

## Emperor 5311

### Chapter 5311: Division

Li Qiye gazed into the distance and said: "The process of crafting a paragon artifact is awfully cruel, usually requiring burying the entire world."

"The entire world..." Li Zhitian became emotional after hearing this. He imagined the sacrifice needed in order to craft such a weapon.

"True Bones." The old servant murmured, revealing his rich knowledge of history.

"Impressive." Li Qiye praised.

"I've only heard of it by chance, not strong enough to actually verify it." He said humbly.

"Well, did Stonesplitter Patriarch craft an epoch artifact?" Zhitian couldn't help but ask.

"It's easier said than done. The crafting process requires perfect circumstances. Certain things are forbidden by the villainous heaven, hence abandonment." Li Qiye smiled.

"The four broken realms were abandoned." The old servant understood.

"Too many evil things have happened in these places so they were buried. However, the great calamity changes the landscape of the world, this hidden history will resurface in due time." Li Qiye added.

Zhitian learned many new things today regarding the broken realm. This was certainly outside of his expectation.

“What about Ultimate and Perish, what happened there?” He said with a soft tone.

Li Qiye only stared at him and didn't answer.

“Each realm represents a lord.” The old servant elaborated after gaining insight into these legends.

“That's indeed the case. It's just been too long for people to know now.” Li Qiye said.

“So four lords who created the broken realms?” Zhitian asked.

“Epoch lords.” Li Qiye gave a short answer.

Zhitian took a deep breath since these beings were far above dragon lords and conquerors.

“Let's keep going.” Li Qiye started walking.

“Young Noble, what are we searching for?” Zhitian asked along the way.

“An incomplete product.” Li Qiye said.

“How is it incomplete?” He asked.

“Do you know what the most successful race that has been derived from Reborn is?” Li Qiye asked with a smile.

“Hmm, either the blood or the ghost race.” He thought about it for a bit before answering.

“They are indeed successful and accepted by heaven and earth. However, there’s not much ingenuity or newness there compared to a particular race. They are feared by all and hated by the heaven.” Li Qiye shook his head.

“What is it?” He asked.

Li Qiye’s smile disappeared as he revealed the answer: “The ancient ming.”

“I thought that they are extinct!” The old servant blurted out.

“Yes, that is true.” Li Qiye nodded because he was the one who personally eradicated them.

“According to the legends, Celestial Court had banished them from this land.” Zhitian said.

“Celestial Court likes to embellish their history. Nether and Brilliant’s insignificant abilities couldn’t have banished the ancient ming. In fact, without Purewood’s help, who knows if Celestial Court could have survived?” Li Qiye said.

“I see...” Zhitian smiled wryly because his clan was once a pillar of Celestial Court. He continued: “The ancient ming was that strong?”

After all, Celestial Court has stood strong despite having apex emperors and dao lords as their enemies. Now, Li Qiye listed the ancient ming as a force that could have destroyed them.

“A forbidden race, virtually undying. Their evil is unknown to the present generation.” Li Qiye said.

“Undying?” Zhitian commented.

“Not in the literal sense, but a few races can reproduce rapidly through division.” Li Qiye said.

“So they were derived, but from what abominable combinations?” Zhitian asked.

“Not through combination and reproduction this time.” Li Qiye smiled at him, causing him to have goosebumps.

“But didn’t you say that creation was impossible?” Zhitian asked.

“It’s rather close, hence the heavenly tribulations to punish them.” Li Qiye said.

“How did they come into being?” Zhitian’s curiosity grew.

“If you must know, it’s rather simple.” Li Qiye smiled.

“Simple?” He was sure that the answer would be strange.

“They reproduce with themselves.” Li Qiye said.

“What? How would that work...?” He murmured.

“It is a sinister method, they use other living creatures as nourishment in order to multiply.” Li Qiye said: “Thus, in order for them to survive, they must act as parasites among the other races, growing stronger and multiplying via devouring.”

“Such strange creatures.” He didn’t know the details of the process but this definitely felt evil.

“That’s why the high heaven does not tolerate their existence. Normal means of reproduction are forbidden, so parasitism and division are the only ways.” Li Qiye said: “The various factors turn them into abominations since birth.”

“I don’t understand.” He said: “What is the point of attempting to create these races? Where are the benefits?”

The derivation process was foul and disgusting. Why did someone attempt this?

“There are madmen who compare themselves to the heaven, wanting everyone else to conform to their ways.” Li Qiye responded.

“I see.” He said.

“Only the villainous heaven can create something out of thin air. As for us lowly ones, we must resort to reproduction.” Li Qiye went on.

### **Chapter 5312: Celestial Court’s Secret**

“Crazy indeed, no, it’s utter madness.” Zhitian concluded.

“There’s a thin line between genius and madness.” Li Qiye smiled.

“It’s best not to be a genius then.” He let out a dry smile.

“Well, don’t worry, you’re not a genius compared to the mad ones, just a regular person at best.” Li Qiye said.

“I don’t mind that at all.” Zhitian wasn’t offended by the remark.

“Still alive.” The old servant, on the other hand, focused on another aspect.

“Madmen normally live longer than anyone else.” Li Qiye said while sensing the land.

“Not here though.” The old servant understood Reborn, to an extent.

“Yes, not here. It would be too easy otherwise.” Li Qiye smiled.

The old servant has been feeling uneasy since the moment they entered this land, especially after these conversations.

“I still can’t imagine the events that have unfolded in these four broken realms.” Zhitian talked about the mysteries.

“You should be thanking the villainous heaven because without tribulations...” Li Qiye paused.

“Go on...” He urged.

“The four broken realms are only tiny experiments. They would target the entire world if they could.” The old servant answered instead.

“That is correct. It depends on the strength of the world as well.” Li Qiye said.

“They would try to refine the entire world into something like Redflood?” Zhitian asked.

“Even worse, more like Perish and Ultimate.” The old servant said.

He had visited and researched the broken realms in the past. Now, with Li Qiye’s input, he gained a good idea of the past.

“If it weren’t for the heavenly tribulations, this world would be no more.” Li Qiye added.

The two exchanged glances after hearing this. The old servant took a deep breath and asked: “Are they still around now?”

Li Qiye glanced at the sky and said: “Yes, and they’re living well, still keeping an eye on everything as well, hence Celestial Court’s existence.”

“Impossible!” Zhitian shouted because Celestial Court was the supreme pillar of The Race. It had protected them throughout the eras.

In fact, some believed that they would have been extinct without the protection of Celestial Court.

“Celestial Court is the guardian light of The Race.” Zhitian said.

Though he had issues with its recent direction, he was still a member of The Race and had respect for Celestial Court.



“Would a farmer let wolves eat their pigs?” Li Qiye asked.

Zhitian trembled because this idea would subvert everything that he had believed in regarding Celestial Court.

“The wise sages were noble protectors.” He said softly. His clan had produced numerous apex cultivators who sacrificed their lives for the greater good.

“Do you think they were the masters of Celestial Court?” Li Qiye smirked.

“Then who? The current lords right now are Nether Emperor and Sword Emperor.” Zhitian answered.

Nether was an ancient emperor and had ruled Celestial Court for many years in the past. Sword Emperor, surprisingly enough, came from the Qian. When the Qian were branded as sinners, he was the first to mobilize against his own father - World Emperor.

In history, the ancient emperors served as the leaders of Celestial Court and maintained The Race’s prosperity.

“Who do you think branded the Qian and The People as sinners?” Li Qiye casually asked.

Zhitian fell into rumination. Immemorial Epoch War happened a long time ago so only legends remained.

“Who branded them as sinners...” He said with uncertainty: “Nether Emperor?”

“Could be your ancestor, Crimson Emperor.” Li Qiye smiled amusingly.

“No way, our ancestor obtained twelve wills after World Emperor.” Zhitian disagreed.

“That’s right, your ancestor lost one will later. Although he gained Flame Emperor’s immortal armament, he is only a little brother before World Emperor. Your clan right is arguably number one or two among The Race, but in the past, it couldn’t compare to the Qian.” Li Qiye said.

“Yes, one clan with nine emperors, that’s untouchable.” Zhitian said.

“Untouchable is still not enough to describe their influence. No one among the three major races dared to say no to World Emperor. Nether Emperor might be old, but that’s it. He wouldn’t have dared to brand the Qian as sinners unless he had a death wish.” Li Qiye said.

“No clan in the present reached the same height as the Qian, not my clan or the Lu.” Zhitian agreed.

“Let’s get back to the question then, who branded them as sinners?” Li Qiye asked.

Despite the seemingly impossible scenario, history proved otherwise - the Qian was eventually destroyed by a coalition force under Celestial Court.

It couldn’t have been Crimson Emperor or Nether Emperor. They were not qualified to do so and the other emperors wouldn’t have listened.

“There is a higher existence in Celestial Court.” Zhitian finally understood.

“The current apex cultivator is far from the apex. It is only the first step.” The old servant explained:  
“Only those that have gained anima and embarked on the path toward everlasting life are qualified to learn these secrets.”

“Mostly true.” Li Qiye said: “There are unspoken rules regarding these taboo topics.”

“Who is this mysterious existence?” Zhitian asked, unable to think of someone capable of ordering the ancient emperors.

### **Chapter 5313: Anima**

Crimson Emperor was the sixth to have twelve wills, not to mention his immortal armament and immortal bloodline. He stood at the pinnacle whether it be the past, the present, or the future.

It would be shocking for the world to find out how he had to obey someone else.

“I can’t imagine such an existence.” Zhitian murmured.

“An ancient progenitor.” The old servant once held a high position and had talked to the upper echelons of Celestial Court before.

“I see.” Zhitian hasn’t heard of this before. After all, this was definitely a top secret.

“Where did the emperors’ cultivation method come from? And the three grand bloodlines?” Li Qiye asked.

Zhitian had never thought about this question before. Few tried to search back to the origin. Moreover, even if they did, they lacked the ability to actually do so. This was either due to the erasure of time or a taboo aspect.

“Perish.” The old servant answered instead.

“Oh? You know all the secrets, it seems.” Li Qiye was surprised to hear this.

“I am only displaying my slight skill before a true master. It’s just that I visited Perish back then after receiving some guidance and figured out a few things.” The old servant lowered his head.

“Perish is the answer? That’s the source of the grand dao for the ancient emperors and monarchs?” Zhitian became emotional: “That is a place where everything returns to the void.”

“My Lord, it’s due to refinement, right?” The old servant asked.

“That is correct. Someone had established a dao source there and after numerous experiments and refinements, they were able to excavate the source’s power. This reduced the area to the void once more.” Li Qiye said.

“A dao source from a distant past...” Zhitian murmured.

“To be exact, that is the cultivation path of Trinity Epoch, it is not the case anymore.” Li Qiye smiled.

“Trinity Epoch, that’s the name of the nine worlds and thirteen continents?” Zhitian knew about these historical locations since his ancestors came from there.

“Yes, Trinity is an archaic name. The monikers of the nine worlds and thirteen continents became popular subsequently.” Li Qiye explained.

“Perish was melted from the refinement, why did it split later?” The old servant asked.

“Well, let me ask this first. As an apex cultivator, what is your view on the current cultivation system?” Li Qiye asked.

The old servant paused briefly before answering: “Obtaining the twelve fruits to craft an immortal avatar. Next comes anima for the sake of everlasting life.”

“And back then?” Li Qiye inquired again.

“The heaven’s wills, twelve of them.” The old servant answered.

“Why did it stop at the heaven’s wills?” Li Qiye asked.

The old servant took a while to ponder the issue this time.

“Twelve wills or twelve fruits, that’s not the end pursuit of the dao path.” Li Qiye continued.

“What is it then?” Zhitian asked.

“Anima.” Li Qiye responded.

“Right, either path will reach anima.” The old servant said.

“Anima, or the true self, is there at the initial inception. However, the chaos of life prevents people from seeing it. Cultivation is only a way to circumvent the chaos, whether with twelve wills or twelve fruits.” Li Qiye said.

“I understand.” The old servant realized something: “Back during the of the emperors, the anima was not allowed to be seen.”

“Your guess is correct.” Li Qiye said: “Unfortunately, no secrets can be kept forever. Some couldn’t help but continue the search. Of course, as long as anima is real, which it is, they will come across it eventually.”

“So that’s the pathway to everlasting life?” Zhitian asked.

“The world has yet to see true everlasting life.” Li Qiye stared at him and earnestly responded: “But without anima, there is no point in even talking about everlasting life and immortality, akin to trying to fetch the moon out of the sea or looking at the flowers through the fog.”

“Our cultivation system has all of that right now, what prevented the past from having the same privileges?” Zhitian asked.

“It was separated from the start.” The old servant had spent time in Perish and understood the differences.

“There is still a long path after obtaining anima, nonetheless, there is hope for everlasting life with the slim possibility. Becoming what’s known as a supreme overlord isn’t impossible.” Li Qiye said.

“A supreme overlord.” This was Zhitian’s first time hearing this classification.

“Perish was refined and buried in the river of time, the great calamity dragged it out. The one who caused this has a title.” Li Qiye told the old servant.

“Please enlighten me, Young Noble.” The old servant bowed.

“Imperial Progenitor of Myriad Realms.” Li Qiye said softly.

The moment he said these words, something in an abyss was awoken. However, since it came from him, the existence didn’t dare to do anything outside of hiding.

Li Qiye chuckled after the deliberate provocation, still scanning the world. Alas, there was no response.

This was naturally a new title for Li Zhitian. For him, reaching the apex was hard enough. However, these legendary beings known as supreme overlords were still higher than apex emperors.

“An emperor and a progenitor.” The old servant said.

“That’s one way to put it. Progenitor first and emperor later. The dao was split and anima could no longer be seen.” Li Qiye nodded.

“I see.” All of the old servant’s questions regarding Perish have been answered at last with the help of Li Qiye.

Moreover, he gained a deeper understanding of Celestial Court. In the past, he was formally invited but didn’t know much about this power.

#### **Chapter 5314: I Have No Idea Either**

With the invitation came his chances to meet its upper echelon. For the world, this included the wise sages and ancient emperors - Nether, Sword, Heaven Burial, Light-dragon...

Older beings in the past included Crimson and World Emperor. These unbeatable cultivators were the reason for Celestial Court’s dominance.

As he conversed with these beings, he had come to realize that it wasn’t so simple. Alas, since he didn’t join Celestial Court, he failed to see the truth.

Now, he understood why Crimson Emperor and the others had no choice but to obey. There was someone far more frightening behind Celestial Court.



“Perish has Imperial Progenitor refining the dao back to the void. Redflood was melted by Stonesplitter Patriarch.” Zhitian regained his wits and looked at the evil land: “What about Reborn and Ultimate? Can you tell us, Young Noble?”

At this point, Li Qiye’s vast knowledge regarding these secrets was known to everyone.

“Lord of Derivation.” Li Qiye said, once again waking up a supreme existence who chose to not react.

After all, this was no longer Trinity and their world. The slightest action would be caught by the current epoch lord - Li Qiye.

“Lord of Derivation.” Zhitian murmured, feeling more afraid of this particular being compared to the other two.

“Is this the person who copulated with the blood-suckers and corpses?” He asked.

Li Qiye smirked at him in response: “I hope you know that if this were the previous epoch, you would be suffering a terrible death right now daring to make this comment. This is a taboo topic, only disasters await.”

“I didn’t say anything.” He shuddered before shrugging and acting innocent. Nonetheless, he was still thinking that this Lord of Chaos was a true pervert.

After a while, he thought about something else and asked: “Why do we get to see anima now?”

The path of the dragon lords was slightly different since they didn't have dao fruits. Nonetheless, they could see reach their version of anima, unlike the emperors in the past.

The path was laid out before them; the issue was whether they could actually journey far enough to reach the end.

"The era of the nine worlds and thirteen continents is no more. We are now in an entirely new epoch with eight desolaces and six continents." The old servant answered instead.

"A new epoch? Does, does that mean we have a new founder? So Trinity had characters such as Stonesplitter Patriarch and Imperial Progenitor. Who is our progenitor?" Zhitian asked curiously.

"Don't know." The servant said.

"What do you think, Young Noble?" He asked Li Qiye who seems to know all the answers including the secrets of the previous epoch.

"I have no idea either." Li Qiye smiled and shook his head: "Let's continue looking."

True Bear and the old servant followed right behind him while Zhitian stood there in a daze, feeling that Li Qiye just didn't want to reveal more.

"What is the incomplete product we're looking for?" He caught up and asked.

“An experiment before the ancient ming. It was relatively successful yet still abandoned.” Li Qiye said.

“Here in Evil Reborn? Is it dreadful?” Zhitian took a deep breath.

“It depends on your own definition of dreadful. If you think a devil is dreadful, then this thing might be beyond your imagination.” Li Qiye said.

“I see.” He murmured and glanced over at the old servant for more information. The latter didn’t respond.

The group crossed through mountains and valleys, witnessing bizarre creatures along the way.

In a blood pond, they saw a lump of rotten flesh swimming slowly. However, something else drew near and bony outgrowths protruded from the flesh to kill the victim. The flesh then coiled around it for the slow devouring process.

On a plain, they saw one-legged monsters as thin as a bamboo tree, living a borrowed life since they could only find grass for consumption here.

“What are these things?” Zhitian found that their very existence meant prolonged torture.

“More failed experiments. The ghost and blood race didn’t appear overnight.” Li Qiye said.

“So many experiments then.” He murmured.

“Due to the heavenly tribulations for attempting to create life, these experiments are doomed at the start. They can only live here, if you can call it living.” Li Qiye said.

“I feel sorry for them.” Zhitian said softly: “So they came before the blood and the ghost race.”

“Yes, the difference being that they were created while in the other case, it’s just reproduction.” Li Qiye said.

“It’s no different from laying with a goat, how disgusting.” He responded.

“Watch yourself again. In the previous epoch, your ancestors and Celestial Court would have punished you for saying something like this.” Li Qiye couldn’t help but laugh.

### **Chapter 5315: Woman From The Legends**

The group arrived at a hill after crossing millions of miles of varying landscapes. From afar, they saw a canyon seemingly made from a gigantic tree with rotted roots, resulting in a clear path in the middle.

There was a flurry of bustling activities in the canyon - a march of hybrids made from several creatures.

They had large ant legs while the body was about the size of a baby. They stood upright with a small crocodile tail trailing in the back.

Their head was rather strange - somewhat resembling goats with beards hanging down the chin.

Their behavior and movements resembled colony-dwelling ants but seemed far more intelligent, evidenced by their use of tools.

These monster ants had obtained an enormous beast from somewhere. They dismembered it and used tools woven from tree branches to carry flesh chunks back to their nest.

This nest was situated inside one of the holes of the decayed tree.

"How about these things?" Zhitian observed the ants' teamwork and became curious.

"Relatively intelligent, akin to the start of a civilization of intelligent beings." Li Qiye smiled.

"So many species in one. Is this considered a new race?" The old servant asked.

"No, because they were fused into this state. Extinction is inevitable." Li Qiye sighed and said:  
"Nonetheless, it is a successful case since they are smart and somehow make it this long."

"So the first state was fusing many different entities together, that didn't work. Next required derivation via copulation." Zhitian speculated Evil Reborn's creation process.

"Pretty much." Li Qiye replied.

“This is a perversion, creating nothing but suffering.” Zhitian had no respect for the attempter.

“Some consider themselves to be brilliant, aspiring to surpass the heavens.” Li Qiye said indifferently.

“Nothing good came out of this brilliance then.” Zhitian smiled wryly. As a highly-praised genius, he thought that pride and arrogance in one’s innate gifts could result in disasters and suffering.

He didn’t know the stories behind Evil Reborn in the past. Now, he found that abusing one’s gift and power was utterly unacceptable.

“Brilliance isn’t the problem here, it’s having too much ambition and not enough dao heart. They believe that they are above morality and their actions are always justified.” Li Qiye said.

Li Zhitian sighed and kept this comment in mind.

“Raa!” Suddenly, a creature resembling a massive alligator came out of nowhere and started eating the ants.

The latter resisted by lighting torches and throwing them. Through their combined effort, they finally pushed the larger creature back.

However, they didn’t dare to linger outside any longer after losing thousands of members. Hiding in their nest was the better choice.

“It’s right here.” Li Qiye said while the group stopped in front of the rotten tree.

This thing was massive; each branch could be considered a mountain branch. The ants lived inside after building numerous maze-like pathways.

As the group delved deeper underground, they saw tiny caves with eggs made from transparent silks.

They saw tiny fetuses inside but unfortunately, most were dead before they could break out of the eggs. They were cursed and weakened from inception; some were missing important body parts...

“Failed artificially modified products.” Li Qiye said: “They are born with innate defects. Despite their impressive reproductive capability, only a few may hatch successfully, let alone survive. Thus, extinction is only a matter of time.”

“Damn this creator.” Li Zhitian stared at the corpses and cursed.

Eventually, they came to the center of the nest and saw a queen ant. This one looked dreadful due to its long fangs and was surrounded by dead ants.

It seemed that whenever it laid eggs, the eggs would be taken away right away by other ants. They moved with precision and speed.

“It’s a cannibal, right?” Li Zhitian assessed the situation.

“That’s how it can continue to produce eggs.” Li Qiye smiled and formed a barrier since the queen ant noticed them and tried to attack.

They moved forward and eventually reached a dark place containing a statue. This finally attracted Li Qiye's attention.

It depicted a beautiful woman but her face was concealed by a veil. It was livid to the point where Li Zhitian couldn't avert his gaze.

He felt that she was standing before him, alive. Her smile and frown could seduce any man. Just her statue had this special ability, let alone the actual person.

Li Qiye, on the other hand, appreciated the unique craftsmanship and innate power.

"Who left this statue here?" Zhitian regained his wits, thinking that he wouldn't be able to stop himself from being enchanted by the real person.

"Potentially Heaven's Allure from the legends." The old servant's eyes gleamed brightly.

"Heaven's Allure? Really?" Zhitian took a deep breath.

"I believe so because no one else but her can have this much charm and grace. I've been to Celestial Court but didn't see her." The old servant said.

### **Chapter 5316: Best Not To Look**

"You've been to Celestial Court, Senior?" Li Zhitian became startled.



The old servant didn't respond.

"Heaven's Allure." Li Qiye touched his chin while looking at the statue.

"Rumor has it that no man can resist falling in love with her. They will throw away their lives willingly if she wishes so." Zhitian said.

According to the legends, she could make men drop to their knees including emperors and dao lords.

"Why would anyone build a statue of her here?" Zhitian asked curiously.

The beautiful cultivator had joined Celestial Court and few could see her now. However, someone made a statue of her in this forsaken land.

"Must be someone who's infatuated with her." The old servant said.

"But why here out of all places?" Zhitian didn't understand. Building a statue or having something to remember her by wasn't strange; the issue here was the location.

"Activate!" Li Qiye raised his hand and channeled the dao in order to understand the statue.

Something incredible happened next - dao sounds in the form of a lover's whispers could be heard. The moans could pull the soul out of the body and rob others of their sanity. Meanwhile, black ink started oozing out of the statue.

"What is going on?" Zhitian was at a loss.

Li Qiye took a closer look at the thick liquid. It seemed to be alive and moving like an evil entity.

"Was here before." He murmured.

"Do you know who built it?" Zhitian asked.

"At least a conqueror or dao lord in order to build something like this." Li Qiye said.

"Its location still doesn't make any sense." Zhitian said since her fans should be building her statue somewhere accessible for remembrance's sake.

"It's a bait." Li Qiye said.

"Who or what is it trying to bait?" Zhitian asked.

"Why? That's the most important question." Li Qiye responded.

“Must be a pervert. Some type of fetish.” The old servant concluded.

“It’s probable.” Li Qiye said after fully analyzing the statue. There was nothing more he could get out of it.

“Could it be the Lord of Derivation?” Zhitian couldn’t help but ask.

“This is too insignificant, not worth the time nor effort.” Li Qiye shook his head.

“Senior, you never got to see Heaven’s Allure?” Zhitian asked.

“No, and it’s better to not see her.” The old servant shook his head, clearly warning Li Zhitian to not have any idea.

Seeing the beauty was far from a good thing. Any moment of carelessness would result in becoming her slave.

“We’re leaving.” Li Qiye left the underground labyrinth with the rest of the group.

“There should be more.” Li Qiye surveyed the region again before resuming his search.

They traveled far and came to a desolate plain with a large group of tigers and leopards roaming energetically.

Upon closer inspection, Zhitian found that they followed fixed paths as if they were being herded like grazing sheep. After following them for a while longer, they entered a deep valley with an underground passage to a river of magma.

The creatures roamed the magma river like a bridge that had been specifically constructed for them.

This finally took the group to the lair of the creatures. The lair appeared to be artificially built and have been blessed for toughness.

The heat inside seemed special. The creatures gathered and started trembling at a determined interval. They became transparent and lay down on the ground in a circle - seemingly a way to stabilize their body.

“What are they doing?” Zhitian could tell that they required this ceremonial process in order to stay alive.

“Essentially, they were made from infusing snow essences into earth tigers.” Li Qiye said: “Failed experiments but someone created this lair in order to stabilize their unique characteristics.”

“An act of kindness to prevent extinction?” Zhitian said.

“Hard to say.” Li Qiye smiled.

The group delved deeper into the ground and saw an ocean of magma. At the center was a rocky reef reaching the surface, having endured countless years of erosion by the magma. Nonetheless, it remained standing with a statue on top.

“Heaven’s Allure again.” Li Zhitian and the old servant were surprised to see a second statue. They wouldn’t have found this elusive place without Li Qiye’s guidance.

### **Chapter 5317: Slam**

Another statue of Heaven’s Allure with the same charm as the previous one. Staring at it was a dangerous game; someone managed to carve out her peerless appearance and demeanor through impeccable workmanship.

From this alone, one could tell that seeing her in person would have a devastating effect on the mind, especially on youthful cultivators. Interestingly enough, this statue had a different demeanor and pose.

“Another wonderful piece of art. It has to be a true master.” Li Zhitian said with admiration.

Li Qiye raised his hand again for a dao search. He derived the mysteries of the statue and sure enough, the same lustful moans and lovely whispers could be heard. Black liquid with a high viscosity flowed out again.

“It’s getting more and more confusing.” Zhitian commented.

“Someone is trying to attract primal darkness.” Li Qiye said.

“Primal darkness?” Zhitian wasn’t familiar with this name.

“It’s that incomplete product.” Li Qiye said.

“Do you know the reason why someone’s doing this?” Zhitian asked.

“They know about primal darkness.” The old servant answered.

Few in this world knew about the creature known as primal darkness.

“Indeed, it must have been hiding in Reborn the entire time. Someone wants to lure it out.” Li Qiye said.

“If that’s the case, why resort to using these statues? They can entice this primal darkness?” Zhitian asked.

“That’s the interesting part. Why was Heaven’s Allure chosen?” Li Qiye nodded and found it strange.

“Maybe she’s the one who did it?” Zhitian had a bold guess.

“No, she doesn’t need to return to the upper continents given her current position in Celestial Court, definitely not Evil Reborn either.” The old servant shook his head.

“Regardless of who it is or the reason for the statues, it is successful.” Li Qiye stared at the thick liquid.

“So this primal darkness was here?” Zhitian also stared in the same direction.

“Yes, it came and had latched into the statues.” Li Qiye nodded.

“Why do I feel like this is another perverted scenario or something bad will happen soon?” Zhitian shuddered and had a terrible premonition.

“Someone, a conqueror at the very least, has a plan. The exact goal? Who knows?” Li Qiye smiled: “This person has a deep understanding of primal darkness and knows what it wants. Moreover, it must have taken immense effort to carve these statues.”

“What does the primal darkness do to warrant this much effort?” The old servant asked a key question.

“Is it strong?” Zhitian asked.

“The motive is difficult to speculate since the strongest can still be reduced to ashes. This mystery can only be solved through more clues.” Li Qiye stroked his chin.

“I wonder if there’s a connection between primal darkness and Heaven’s Allure.” Zhitian said: “Senior, do you know Heaven’s Allure’s background?”

“I do not.” The servant responded.

“It’s fine, we’ll figure it out in due time.” Li Qiye said before leaving the world of magma.

They saw the tiger-like creatures leaving their lair in order to find food. Unfortunately, this was ill-timed because they became prey to a dragon instead.

“Raa!” One appeared out of nowhere and swallowed up an entire pack.

“Screech!” Suddenly, a blinding radiance manifested above the dragon.

A peacock spread its tail and released five-colored rays and particles along with sharp dao lord laws.

The dragon was frightened and tried to escape. Alas, it was caught by the peacock’s claws.

It spewed out flames but this was useless - the battle was far from even. Its flesh was ripped apart by the claw.

It bellowed in agony until its belly was torn apart, resulting in death and becoming the peacock’s meal.

As for the tiger-like beasts, they were paralyzed on the ground, unable to run. The peacock then devoured a thousand of them in one go, far more brutal than the dragon.

“Peacock Dao Lord...” Li Zhitian recognized the peacock.

“Screech!” The bird noticed the group leaving the cave and immediately attacked with its sharp claws.



“Bam!” Li Qiye slammed the bird down to the ground, creating a crater upon impact and causing it to vomit blood.

The group was no stranger to Li Qiye’s power. Nonetheless, it was still an impressive spectacle to see him take down a colossal bird so quickly.

“Dao Brother, please show mercy, it’s a misunderstanding.” Peacock Dao Lord turned back to his human form and bowed to Li Qiye.

### **Chapter 5318: Hot Blood, Wild Heart**

Peacock Dao Lord came from Eight Desolaces - a heaven-defying dao lord who was rumored to have a divine bloodline.

In reality, he wasn’t a peacock or anything like that. Some believed that he was the reincarnation of a tree ancestor. Of course, this concept wasn’t widely accepted so others said that he was only a descendant of a tree ancestor.

Regardless of his background, he eventually became a powerful dao lord. Today, he resembled a wild bird more than anything - choosing to hunt other creatures.

His original form was an old man in a feathery robe with a beastly yet sanctified aura - the king of all birds. It was not surprising for others to think that he possesses a divine bloodline.

Meanwhile, he couldn’t believe that he was beaten down by a single smack. In the six continents, he didn’t need to join any alliance or pick a side between The Race and the People.

He roamed the world freely and no one dared to provoke him. Those who could beat him included apex cultivators such as All-things and Swordsea. However, they couldn't smack him down from the sky that easily.

He felt like an ant during that battle. When he looked up to take a good look at the assailant, he couldn't believe his own eyes.

He prostrated on the ground and said respectfully: "I deserve death for not knowing of your arrival and disrespecting you, Sir."

He kowtowed repeatedly afterward.

"You know me?" Li Qiye asked.

"Sir, you may not recognize a junior like me but during the nine worlds epoch, you once saved our lineage. Peacock Forest remembers your kindness and virtue, we are eternally grateful." He elaborated.

"Oh? It's all in the past." Li Qiye chuckled.

After finishing a full rite of kowtow, the dao lord finally stood up.

"Dao Lord, why are you hunting beasts here?" Li Zhitian asked.

The dao lord waved his hand and the tiger-like creatures finally ran back to the plain. They seemed happy, no longer remembering the fate of their unlucky friends.

“When I met these little tigers, they were on the verge of extinction. I dug out a fire vein and built a nest so that they can repopulate. When I’m a little hungry, I eat a few or so, just an occasional indulgence.”  
The dao lord responded.

Li Zhitian thought about it and didn’t have a big problem.

The dao lord took care of these “little tigers” and even granted them protection. Although he ate a thousand or so in one bite, this didn’t mean much to the overall population. They would have been extinct without his help.

After thinking about it, it appeared that there wasn’t an actual issue. Nonetheless, Zhitian still felt that this wasn’t right.

Alas, this happened every day in the world. In fact, he wasn’t above this either. His clan cultivated alchemy materials for refinement and he ate the pills. This was fundamentally the same as what the dao lord did.

“Fellow Daoist, you have a compassionate heart.” Peacock Dao Lord smiled and said: “You’re still young to have these feelings. This is just the way it is in the world.”

“I apologize if I acted pretentiously.” Zhitian shook his head and smiled wryly. He realized that his own moral high ground was limited. His actions and the clan’s conducts weren’t much nobler at all.

“It’s fine, I was the same way during my youth. In fact, this is a virtue of the young, filled with fervor and still holding onto a sense of justice toward the affairs of heaven and earth.” The dao lord said.

“We live alongside heaven and earth. Although our innocent hearts are tempered by time, there are things to not be forgotten. One should never willingly descend into degradation with the excuse of numbness or just following the natural order.” Li Qiye chuckled and said.

“I shall engrave your advice to my heart, Sir.” Peacock Dao Lord bowed again.

“You both are speaking the truth. I’ve been thinking too highly of myself, acting so self-righteous.” Zhitian said.

“Stay this way for as long as you can. I was even more reckless and less inclined to self-reflect. I always charged ahead without thinking twice. Whenever I think back now, I realize how many foolish things I’ve done but I have no regrets. Youth is wonderful, hot blood and wild heart.” The dao lord said.

“Hot blood, wild heart.” Zhitian murmured.

“Today, everything under the heaven operates under laws and cycles, cause and effect. I didn’t accept this when I was younger and only listened to my heart. It will come with time.” The dao lord said sentimentally.

“Thank you for your guidance, Dao Lord.” Zhitian said.

Although they weren’t from the same side, Peacock still conversed normally with him and gave him insight into the dao.

The dao lord then cupped his fist toward the old servant and said: "It has been a long time since our last meeting. Your brilliant presence remains, Dao Brother."

"Old now." The old servant returned the gesture.

Zhitian was surprised to see this. Although he had some guesses about the old servant's identity, he didn't know the exact answer.

The dao lord, on the other hand, recognized him right away. It appeared the dao lord was actually stronger than expected.

"Sir, how can I be of service?" The dao lord bowed toward Li Qiye.

"I am here for primal darkness, just looking for it right now." Li Qiye smiled.

"Primal darkness?" This was the dao lord's first time hearing this title.

"There are statues in Evil Reborn, Heaven's Allure's statues, to be exact. There is one in the magma beneath the lair that you built, did you know about it?" Li Qiye didn't elaborate.

"Heaven's Allure? Statues of her here?" The dao lord was surprised.

"No idea why." Li Qiye shook his head.

“How strange. Her beauty is peerless, enough to sway the souls.” The dao lord chuckled.

“You’ve seen her before, Dao Lord?” Zhitian asked.

“Yes, but fortunately, I’ve heard of her reputation and protected my mind before the meeting or I would have fallen. So many people in this world, confident in their ability and power, think that they can resist. How wrong they are.” The dao lord said.

“I see.” Zhitian could tell that Peacock Dao Lord was immensely powerful yet he was still afraid of Heaven’s Allure?

### **Chapter 5319: Eating**

The beauty of Heaven’s Allure birthed legendary tales. Of course, some cursed her for being a lascivious demoness whose purpose was tempting men.

Though her reputation preceded her, others still couldn’t help falling in love. This included dao lords and conquerors - the greatest cultivators in the world.

Remember that these beings have been through numerous adventures and conquests. They had seen countless beauties in the past. In fact, some had harems consisting of gorgeous cultivators, the fairest of their era.

Their rich experience didn’t help them when it was time to face Heaven’s Allure. This was a testament to her indescribable charm.

There were exceptions, of course - those who managed to resist her temptation. Nonetheless, they sang praises of her appearance.

All in all, she was a popular topic in the taverns. Some regular cultivators even believed that being able to see her was the blessing of a lifetime.

Alas, she rarely showed up in public after joining Celestial Court - the opposite of everyone's wish.

"Don't get the wrong idea, Heaven's Allure goes beyond physical attraction, not like a kingdom toppling beauty found in the mortal world or a seductress. After enough interactions, her charisma is what draws people in." Peacock Dao Lord said.

Zhitian could see this because how could top cultivators fall over physical beauty alone? That would be rather disappointing for them to lose to the flesh. This meant that she must have intelligence and cultivation insight as well. Beauty alone couldn't justify her position in Celestial Court.

"Do you have any idea who might have left these statues here?" Zhitian asked.

"Hard to say. If there's an accurate statue, it must be someone who had seen her before, not easy after her joining Celestial Court. It must be an emperor-level character." The dao lord shook his head.

"We came to the same conclusion." Zhitian said.

"That's a wide net. Hmm, what an incredibly strange matter, leaving her statues here. The problem is that many top cultivators visit Evil Reborn. I've seen All-things, Supreme, Immortal Pagoda, Timewatcher, Eternal, and many more..." Peacock responded.

“Are you staying here long-term?” Li Qiye asked.

“Sir, that is my temporary plan. I have no interest in joining Heaven or Dao Alliance. The mortal world doesn’t have anything I pursue either, I’m just a lone wolf with nowhere to be. Herding these tigers is at least interesting right now but I might leave later.” Peacock said.

“Dao Lord, will you eat them before leaving?” Zhitian couldn’t help but ask.

“I understand what you’re saying but it actually makes zero difference. What I do will be dependent on my whim at the time. Eating them might seem cruel to you but they will go extinct without me anyway.” Peacock smiled.

“It’s best to not be so extreme.” Li Qiye said.

“I will try to follow your advice, Sir.” Peacock lowered his head.

The group chatted for a bit and ignored the matter of Heaven’s Allure. After all, too many powerful cultivators have visited and they had no good guess.

As the group was about to leave, Peacock decided to send them off for quite a distance. After they were gone, he still bowed in the direction of Li Qiye.

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Along the way, Li Qiye glanced at Li Zhitian and asked: "Still thinking about the tigers?"

"My apologies, Young Noble. It seems like my emotion is getting the best of me, how embarrassing." Zhitian let out a dry chuckle.

"It's not your fault but in a way, Peacock is right. Nonetheless, there is no problem with you being a passionate youth." Li Qiye smiled.

"After thinking it through, Peacock Dao Lord is not at fault. We all do similar things with alchemy materials, cultivating before consuming them." Zhitian said.

"Because of your first impression of Evil Reborn, you felt pity for the tigers after seeing them in the lair and felt uncomfortable to see them eaten." Li Qiye said.

"I'm aware that it's hypocritical and I shouldn't be so judgmental." Zhitian said.

"People have different interpretations of the ways of the world." Li Qiye said before pausing a bit: "But, remember this, the world's inhabitants should protect themselves because there are no saviors. Those who claim to be are often the initiators of disasters, this had occurred numerous times in history."

"Saviors or destroyers..." Zhitian murmured.

Li Qiye stared at him with a meaningful gaze and asked: "Do you think Celestial Court is protecting The Race? Was Peacock Dao Lord protecting the tigers?"

Zhitian stopped walking. He had never questioned Celestial Court's intent in the past. However, spending time with Li Qiye and personally experiencing certain events changed his perception.

His clan's title was Imperial; its members have served Celestial Court since time antiquity. The ideology of Celestial Court's noble goals has been engrained in The Race.

Peacock Dao Lord also protected the tigers and built a lair for them to avoid extinction. However, he also ate them, not to mention potentially wiping them out if he were to be bored in the future. Would he be the tigers' savior or destroyer?

### **Chapter 5320: High-level Duel**

Their next destination was a muddy ocean, seemingly infected in entirety by something foul. Moreover, the water was frozen solid beneath yet the waves appeared to be ablaze. Instead of being red like flames, they looked more like ice crystals.

When True Bear took one step into the water, he suddenly realized that it was extremely dangerous and immediately activated his power.

Despite the automatic defense of a conqueror, his fur was still being burned. The ice-like flames somehow contained an indestructible sword energy capable of piercing through a conqueror.

"Raa!" True Bear let out a cry before he was sent flying.

"!" Li Zhitian took a deep breath and activated his twelve fruits, becoming engulfed in the grand dao.

He stepped into the ocean and the fiery waves immediately assaulted him. Instead of burning like a regular flame, it resembled the ice affinity more.

The freezing process resulted in a painful burning sensation. The sword energy began piercing Zhitian as well.

He shuddered after feeling this timeless energy. It could pierce someone for an endless period, robbing them of their dominion. He didn't last that much longer than True Bear and was eventually sent flying as well.

"Incredible." He knew that this wasn't the full brunt of the sword energy either, only the section that he stepped on.

"An apex conqueror." The old servant didn't need to try.

"On we go." Li Qiye chuckled and stepped on the ocean, creating a dao path before him. The icy flames no longer attacked, unable to contend against his grand dao.

The others also followed behind him, completely safeguarded from any danger.

Each step moved them thousands of miles forward. It didn't take long to reach the center of the ocean.

They saw two cultivators sitting in a meditative pose, seemingly in the middle of a duel. The icy flames and sword energy emanated from them. They utilized their strongest grand dao and did not hold back.

The woman appeared to be in her early twenties, displaying exquisite beauty beyond words and evoking an aura of crystalline purity. She was as radiant as the bright moon, capable of illuminating hearts and penetrating all things. Her eyes were particularly captivating and piercing.

She sat there as if she had been doing so for countless eras in the past and would do so for eras in the future. The flow of time left no trace on her.

Her beauty persisted through the ages - an image that could become an everlasting memory after just one glance.

Her opponent was an old man wearing a robe made of unknown material. The cloth looked to be made from snowflakes yet had flames dancing on it.

His general figure and facial outlines made one think of an ice sculpture - looking rather surreal. When he was serious, he could be an existence looming atop the nine heavens. When he cast aside this serious air, he seemed primed to go crazy.

This sensation was due to the affinity duality - a supreme ice force on the surface yet wildly intense within, on the verge of erupting. Something had kept this internal power from exploding, turning it into a stable ice affinity instead.

They utilized their dao domain to fight, pushing back and forth. Given their mastery of their dao, they had compressed the area of effect to the maximum, only focusing on taking down the opponent. Alas, the potency of their power spread the various affinities into the entire ocean.

The woman embraced a sword while releasing an eternal sword domain. One slash of her could slice through the six continents.

True Bear and Zhitian became frozen after sensing the sword dao up close, thinking that they could be cut down at any second.

The old man's domain was countless times stronger than the fire-ice waves they felt earlier. The flames weren't large but just one spark could incinerate the world itself, trapping it in a layer of ice.