

Emperor 4831

Chapter 4831: Invincible Slash

The cycles of an epoch were unleashed upon Li Qiye, intending on sealing him.

“Boom!” In the next moment, the abyssal lord gathered all the waters in the world and condensed it into a single brick, sending it straight at the enemy.

This brick contained an immeasurable amount of weight despite its size. Within the brick were countless stars and living beings - the might of an entire epoch.

Both time and space were buried by its weight along with the myriad laws. The abysmal lord wasn't happy with just this and rushed for Li Qiye as well, wanting to devour him.

His abyssal form was immense and had an all-trapping ability. Those caught would never be able to see sunlight again.

This single offense contained three separate points of attack. The abyssal lord showed why he was able to dominate a whole epoch.

Li Qiye narrowed his eyes after seeing this. He sent out two grand dao swords but in reality, they were one - Flamedao.

Flame represented the fire affinity while the dao counterpart represented extreme cold. Two extremities together made this dao exceptional.

“Zzz...” The latter instantly froze everything - even the laws that made up the world. This included the epoch cycles, water brick, and even the abyss. The smallest particles became immobilized as a result.

Next came the fire affinity reaching the limit of heat. This grand dao could burn everything down, even the sun above. The instantaneous rotation between cold and heat made survival an impossibility.

The abysmal lord's attack was swiftly repelled but Li Qiye had to worry about Dead Immortal. The latter sent all nine swords to attack him at the same time.

Terra possessed insurmountable weight and immensity, capable of true devastation.

Abyss knew nothing of limits and could swallow three thousand worlds.

Vastsea, as boundless as can be. The slash was neverending in intensity...

The combination of all nine swords stirred spectators in disbelief. The other overlords thought that Dead Immortal has somehow duplicated the techniques successfully. This dao didn't belong to Dead Immortal yet the result could deter them.

“Clank!” Li Qiye raised Terra into the air and combined it with the equivalent sword dao. This single majestic technique was enough to protect the ages.

“Rumble!” All nine slashes from Dead Immortal were stopped by Li Qiye's Terra alone.

In the end, Dead Immortal's attack was impressive but it still didn't possess the actual treasure and scripture, only relying on a secret technique from its epoch.

"Boom!" The immovable Terra continued onward for a slash after the successful parry.

"Rumble!" Dead Immortal defended with its nine swords and dao but one crumbled after another.

All three overlords suffered serious damage after a loud explosion.

Undying Lord became Hallowed's victim. His armor was cut through along with his body nearly being severed.

Lord of the Deeps couldn't withstand the change in temperature. Half of his skull was gone and his body writhed in pain. It appeared smooth after the shifts.

Dead Immortal's lightning bolts have been extinguished. Its body was capable of transforming into anything but now, it was flattened like a piece of paper.

The three overlords together couldn't kill Li Qiye and suffered grievous damage.

Li Qiye had the advantage of being the current epoch lord. The flow of time was on his side, hence his domination. Other overlords were mere guests at an unfamiliar playground. Moreover, Li Qiye was also in his prime. The same couldn't be said about the rest.

Spectating overlords shuddered in horror. If Li Qiye wanted to deal with them, then they would need to abandon everything and hide. This included sealing their thoughts and powers. Otherwise, he would be able to find them eventually.

They regretted waking up during this commotion. Slumbering would have been the right choice because that would have kept their location a secret.

Unfortunately, they couldn't contain their greed and decided to join the fun. Now, it was too late to run because they were most likely detected by him.

The three combatants turned pale and thought that they have still underestimated Li Qiye.

They have fought other epochs before. Although they couldn't destroy all of them, they could still come out unscathed or with a considerable harvest.

Now, regardless of their opinion on the matter, they realized that it was time to flee. Their speed was unimaginable, crossing through one chaotic dimension after another which made tracing rather difficult.

Unfortunately, Triune Immortal and the others instantly sealed their location and prevented them from performing another dimensional shift.

They became trapped like birds in a cage.

"Leaving so soon? I don't think so." Li Qiye smiled.

The three's expression soured. Undying Lord stared at Silly Da and said: "Brother Da, what are you waiting for?"

Alas, Silly Da still lay on the ground, seemingly asleep.

Chapter 4832: Epoch Paragon Artifacts

Running was no longer possible for them at this point. Since this was Li Qiye's epoch, there was no hiding from him.

The only exception was leaping out of time and this epoch. However, if they could do something like that, they would have done so long ago instead of being trapped here.

In order to avoid a direct confrontation with current epoch lords, they usually hid in the borders of space. Their peers had done the same.

"Can't pig out forever without vomiting." Li Qiye smiled: "I will bury you three to nourish this world."

Both three and the hidden overlords shuddered after hearing this. They coveted Li Qiye's flesh but the opposite was true.

Though their epoch was long gone, they themselves contained its essences and treasures. Some of them had swallowed their epoch to stay alive for this long.

Even if Li Qiye didn't wish to devour them, they could still serve to nourish Eight Desolaces. Triune Alligator Lord was a prime example.

He had devoured one continent but after being killed, he would return this energy back to Eight Desolaces along with everything else he had. This would benefit the living beings of this world for eras to come.

"Damn it all." The three exchanged glances and gritted their teeth. They had no choice but to fight.

"Fellow Daoists, this world has changed, and so did the rules." Undying Lord's chilling voice echoed to the far reaches of Inner Wild and space: "We might die today and nourish this world, you all shall be next."

He tried to involve the other overlords so that they would join the fight to kill Li Qiye.

"Vast the world is, there is still no place to hide." Dead Immortal continued: "He will not stop with just us, this is inevitable."

"Fight alongside us and we shall divide this epoch to continue our glorious days." Lord of the Deeps went on.

Li Qiye chuckled and didn't stop them from finding allies.

Alas, no one answered them. The overlords who were whispering to each other have stopped all streams of communication.

Their coordinates have been exposed. Now, the only thought on their mind was finding a new place to hide. No one was stupid enough to show up.

“Brother Da!” Undying Lord called for Silly Da again but the creature still didn’t respond.

“Seems like no one cares enough to help you three.” Li Qiye smirked.

The three knew that the lack of response was due to their high probability of dying in battle. If there was even a decent chance of winning, the others would have run out by now since they desired Li Qiye’s flesh along with the epoch.

“Shall we start?” Undying Lord decided to fight to the very end.

“Come, my weapon!” He roared.

“Boom!” An old citadel appeared from the abyss. It shared the same name as its master - Undying Citadel.

The celestials and death energy floated around the city. This place has been accumulating the death affinity for ages. If it were to descend to the mortal world, it would refine all living beings and turn them into death energy.

“Whoosh!” An immortal ray flew out of the citadel.

All living beings felt the temporal flow reversing and the laws receded like the tides. Once they calmed down, this ray has been caught by Undying Lord.

It turned out that this was a flying dagger made from an unknown material. Its main affinity was time.

Alas, upon closer inspection, this particular weapon didn't seem to be complete. The immortal ray within the dagger was still chaotic.

"Temporal Dagger." Undying Lord stared at his epoch paragon weapon.

"It's incomplete." A different overlord murmured while observing it.

Undying Lord crafted this weapon during his prime. Alas, he couldn't finish it before the end of his epoch. Therefore, he left it in his citadel in order to gestate it with the remaining essences of the epoch, hoping for grand completion.

"Boom!" A maelstrom in the abyss emerged with a rotation capable of sucking in the heaven. All the oceans in Eight Desolaces couldn't fill it up.

"Rumble!" Starry lights surged from the bottom of the maelstrom as if it had devoured galaxies before. A certain thing flew out and landed in the abyssal lord's hand.

It was a square crystal with countless galaxies inside, resulting in beautiful glimmers. Unfortunately, there were cracks in this cosmic crystal. There seemed to be too many stars and it couldn't fully contain the power within.

“Epoch Cube.” The abyssal lord revealed the name of his paragon artifact. The looks in his eyes became colder and more determined.

“Buzz.” In Desolate Wild by the border, a lake had shimmering waters with the consistency of mercury.

A silvery light came from the elusive bottom. It had an inscrutable mystique, seemingly capable of taking this lake to any epoch.

“Boom!” A silver maelstrom flew out of the lake and appeared above Dead Immortal.

The moment it appeared, tribulation bolts detonated in the center to everyone’s horror.

Chapter 4833: Tribulation Slash

High Heaven’s Maelstrom was the name of Dead Immortal’s epoch paragon weapon. Alas, it had a hole other than the center and was incomplete just like the ones before.

Nonetheless, the tribulation lightning bolts within still frightened even overlords. It felt as if the high heaven was looking down on them.

“Just lacking a tiny bit more.” A hidden overlord commented.

Temporal Dagger, Epoch Cube, and High Heaven’s Maelstrom were immensely difficult to craft. One of the key requirements was being the current epoch lord. At grand completion, its power could mean the difference between victory and defeat among overlords.

They were in an inactive state yet energy strands coming from them still made everyone tremble. Eight Desolaces felt so feeble in their presence. Any of them could remove it from existence without any problem.

One overlord took a deep breath and wondered if he could stop them. Despite being incomplete, there were still three of them on the same side.

Their masters rarely used them before in previous epochs. They wanted to use the vestige of their own epoch over a long period to repair the deficiencies. Alas, Li Qiye left them no choice.

“Sword, come.” Li Qiye arranged his nine sword dao. Unmatched sword intents engulfed the myriad realms.

They manifested into a domain made out of countless swords, trapping all four combatants inside. This sword domain was the ultimate seal, separating the yin and yang along with the reincarnation cycle.

“Die!” Undying Lord made the first move and threw the Temporal Dagger forward. Instead of traveling from point A to point B, it traveled through time instead, aiming at the Li Qiye from yesterday and the day before that...

This should be impossible but the dagger made it possible. As the dagger traveled further and further back in time, more and more living beings started disappearing as if they had never existed in the first place.

None could resist regardless of their power. Thus, Li Qiye had to retaliate with a temporal slash as well using Tribulation.

His own slash traveled with peerless speed backward in the river of time. Therefore, whenever the dagger reached a particular timeline, the slash was already there in waiting.

Due to its speed, it became unbearably sharp and forced the dagger out of the river of time. With that, living beings who have been erased returned back to the timeline.

“Crack!” Moreover, it had tiny cracks after being struck by Tribulation. Undying Lord groaned after seeing his beloved treasure damaged.

Tribulation didn’t stop there and flew out of the river of time, aiming for Undying Lord. Only the overlords could keep up with its trajectory.

It appeared right in front of his throat and startled him. However, the abyssal lord saved him by using the Epoch Cube.

It became radiant and illuminated Eight Desolaces with star rays. Time started slowing down and everyone could see the individual strings of time.

“Bam!” The abyssal lord managed to travel fast enough to block Tribulation with his cube.

Alas, he staggered ten steps backward and vomited blood.

“Crack!” Cracks also appeared on his treasure.

Both of them felt fear and pain. Their unbeatable artifacts were nearly broken just now.

Their power was unquestionable but keep in mind that they were facing one of the nine Heavenly Treasures that has been imbued with the proper scripture.

A hush fell over the world; not even the overlords dared to breathe loudly. The disparity in power was rather apparent.

“We can’t fight solo.” The calm Dead Immortal said.

They exchanged glances and assumed a triangular formation with Li Qiye in the center.

Cultivators in Eight Desolaces watched attentively since they knew that this was an existential crisis. The hidden overlords gazed without blinking once.

“Make your move.” Li Qiye posed with both hands behind his back; the nine swords hovered behind him.

“Go!” The three immediately attacked together within 1/1000th of a second and had impeccable teamwork.

“Boom!” High Heaven’s Maelstrom sent out a godly palm coursing with lightning bolts, wanting to drown him.

“The high heaven...” This seemed to be the palm of the entity feared the most by the overlords.

Chapter 4834: Finality Sword

The palm aimed to destroy Li Qiye’s grand dao and all karmic ties. No one could reach Dead Immortal’s level in duplicating the high heaven.

Meanwhile, Undying Lord burned his epoch true blood. The dagger’s power intensified and traveled all the way back to Li Qiye’s birth, wanting to erase him from existence. An entire epoch passed by in the blink of an eye.

As for the abyssal lord, he channeled the power of his entire epoch for an ultimate attack. A portal appeared and trapped him, hoping to seal him in this destroyed epoch forever. It dragged and pulled him closer with a force that made the sword domain shake violently.

Though the sword domain’s purpose was to protect Eight Desolaces and stop the combatants from escaping, it couldn’t contain everything once the battle started.

Strands of epoch energy still oozed out. Therefore, a calamity seemed to be taking place. Living beings could only pray that this wouldn’t get worse.

This triple-pronged attack aimed at the current Li Qiye along with his past self during his most vulnerable period. Of course, he wouldn’t sit there waiting to die.

“Clank!” Nine sword hymns could be heard echoing on the river of time. They combined together to form a single dao.

Time, space, and all laws fused together and became one with this sword dao. They rotated and folded upon each other, twisting the fabrics of reality. A second became as long as a million years; an inch of space became as large as three thousand worlds; strings of laws were woven together to form a supreme chapter.

“Finality!” His voice echoed. This sword dao was the final destination of all dao - a perfect fusion of all nine swords and dao.

Weapons, laws, techniques - all would have to stop before it. This naturally included the palm of the high heaven, the flying dagger, and the power of an entire epoch.

They all stopped without warnings. Though the temporal dagger could cross through an epoch, an epoch was but a small crease of Finality. The great palm could only compare to one word of the supreme chapter, the same for the epoch attack.

This was the final profundity of a Heavenly Scripture and a Heavenly Treasure - everything ended here.

“Clank!” Li Qiye then deactivated the reality twist and unleashed a slash.

The three overlords couldn’t possibly stop the slash despite their epoch power and understanding of the grand dao. Epoch paragon weapons found themselves sorely inadequate.

“Ahh!” Their screams echoed on the river of time.

Undying Lord's armor and body dispersed along with his death energy. The latter turned into the purest worldly essences that pour down into Eight Desolaces. Anyone who breathed them in would have a much longer lifespan and significantly-improved cultivation.

Dead Immortal's liquid body flowed down into the world. Endless life force seeped into the earth and turned the land into a paradise. Living creatures also gained immense life force.

The abyssal lord was reduced to ashes. His flesh and blood along with his true fate turned into a collapsing ocean. Tsunamis spread out and engulfed Eight Desolaces, also nourishing them for eras to come.

Only three bright particles were left from the battle. These were the final remnants of their true fate. As long as there was still something left, they could heal again.

These particles tried to fly away and hide in the deepest crevices of the mortal realm. Alas, they couldn't elude Li Qiye's eyes.

Tribulation Sword came from above and extinguished them, one by one. This was the end of three overlords. Their dao essences and blood became nourishment for Eight Desolaces and its inhabitants.

Other overlords felt a chill after the end of the battle. Something was made obvious today - opposing Li Qiye meant becoming fertilizer for his epoch.

"Boom!" The Primordial Tree appeared and exuded rays to every corner of Eight Desolace, whether it be the most remote region or the deepest abyss.

The towering tree granted shelter to the whole world. It was impossible for the other overlords to run since the tree has spotted them.

“Buzz.” Li Qiye raised his hand and revealed the supreme chapter of his epoch.

“Heed my warning, overlords! Two paths lay before you. Either engrave your true fate into this chapter and be one with the epoch or I will slay you now to nourish it.” Li Qiye’s voice could be heard by all.

The overlords took a deep breath after hearing this. This demand meant tying them together with Eight Desolaces. The destruction of the epoch meant their own; its prosperity would also benefit them.

The alternative was being hunted down by Li Qiye.

Chapter 4835: Submission

Disobedience meant death. A silence ensued since the overlords have grown used to being imperious.

They had never been beneath anyone; that’s utterly unacceptable. Alas, not obeying Li Qiye and joining Eight Desolaces meant being hunted down.

Therefore, the question was - would they be able to resist Li Qiye? How many others would fight with them?

In the past, they could have hidden deep in space and the bottomless abysses. Alas, they have come out to watch the fight and exposed their coordinates.

The light of the Primordial Tree was overwhelming, making it impossible to hide and escape. They pondered in silence and lamented their difficult situation.

“Da!” Silly Da cried out and next, it became engulfed in flames.

“Buzz.” A supreme grand dao with an eternal presence emerged. It resembled a great devil devouring heaven and earth. This phenomenon frightened the toughest of cultivators.

Silly Da naturally had a cataclysmic grand dao but it didn’t use this dao against Eight Desolaces or Li Qiye. On the other hand, this dao embedded itself into the Primordial Tree. The two became one and a seal of Silly Da could be seen on the trunk.

It chose submission and tied its fate with the Primordial Tree and Eight Desolaces.

“Betting it all in this generation...” Primeval Old Ghost murmured to himself.

“Boom!” His supreme dao emerged as well. Eight Desolaces felt like a boat stuck in a raging storm while inhabitants were dried leaves on a tree trying to not be blown away by the gales. He added his dao to the tree and made the same decision as Silly Da.

The light of the tree illuminated him and his vitality surged as if he has just gained another era. From now on, he was a supreme existence belonging to Eight Desolaces.

“Buzz.” Triune Immortal’s radiance crossed through an epoch on the river of time, filling up the sky of Eight Desolaces. She imprinted her supreme dao as well and joined the epoch.

“Boom!” In an ancient mine deep in Inner Wild, a supreme bird raised its wings. All the mines and ores in Eight Desolaces resonated with its light, resulting in colorful rays. This supreme existence also added its grand dao to the tree.

With these infusions, Eight Desolaces suddenly became several times stronger than before.

“Clank!” An ultimate slash came from Sword Burial Ground - eternal and indestructible with enough power to destroy an epoch.

Other supreme overlords trembled in horror after seeing the slash. However, it didn’t attack Li Qiye but simply joined the Primordial Tree.

Even this mighty overlord had joined forces with Li Qiye. The others started changing their mind since the scale had shifted.

Li Qiye didn’t need to do anything himself now because of his new allies. It seemed that there was no rebelling in this epoch. They might as well join and prosper with it.

“Boom!” A vortex made of black flames surged out in the air and descended for Eight Desolaces, albeit without malice. Its target was to join the tree.

“Let’s go.” In a bottomless abyss was a tree with verdant leaves. Life force blossomed and manifested into a supreme chapter. This dao also imprinted itself into the Primordial Tree.

“Rumble!” A large skeleton in a sea of bones stood up. It shot out a magnificent pulse and struck the Primordial Tree.

...

In just a short time, one supreme overlord after another chose to submit. As more of them joined, the others became less reluctant. Teaming up against Li Qiye turned out to be a fantasy.

Eight Desolaces brimmed with life force and power. Recently, it had suffered immense damage but now, it was able to reach a greater height.

Regular living beings didn’t know what was going on. However, all cultivators instantly felt the grand dao becoming lively. Cultivation became far easier; anyone could turn into an expert.

“Eight Desolaces will decide your fate.” Li Qiye then turned his attention toward Dao Sanqian. He flicked his finger and left a grievous injury.

Dao Sanqian was horrified and turned to flee.

“You’re not going anywhere!” Divine monarchs and ancient ancestors suddenly joined the hunt, many of whom have lost lineages and loved ones due to Dao Sanqian’s choice.

Therefore, Dao Sanqian ran like a stray dog while being pursued from all sides.

Chapter 4836: Old Friends

Li Qiye then raised his hand and summoned a dao crest from the Primordial Tree. This artifact poured down primordial dao laws, clearly having been gestated by this wondrous energy force.

Wearing the crest was the same as controlling the primordial and becoming the ruler of this epoch - the apex of the dao.

He placed it on Primeval Old Ghost's head and spoke: "The karmic ties continue in the endless cycle."

Primeval accepted the crest and slightly lowered his head toward Li Qiye. The primordial light washed and made him return to the start of time, allowing him to see the birth of an epoch and blessing him with its accumulation.

Li Qiye then glanced around and said: "The sky will not fall and the earth will not shatter. May we walk down this path, hand in hand."

The overlords - whether it be those hiding underground or among the stars - lowered their head before disappearing from sight. Primeval also returned to his abode.

"Boom!" Silly Da shouted something before turning back into a star and returning to the galaxy.

Peace returned to Eight Desolaces with the overlords gone. Winds blew and rivers ran their course like before.

This was the start of something new for Eight Desolaces - an unprecedented golden age.

At this point, the Supreme Monarch, Seven Martial Goddess, Tantai Ruonan, and others landed nearby.

“Young Master.” Tantai Ruonan was closest to Li Qiye given their precious time together. She had spent the most time with him out of the group. Their relationship was rather special and her sentiments for him remained after all these years.

Today, he became an untouchable epoch lord. Though they were exceptional cultivators, they still felt insignificant before this great being.

However, Li Qiye hid his aura and assumed his normal state. He gave Tantai Ruonan a deep hug.

“You’ve accomplished your life-long goal.” He spoke softly.

She embraced him back. Eras have gone like the blink of an eye along with many people. Nonetheless, she was still here, the same for Li Qiye. Moreover, the shadow haunting her was finally gone.

“You still look the same as before, Young Master.” She said.

“That’s my life.” He responded as she leaned her head into his chest.

This was a rare moment of joy in their life, feeling the warmth of others. Otherwise, if they were to lose this warmth and no longer appreciate it, the world would be meaningless to them.

“Keep on living.” He let go and gently caressed her face.

"I shall." She stared straight into his eyes and his soul before standing to the side, trying her best to remember this moment forever.

Next was Seven Martial Goddess. She bowed deeply and he accepted her grand gesture. He touched her forehead and bestowed the power of the primordial on her.

The Supreme Monarch also approached. She was none other than Nightyearn Butterfly Monarch - Chi Xiaodie. [1]

She stared at Li Qiye without blinking once. Memories of the distant era played in her mind, still as beautiful and worth remembering as ever.

The past was long gone yet the aftertaste was unforgettable.

"An eternal dao heart. You look the same as before." Li Qiye said.

It was a miracle that she was still alive compared to the others. She possessed an indomitable will despite lacking cultivation talent and bloodline.

Her pursuit was to survive in order to wait and protect, never wavering even for a moment.

"Same to you, Young Noble." She said and thought that all of her efforts was worth it for this meeting.

He touched her hair gently without being intrusive. The wind carried her sweet fragrance and made him take a deep breath.

"I still remember your young self. Youth is such a happy time." He said sentimentally.

She grabbed his hand tightly, closed her eyes, and placed it on her heart. As she felt his warmth permeating to her heart and mind, she found that the world was still full of possibilities and happiness. It seemed that her watch was still not over.

"As long as you're around, so will I." She concluded.

He couldn't help but smile. She stared at his smile in a daze. Upon their first meeting, she found him annoying but now, she simply wanted to remember his appearance.

"Yes." He said.

She nodded and thought that his warmth made the previous eras all worth it.

With that, he floated up in the air to meet the gods by the Void Zone. He was still the same while they have grown old.

They were once foolish and prideful teenagers. The past seemed so close yet so distant.

Li Qiye's eyes fell upon an old man wearing a gray robe. He had an ancient aura resembling one of an old statue.

"Zhang Yu." Li Qiye smiled and recalled his name.

"First Brother!" The old man got on his knees and bowed. Tears streamed down his cheeks since Li Qiye still remembered him.

He was only a regular disciple of Cleansing Incense but due to the first brother's help, he eventually became a true god.

"It's alright, don't get all sentimental on me now." Li Qiye helped him up and patted his shoulder.

"First Brother." A different old man came over and bowed. He had a steady temperament and carried a special plate with vivid images of carps and dragons.

"Daoli." Li Qiye recognized him as well.

He was Qu Daoli, another member of Cleansing Incense who managed to live this long.

"What about me, First Brother?" Another old god joined the conversation. He looked noble and imposing.

"Remember when I beat you down with the serpent stick?" Li Qiye smirked.

“Of course, I think about it all the time.” Luo Fenghua had an expression of yearning. He was savagely beaten by Li Qiye before during many lessons. Now, he was a peerless ancient ancestor of Cleansing Incense.

Li Qiye then turned his sight toward another old man. Unfortunately, this one was on the verge of death with depleted vitality.

“First Brother.” He prostrated and greeted.

“Look at you, even older than me.” Li Qiye smiled.

“I owe it all to you, First Brother.” Tu Buyu said.

Chapter 4837: Grand Dao Journey

Contrary to the previous old men, a youth with halos circling around him walked closer. Each halo also had an accompanying totem. They pulsed with a purple glow. He also had ten purple suns behind him that commanded respect and awe.

Others would immediately think that he was a supreme genius given his aura and appearance. In reality, he was far from being young.

“What’s my name, First Brother?” He came over with a beaming smile.

He appeared excited and eager to gloat with a hint of currying favors. His demeanor was a stark contrast to his impressive cultivation and appearance.

“My foot has the urge to greet your butt.” Li Qiye smiled after seeing him. The guy seemed to be younger with time on top of becoming happier.

“Please don’t.” The youth apologized: “How long has it been since we last met? First Brother, you are the lighthouse guiding my life. The me of today wouldn’t exist without you, that’s why I’m so excited to see you again. My love for you is as boundless as the coursing river...”

Few in Eight Desolaces acted in this manner after knowing Li Qiye’s identity and power. Nan Huai ren was one of them.

Of course, he was only a sycophant to Li Qiye and acted properly like a grand Godking before the juniors.

Moreover, he was actually speaking the truth. Everything he had today was thanks to Li Qiye’s grace. Otherwise, he would have returned to the earth instead of being alive and well.

“Look at how confident and haughty you are now. You must have stolen a fortune from the divine tree.” Li Qiye said.

Nan Huai ren smiled awkwardly and said: “I merely learned from the tree, stealing is a strong word. Plus, it wasn’t hard cultivating after receiving your help.”

The other gods from Cleansing Incense shook their head. Zhang Yu was the strongest among them but in terms of living a happy life, Nan Huai ren had that on lockdown.

“Go away.” Li Qiye said playfully while waving his hand.

Nan Huai ren smiled but shamelessly stood behind Li Qiye. The latter didn't mind and focus on the bronze legion.

From a distance, they looked like a tsunami made of steel, capable of incredible destruction. No other legion possessed the same battle prowess.

"Clank!" The commander of the legion raised his spear once before prostrating on the ground.

"Clank!" The members of the legion got on their knees. Their battle intent swept through the myriad realms. Being the leader of such a legion was something to be proud of - a life worth living.

"Glory, yours. The world, yours. The future, also yours." Li Qiye placed his palm on his heart and said: "As long as I exist, so will you all. We shall be eternal."

"Buzz." His primordial light illuminated the entire legion. Dao runes appeared around them as they gained the power and essence of the primordial dao. They became holier and seemed unbeatable.

The stronger cultivators could feel the legion's battle intent being infused with a primordial aura. The great tree spread its branches and sent down halos. Each soldier gained a halo and finally, the halos lifted them up and pulled them back into the tree, disappearing from sight.

"Peace has come." Li Qiye then looked at the world and concluded.

"It is time for you to rest, Young Master." Tantai Ruonan spoke softly.

He nodded and entered the secret dimension.

After this battle, living beings realized how feeble their lives were. They witnessed apocalyptic forces so now, they gained a new appreciation of life and home.

The world has also changed. Spirit energy became immensely dense. The invasive overlords have destroyed a corner of the world. Nonetheless, their death made their energy and vitality become a part of Eight Desolaces.

Since cultivation became easier, living beings tried even harder to train in preparation for the incoming golden age.

As for Li Qiye, he strolled beneath the divine tree and basked in its light. Each step of his harmonized with three thousand worlds.

Triune Immortal kept him company. The light made her indescribably beautiful. The duo seemed to be a pair made in heaven - one capable of walking together on this endless path.

“Do you still have any attachment to the mortal world?” Li Qiye asked as they walked while holding hands.

Something changed about her once-empty eyes. There were flashing rays deep in there now.

“The dao is only an obsession.” She spoke softly: “Only the heart matters.”

“Your heart needs to be warmed in order to stay the same.” He responded.

“By who?” She stared at him, seemingly rather pleased with her companion.

“Let the heart remember.” Li Qiye closed his eyes and channeled his grand dao.

She also closed her eyes and let the grand dao flow. The two grand dao communicated and twisted together. They breathed together in unison during this immaculate harmony.

This type of dao romance had no need for words. They attempted to reach the most profound apex of the dao together.

Warmthness coursed through their heart. This was a place without space and time, only the heartbeat and the mystical grand dao.

After a long while, feelings that couldn’t be described by words surfaced. They walked hand-in-hand across the galaxy.

“I require your help.” Li Qiye said.

“Very well, I shall ready my weapon and armor.” She understood without needing elaboration.

"The time will come." He said.

"Leave it to me." She nodded. Though her tone was gentle, it also contained an indelible determination.

"It won't be easy there, the ravenous hunters are always watching." He said.

"I will be with the Primordial Tree and fuse our dao." She knew what to do.

"There is a long way to go, it's better to be prudent." He nodded.

"We shall be fine." She held his hand and said seriously.

He looked up at the distant space. There seemed to be something slumbering there.

"Not waking up at all, it's rather problematic." He said: "There might be a devious plan amidst."

"Leave the flank to me." She said as their fingers intertwined.

He pondered in silence for a bit before adding: "We require a flawless strategy, wasting the opportunity is unacceptable."

She only held his hand and didn't respond.

Chapter 4838: White Crane Legion

Inside a warm palace with jade pillars all around and an open ceiling, the curtain draped down.

Li Qiye embraced Tantai Ruonan while she leaned on his chest with her eyes closed, enjoying the moment of serenity.

He inhaled the sweet fragrance exuded from her soft hair and listened to her heartbeat. This heart has been waiting for him for eras now without wavering once.

After a while, she looked up at the round moon and said: "It's a full moon, just like the one back then."

"True, how nostalgic." Li Qiye followed her gaze and said softly.

"I still remember that night, a red moon and an equally red ocean of corpses and blood." She said.

"It's impossible to forget." He agreed.

That night was brutal. They fought side by side and lost many soldiers in the battle. Eventually, a mountain of corpses piled up beneath them. They barely survived and eventually made it to dawn.

"It's all in the past, the same with your mission." He said.

"Yes, my mission is accomplished." She nested in his chest.

"Must be nice." He said sentimentally.

"Right, there is no end in sight for your path still, Young Master." She gently rubbed her forehead against him.

"My path is endless, that's just part of the grand dao." He gazed at the bright moon above.

"I wish to follow you but I'll just become a hindrance." She said.

She was considered unstoppable in Eight Desolaces. Alas, Li Qiye's path was arduous and tormentingly long. Her power was insufficient to follow him.

"As long as we're both alive, there's no need to walk together." He stroked her hair.

"I know." She responded: "Leave certain matters here to me."

"No, you have already done enough." He disagreed.

"Young Master, you're working hard and so will I. Plus, I have no other responsibility in this world, let me do what I can." She grabbed his hand and insisted with a serious expression.

She had toiled for eras but after the death of Triune Alligator Lord, there was nothing else for her to do in Eight Desolaces.

“Alright, stay at the Primordial Tree.” He met her eyes.

“Very well.” She agreed.

“White Crane is no longer here, unlike Tiger. If everyone agrees, I will leave it to you. The eternal glory needs a leader.” He said.

“Rest assured I’ll do a commendable job, Young Master.” She accepted right away.

This was indeed the truth since she was no stranger to leading legions. In fact, she was the commander of White Crane Legion. Under her leadership, it flattened the enemies and the path for Li Qiye.

“I know you will.” He didn’t worry about her leadership ability.

“It’s been quite a while, White Crane is no longer the same.” She said softly.

“Yes, it has flown long enough for me to almost forget. I wonder where it is now.” He gazed at the horizon.

The mysterious White Crane Legion has left on a special mission. People often said that Tiger was the fiercest and White Crane was the most elusive.

By this point, the world no longer knew about its existence. Ancient beings with a strong grasp on history who knew about the dark crow didn't have any knowledge of it either. Those that have heard of it before would assume that it was long gone.

"A journey can't last forever, it will return one day." She said.

"I hope so." He said: "The world has changed."

"Just not your dao heart." She praised.

He chuckled and continued to appreciate the full moon.

On a chilling night with white dew covering the jade steps yet Lin Mo sat there in only a thin dress. Her chin rested on both hands as she stared at the stars.

She was Blessed Dao Lord's blood sister, not a martial sister. Her life experience was just as impressive as her cultivation.

She has seen this night sky so many times already but today might be her last time.

“Waited for a while?” Li Qiye sat down next to her, also looking up at the sky with both hands supporting his chin.

“I thought about leaving long ago but never made up my mind.” She glanced at him for a second before gazing upward again.

“There were things here that you couldn’t let go of.” He said.

It took a while before she responded: “Seems like I do have to let go eventually.”

“Moving forward has significant implications.” He said.

“That’s why I’ve been waiting all this time, until today.” She said softly.

“For the right person.” He smiled.

“Yes, for the right person.” She agreed.

For some unknown reason, she didn’t follow the bright star that was her brother - Blessed Dao Lord.

“There is something on your mind.” He stared at her black eyes.

“When I was very, very young, I met someone.” Her expression became serious after saying this.

“A resplendent figure.” Li Qiye already knew.

“My memory is hazy due to my age.” She tried to recall the scene and said: “It’s hard to describe that person but now, I know how to after seeing you.”

“Not part of this world.” He smiled.

“Yes, not part of this world.” She nodded and agreed.

“From where then?” Li Qiye pondered while looking at the stars.

She couldn’t answer because despite her fortunes, she knew that the gap was immense. Overcoming it was impossible.

“I remember something that was said.” She remarked.

“What?” Li Qiye became interested.

She tried to remember all the details of the meeting and then said: “The person rubbed my brother’s head and said, ‘little one, your talent is sorely inadequate, not even one-tenth in comparison.’”

“Interesting.” Li Qiye started thinking after hearing this.

Blessed could be considered one of the three greatest dao lords in Eight Desolaces. Everyone knew how gifted he was, especially in terms of cultivation talents.

Who would actually think that he was inadequate? However, what interested Li Qiye was the person he was being compared to.

Chapter 4839: World Jade

In a place farther and brighter than the heaven, more mysterious than the dao, there existed a single floating block of jade.

It seemed to be eternal regardless of the epoch and would continue to exist in the faraway future.

The sky draped down around the jade block in an illusory fashion. Though it appeared to only be one step from the mortal world, this one step was impossible to cross.

The inhabitants of Eight Desolaces didn’t know about this neighbor. From here, one could see everything happening in the mortal realm. Moreover, one could reach any place in Eight Desolaces by just taking one step out of the border.

However, not even divine monarchs and dao lords could spot its existence. This was a one-sided relationship - the result of unimaginable circumstances.

This was not manmade but rather, a natural paradise formed by an inscrutable grand dao.

There was one exception - Li Qiye. He could see this place and enter it as well.

He stood there and observed the jade continent without saying anything or taking another step.

“Go take a look, just a short stay is fine.” Tantai Ruonan told him. In the present, no one knew more about Li Qiye’s emotions and thoughts than her.

He took a deep breath and finally entered. This place was tranquil and had beautiful scenery. Insects and birds could be heard everywhere in the verdant forest. This paradise offered pristine freedom and happiness.

Its inhabitants were one with the land. Their breath harmonized with its rhythm.

A hut could be seen on top of a peak. It appeared simple yet clean - the owner was clearly someone diligent.

An old woman inside was lighting the stove. Her simple dress was awfully clean and had an embroidery of a flower from the south. It depicted the flower masterfully using the fewest number of lines.

Her face was full of wrinkles; her hair was as white as can be. Her muddled eyes showed that she wasn’t far from her last day. An old woman like her could be seen everywhere in the mortal world.

The old woman's eyes suddenly exuded endless rays. Her terrifying aura erupted along with her myriad dao.

She turned around and left the hut. In the next second, she emerged again in front of a cliff and looked to be in total control. The world and stars were within her grasp. She clearly had the power to kill any intruder in the blink of an eye.

Of course, she usually took this very seriously due to the reclusive nature of this place. These uninvited guests were clearly capable.

"Whoosh!" Li Qiye appeared in front of her with a single step.

She became alarmed and wanted to attack. Alas, her pulsing eyes saw Li Qiye; this prompted her to stop since she couldn't believe it.

"Long time no see." He let out a bright smile. The oppressive aura suddenly disappeared and this area became pleasant again.

She opened her mouth but didn't know what to say for a while.

"I remember, you used to call me Brother Li." His tone was as gentle as the spring breeze.

"Buzz." She became radiant with waves coming out like a blooming lotus flower. She shed her mortal shell and revealed her true appearance.

She became a young woman with an incredible level of spirit energy. Her features were gentle and charming, truly an attractive woman.

She had an air of nobility that has accumulated over a long time, making it rather exceptional. Kings were mere subjects in her presence. Nonetheless, this didn't make her imperious and distant.

"You've returned, Brother Li." She bowed to greet him.

"Indeed." He glanced over at the meticulously-kept hut.

There was a small tree next to the hut with only three leaves. However, they seemed to have been there for epochs now.

"Her Highness is inside, should I wake her up?" She asked.

"No." He shook his head while staring at the tree: "It's not time yet, I'm just here to take a look."

She nodded and kept him company. The two then walked over to the cliff and sat down with their legs dangling in the air.

"Her Highness has been waiting for your triumphant return, Brother Li." She said.

"Right, waiting." He was in a good mood while appreciating the scenery.

“Still not done yet?” She asked.

“It’ll be finished in this generation.” He said while becoming one with this unique area.

She felt his dao fusing with the land and didn’t prevent it.

“I will keep her company during the wait.” She said.

“I didn’t expect to see you here.” He enjoyed the warmth of the area.

“Her Highness came to find me after making up her mind. She needed assistance while staying in the temporal flow. I was fine with it since I wanted to see the world.” She said.

“I know, you have done well.” He said.

“It was an honor.” She responded.

“I’m actually surprised by your choice.” He became slightly emotional. Not everyone could wait for eras in the same spot.

“I’ve experienced the mortal coil already.” She said: “For me, this is definitely a fortune. I have benefited from these years. Plus, it is nothing compared to what you have done, Brother Li.”

“Thank you.” He expressed his sincere gratitude.

Chapter 4840: Intimate Occasion

The sun fell to the west as dusk approached. The birds returned to their nest and the duo stopped swinging their legs.

As the final rays bathed the tree, Li Qiye sighed and stood up: “I should go.”

“May you be triumphant in your next return, Brother Li. We’ll be waiting.” She stood up as well.

“Yes.” He smilingly nodded and raised one finger.

“Buzz.” Primordial dao gathered at the tip as he touched her forehead.

The image of the great Primordial Tree appeared behind her. It pulsed with boundless strength. Its seal imprinted itself into her mind for eternity to come.

“The future might not be peaceful.” His eyes narrowed as he stared into the distance.

With that, he became ethereal and joined Eight Desolaces - an omnipresent state. He searched around and could reach the myriad realms.

In the next second, he grabbed an immortal shield brimming with mighty laws.

“Fuck, my shield?!” A mighty being in a certain peerless dynasty bellowed in astonishment and stared at the sky.

Li Qiye gave her the shield and said: “This will help you in times of turmoil.”

“Thank you, Brother Li. We’ll be here.” She accepted the shield and bowed again.

He nodded and stared inside the hut for a long while. There seemed to be something here worthy of his attention.

A long while later, he turned and started walking away. She stood by the cliff and watched his departure until he disappeared from sight.

With that, her energy dispersed and she became an old woman again. She returned to her task of lighting up the stove.

Night has fallen and other creatures have gone to rest. Peace and tranquility returned.

A hut and an old woman - this has been the case for eras and would go on until the next return.

The Primordial Tree - the home to all the mysteries in Eight Desolaces. Unfortunately, even the greatest geniuses had a hard time coming here.

Each branch extended to the border of space itself and had its own domain and ecosystem. This made it impossible to envision the tree in its entirety. Peerless cultivators could only see one small corner with their heavenly gaze.

Right now, Li Qiye sat on the tip of a branch and let chaos energy course around him.

“Young Noble.” Chi Xiaodie came over and sat down next to him, leaning her head on his shoulder.

“Are you wanting to leave?” She stared at him with her luminous eyes.

“I should.” He caressed her hair and said: “I still have unfinished business.”

“You are done here in Eight Desolaces.” She hugged him with both hands.

“Right.” He nodded: “But this is only the beginning, life has a way of catching us off guard.”

“It will be fine given your planning, Young Noble. It is all within your grasp.” She said.

"Can't be sure about everything. Up there, people are waiting and spying. Some of them are insanely patient." He smiled.

"And you are more patient than anyone." She had absolute trust in him.

"Some are actually better than me in this regard but their reason is to live longer." He said and gazed at the sky.

"And you'll catch all of them in due time." She said softly.

"Almost, just need to pull the net back." He looked at her and said: "However, a few fish will be able to escape or something unexpected might happen."

He paused for a moment and said: "But you know, you are eligible to go up now."

Her face was a work of art while being illuminated by the glow of the tree. One couldn't look away.

"The heaven is too vast and the dao is endless." She said: "My dao is not one-tenth of yours, I'll only be a source of worry. Since there are things you cherish in the mortal world, I will stay here and protect these memories for you."

"Young Noble, keep on moving forward, leave this place to me." She said with determination.

“Very well.” He nodded and agreed with her decision: “The path, albeit far, still has an end.”

“And you shall reach it.” She embraced him tightly and listened to his heartbeat, appreciating every second they got together.

Life went on during the cycles of the dao. It had given birth to countless and witnessed just as many deaths. She knew that these moments were rare and should be treasured.

“We’ll be far away later on.” He hugged her back.

“As long as you’re still alive, all is fine. You are the spark that keeps me going.” She whispered.

He smiled and let out a sigh, lamenting his inevitable journey away from home. Nonetheless, this was just another trial to strengthen his dao heart.

“Hope will keep us going.” Li Qiye said.

“That’s why I am more than willing to stay here and guard.” She responded.

“As long as the heart is beautiful, so will the world. The opposite will birth darkness and destruction.” He said sentimentally.

“I understand.” She was at the apex right now, no longer the little girl who didn’t understand the dao.

She had seen supreme geniuses become top cultivators. Alas, they fell into darkness and ruined themselves after losing all attachments to the world.

When the heart turned cold after enough time has passed, wanting to devour the world for personal gains seemed inevitable.

Time passed by slowly during their moment together.

“Young Noble, when will you start your expedition?” She eventually broke the silence, seemingly talking in her sleep.

“Still not time yet, I have more sweeping to do.” He smiled and looked down at her.

“I will walk by your side for the expedition. Let me be the vanguard, I will not regret dying in battle.” She said.

“Silly girl, just stay here.” He chuckled.