

Emperor 5211

Chapter 5211: Answer Our Call, Conqueror

Although Impetuous lost the competition against Supreme, how many had managed to win throughout the long years?

Thus, this experienced dragon lord could still rampage uncontested in the modern day.

“A perfect dragon lord? Or does he have an immortal shell now?” Other dragon lords speculated.

For regular cultivators, twelve sacred fruits meant something incredible. However, this was still only the beginning.

The twelve fruits were required to create an immortal shell and with that, the sacred anima tree. This was a path longer than the previous with each step harder than the previous.

The rewards were everlasting life and then immortality. However, even the founders - Space Dragon Emperor and Dragon-ox Ancestor - might not have reached the final level.

Since Impetuous has had twelve sacred fruits for a long time now, others wondered if he had created an immortal shell.

He was more valuable as a reference point than Supreme. The latter was brilliant and legendary, making his cultivation impossible to duplicate.

The floating Impetuous looked rather prideful and arrogant as he laughed and said: "I apologize but I must take Alchemy Dao's spot since I am here for Heaven Reckon."

He clearly didn't give a damn about Resplendent Monarch who only had ten sacred fruits. The difference between the two of them was immense.

He didn't apologize to Qilin Manor or Iron Tree either, only Alchemy Dao. This was because he might require certain medicines in the future - something true for virtually everyone in the upper continents.

"Don't even think about it!" Resplendent Monarch didn't relent because their alliance must obtain the Dream Immortal Order. He was ready to risk his life for it.

"It's not up to you." Impetuous laughed and raised his foot again for another stomp.

"Boom!" The power of the stars and three thousand worlds gathered beneath his foot.

"Frenzy Cosmo!" The sky turned dark as a result as inhabitants looked upward and saw countless stars.

Resplendent Monarch was trapped in this newly-created galaxy, looking like an insect.

"Qilin Art!" Resplendent Monarch changed to a divine qilin.

It spewed out flames and incinerated the galaxy. At the same time, its huge frame caused considerable damage to the stars.

“That’s not enough.” Impetuous laughed and activated his twelve sacred fruits, sending a palm seal into the galaxy.

This was enough to send the gigantic beast flying for countless miles. Spectators took a deep breath after seeing this.

“Nothing can make up the gap of two fruits.” One of them said.

“Bam!” The seal suppressed and changed the qilin back to humanoid form. He vomited blood, unable to break free from the seal.

“Imperial Attendant will lose the throne.” Another spectator said.

Everyone could see that this alliance was the weakest of the thirteen participants. Their strongest ancient ancestor, Resplendent Monarch, only had ten sacred fruits. Impetuous wasn’t strong enough to take a spot from anyone else, so this was the obvious target.

“It’s not too late to hand it over.” Impetuous shouted.

“Never!” Resplendent Monarch gritted his teeth, preferring death instead of giving up.

Li Qiye, who had just entered Imperial Gate, glanced upward and frowned. Nonetheless, he still didn't take action.

"Boom!" Back in Alchemy Dao, a unique rune encompassed in flames manifested into reality. Although it wasn't overly bright, it still reached all the lands in the upper continents including the deepest crevices.

"Answer our call, Immortal Pagoda Conqueror!" A loud cry came from Alchemy Dao.

"Immortal Pagoda Conqueror?" This surprised neutral listeners since this cultivator was not affiliated with Alchemy Dao.

He was once the guardian of Heaven Alliance but gave up his position to focus on cultivation. If it wasn't for his deliberate abdication, Supreme would not be in charge right now.

"Boom!" The sky vault suddenly cracked into two halves. The crack was large enough to take in the entire city.

A pagoda appeared from the crack and poured down chaos laws and runes. Hymns praising the wonders of the world could be heard everywhere.

"The pagoda!" Even conquerors shuddered after seeing this.

Chapter 5212: A Favor Repaid

The pagoda could suppress nearly everything in the upper continents. Only five or so cultivators could actually withstand it.

“Why is he here?!” A twelve-fruit dragon lord’s expression darkened.

When not counting those who have entered the immortal continent, Immortal Pagoda Conqueror was among the top five cultivators.

He had dominated the lower continents and destroyed numerous sects of The People. He had slain famous conquerors and dao lords as well.

The most frightening thing about him was his primordial dao fruit. Just one alone granted him invincibility.

Only a few existences in history possessed this fortune - Luminous, Nightmoon, and Immortal Pagoda.

The former conquerors were mighty enough to challenge Celestial Court. However, they were no longer in the upper continents so he was the only one with the primordial fruit now.

Suppression and Immensity Conqueror no longer looked as relaxed as before after seeing the pagoda.

Li Qiye chuckled after seeing a primordial fruit in action since he was all too familiar with it.

“Why is he here?” One spectator asked.

Although it was only his pagoda, no other conquerors would dare to compete with him.

“He owes Alchemy Dao a favor.” The top cultivators understood right away.

As a pillar of Heaven Alliance, he always stood together with the heavens. Alas, Alchemy Dao had invoked its fiery rune. Immortal Pagoda needed to answer the summon in order to repay the debt. This was the only logical explanation.

“That’s why people are afraid of Alchemy Dao.” Someone else commented.

Too many brilliant cultivators in history owed Alchemy Dao a favor for helping them with high-ranked pills.

Back in Immemorial Epoch War, Heavenly Sage Yuan saved numerous emperors and monarchs. This tradition continued with her successors.

Because of this, some of the current emperors and conquerors owed Alchemy Dao a life debt, and this must be repaid.

This was the reason why Alchemy Dao remained untouched despite possessing valuable alchemy materials.

“Boom!” The immortal pagoda easily crushed Impetuous’ dark galaxy.

The latter laughed and didn’t give up, summoning another galaxy. Alas, this was still crushed again by the pagoda.

“This throne is under my protection.” A suppressive voice came from above, rendering everyone breathless.

Immortal Pagoda Conqueror had made his intention clear in order to repay the debt to Alchemy Dao.

“Come and fight me!” Impetuous didn’t give up and unleashed a mighty attack: “Impetuous Skybreaker!”

An entire cosmo came together and rushed up toward the pagoda.

“Rumble!” This had enough power to destroy an entire region.

“You overestimate yourself.” The voice answered.

In the next second, a primordial power descended from the pagoda and obliterated the cosmo.

“Crack!” The pagoda slammed into Impetuous, breaking through several layers of dao defense in the blink of an eye.

Impetuous vomited blood, realizing that he was outmatched. He instantly opened a void zone and escaped, not giving a damn about his reputation.

The pagoda didn’t give chase. “Buzz.” It released a seal down onto the throne taken by Alchemy Dao.

"I believe I have made myself clear." Immortal Pagoda Conqueror spoke again.

No one uttered a single word. Trying to seize the throne now was akin to not giving him face - a direct challenge.

"Boom!" After a brief silence, the pagoda flew back up the crack and the sky closed again.

"The debt is paid." His voice echoed one last time. A promise for a supreme existence such as himself was ironclad.

"How many other conquerors owe Alchemy Dao a favor?" This was the question preventing others from making a move right now.

"This throne is guaranteed too, is there another target?" Someone asked.

Right now, the weakest throne occupier was actually Suppression Conqueror. However, he still had eleven dao fruits.

Chapter 5213: Utterly Shameless

Imperial Gate once ruled the city at its inception and for many subsequent eras, becoming a holy ground of sorts for cultivators.

The only historical interruption of their rule was when Peerless Monarch took over during a time of crisis. Nonetheless, she returned it later.

Now, Suppression Conqueror has taken over. In a sense, he and his sect were considered outsiders.

The latter had been trying to change the main branch status of Imperial Gate. After all, as long as this belief existed, he would never truly be in charge. The question of returning the reins would always loom in the future.

In spite of its current state, Imperial Gate's foundation has been blessed by numerous cultivators. It started with City Lord Zi Yan, Space Dragon Emperor, Ox-dragon Ancestor, Skyshroud Emperor...

This was especially true for the two founders of the dragon lord path. They searched for a way to reach the dao source and Imperial Gate became their main research zone.

During its prime, the doors weren't open to outsiders. Alas, Suppression Conqueror forced it to change after taking over. Many areas were open now so cultivators could come to take a look at the origin of the dragon lords.

Li Qiye entered the main entrance - a vast field where the city lord and the wise sages once had public speeches. Today, only memorial statues were left to honor them.

The first in sight was none other than City Lord Zi Yan. Her statue was built in the very center of the field, gazing toward the distance as if waiting for someone.

She was a peerless beauty who exuded a mature and noble charm, possessing an imposing presence. She had orchestrated strategies and mobilized forces to epic battles for generations. Everything was within her grasp.

The statue tried its best to imitate her ethereal nature since she was originally a violet bamboo. No records of her origin existed in the upper continents. However, her exploits during the great wars have been recorded.

She served as the support and backer for the emperors at first. It wasn't until Grand Dao War that she personally led the wise sages to battle. She also furnished the troops with incredible materials and jades...

Because of her unwavering support and resources to Imperial Field, their side was finally able to seize the upper hand. During one of the most pivotal battles, she traveled to Imperial Field and fell valiantly in combat.

Li Qiye sighed while staring at the statue. He could still hear her voice calling him "Young Master". Now, he could only meet her statue again.

To her sides were Ox-dragon Ancestor and Space Dragon Emperor. The former was a bull with a draconic and godly aura. The other, Space Dragon Emperor, was even more impressive.

He wore golden armor with a dragon coiling around the plates, making him look like an unbeatable god of war.

Li Qiye appreciated the animated depiction of Ox-dragon Ancestor but chortled after seeing Space Dragon Emperor. The load on his mind disappeared right away.

The statue of the emperor just looked impressive - a being capable of treading through the heavens and earth, challenging the sun and moon while clad in golden armor.

Various phenomena and dominant affinities have been bestowed upon him, something Li Qiye found hilarious.

However, no one in the upper continents would question his prestige. After all, he started the sovereign path in Eight Desolaces and then the dragon lord path in the six continents. This allowed cultivators to excel at the dao without needing to become a conqueror.

Moreover, he embraced the title of "Dragon Emperor". Everyone believed that he must have come from a true dragon race, possessing the noblest bloodline...

All in all, his image was immensely grand in the minds of the people. As for Li Qiye, he remembered the dragon emperor as a worm and thought that the guy was good at embellishing his image.

"What a shameless brat." Li Qiye found this amusing and forgot the disappointment earlier.

Ox-dragon Ancestor, on the other hand, kept a humble image. He was a bull and his statue reflected that.

"He must have lived a joyful life." Li Qiye said.

In fact, ever since the opening of Imperial Gate, many came to pay their respect with the majority focusing on Space Dragon Emperor and Ox-dragon Ancestor.

They gave the world a new path and brought hope to lesser-talented cultivators who sorely needed it.

Sure enough, these two statues had a long line in front of them. Some came to worship, others came to take a look and even touch the statues.

As for Li Qiye, his attention was taken by another statue - Skyshroud Emperor.

The statue undoubtedly depicted an unparalleled beauty. However, the physical appearance was elusive and ever-changing. At first glance, there seemed to be a graceful beauty but it would shift into nothingness afterward.

Looking at it for a long time made people feel as if Imperial Gate was no longer around, and the same for the sky. All were concealed by something.

Chapter 5214: For One Person

“The girl got this far too.” Li Qiye was surprised to see this and instantly decided to go back in time.

He focused his gaze on the statue in order to read her past. She appeared before him, no longer a statue but a beauty dressed in white and a piece of jade tied to her waist. The simplicity of her attire didn't diminish her nobility.

The loose dress didn't fully conceal her breathtaking, perfect curves. Her delicate and tall figure appeared to be meticulously chiseled by the creator. All in all, not a single flaw could be found.

Unfortunately, her face itself was hidden behind a veil with the exception of her vivid eyes. Of course, this didn't stop Li Qiye's gaze.

He broke through the enigmatic barriers and found an imperial aura that has been waiting for none other than him.

“Shouldn’t have done this.” He sighed and said.

Skyshroud Emperor’s origin remained unknown. Some believed that she hailed from the Heaven Race, perhaps even Celestial Court.

“I heard Skyshroud Emperor’s bloodline is second to none. Do you know the popular saying about her? That she was born for someone alone.” Someone suddenly remarked next to him. [1]

He looked over and saw a gorgeous girl who didn’t seem to care about her appearance at all, wearing a loose, unisex robe while not having any makeup on. Her hair was casually tied into a ponytail as if she came from a small village.

Both her attire and demeanor didn’t match her stunning beauty. Nonetheless, this created a marvelous contrast and a unique charm that was hers alone. Of course, some would consider this to be an improper deviation from the norm.

In fact, her appearance had caused hushed discussions among the crowd. Many came to greet her but she only nodded slightly at best, not wanting to participate in pleasantries.

Li Qiye smiled and stared at her. She stared back with a golden radiance flashing deep within her pupils.

“My name is Ye Fantian. May I have your name, Young Noble?” She bowed and asked with a carefree demeanor.

Xiao Qingtian, Ye Fantian, and Li Zhitian were the “three Tians” of the upper continents. Their talent was historically exceptional.

She was the current jewel of Divine Alliance, taught by one conqueror and dao lord after another. In fact, Sword Sea Dao Lord himself had taught her the dao.

Since all three shared a similar name and talent, it wouldn’t be strange for them to share the same cultivation realm.

This was actually not the case. Xiao Qingtian and Li Zhitian both had twelve sacred fruits currently. If they could create an immortal shell, they would be able to compete with existences such as Supreme in the future.

Ye Fantian, on the other hand, picked the imperial road even before the other two became dragon lords. Thus, her cultivation was initially faster but for some unknown reasons, it stagnated entirely.

Because of this, she was mocked by many including her own sect members. They said that she didn’t belong in the trinity.

Their disdainful ridicule didn’t affect her in the slightest. She remained free-spirited and continued her path.

Something noteworthy was that despite her apparent setback, the upper echelon of Divine Alliance didn’t give up on her. They continued to treat her as the heir.

Once the public found out about this, they stopped mocking her and started respecting her instead.

Why? Because of several historical precedences, one of which being Immensity Conqueror who was stuck at one fruit.

At first, everyone believed that this was his limit. He shattered this notion when he obtained eleven dao fruits in one go, surpassing those who had surpassed him previously.

Therefore, many speculated that this was a similar scenario - Ye Fantian obtaining twelve dao fruits in one step.

Two other conquerors, the best of the best, had done something similar - Demon and Light-dragon Conqueror.

With this, she would be able to become an apex conqueror comparable to Immortal Pagoda and All-things Dao Lord. At that point, her two rivals would pale in comparison.

Now, the consensus was that she was a slumbering monster - the potential successor of Divine Alliance.

"I feel that calling you young noble rolls off the tongue more than Brother Li." She said after Li Qiye told her his name.

"That's fine." Li Qiye smiled.

She stared at him before glancing at the bear and the blue-robed old servant. The bear's power was obvious but the same couldn't be said about the old man.

"Greetings, Senior, may I have your name?" She bowed in his direction.

"I'm just a servant." The old man responded with a deep voice.

Her brows furrowed slightly since she felt that she had met him before, and that she even knew him. There must be a reason why this unfathomable cultivator was serving Li Qiye.

"Young Noble, it would be an honor for our Divine Alliance to have you join us." She got straight to the point and extended an invitation.

Chapter 5215: Tiny Divine Alliance

"Are you serious?" Li Qiye asked with a smile.

"With your permission, I will propose for you to become an esteemed guest adviser of Divine Alliance. If you don't think this is enough, we can negotiate further." Ye Fantian added with confidence.

This was a bold move given her status as a junior and current cultivation.

"Divine Alliance is too puny to catch my interest." Li Qiye shook his head.

Her eyes involuntarily narrowed as she tried to see through him after hearing this.

The comment would be considered excessively arrogant when uttered by anyone, including emperors and dao lords.

Ever since its founding, Divine Alliance has been a behemoth in the upper continents, surviving one great war after another. One apex conqueror alone was not enough to take it down, not even All-things Dao Lord or Sword Queen.

She had met mighty cultivators before but none displayed the same level of arrogance.

"I see, looks like our small temple cannot accommodate a grand god such as yourself, Young Noble." She bowed and said.

"That's right." He nodded in response.

"I apologize for bothering you, Young Noble. Goodbye." She didn't waste time and left decisively - something many big shots couldn't do.

He chuckled and continued to observe the various statues. There were many familiar faces - Heavenly Sage Yuan, Immortal Emperor Qilin, Peerless Monarch, Adamantine God Monarch...

These wise sages didn't belong to Imperial Gate but contributed greatly. They founded Qilin Manor, Alchemy Dao, and Iron Tree in the nearby regions.

There were those he didn't recognize at all. They were after his time and joined the alliance afterward. Today, none of them were still around.

After scanning the entire field, Li Qiye let out a sigh. Many waited for his return but alas, time didn't permit.

He shook his head and continued to enter Imperial Gate.

"Young Noble!" Suddenly, someone shouted with excitement and rushed towards him.

"I didn't expect to see you again!" The person couldn't contain her excitement and panted heavily, whether it be from running too fast or being overwhelmed with emotions.

It was none other than the successor of Alchemy Dao - Saintess Shao Yao.

"Well, here I am." Li Qiye said with a smile.

She blushed after realizing her folly, thinking that she was being too obvious. It's just that she couldn't control herself just now.

"Why are you here?" He asked.

“I am visiting the ancestors of Imperial Gate under the order of Senior Uncle regarding the auction.” She lowered her head so much that her head was nearly buried in her chest as she said softly.

“You want the treasures too.” Li Qiye didn’t find this surprising.

“We want the immortal order.” She had no problem revealing information to Li Qiye.

“For what?” Li Qiye said.

She stole glances at him and answered: “I don’t know the details, but the monarchs said something about Calamity Dao Lord.”

“Calamity?” Li Qiye didn’t expect this.

“Why are you here, Young Noble?” She nodded before asking.

“Just reminiscing a bit, time flies by so quickly that I’m on the verge of forgetting a few things. This is to prevent that.” Li Qiye sighed in response.

“Forget?” She found this puzzling because cultivators had nearly flawless memories.

“Let’s go inside.” Li Qiye said with a smile.

"I already tried but couldn't see them." She said.

"They won't meet you?" Li Qiye asked.

"No, I didn't have permission to see them. The truth is that Hundred Dao has taken control of Imperial Gate. The ancestors are staying way back, the majority of the outskirts are under the jurisdiction of Hundred Dao. They say it is for safety reasons." She said.

"The reason is to subdue Imperial Gate." Li Qiye chuckled.

"Yes." She lowered her voice: "That's why I have to go report to the senior uncle now."

"We're moving ahead first." Li Qiye smirked.

She nodded repeatedly like a chicken eating grain. She didn't want to return to Alchemy Dao either, preferring to stick with Li Qiye as long as possible. Her heart fluttered with joy due to this opportunity.

The two were greeted with towering cliffs. On the walls were infamous ancient murals that have survived for eras now.

In the middle were the imperial steps - a bridge leading straight up into the sect. Many geniuses considered this a challenge.

It was rather new, only started by Suppression Conqueror recently. Only by crossing this bridge would one be able to reach the renowned eighteen statues of the dragon lords.

Prior to this, only members of Imperial Gate and those with permission were eligible to see them. Now, it became open to the public.

“Hundred Dao is in charge of this area too.” Shao Yao whispered.

“It’s a good plan.” Li Qiye said before looking at the large murals.

They were skillfully engraved into the side cliffs, depicting old stories in a vague manner. One only had a few lines to show a standing figure. Another depicted a great tree or the scene of a skirmish...

Chapter 5216: Just Taking A Look

There were a hundred murals or so, believed to be painted by the wise sages of Imperial Gate. Their purpose remained unknown and birthed numerous speculations.

Current cultivators thought that they hid the mysteries of the grand dao. The sages had imprinted their knowledge into the murals, so learning them was akin to learning Imperial Gate’s supreme manual.

Imperial Gate did not open this place to the public before Suppression Conqueror took over. Nonetheless, it was still guarded by guards in golden armor. Each mural had its own group of spear-wielding patrols.

These cultivators were part of a unit under the leadership of the Divine Hawk Monarch. Most of the areas in Imperial Gate were within their jurisdiction.

“Senior Uncle told me that murals depict a legend, I don’t know if it’s true or not.” Shao Yao whispered.

Li Qiye was immersed in the murals. The engraving skill was perfect but the same couldn’t be said about the content.

Some had few lines; others were extremely chaotic or complex. This was why they were thought to be merit laws.

As for Li Qiye, he could see that they were all related to a single person who had traveled across the nine worlds and thirteen continents - him!

Of course, others lacked the foundational knowledge so it was all a mess in their eyes, unable to figure out the starting point.

Li Qiye appreciated the fact that many were still keeping him in their heart. All of these secrets were passed down for eras. This was akin to reading a tale about himself. Memories of the past resurfaced again.

As Li Qiye observed the murals, Shao Yao observed Li Qiye. When she looked back at the murals before them, she suddenly felt as if the simple lines look rather similar to Li Qiye.

She regained her wits and thought that this was ridiculous. It must be due to her crush, making everything remind her of him.

As the two went on their way, others from all over the world did the same thing. They hoped to learn the legacies left behind by the wise sages of Imperial Gate.

At this time, one particular mural got Li Qiye's attention. He became sentimental and touched it in order to feel its timeless aura - a way to connect with the past.

"Watch it!" A guard from Divine Hawk shouted.

"This place is not Hundred Dao's property, it is still our Imperial Gate." Saintess Shao Yao retorted.

"We have assumed control and make all the decisions now." The guard strongly asserted.

Li Qiye smiled and said: "Return from whence you came before risking sect destruction."

The guards nearby became alarmed and instantly looked in their direction. The audience nearby did the same.

"Who is this guy?" One neutral spectator whispered. This was a direct challenge against Hundred Dao and Suppression Conqueror.

"Who dares threaten Hundred Dao?" A youth walked over with a murderous temperament. His aura was of the fierce avian nature and intimidated everyone.

"Divine Hawk Monarch." The experts nearby understood that he was the commander of the guards.

Li Qiye didn't bother to look at him, still focusing on the mural.

“Miss Shao Yao, is he your friend?” The monarch saw the saintess and inquired.

“Yes.” She responded.

“I heard his bold statement earlier, I wonder if he can back it up.” The monarch said, ready to fight.

“I do not wish to kill here, be smart and scam.” Li Qiye said with contempt, clearly challenging Hundred Dao’s authority.

“Well, let’s see what you can do then.” The monarch took one step forward.

“It’s best that you listen to Young Noble Li.” Someone interrupted their conversation.

“Ye Fantian!” Everyone immediately looked over and became startled.

Moreover, the youth standing next to her was just as noticeable. He wore a sapphire robe and looked unbeatable. The land he stood on was blessed with his greatness.

“Xiao Qingtian!” They shouted his name as well.

He was a direct disciple of Illumination Conqueror and the current leader of Azure School.

Some believed that Azure School might take over Dao Alliance again and Xiao Qingtian would be the next guardian.

Therefore, people kept a distance due to both respect and fear. This was someone capable of reaching the apex in the future.

“Young Noble Xiao, Miss Ye.” Divine Hawk Monarch had to bow after seeing the two.

After all, one had twelve sacred fruits. Although he concealed his aura, just one glance alone could make others tremble in fear.

As for Li Qiye, he continued staring at a mural instead of paying attention to the two geniuses.

Ye Fantian took the initiative to approach. She stood shoulder to shoulder and said: “Are you comprehending it, Young Noble?”

“Just taking a look.” Li Qiye caressed the mural again.

“I’ve taken a look at all one hundred. In my opinion, there are definitely embedded grand dao within them.” She said casually.

“Is that so?” He finally turned to look at her.

“Of the heavenly level.” She repeated.

He smiled after hearing this.

Xiao Qingtian who was left out came closer. He took a look at Li Qiye and said: “Miss Ye, mind introducing us?”

Ye Fantian shook her head, causing Xiao Qingtian to be curious. The two of them appeared rather close.

“Young Noble, is there something special about this particular war mural?” He then asked Li Qiye.

Chapter 5217: Never Leaving

Li Qiye moved up the steps and checked the murals instead of answering right away. After a short while, he answered: “There’s nothing special.”

He then touched the mural in front of him and traced the lines before letting out a sigh. This mural depicted the calamity of when gigantic corpses fell from the sky. The warriors in the mural fought valiantly just to stay alive.

“Do not touch it!” Divine Hawk Monarch bellowed, not allowing the blatant violation of the rules.

Li Qiye turned back and coldly uttered: “Fools, you have already been given ample warning yet you choose otherwise. So be it, all members of Hundred Dao in Imperial Gate shall die today.”

The crowd clamored after hearing this. The monarch's expression became unsightly due to the public declaration. They needed to make an example out of him to maintain order.

"Let's go then!" The monarch shouted.

"Clank! Clank! Clank!" The guards nearby rushed over and form a grand formation.

"A fight!" Everyone understood that Li Qiye was here to cause trouble. They saw Saintess Shao Yao next to him and could see that this was a political move.

"Screech!" The formation finished and turned into a divine bird with sky-blotting wings.

"Die!" The monarch took charge of the formation and sent the bird against Li Qiye.

Li Qiye simply traced the mural in front of him again. Suddenly, all the murals on the cliffs lit up and opened a portal in the air.

"Ahh!" A beam descended and obliterated the grand formation. Members of Divine Hawk started falling to the ground.

The beam split into rays that shoot outward like energy arrows, piercing the head of the targets. Blood started splashing all over the murals and the steps.

The monarch himself didn't have a chance to retaliate since he was killed just like the rest. His body fell backward and smashed into the ground.

Their mission was to subdue Imperial Gate. After all, they couldn't actually do anything to Imperial Gate or it would start a political upheaval.

Alas, not a single survivor could be found after just a few seconds.

"What the hell was that?" Spectators didn't see Li Qiye do anything outside of just touching one mural.

"Yes!" Those from Imperial Gate cheered because they were practically prisoners in their own sect.

"You figured something out, Young Noble." Ye Fantian's eyes became as bright as the stars: "I've been looking at the war-focused murals and knew that there were heavenly dao in them, is that what you borrowed?"

"Your talent is impressive." Li Qiye said.

"Could you teach me how to do that as well?" She asked.

Everyone's jaw dropped to the ground.

"Did I hear that right, Ye Fantian needing someone to teach her?" One expert whispered.

Currently, Ye Fantian was considered to be the most gifted in the upper continents. Only an apex conqueror such as Sword Sea Dao Lord was qualified to teach her.

Amusingly enough, those who had spent time teaching her lamented the fact that they would run out of things after a year or so - a testament to her immaculate talent.

Therefore, it seemed ridiculous that she would ask a random cultivator for guidance. Moreover, her expression was one of admiration and respect.

“No.” Li Qiye shook his head.

“What a shame.” She became disappointed but still bowed: “Nonetheless, that heavenly dao did spark something within me. You have my gratitude.”

Li Qiye sighed, appreciating the talent before him before suggesting: “Leave Divine Alliance and you may follow me to learn the dao.”

“Preposterous.” Xiao Qingtian couldn’t help but blurt out. He then took another look at Li Qiye.

As a dragon lord with twelve fruits, he still thought that Ye Fantian was still superior at dao comprehension despite her current cultivation. He was also aware of what the apex conquerors thought of her.

“Does he really think he can be Ye Fantian’s master?” The crowd members talked among themselves.

“Maybe he can teach her a thing or two, but he’s trying to poach the jewel of Divine Alliance.” A big shot said.

Divine Alliance's emperors and conquerors had tried their best to train her. Thus, Li Qiye's attempt was nothing short of a declaration of war.

Ye Fantian herself was surprised for a second. She then regained her wits and bowed deeply: "I appreciate your kind intent but I was born in Divine Alliance and will not leave."

"What a shame, but I suppose if I destroy Divine Alliance, you will have to follow me then." Li Qiye shook his head.

"!!!" This shocked the crowd even more.

"Watch your mouth!" A member of Divine Alliance shouted.

Some of them prepared for battle and approached Li Qiye. However, Ye Fantian told them to back off. They had no choice but to oblige.

"Young Noble, please refrain from making these remarks. I wish to stay with Divine Alliance." She said.

"I suppose that's the end of this." Li Qiye smiled and moved onward.

The imperial bridge awaited after crossing through the steps surrounded by the murals. Next were the eighteen images of the dragon lord's realm.

This bridge was created by Suppression Conqueror. He said that it was a test of dao comprehension but in reality, it was to prevent Imperial Gate's disciples from looking at their legacies.

"Young Noble, are you planning on crossing the imperial bridge?" Xiao Qingtian was drawn to Li Qiye so he asked: "The eighteen images are definitely worth taking a look at."

"The young noble is interested for sure." Ye Fantian said: "But the problem is that Suppression Conqueror's seal is incredible. I cannot cross the bridge given my current cultivation."

"The seal is impressive but it does not pose a challenge to me." Xiao Qingtian laughed and said: "I will attempt it so that you can watch, Miss Ye."

Chapter 5218: Break

It was no secret that Xiao Qingtian was in love with Ye Fantian. After all, they were both peerless, a perfect match.

Who wouldn't fall in love with a beautiful genius such as ye Fantian? Alas, the majority of geniuses didn't dare to confess since they felt inferior.

"I believe in you, Brother Qingtian. Crossing the bridge shouldn't be difficult given your cultivation, the same with the eighteen images." She smiled and said.

"Your confidence makes me want to try even more, Miss Ye." Xiao Qingtian couldn't help feeling good after being praised by his crush.

"Young Noble Li, I'll be going first." He moved forward regardless of Li Qiye's permission.

He was clearly peeved by Ye Fantian's high praises of Li Qiye, perhaps it was even admiration. Thus, he wanted to compete with Li Qiye and amaze Fantian as well.

As he crossed the bridge, he maintained a rapid pace. The suppression of the bridge didn't stop him.

"That's one of the three Tians for you." Spectators couldn't help but praise.

"Rumble!" explosions could be heard as he made it to the highest part of the bridge. Thunderous bolts descended in response but he activated his twelve fruits to stop them. This allowed him to maintain a cool posture and caused the crowd to applaud.

Members of The People took pride in him. One said: "The inheritor of Illumination Conqueror, he will be a pillar of Dao Alliance in the future."

"Young Noble Li, are you coming?" He looked down and asked, indirectly challenging Li Qiye.

However, Li Qiye had a different thought altogether. He stared at the bridge and said: "Unacceptable, meddling with Imperial Gate's territory. Take it down."

Others became startled. It sounded as if Li Qiye was going to break the bridge instead of crossing it.

"Isn't this too much? Suppression Conqueror created it himself, it can't be broken that easily." One expert doubted his ability.

“At least eleven dao fruits are necessary.” Another said.

“I wonder if his power is as outrageous as his arrogance.” A third expert commented while all eyes were on Li Qiye.

“Bam!” A figure landed before the bridge and released his dragon lord aura.

“Such impudence! State your name!” The person shouted.

Everyone saw a great crocodile demon with shiny golden scales.

“Crocodile the Chosen!” Many recognized him.

“Hundred Dao Sect Master wishes to fight.” Others started whispering.

He was a dragon lord with four sacred fruits, currently serving as the sect master of Hundred Dao. His master was Sanctified Bones, the junior brother of Suppression Conqueror.

“Killing our disciples is deserving of death, insulting my Senior Uncle is a graver offense.” Crocodile roared and his scales pointed outward like blades.

“Raa!” The bear who had been resting next to Li Qiye lunged forward.

“Die!” Crocodile was prepared and released a rain of swords.

The bear reacted with a mighty palm strike, crushing the scaled swords without difficulty to Crocodile’s astonishment.

“Bloodslash Mountain!” Crocodile was only surprised for a split second before performing a different technique. He spewed a golden saber out of his mouth - this was one of his fangs.

With one slash, an image of a mountain filled with corpses appeared along the trajectory. Wailing souls also engulfed the sky.

True Bear shot out a beam from his mouth and obliterated the souls along with the fang saber.

“!!!” Crocodile realized the futility of the fight and turned to run, only to see an old man hovering above him.

“Down!” The old servant raised his hand and an invisible force dragged the great demon over to Li Qiye, smashing it down before him.

“Crack!” The bear rushed over and chomped down, destroying both the fleeing sacred fruits and true fate.

“Sigh, this is a bit lacking in martial ethics.” Li Qiye shook his head.

The crowd was left speechless - a dragon lord was murdered just like that.

“Boom!” An explosion woke them up from their stupor - they saw the servant swinging a hammer against the bridge.

Xiao Qingtian who was standing at the top jumped up from being frightened.

“Boom! Boom! Boom!” Cracks appeared with each smash.

“Who are you, Fellow Daoist?!” A figure with a boundless imperial aura appeared.

“Suppression Conqueror!” The weaker members of the crowd dropped down to their knees.

“A divine intent.” One big shot said. The conqueror had left a divine intent here to prevent trouble.

This didn't stop the servant from trying to break the bridge.

“Activate!” The divine intent roared and attacked with a seal encompassing numerous dao.

This was useless because the next smash obliterated the seal and the divine intent.

“Boom!” The entire bridge collapsed afterward.

“Who is this?!” In a different location, the meditating Suppression Conqueror stood up and became startled since his divine intent didn’t have the slightest chance of holding the assailant back.

The servant stomped on the ground once. Dirt and soil came together to form a new bridge.

“The path is ready, My Lord.” He bowed in Li Qiye’s direction.

Chapter 5219: Eighteen Images

Everyone was dumbfounded including Xiao Qingtian. After his attempt, everyone thought Li Qiye would do the same and cross the bridge.

Alas, he simply ordered the destruction of the bridge and was successful at that. His old servant managed to crush a bridge created by Suppression Conqueror and guarded by his divine intent.

Just how strong was this old man? On the other hand, his master appeared so ordinary. The guy’s cultivation was as clear as day.

What was special about him to justify having two mighty followers?

“What...” Ye Fantian stared at the old servant; a sense of familiarity resurfaced.

Xiao Qingtian returned to the starting side and couldn't believe it. He felt both frustrated and lost.

He glanced at the old servant but couldn't spot anything peculiar. Such a powerful existence should be well-known. Thus, he was using a concealing art to hide his true appearance.

Who was he then? Why was he working for Li Qiye? This was the first time Xiao Qingtian truly misread something since his dao debut.

As Li Qiye climbed the new bridge, Saintess Shao Yao and Ye Fantian tagged along.

The other crowd members calmed down and also boldly followed them. As they came closer to the other side, they saw wondrous phenomena - towering divine trees and the music of the grand dao, an ocean of pills as well...

“Rumble!” Large, ancient laws were everywhere and continued to change into these visual phenomena.

When one could see through them and reach the end, they would be able to find the dao source. The dragon lord aura here exuded a tempting fragrance instead of an unbearable suppression.

They heard the cries of true dragons. There was a constant state of dao derivation and transformation, always asking spectators to join in.

“The eighteen images.” Someone carefully counted and said.

“This is it. Space Dragon Emperor and Ox-dragon Ancestor started the path here.” One big shot nodded.

“The dao of the dragon lord, we can see its finality here.” Ye Fantian said with awe.

“Rumor has it that the two great cultivators left behind the mysteries of the path here. Solving all eighteen images will take one to the apex.” Xiao Qingtian’s eyes brimmed with excitement.

The eighteen images represented the start to finish. Reaching the final step meant becoming something unfathomable.

According to the legends, Space Dragon Emperor and Ox-dragon Ancestor still haven’t reached the end, only deriving the possibilities. Thus, they left this behind for future generations; the limitless exploration continued.

Some spectators kneeled to show respect to their predecessors. The path of the conqueror was unreachable for virtually everyone; becoming a dragon lord was actually reachable.

For the dragon lords at the scene, this was the start of their cultivation and a way for them to go even farther. They immediately became serious in order to comprehend the path before them.

A weaker cultivation was sent flying by the first image, unable to go any further.

“It isn’t that simple.” An experienced dragon lord said.

“I don’t think anyone can make it through all eighteen.” Another said softly.

“True, the only possibility I can think of in our continents is Supreme.” A friend responded.

Supreme - a title capable of stirring others - was the strongest dragon lord currently. He would be one of the best even in the immortal continent.

“It would be a shame if I don’t at least give it a shot.” Xiao Qingtian could wait no longer. His excitement only made him more attractive and charismatic.

“Are you giving it a shot too, Young Noble Li?” He asked Li Qiye.

“Go first if you wish to try or there won’t be a chance later.” Li Qiye smiled.

Listeners nearby didn’t quite understand. Was he looking down on Xiao Qingtian?

“Very well, I will overestimate myself and try.” Xiao Qingtian looked ready to go all out as he entered the first image.

“Boom!” The first one was that of a gigantic dragon attacking with its claws.

“So strong!” Sensing the might of the first image stunned cultivators.

“Activate!” Xiao Qingtian roared and summoned an azure, looking unbeatable.

Chapter 5220: The Fourteenth Phenomenon

“Bam!” The dragon couldn’t claw through the azure.

This bought enough time for the genius to enter the second image - a bright expanse with countless galaxies and stars.

He roared again and activated his myriad dao, creating a cosmo of dao not inferior in the slightest.

The galaxies descended but still couldn’t break through his dao.

“Rumble!” Celestial barriers were erected and kept him safe.

He moved on to the third phenomenon - an abyss resembling the jaws of a colossal beast. Instead of falling into the darkness, he chanted and created a timeless dao path beneath his feet, capable of crossing through the reincarnation cycle...

“He’s unreal!” Spectators were amazed by his masterful display.

This genius with twelve sacred fruits dealt with the offenses thrown at him sublimely. Even the big shots couldn't help but feel admiration.

In reality, the majority of dragon lords would never reach his level. Most stopped at around four or five fruits but this was more than enough to dominate a region.

As for Xiao Qingtian, he obtained twelve at a young age, meaning that his future was still limitless. Others couldn't help but feel both envy and jealousy while watching him in action.

Loud detonations reverberated as he crossed through the phenomena. However, he showed signs of fatigue at the tenth phenomenon.

"He won't be able to get through the fourteenth." Ye Fantian assessed the situation.

"Boom!" Xiao Qingtian released all of his energies. If it wasn't for him being inside a phenomenon, his aura would crush all the weaker cultivators into dust.

"Go!" His twelve sacred fruits became resplendent, granting him enough power to make it through the eleventh image.

"Eleven!" The crowd applauded after seeing this - a youth capable of withstanding dao images left behind by two supreme cultivators.

"He's still going!" Xiao Qingtian entered the twelfth image, completely drenched in sweat.

He had no choice but to maintain his peak state. His twelve fruits released boundless chaos true energy in order to fuel an azure barrier.

“Boom!” Everything exploded but he still made it to the thirteenth.

Unfortunately, the azure was no longer there. His barrier was now limited to the immediate vicinity.

He barely had the strength to stand. The mere pressure nearly bent his spine but he kept on walking forward.

Meanwhile, spectators watched with bated breath. They were now more impressed by his determination and willpower than his cultivation.

His grand dao and sacred fruits pulsed with instability. Nonetheless, they still didn't extinguish. He seemed to be carrying a cosmo while inching forward, relying on willpower alone.

He sweated profusely as his face turned red. His muscles tensed to the limit; his bones creaked loudly.

His effort earned him the love of the crowd. They quietly cheered for his success.

He didn't care for his image at all. The only thing on his mind was to take another step forward. His current success wasn't only due to his unrivaled talent but also his extraordinary determination. Nothing could bring him down and force him to yield.

“Pop!” He finally made it through the thirteenth image and collapsed.

Nonetheless, he got up once more and tried to enter the fourteenth image.

“Boom!” An immense pressure overwhelmed him, robbing him of control over his own body. He couldn’t even let out a battle roar. His foot never touched the ground before he was sent flying, vomiting blood.

Everyone saw his tenacity - still persevering despite nearly being crushed to pieces. This virtue was rather rare.

Those possessing the same level of strength as him might have given up long ago, not wanting to even attempt the fourteenth image. As for him, that last step squeezed out every last bit of his strength.

As he lay on the ground, he took out a pill and ate it while lamenting: “Damn it, just one more step.”

“Young Noble Xiao, you’re already the best.” One dragon lord sincerely praised.

“Yes, you are number one for making it to the fourteenth image.” The others weren’t stingy with their evaluation, thinking that he was worthy of being one of the Three Tians.