

Emperor 5381

Chapter 5381 – Save Me, Master!

It became apparent that cultivators stood no chance against these lightning bolts. Nevertheless, those who stood their ground fared better, at least for a few seconds.

Eventually, their merit laws and treasures exploded as well; their sacred fruits followed next.

Meanwhile, Autumn, Arsenal, and Wild experienced their first heavenly tribulation. They smartly utilized Heavenslay to combat the lightning bolts.

Alas, the dreadful formation only made the heavenly tribulation stronger. Flames and lightning bolts destroyed the energy swords and took down the formation.

With the formation gone, they had to face this empowered tribulation. Wild was the first to be trapped by lightning bolts, seemingly naked and helpless.

“Ahh!” They converged and reduced him to ashes.

“Not like this!” Arsenal with ten dao fruits didn’t last much longer. The tribulation provoked by Heavenslay was fatally potent.

“Ahh!” His dao fruits turned to ashes as well. He only lasted a few seconds longer than Wild.

“Master, save me!” Autumn faced the same peril and cried out for help.

Unfortunately, even if he were here, he wouldn't be able to save her. After all, he might not be able to survive the heavenly tribulation himself. Appearing meant summoning more tribulations - one that would be far stronger than the one she was facing.

“No!” She screamed while being struck by numerous bolts. Her master still did not show up.

Meanwhile, spectators trembled in fear after seeing the power of the tribulation. Those near the battlefield fell, one by one.

They reflected on the situation as well - Autumn was a top conqueror with ten dao fruits. Regular ancestors were mere insects in comparison.

Now, despite dominating for a lifetime and never needing to ask anyone for help, she was begging for Illumination Conqueror to come save her.

Her dao heart crumbled and she reverted back to the young, helpless orphan. She considered Illumination to be her only hope right now. To her dismay, the past didn't repeat itself.

Eventually, despair took over and the light of hope was extinguished. The tribulation finally broke through all her defenses and obliterated her.

The crowd saw this and knew that Illumination was watching as well. In fact, he might have been near the battlefield but chose to hide from the tribulation.

“Boom!” Only two survivors were left at this point - Myriad Eye Dao Lord and Ye Fantian.

The two of them weren't faring well - Myriad Eye was covered in bloody wounds.

“Break!” He roared and sent his twelve dao fruits upward while burning his vitality. He didn't give up and still decided to go all out against the heavenly tribulation. The constant barrage left cracks on his dao fruit.

“Boom!” Finally, his fruits exploded along with their owner.

In this split second, a light flashed deep in space, serving as a guiding lighthouse. What was left of the fruits started flying toward the light and immediately disappeared from sight.

Chapter 5382 – Incomparable

Destruction of the body meant death but not for those with cultivation fruits.

Myriad Eye lost his body and twelve fruits. Nonetheless, remnant strands of the fruits managed to escape by following the mysterious light from above.

This could have been an ace card prepared by him or someone else was lending him a hand. Nonetheless, it gave the perfect path for the strands to escape and elude the heavenly tribulation.

“Can he come back to life?” Someone wondered.

“Maybe, the chance is minuscule.” A top conqueror speculated.

Nonetheless, Myriad Eye’s fate was still better than the others since nothing was left of them.

“This is just like Luminous Conqueror back then but he managed to rise again.” A big shot still saw hope.

Luminous was ambushed by Deity Dao and everything was obliterated with the exception of a single dao strand. Nevertheless, he re-created himself and started cultivating again with a primordial dao fruit.

“It won’t be anything good even if he survives.” Ferocity said: “No one is lucky enough to survive or have enough determination to start cultivating again.”

Although Luminous Conqueror served as a prime example of a great outcome, not everyone had the same result.

They recalled his success but not the countless failures in history. Dao Lords and conquerors fell in battle repeatedly but how many managed to climb back to their prime?

Keep in mind that by starting over again from a remnant strand, they were virtually different people, possessing no memories and cultivation of the previous self. If they were to somehow become conquerors again, they would gain the ability to recall their previous memories.

“At least he still has a slimmer of hope, the others are all dead.” Xiao Hu murmured.

“The ones from Azure School deserved it.” Ferocity did not sympathize and said: “Illumination Conqueror is no good, so that’s the outcome of his followers. That’s why your lesson is to never be tricked by such a bastard.”

Ferocity had no love for Illumination. Although he didn’t consider himself a beacon of morality, he wasn’t as crazy as Illumination.

“Boom!” Meanwhile, lightning bolts continued to hit Ye Fantian and her dao fruits. She was covered in wounds and on the verge of crumbling down to bits.

However, she kept on chanting and re-creating her body in order to stay alive, earning the respect and admiration of the crowd.

Myriad Eye was stronger than her yet she displayed more composure while having the heavenly tribulation. This was because he never expected to be facing a tribulation at all and had no plans to deal with it.

The fear of certain doom made him panic. On the other hand, Ye Fantian knew that this was coming since she was the one who summoned it. In fact, she was ready for total destruction and had no intention of fleeing.

This became a process of breaking and renewing for both her body and dao fruits. She wanted to last until the tribulation was over.

“Her talent is second to none.” A dao lord commented.

“It’s not just talent, her dao heart surpasses ours too.” One conqueror responded.

Li Qiye smiled after seeing her tenacity and lofty goal, recalling how he had done it in the past as well to kill the enemies and improve his cultivation.

Chapter 5383 – Bait

“Boom!” Finally, the tribulation ended and the crack disappeared in the sky. Dark clouds dispersed and everything returned to normal.

Of course, the actual aftermath included several hundred dead dragon lords and conquerors. Their ashes have scattered to the wind.

Ye Fantian successfully survived the tribulation while being grievously wounded. Nonetheless, she earned everyone’s respect as she stood proudly.

Among the audience were venerable conquerors and dao lords. It has been a while since they last saw a heavenly tribulation of this scale, let alone someone managing to survive it.

In fact, her achievements today surpassed those of apex conquerors. Although she only had twelve fruits and was not guaranteed to obtain an immortal shell and anima, the future looked exceedingly bright for her.

Everyone had complicated emotions while staring at this wondrous cultivator. Dao Alliance and Azure School tried to ambush her only to be obliterated. The only potential survivor was Myriad Eye Dao Lord.

“It was a trap from the start.” A dragon lord said with certainty.

“She used herself as the bait.” A big shot shuddered: “But how did she summon the tribulation?”

“She probably wanted to bait out All-things Dao Lord and Illumination Conqueror too.” An ancient ancestor said.

Listeners thought that her success was near perfect, just missing the opposing leaders. Nonetheless, this historical feat put her on the same level as Light-dragon and Demon Conqueror.

The next question became - would All-things and Illumination be able to survive the tribulations?

Their hypothetical death would have changed the political landscape of the upper continents. It meant that The People’s fighting force would become drastically inferior.

“The courage and determination.” Li Xian’er praised since there was no guarantee of Ye Fantian surviving the tribulation.

It became apparent that she would be able to travel far on the dao path since she possessed all the necessary attributes - talent and dao heart. In fact, she might even be able to surpass Light-dragon and Demon Conqueror.

Other supreme geniuses wouldn’t have taken the same risk. After all, they had a bright future and other options.

Now, she glanced at the crowd and saw Li Qiye, prompting her to bow. Although this was her own plan, Li Qiye was her inspiration and guide despite not being overly blatant.

She considered him as a role model in this regard - the reason why she knew that this was possible.

“Bam!” Suddenly, someone landed in front of her.

He possessed a mighty aura that could make the entire world and its inhabitants quake.

“Illumination Conqueror!” Many shouted in astonishment after seeing the once-pillar of The People.

His influence couldn't be overstated during his golden age. As a mortal, he struggled and made it to the top of the cultivation world. With that, he mobilized The People and made them competitive.

Not to mention regular cultivators, even dao lords and conquerors were willing to follow him. This resulted in the foundation of Dao Alliance.

During its prime, it was certainly the strongest out of the four alliances. Perhaps this played a part in Illumination Conqueror's confidence and ego. He believed that he had enough forces now to wipe The Race off the upper continents.

His tyrannical and overbearing reign alienated his closest supporters, ending with an unmendable chasm in Dao Alliance.

A prime example of this was none other than Swordsea Dao Lord. He was a part of Dao Alliance until he had enough of Illumination and left to join Divine Alliance.

After seeing his appearance, everyone understood that he had been here the entire time. Otherwise, Autumn Conqueror wouldn't have been crying for help repeatedly.

"See, I told you he was a bastard." Ferocity told the group.

Chapter 5384 – Fast Learner

"Illumination Conqueror." Ye Fantian said calmly.

"Incredible, the young me in the past could only dream to be as bold as you." Illumination couldn't help but praise: "Divine Alliance will be able to stand strong for ages with you."

"You're too kind, Senior." Ye Fantian cupped her fist.

"Follow me, young lady, and this will be easy." Illumination said.

The crowd thought that he would immediately try to kill Ye Fantian. Otherwise, once her wings were fully grown, the outcome of a battle between them wasn't obvious. Moreover, she had just dealt a devastating blow to Dao Alliance and Azure School.

"And if I refuse?" She asked.

Illumination laughed in response. The sound waves from them caused the stars to tremble.

Despite recent setbacks, he was still an apex conqueror to be feared by all.

“I will have to kill you then.” He said before reaching for her.

His hand wielded immense power, crushing the fabrics of reality. Spectators saw this and felt their knees buckling, aware that they would not be able to stop him.

Ye Fantian had obtained twelve dao fruits but was still inferior in terms of raw cultivation.

A thunderous sound detonated and lightning bolts suddenly rushed out of her chest. This astounded Illumination and he hurriedly retreated. Nonetheless, the lightning bolts still pierced through his hand.

It turned out that she had been saving tribulation bolts precisely for a moment like this and immediately fled the battlefield.

“She learns fast.” Li Qiye was amused to see this.

The actual power gap between them was still considerable, akin to a novice versus a master. She still needed to form an immortal shell and obtain anima before fighting Illumination Conqueror.

This only amplified everyone’s high evaluation of her. Given her courage and planning, she would definitely reach the top of the upper continents.

“You’re not getting away!” Illumination took one step forward and sealed her next spatial leap.

“Clank!” A sword slash cut through the containment; spatial fabrics scattered downward.

“Swordsea Dao Lord!” Many knew the combatant instantly.

The current guardian of Divine Alliance and Ye Fantian’s senior - Swordsea Dao Lord.

“Illumination, have you no shame?” Swordsea blocked Illumination’s path.

“You’re just just in time, Swordsea.” Illumination’s eyes became resplendent.

The appearance of Swordsea Dao Lord stirred the crowd. Though Illumination was the founder of Dao Alliance, he was not necessarily the strongest due to members such as All-things and Swordsea. The trio was a force to be reckoned with, pushing Dao Alliance above its peers.

This party didn’t last long since the three didn’t agree with each other. Swordsea left first and then Illumination was forced into seclusion, leaving All-things as the next guardian of Dao Alliance.

Since they had fought alongside each other once, they had a good grasp of the opponent’s power level.

“Rumble!” Illumination immediately mustered all of his power to the limit. A domineering and blinding aura engulfed the battlefield.

“Clank!” Swordsea didn’t relent and raised his sword.

One could illuminate the entire world while the other’s sword slash could cut through an eternity - the perfect recipe for an evenly matched duel.

Ye Fantian had no intention of lingering around since she was everyone’s prime target. Her very existence threatened apex conquerors and dao lords. Thus, she fled into another dimension without any hesitation.

Unfortunately, a prison descended from above. She performed dozens of movement techniques and still couldn’t dodge it.

“Bam!” It successfully trapped her inside while spewing continuous dao laws, seemingly capable of trapping an immortal.

Chapter 5385 – Mantis, Cicada, And Oriole

The laws of the prison were infused with primordial chaos - meaning that the power of life was constantly being derived.

Within the strands was the initial formation of life, making it feel as if one were lying in a field of grass. The blades of grass exuded lifeforce and a comforting scent - nearly enough to make Ye Fantian forget about her current dilemma.

“All-things!” The prison constantly exuding life derivation made its owner rather obvious.

“All-things Dao Lord!” Everyone understood that the guardian of Dao Alliance had arrived as well.

Before possessing an immortal shell and anima, she still couldn't stop these apex dao lords and conquerors. Therefore, her movement techniques and various methods were useless.

"Boom!" A hand accompanied by gentle spring breezes descended, seemingly blowing life into all creation while pulling up the prison.

"Stop!" Swordsea Dao Lord immediately delivered a devastating slash at the prison.

The resulting sparks alone could destroy stars. Alas, this was not enough to stop All-things from leaving the scene.

Illumination didn't linger around either and left as well. Ye Fantian had been captured by All-things so there was no point in fighting the enraged Swordsea. Swordsea didn't give up and followed in the same direction as All-things.

Once they were gone, the spectators could finally breathe again. The auras of the three apex cultivators suffocated them the entire time.

Ancestors and lords got up from the ground and took a deep breath, feeling lucky for surviving this potential disaster. This battle could have obliterated the entire region and taken them down as well.

"The mantis stalks the cicada, unaware of the oriole behind." A dragon lord calmed down and said softly.

“Illumination Conqueror and Azure School are definitely the biggest losers this time.” A big shot commented.

This ambush was a way for Illumination Conqueror to re-establish his reputation and dominance. Heavenslay Formation was meant to kill Ye Fantian and anyone who came to interfere.

They didn’t expect the heavenly tribulation to disturb their plan. In the end, Illumination tried and still couldn’t capture Ye Fantian. Thus, nothing was gained from this ill-fated endeavor.

Dao Alliance also suffered considerable losses. Nonetheless, they managed to capture Ye Fantian - fulfilling the main goal.

As for Divine Alliance, it was hard to know whether this was worth it. They managed to kill many top cultivators but their jewel was captured.

“This is a new era now, Illumination Conqueror is no longer the same as in the past.” An aged cultivator sighed and said, recalling Illumination’s previous dominance.

The People had an unprecedented solidarity under his leadership, allowing Dao Alliance to overwhelm the other alliances.

Now, it became apparent how difficult it would be for him to rise again. Azure School had suffered serious setbacks and Illumination was obviously impatient - a stark contrast to All-things who managed to stay calm during crises.

“What a time we live in, the pact is repeatedly weakened because of Supreme.” A conqueror lamented: “Now, we have Illumination trying to cause trouble again. The longlasting peace will be shattered soon enough and war will break out between the two sides. Who among us will survive?”

Supreme’s ambition was to dominate The People. Alas, most were happy with the Pact of Blessed including Principle Conqueror and All-things Dao Lord. Instigating the issue meant risking derision from both sides.

However, Principle’s abdication broke the balance. Although Swordsea didn’t actually care about the conflict, he didn’t actively try to stop it like his predecessor. Now, the return of Illumination Conqueror only served to hasten Supreme’s goal.

Illumination was belligerent and didn’t hide his hatred for The Race. This meant that Heaven and Divine Alliance had to react properly and band together. This was a solid reason to abandon the Pact of Blessed.

Chapter 5386 – Who Caught The Cicada?

Due to the Pact of Blessed, only minor skirmishes between individuals occurred recently. The top cultivators had an implicit understanding of the political balance.

Members from both sides conversed and befriended each other, lowering the racial hatred and prejudice. The last several hundred thousand years were peaceful - a time of healing.

Due to the number of conquerors and dao lords involved in today’s battle, it seemed that the pact was finally abandoned. War could break out at any moment. None could remain neutral or they would risk offending their own side.

“Illumination is a criminal hurting The People.” A dao lord said with certainty: “He is no longer the same as before, the path he treads on will bring us toward damnation.”

“Conflicts will not cease as long as he is still around.” Another conqueror from The People agreed.

He once protected The People but now, he has become the source of all disasters.

“We need to be ready, we can’t only worry about ourselves.” A few sighed and prepared for the worst.

Right now, the conflict included Heaven, Divine, and Dao Alliance. It wouldn’t be long until Imperial Alliance was dragged into it as well.

“What a shame, she almost made it.” Ferocity said with a tinge of regret after seeing Ye Fantian captured by All-things Dao Lord.

“Not necessarily, this is only the beginning of the plan.” Li Qiye smiled.

“Just the beginning? I don’t think Ye Fantian will survive this.” Xiao Hu didn’t understand.

“You think All-things Dao Lord will kill her?” Li Qiye smiled.

“Hmm...” Xiao Hu thought about it and realized that if All-things had wanted to kill Ye Fantian, he would have done so from the start.

“Why did he capture her?” Xiao Hu asked.

“She is still the bait, and she knows this.” Li Qiye smiled.

“I got it!” Ferocity clapped and said: “All-things wants to use her to bait Swordsea Dao Lord.”

“I believe he’s trying to bait Illumination, not Swordsea.” Li Xian’er chimed in.

“For sure.” Ferocity agreed: “Ye Fantian’s very existence is a stain on Illumination’s reputation. They lost so many dao lords and conquerors only to fail. He must kill her in order to wipe away this shameful defeat.”

“So she wanted to be captured?” Xiao Hu murmured.

“If Illumination wants to kill Ye Fantian, he must deal with All-things first. Well, this would have happened either way since he wants Dao Alliance back. The girl knew this and aimed to spark the conflict between them, The People will start fighting each other then.” Ferocity said.

“You don’t think All-things knows this?” Li Qiye chuckled.

“He wants to take this opportunity to eliminate Illumination as well.” Xiao Hu blurted out.

All-things’ biggest threat right now was not Supreme but rather, Illumination. His goal didn’t matter, whether it be to stay as the leader of Dao Alliance or to maintain the current balance for the sake of peace. Illumination was the biggest obstacle.

Of course, Illumination shared the same idea - dealing with All-things first before focusing on Supreme.

Although Illumination's prestige waned in recent times, he was still respected by a large number of cultivators. It would be improper for All-things to launch an assault against him.

On the other hand, what if Illumination were the first to attack? Then All-things would be justified in defending himself.

Ultimately, Ye Fantian served as a way for these two apex cultivators to fight each other without risking negative opinions.

She knew that they both wanted this and played along. After all, it would seriously weaken Dao Alliance either way.

"The girl is amazing, she has it all." Ferocity had nothing but respect for Ye Fantian.

"Young Noble, what is your opinion on this matter?" Li Xian'er asked.

"Nothing, this is inconsequential because The Race and The People are just the same. Sure, the three grand races were arrogant and believed in their superiority, but the distinction started with Celestial Court. That's the real culprit here." Li Qiye said.

"Right. The Race and The People aren't separate races, both sides have humans and heaveners or whatever." Xiao Hu agreed.

“What should we do then, Young Noble?” Li Xian’er asked.

“In terms of the upper continents alone, it will calm down after the death of Illumination and Supreme.” Li Qiye said before turning to the sky: “However, as long as Celestial Court is still around, the notion of sinners and racial prejudice will remain. The permanent solution is its destruction.”

“!” The group became emotional since they weren’t strong enough to challenge Celestial Court.

“Let’s go.” Li Qiye smiled and started walking.

Chapter 5387 – The Lonely Dao

The end of the battle caused unrest among top cultivators who were aware that a storm was coming.

Moreover, the insightful ones understood that a fight between All-things Dao Lord and Illumination Conqueror was inevitable.

Those from The People thought about who they should support. The ones from Eight Desolaces had an easy answer.

Thus, not just in the illusory realms but the entire upper continents were in a furor. Plans were concocted in secrecy.

Of course, none of this mattered to Li Qiye. The so-called “apex” cultivators in this world have yet to reach the apex in his eyes.

He continued to delve deeper into Dream Abyss with his followers. The path became increasingly beautiful and seemingly less dangerous. The notion of the abyss was no longer present.

After all, this was a dream world and it should be beautiful. The sky above was full of stars and auroras while the ground had fields of flowers.

As they crossed through the field, they saw a peak with a single tree on top. Flowers blossomed on the branches as if spring was in full bloom.

“Sir, could I have a moment of your time?” A person beneath the tree bowed in Li Qiye’s direction.

Li Qiye glanced at him and smiled.

The middle-aged man dressed neatly; not a single speck of dust could be seen on his white robe. He had longer bangs, seemingly covering part of his vision and making him appear somewhat melancholic.

His aura was one of stability and righteousness - a reflection of his upright personality. He could be trusted by both friends and enemies. One wouldn’t find it surprising to see him chatting with a noble or a beggar.

“Darkfrost.” Ferocity and Li Xian’er had a serious expression after seeing another apex cultivator.

“What is it?” Li Qiye asked with a smile.

“I have something on my mind so I specifically waited here for you, Sir. Please have a seat.” Darkfrost lowered his head and said.

“Very well.” Li Qiye agreed.

“Brat, we’re leaving.” Ferocity patted Xiao Hu’s shoulder and pulled him away without permission again.

Li Xian’er also left in another direction.

Darkfrost prepared a pot of tea and excellent pastry for Li Qiye as they sat beneath the tree.

“Flowers bloom and fall in their own time but cultivators have no time to rest.” Darkfrost caught a petal and said.

Li Qiye chuckled and took a sip without responding.

“Sir, why do we seek the dao?” Darkfrost sincerely asked.

“That is a question only you can answer.” Li Qiye said.

“I do not know why I bother at times.” Darkfrost gazed into the distance and let out a sigh.

He was known for his benevolent and compassionate nature. Rumor has it that one could rest in peace after entrusting Darkfrost Dao Lord with anything.

Three Truth Dao Lord did just that - entrusting his daughter to him. He arranged a safe place for her in the lower continents, allowing her to become a conqueror without facing constant threats.

"Thinking of your wife?" Li Qiye said.

"You can see right through me, Sir." Darkfrost took a deep breath.

He came from Dao Institution of Eight Desolaces - a perpetual alliance with Flame Valley.

He obtained one of the nine heavenly swords at a young age - Flamedao. With that, he became a dao lord - no longer restrained by the marriage pact between Dao Institution and Flame Valley.

He could have chosen anyone he fancied in that generation. However, he still obeyed the long-lasting tradition and picked an ordinary female disciple from Flame Valley - something rather unexpected.

Any random saintess or princess would have been stronger than his choice. Nonetheless, he married her and taught her the sword dao, treating her as an equal.

Under his guidance, she eventually learned his Flamedao and slowly caught up to him.

Of course, there was still a considerable gap between the two but she could be his partner in battle. Their combined might in battle exceeded his own.

Her journey from being an ordinary disciple to a cultivator worthy of being the wife of a dao lord was known to all. Their romance didn't wane with time so they were always seen together.

Alas, she was not a dao lord so death from old age came knocking eventually. She had to leave her husband, albeit unwillingly.

With that, Darkfrost chose to ascend to the six continents and became an apex cultivator.

"The dao is a lonely path." Li Qiye responded.

He had said this numerous times but not all listeners have experienced this. Darkfrost was one exception.

"Does it have to be?" He asked.

"Then you must meet someone else who can make the same journey." Li Qiye said.

"That's the hard part." He paused for a moment before responding.

"This is another test for your dao heart, once you surpass it, you will be able to travel far and beyond. However, once you do, you will no longer need anyone else to walk with you." Li Qiye said.

"I see." The dao lord murmured.

Chapter 5388 – She Was Wonderful

Flowers on the old tree met the breeze of spring and scattered downward. Sipping tea and basking in this scenery made one feel incredible - truly the life of immortals.

"As long as the heart beats, there will be thoughts and desires. Just one wrong step and there will be an eternity of mistakes. You know, she knows, isn't that enough? Having an end is not a bad thing at all." Li Qiye commented.

"Isn't that a rather cruel thing to say, Sir?" Darkfrost responded.

Li Qiye blew his teacup and took another sip before responding: "Who is crueller, the one saying goodbye or the one leaving? Who is in the better position now?"

"Perhaps she is." He took a second before responding.

His wife lived as the queen of a dao lord and eventually passed away from old age with her husband on her side.

They had the ability to prolong her life through various means, potentially bringing her up to the six continents and continuing their cultivation. However, she chose to die naturally without any attempt at life prolongation.

“She lived a wonderful life and she knew it, it ended on a positive note.” Li Qiye sighed.

“Right.” He agreed.

The gap between them was ever so present. After all, how could she keep up with a great genius forever? As long as they kept on the same dao path, this disparity would continue to grow.

“It’s a long road and many, after becoming weary, choose to rest instead.” Li Qiye said.

“It is wearing me down even now.” Darkfrost said softly after reflecting on the past.

“The climb only gets harder.” Li Qiye commented.

Despite Darkfrost’s firm dao heart, he still felt something bitter about his life choices. Cultivation was far from easy for normal people.

Only madmen or those born with an innate love for the dao could walk this road without complications.

In a sense, his wife was fortunate. She started as an ordinary cultivator from Flame Valley. If she hadn’t met him, she would have grown old and become forgotten in history.

Because of their meeting, she became a queen and lived a life full of love. Despite his constant protection and guidance, she toiled constantly in order to be worthy of her position.

The world knew of her greatness but not of her struggle. Following his footsteps was an arduous matter; she knew that the future would only create a larger distance between them.

Moreover, she also knew that as long as she was alive, he would inadvertently slow down and wait for her.

This was no fault of her own. She gave it her very best but her husband was simply brilliant - a dragon destined to soar. She chose to rest so that he would be freed from her shackles.

“It was my fault.” He came to this conclusion.

“No, you brought light and love into her life, but that’s not to say that she wasn’t worthy of you. After all, she must have been an incredible woman for you to be dwelling in the past even now.” Li Qiye said.

“She was wonderful.” He said softly.

Li Qiye smiled and ate a special apricot without responding.

They sat in silence for a bit before Darkfrost asked: “Sir, how can you walk alone for so long?”

“If the path can be climbed alone, why do you need companions? The separation of a few steps can eventually become a thousand miles.” Li Qiye said: “If there is no way to mend this gap, it’s better not to start.”

“The emptiness when I look around makes me waver.” He said.

“If you can revive her, would you? Do not think, answer now.” Li Qiye asked.

“Yes.” He answered instantly.

Li Qiye sighed in response: “Your dao heart is unstable so you will not be able to resist the temptation. You may think you can now but once you face it, it will be an entirely different story.”

“I understand your implication, Sir.” He said.

“Revival is an ominous matter and is it what she wants?” Li Qiye said.

“I know that I shouldn’t do it for a multitude of reasons.” He gently nodded.

“Yes, you must cut it off or let it go, this is a part of cultivation.” Li Qiye said.

“I do not know what to do.” He responded.

“What else can you do?” Li Qiye shook his head.

“Move forward, that’s the only thing.” He responded.

“Cultivation is a journey forward to transcend boundaries. The farther you go, the more unfamiliar the world becomes. You must learn to let go.” Li Qiye nodded.

“But the memories remain.” He said softly.

“Don’t be shackled by them but remember to embrace and cherish them for they are the keys to maintaining your humanity.” Li Qiye said: “Now that you have more time to think, I ask you the same question again, revive or not?”

“You know the answer, Sir.” He said.

“Yes, the current you will choose to revive her despite knowing the drawbacks. This is dangerous because as you travel farther on the path, you will become alienated from your past and the world. At that point, what she wants and the potential ominous complications matter not, only your own desire.”

Chapter 5389 – Dangerous Desire

Ultimately, once Darkfrost Dao Lord became detached from the world enough, nothing would be more important than his dearest love. By then, he would pay any price necessary in order to revive her.

“The dao is difficult because we do not do what we can.” Li Qiye said.

“Do not do what we can.” Darkfrost nodded in agreement.

“I’m sure you know that the instability in your heart will make you particularly susceptible to the darkness.” Li Qiye said.

“What should I do, Sir?” He understood the gravity of the situation.

“We are two cultivators in the cultivation world. Your dao heart can only be polished by yourself, I cannot help you.” Li Qiye said.

“And if I can’t overcome this?” He asked respectfully.

“Then maybe someone else will send you to the other side, or maybe I’ll do it.” Li Qiye smiled: “Don’t worry, death is a sweet release compared to dwelling in the darkness. If it does come to that, don’t forget to thank whoever is delivering the finishing blow.”

“You’re right, Sir.” He smiled wryly.

“Few can resist the temptation that far down the path.” Li Qiye said: “You must ask yourself, what is your pursuit?”

“A strong dao heart.” He said quietly: “I must solve it myself.”

“Yes, success in this endeavor is a great blessing.” Li Qiye nodded.

“I’m afraid this will require more time.” He lamented.

“And you have ample time. It might be the only solution to your problem.” Li Qiye said.

“How did you forget, Sir?” He asked with a serious tone.

Li Qiye’s eyes became profound as he seemingly reminisced about his past. However, this only lasted a split second before he smiled and said: “It’s been long enough for me to forget about many things.”

“That’s it?” He remarked.

“What you can do is either forget or, remember but not miss.” Li Qiye said.

“Remember but not miss?” He asked.

“Do you remember the first technique you have learned?” Li Qiye answered with a question.

Darkfrost took a while before answering: “I do.”

“What is it?” Li Qiye smiled.

“Just an ordinary move, nothing special.” He said.

“But was it not special back then for you?” Li Qiye asked.

“I couldn’t sleep from excitement and wanted to spend all night training.” He responded.

“But now, how do you remember it? Just another beginner’s move.” Li Qiye asked.

“I understand now, thank you, Sir.” He took a deep breath and bowed.

“Take care now and never forget that protecting the dao heart is the hardest part.” Li Qiye nodded and left.

He walked with Li Qiye for a while before stopping to watch him disappear into the distance.

Li Qiye then regrouped with the others and continued their journey. Few could make it as far as them.

After crossing a sky moat, they saw a majestic palace with stars surrounding it. It looked transcending - the home of an immortal.

“Blessed Dao Lord’s palace, it’s still here.” Ferocity murmured.

Xiao Hu became emotional since this was a legendary location.

“Blessed Dao Lord built a palace here? That’s so cool.” Xiao Hu said.

“It’s one thing for it to be standing if he is still here. Supreme and the others can do the same but he isn’t here anymore.” Ferocity said.

He put his arrogance aside and had great respect for Blessed Dao Lord - a being with few equals.

“This is where he meditates.” Li Xian’er had heard about the legends.

“He probably advanced by leaps and bounds in this place long ago, allowing him passage to wherever he pleases. He’s not in the upper continents or the immortal continent after starting the pact.” Ferocity said.

“Where did he go?” Xiao Hu became curious.

“Who knows, maybe an unknown grotto.” Ferocity shrugged.

Li Qiye only smiled and didn’t comment.

Suddenly, someone flew out of the palace and greeted Li Qiye: “Sir, we meet again.”

He was none other than Skysword Dao Lord, looking excited to see Li Qiye.

Li Qiye smiled and glanced at the palace: “Seems lively in there.”

“Would you like to join us?” Skysword invited.

“We’re just passing by.” Li Qiye responded.

“Everyone is here right now but Brother All-things is preoccupied or he would come to greet you in person.” Skysword hurriedly said.

“Strategizing?” Li Qiye smiled.

“Yes, we’re debating on what to do next. Do you have any input, Sir?” Skysword said.

“That’s your business.” Li Qiye had no interest in Dao Alliance.

“What should we do with Fellow Daoist Ye?” Skysword asked again.

“Well, I suppose that is somewhat related to me.” Li Qiye said.

“No one will disagree with your decision, Sir.” Skysword invited again and led the way.

The group entered the palace and was purified by moonlight. They looked up and saw stars seemingly engraved in the air, close enough to be grasped.

All-things Dao Lord and the others have gathered here today temporarily for a meeting.

Chapter 5390 – Just Passing By

The majority of top cultivators from Dao Alliance were present - truly a force to be reckoned with.

The leader was none other than All-things Dao Lord. Others included Saberlearned, Heaven Wheel, Ruminant, Worldraiser Dao Lord...

All-things sat in the center and possessed an aura brimming with life force. The faint pulses around him seemingly had the power to create life. He was the source of spring, capable of granting life to all things.

His real name was Li Er - a cultivator who preached the dao all over Eight Desolaces. Rumor has it that he had three thousand disciples or so. Today, he was the guardian of Dao Alliance.

He joined during its founding. Swordsea Dao Lord and the others were recruited afterward. They were virtually unbeatable because Illumination, Swordsea, and All-things were all apex conquerors.

Internal strife was the reason for Dao Alliance's decline. All-things became the only one left and took the role of guardian.

His leadership has been commendable. At the very least, he always advocated and supported the Pact of Blessed while making significant contributions to maintaining balance and harmony.

A prison could also be seen with Ye Fantian inside. She meditated, unaffected by the seniors around her. This naturally impressed them.

Once Li Qiye entered the hall, everyone stood up to greet him. However, he waved his hand and said: "No need for formality, I'm only here to say one thing and when I'm done, you might actually raise your weapons against me."

"Sir, you're too funny. We will listen to your decision." All-things smiled and said.

"You're in quite a predicament." Li Qiye walked over to the prison and said.

"Young Noble, I apologize for not being able to stand up and greet you properly." Ye Fantian opened her eyes and responded calmly, not looking like a prisoner at all.

"That's fine, I'm only here to ask whether you want to follow me or not." Li Qiye said.

The others exchanged glances after hearing this. Xiao Hu's hands broke out in cold sweat as well.

Even if Ye Fantian were to agree, would the others let her leave with Li Qiye? She was rather useful to Dao Alliance - an arrow capable of hitting two birds at once - not to mention the losses they suffered in order to capture her.

"Of course I do but I'm afraid I will not abandon my affiliation." She said.

"That's alright, I have plenty of time." Li Qiye smiled and then told the rest: "Okay, I am done here, proceed with your business."

All-things and the others heaved a sigh with relief since they wouldn't know what to do if Li Qiye were to take Ye Fantian away.

Ye Fantian closed her eyes again, seemingly not afraid of death.

"Wow, everyone is here." Someone else arrived as Li Qiye was about to leave - Five-sun Dao Lord.

He wasn't surprised to see Dao Alliance's numerous members, only Li Qiye.

"I'm just passing by, go on as usual." Li Qiye waved his hand.

Five-sun Dao Lord heaved a sigh of relief before cupping his fist and greeting: "Long time no see, Brother All-things."

"Yes, not since your departure." All-things returned the gesture.

Few knew that Five-sun was once a member of Dao Alliance for a short period before leaving for Divine Alliance.

Five-sun wasn't active in Divine Alliance and only showed himself after Swordsea was in charge.

He then greeted the rest of the crowd and said: "It's nice to see everyone again. Unfortunately, I am here on official business and cannot drink."

Many smiled back in response. Although they had their own stance, they still maintained a proper level of decorum.

“Virtuous Niece, I assure you that we will guarantee your safety.” Five-sun then told Ye Fantian with a solemn expression.

“Thank you, Senior.” Ye Fantian nodded.

Five-sun then spoke to All-things again: “Brother, I am a messenger today. Divine Alliance only has one condition, please release our disciple, and then bygones will be bygones.”

“I’m afraid it’s not that simple. Even if I want to release her, it is not up to me.” All-things said.

“I’m sure you have the ability to do so.” Five-sun said.

“If that’s truly the case, your Divine Alliance would not be mingling with Heaven Alliance.” All-things shook his head.

“That is a separate issue.” Five-sun smiled: “Our disciple had no feud with you or Dao Alliance. If we must be particular to the details, you were at fault for ambushing her.”

“True.” All-things said: “But Divine and Heaven Alliance have ambushed our geniuses in the past, do you consider yourselves to be at fault then?”

“It sounds to me like you are wanting to abandon the Pact of Blessed.” Five-sun remarked.

“The pact is nothing more than scrap paper at this point. If it were still effective, Heaven Alliance wouldn’t be trying to expand and Supreme wouldn’t be challenging everyone. Remember, your men appeared outside of Lesser Firmament and caused trouble. We have tried our best to exercise self-control. The current situation is due to your alliances’ future direction.”

“Here we go again, your tongue is still as sharp as ever, Brother All-things.” Five-sun started laughing.

“Nothing is stronger than the truth.” All-things smiled back.

“Alright, state your demands. We are flexible as long as you release her.” Five-sun said.

The others exchanged glances, seemingly having no intention of releasing her.

“I see.” Five-sun could read the room and continued: “There’s something I’m curious about. Don’t you feel that it’s risky to have everyone gathered in the same place?”