

Emperor 5321

Chapter 5321: One Heart

A battle between two apex cultivators occurred unbeknown to the world. The swordswoman possessed an eternal sword dao versed in both offense and defense.

As for the old man, he contained two separate powers of immense power. Despite existing on the different extremes, they somehow synergized and boosted his power, granting him unending power.

“Sword Queen versus Coldflame Conqueror.” Li Zhitian recognized both combatants.

“Two monsters of the upper continents.” The old servant commented.

“I can’t believe they’re fighting here, is it to the death?” Zhitian responded.

Sword Queen hailed from Eight Desolaces, first starting with Terra Sword Dao before moving to Everlasting Sword Dao. Rumor has it that the latter was comparable to the legendary Eras Sword Dao.

I lead, swords follow. Sword Queen dominated Eight Deolacs and even assaulted Sword Burial Ground, bringing a period of peace.

After coming to the upper continents, she became the guardian of Imperial Alliance and rarely appeared in public afterward.

Coldflame Conqueror was just as exceptional - the only surviving conqueror of the maddened flame.

Ever since Maddened's era, the maddened flame remained unstoppable and destructive. The problem was dying at a young age.

Rumor has it that this flame originated from One Heart, one of the nine heavenly scriptures. The founder of this style reached a level where he incinerated Celestial Court and left unscathed.

Alas, some believed that he had faltered to the illness and passed away long ago. This didn't change in subsequent generations.

Supreme geniuses had tried, believing that they would be able to overcome the flaws of this dao. Alas, the stronger they became, so did the madness.

Maddened Conqueror excelled among them, eventually dominating the upper continents and even defeating Divine Alliance. Unfortunately, he still couldn't escape the curse.

Ultimately, this seemed like an impossible endeavor. Even Maddened who studied One Heart and created the maddened flame couldn't overcome this problem.

This dao was ephemeral. The users would eventually die from going mad or be killed by others due to their madness.

Coldflame Conqueror was the one who broke this eternal rule. After researching the dao, he found a way to suppress the madness while still utilizing its power - an unprecedented and monumental feat.

He then founded Ice-fire Palace in the lower continents - the new orthodox branch of the maddened flame.

He reached the apex classification at the upper two continents, capable of contending against anyone.

Although there were plenty of dao lords and conquerors in this area, only a small number reached the apex level. From this selected group, only a few had access to the anima tree.

Supreme, All-things, Swordsea, Sword Queen, Eternal, Immortal Pagoda, Principle, Illumination, Calamity, Darkfrost, Immensity, Apricot...

They were eligible to enter the immortal continent but chose otherwise. Because of their presence and power, others chose to follow them - the reason for the existence of the four alliances.

“Why is Coldflame Conqueror fighting Sword Queen? He’s not from any alliance?” Zhitian found this strange.

Most apex cultivators had chosen a side, whether it be The Race or The People. A delicate balance existed, resulting in relative peace.

Only a few remained neutral - Immensity, Coldflame, Apricot...

As the guardian of Imperial Alliance, Sword Queen naturally stood on the side of The People. It wouldn’t be surprising to see her fight against Immortal Pagoda or Eternal Conqueror. However, Coldflame Conqueror did not have a reputation for provoking others.

“Coldflame has his own aspiration.” The old servant answered quietly.

“What is it?” Zhitian became curious but didn’t get an answer.

After a brief pause, Zhitian audaciously asked: “Senior, how do you compare against Sword Queen and Coldflame Conqueror?”

He clearly thought that the old servant was another apex cultivator. The latter stared at the two; his eyes gleamed for a split second.

Perhaps he was interested in a duel as well after meeting a worthy opponent. This applied to all the top cultivators.

Supreme and the others also wanted to fight. However, they had to exercise caution in order to carry out their missions. A fight between them could start wars between the alliances and the two sides. The flames of war would then ravage the upper continents.

“Let’s go.” Li Qiye could see that this fight might take a while so he started diving into the ocean.

The group followed right behind him.

Chapter 5322: Unrequited Love

Crossing through the frozen layer led them to a dark expanse. The group could tell that the black water resembled the black liquid oozing from Heaven’s Allure’s statues, albeit at a diluted amount.

“Where is this place?” Zhitian looked around and asked.

Everyone outside Li Qiye felt uncomfortable being here despite their firm dao heart. Few things in the world could affect their emotional state.

The black tides here resembled the embodiment of darkness or an existence that shouldn't be allowed to exist.

“It's here, the birthplace.” Li Qiye remarked.

“For the primal darkness, right?” Zhitian felt afraid, thinking that a creature had been boiled here for countless times before being reduced to the black liquid. From this liquid came an entirely new existence.

Li Qiye didn't answer and stood in silence for a long while before stepping into the black tides.

The group followed behind him and focused up to prevent anything malicious from entering them.

They traveled through the ominous expanse and reached the end - a pond with a thicker concentration of the black liquid than anywhere else.

They immediately recalled the liquid oozing out of the statues - now this was the right concentration.

Sure enough, there was another statue of Heaven's Allure inside the pond.

"Another?" Zhitian murmured, feeling that this might have been going on for a long time now.

The third statue had a different pose and expression while maintaining the same animated charm.

"Perhaps the one behind this is rather close to Heaven's Allure." The old servant remarked.

"Close or not, it is certain that this person had been together with Heaven's Allure, hence the familiarity with her demeanors and gestures. Otherwise, it would be impossible to create these life-like statues." Li Qiye said.

"A suitor, maybe?" Zhitian asked.

"That's a high probability, a conqueror or dao lord as well." Li Qiye smiled.

Zhitian turned and stared at the old servant who shook his head: "There are too many suitors."

"Let's see how this is going." Li Qiye raised his hand.

It pulsed with a dao light in order to derive the events of the statue. The same thing happened - more thick liquid seeping out of the statue.

Suddenly, it started moving unpredictably. This didn't happen in the prior cases.

"Protect your mind and dao heart." Li Qiye shouted.

The group shuddered before removing all unnecessary thoughts and becoming saints unstained by external forces.

The black liquid gathered together and slowly turned into the shape of a woman. Despite its gross exterior, one smile could still rob others of their sanity and freedom.

"Heaven's Allure!" Zhitian remained composed since he was well prepared for this. Otherwise, his heart would have started to beat rapidly.

The woman didn't last long and suddenly splashed down to the ground again, unable to maintain her shape.

"Seems like they found and even imitated it." Li Qiye said.

"So it's going well?" Zhitian asked.

"Yes, it appears so." Li Qiye nodded.

There was no doubt that the primal darkness has been hiding in Evil Reborn. A certain top cultivator knew about its existence and wanted to charm it for an unknown reason.

“To satisfy his perversion.” Li Qiye had a good idea but still needed more confirmation.

“How so?” Zhitian asked.

“This guy is in love with Heaven’s Allure but can’t have her. He wants a substitute.” Li Qiye smiled.

“So he is attempting to lure the primal darkness and turn it into Heaven’s Allure? He’ll treat it as his woman afterward?” Zhitian shuddered: “Perverted indeed.”

“An unrequited love.” The old servant said.

Zhitian was filled with curiosity and wanted to meet the famous Heaven’s Allure in person.

The old servant could tell and said: “It’s best not to be curious but if you somehow get the chance, protect your mind with all of your power. Otherwise, just one misstep and you’ll fall into the abyss.”

“What a dreadful beauty, so destructive.” Zhitian murmured.

Chapter 5323: Dreadful?

“How is she dreadful? Is she purposely trying to seduce everyone?” Li Qiye shook his head while smiling.

“Well...” Zhitian only heard about the legends regarding her irresistible charms, nothing else regarding immoral acts.

“These remarks are manifestations of a man’s rage and incompetence, an attempt to shift the blame to women.” Li Qiye said.

“That does make sense.” Zhitian said.

“Your future is boundless since you can become an amazing dragon lord. However, if you were to meet Heaven’s Allure and be lost in infatuation, throwing away your cultivation and only wanting to have her. Your insanity grows with time, unable to possess her. This madness eventually results in a wasted life, committing unnecessary killing and such...” Li Qiye said with a smile.

Meanwhile, Zhitian feared for his future while listening.

“The question is, whose fault is it? Did Heaven’s Allure cause this?” Li Qiye asked.

“She did not.” Zhitian answered.

“You are able to answer confidently right now because your sanity remains. This might not be the case once you’re stuck in the negative mindset, unable to see reality for what it is, unable to accept your own inability. Thus, you blame her for all of your troubles.” Li Qiye said: “Therefore, for the majority of cases, kingdom-toppling beauties were wrongfully blamed by those who have lost their way. It’s easier to shift the blame to others instead of admitting one’s mistakes, then there’s no sense of guilt.” Li Qiye finished.

“Thank you for correcting me, Young Noble, I will keep this to heart.” Zhitian bowed and accepted his mistake.

“The fallen ones all had their excuses. These lords blamed the world, that it was too boring and worthless, nothing worth holding on to...” Li Qiye then stared at the old servant: “But one’s actions come from their heart just like anima, it has nothing to do with the outside world. You just need to maintain this and not be shaken. So what if the world is less than adequate? You are still you, an apex cultivator. As long as your dao heart is there, the darkness won’t be able to reach you and no one can force you to join.”

“Is this the core of cultivation?” The old servant asked.

“That’s one way to put it. The pursuit of cultivation should be to obtain an unshakable dao heart. With this, one can create and use the dao. The former is far more important than the latter. When your dao heart is supreme, so are your techniques and abilities. When your dao heart is weak, your power is nothing more than a tool for darkness, serving to push you deeper into the abyss.” Li Qiye said.

“I understand, only the dao heart can make the darkness recede.” The old servant took a deep breath and bowed.

“Raa!” True Bear let out a roar as well before bowing.

“Let’s go.” Li Qiye smiled and stretched before moving onward.

When they came out of the ocean floor, they saw Coldflame and Sword Queen still fighting each other.

“How long is this going to last?” Zhitian asked.

“It’s over when the state of duality is broken.” Li Qiye chuckled.

“Who do you think will win, Young Noble?” The old servant was curious as well since he was also an apex cultivator. The outcome of this fight served as a significant reference point.

“Sword Queen will win.” Li Qiye said: “Her sword dao focuses on longevity and her vitality is ample, she can last several more eras.”

“And Coldflame Conqueror?” Zhitian asked. Anyone could see that his talent was impeccable. However, he was still overshadowed by the founder of this dao.

“Coldflame’s dao originates from Maddened.” Li Qiye said: “No matter its current form, the essence is still of the maddened flame. He uses the ice affinity to quell the raging flames but the harmony is only temporary. Imperfections will surface during the constant cycles and that is when he will lose to Sword Queen.”

The two combatants had their own absolute domain, always pushing back and forth. They were in a state of absolute concentration - nothing could bother them.

However, they also heard Li Qiye’s casual remark and Coldflame Conqueror glanced at Li Qiye.

“Sounds like this will still take a while.” Zhitian could see the current state of balance between the two domains.

“This could end much faster, just one sword technique from her.” Li Qiye smiled.

“Really?” Zhitian was surprised.

“This is a hopeless situation for the ice affinity since the maddened flame will resurface in due time. It just needs a precise catalyst.” Li Qiye said.

Sword Queen lost her focus as well while Coldflame could tell that there was logic in the comments.

“Clank!” The everlasting sword domain suddenly receded, no longer trying to take down the ice-fire domain.

Chapter 5324: Who Might You Be?

An eternity was but a blink of an eye for the incoming sword technique. It encompassed simplicity, lacking the area of effect capable of suppressing the heavens and destroying three thousand worlds.

The only focus was to kill no matter who it is, capable of passing through countless domains and even the river of time itself. Even if the world was no longer around, it would continue to travel through the primordial chaos.

Li Zhitian and the old servant couldn't help but admire the beautiful attack.

Blood splashed as her sword cut Coldflame Conquerors' body and continue for the dao fruits.

Although the dao fruits were virtually indestructible and could always recover as long as there was a single strand left, this attack would also never stop. There was no doubt that he would die in due time.

“You’ve lost, Fellow Daoist.” However, she pulled back and said calmly, revealing a pleasant voice containing the rhythm of the dao. Listeners could never get tired of it.

She only looked around twenty years of age yet she was the renowned Sword Queen.

“Well done, you’ve seized the initiative with that decisive move.” Coldflame Conqueror had no choice but to give up: “I am a man of my word and will not renege.”

“I appreciate it.” She converged her energy back into her body.

With that gone, everyone found her to be amicable, no longer the guardian and leader of Imperial Alliance.

The two were evenly matched but Li Qiye’s comments pointed out Coldflame’s weakness and how to break it.

Because Coldflame was temporarily distracted by the revelation, this gave Sword Queen enough time to pull off a decisive attack.

“Thank you for your guidance, Sir.” Sword Queen lowered her head in gratitude.

As for Coldflame, he glanced at the old servant before shifting his gaze back to Li Qiye.

“Who might you be, Young Noble?” He respectfully asked, treating Li Qiye as a serious foe.

“Just a passerby.” Li Qiye smiled.

“Dao Brother, can you enlighten me on this?” Coldflame asked the old servant, clearly recognizing him.

“He’s the young noble, I don’t know anything else.” The old servant shook his head.

Coldflame couldn’t force them to answer since that would be rude. In reality, he was trying to calm down - how could this man know so much about the maddened flame?

He believed that he was the absolute authority regarding this dao since he had the highest achievement possible.

This had nothing to do with pride but rather, no one had reached his level. Maddened Conqueror was powerful and also reached the limit. Alas, he fell to his own insanity.

Maddened, the creator, was rumored to be dead as well. This left Coldflame Conqueror as the greatest practitioner of this dao. Alas, this unknown man seemed to know about its mysteries as well.

“Have you done research on the maddened flame, Young Noble?” Coldflame was aware that the smartest move was to walk away due to his current injuries.

He gained nothing from lingering around but curiosity got the best of him. After all, he wanted nothing more than to learn more about his own dao.

“Just a bit, it came from the nine heavenly scriptures.” Li Qiye smiled.

A glint flashed in Coldflame’s eyes. He definitely didn’t want to leave now.

“You’ve seen it before, One Heart?” Coldflame couldn’t help but ask.

All of the maddened flame cultivators have never seen the origination scripture. In fact, Maddened himself probably didn’t see the real version.

According to the tales, Maddened activated his dao due to his strong emotions. Coldflame knew that there was more than this.

After spending his whole life perfecting this dao, he was certain that Maddened must have interacted with One Heart one way or another. Perhaps Maddened himself didn’t recognize this and never brought it up again.

This was Coldflame’s biggest regret in life - his inability to find One Heart. He had searched for the real version but this was a futile endeavor.

Now, he wondered if Li Qiye had seen One Heart or at least a manifestation of it.

“I’ve read too many so I don’t remember if I’ve read a particular one or not.” Li Qiye answered with a smile.

“Young Noble, you must have read about the mysteries of the maddened flame since you know it so well.” Coldflame said.

“You wish to truly solve the madness, not just suppressing it forcefully.” Li Qiye casually remarked.

Chapter 5325: Impossible Task

“Young Noble, please tell me what I should do to deal with the madness?” Coldflame Conqueror contained his excitement and humbly asked while bowing.

The display of reverence was crucial since it could end up saving his life. Although he was known as the first to be able to control the madness, he didn’t have a permanent plan.

The madness of the flame remained. As long as he chose it as his cultivation, it would always be there. Moreover, it also grew with his strength.

He couldn’t be sure that he could keep it under control in the future. Although he had experience suppressing it for generations now, going mad might be inevitable.

This was a mental affliction since no one else could help him on this quest until now - someone who has knowledge of the maddened flames.

“You have been accumulating the madness for so long now, what do you think it would take to resolve it?” Li Qiye said.

“...” Coldflame had no response since he had no solution either.

“Burying the madness with the fire imbued with the ice affinity seems to be working on the surface. However, it is still essentially fire so you are unable to remove the madness within. It is looming and waiting for the inevitable eruption.” Li Qiye said.

“You are right, Young Noble.” Coldflame agreed with the assessment.

“The world believes that you’re the only one who won’t go mad. In reality, your end won’t be different from your predecessors since you have no way of dealing with the temporarily contained madness.” He went on.

“Please guide me, Young Noble.” Coldflame got chills while thinking about the grim future.

“Release the madness and destroy your maddened flames, start over.” Li Qiye smiled.

“...” Coldflame pondered in silence.

“This is the only way, you have no other option.” Li Qiye continued: “It is virtually suicidal but the other option is to wait for the madness to take over and you will descend down to the same abyss.”

Coldflame smiled wryly since he was aware of all of this. As for the other scenario, if he were to release the madness, he would go crazy before being able to destroy his own cultivation.

“When you release the madness, you must maintain your sanity long enough to destroy the maddened flame. When the madness runs its course, your flame will experience rebirth - a maddened flame without the madness.” Li Qiye added.

“It is impossible.” Coldflame responded with haste regarding this suicidal scenario. Breaking the fire cultivation after releasing the madness meant that he would have the ability to control the madness in the first place.

“Someone will need to lend you a hand.” Li Qiye said.

Coldflame couldn't think of anyone willing to do so. Releasing his madness meant a world-destroying event. Not even someone like Sword Queen would be able to escape unscathed.

As he stood there in a daze, Sword Queen's pleasant voice sounded: “You don't have to search far.”

This woke him up and he immediately asked: “Young Noble, please help me.”

“I'm not a firefighter.” Li Qiye smiled and shook his head.

Coldflame couldn't ask again due to his pride as an apex cultivator. An awkward silence ensued.

Li Qiye stared at him and said: “Fine, fine, I suppose there is fate involved here in our meeting. Since you have done so well with the grand dao, let's break your flame so that you can be the master of your future.”

“Thank you, Young Noble. Your kindness will be forever engraved in my heart.” Coldflame was ecstatic after hearing this.

“Start, let’s see your madness.” Li Qiye waved his hand.

“Please assist me, Young Noble.” Coldflame took a deep breath and released his fire.

“Retreat!” The old servant shouted and retreated.

True Bear and Li Zhitian followed right behind him, the same for Sword Queen.

“Aaa!” He roared and released all of his icy flames and evaporated the entire ocean instead of freezing it this time around. This was the true essence of the maddened flame.

Chapter 5326: Inside The Coffin

The group dropped to the ocean floor with the water gone. The flame then engulfed Li Qiye but of course, it couldn’t injure him.

“Aaa!” Coldflame no longer restrained the madness.

He maintained his sanity at the beginning but as the madness surged outward, he turned into a giant made of fire. The icy affinity was no longer present so the flames raged in all directions.

The stars above were reduced to ashes and the ocean floor turned into lava. This was akin to the eruption of a million stars, no different from an ultimate tribulation.

Coldflame lost control of his power. The only thing he wanted to do was to spread the maddened flame to the rest of the world. He eventually became a part of the fire and madness after a total release.

In this most crucial moment, Li Qiye raised his hand and showed his supremacy.

Sword Queen watched attentively and couldn't believe her own eyes. His palm was all destroying - not even her everlasting sword dao could withstand it.

"Boom!" The maddened flame was reduced to nothingness after a single attack.

This naturally obliterated Coldflame's body as well. Only his dao fruits were intact, flying away with his true fate.

"Young Noble, I will pay this debt back in the future!" Coldflame's voice came from the horizon.

The lack of grace was understandable since he was at his weakest. He needed to hide and rebuild his maddened flame first.

After he was gone, Zhitian stared at the world of lava and thought that the legends regarding the flame were true.

If he had been stuck in the inferno, he would have been reduced to ashes as well despite having twelve sacred fruits. No wonder why Maddened was able to leave an eternal crater burning in Celestial Court.

“You are something else, Sir.” Sword Queen bowed and invited: “Please visit Imperial Alliance so I can play the part of a good host.”

“I’m still busy.” Li Qiye shook his head.

“When you have time then, Sir.” Sword Queen said sincerely. Her attitude made it hard for others to refuse.

Li Qiye nodded and she disappeared into the horizon as well.

“Shall we go?” Li Qiye said before leaping into the air. Everyone else followed him into space.

They traveled among the stars before reaching a divine palace with an altar.

Li Qiye landed and scowled after seeing the scene - a group of individuals robed in ceremonial white in the midst of conducting a solemn rite around a stone coffin.

Being interrupted ignited them into attacking. However, the moment they laid eyes on Li Qiye, they became frozen as if struck by lightning.

They immediately kneeled and performed a full kowtow!

“My-my Lord!” They stammered while slamming their head on the pavement without any hesitation or pain.

Li Qiye appeared to be a god in their eyes, deserving of their reverence.

Zhitian and the others were at a loss after seeing this. They could tell that these worshippers were immensely powerful but now, they smashed the ground so hard as if wanting to break their head.

“Stand up.” Li Qiye stared at them.

The group got up and he glanced over at the stone coffin, commanding: “Open it.”

The group exchanged glances before following his command. Several of them worked together to remove the lid.

The content inside shocked Li Zhitian’s and the others - a statue of Li Qiye made with impeccable workmanship.

“What is the meaning of this?” Li Qiye saw this and smiled wryly.

“My Lord, you bestowed light and life upon us.” One of the robed individuals uttered the words with relatively inaccurate pronunciation: “Our clan has been worshipping for eras now, wishing eternal life and immortality for you.”

“Well, this is a unique ceremony.” Li Qiye didn’t know whether to laugh or cry.

The others felt the same way. They wanted to wish him eternal life by placing his statue inside a coffin? That’s a rather strange way of worshipping.

Chapter 5327: Unimaginable Statue

The statue inside the stone coffin was animated and life-like. Nonetheless, it felt a bit off when the real person was around.

The robed individuals weren’t cursing Li Qiye but rather, worshipping him as a god. This ceremony was rather strange as well.

Li Zhitian started thinking about the possibilities - who were these worshippers and why was Li Qiye viewed as a god?

“Take off your mask.” Li Qiye understood the situation and ordered one of them.

The person took off the veil, revealing a face filled with wrinkles. However, they weren’t there due to old age.

It felt as if the person’s face had been twisted into a bundle like fried dough and then flattened. The process couldn’t remove all the wrinkles, resulting in his current appearance.

“Seems like a forsaken.” The old servant recognized the race instantly.

“Forsaken?” Li Zhitian had heard of this before and thought about the tales.

This race was mysterious and reclusive, always keeping a distance from the outside world. However, no powers wanted to provoke them because they were known for their strength and warlike vengeance. Messing with them was akin to disturbing a beehive.

“Your race is finally back, congratulations.” Li Qiye stared at the twisted visage and said.

“The forsaken bloods are back because of your blessing, My Lord.” The man kneeled and the rest did the same to show their respect.

“?!” Zhitian gasped after hearing this.

There were separate legends regarding the forsakens and the forsaken bloods. They were actually the same?

The forsaken bloods were monstrous, feared not only due to their appearance but also their brutality.

The word “repulsive” was an understatement when describing this race. Those who actually saw the forsaken bloods always vomited from fear and were traumatized. Their body shape was grotesque and otherworldly to the point of being nauseating. The ones before them were discomforting to look at but not frightening, unlike the legends.

The forsaken bloods lived a borrowed life on the frontier, never to see the sun. This all changed with the help of Li Qiye when they transformed to being just "forsakens".

He found and showed them a brighter path for the future. After granting them certain profundities, they changed completely in order to escape their cursed fate.

After generations of struggling and evolving, they finally fulfilled their goal and gained a form more similar to humans. Of course, the wrinkly patterns remained on their face.

They were known as "forsakens" afterward - an entirely new race. The "blood" part of their lineage became mere history.

Li Qiye was the one who broke the cursed lineage and delivered them from the unending agony. Thus, they worshipped him as their creation god.

"Why did you all return accursed place?" Li Qiye asked.

"The land is our birthplace, here is our divine temple. Thus, we return here to conduct the ceremony for you, My Lord." The man said.

The forsaken bloods of past had a religion and other beliefs. However, after turning into forsakens, they worshipped Li Qiye alone and performed pilgrimages to this ancestral land.

They sent their strongest and most knowledgeable ancestors in order to show their respect to Li Qiye.

Li Qiye glanced at the closed temple - the gate seemed to have been shut for eras now.

“What’s inside?” Li Qiye asked.

“We have discarded the past and everything once revered. The ceremonies in the temple have never been held again.” One of them responded.

“Open it then. From what I can tell, someone had been here already.” Li Qiye smiled.

This surprised all the forsakens since they never noticed anything during previous ceremonies.

“Creak...” Nonetheless, they didn’t hesitate and opened the gate for him.

Li Qiye entered with Li Zhitian and the others right behind him. The robed forsakens waited outside because the past was painful for them.

Now, their race has been born anew, there was no point in entering this temple with discarded legacies.

Inside the temple was a grotesque yet enticing statue. Its appearance defied description while exuding malevolence.

At first glance to the uninformed eye, it might seem like a large piece of rotting wood extracted from a swamp. This was obviously not the case; its enigmatic features were simply indiscernible.

If someone had to pick one word to describe it, it would be “rotten”.

Putrefaction emanated from it and evoked an intensely nauseating feeling. A repugnant odor lingered in the air and send shivers down one’s spine.

Zhitian scrutinized the statue, wanting to figure out what it was or what it represented. Alas, it was beyond his comprehension - how could such a thing exist in this world?

Chapter 5328: Supreme Lord

The more he stared at it, the more he felt the urge to retch all over the ground. It evoked a sense of indescribable horror and repulsive qualities - a glance into the unknown.

“What is this statue...” He murmured.

“Lord of Derivation.” Li Qiye said slowly.

“Lord of Derivation!” Zhitian blurted out, having only learned this title recently from Li Qiye.

When he said these words, a faint gleam could be seen from the statue - nothing more.

Li Qiye shook his head after failing to catch anything else.

“If you had uttered this title before this statue in the past.” Li Qiye smiled at Zhitian and said: “I’m afraid you wouldn’t like the result.”

“What’s the result?” Zhitian felt uneasy as if something malevolent was looming.

“A parasite will consume your vitality until the moment when you breathe your last, it will break out of your body while you’re watching.” Li Qiye said.

“I wouldn’t want that.” Zhitian shuddered and took one step backward.

“The worst part is that despite knowing the existence of the parasite, you won’t be able to get rid of it. The agonizing wait is just as torturous.” Li Qiye said.

“So what actually is this thing?” Zhitian stared at the statue.

“One of the oldest and most intelligent existences ever.” Li Qiye responded.

“Really?” Zhitian didn’t see how this thing could be construed as intelligent given its nauseating appearance and aura.

“No need to doubt because you are a fool in comparison despite your innate gifts.” Li Qiye said: “Of course, genius and madman are only separated by a thin line.”

“So it went mad in the end.” Zhitian said.

“I just know that regular people don’t go hanging around blood-sucking creatures and eternal corpses...”
Li Qiye smirked.

“I get it, I get it.” Zhitian shuddered.

“Just keep in mind that it didn’t look like this at the start. In fact, if you had seen its original form, you might have considered it to be an immortal.” Li Qiye elaborated.

“An immortal?” Zhitian couldn’t see the connection between this statue and an immortal in the slightest.

“What happened then?” He asked.

“The world and the villainous heaven did not allow for its existence. However, it survived the heavenly tribulations, a true miracle, and became a new race, the eldritch.”

Zhitian would agree with this name after seeing the rotting and disgustingly incomprehensible statue.

Unfortunately for Li Qiye, the statue no longer had any power and divinity left. Thus, the lack of reaction meant no trail for Li Qiye to follow.

“This is it.” He shifted his attention toward a smaller shrine nearby.

It was engraved with chaos refined jades at the imperial level - always ready to be used as a portal.

Another statue was situated on top of the shrine - clearly newer than the one depicting the eldritch.

“Heaven’s Allure again.” The group was too familiar with this type of statue by now.

“Interesting.” The old servant has been interested in the mastermind behind this carefully-crafted plan.

“Left with this portal.” Li Qiye observed the statue for a bit before concluding.

“A high-level shrine that can open a portal to anywhere with no trace left behind.” The old servant said.

Did the primal darkness leave Evil Reborn via this portal? Where did it go?

Li Qiye raised his hand again, not to analyze Heaven’s Allure this time but the shrine.

“Buzz.” His pulsing ray caused the shrine to become resplendent.

Countless sets of coordinates appeared above the shrine and changed at a shocking rate - each representing a different location.

The group didn't know which was the last one used because there were no traces left on the shrine. Not to mention Li Zhitian, even the powerful old servant couldn't trace the route back at all.

As for Li Qiye, he took his time deriving the events again and researching the mysteries of the portal. Eventually, he managed to find a particular set of coordinates.

"Rumble!" All the power of the shrine gathered together to form a portal.

"Right here." Li Qiye smiled and entered. The group didn't hesitate to follow him either.

Meanwhile, the forsakens remained outside but could tell that Li Qiye was leaving.

They kneeled in his directions and kowtowed while chanting: "Farewell, Supreme Lord. May you obtain immortality."

Although this was their first time meeting Li Qiye, they were still moved to tears. They grew up learning about his gift to their race. Thus, they had engraved his benevolence in their heart since birth.

To be able to see him today was the greatest blessing in their life. Alas, tears streamed down their face since a reunion might not be possible.

Chapter 5329: Duality Master

The portal took the group to a world of primordial chaos. The nature of this world blocked everything from sight.

However, the group consisted of strong-willed masters capable of peering through obscurities.

They saw various visual phenomena - a boundless azure engraved with countless grand dao. Apricot flowers blossomed and their petals scattered downward. Each petal was an individual world. Another phenomenon consisted of pagodas pouring down incredible affinities.

This primordial chaos was filled with limitless potential. Closing one's eyes and one would be able to live forever in these phenomena.

As long as one dared to think boldly, they would be able to turn anything into reality. Who wouldn't want to live in a dream when they had absolute control?

"An illusory realm, but which one?" Li Zhitian looked around and understood where he was.

"Skyrend Paradise." The old servant immediately knew the exact location.

The three illusory realms consisted of Dream Paradise, Skyrend Paradise, and Soaring Pond Paradise. They were similar to the four broken realms, only vaster and more enigmatic.

No one in the upper continents knew how large the illusory realms were. One theory stated that it was as large as one's imagination and dream.

Visitors could obtain anything they could ever want with enough imagination and a strong dao heart.

“Skyrend.” Li Qiye scanned the area.

“Senior, do you have your own secret grotto in any of the three illusory realms?” Zhitian asked.

“Trying to figure out who I am?” The old servant uttered coldly.

Zhitian has grown rather bold after accompanying Li Qiye and getting familiar with the old servant. He smiled and said: “Of course not, Senior. I’m just curious because an apex existence such as yourself should have a grotto in these places.”

The old servant glared at him and didn’t respond.

“For example, All-things Dao Lord might be in charge of Dao Alliance but he prefers to stay in his grotto instead. This is true for Swordsea Dao Lord as well. Everyone knows he prefers his sword ocean grotto to Divine Alliance.” Zhitian still didn’t give up and continued.

He paused for a bit before starting again: “And the same for Illumination Conqueror after abdicating. Then the legendary Apricot Dao Lord, she is probably here too.”

The old servant’s expression didn’t change after hearing all these different names.

Zhitian had a good guess on who the old servant was but if the guy didn’t wish to reveal the truth, there was nothing else he could do before it started becoming impolite.

Of course, he was right about apex cultivators preferring to stay in the illusory realms. They possessed the power to open a vast grotto - their preferred home instead of the upper continents.

“Up ahead.” Li Qiye led the way and crossed through the primordial chaos, eventually entering one of the grottos.

They looked over and saw a beam of light splitting apart the chaos, creating a clear separation between the boundless expanse and the new world.

“Duality, we’re at Duality World!” Li Zhitian was surprised.

The moment they entered this grotto, they found stability and order. The chaos was actually gathering and maintaining its form.

“Impressive, to be able to open such a vast world while maintaining full stability. This dao heart is firm enough.” Li Qiye couldn’t help but praise.

“Duality Master is on another level.” The old servant agreed with this sentiment.

“Creating Duality World in this illusory realm, Duality Master is the only one who can do this. I refuse to believe that he is a mortal.” Zhitian commented.

“His dao heart is supreme, allowing this world to exist.” The old servant said.

Duality World was a legend in all of the six continents.

Previously, powerful cultivators were able to create grottos and maintain their form among the primordial chaos.

However, when their cultivation or dao heart waned, their grottos would suffer and diminish. Apex cultivators, for the most part, were able to keep this up. Relatively weaker cultivators couldn't do the same.

This all changed with the appearance of Duality Master.

Chapter 5330: How Did He Do It?

Duality Master - a mortal - utilized his peerless dao heart to condense the primordial chaos and open Duality World - a place known as a miracle in the six continents.

This allowed other cultivators to open stable grottos within its domain. The only limit was their imagination.

In fact, Duality World stretched across all three illusory realms - something never done before. The ephemeral factor was no longer an issue afterward. Everything created would stay around, no longer collapsing like a dream.

After finishing a grotto, the builder could leave afterward without worrying. Declining in cultivation and health didn't matter either, not even death. The only way for a grotto to go down in Duality World was physical destruction.

Thus, the initial creation of Duality World shocked all six continents. Emperors, dao lords, and conquerors had nothing but praises for Duality Master and his immovable dao heart. Most importantly, they also appreciated his generosity in opening Duality World for everyone after his departure.

Countless cultivators poured into Duality World and started creating their own grottos. Thus, it became a place with the highest concentration of top cultivators, not discriminating against those from The Race or The People.

If the illusory realms were the undeveloped frontiers, then Duality World was a fertile home welcoming everyone with open arms.

Duality Master was truly a mythical figure. He never fought anyone and was beloved by all, whether it be Celestial Court or Immortal Dao City.

He could sit down and have a nice chat with anyone, whether it be Celestial Court's Heaven Burial or Light-dragon Conqueror, even Nether Emperor. The same applied to the masters of Immortal Dao City and Imperial Field as well.

Due to his friendly neutrality and generosity, they usually addressed him respectfully as "Dao Brother."

He wasn't just friends with the apex cultivators. He had no problem chatting with servants, merchants, and villagers in the mortal world.

Normally, powerful cultivators did not mingle with mortals. After all, they were from two separate worlds. Mortals lacked knowledge and were viewed by some as insignificant beings.

Duality Master didn't share the same view. He could chat sincerely and befriend anyone. This was his unique characteristic - not having a prejudice against anyone.

He wasn't known for his fighting prowess but his exploits were second to none.

Li Qiye had a smile on his face after entering Duality World. It was magnificent with countless grottos - vast oceans, majestic mountains, palaces hovering above, chaos waterfalls, heavenly flowers, and golden springs...

These visual phenomena were created by powerful cultivators including dao lords and conquerors.

Imagination became reality in this place - a true playground for creative minds. In fact, some believed that Duality World was home to more top cultivators than any other place including the immortal continent.

"How did he do it?" Zhitian looked around and couldn't believe the amazing creations made possible by Duality Master.

"The illusory realms make dreams come true. The larger the dream, the larger the world." The old servant said: "Duality Master used his dao heart to add a blank piece of paper spanning across all three realms. People are free to add their art to it."

"His dao heart must be amazing for this world to be so vast." Zhitian murmured.

The old servant normally disliked wasting words. However, he had the utmost respect for Duality Master so he spoke more than usual: “You can try opening a grotto later in any of the three realms. Only then will you appreciate the determination and willpower necessary for upholding Duality World.”

“No, I’ll just open one here in Duality World.” Zhitian smiled while looking at the unique grottos around them.

After all, he was qualified to have a spot here due to his exceptional talent.

“This is a wonderful place, cultivators can revert back to being carefree children and play here.” Li Qiye was pleased with this world.