

Emperor 4861

Chapter 4861: Monochromatic Master

Space Dragon Emperor and Ox-dragon Ancestor teamed up and research a way to improve their cultivation.

Finally, after painstaking effort, they decided to slay their previous dao and obtained a sacred fruit, creating an entirely new realm.

From then on, in order to honor their contribution and effort, the new realm was officially known as Heavenly Sovereign Dragon Lord.

Today, Firerage has also hit the limit as an Immortal Sovereign. Breaking through to the next step was immensely difficult. He had the help of a dao lord but this was still not enough.

Normally, one must rely on themselves. Outsiders couldn't help and Firerage knew this. He had trained extremely hard but the bottleneck still got the best of him.

"Whether it be rushing or taking your time, there is no one right way in comprehending the grand dao. The latter can be surprisingly beneficial." Li Qiye glanced at Firerage and understood his situation.

Firerage didn't expect something like this to come out of Li Qiye. After all, it sounded rather profound and reminded him of His Majesty. His Majesty used to talk like this when he was still alive.

"Civil Deputy wishes for an audience." A disciple came and reported, interrupting his stupor.

“Monochromatic Master.” Firerage hesitated after hearing this.

“We can’t send a guest away.” Li Qiye told him.

“Let him in then.” Firerage obeyed the command, albeit begrudgingly.

Monochromatic Master was different from Venerable Dragon God. The latter was strong and frightening but might not be a bad person. The same couldn’t be said about Monochromatic Master. This visit was definitely not good news.

A bit later, a man wearing a fancy embroidered robe with a cloak long enough to drape on the ground. His arrival was accompanied by a windy aura.

His face was especially strange - black on the left and white to the right just like a yin-yang symbol. Upon closer inspection, one would find that the two sides would occasionally swap color.

His aura was rather mighty. If he were to let it roam free, a tornado would manifest and destroy everything.

He was last place among the Ten Monsters and possessed one dao fruit, currently serving as a civil official in Eight-Stallion.

Venerable Dragon God had full authority over the army while he was in charge of administration.

Before joining the dynasty, he had his own domain where he reigned with absolute impunity. However, he lost to Eight-stallion's subordinates later and had to join the dynasty. Putting his unsavory background aside, no one could criticize his administrative ability.

"I am known as Monochromatic Master. I respectfully greet you, Your Highness, may you always be in good health." He immediately kneeled before Li Qiye.

This lawless villain, surprisingly enough, chose to kneel before an unknown junior. He looked more loyal than Venerable Dragon God who questioned Li Qiye.

"Your subject is overwhelmed with sadness regarding the late king's death to the enemy. I will do everything I can to serve you and one day, may we avenge him." He spoke with sorrow and tears.

Firemage didn't fall for this and was still prepared to attack whenever.

"Rise." Li Qiye waved.

Monochromatic Master stood up and stole glances at Li Qiye, wondering about the dao lord's decision. He didn't think that Eight-stallion suddenly became an idiot at the end of his life and would pass the throne to a stranger. There must be something else going on and he was here to figure it out.

"The journey must have been tiring with ruffians bothering you the entire time, I apologize for not being there to protect you, Your Highness." He acted like a loyal subject.

"I appreciate it, Civic Deputy." Li Qiye smiled.

“Your Highness, would you like to take a stroll with me and chat?” He glanced at Firerage and asked.

“Civic Deputy, say what is on your mind here, no need to leave.” Firerage immediately refused.

He would never let Li Qiye leave his side, especially not alone with this Monochromatic Master who was more dangerous than Venerable Dragon God.

The dragon god would never usurp but this guy could. This wasn’t baseless speculation either.

“Guard Commander, I only wish to speak to His Highness, are you questioning my loyalty?” Monochromatic Master smiled.

“I do not dare to question your loyalty, Civic Deputy.” Firerage said: “This is just part of my responsibility, please understand.”

His firm attitude left Monochromatic helpless. Though Firerage was not even among the top three strongest in the dynasty, his loyalty was second to none - the only person who couldn’t be doubted in this regard.

“Say what is on your mind here, Civic Deputy.” Li Qiye smiled.

“Your Highness, since His Majesty has just passed away, please be careful of treacherous members right here in our dynasty.” Monochromatic said quietly.

“Oh?” Li Qiye chuckled.

“Some covet your throne, Your Highness, they might try to turn you into a puppet. Your power is limited right now so they will look down on you, thinking that you do not deserve your authority. Or, maybe they see that you are young and want to control each word and action of yours...”

“Civic Deputy, please mind your words.” Firerage uttered coldly.

In a sense, the former part could be referring to Venerable Dragon God’s group while the latter pointed at Firerage Saber.

“Guard Commander, my duty is to advise His Highness.” Monochromatic said: “Are you saying that I shouldn’t give my opinion, or is it because I’m exposing your plan?”

“You!” Firerage turned red with anger.

“I am willing to die for you, Your Highness.” Monochromatic said: “If you are worried about your safety, you should relocate to my palace. Anyone who wants to hurt you will have to walk over my old corpse first. I guarantee that you have my full support since I wish to carry out His Majesty’s wishes.”

His eyes became teary and moving at this point.

“Moving to your palace?” Li Qiye murmured.

"You mustn't, Your Highness." Firerage anxiously said since that would be the same as walking into the lion's den.

Though Monochromatic wasn't as strong as Venerable Dragon God or Northern Monarch, having Li Qiye on his side would make his authority legitimate. If the other two were to oppose him, they would be viewed as rebels.

"Guard Commander, I am only worrying about His Highness' safety." Monochromatic said: "There are too many scoundrels lurking in the dynasty. We will be sinners if anything were to happen to His Highness."

Chapter 4862: Historical Ruins

Firerage said no right away: "His Highness' safety is the imperial guard's responsibility, so I assure you, Civic Deputy, that it will be fine. Worry about your own post."

"Guard Commander, you're overstepping your authority." Monochromatic didn't relent.

"Enough of this matter, I will stay here." Li Qiye became bored of this back and forth so he waved his hand: "Civic Deputy, I can see your devotion. The dynasty will require your support."

He left no room for negotiation despite the casual tone. Monochromatic couldn't say anything else. He thought that the implications of danger would scare Li Qiye enough to follow his bidding. Alas, the result was the opposite.

"I shall obey." Despite feeling discontent, he still acted like a loyal subject and left.

Firerage was feeling the same way. As he spent more time with Li Qiye, he gradually thought that there must be a reason why the dao lord picked this person as the successor.

“Your Highness, please be wary of Civic Deputy. Please excuse my many words but he is a treacherous person who shouldn’t be trusted.” Firerage calmed down and told Li Qiye.

“All of you have reached the top of cultivation yet still act like mortals.” Li Qiye shook his head.

Firerage paused for a moment before answering with a wry smile: “This is Chaos, one has to be pragmatic in order to stay alive.”

“It is a terrible way to live. Chaos wasn’t born chaotic, it’s just that ambitions and desires are left unchecked.” Li Qiye smiled.

Firerage was startled by Li Qiye’s perspective again. Perhaps these profound comments weren’t mere coincidences.

Li Qiye’s palace had a full view of the dynasty. Alas, it resembled more of a sect because Eight-stallion Dao Lord built it as a great sect. It’s just that a dynasty was more fitting in a place like Chaos.

Li Qiye stood above everyone, feeling the beats of this land with his eyes closed.

“Your Highness, the path ahead will be bumpy but we will follow you to the end.” Firerage said, thinking that Li Qiye might be afraid of the incoming turmoils.

A while later, Li Qiye opened his eyes and said: “Let’s go take a look at this dynasty.”

Firerage didn’t know why but he still agreed. He and his men accompanied Li Qiye along the way.

Though his coronation has yet to be announced, the news has traveled fast and most knew about Li Qiye.

Because of this, the members of the dynasty stared at him with confusion. After all, he looked like a regular cultivator but most importantly, a stranger. It was difficult for them to accept him as the next king.

Furthermore, there were those more qualified than him right now. For example, Eight-stallion Dao Lord’s blood daughter, Northern Monarch, or Venerable Dragon God. Even Monochromatic Master was in play.

Despite having doubts, most didn’t comment on the dao lord’s questionable choice. This wasn’t to say that they were law-abiding citizens.

In reality, the dynasty consisted of many villains who have committed evil deeds before joining the dao lord. There was no way for these men to follow Li Qiye.

Nonetheless, the dao lord's prestige and authority remained after his death. The big shots still haven't voiced their opinion either. It wasn't time to speak up.

Another reason was due to Firerage and the imperial guard. Who would dare to criticize Li Qiye in their presence? Those who were close enough actually bowed to their future king, albeit begrudgingly.

During the leisure stroll, he saw old architecture built in the valleys. Some temples floated in the air; cities were seen among the mountains...

The things that attracted his attention the most were actually remnant ruins scattering about. For example, broken walls and bricks that have been tortured by countless drops of rain and winds.

One could see that they were once part of something incredible and grand. Alas, no one could pinpoint a particular sect to these historical pieces.

"His Majesty said that these ruins were around long ago, he liked this place and picked it as his home." Firerage explained.

"A good choice." Li Qiye said while touching the cliff wall. They have gone a full circle and were back to the base of his peak.

"You know about it, Your Highness?" Firerage asked.

"A behemoth of a sect used to be here. Saying that it's ten times larger than Eight-stallion Dynasty would be a massive understatement. All races listened to it back then." Li Qiye smiled.

“All races? Even the ancient branches of The Race?” Firerage’s eyes became serious.

“You’re referring to the Divine, Heaven, and Devil?” Li Qiye smiled.

“Yes, they are in charge of The Race.” Firerage said.

The Race primarily consisted of members from Celestial Court. They once dominated the hundred races.

Of course, any race loyal to or originating from Celestial Court was considered part of the Race. They didn’t have to be intrinsically linked to the three ancient races.

“Indeed.” Li Qiye stared at the peak and added: “Back in the olden days, Purewood was considered the first Grand Emperor. However, some legends stated that there was someone else before Purewood.”

“Purewood?” Firerage tapped into his knowledge of history before responding: “Purewood... the ultimate Divine Emperor, is that who you’re talking about?”

Purewood Divine Emperor was an unfamiliar title in this era but Firerage had heard of it before.

“Oh? You have heard of him?” Li Qiye was surprised.

“His Majesty had brought this being up before. He learned of this name after entering Immortal City. It must have been part of a legacy.” Firerage became emotional.

“Immortal City.” Li Qiye gazed at the horizon after hearing this.

Chapter 4863: The Traitorous Qian

Purewood Divine Emperor’s era was so long ago. Few remembered his tales and legends.

All in all, anything before Immortal City was unknown to current inhabitants. However, this title was brought up more often thanks to the existence of Immortal City.

Some believed that he was the reason why The People and The Race could co-exist peacefully, to an extent.

Firerage learned a few things from Eight-stallion Dao Lord. Rumor has it that Purewood was around during the previous epoch - the first of the mighty Grand Emperors.

“Someone before Purewood Divine Emperor?” Firerage quietly asked.

“The start of the imperial line didn’t come from him.” Li Qiye looked back down at Firerage and answered.

“Then who is it?” Firerage became emotional since this was an entirely new perspective.

“Authority Heavenly Emperor.” Li Qiye revealed.

“Authority?” Firerage murmured. This was different than what the dao lord had told him.

Between an unknown cultivator versus a knowledgeable dao lord, for some strange reason, he actually believed Li Qiye instead of His Majesty.

He himself didn't understand why but this was his intuition. It certainly confused him.

"It's understandable that you haven't heard of him. He was the creator of an amazing sect that dominated the races." Li Qiye smiled.

"What is its name?" Firerage calmed down and asked.

"Immortal Gate." Li Qiye said.

"Immortal Gate?" Firerage thought that this was a simple yet domineering name.

Sects didn't dare to use the word "immortal" most of the time. Only ignorant fools or true monsters would include this in their title.

The latter meant that the sect must have been frightening.

"It's a sect with nine emperors, completely unbeatable before the Qian clan." Li Qiye elaborated.

"Qian? The traitors?" Firerage blurted out.

“That Qian.” Something flashed deep in Li Qiye’s eyes after mentioning this last name. He then asked: “Who condemned them as traitors?”

Firerage took a deep breath and shook his head: “Your Highness, I don’t know much about this part of history. The Race considers it taboo, and the People knows even less about it. It was just too long ago to do any effective research.”

“Celestial Court.” Li Qiye murmured before pondering in silence.

After a while, he touched the cliff again and the embedded runes on the surface floated around his palm.

“Your Highness, am I correct in assuming that Immortal Gate used to be here?” Firerage asked.

“Yes, this was where it gave orders to all races. Some say that it is older than Celestial Court.” Li Qiye nodded.

Firerage imagined a magnificent scene of a great lineage looming above all. Even the current Celestial Court couldn’t give orders to everyone.

“So how did it fall?” He asked even though rise-and-fall was only a matter of time for lineages. It’s just that this particular lineage had nine emperors. This made him rather curious.

“The emergence of another race.” Li Qiye said.

"Which one?" Firerage asked.

"Ancient Ming." Li Qiye said.

"I've never heard of them before." This was another unfamiliar name to Firerage. It didn't seem to be a part of The People or The Race. How could a single race take down the most powerful force in the six continents?

"Also understandable. They are now, extinct." Li Qiye smiled.

"How?" He asked - the same perplexing concept arose again.

Li Qiye chuckled and didn't answer.

During this conversation, Firerage felt so inadequate before Li Qiye as if he was a young child asking his teacher questions.

It seemed silly but Firerage had no other way to describe this. His Majesty only knew that this place once belonged to a great sect. However, Li Qiye knew far more about it. For example, His Majesty had no idea about the Ancient Ming or Authority Heavenly Emperor.

Firerage didn't think Li Qiye was making this up either. The question became - how did a junior know all of these ancient secrets?

“Your Highness, how do you know all of this?” Firerage had to ask.

“The more you read, the more you know.” Li Qiye smirked.

“Uh...” Firerage felt as if he had never read a book before.

Plus, he didn’t think that these secrets came from books either. No ancient scrolls available now depicted these matters. He gradually felt that His Majesty picked Li Qiye for a particular reason.

Li Qiye didn’t pay attention to the puzzled guard. He closed his eyes and continued feeling the cliff.

Firerage suddenly had an illusion of Li Qiye disappearing from sight. However, his eyes told him otherwise - that Li Qiye was still standing there. It’s just that he seemed to be fusing with the mountain itself.

Chapter 4864: Strange Cemetery

“Rumble!” The entire dynasty suddenly trembled once Firerage witnessed the fusion.

“What’s happening?!” Everyone thought that enemies were invading so they took out their weapons.

A colossal bull seemed to be turning, causing changes to the terrain. Firerage became startled and suddenly saw a light coming from the cliff. Li Qiye’s hand suddenly pierced through the outer wall. Once he pulled back, he was pinching a group of particles.

They were ancient, seemingly having flown in the river of time for a long period. They could explain the mysteries of cultivation or contain untold secrets.

“Command men to go fetch this from the mountain bases in the dynasty. They will need this.” Li Qiye handed the particles over to Firerage.

“I’m afraid we can’t mobilize properly right now.” Firerage quietly said.

Li Qiye was yet to be the king so he didn’t have the authority to command the army. The soldiers wouldn’t listen to him.

“Let the imperial guard do it.” Li Qiye said.

“Well...” Firerage hesitated: “Your Highness, protecting you is more important than anything. Can this matter wait?”

He didn’t know what Li Qiye wanted to do. However, those changes earlier frightened him. Even a fool could tell that something extraordinary was taking place.

“What is there to protect me from in the dynasty?” Li Qiye chuckled: “Can you stop Venerable Dragon God?”

“...” Firerage couldn’t answer because the result would be too humiliating to say.

“Let the knights go since they are reliable and trustworthy.” Li Qiye ordered again.

Firerage accepted the particles and gave out the order.

Li Qiye turned to leave but Firerage gave chase and asked: “Your Highness, what was that earlier?”

He knew that the rumbling had to do with Li Qiye harmonizing with Eight-stallion Peak. His Majesty was never able to do this before but Li Qiye did it so effortlessly.

“A legacy, old and magical beyond words.” Li Qiye said.

Immortal Gate was once stronger than the Qian but most importantly, secrets greater than Authority Heavenly Emperor’s existence loomed behind the curtains. Not to mention the present, few back in the Thirteen Worlds were privy to this information.

All of this was purposely hidden by Purewood Divine Emperor after its destruction to the Ancient Ming.

“So this mountain is the foundation?” Firerage asked.

“Yes, this thing has been missing for a long time. Now, I have found it.” Li Qiye nodded.

“His Majesty pulled it back from space long ago.” Firerage said.

"This is the reason why he chose to stay in the lower continents. He knows about the underlying secrets." Li Qiye smiled.

"I see..." Firerage pondered. His Majesty could have gone to the upper realms long ago due to his powerful cultivation. Now, he finally got an answer.

How did a stranger know so much about the dao lord? Was Li Qiye really just a stranger?

"Where is he buried?" Li Qiye asked casually.

Firerage found this strange. Li Qiye's tone should be more respectful regardless of whether he was the dao lord's descendant or just a stranger. This was a rather sensitive question in the cultivation world.

"I do not know." Firerage told the truth: "His Majesty had arranged this before leaving for battle."

"True, it is taboo indeed." Li Qiye smiled.

Eight-stallion's choice was not surprising. Top cultivators normally had secret funeral arrangements if they were fortunate enough to die with their corpses intact. Not even their closest family and friends were privy to this knowledge.

While the two of them strolled in a remote plain, Li Qiye suddenly stopped.

There was a large garden surrounded by rusted steel poles propping up a canopy and forming a fence. Inside were memorial tablets, making it look like an abandoned cemetery.

His expression changed as he try to feel the beat of the garden.

“Who is buried here?” He asked.

“It was already abandoned when His Majesty came. He didn’t have a problem with keeping it around.”

“Let’s go take a look.” Li Qiye said.

Firerage obeyed the command despite not knowing why Li Qiye was interested.

The entrance was a dilapidated arched gate with engravings of lively birds and fish that couldn’t be recognized.

“Hmm, some discrepancies.” Li Qiye murmured.

“Uncle Xiang, open up.” Firerage shouted.

The stained dual doors could be easily pushed down. The iron lock was just there for show.

An old man from a cabin nearby came over. He wore a thin black robe and walked feebly over, seemingly coughing once every two steps. Just a gust of wind could sweep him off his feet.

“Guard Commander, what is it?” He opened the lock and asked.

“His Highness wants to take a look.” Firerage said.

Li Qiye glanced at the old man who kept his head lowered.

“What are you waiting for?” Firerage coughed.

“Old Xiang greets you, Your Highness.” The old man bowed.

“Many strange things here, and strange people.” Li Qiye smiled.

“Your Highness, Uncle Xiang is this cemetery’s keeper. He has always been here.” Firerage said. He could see that there was something off about this old man but since Eight-stallion Dao Lord didn’t say anything, it was none of his business either.

“You’ve been watching this place?” Li Qiye entered the cemetery and then asked.

“No.” Old Xiang coughed and shook his head: “But this is my clan’s profession. Once I became old and weak, I came here to find a peaceful place before the end.”

“Whose graves are these?” Li Qiye asked.

“I don’t know.” Old Xiang shook his head, still not looking at Li Qiye. He then returned to his cabin and didn’t follow the two.

They looked around and saw graves overwhelmed with weed. Most importantly, they were all unmarked.

Chapter 4865: Unknown Cemetery

The majority of the tablets had no markings. Only a few had special markings that were done meticulously.

In fact, some of them were carved from ordinary rocks. There must be more than a hundred of them.

This desolate scene should give off a creepy feeling but on the contrary, there was something dignified about this place. Those buried here didn’t wish to be bothered.

This atmosphere existed in a natural manner, not created through grand architecture. Firerage felt as if incredible gods and devils were buried in this place.

Each owner of a grave, when alive, had a peerless era of brilliance. He could see them being worshipped and feared by all living beings.

Alas, their time has passed and now, they have returned to the earth.

Li Qiye took his time walking by each tablet and gently traced his fingers through them, seemingly getting to know them and their legacy.

Without needing to read any information, Li Qiye came to learn about these great beings. Eventually, he sat down next to one and enjoyed the breezes.

Firerage followed him silently, only fulfilling his duty as Li Qiye's protector. He knew about this cemetery and that none of these graves belonged to those from Eight-stallion Dynasty. The dao lord gave implicit permission for the cemetery's existence inside his domain.

Uncle Xiang, the keeper, has been here for a long time as well. Nonetheless, this seemed to be a suitable job for a man near the end of his life.

The members of Eight-stallion Dynasty didn't pay attention to it. However, as the person in charge of security, Firerage had wondered about this before.

At the start, he thought that Uncle Xiang would die after a few years. Alas, decades passed and he was still alive, and then centuries...

He had asked His Majesty before but the latter didn't comment on it. Firerage could tell that the dao lord knew more than he let on but wanted to keep this a secret.

As Firerage waited close to Li Qiye, he got the feeling that Li Qiye was connecting with the cemetery again, that he knew everything there was to know about each grave and its owner.

Once again, he found himself being more confident in Li Qiye's knowledge than His Majesty's. The latter had entered numerous dangerous areas and broken domains. How would this regular cultivator know more than him?

This only confirmed his suspicion of how deliberate His Majesty's decision was regarding the successor.

After a long while, Li Qiye opened his eyes and sighed.

"Are you alright, Your Highness?" Firerage became worried since Li Qiye looked a bit fatigued and sentimental.

"Your king is very lucky." Li Qiye stared at him and said.

"What do you mean, Your Highness?" Firerage didn't understand.

"Though he is no longer around, he has guaranteed his descendants' success for ages to come." Li Qiye smiled.

"Are you referring to the princess?" Firerage wondered.

"Let's go." Li Qiye didn't elaborate. He patted the dust off his clothes and said.

The two of them left the cemetery and Old Xiang didn't come out. They only heard coughing from the cabin.

Firerage did remember to say goodbye and got a faint response from the old man.

The moment they returned to the palace, a girl also arrived, looking rather unhappy.

“Who are you?” She said inquisitively with her hands on her waist.

Around ten years of age, she exuded nobility and seemed to be crafted from jade. Everyone could tell that her bloodline was noble. Her eyes were round and black, brimming with spirituality.

Her vitality and innate energy were extraordinary as well. The power that could come out of her small frame was out of this world; she could run for thousands of miles without a problem.

It became clear that she was a heavener due to the marking on her forehead.

“I should be asking you this.” Li Qiye teased.

“Your Highness.” Firerage greeted her.

“My name is A’zhui, Eight-stallion Dynasty is my home.” She declared. [1]

She was Eight-stallion Dao Lord's only direct descendant in the lower three continents. However, no one knew who her mother was, not even Firerage.

The dao lord brought her back to the dynasty one day - that's the extent of everyone's knowledge.

Chapter 4866: Northern Monarch

"My name is Li Qiye, the ruler of Eight-stallion Dynasty." Li Qiye smiled and took her down a notch.

"Yo-you're lying!" She turned red and raised her voice: "Are you an illegitimate bastard? Don't come here and claim that this dynasty is yours. It belongs to Father's."

"Well, your father passed it down to me." Li Qiye flicked the imperial seal hanging on his neck.

A'zhui pointed at him, trembling in rage, and said: "You must have shamelessly resorted to despicable means to trick my father!"

"Oh?" Li Qiye put on an exaggerated look of astonishment: "You're telling me that your father is an idiot, that during his last moment, I somehow managed to trick him into giving me the imperial seal?"

"You!" A'zhui was furious: "That's not what I meant, I'm talking about you being a sinister swindler!"

"Regardless of your intention, you are stating that your father was tricked. Oh the great dao lord praised by all was actually played by me, to pass down his dynasty to me. Seems like his reputation was undeserved..."

“...” A’zhui trembled with rage, unable to respond.

She was just a little girl who couldn’t keep up with Li Qiye.

“Guard Commander, this thief clearly stole the imperial seal from Father, why are you letting him stay here?” A’zhui focused on Firerage instead: “He should be imprisoned and interrogated!”

Firerage shook his head and said: “His Majesty was wise and insightful. The imperial seal represents his will. If he didn’t wish for it, no one could take the seal from him.”

“Anything is possible!” She didn’t give up.

“Your Highness, your scenario is not possible. His Majesty’s grand dao is supreme. We cannot speculate his intent.” Firerage shook his head again, clearly stating that no one was allowed to question Eight-stallion Dao Lord’s decision, not even his daughter.

A’zhui had seen magnificent scenes before but ultimately, she was still young and let her emotions get the best of her.

“Did you hear that?” Li Qiye didn’t show mercy and continued: “Your father passed the dynasty down to me instead of you, doesn’t that make something obvious? That he thought you are useless and incapable.”

“I-I’ll rip your tongue out!” A’zhu was driven mad.

"Then tell me, why did your father not pass the throne to you if you were actually capable?" Li Qiye asked.

Her eyes turned red as she couldn't answer.

Firerage sighed after hearing this. Though Li Qiye's words were unpleasant, they were indeed the truth. The problem was A'zhui being too young and weak. Giving her the throne would only be harming her.

"Slap his mouth!" She commanded her guards.

They exchanged glances. Some wanted to obey their master but didn't move after seeing Firerage's glare. Plus, Li Qiye was the actual successor so doing anything to him would be unacceptable, to say the least.

"Guard Commander, slap his mouth to make me feel better!" She shouted with indignation.

"Please return, Your Highness." Firerage didn't listen.

"... Guard Commander, Father didn't mistreat you when he was alive." She didn't like his attitude.

He only sighed and didn't bother to argue with a little girl.

"How disappointing, look at how stubborn and foolish you are. Looks like I have to teach you a lesson in your father's stead." Li Qiye said.

"You dare?!" She shouted but still took one step backward.

"Pat! Pat!" Li Qiye easily caught her and slapped her butt ten times or so without holding back.

Her guards wanted to stop him but Firerage kept them at bay.

"Oaa-" Tears poured down like the rain.

As the daughter of a dao lord, she has always been pampered and never suffered mistreatment before. Now, an unfamiliar brat was actually bullying her?

"I-I will kill you and your family!" She unsheathed her sword and lunged at Li Qiye like a lion cub.

"Stop!" A gust of wind coiled around her and pulled her back.

A royal lady wearing a golden dress came into the room. Just one glance was all it took to recognize her unmatched nobility.

Her creator was kind to her - oval face, long brows, bright purple eyes...

The imperial-styled dress was large but didn't hide her curvy figure. People couldn't help stealing glances at her.

Her aura was invisible yet palpable, capable of piercing unguarded cultivators in the blink of an eye. There was no doubt that she has been used to a position of power, seemingly excelling at that.

“Aunt!” A’zhui rushed over and embraced her, finally finding an ally.

The lady gently patted A’zhui’s hair and said softly: “You mustn’t act improperly and ruin His Majesty’s reputation.”

A’zhui actually listened to her. She sniffled a few more times and then stopped crying.

“Northern Monarch.” Firerage bowed once before holding the saber hilt again.

She ranked second in the dynasty right now. First was still Venerable Dragon God in the dao lord’s absence.

She was far younger than the dragon god and Monochromatic Master. Her duty was with maintaining the border and expanding territory.

She was a devil but that’s the extent of everyone’s knowledge. The dao lord brought her back and didn’t tell anyone of her background.

Her exceptional talent allowed her to become a dragon lord with two dao fruits at a young age. Thus, Eight-stallion Dao Lord trusted her and gave her ample authority.

Chapter 4867: Northern Monarch’s Secret

Few in the lower continents could compare to Northern Monarch's talent. She had plenty of achievements and was considered a pillar of Eight-stallion Dynasty. Some believed that it was only a matter of time before she surpasses Venerable Dragon God.

In Chaos, many were also curious about her relationship with Eight-stallion Dao Lord. Was she his lover or best friend? None of them seemed to match their relationship.

People only knew that the dao lord had taught her before so in a sense, this could be a master-disciple relationship. However, they never addressed each other as such, only as king and his subject.

All in all, she had the qualifications to inherit his legacy. She normally presided by the border to keep the peace while Venerable Dragon God stayed in the capital.

A'zhui told her about how mean Li Qiye was and wanted her to teach him a lesson.

"Princess, go rest, leave this to me." Northern Monarch consoled the young princess.

The princess listened and snorted at Li Qiye: "Just wait, this isn't over between us."

She then left with her guards, leaving Northern Monarch and Li Qiye behind.

The former stared closely at Li Qiye while Firerage watched her every move. He feared her the most when not counting the dragon god.

Brilliant talent was normally accompanied by ambition. There was a high chance of her surpassing the dragon god.

In fact, he might even support her because she could become a second Eight-stallion Dao Lord to stabilize their situation.

“Your Highness.” She lowered her head and said: “I have just returned from the border and couldn’t participate in the ceremony. I sincerely apologize.”

Li Qiye only glanced at her and didn’t say anything.

“Guard Commander, may I have a moment with His Highness?” Northern Monarch asked.

“Well...” Firerage hesitated because she was a rival to Li Qiye right now. His safety could be at risk.

“It’s fine.” Li Qiye smiled and waved his hand.

“I’ll be right outside, just call out if you need me.” Firerage said begrudgingly.

This wasn’t due to him trusting Northern Monarch at all. For some reason, he had grown to trust in Li Qiye.

After he left, Li Qiye sat down while Northern Monarch took her time brewing tea for the two of them. It didn't take long before the aroma wafted in the air.

"Your Highness, you've only arrived recently, please try the dynasty's Billowing Snow." Northern Monarch poured a full cup for him.

He didn't hold back and lifted the hot cup, slowly sipping it.

"I am a devil from Deity Lineage." She poured her own and sipped while speaking.

If anyone else were to hear this, they would be startled right away. Deity was the strongest in the lower continents, a part of The Race.

Its current leader was none other than Conceal Conqueror - the mortal enemy of Eight-stallion Dao Lord.

"Few know about this besides His Majesty." Northern Monarch said sincerely.

She knew that Eight-stallion would never pass the throne to a random person before death.

"I am only a passerby." Li Qiye casually responded after seeing her sincere attitude.

Her eyes narrowed as she sighed, not really grasping anything from him. If he didn't wish to reveal his background, there was nothing she can do.

"The devils have declined. My background was not impressive, the same for my shoddy talent and comprehension." She stared at the steaming cup of tea and reminisced about the past.

This was rather hard to believe given her current status and cultivation realm. "Supreme genius" was how people would describe her.

"I was delegated to heavy labor in my small sect." She continued.

The hall was silent as she recalled her life story. Even the flickering of the torches could be heard.

"I thought that I would be lowly and wretched my whole life." She said softly: "One day, I met His Majesty. He was as bright as the sun and illuminated my life. He said that my bloodline was full of potential and whether I was willing to follow him to train."

"Mmm." Li Qiye nodded: "His vision was excellent since he saw your ancient bloodline."

"You can see it too?!" She nearly dropped her teacup.

Her bloodline was the reason why the dao lord asked her to follow him back to the dynasty. Sure enough, she didn't let him down and excelled at cultivation after having the right advantages.

She never forgot about his kindness and favor. If it wasn't for him, her life would still be terrible.

On one hand, a great dao lord should be able to recognize her ancient bloodline. In her mind, he was the greatest and most knowledgeable. Thus, it surprised her that Li Qiye was able to see it as well.

“Don’t be so shocked.” Li Qiye said: “He was able to hasten your cultivation progress but ultimately, he wasn’t a devil so his knowledge was limited. Otherwise, given your current cultivation, your Devilization bloodline wouldn’t have stopped here.”

“!!!” She blurted out in astonishment: “You know about Devilization?”

Upon the first meeting, the dao lord could tell that her bloodline was special. Alas, he didn’t know the exact detail.

Once they returned to the dynasty, he researched extensively and eventually came across this special bloodline - Devilization.

“One of the eight ancient bloodlines.” Li Qiye casually remarked, leaving her in shock.

Chapter 4868: Maddened

Devilization was an exceedingly rare bloodline. This became truer after the calamity.

Moreover, the devils were no longer the same. They were once competitive with the heaveners and diviners; now, they were mere shells of their former selves.

Few in the world knew about this special bloodline. Alas, Li Qiye could tell at a glance.

“Your Highness, how do you know this?” She took a deep breath and asked.

"I'm an avid reader." He leaned back on his chair and took another sip with a smirk.

She smiled wryly after hearing this. If reading could make someone omniscient, life would be far simpler.

She paused for a bit before continuing: "I was ordered to visit the academy before His Majesty's duel."

The academy didn't have any other name. However, in the lower continents, everyone knew what this was referring to.

Academy, a part of the Hundred Races - it was even rumored to be the leader of this lineage.

In Chaos, numerous sects and kingdoms fell in history. However, the academy remained standing. The villains here didn't dare to provoke it.

"I asked the academy for help since trouble will come." She said.

The dao lord knew that his death would mean chaos for the realm, hence his command.

"But they refused." Li Qiye smiled after seeing her expression.

"The academy only teaches the dao and answers cultivation questions, they do not interfere with other matters." She took another sip.

In reality, this was already expected. She didn't have that much hope before coming there.

"The dynasty is in trouble." She added.

Li Qiye only smiled and didn't comment.

"His Majesty once brought order to Chaos. Though he couldn't fully stabilize the continent, the villains stopped acting so audaciously. His death meant an end to the temporary peace." She had a sorrowful expression.

She couldn't do anything to help him in battle. Now, it was her time to protect the dynasty.

"As for Primal, it cannot do anything in its current state." She explained.

Primal Lineage once led Chaos. Unfortunately, it declined after the departure of Eternal Conqueror.

"Maddened Lineage is, unsurprisingly, crazy. It has plenty of experts but they only contribute to the chaos. Nonetheless, it is not out of malice." She went on.

"Maddened is insanity to the point of self-immolation, that is its dao." Li Qiye smiled.

The cultivator known as Maddened was nothing short of a miraculous existence and started a dao lineage. Plenty of conquerors wanted to destroy it to no avail.

The most frightening thing about Maddened - the cultivator - was his cultivation. He was neither a dao lord nor a dragon lord.

Rumor has it that he suddenly became crazy after a certain point of cultivation and incinerated six dao lords and emperors. He left a void in Celestial Court - one that could never be repaired.

This dao was rather strange. Training was not necessary. One just needed to be in the special fire domain to gain the chance of becoming a top cultivator.

As for the originator himself, there were many legends regarding the start of this dao. One stood out above the rest.

It stated that during his youth, Maddened was a servant whose task was to light the fires for the stoves in the kitchen.

He was bullied and even burned by candles at times, resulting in a deep grudge. The strong feelings resonated with his dao heart and soul. Something incredible happened then - one of the Nine Heavenly Scriptures manifested into reality - One Heart.

At the initial stage of his new cultivation, he incinerated all of his bullies along with the entire sect. An area of ten thousand miles became scorched earth.

Henceforth, he became a terrifying monster in the six continents. His lineage added to the disorder of Chaos.

Those who try to cultivate in the fire domain couldn't maintain their sanity. Only a few could do so. Four of the Ten Monsters came from Maddened.

However, they weren't a real threat to Eight-stallion Dynasty since they didn't have an ambition for conquest.

"Do you have a good grasp on Maddened as well?" Northern Monarch asked.

"I haven't been there, I merely felt it." Li Qiye shook his head.

"Felt it?" She didn't expect this response since the distance between Maddened and the dynasty was immeasurable. Not even Eight-stallion Dao Lord could do so given the gap.

"And Demon?" Li Qiye smiled.

She calmed down and said: "Their six demon gods might be the strongest force in the lower continents. However, they do not venture out of the Ten Desolate Mountains. The sole exception is Wild Dragon."

The ten mountains of Demon were endless in size, allowing the demons to prosper. The demon gods and monarchs there didn't like leaving their domain. Only Wild Dragon chose differently.

"So the enemies are clear." Li Qiye smiled.

"Yes, His Majesty managed to lock onto them and dealt with any potential problem. There are still plenty of evil cultivators and sects in Chaos but they aren't real threats."

“There is only one.” Li Qiye said.

“Wild Dynasty.” She nodded.

Eight-stallion and Wild were the two strongest sects in Chaos.

Primal has declined, Maddened was unreliable, and Demon stuck to their own land. Lastly, Hundred Races remained divided.

Eight-stallion was part of Hundred Races and was eligible to lead Chaos. As for Wild Dynasty, its leader was Wild Dragon from Demon. He built his lineage in Hundred Races, wanting their recognition. He went as far as going to the academy to study. Alas, it still didn’t recognize Wild Dynasty.

Nonetheless, Wild considered itself to be part of Hundred Races. It played the role of a safe haven for villains.

Eight-stallion Dao Lord had sent expeditions several times to no avail. Wild Dragon was wily. The moment he noticed something strange, he would run back to Demon.

Chapter 4869: Current Situation

“Since His Majesty is no longer around, Wild will strike us.” Northern Monarch worried. Currently, they were no match for Wild.

“In my opinion, they will attack during your coronation.” She added.

Wild Dragon was fierce with six sacred fruits. Only a few beings in the lower continents could fight him - the late Eight-stallion, Conceal, and Stone Ox of Untethered.

The problem was Wild Dragon’s ace card - being able to run back to Demon whenever he wanted. This made him invulnerable, the reason why Eight-stallion couldn’t kill him after one thousand years.

Venerable Dragon God was strong but couldn’t beat Wild Dragon. Moreover, there were two other members of the Ten Monsters on the side of Wild Dynasty - Flame-eater Child and Mad Pyromancer.

This made it rather difficult for the current Eight-stallion Dynasty. In the past, only Deity could contest with it since it had the dragon god, Northern Monarch, and two more members of the Ten Monsters - ninth-ranked Demoness and tenth-ranked Monochromatic Master.

Wild was only slightly weaker but now, the tides have turned.

“If they want to come, let them.” Li Qiye smiled: “My coronation is a joyous occasion so the more, the merrier. Let’s all have fun together.”

Northern Monarch had no response. These guests from Wild were coming to destroy Li Qiye, not to celebrate with him.

That day might end with Eight-stallion Dynasty being left with mountains of corpses and rivers of blood.

She could tell that Li Qiye was neither an idiot nor a madman. This meant that he had enough power to prevent any mishap. Alas, he seemed to be an ordinary cultivator and his opponent was an entire dynasty.

“Just Wild Dragon alone can destroy all of us. I and the dragon god cannot stop him.” She said: “Plus, our dynasty lacks solidarity. The human heart is unpredictable once trouble comes knocking.”

This was not a problem when the dao lord was alive. The two members remained obedient in that scenario. The same couldn’t be said now and they might betray the dynasty.

“As I’ve said, we should be happy that so many guests are coming.” Li Qiye chuckled.

She simply didn’t understand. There was not an ounce of worry in him as if he had everything under control.

After finishing their conversation, she left to meet Venerable Dragon God.

He was staying in a temple named War God that float among the clouds. He looked down at the dynasty, pondering. His breath and aura engulfed the land and commanded respect.

The dynasty required a powerful existence like him. The inhabitants could breathe easily in his presence. Though the dao lord was no longer around, they still had a five-sacred-fruit cultivator left.

Northern Monarch climbed up the stairs and saw him sitting imposingly on his chair.

“Dragon God.” She bowed.

He told a disciple to bring a chair over for her and said: “Northern Monarch, you have been working hard for the dynasty, so much traveling.”

“It’s not tiring at all. The only shameful thing is that I didn’t accomplish anything and let His Majesty down.” She shook her head.

“It is to be expected. His Majesty already knew that this would happen. The academy hasn’t done anything for eras now.” He sighed softly.

“Let’s talk.” She said.

He waved his hand and the disciples nearby left the two alone.

“Dragon God, what is your opinion on the new successor?” Northern Monarch asked.

He stared at her in silence.

She shuddered and became serious: “Dragon God, we have followed His Majesty together for so long. I won’t waste your time. Just answer this, will you support the new king?”

Her support alone was not enough. In fact, it was meaningless without his support. Not to mention fighting Wild Dynasty, they wouldn’t even be able to deal with him since he was the strongest and had authority over the army.

She stared intensely at him and prepared for battle if he were to refuse. Of course, she would also be his first target if he harbored any plan regarding the throne.

“What is your stance, Monarch?” He asked, aware of her potential. There was no doubt that she would be able to surpass him in the future.

If they could somehow survive the incoming attack, she would become a strong pillar for the dynasty in the future. Dealing with Wild Dynasty wouldn’t be a problem at all at that point.

“I support the new king.” She didn’t hide her decision: “He needs your support as well. This is how you can fulfill His Majesty’s last wish.”

The dragon god sighed and said: “My support alone is not enough to convince the others. The fate of the dynasty is hanging by a thread.”

“I’m aware that we have problems internally and externally.” She elaborated: “But, as long as we maintain solidarity, we can handle internal problems. If we can’t even fulfill His Majesty’s last wish, how will we keep the dynasty going?”

“If only others share the same feeling as you. I’m afraid they do not want the same thing.” The dragon god said.

“Those who disagree... we must eliminate.” She answered strongly.

“Is that the right way to convince people of the new king?” He asked.

Chapter 4870: Monochromatic Master's Loyalty

Undercurrents ran strong in Eight-stallion Dynasty at this point with armies and legions mobilizing. Disciples and experts discussed their future plans.

Not all members were groomed by Eight-stallion Dao Lord. In fact, many villains were also recruited since this couldn't be helped in Chaos.

Demoness and Monochromatic Master were prime examples of this. They were famous villains who have committed heinous deeds previously. Alas, they lost to the king and joined the dynasty.

When he was around, they were obedient but now, some even thought about dividing the dynasty among themselves.

A few thought that Venerable Dragon God was going to take over. Although the members knew about the chosen successor, they thought that he was not worthy of the throne.

Even if he was an illegitimate child, his cultivation deemed him inappropriate for the position. The same couldn't be said about the dragon god. He could rule over both regular disciples and ex-villains.

Moreover, his contribution to the land couldn't be understated. He matched all the criteria to be the next king - power, position, prestige.

Meanwhile, Li Qiye didn't give a damn about any of this. He was visiting an extravagant palace and its master came out enthusiastically and held his hand.

“Your Highness, I’ve been eagerly awaiting your arrival, day and night.” Monochromatic Master looked like a servant happy to receive his king: “Please, welcome to my humble abode.”

Firerage was unhappy with the close contact and grabbed his blade again.

“Guard Commander, I will only be drinking tea with His Highness.” Monochromatic laughed: “Plus, this is my palace and it’s Eight-stallion Dynasty, nothing is going to happen. I guarantee his safety because I will lose my head if anything were to happen. Stop worrying.”

Firerage couldn’t answer because this seemed logical.

If Li Qiye were to be killed in Monochromatic Master’s palace, Northern Monarch and Venerable Dragon God would demand retribution and punishment.

Therefore, while Li Qiye was here, it was in Monochromatic’s best interest to protect him.

“Your Highness, I’ve prepared quite a gift for you, let’s go take a look.” He winked implicatively at Li Qiye.

Li Qiye smiled and told Firerage: “Guard Commander, stay by the door.”

“But...” Firerage felt as if he was letting Li Qiye enter the tiger’s den.

"It's fine." Li Qiye said.

"Your Highness, your bravery is commendable, no wonder why you're the chosen successor." Monochromatic praised before telling Firerage: "Guard Commander, rest assured that nothing will happen to His Highness inside my palace. Not even a hair of his will be harmed under my watch."

Firerage had no choice but to watch the two of them enter the palace without him.

Of course, he didn't let down his guard and was ready for any development. His men were ready as well to break in.

Monochromatic's palace was extravagant with beautiful decorations - artificial mountains and ponds, delicious feasts and gorgeous maids, softly embroidered curtains...

"Come serve our king." Monochromatic ordered and two gorgeous girls came into the hall.

They were shockingly sexy due to their well-rounded figure. Each flirtatious wink and smile incited the lust in men. Their thin, revealing dress only fanned the flames.

Once Li Qiye sat down, they practically latched onto him, enticing him with their sweet fragrance.

Two more, just as luscious, crouched down and massage his feet. Li Qiye seemed to be enjoying himself as he was fed fruits.

"Your Highness, how is it?" Monochromatic smiled, seemingly pleased to be of use to his master.

"Mmm, not bad." Li Qiye said.

"Once you become the king, not to mention these maids, all beauties in the world will be yours, whether they be from The People or The Race. You will enjoy the finest things in life, Your Highness." Monochromatic was glad to see Li Qiye being into this.

"True." Li Qiye nodded.

Monochromatic pressed on: "Your Highness, I will devote my very being to supporting you. The problem is others don't feel the same way for they lack my absolute loyalty. They want to eliminate you and take your dynasty. If we let them do as they please, you won't be able to enjoy the greatest pleasures in life. In fact, they will definitely kill you first."

"Your concern is reasonable." Li Qiye rubbed his chin: "It's just that I've only gotten here. How can I tell loyal subjects from treacherous officials?"

"Your Highness, isn't it obvious that the civic deputy is a loyal subject who will toil endlessly for you?" One of the gorgeous women embracing Li Qiye revealed her sexy voice.

"Civic Deputy is loyal indeed. Even the sun and moon can testify to this." Li Qiye agreed.

"My courage has no bounds when it comes to fulfilling your ambition, Your Highness." Monochromatic became emotional and declared.

"It is a blessing to have someone like you around, Civic Deputy." Li Qiye praised again.

“That is why I’m so worried about the traitorous members of the court who covet your throne.” He said.

“The audacity! Who are they?!” Li Qiye slammed the table.

“Your Highness, please don’t be angry, let Civic Deputy speak.” Another beauty said softly.

“Speak.” Li Qiye still appeared furious.

“Your Highness, I do not wish to slander anyone.” Monochromatic hesitated.

“I will pardon you, now speak.” Li Qiye benevolently said.

Monochromatic looked around and spoke quietly: “Your Highness, who wields the most authority right now in the dynasty?”

“Hmm, I’m not quite sure.” Li Qiye said: “According to Firerage, Venerable Dragon God has the most.”

“Right you are, Your Highness.” Monochromatic clapped and then lowered his voice: “The dragon god’s power exceeds everyone else. Moreover, he has Soaring Stallions as well.”

He paused for a moment before continuing: “Everyone looks up to him. I’ve heard that when you first arrived, many members said that you were not worthy of the throne.”

“Traitorous dogs! How dare they?!” Li Qiye became livid and slammed the table again.

“Please, Your Highness, don’t injure yourself.” One of the beauties rubbed herself against him.

“Regular disciples don’t have the courage to say these things. I’m afraid that they are under order to spread these malicious comments.” Monochromatic suggested.