

## **Emperor 4911**

### **Chapter 4911: The Academy**

“Lil Bro, we’re at your destination.” After some time, A’jiao jumped off the carriage and told Li Qiye.

Li Qiye climbed down and so did Jian Yunyun.

“When will we meet again?” A’jiao stared at him with her moist eyes, seemingly going to miss him.

Alas, she only tried to paint this image. In reality, they flared out and looked rather scary like a lion ready to devour its prey. Yunyun didn’t dare to keep on looking.

“It’s best to never meet again.” Li Qiye waved dismissively.

“Don’t be so mean, when?” She insisted.

“I don’t want to see you again.” He didn’t hold back.

“Even if you don’t want to meet me, you’ll have to return to the village eventually. We’ll see each other again unless you never return.” She said.

“Whatever.” He knew she was right.

"I'll eagerly await your return." She seemed happy afterward and put on a wide smile, showing all her teeth.

"Whoosh!" She got up the carriage and it sped away, disappearing with an unreal speed.

"Who was that?" Yunyun was awfully curious.

According to their conversation, A'jiao could have been Li Qiye's fiancée. She had searched for him for a long time now - truly something romantic. Of course, this didn't seem to be the case.

"Just a passerby, the same as me." Li Qiye said.

It was clear to her that he didn't wish to answer so she stopped inquiring.

She looked around and saw that they have been brought to the highest peak outside the academy, granting them a full view of the region.

"The academy is right ahead." She said.

Li Qiye closed his eyes and took a deep breath: "The academy, what an ancient existence."

It survived the test of time in the lower three continents, still maintaining a strong influence. Though Deity was considered the strongest currently, there were periods of total declination. For example, it had been destroyed by Luminous Conqueror before.

The current one was rebuilt by Heaven Alliance and Divine Alliance from the upper continents. The same couldn't be said for the academy.

It had never been destroyed and only became stronger as time passed. Numerous top masters have studied here previously.

It was considered the leader of Hundred Races. However, it maintained its focus on academics instead of trying to be a sect.

It accepted students of all races and backgrounds, never discriminating. This earned it the respect of virtually all cultivators.

Some believed that it had numerous hidden dragons and crouching tigers. Any random teacher was a sovereign or dragon lord. In fact, the number of teachers and ancient ancestors was unknown to the public.

The most popular topic among the student body was none other than the conflict between their school and Celestial Court.

After the immemorial epoch war, peace returned to the six continents. Years later, Celestial Court thought that the academy had produced too many experts for The People. Thus, they commanded the academy to surrender and only train those from The Race.

Celestial Court sent three emperors and monarchs to attack the academy. Alas, none of them managed to get past the gate.

It then sent five more and finally pushed through the initial defense. When everyone thought that it was over for the academy, a terrifying aura erupted along with a massive palm. It crushed five emperors in the blink of an eye while three managed to escape.

From then on, Celestial Court never provoked the academy again, let alone talked about taking over. This firmly established the academy as the leader of Hundred Races. It gained more students afterward. Some chose to stay for life.

Being in Chaos didn't matter at all. No villains ever tried to be haughty near the academy.

Li Qiye and Jian Yunyun saw a magnificent land capable of accommodating thousands of sects. However, the academy was the only power here.

Smoke could be seen from the stoves in the villages. Farther away was an old city, looking to be a place for mortals.

Cultivators were seen above - flying or riding their special accommodation - mounts, ships, and carriages...

"That's Book City." She pointed at the city packed with buildings and pavilions.

"It is one of the largest cities in Chaos. Students like to stay there, and the same for other sects. They usually have a foothold already." She elaborated.

"What a lively city." He said.

“Right, merchants and cultivators come here to trade.” She said: “That’s the border. Once we’re in there, we’re officially inside the academy.”

That direction had a beautiful mountain range with towering peaks and lush trees. Bottomless valleys and heavenly waterfalls could be spotted...

It was filled with life, evident by the cries and roars of birds and beasts. It looked like a pristine world.

At the base of a particular peak, divine light suddenly flashed as if a treasure was appearing. In another gully, a clam breathed worldly essences into its pearl, on the verge of becoming a demon. Far over yonder consisted of pavilions and radiant libraries.

“Those are the main divisions. It is divided into Hundred Halls and Study Hall. Hundred Halls will accept anyone. When they are satisfied with their learnings, they will leave. As for Study Hall, it consists of students who want to stay at the academy in order to become disciples or teachers, maybe even ancestors in the future.”

#### **Chapter 4912: South Emperor**

The third main division was Abroad Hall. Among the three, Study Hall was the smallest with the fewest students.

These youths would later on become disciples of the academy, hoping to become important figures down the road.

Hundred Halls accepted everyone. It didn't matter whether they were from The People or The Race. A mortal beggar or a successor of a dao lineage were the same. The most important thing was their talent and comprehension.

Students were free to live after graduation. There was no need to stay or repay the academy. Of course, the requirements were still stringent. Because of this, dragon lords and conquerors were alumni once.

For example, Lunar's progenitor, Nightmoon Conqueror, came from Hundred Halls. The latter stood out even among her peers, capable of challenging Celestial Court and its leaders.

The conquerors and emperors of Celestial Court couldn't stop her. It took Heaven Burial Conqueror to stop her before she could make it to Sword Emperor.

This was the reason why Celestial Court wanted to take over. The academy simply had a way of producing top cultivators.

Abroad Hall was the most complex and diverse. It had the highest student population. Whenever it was time for recruitment, Abroad Hall would be open to everyone in the lower three continents.

They just needed to come and report before getting to stay. Therefore, it had more members than most sects in the lower continents. The number could reach up to several hundred thousand students during the peak.

This was one way for cultivators to join first and eventually hope for a chance to enter Hundred Halls or Study Hall.

Of course, this was a complicated place. There were conquerors and dao lords, weak mortals, or heinous villains. The capabilities of its members varied greatly.

Because of its number advantage, it did produce some brilliant cultivators. In the distant past, there were Luminous, Nightmoon, and Black Demon Conqueror...

More recently, Eight-stallion and Phenomena came from here. Conceal Conqueror had studied in Abroad as well. This also applied to many of the current leaders in Lower Three Continents during their youth.

In fact, some kings and sect leaders could be seen here right now. There was just something irresistible about the academy.

Bloodsea Blade was another famous alumnus. However, the academy didn't recognize him as one of its own.

Because of this, some believed that he originated from Study Hall, not Hundred Halls. He was meant to become a core member of the academy yet he chose to leave. This resulted in animosity. Of course, there were just rumors.

Though the academy expected nothing in return, some top masters had shown their gratitude in various ways. Most chose to donate precious treasures or their merit laws. Many conquerors have done so and this made the academy even stronger.

"What about that place?" Li Qiye looked up at a bright radiance above the academy.

It seemed to be a supreme kingdom hidden in the crevices of the sky. Occasionally, amazing visual phenomena could be seen. Some might say that this was the very origin of the academy.

“I don’t know, but this whole region is an independent world. Look over there, we just need to cross that mountain range and it’ll be Hundred Halls and Study Hall. A bit further will be the place for ancestors.”

She paused for a bit and looked up: “But what you’re asking about is a mystery. I haven’t been there before but I heard that it was the very end of the academy. Do you know about the invasion of Celestial Court? The mythical palm came from that light and killed emperors.”

“Mythical palm.” Li Qiye repeated before closing his eyes to feel the light.

“That’s Abroad Hall over there, it’s the entrance to the academy as well.” She pointed at the buildings next to the mountain range, forming a great city.

The academy itself was massive. Traveling from Abroad to Hundred and Study Hall required traversing a considerable distance. All of this made up the independent world of the academy.

The entrance had two statues. No, it was actually three. One was situated to the left while the other had two separate figures - one male and one female.

The man was gallant and powerful; the woman looked exquisite and wise. All in all, the extraordinary auras depicted left spectators in awe.

The statue to the left was a young man with a carefree and confident expression. His weapon of choice was a sky halberd.



“Wonderfully built, these auras have lasted for a long time.” Li Qiye praised.

“The statues celebrate great contributors to the academy.” Yunyun explained: “She pointed at the statue to the left and said: “He is South Emperor, the protector who stopped an army of one hundred thousand cultivators from Celestial Court.”

“South Emperor.” Li Qiye said quietly.

That battle had earned a spot in the history scrolls. Even members of The Ancient Race couldn’t help but praise him while standing before his statue.

Chapter 4913: South Emperor’s Heroism

A great calamity once descended with darkness. Salvation came from none other than Celestial Court and the gods.

Henceforth, it established its position as the supreme power. Emperors, monarchs, and gods gathered there and formed an unbeatable lineage.

New challengers appeared during the eras along with top conquerors. Alas, none could actually deal with Celestial Court.

Because of its prestige and authority, more conquerors and dragon lords ended up joining. This only propelled their strength.

Of course, this didn't mean that they were untouchable. For example, The People had always put up a strong fight. Celestial Court started numerous wars and never seized a favorable outcome.

They have done so even before the calamity. They hunted the "sinners", taking down sects and kingdoms that were protecting the branded.

In this old age, the academy had a different name. Nonetheless, it still accepted everyone without discrimination.

Celestial Court ordered them to hand over the sinners. Alas, the academy refused. The consequence was a great army marching to its gate.

It included six emperors and monarchs along with one hundred thousand cultivators. One man showed up to face them during the crisis - South Emperor.

With his sky halberd, he fought the six appointed generals and their army alone, buying valuable time for the academy.

Allies eventually came and the invaders were forced back, saving the academy from destruction.

Due to this heroic feat, a stone statue of him was built right outside the entrance.

"South Emperor, all alone, against the invaders, how domineering and wonderful." Jian Yunyun became emotional after recalling this event. All the students knew about this tale.

Li Qiye's attention turned toward the other statues. He then sighed and said: "What a beautiful couple."

"You're right, Young Noble." Yunyun said: "They are husband and wife. We know them as Harmony Immortal Monarchs. The seniors of the academy said that if it wasn't for their sacrifice, the academy might not be around right now."

These two were well-known historical figures. Their statue has been observed and worshipped for eras now. They were the reason why the academy was here right now in Chaos.

During the first battle started by Celestial Court for the sake of punishing sinners, the entire world was dragged into this mess.

World Emperor, Immortal Emperor Hao Hai, Immortal Emperor Can Long, Brilliant Devil Emperor, Crimson Emperor, Darkness Heaven Emperor... None could stay away from this war.

South Emperor and the others were able to protect the academy initially. Alas, after total escalation, they had no choice but to travel to various battlefields to fight against the top masters of Celestial Court.

Ultimately, the emperors and monarchs in charge of defense made a decision to move the academy away from the upper world.

Of course, Celestial Court's top generals didn't let this happen and pursued. The escape path was carved with blood and sacrifice.

Harmony Immortal Monarchs fell in this battle while protecting the flank. This bought enough time for the academy to escape the grasp of Celestial Court.

The new destination was none other than Chaos. They were celebrated for eras with this statue.

“Harmony Immortal Monarchs, exchanging their lives to buy time for the academy.” Jian Yunyun bowed deeply toward the statue.

She was not the only one who would do so. After all, the couple was virtually unbeatable and could have escaped. Alas, they knowingly gave their lives up for a noble cause.

Without the sacrifice of the emperors, monarchs, and sages of the academy, Celestial Court might have taken over all six continents and enslaved The People.

“They are true protectors.” Li Qiye cupped his fist toward the statue to show the highest respect.

“Rumble!” Suddenly, explosions came from the horizon.

It was a tower soaring closer. This alerted numerous experts so they looked up.

“Immortal Pagoda from Deity.” The students said.

This was a powerful lineage started by Pagoda Conqueror, a part of Deity. It had massacred numerous sects and kingdoms from The People during the great war.

Thus, this sect was influential due to its founder’s exploits.

“Clank!” A gigantic sword showed up next. On top of the flying sword were numerous elders.

“Swordgrasp School!” A few from The Race recognized these old men right away.

“Why are they here?” Some found this surprising.

Swordgrasp was another powerful member of Deity. Most importantly, they could communicate with the two alliances on the upper continents. This was a special privilege so they served as a messenger of sorts.

Chapter 4914: Wealth Incites Greed

Jian Yunyun became startled to see the two sects because Deity was far from the academy. It was located in White Stone, not Chaos.

Moreover, Deity served as a representative of Celestial Court and was governed by the two alliances.

On one hand, the academy recruited everyone. Even members of Deity could become students here. However, the lineages on the other side knew to lay low when visiting the academy.

This was an unspoken rule in the lower continents. After all, in the present days, the sects and clans had children and successors studying here. In fact, maybe even their progenitors and ancestors were alumni.

Thus, they always gave face to the academy or there would be public backlash. Therefore, this aggressive approach was rather strange.

Those from Deity in Abroad wondered why their sects were showing up right now.

“Something big is going on.” Jian Yunyun quietly said.

Though she has only just gotten back and didn’t know what was going on, there must be a reason why these two sects were so arrogant.

“Let’s go in first.” She brought Li Qiye into Abroad Hall.

As they were walking in, a student rushed out and nearly bumped into Li Qiye.

“Sorry, sorry.” He immediately apologized. He looked around the same age as Jian Yunyun.

At first glance, he looked average but upon closer inspection, there was a metallic quality to his skin. It was as if knocking would result in a clank.

Once enough attention was spent on him, they found that there was a hidden hint of nobility and regality.

“Brother Bai.” Yunyun recognized him.

“Miss-, no, Lord Jian.” He greeted Yunyun.

“Don’t tease me, Brother Bai, I am only a disciple of The Alliance.” She shook her head.

“That’s not my intention at all. I’ve heard that you will inherit the position.” He said before bowing sincerely: “Please don’t be too sad about Senior Black-dress.”

“Thank you.” She then introduced him to Li Qiye: “This is a friend from Abroad, Bai Shaojin. He is definitely a top student here.”

“My meager skill is nothing, Miss Jian.” Bai Shaojin smiled wryly: “I am but a firefly compared to the supreme geniuses. Who is this gentleman?”

He stared at Li Qiye and didn’t notice anything special. Of course, Abroad was full of both geniuses and regular mortals.

However, Yunyun might not be a supreme genius but she was still famous. Moreover, she was the successor of The Alliance, meaning that she could rule Primal later on. It was strange that she would be hanging around a regular student.

Yunyun hurriedly introduced Li Qiye to him. Li Qiye then asked: “Where are you from?”

“Brother Li, my clan is only a tiny sect not worth mentioning. My ancestors might have been great but I do not dare to bring them up since we descendants have let them down.” Bai Shaojin said humbly.

“Right, just remember to be careful of others’ greed.” Li Qiye smiled.

Bai Shaojin had a strange expression after hearing this. He then told them: "Friends, I have to report Swordgrasp and Immortal Pagoda's sudden visit to the seniors. Excuse me."

He left in a hurry so Yunyun frowned and asked: "Be careful of others' greed?"

Li Qiye didn't explain and said: "What is his last name?"

"Bai, of course." She thought that the question was unnecessary.

"That's not his last name." Li Qiye casually responded and moved on.

She was surprised for a moment before giving chase: "Not Bai? What is it then?"

Li Qiye strolled onward without answering.

This place was large with tens of thousands of palaces. It had no problem accommodating several hundred thousand students.

The student demographic was extremely diverse from both The People and The Race. It didn't have a clear social hierarchy either.

Though the academy didn't place any restrictions on them, there were still certain rules while staying here. Equality was an important focus.



Nothing was missing in this massive city. Some students opened stalls to sell merchandise and treasure. A few had banners to announce their desired items.

This place was brimming with life, something more than just an educational institution.

Many greeted Jian Yunyun along the way. After all, she was considered a top dog in Abroad.

Her talent and cultivation were certainly exceptional. However, her prestigious status was even more important.

Some students saw her walking together with Li Qiye and started gossiping. They definitely looked out of place.

Yunyun didn't mind since this was a part of the young culture in Abroad.

"Big Sis, you're back." A girl appeared before them, looking awfully excited.

She was younger than Yunyun and wore an elegant lotus dress. Spirit energy flowed around her. Her clear eyes were round and white, truly a sight for sore eyes.

"Princess." Yunyun greeted.

"If you call me Princess, I'll have to call you Alliance Lord." The girl pouted: "I told you, call me Ming Shi."

She was a fast speaker and this made her cuter.

“Okay, Ming Shi.” Yunyun yielded.

The girl then winked at Li Qiye and asked: “Hehe, are you Yunyun’s boyfriend?”

“Boyfriend? Don’t spread rumors now.” Yunyun didn’t know whether to laugh or cry.

Ming Shi defended herself: “I’m not the one spreading rumors, I’ve heard that you have brought a boyfriend back this time.”

Chapter 4915: Discerning Glance

Ming Shi circled several times around Li Qiye as if wanting to help Yunyun out by assessing her suitor.

“Hmm...” She walked like an old man with both hands behind her back: “Brat, do you know how lucky you are?”

“How so?” Li Qiye smiled.

“You really have no idea?” She crossed her arms in front of her chest and said: “Look at Big Sis’ cultivation, she is undoubtedly a genius.”

With that, she gave him the side-eye and continued: “Then look at how beautiful she is too, everyone in Abroad knows of her fair skin and gorgeous face. This is before taking her prestigious background into account, the successor of The Alliance.”

“And?” Li Qiye asked.

“And? That’s how lucky you are, it is the blessing of three lifetimes. She is excellent in all categories and has enough suitors to make a line through the academy yet you were chosen to be her boyfriend. A guy can’t ask for more.” Ming Shi finished.

“Ming Shi, enough, don’t spread rumors about the young noble.” Yunyun shook her head.

“Sigh, so quick to help your boyfriend.” Ming Shi glared at her in response: “You’re the lord of Primal soon. Not to mention just the academy, the entire world doesn’t have that many suitors worthy of your hand. Now, you’re worrying about his prestige instead of your own? That’s so strange. I guess that is what love does to women, wanting to be subservient. Big Sis, you need to clear your head.”

“It is because you don’t see Young Noble Li’s peerless status.” Yunyun smiled wryly.

This was indeed the truth. Li Qiye was the king of Eight-stallion before he passed the throne to someone else. He had Venerable Dragon God and Northern Monarch beneath him.

“Oh?” Ming Shi remained skeptical as she stared at Li Qiye: “Young Noble, where are you from? I’m afraid I don’t see it.”

She shared the impression as many others when it came to Li Qiye and didn’t understand why Yunyun viewed him so highly.

“I’m just a regular guy.” Li Qiye smiled.

"No, you are lying to me. My Big Sis doesn't care for the geniuses from Deity, Luminous, or Heaven Burial. There must be something special about you." Ming Shi said.

"Ming Shi, watch your words." Yunyun didn't want Ming Shi to offend Li Qiye.

Though she didn't understand Li Qiye completely, she could tell that he was ruthless. She recalled how he executed three monsters without batting an eye.

"No, I will have to see what he has to charm you so deeply." Ming Shi's eyes shifted between the two of them.

"Go for it then." Li Qiye seemed amused.

The girl circled around Li Qiye several more times before giving up: "Forget it, I don't see anything."

Yunyun was not a weak girl but seemed to be overly accommodating to Li Qiye. This didn't make sense to Ming Shi.

"Well, I see something about you." Li Qiye said.

Ming Shi snorted in response and said: "I doubt you can notice anything."

"You are a rabbit demon." He smiled.

“That’s no secret at all.” Ming Shi said before complaining to Yunyun: “Sis, you told him everything already?”

Many in Abroad knew about her origin so this wasn’t really a secret. She thought that Yunyun had told him.

“Why would I talk about you with him?” Yunyun shook her head.

Ming Shi believed this and said: “Fine, let’s see what else you can tell.”

She felt a little uncomfortable by his piercing gaze. Nonetheless, she still arched her chest proudly, waiting for a response.

“Hmm, I don’t know if I should reveal your secrets.” Li Qiye hesitated.

“Do it, show me what you can do.” She thought that he was bullshitting.

“During your transformation, your dao had flaws so you suffered from qi deviation.” Li Qiye said with a smile.

This stunned Ming Shi and he went on: “You would have died if it wasn’t for a capable senior saving you, using Gods’ Art to stabilize your mind and recraft your dao foundation.”

“Tendril King!” Yunyun knew who it was right away.

Ming Shi didn’t respond because this was indeed a secret. She came from Untethered and was considered a top genius. However, there was someone more talented than her - Senior Uncle Tendril King.

Despite being her martial uncle, he wasn’t that much older and could still be considered a part of the young generation.

He was the number one genius in Untethered and was renowned in the lower continents. Everyone knew that he was a direct disciple of Stone Ox, the only dragon lord with seven sacred fruits in this region.

He was strong enough to defeat most dragon lords from the last generation, let alone his peers.

Ming Shi didn’t know how Li Qiye knew this but it was all true. Another disciple could only wait for death since it required the help of a powerful cultivator.

She was a top genius but there were many like her in Untethered. Nonetheless, Tendril King took action and used the Gods’ Art to save her. This actually boosted her foundation as well.

This matter was only known by a few seniors in Untethered.

“How-how do you know?” She stammered.

"I can sense the Gods' Art on you." Li Qiye waved his hand as if this wasn't a big deal.

Chapter 4916: Goldcrest Young Noble

"What demonic sorcery is this?" She took one step backward, alarmed.

"Isn't that rather common nowadays with the rise of the demons?" A burst of hearty laughter came and interrupted their conversation.

A demon with white feathers came over, looking rather gallant. He was obviously a rooster demon.

The feathers were bright and conspicuous. At this moment, he maintained the form of a rooster yet had the bearing of a human.

Surprisingly enough, he didn't have a hint of demonic energy, only a grand aura. When sensing the aura alone, one would mistake him for an accomplished cultivator.

He waved a paper fan playfully, looking like a scholar.

"Your Highness, what sorcery are you talking about?" He bowed toward Ming Shi before greeting Yunyun in a polite manner: "Miss Jian, long time no see. I am lost in jubilation to be in your presence once more."

"Thank you, Brother Goldcrest." Yunyun bowed and returned the gesture.

“What long time no see? Big Sis Yunyun only left for a little bit but you made it sound like years. Sounds like someone got a case of the lovesick.” Ming Shi teased him.

“Ming Shi.” Yunyun raised her voice.

“Your Highness, there is logic in your comment. As the saying goes, one day apart seems like three autumns. How I longed to see you again, Miss Jian.” The youth didn’t overly react and spoke calmly.

He then bowed toward Yunyun again and apologized: “I’m sorry if my one-sided crush is making you feel uncomfortable.”

He was clearly one of her suitors and didn’t try to hide it.

“Please, she has plenty, you’re not the only one. And don’t think too highly of yourself, she doesn’t keep you in mind enough to be uncomfortable.” Ming Shi didn’t hold back.

“You are right, Your Highness, I am too conceited.” The youth laughed and confidently said: “But as for her other suitors, although there is no lack of geniuses here, I humbly claim that I can defeat most of them.”

He did look rather powerful and confident.

“Stop acting cool, Rooster.” Ming Shi said: “It doesn’t matter how exceptional you are if she doesn’t like you.”



“True, it does require feelings from both sides.” This comment finally deflated him like a balloon.

“Thank you for your feelings, Brother Goldcrest, but I do not wish to be involved in romance right now.” Yunyun shook her head.

“I apologize again.” He bowed.

“All your flowery words are useless, Big Sis has a boyfriend now so you should give up.” Ming Shi interjected.

“Ming Shi, not again.” Yunyun could tell that this girl only wanted to cause trouble.

“The rumors are true?” Goldcrest instinctively stared at Li Qiye after hearing this: “My name is Goldcrest. Who may you be, friend?”

“Let me introduce him, our rooster is a great demon with innate talents. Get to know each other.” Ming Shi winked at Li Qiye.

Goldcrest Young Noble came from the ten grand mountains of Demon. He had no problem competing with the geniuses from the other lineages.

Due to his power and talent, he had enough confidence to think that he would come out as the winner of this romantic competition. His eyes became bright because he wanted to see the man chosen by Yunyun. His competitive nature took over.

Alas, he didn't notice anything special about Li Qiye. The guy was just another cultivator.

"May I ask where you are from?" He asked, wanting to find out more.

"I'm a traveler, no affiliation." Li Qiye smiled.

Goldcrest pondered - a man with no sect. If he wasn't Yunyun's boyfriend, why were they traveling together?

"Brother Goldcrest, don't overthink this lest you say something regrettable." Yunyun warned.

This incited Goldcrest's curiosity. Yunyun clearly wanted to defend Li Qiye. Why was this cultivator worth her time and energy?

"Hehe, Rooster, I have you know that Young Noble Li knows sorcery." Ming Shi said, still shocked at Li Qiye's ability. She wanted to see more.

"Oh? In terms of strange arts and demonic abilities, I'm afraid no place in the lower continents can compare to our Demon." He responded.

"Listen, Young Noble Li has an amazing pair of eyes. He just needs one glance to know anyone's secrets." She said before winking at Li Qiye: "Young Noble, am I right?"

Li Qiye only smiled, aware that she was using Goldcrest to find out more about him.

Yunyun thought about their first encounter and it seemed like Ming Shi was right. He understood everything at first glance so she herself wanted to confirm this.

“Just let the young noble take a look then, maybe make it a bet.” Ming Shi stirred trouble.

“Friend, do you really have such an ability?” Goldcrest could tell that Ming Shi was confident.

“Just make it a bet.” Ming Shi persuaded.

Goldcrest thought about it carefully before responding: “I’m just a wild demon with no secret to speak of.”

He smiled, not wanting to participate.

“Hmph, scared, I see.” Ming Shi snorted.

Goldcrest didn’t mind and cupped his fist toward Li Qiye: “Let us wait until another day to witness your amazing technique.”

Chapter 4917: Luminous Conqueror

Li Qiye enjoyed the youth’s sense of propriety and didn’t push the issue.

“Where did you come back from, Miss Jian?” Goldcrest asked Yunyun with a hushed tone.

“Is there a problem?” She responded.

“Yes, a few people are trying to learn more about returning students, albeit in secrecy.” Goldcrest answered honestly.

“Did you get this information from Youngbright and the others?” Ming Shi asked.

“Sure, we’re keeping each other informed. This is why Deity is on the move.” Goldcrest responded.

“Hmph, Deity is too arrogant right now, don’t they know what place this is?” She complained: “Isn’t Celestial Court the best example?”

“It’s not their fault this time.” Goldcrest whispered: “From what I heard, they lost something extremely important, that’s why all of them are working together. It’s the reason why Swordgrasp and Immortal Pagoda are here.”

“I see.” Yunyun understood the situation.

It has been relatively peaceful between the two main factions, not to mention the academy’s prestige. Only something dire warranted this response from these two great powers.

“What does it have to do with the academy? Do they think the academy stole the item or whatever?” Ming Shi complained again.

Her disdain for Deity was due to her background - Untethered. It was the faction for The People and most importantly, it belonged to Dao Alliance in the upper continents.

If one were to talk about true animosity between two sects in the region, Untethered and Deity would be prime examples.

"I'm sure they are suspecting the students." Goldcrest said: "Youngbright told me to don't be emotional and rash this time, it seems like Deity is not messing around."

"The students?" Ming Shi found this plausible since there were too many students here in the academy, especially Abroad.

On the other hand, how could Deity ever find the right person here?

"What item was it to warrant this response?" Yunyun became curious.

For a lineage like Deity, losing an imperial weapon was not enough for them to unite together and provoke the academy.

After all, Celestial Court had suffered grievous losses to the academy previously. It was widely believed that supreme masters were still here to protect it. Deity must be panicking due to the item's value.

"I don't know." Goldcrest shook his head: "Youngbright and the others from Deity didn't say anything. They did hint that it had something to do with the epoch war, so it's rather ancient."

"From the immemorial epoch war between the factions." Yunyun became emotional.

"Hmph, do they think that academy will do nothing about this?" Ming Shi coldly said.

"It's best to be careful. Students from Deity have been ordered by their seniors to spy on friends who have just gotten back." Goldcrest said before glancing at Li Qiye: "And those with an unknown background."

Ming Shi stared at him too and laughed: "Your background is unknown and you're not a student. You're definitely a prime suspect."

She paused for a bit before whispering: "Did you steal the treasure? Let me know, I won't tell anyone else."

"Why would I need to steal any treasure? The best ones are already mine." Li Qiye smiled.

Goldcrest stared at him again after hearing this domineering declaration. Such words should only come from peerless emperors or dao lords... Li Qiye didn't look like one at all.

"Serious?" Ming Shi said: "You know Deity is untouchable in the lower continents, only someone like Luminous Conqueror can crush them."

"Shh, careful now." Goldcrest became startled and told her: "Friends from Deity would be annoyed to hear this."

“So what, it’s no secret how Luminous Conqueror crushed all of Deity back then. We, The People, should take pride in it.” Ming Shi didn’t think that it was a big deal.

This caused Goldcrest to smile wryly. Nonetheless, it was indeed the truth. Luminous Conqueror reduced Deity to ashes. The current one was rebuilt by Divine and Heaven Alliance.

Luminous was incredibly gifted during his youth. Some even considered him the perfect being for cultivation.

At sixteen, he obtained his first fruit to become a dao lord. Alas, Deity feared his talent and potential. They worked together to obliterate him.

Since his grand dao had just finished, he couldn’t stop them from destroying his dao fruit and killing him.

Alas, the dao fruit was magical. As long as there was still one strand left, there was still a chance for rebirth.

After a thousand years, the fruit birthed him once more. Of course, he was only a mortal. Nonetheless, fate and heaven seemed to be on his side.

Since he had it at the start of his existence, this fruit became classified as an innate primordial one. When he reached maturity again, he became unstoppable and annihilated Deity Dao. It wasn’t until he was long gone that the two alliances would dare to rebuild Deity.

Meanwhile, Goldcrest suspected Li Qiye as well since he came out of nowhere.

"It has nothing to do with the young noble, I can guarantee this." Yunyun immediately backed him up, not wanting him to be dragged into this mess. Due to her status, her words were taken seriously.

Chapter 4918: Visitors Don't Come For No Reason

Yunyun had her own palace in Abroad - truly a special privilege. Ordinary students couldn't dream of it.

Despite the creed of equality, everyone had their own background and resources. In fact, a top master studying here could have their own palace.

Ming Shi and Goldcrest Young Noble tagged along as well. Yunyun prepared a room for Li Qiye inside her house.

It was no problem accommodating him; she only worried about gossip.

Of course, the biggest source of gossip was none other than Ming Shi who smirked at Goldcrest: "Rooster, seems like you gotta stop. Our Big Sis really has a boyfriend."

Goldcrest didn't like this arrangement but still accepted it. After all, they didn't look like a couple so he wasn't overly jealous.

The problem was that he was just a friend to Yunyun or even worse, just another student. He had no right to stop her from doing anything. Doing so would have a detrimental effect on their friendship.

As Yunyun was preparing the room, the two found themselves in an awkward situation.



“Rooster, we have to stop bothering them.” Ming Shi pulled him out.

The latter wanted to stick around but had no reason to and begrudgingly accepted.

“Young Noble, where are you from?” He couldn’t help but ask before leaving.

“Want to know who I am?” Li Qiye smiled.

“No, I’m merely curious.” He put on a forced smile.

“Curiosity kills the cat. For example, you’re a tiger-ape yet you cultivate to take the form of a rooster, isn’t there something off about this?” Li Qiye smiled and said.

Goldcrest’s expression became one of astonishment.

“Haha, you got exposed.” Ming Shi laughed and gloated at someone else’s misery: “Should the young noble keep trying? Maybe there are more secrets.”

She didn’t want him to read her secrets but didn’t have a problem when he did it to someone else.

As for Goldcrest, he was truly astounded. Fewer than few knew his cultivation.

He had met numerous big shots and geniuses in Abroad yet none was able to realize this until now.

“No, no, I’m just a little vagabond demon not worth wasting your time on.” Goldcrest was drenched in sweat and bowed toward Li Qiye once before running away.

“Coward.” Ming Shi snorted while watching the guy run for his life.

Li Qiye stared at her and asked: “Do you want me to help? I can read your fortune once.”

“You can do that too?” Ming Shi was skeptical.

“Everything is laid out in books. Reading will teach you a little bit of everything.” Li Qiye said.

“Forget it, I’m not interested.” Ming Shi ran for her life as well, feeling a bit afraid. If Li Qiye were to read her fortune, maybe he would see all of her secrets.

Yunyun was both amused and curious. How did he gain this insightful vision? The reading excuse was clearly nonsense.

“Rest for a few days then we’ll see what the academy looks like now.” Li Qiye laid down and told Yunyun.

“You’ve been to the academy before, Young Noble?” She asked.

"A very, very long time ago." He said while staring at the ceiling. A while later, he closed his eyes, seemingly asleep.

Yunyun didn't bother him. She bowed once and took her leave.

During this short break, a guest came to visit Yunyun.

"Brother Bai?" She didn't expect to see Bai Shaojin.

They were not close and had only seen each other several times. She knew little about him because he didn't stand out in this sea of students. Nonetheless, his metallic presence did leave an impression on most.

Of course, some in Abroad hid their true origin for various reasons. The nobles didn't want unnecessary trouble while others might be hiding from pursuers.

All in all, the academy didn't care for it and let them do as they please.

"Lord Jian." He bowed to greet her but his eyes shifted around the room.

"Brother Jian, please call me by my name." She politely said.

“Very well.” Shaojin smiled before looking a bit awkward: “Miss Jian, i-is your friend, that young noble, is he here?”

Yunyun knew that he was here to see Li Qiye. This piqued her interest.

“Looking for me?” Li Qiye walked into the main hall and casually said.

“Greetings, Young Noble Li.” Shaojin immediately cupped his fist and bowed.

Yunyun’s curiosity grew because this guy was particularly strange today.

Li Qiye chuckled and said: “Visitors don’t come for no reason, especially not with a smile. Why are you here?”

“It’s just that I heard you have a special ability, your eyes can see everything, that’s why I’m here to chat a little bit.” Shaojin turned red and smiled wryly.

“Chat about what?” Li Qiye held a cup of tea prepared by Yunyun.

She kept quiet and waited for Shaojin to reveal his intention.

“It’s no big deal.” He looked around a bit before replying: “I was an avid reader for forever now and enjoyed learning about the past.”

“And?” Li Qiye blew on the tea, causing steam to waft away.

Shaojin pondered for a bit before replying: “I heard that in the long distant years, there existed a regal residence built by a majestic emperor.”

“Do you want to hear about the emperor or the residence?” Li Qiye asked.

“So you are truly confident about your historical knowledge, that’s great.” Shaojin thought that he had found the right person and became excited.

“I owe it all to books.” Li Qiye smiled.

“It’s so long ago now so it's unverifiable. I heard that this emperor famous for his benevolence and righteousness embarked on a long journey.” Shaojin went on.

“Go on.” Li Qiye enjoyed the tea and said.

Yunyun patiently waited for Shaojin’s question.

“...” The youth hesitated for a moment before gritting his teeth and making up his mind: “I read that the great emperor left something extremely magical before leaving on the journey. Have you heard of it before?”

“An emperor known for his benevolence and righteousness? You’re referring to the vessel titled Benevolence?” Li Qiye stared at him.

## Chapter 4919: Immemorial Epoch War

“Boom!” The teacup in Bai Shaojin’s hand fell to the ground and broke to pieces as he stared at Li Qiye in a daze.

Li Qiye, on the other hand, still enjoyed his tea with a smirk.

“Brother Bai, here you go.” Yunyun handed him another cup.

“I’m sorry.” He apologized to her after calming down: “I’ve made a fool out of myself.”

Yunyun only smiled and sat down, ready to listen.

“Young Noble, you seem to know everything.” Shaojin said with admiration.

“This shouldn’t be surprising. Anyone who knows about that period has heard of it before.” Li Qiye smiled.

“So what is this vessel?” Yunyun asked.

Li Qiye simply smiled and blew on the steaming liquid before taking a sip.

“It’s something left behind by an ancient emperor, an exceptional one at that.” Shaojin elaborated.

“You said something about a residence?” Yunyun recalled a particular legend about a mysterious faction.

“Yes, this faction included Immortal Emperor Ba Zhen and Immortal Emperor Can Long along with countless other emperors. They fought against Celestial Court and became a pillar of The People, always contending against the court’s main armies.” Yunyun brought this up.

“I heard similar things but who can really know the truth and details of the immemorial war.” Shaojin said.

Yunyun nodded in agreement. Nonetheless, that distant war still affected the current landscape.

According to several accounts, the calamity descended and Celestial Court illuminated the world with their gods returning.

For some reason, it started an expedition against those they deemed as sinners. This became a war between the hundred races versus devils, heaveners, and diviners. The classification known as The People and The Race didn’t exist back then.

This was a large-scale maneuver. Celestial Court ambushed, captured, and massacred entire populations. Even those protecting the sinners were branded.

Initially, only a few sects were involved in this matter. Later on, virtually all powers from both sides joined the fight.

Since Celestial Court had contributed to saving the world from calamity, they were respected and garnered great support.

Their momentum seemed unstoppable as they declared war against the hundred races, going as far as hunting emperors.

On the opposing side, Immortal Emperor Can Long and Immortal Emperor Hao Hai struggled against them. Celestial Court simply had a superior number of Grand Emperors and Immortal Monarchs.

Immortal Emperor Ba Zhen joined them subsequently and the situation escalated. None could escape the destruction, not even behemoths such as the Qian Clan.

This particular clan was once the leader of the three races. Alas, Celestial Court somehow branded them as sinners as well, resulting in their destruction.

The war lasted for ten thousand years, burying countless sects and kingdoms in the process. Graves of emperors and monarchs became more common than ever before. It was estimated that more than a hundred fell.

Finally, Celestial Court condemned everyone who was not on its side as sinners. The latter naturally would not accept this.

From then on, they called themselves The People and Celestial Court's allies were known as The Race.

"I just know that the casualties were immense on both sides, billions and billions of people died." Bai Shaojin sighed and whispered.

"The Race deserves it for supporting Celestial Court." Yunyun naturally stood on the side of The People.



"You can't say that when not all of the three races are on Celestial Court's side. Some hundred races' members defected as well." Shaojin said.

"... You're right, my comment was too extreme." Yunyun admitted: "The Qian was condemned as sinners as well, then we have the War Monarch Clan opposing Celestial Court subsequently."

"Indeed, the monarch clan stood on the side of the Qian and was wiped out by Celestial Court." Shaojin added.

The Qian's influence couldn't be overstated once as the leader of the three races. Alas, as the immemorial war went on, few wanted to support them against Celestial Court. One exception was the War Monarch Clan.

Rumor has it that they were close friends. The monarch clan's descendants were protected by the invincible World Emperor of the Qian. Thus, they didn't forget the love and sided with the Qian later on.

"So why are you here, Brother Bai?" Yunyun realized that the conversation has steered in a different path.

"Just to ask the young noble a few things about the past to satiate my curiosity." Shaojin smiled.

He then asked Li Qiye: "I believe the faction started by the benevolent emperor was destroyed in the war as well. Its name was Immemorial Palace, right?"

"Yes. Go on." Li Qiye smiled.

“Hmm...” Shaojin hesitated for a bit before continuing: “There is a particular legend.”

He then looked around first as if this was something that shouldn’t be said.

“What legend?” Yunyun played along.

“It says that as Immemorial Palace was on the verge of destruction, Feather Immortal Monarch sealed everything from the palace into a vessel known as Benevolence. I heard this when I was younger, have you heard something similar?” Shaojin asked. [1]

“I’m afraid my knowledge is insufficient, I haven’t heard this before.” Yunyun shook her head.

“I see...” Shaojin was disappointed and then asked Li Qiye: “What about you, Young Noble?”

Li Qiye sipped the tea again before smiling at him: “There’s something you don’t realize.”

“Huh?” Shaojin was confused.

“Do you know why you’re still able to stand before me, alive?” Li Qiye answered with a question.

“!” Shaojin was no fool and reacted: “Why do you want to kill me?”

Though he wasn't a supreme genius, he wasn't weak and had incredible resources. Another youth would find it impossible to kill him.

"Don't doubt the truth, one finger of mine is more than enough to kill you." Li Qiye read the youth's thoughts.

Shaojin turned red after hearing the blatant disdain. Nonetheless, he took a deep breath and slightly bowed: "Young Noble, why haven't you?"

Chapter 4920: Bai Shaojin's Origin

"Your ancestor was talented when he shouldered four Heaven's Wills. However, doubts over his dao hindered his potential." Li Qiye suddenly remarked and stunned Bai Shaojin.

This shocked him even more than Li Qiye's knowledge of the vessel. His legs became weak and he nearly dropped to the ground.

After a long while, he calmed down and stammered: "H-how do you know this?"

"I read." Li Qiye smiled.

Of course, this wasn't true. Such a thing didn't exist in any historical record. Even members of their clan didn't know about it.

He was an exception because the ancestors adored him. Whenever they had time, they would talk about their past during their time training.

Recently, the oldest ancestor stopped caring about mundane matters and didn't meet outsiders. Therefore, others had no chance of knowing this.

"Benevolence is not for a heaver to hold, death is the punishment." Li Qiye said: "However, out of consideration for your ancestor, I have spared you."

Shaojin shuddered and felt like an ant in this split second. It seemed like Li Qiye was not lying with the "one finger" comment.

He was a knowledgeable person who had met big shots before. His oldest ancestor was one of them - a participant and survivor of the immemorial war. Emperors and monarchs faltered yet he was still alive.

He didn't feel the same fear when seeing the ancestor. This was most likely due to the lack of animosity. However, could there be a gap between the ancestor and Li Qiye?

"T-thank you, Young Noble." He became drenched in a cold sweat.

"Good." Li Qiye smiled: "How is your ancestor doing?"

"The ancestor has not left the clan after his wife's passing." Shaojin respectfully said.

“Once gone, there can be no another.” Li Qiye sighed and said: “The calamity didn’t kill him but this delivers an everlasting injury.”

“Right, Young Noble.” Shaojin thought that Li Qiye had a good grasp on the ancestor’s current condition.

The ancestor was someone who didn’t fear heavenly tribulations or wars. Nothing hindered his step until the death of his wife. From then on, he no longer wanted to see visitors and chose to live reclusively.

The world no longer had anyone who truly understood him. The pain of the heart shut him off from the rest.

“When you see your ancestor later, tell him that Li Qiye gives his regard.” Li Qiye said.

“I will pass it on, Young Noble.” Shaojin bowed.

Yunyun could tell that Shaojin came from an ancient and famous clan. However, it also became clear that Li Qiye’s true identity was frightening.

“The vessel shouldn’t be in your possession but I shall make an exception. You may keep it.” Li Qiye said.

“Thank you, Young Noble.” Shaojin bowed again.

He spent immense efforts to obtain the vessel but the whole conversation made it sound as if Li Qiye was gifting it to him. Nonetheless, he knew that he wouldn’t be able to stop Li Qiye from taking it back.

“Where did you get it?” Li Qiye asked.

“A favorite pastime of mine during childhood was listening to the ancestor’s story about the immemorial war.” He responded.

“Your ancestor participated in the war?!” Yunyun was shocked because the war included legendary figures.

Shaojin nodded to her before continuing: “He mentioned something about Feather Immortal Monarch sealing Immemorial Palace’s resources into Benevolence. Alas, the monarch fell in battle and the vessel was lost on the battlefield. Its whereabouts became a mystery.”

“He sighed repeatedly whenever he talked about this war.” He went on: “Thus, the conversations always left a deep impression on me. Recently, I came to the place of this particular battle and I found something.”

“You excavated Benevolence.” Li Qiye smiled.

“Right, it took me a year of research before pinpointing the area of the battlefield which happened to be Immortal Pagoda’s territory. I snuck in and found the vessel.”

“So Deity’s missing treasure is this vessel.” Yunyun connected the dots.

Immortal Pagoda and Swordgrasp pursued the thief but didn’t know further details.

"In my opinion, Deity knew about it but couldn't find it. When I excavated it, a phenomenon occurred and I ran right away." He said.

"Why didn't you run home right away?" Yunyun said.

"My clan is on the border, not as close as the academy." Shaojin had an awkward smile.

"He doesn't want to drag his clan into this matter." Li Qiye answered: "You certainly heard of the academy's might and stories from your ancestor, that's why you're here, wanting to rely on the academy to stop Deity."

"... That is indeed my intention." Shaojin admitted.

Given Deity's capabilities, they would have traced and found him eventually. Bringing it back to the clan would result in a slaughter.

On the other hand, the academy had hidden dragons and crouching tigers.

"Every bite and every sip is preordained. Know where you stand and do not forget favors, this will help you succeed later on." Li Qiye said.

"I truly appreciate your advice, Young Noble." Shaojin bowed.

“You couldn’t open the vessel, thus you hoped to gather information from me.” Li Qiye accepted the gesture.

“Yes.” Shaojin responded.

Back at the gate, he came across Li Qiye who was able to tell that he had a treasure on him. That night, he tried everything but couldn’t open the vessel. He became curious about Li Qiye instead and wanted to test it out.

“Opening the vessel, not quite hard but not easy either. Merit laws and techniques are not of use here.” Li Qiye said.

“Then what is the actual method?” Shaojin became anxious.