In fact, they had no advantage to speak of. The commanding gods of Demon were stronger as well.

"This will be a big change." Li Qiye said.

"Big change?" Ming Shi didn't understand.

Peacock Monarch ignored the unwelcome visitors and glanced at the beasts and demons. Despite being moments from death, he still maintained his dignity and authority.

“Today shall be my last. The throne will be unoccupied so now but worry not, I have chosen a successor in her. In the future, she shall create a divine source and take over Feather.” Peacock Monarch spoke while pointing at Lil’ Freckle.

“What?!” This astounded all listeners as they stared at Lil’ Freckle.

None expected him to choose this unknown girl as the successor. Most haven’t seen her before.

There were two ways to become a commanding god. The first was to be chosen by the previous god and create a god source. The second was to obtain a complete god source from the predecessor and be accepted by the other demons.

Most thought that he would pass the throne down to Chillglare Hawk. After all, he was worthy in terms of power and status. This would bring about stability because others would be deterred from competing.

Alas, as for this young girl, she couldn’t maintain her position before creating a god source. Demons would come to challenge her, resulting in unrest in Feather.

“Why Lil’ Freckle? She’s still too young, can she rule over the demons?” Ming Shi said softly. The girl’s tiny frame was only appropriate to become a delicious meal for the demons.

“She’s his descendant?” Yunyun said.

“Unlikely.” Goldcrest said: “Demon is different in that we don’t pass the throne down to the descendants because if they’re weak, they’ll be destroyed by the competitors. That would only be harming them.”

Outsiders cared about lineages and the orthodox branch. Demons only cared about power and ability. Even if Lil’ Freckle was Peacock Monarch’s daughter, the other demons wouldn’t respect her for it.

“Her dao root is special.” Li Qiye said: “She is the most likely to enter the divine nest out of all the future commanding gods.”

“Really?” The youths didn’t recognize it.

By now, everyone’s attention shifted to the other commanding gods. Normally, branches didn’t interfere with each other but it would be favorable for Lil’ Freckle to have their support.

“Mist will not interfere with the monarch’s decision.” Nightwalker shook his head, accepting the choice.

“Not interfering.” Lunar Rabbit spoke as well. It had a feminine voice, pleasant to the ear like the flow of a gentle stream yet its water was unbearably cold to the touch.

“The position of a commanding god isn’t a joke.” Bloodfly uttered coldly: “You should reconsider now, Monarch.”

The forest became silent afterward. Even Lunar Rabbit and Nightwalker stared at him strangely.

Normally, other branches didn't interfere in this matter. Plus, it wouldn't be effective at all depending on the support from the members of the branch in question.

This was futile and potentially problematic yet Bloodfly did so anyway.

"It's starting." Li Qiye smirked.

"We will keep your suggestion in mind and work harder in the future but from today henceforth, this young lady shall inherit the throne of Feather." Peacock Monarch smiled and said.

"Commanding God, if you insist on doing this, you are disrespecting your branch's creed and followers." Bloodfly's tone became serious.

"I also find this unsuitable." Guardian Pagoda said: "This is absolutely a mistake that will have grave consequences for the ten mountains."

Everyone became startled after hearing the pagoda's revealed attitude.

Chapter 5049: Traitors

The succession process of Demon had nothing to do with external lineages. The other branches didn't and couldn't interfere either.

In one way, Peacock Monarch's choice was questionable. Chillglare Hawk was a clear choice but Nightwalker and Lunar Rabbit left it alone.

Bloodfly God's complaint was met with a smile from Peacock Monarch because it was meaningless.

Now, Guardian Pagoda - an outsider - wanted to interfere as well.

"To go against the wish of heaven is to incite disasters to the rest of the world." Skystomper God joined in.

These ancient ancestors weren't newly-debuted cultivators. What was their plan for interfering?

The point was that the commanding gods right now were certainly stronger than their team, not to mention the numerous demon monarchs and colossal beasts. A swarm would come, ending with them being meals in the beasts' stomachs.

"Guests, I apologize for the lack of reception. Please stand aside for now and we'll take care of you later." Peacock Monarch said with a smile, being polite yet decisive.

"This dao belongs to the rest of the world, not your own, not your branch's, and not just Demon's. The way of Demon is incorrect, a violation of the heavenly path." Guardian Pagoda elaborated.

This comment infuriated the demons near the tree. This was an insult to their heritage and legacy.

They revealed their white fangs and waited for a command, ready to lunge forward and tear these outsiders to pieces.

“Demon and the Ten Great Mountains have been isolated from the rest of the world for too long. It is time for Demon to return to society and be enlightened. This should be the responsibility of the commanding gods.” Radiant Monarch spoke.

“You think you have the ability to enlighten us?” Nightwalker became serious.

Although Radiant Monarch was a renowned genius with limitless potential, Nightwalker wasn’t afraid of him in the slightest. The former wielded the power of Mist and could beat the current monarch down without any issue.

“Our guests have a point.” Bloodfly joined the conversation: “The Ten Great Mountains have been stagnating for eras now, living on a whim while murdering each other lawlessly. The six deity branches should unite and be the harbinger of order.”

Listeners became startled since it was one thing for the outsiders to open their mouth. However, there was a rift between the commanding gods now.

“Does Bloodfly God want to unify the six branches?” Ming Shi quietly said.

“Seems so, but he doesn’t have the ability.” Goldcrest said, believing Bloodfly alone couldn’t overwhelm the other commanding gods.

“He got reinforcement right there.” Li Qiye said with a smile.

By this point, even a fool could see Bloodfly's ambition who believed that this was an opportunity to unite Demon. Of course, he knew that he needed help from outsiders to do so.

"I do not agree with this treasonous conduct and will have no part in it." Golden Cicada King who used to be Bloodfly God's biggest supporter let out a sigh and left the scene.

This surprised the crowd as well because he was a brother to Bloodfly God and the strongest demon monarch of Bug.

"Hahaha, I see now. Bloodfly, how ambitious of you, but do you think you got what it takes to take over?" Peacock Monarch laughed.

"You are on the verge of death, be smart now and hand the throne over, perhaps your end will be better." Bloodfly said chillingly, completely tearing apart any sense of camaraderie while revealing his fangs.

"Bloodfly, your ego will not be permitted." Nightwalker activated his power in the form of a divine sword hovering above.

"This matter should be discussed thoroughly." Radiant Monarch shouted and sent an ocean of light toward Nightwalker.

"Indeed." Skystomper joined in and also released his halo, suppressing all the other demons.

His two junior brothers joined the fray and attempted to stop Nightwalker.

“Enough of this.” Lunar Rabbit’s expression turned cold and a chilling wave engulfed the region. The towering trees became encapsulated in a layer of ice instantly.

“Boom!” Guardian Pagoda used his famed treasure to stop the rabbit with the help of the three giants.

They formed a square formation to stop the commanding god.

“Hmph.” The latter snorted and increased the chilling effect.

Chapter 5050: Arrival Of The God

The outsiders worked together to temporarily stop Lunar Rabbit and Nightwalker.

“Not a bad plan.” Peacock Monarch said: “Bloodfly, I’m afraid you won’t come out unscathed from this.”

The ambitious Bloodfly wanted to destroy the other commanding gods in order to become the supreme leader of Demon.

“Monarch, there shall only be one god in Demon after this.” Bloodfly coldly uttered before taking one step forward, releasing an ocean of blood with an unbearable stench. His face resembled that of a giant mosquito preparing to suck everyone dry.

“Screech!” Chillglare Hawk flapped his wings and tore the ground apart. Though he was not a commanding god, he had the power to challenge one.

“Bloodfly, I’m afraid your plan won’t work.” An ancient voice came from underground. The speaker seemed to have been alive since the start of time itself.

“Vine God!” The demons became emotional after hearing his voice. Outsiders heard this title and became startled.

He was the oldest and most likely the strongest among the six commanding gods. He has been in charge of Wood after Demon Conqueror. His peers showed him nothing but respect due to his established prestige.

“Vine God, I’ve been waiting for you. Where is Dream Monarch?” Bloodfly, on the other hand, didn’t show any sign of fear.

“Bloodfly, your traitorous act will do nothing but harm Bug. Perhaps your branch shouldn’t exist at all.” A drowsy voice could be heard and had a hypnotic effect.

“Dream Monarch!” Everyone knew who it was instantly.

With this final appearance, all six commanding gods have shown up.

Now, the tides have reversed since Bloodfly’s plan had no chance of succeeding. One wrong move and it was over for him.

“Looks like it’s over.” Goldcrest heaved a sigh of relief.

“No, it’s only beginning.” Li Qiye smirked while glancing at the sky.

“Who wants to destroy my branch?” A cold voice joined the conversation.

Bloodfly’s sinister tone was horrifying enough. Alas, this voice made him sound like sunshine. The creepy voice could pull someone down to hell and torture them for an eternity.

Weaker demons and cultivators immediately fainted upon hearing it.

“Whoosh!” A nether wind blew by and caused a series of screams. As if passed by, it left nothing but skeletons behind, men and beasts alike. More than ten thousand living creatures departed from this world in the blink of an eye.

“What the hell?!” Spectators bellowed from a distance after seeing how helpless the victims were before the wind.

“Zzz Buzzes could be heard as if they came from countless mosquitoes. They devoured everything and left only skeletons behind.

“Mosquito demons?” Cultivators dropped down to their knees in fear.

“What is this thing?” Yunyun and the others turned pale as well.

Meanwhile, the wind appeared before the commanding gods and turned into a large golden mosquito. It seemed to have been made out of gold. Its eyes had a bloody glow and could rob someone of their soul instantly. The needle was sharp and long, capable of piercing the flesh and sucking blood and flesh.

“Golden Mosquito God!” Everyone was shocked to see this being, including Vine God.

“That’s the founder god of Bug, an evil one.” Goldcrest whispered.

“How can you be here?!” Vine God shouted, aware of secrets unknown to the others.

He knew that this god couldn’t appear but this was no longer the case.

“Hahaha.” Golden Mosquito’s creepy laughter echoed across Demon.

It was impossible to block it out. Even his words and laughter invade the mind, always echoing and leaving behind unceasing nightmares.