

Emperor 5201

Chapter 5201: Only Villains Live Forever

Li Qiye returned to the old man's courtyard. True Bear lay down on the steps outside and the old servant stood by the corner.

Li Qiye opened the door and placed the exalted lotus into the pond. Tiny laws pulsed from the flowers and took root in the pond, forming rhythmic ripples as a result.

The ripples seemed to be forming the image of the corpse that had been buried. It started showing signs of life with the soul returning. Nonetheless, this wasn't an instant process.

A seal in front of the chest gradually melted into every inch of the corpse, seemingly re-creating the physical essence.

Previously, the seal was the only thing holding a silver of life back. It could last for an eternity but now, it was returning life back to the corpse.

This was akin to a seed receiving enough water and sunlight. Although the original plant was dead, it could always grow again under the right circumstances. This was the reason why Li Qiye left the seal behind in the past.

Meanwhile, the exalted lotus instilled its own effect into the pond.

"Pop! Pop! Pop!" Only top cultivators could sense this delicate addition.

Three thousand worlds filled with life seemed to be opening with the lotus and changed the courtyard.

“Mmm, not a bad smell, ominous energy is being chased away.” The old man who was relaxing on his chair took a sniff.

“If you want, I can sprinkle this essence on your corpse and bury it deep down. In my opinion, it’ll be preserved and smell good for years to come.”

“No thanks, save it for yourself.” The old man became annoyed.

“I won’t have the opportunity because when I die, I don’t think there will be a speck of dust left.” Li Qiye said.

“Not dying from old age, only villains.” The old man opened his eyes and said.

“That’s the right description for you.” Li Qiye said.

“No, only three are suitable with this description. You, him, and the villainous heaven.” The old man said.

“I can’t say that you’re wrong. Seems like the three of us have been cursed quite a bit by others.” Li Qiye thought about it before nodding.

“You’re pitiful.” The old man smiled: “You know what you are doing but how many give a damn? Most are afraid of you, some revile and despise you, a savior who blew himself up. You get nothing for your sacrifice.”

“Don’t pity me, I’m only doing it for myself. Buddha and the dao, all I seek is the dao. If I become the Buddha, that’s merely ancillary. Plus, I’ve never claimed to be the savior. Those who do usually destroy their own world eventually.” Li Qiye stared at the old man.

“Believe what you want.” The old man responded: “Even if you were to eliminate the villainous heaven, the inhabitants of the world will fear you instead.”

“The same way everyone fears the villainous heaven now, that’s fine.” Li Qiye chuckled.

“In a way, the villainous heaven is pitiful as well. Standing at the apex for countless epochs now, understood by no one.” The old man nodded.

“Really now?” Li Qiye looked up at the endless azure, thinking about an eternal existence that has been watching the myriad worlds.

Suddenly, a ship appeared above Imperial Attendant City, looking like a colossal fortress.

“What is that?!” The inhabitants beneath became startled.

“Sea Conch!” An expert recognized it right away.

“No, it’s Tang’s Emporium now.” A big shot from the last generation said.

Back in the courtyard, Li Qiye also looked up at the ship.

“Sea Conch was its old, old title. Boss Tang bought it and changed its name.” An ancestor commented.

“Tang’s Emporium? What a strange name for a ship.” A youth said.

“Boss Tang has an eccentric personality.” A senior shook his head.

“Rumble!” Thirteen bejeweled thrones appeared and floated in an arc in front of the ship.

“The auction shall commence in three days.” A lazy-sounding voice came from the ship.

“Another auction?!” This started an uproar throughout the city.

“Boss Tang is starting an auction soon!” This news spread swiftly across all four alliances, Lesser Firmament, Azure Peak, and Pure Land...

“I’ve been waiting a long time for this, more than ten thousand years now.” One powerful cultivator said.

Meanwhile, great existences in these powers stood up and opened their eyes.

“The greatest merchant is on the move again. What will be the prize?” An apex existence woke up from her slumber and murmured.

“We must have one of the thrones.” Everyone focused on the thirteen thrones.

Chapter 5202: Smells Familiar

Boss Tang was a unique existence in a world reigned by conquerors and dao lords. Sovereigns and dragon lords were also everywhere along with the occasional sightings of gods.

They were the rulers of this world; merchants shouldn't be uttered in the same breath.

However, Boss Tang always commanded attention. This included the most brilliant emperors and conquerors.

He operated a particular shop that might only be open for business every ten thousand years or so. It became the wake-up call for many slumbering existences.

The merchandise consisted of highly-coveted treasures meant for top cultivators. Joining the auction alone required tremendous power and resources.

There were thirteen thrones outside of the ship, meaning that only thirteen powers and individuals were eligible to enter.

Despite the renowned prestige of the auction, people knew very little about Boss Tang.

Rumor has it that he came from Eight Desolaces. Others said that he has been around since time immemorial. A particular belief stated that Boss Tang was actually an organization, not a singular man.

Some top conquerors had tried to find his origin before but came up with nothing. He was enigmatic, arrogant, and inscrutable. He never held back, always acting true to his desire regardless of the opponent.

This attitude was made possible due to his frightening power. This was why no one dared to rob him despite his wealth.

Both the old man and Li Qiye sniffed the air.

“Smells familiar.” The old man said.

“It’s there.” Li Qiye smiled but was in no hurry to make a move.

“Boss Tang, what do you have for the auction this time?” A cheerless voice resounded from the sky, piercing through heavens and earth like a sword.

Everyone felt as if they were being suppressed by an ultimate sword user, finding it hard to catch their breath.

“Sword Sea Dao Lord!” They all became startled.

He was one of the few entities capable of changing the future direction of the upper continents after taking over Principle Conqueror’s position in Divine Alliance.

A sea creature from Eight Desolaces actually managing to become the leader of Divine Alliance was shocking. This was a testament to his ability.

“Four decent items this time.” Boss Tang leisurely responded.

“Heaven Reckon, Dream Immortal Order, and a Reincarnation Nine-leaves.” He elaborated.

“!!!” The names of these three treasures shocked listeners.

“Dream Immortal Order?! One is still around?!” An ancient ancestor stood up and became overwhelmed with excitement.

“Where did he get one?” A conqueror felt the same way since this treasure was thought to be extinct.

“Heaven Reckon... I think I’ve heard about it before, a legendary ruler.” An ancient god found this title familiar. [1]

“It is deeply connected to Buddhism.” Someone else remembered its origin and took a deep breath.

However, the oldest emperors and dao lords were only interested in the third item - Reincarnation Nine-leaves.

“A chance to live again, perhaps.” An ancient emperor’s eyes pulsed with an intimidating light.

Any emperor at this point was near the end of their lifespan. They had consumed countless longevity plants in the past and couldn’t delay the inevitable. However, this item was one of the rare exceptions.

If they could somehow use it and achieve reincarnation, they would be able to live another life.

“I thought there was only one left.” A big shot asked his friend who was a king.

“As far as I know, Azure Peak has it.” The king responded.

“Where did Boss Tang get another then?” Everyone became curious.

This alchemy plant's value was beyond words. Only one was known to exist and Azure Peak didn't let anyone get close.

"The four alliances will compete for it since they can recruit an apex emperor with it." The big shot said.

"It's no different for the immortal order since everyone can use it. When was the last time one showed up? Entering the dream realm will change one's destiny." The friend said.

"What about the fourth treasure?" Someone else noticed that Boss Tang had only listed three things.

Chapter 5203: I Want Them All

"The fourth is at the immortal level, the best, and shall be saved for last. The price will be sky high so prepare well." Boss Tang's voice came from the ship again.

Everyone already knew that all of his treasures were special. Ordinary imperial treasures were meaningless in his eyes.

Just the first three treasures were shockingly tempting to top cultivators. However, the last one seemed to be on an entirely different level.

"An immortal treasure in this world?" A dragon lord questioned the statement.

"Even though there are no immortals, it can still be considered to be at the immortal level." Boss Tang said confidently and left no room for question.

“What exactly is it?” A domineering voice came from Imperial Attendant City, sounding as if it could be coming from a true dragon.

“Suppression Conqueror!” Many recognized this voice.

“An immortal treasure.” Boss Tang responded without adding any new information.

“Even if it’s not one, it’s still incredible.” Everyone understood how special it was after hearing the firm response. They all speculated about what it could be.

“Divine Alliance shall participate!” A sword soared across the air and pinned down one of the thrones, not allowing anyone to get close. Sword Sea Dao Lord himself had taken action.

“Imperial Alliance shall participate!” A rune crossed through the dimension and imprinted the word “Imperial” on a different throne.

“Heaven Alliance!” Next came a devastating lightning bolt to mark another throne. Its power was oppressive and intimidating.

“So will Dao Alliance!” This voice had a draconic affinity. A vast, auspicious dao billowed and added the symbol of Dao Alliance to the fourth throne.

“The four alliances are in.” No one dared to compete with these four powers.

“I should be a good host. Count me in.” The domineering voice from Imperial Attendant City resounded.

“Boom!” A rune with the character “Suppression” took the fifth spot.

“I shall join as well.” The sky suddenly turned dark and nether gales took over, creating dust storms everywhere. The city beneath became assaulted by a ghastly energy.

Countless black skulls manifested into reality and scared the hell out of everyone. They thought that another powerful cultivator was coming to claim one of the thrones.

However, a black banner coiled around the gigantic ship.

“I’ll take all the treasures!” A mighty dual-horned ghost appeared and wanted to drag the ship away.

“Ghost Tyrant Banner!” He was a notorious dragon lord that had refined a kingdom into his banner, turning the victims into a specter army.

This cultivator believed in his power and wanted to capture the entire ship. However, sharp rays came from within and cut through the banner.

“Shit!” The ghost became alarmed. His banner had been refined and empowered by countless souls, capable of refining anything trapped within. Alas, it was easily cut through by the rays.

This prompted him to flee right away, abandoning the disintegrating banner.

“Creak.” As he was running, a cannon on the ship aimed in his direction and shot out a blinding beam.

It pierced through space and time, making escaping an impossibility. The ghost knew this so he turned around, summoning all of his treasures and utilizing his merit laws.

A ghost domain emerged, wanting to block the beam.

“Boom!” The mighty domain exploded into nothingness while the beam pierced through his chest, causing him to fall from the sky.

“Leave!” He roared during the crisis and made his sacred fruits leave with his true fate.

In the next moment, a second beam obliterated his head and a third beam destroyed the fruits along with the true fate.

“Ahh!” He let out his last cry before the corpse hit the ground.

The crowd became silent as they watched a powerful dragon lord being taken down after three shots.

“No wonder why people didn’t try to rob Tang’s Emporium in the past.” One expert shuddered.

“I welcome these attempts since it’s been a while since I’ve last killed. I do miss it.” Boss Tang spoke, not afraid of anyone in the upper continents.

Chapter 5204: Take The Coffin Away Already

The sudden ambush from the ghost only served as an interlude. The other apex cultivators didn’t bother because they understood that the greatest merchant in the world was not one to be trifled with.

“Haha, didn’t this belong to you?” The old man in the courtyard said without opening his eyes.

Li Qiye smiled while looking at the ship once known as Sea Conch. He had refined it numerous times and turned it into an incredible artifact. Why did the brat have it now?

“Boom!” Deeper into Dao Alliance, a sun rose and illuminated all directions.

Next came a loud blast, resulting in the mark of a sun on one of the thrones.

“Azure School, one spot.” An imposing voice said.

“What? Why aren’t they with Dao Alliance?” Some listeners became confused.

“Azure School is rising thanks to Xiao Qingtian.” An ancient ancestor: “Do they want to rule Dao Alliance again?”

“I don’t see why not.” A big shot from Dao Alliance whispered: “Dao Alliance was started by Illumination Conqueror, it’s just that emperors from Eight Desolaces have taken over.”

There was a hint of indignation in his voice.

“Yes, if we were back in our golden age under Illumination Conqueror, Heaven and Divine Alliance wouldn’t dare to be so arrogant now. We would massacre The Race.” A dragon lord from Dao Alliance agreed.

Dao Alliance was currently under the leadership of All-things Dao Lord. However, he wasn’t its founder.

In a distant era, Illumination Conqueror fought the alliances alone before eventually forming Dao Alliance with allies who shared the same ideology.

Dao Alliance was immensely strong and forced The Race back. However, the conqueror suddenly left Dao Alliance and started Azure School.

Nonetheless, Azure School remained an ally of Dao Alliance. It had led Dao Alliance for some generations as well.

No one understood why Illumination Conqueror left during Dao Alliance’s golden age.

According to the legend, the conqueror’s final phrase before leaving was: “The majority of you have forgotten your aspiration.”

Because of this, most speculated that the conqueror quarreled with the other members, resulting in the separation.

Today, Dao Alliance already had a spot. Why did Azure School take one as well? Wouldn't this be going against All-things Dao Lord?

Of course, others didn't dare to comment on this sensitive matter.

"Amitabha." A Buddhist light appeared in the distant Pure Land. It crossed through the realms and pulsed on top of a throne.

"Pure Land is in too." Someone commented.

This was another power comparable to the four alliances. Apex Conquerors didn't dare to be arrogant there.

It didn't take long before more than half of the spots were taken. No one dared to compete with these behemoths either.

"You're not joining the fun?" The old man asked with a smile.

"I would just take them if I actually care." Li Qiye shook his head.

"Always so shameless." The old man said.

“At least I have more grace than you thieves.” Li Qiye commented before adding: “I’ll go outside for a bit.”

“You best hurry and take the coffin out, it’s occupying my grave.” The old man reminded.

“Of course, how can I do something so wretched? I’m just borrowing your grave for a bit.” Li Qiye said.

The old man was helpless or this would have been prevented from the start. He could only watch Li Qiye take over his spot.

“Creak.” Li Qiye opened the door and saw a youth standing outside.

True Bear was standing up and showed his fangs, ready to bite the youth at any moment. As for the old servant, he remained in the corner and didn’t pay attention.

When he saw Li Qiye, he finally made a move and appeared behind Li Qiye. True Bear ran over as well, still looking aggressive.

The youth was surprised to see this scene and scanned the three cultivators. This group of trio didn’t make sense.

“Dao Brother, I apologize for coming unannounced.” He bowed toward Li Qiye and said.

Although he dressed plainly, this exceptionally-handsome youth had eyes like stars and other impeccable features. His aura was strong as well, looking like a towering mountain. Nothing could get through him - a barrier of the cosmos.

“Impressive.” Li Qiye nodded approvingly.

“I forgot to introduce myself, how rude of me. My name is Li Zhitian. I arrived in the city just now and noticed the phenomena here, hence my unwelcome visit. I didn’t expect the door to be locked either.” The youth said.

Li Qiye didn’t react to the name. The same couldn’t be said for others since they would instantly become shocked and perhaps lost in admiration.

He came from Imperial Clan and was one of the three grand geniuses of the upper continents. Imperial was a pillar of Heaven Alliance, created by Crimson Emperor. Later on, it had notable figures such as Titanic Conqueror.

Crimson Emperor was one of the premier leaders of Celestial Court, leading The Race during Immemorial Epoch War.

Titanic Conqueror was impressive as well, defeating Dao Alliance in the upper continents and even attacking Immortal Dao City in the immortal continent.

Now, Li Zhitian was rumored as a genius capable of following in their footsteps. In spite of his age, he already possessed twelve sacred fruits, completely overshadowing his peers.

“I’m a guest as well.” Li Qiye smiled.

Li Zhitian cupped his fist and said: "I cannot imagine the wondrous affinities contained in those phenomena, may I ask who is staying in this courtyard?"

When he first came, he saw the mighty bear which was surprising enough. However, he couldn't even push the door open - something more startling.

Chapter 5205: Cleansing Incense Dynasty

Li Zhitian was awfully excited to see the door opening, thinking that he would be able to see the master of the courtyard.

He didn't expect to see someone so average like Li Qiye. However, the bear and the old man were clearly his followers.

He could see the power of the bear; why would such a powerful creature act like a pet? As for the old man, this person remained elusive but most likely stronger than him. In that case, his master must be even more frightening.

Therefore, it was strange because he could tell that Li Qiye's cultivation was just average - completely insignificant when compared to his own.

This made him more curious because he hasn't seen anyone like Li Qiye, whether it be in the upper continents or the immortal continent. The apex conquerors and emperors were nothing like him.

"Just a dead man, no point seeing him." Li Qiye said with a smile.

“...” He didn’t know how to respond and glanced at the courtyard again. There was no sign of death energy.

He assumed that Li Qiye merely joked and smiled wryly: “The phenomena were amazing.”

“There are many amazing things in this world.” Li Qiye responded.

He bowed slightly and asked: “I’ve just arrived and am unfamiliar with Imperial Attendant. Would you like to have a drink and chat about the people and customs of this city?”

“I’m just a passerby as well, just as unfamiliar as yourself.” Li Qiye shook his head.

“I see.” He knew how to react accordingly so he bowed again and said: “I apologize for the impolite intrusion.”

“I’m sure Imperial Clan and Crimson Emperor are happy to have a descendant like you.” Li Qiye said.

“Do you know my ancestor?” He became startled.

“Who doesn’t know the Grand Emperor with twelve wills?” Li Qiye smiled.

“I am only a firefly compared to his greatness.” He humbly responded.

However, he stopped there because Crimson Emperor was a general against The People. It would be rude to praise Crimson Emperor when speaking to a member of The People.

“Knowing oneself is a commendable virtue.” Li Qiye smiled.

“I will take my leave now, Dao Brother. If you have free time in the future, I would like to invite you for a drink, it would be my honor.” He asked again.

“Of course.” Li Qiye glanced at the youth again and agreed.

“Boom!” At this time, another beam rushed to the sky and illuminated the two continents. No one could resist feeling a sense of awe while thinking that a supreme existence was appearing.

“Pop!” A rune flew out of the beam and instantly imprinted itself onto one of the thrones.

“Azure Peak!” Everyone recognized the new rune.

“Azure Ancestor is returning as well?” Everyone shuddered after seeing this.

“Azure Ancestor!” Li Zhitian became startled as well.

The great ancestor created this power as a home for the sky spirits. No one dared to refuse when she took over this territory. Both The Race and The People were not allowed to enter.

It survived numerous great wars - a testament to her power. However, it has been silent for a long time until this auction. Was this a sign of its return?

“Clank!” People didn’t have time to think before they heard a loud clank.

A murderous strand of energy manifested into reality and frightened everyone. They felt as if their forehead had just been pierced.

This energy crossed through the world and pinned one of the thrones, causing all the top cultivators to become serious.

“Cleansing Incense Dynasty.” A dragon lord took a deep breath.

“Why now? Will it ask for Imperial Alliance’s authority back?” A big shot murmured.

Cleansing Incense was a title capable of making others tremble.

Azure School was an impressive sect but it was only a newly-risen star compared to Cleansing Incense.

It was unstoppable during Grand Dao and Imperial War. The legendary spear known as Emperor’s Demise put an end to numerous emperors and monarchs from The Race. Though Celestial Court was unbeatable during that period, Cleansing Incense didn’t relent for a second.

Since it suffered grievous losses during Grand Dao War, Heaven and Divine Alliance were able to breathe. Nonetheless, its prestige still remained today.

“I don’t have a problem with Cleansing Incense taking over Imperial Alliance again. After all, Genesis Conqueror founded Imperial Alliance.” An ancient ancestor said.

Genesis Conqueror was a special existence for diverging the path of cultivation. At first, everyone knew that conquerors could and should aim for twelve dao fruits.

This was no longer the case afterward since she showed that even just one fruit was enough to reach the truths of anima.

Of course, exceptions existed before this due to those possessing one primordial dao fruit. She pioneered a path allowing regular dao fruits to obtain anima as well.

Because of this, others gave her the title of “Genesis”.

“I don’t know.” A big shot from Imperial Alliance said: “I don’t think Cleansing Incense Dynasty will try. If it cared about authority, it would have done this long ago. This is most likely due to one of the treasures.”

Chapter 5206: Is The Bun Good?

No one had a problem with Azure Peak and Cleansing Incense taking over two spots. Even after all thirteen thrones were filled, they wouldn’t dare to compete with these powers.

This was especially true for Cleansing Incense due to its murderous intent. Just this alone intimidated everyone.

Although the dynasty was far removed from its golden age, challenging it was awfully unwise.

“The mythical dynasty is here too, that immortal item is truly tempting.” Li Zhitian commented emotionally.

He regained his wits and bid goodbye to Li Qiye: “Dao Brother, I have something to attend to. Goodbye.”

After the youth left, Li Qiye glanced at the murderous intent and sighed: “Cleansing Incense, not bad at all.”

“Let’s go take a look at Imperial Gate.” Having said that, he smiled and said. This could either be a comment to himself or to his followers.

Imperial Gate once reigned Imperial Attendant City. Now, it had lost its role to Suppression Conqueror.

Of course, its decline meant nothing to Li Qiye since it held a special position in his heart.

The group crossed through the main streets and saw how lively the city was. Big shots have arrived so dragon lords could be seen everywhere.

Occasionally, even conquerors, dao lords, and ancient emperors were spotted. Of course, they didn't announce their arrival yet. Some were here to watch the fun show, not qualified to participate in the grand auction.

Li Qiye didn't care for most until he came across a traveling cultivator with a muscular frame. He resembled a high mountain with bushy eyebrows and thick, messy hair.

He limped with the help of a wooden stick and held a broken bowl. He carried a dirty backpack and still give off an extraordinary presence amidst the hustle and bustle.

Li Qiye smiled and followed him who seemed to not know anything about the surrounding vibrant world as if he was a walking corpse.

The middle-aged man stopped in a corner and looked around in a daze before sitting down. He placed his bowl on the ground and hugged his knees with both hands, trying to avoid the sunlight.

Nonetheless, he extended his legs and due to these worn-out shoes, his toes were exposed to the sunlight.

A passerby saw his pitiful state and tossed him some coins. However, the seemingly homeless man returned them.

A while later, someone else placed a few buns into the bowl. The man seemed excited as he picked up the buns and started chomping down.

It appeared that everything in the world - whether it be mortal pleasures or immeasurable wealth - couldn't match up to these buns.

They were meaningless to him - dominion over the world, riches rivaling nations' treasuries, or even the unreachable immortality.

Li Qiye sat down next to him and said: "Give me one too, haha."

The man stared at the buns and eventually decided to give Li Qiye a new one from the bowl.

Li Qiye took his time eating; the man did the same. It was as if the buns were endless.

The former stared at his half-eaten bun and commented: "Nothing more to life yet death won't approach, how agonizing."

"Mmm." The man paused for a moment before nodding.

"But do you know what is even worse?" Li Qiye took another bite and said earnestly: "Being able to die yet compelled to live despite knowing the pain all too well. The torment of having to face pain directly without numbing oneself."

The man finally turned to look at Li Qiye. Although he was covered in dirt, his sculpted features remained. He must have stolen many hearts during his youth.

"That is life." His voice was coarse yet charismatic.

“Indeed, but the brilliance of existence does not lie in the world but rather, the self.” Li Qiye smiled.

“A solitary dance.” The man paused for a moment before replying.

“The grand dao is a solitary journey. Dancing alone can be brilliant as well. After all, who can accompany and dance with you forever? Only mortals have this privilege when their lives only last for decades.” Li Qiye said.

“I suppose there are worse things than dancing alone.” The man said.

“Everyone is afraid of ghosts.” Li Qiye continued: “But if ghosts exist in the mortal world, the number of ghosts harming people is probably fewer than the number of people who harm others. The human heart is more terrifying than anything.”

The man focused on eating again, albeit at a slower pace.

“I have a bun that I cherish dearly but it ends up at someone else’s house. It’s rather heart-wrenching, should I just eat it?” Li Qiye asked.

“...” The man froze for a second before staring at Li Qiye.

“Does that make me a monster?” Li Qiye chuckled: “Being betrayed is a deeply painful experience, enough to make someone go crazy and do foolish things.”

“It is a monstrous act.” The man agreed.

“It is not worth caring about a bun that is willing to inflict so much pain and distress. Suffering for unworthy people and things, now that’s foolish.” Li Qiye said softly.

“True.” The man said quietly.

“So this isn’t the most agonizing experience since logically, it shouldn’t affect someone that much.” Li Qiye concluded.

Chapter 5207: What Is Pain?

The man’s eyes had a bit more color after talking to Li Qiye.

“Burying a lover is worse than being betrayed.” Li Qiye said: “Being betrayed meant that the love was unworthy in the first place, no need to mourn. The loss of true love can bring a man down.”

“Yes.” The man pondered before nodding his head.

“Now let’s take it up another level. The feeling of helplessness despite possessing the ability to prevent it.” Li Qiye smiled.

“Elaborate.” The man stared at Li Qiye.

“Death is horrifying. A lover’s death is even worse. However, what if you have the ability to revive her?” Li Qiye said.

“Revive her.” The man repeated.

“If someone has this ability, they do not deserve the love.” Li Qiye said.

“Why is that?” The man asked.

“You wouldn’t be seeing the bun anymore.” As Li Qiye was speaking, he stuffed the remaining bun into his mouth.

After he finished chewing, he elaborated: “You would have eaten her long ago since you wouldn’t have been yourself. Now, as you move forward, you will continue to suffer. Betrayal is only a ripple in comparison.”

The man took his time before answering: “You are right, but everyone has their own trauma, a heart demon that can’t be overcome.”

“That’s not surprising. The favorite son of the heaven is blessed. Even when you lose it all, you’ll start from the same place as everyone else.” Li Qiye smiled.

“Blessed, you say?” The man sighed and looked at the sky.

“Is the dao truly that lonely?” He eventually asked.

“That depends on how far you can go and what you are searching for. For example, a rich mortal will think that everyone is drawn to their wealth. An authoritative figure will share the same belief. It’s just a matter of perception since the only constant is the human heart. If someone is with you not for wealth or power, they are definitely principled, destined to go farther than others. But ultimately, the end path seems lonely for them as well.” Li Qiye said.

“Why can’t two walk together?” The man asked.

“It’s not impossible.” Li Qiye said: “You might be able to find a companion along the way. Alas, the path is endless so even the slightest difference, no matter how insignificant, will lead to a divergence spanning thousands of miles.”

“People come for resources and power.” Li Qiye said: “It is what it is, don’t place too much hope in people but if you want to do so, you must uphold your dao heart first.”

“My dao heart.” He said softly.

“If you want to protect for love, then do it. As for what the lover does, that’s her problem. For example, if you like an insect and wish to protect it, you shouldn’t impose on what it does.” Li Qiye said.

“A lover is different from an insect.” The man shook his head.

“When your dao heart reaches a level capable of reaching the apex, your lover, your world, and everything else are no different from insects. You should only do what you want to do or what you believe you should do. Your heart is unaffected by anything else.” Li Qiye said.

“Sounds pointless.” The man disagreed.

“It’s a fallacy for arrogant emperors and cultivators.” Li Qiye said: “If you protect others but expect them to praise and repay you, then your original intention is not protection, it is merely seeking affirmation, a matter of ego. When you protect for the sake of protecting, praises and insults no longer matter. They are nothing and you can do as you wish, this includes ignoring them.”

“The way you put it, it sounds like my dao heart is not firm enough.” The man smiled wryly while his eyes sparkled with a hint of pain.

“Pain starts with perception and emotion. Because you love, you also suffer. If you grow numb enough, you won’t be able to perceive pain to a certain extent.” Li Qiye looked into his eyes.

“That I understand. Numbness is the only coping mechanism for certain experiences.” The man nodded.

“There is a limit to this, how long can one remain numb?” Li Qiye said.

“When they lose it all, as you said earlier.” The man said.

“It is clear that nothing can be preserved forever. What must one do at this realization?” Li Qiye asked.

“I don’t know.” The man sighed.

“There are two choices to make then, either face it directly and try to endure or fall, whether it be through numbness or self-destruction. Which will you pick?” Li Qiye asked.

The man didn't answer and stared at the bun in his hand.

Li Qiye took another bun out of the broken bowl and ate slowly. After one bite, he said: "The heart can't be understood so easily. Now, there are people who would throw you a bun or a few coins but if your bowl is filled with coins and buns, these same people would ask you for help or express disgust."

He paused for a moment before continuing: "Is it because they have changed? No, they're still them. It's just that good or evil, love or hatred, it all arises from a single thought, a reflection of the human heart at that point in time."

"Hmm..." The man looked up in the sky and pondered carefully.

"The fallen ones certainly loved the world once; some had protected it. Those who have loved you can stop loving you, and those who hate you now may have loved you at one point." Li Qiye said.

"Or love something else." The man said.

"Again, a fallacy of self-righteous people." Li Qiye couldn't help but laugh: "Why do people think that love must be selfless or an act of sacrifice? Can a wealthy man not receive true love? Only a beggar can? No, love is conditional. Why would someone insist on loving a penniless lad? Would you love a woman who is unbelievably ugly?"

"That is the mind of the common people." The man smiled wryly.

“Does a powerful cultivator transcend this belief? No, their heart is the same. They pick incredible merit laws over ordinary ones. They prefer the strongest weapons instead of tree branches. When you stand at the apex, would you pick an epoch weapon or a branch?” Li Qiye asked.

“Everyone would pick the epoch weapon.” The man said.

“Is that right? Those at the apex will still pick the most ordinary choices. Why fault the insects who would also do the same? Accept it for this is a fact of life.” Li Qiye smiled.

“Sir, seems like I was mistaken, I’ve tried to enlighten others without first enlightening myself.” The man sighed.

“Yes, reflect on yourself first to improve your dao heart, this will enable you to go further.” Li Qiye said.

“Myself.” The man glanced at the sky again.

Chapter 5208: Endless Riches

“Sir, have you ever been betrayed?” After a long while, the man asked Li Qiye.

“Kill or let it be. These are mere actions one can take, unrelated to the dao heart.” Li Qiye said.

“I am still affected, cannot bear to kill.” The man said.

“Then ignore it. To have loved is enough. Although I did present kill as a choice, perhaps it is not the right choice.” Li Qiye said.

“I once thought that love was unbreakable.” The man sighed.

“Unbreakable? When the dao heart can be broken, everything else can break as well.” Li Qiye said.

The man froze for a second before bowing: “You’re right. My own dao heart is not unbreakable, I can’t expect anything else to be unbreakable.”

“It is inherently difficult. To reach this level means being indestructible, not even death can break it because then, death is only death, nothing more.” Li Qiye responded.

“I understand.” The man said.

“This is the price to pay for being the heaven’s favorite. You must endure tribulations to justify the initial favor.” Li Qiye said with a smile.

“Right, but who can refuse the blessing?” The man said.

“If your wish does not align with the heaven’s, then tribulations and hardship will take you down.” Li Qiye continued.

“Yes, having too much and losing them all, unbearable because of overwhelming desires.” The man nodded.

“We can keep it simple, you only need one pursuit for the dao.” Li Qiye smiled.

“And what is yours?” The man asked.

“An answer.” Li Qiye glanced at the sky.

“You’re willing to abandon everything else for this answer?” The man asked again.

“Anything relating to the answer is my own doing, the rest has nothing to do with me.” Li Qiye said.

“I understand.” The man bowed again.

“Good.” Li Qiye stood up and started walking away while still speaking: “There is a price for wealth and power, your price has been insignificant compared to what you have been given.” With that, he disappeared into the crowd.

The man’s eyes gradually became lucid again and colors returned to the world.

“I have walked and enjoyed the mortal world more than enough.” He glanced at the sky with a focused expression while murmuring.

“Endless Riches or not, I am still Blazing.” With that, he vanished into the crowd.

As Li Qiye walked toward Imperial Gate, bright lights appeared outside again from the various powers including Alchemy Dao, Qilin Manor, and Iron Tree.

The lights gathered together to form the character of “Imperial”. It imprinted itself into one of the thrones. Its power and divinity couldn’t compare to the marks of the other participants.

“Imperial Attendant, one spot.” Resplendent Monarch of Qilin Manor declared.

“Hmm?” Some big shots became confused because Suppression Conqueror had already taken up one spot. Was this a challenge to him?

“Looks like we got a show?” Both the city’s members and outsiders understood that something was going on.

“I’m taking one as well.” A faint voice sounded and suddenly, something swept the entire world up.

Cultivators became afraid since they lost control as well. Fortunately, this only lasted for a split second.

“Boom!” A mark resembling an ear could be seen on one of the remaining thrones.

“Immensity Conqueror!” Everyone recognized the mark.

“He’s back?” Another conqueror shuddered after seeing it.

The big shots from the four alliances didn’t underestimate him either. He was a legend just like Principle Conqueror, perhaps even one level higher.

He was talented enough that no one doubted his success. Sure enough, he became a conqueror at a young age.

For some strange reason, his cultivation stagnated for a hundred thousand years or so. Even his descendants started surpassing him.

At this mark, his cultivation suddenly soared again, allowing him to obtain eleven dao fruits in one go. This legend didn’t join any of the alliances but this didn’t affect his status in the upper continents.

“Leave me one spot.” An existence woke up from a deep slumber. His voice came from a distant valley.

“Oh? Still alive.” Li Qiye stopped and smiled after hearing this voice.

“Zzz.” A wisp of flame appeared on one throne and left its mark.

“Who is that?” This mark was unfamiliar to most spectators in the city.

“An ancient Immortal Emperor, Yao Zu.” One conqueror revealed and startled everyone.

“This old geezer is still alive?” A mighty existence up in the clouds found this surprising.

“Immortal Emperor Yao Zu.” Listeners repeated his title in astonishment.

This was another legendary figure - a predecessor of Heavenly Sage Yuan. Not only was his alchemy peerless, so was his cultivation.

Ancient emperors and even Celestial Court sought his aid. Alas, he was too arrogant to care for any of them.

Rumor has it that he was either killed during the calamity or died a normal death. Today, his appearance shocked everyone.

“He’s here for the nine-leaves.” A big shot in the sky understood.

These unbeatable big shots knew that his lifespan was coming to an end. He had consumed the finest-grade longevity pills so they were useless to him now.

“Living a borrowed life, how meaningless.” Li Qiye glanced in the direction of the valley and shook his head.

Chapter 5209: Same Name

The four grand alliances, Pure Land, Azure Peak, Cleansing Incense Dynasty, Azure School, Suppression Conqueror, Immensity Conqueror, Imperial Attendant represented by Alchemy Dao and the others, and Immortal Emperor Yao Zu took up twelve spots, leaving one behind.

All eyes were on the remaining throne. Although many big shots and ancestors wanted to participate, they knew that they didn't have the power to take the seat. Plus, would they even have the resources to actually be competitive during the auction?

In fact, the dominating Suppression Conqueror was a clear underdog compared to the other bidders.

"Clank!" A sword as black as ink suddenly landed on the remaining throne, releasing evil energy.

It started melting the space nearby and created an evil maelstrom.

"Malice!" Experts recognized this sword and shouted.

"Yes, it is I." A figure dressed in black appeared in the sky. His robe was tattered and worn out due to an unknown power. He looked like a god of death ready to reap on all inhabitants in Imperial Attendant.

"Don't look straight at him or you'll be infected." The big shots warned their juniors.

Unfortunately, not all were so lucky. Weaker cultivators who stared at him for too long were drawn toward his eyes.

"Ahh!" They fell straight to the ground after being swallowed by his evil aura.

“Why does it feel like I’m not welcomed here?” Malice sneered at sat down on a throne, the first to actually do so.

“What does he want?” The crowd despised the evil swordsman. He was a reaper of souls, subjecting his victims to a fate worse than death. Alas, he had eleven sacred fruits so most couldn’t deal with him.

“Scram!” Another cultivator demanded Malice to leave - a girl in a white dress; her face covered by a veil.

It had an illusory factor to hide her appearance, causing her to look like a blurry shadow.

Dragon lords and conquerors took a deep breath after sensing her murderous intent. Weaker cultivators instantly dropped to the ground. No one could ever get close to her since that would be suicidal.

“Jue Xian’er...” A big shot murmured after seeing the white phantom. [1]

“Conqueror Jue Xian’er!” A youth shouted.

“Don’t ever address her as a conqueror or she’ll kill you.” A senior immediately warned.

This name evoked fear and dread; the four alliances were no exception. Rumor has it that she didn’t appreciate being addressed as a “conqueror” and might even kill violators.

“There are two Jue Xian’er, right?” The youth whispered.

His senior turned pale and covered his mouth before answering: “Do not speak of this again or she’ll really kill you.”

In reality, this was indeed the case. There were two famous cultivators sharing this name in the upper continents, Conqueror Jue Xian’er and her mother. She chose to inherit her mother’s name.

Her father was Righteous Dao Lord from Eight Desolaces - a rather brilliant dao lord. Her mother stood out even more - a genius dragon lord with twelve sacred fruits capable of fighting against any emperor and conqueror.

During her era, she actually outshined Supreme. Today, Supreme was considered the strongest dragon lord but if she were alive, that position would be hers.

The love between Righteous and Jue Xian’er should have been celebrated for generations. Unfortunately, the two became enemies during Imperial War. They both fell in battle, leaving their daughter behind.

Who knows what the orphan experienced while being all alone? When she made her dao debut, she eventually became a conqueror with the help of a weapon known as Immortal Piercer. [2]

No one could survive the moment she summoned it in battle. Thus, most avoided fighting her since they didn’t want to be trapped by this special chain.

Her most illustrious battle took place in Heaven Alliance. She came alone, demanding her mother’s remains. Even Supreme couldn’t stop her.

Chapter 5210: Seal The Dao Heart

Malice has yet to warm the seat before being rudely demanded to leave by Jue Xian'er.

As an evil cultivator, he had never been afraid of anyone and wouldn't tolerate such disrespect.

"What do you want?" He unsheathed his weapon and turned the sky dark with his evil energy.

"Rumble!" The dark maelstrom became larger and devoured the sky above them.

"What a dreadful aura." The big shots trembled after seeing this.

An eleven-fruit dragon lord wasn't the strongest cultivator here but still possessed immense destructive capability.

"You court death." Jue Xian'er focused her murderous intent on Malice.

"Die!" The other immediately attacked after seeing the escalation. An evil sword came out from the center of the maelstrom.

Everyone felt as if there was a dark eye staring at their very soul and sealing their movement. The sword instantly thrust toward her chest; its aura stagnated reaction time.

“Clank!” However, Jue Xian’er had enough time to summon her weapon - a long iron chain of a crimson color.

At first, it looked like a regular chain but after careful observation, one would find that it was made of countless laws imbued with the most precious metals.

“Immortal Piercer!” Regular cultivators shouted.

“So there it is.” A conqueror put on a serious expression.

“Oh?” Li Qiye who was heading toward Imperial Gate felt something. He turned around and saw the crimson chain, becoming slightly surprised.

“It’s called Immortal Piercer now?” He murmured at the weapon that was in his possession once.

“Boom!” The chain had no problem crushing the evil sword so Malice turned to flee but it was already too late.

“Ahh!” He bellowed in agony as the chain pierced his heart. His true fate and sacred fruits couldn’t escape either due to the chain’s sealing property.

She pulled back and dragged everything out of his body in a gruesome manner. Next, she commanded the chain to wrap tightly and obliterate the true fate and sacred fruits.

A feared dragon lord met his demise just like that. She didn’t need to use any technique to kill him.

“The chain deserves its reputation.” The others turned pale after seeing this.

Some conquerors had imagined themselves facing the chain before. Even apex conquerors wouldn't be confident because they couldn't see a single flaw within the chain.

“The chain affects the dao heart, only the dao heart can break free.” Li Qiye smiled and shook his head after seeing this.”

The world has yet to understand the method to deal with the chain. Thus, she became a dreadful figure even for top cultivators.

“This thing shouldn't be in this world.” Boss Tang's voice came from the ship.

“You know about it?” She stared at the ship but he didn't respond.

She didn't push the issue and sat down on the last throne. With that, all thirteen have been taken.

If anyone else wanted to join, they would have to kick out one of the current participants.

“Now we just have to wait for the auction to start.” Someone murmured.

“I wonder if anyone else will try to grab a spot.” A big shot said.

“Get off!” Sure enough, someone shouted and stomped on the character “Imperial” belonging to Imperial Attendant.

“Such impudence.” Li Qiye frowned after seeing this.

“You dare?!” A figure leaped out of Qilin Manor in a flashy manner and activated Resplendent Array to stop the attack.

“Boom!” The foot destroyed the array and forced the combatant to show himself.

This was none other than Resplendent Monarch whose chest was heaving up and down while staggering backward in the air.

The one wishing to destroy the rune “Imperial” was an old man whose hair fluttered to the wind, looking like the quills of a hedgehog.

Loud detonations erupted where he stood since he showed no sign of restraining his power.

“Get back!” Others immediately retreated while the big shots were surprised to see him.

“Impetuous!” Resplendent Monarch’s expression soured.

This cultivator was Supreme's rival once. Supreme eventually outmatched him and became the leader of Heaven Alliance.

Nonetheless, Impetuous was still a renowned dragon lord with twelve sacred fruits and an overbearing fighting style.