

Emperor 4921

Chapter 4921: Find The Thief

“Only the heart.” Li Qiye replied.

“Only the heart...” Bai Shaojin echoed in a hushed voice.

"Cultivators often spout nonsense such as 'treasures belong to the virtuous'. In reality, possessing an item doesn't mean one can truly use it. In fact, it can lead to disastrous consequences, even resulting in the destruction of a sect." Li Qiye's gaze intensified as he continued.

Shaojin had thought of such possibilities before.

“Most importantly, more doesn't mean better and amusingly enough, stronger isn't better either. It has to be suitable because being obsessed with an unusable treasure will lead to ruin.” He finished in a thorough manner because the boy was a descendant of an old friend.

Shaojin shuddered as the weight of Li Qiye's words hit him. He bowed deeply to show his respect and understanding of the lesson imparted.

The truth was that his clan had plenty of treasures and heirlooms, enough to compete against anyone. He realized that he didn't need to concern himself with external treasures and merit laws. Once he became strong enough, internal resources would become available to him.

Given his current abilities, possessing top treasures could potentially be his biggest mistake.

Suddenly, their conversation was interrupted by loud noises and knocks coming from outside.

Jian Yunyun frowned and went over to open the door. When she opened it, she saw a group of disciples wearing the same uniform. These disciples were considered elites in any sect.

Her frown deepened as she recognized them as members of the Deity sect, currently studying in Abroad.

“What is it?” She asked.

One of them bowed and said: “Miss Jian, we apologize for the intrusion. We have been verifying fellow students who have just returned.”

“What does that have to do with me?” She said with an annoyed tone.

They have received orders from the seniors to look for Benevolence by checking potential suspects. Immortal Pagoda and Swordgrasp were hellbent on this goal.

Even though they were all students, Jian Yunyun's status far exceeded any of theirs. She had the potential to become the successor of The Alliance and even Primal. These uninvited visitors didn't dare to offend her.

However, they still had to carry out their mission and fulfill their duty, as it was of utmost importance and negligence was unacceptable.

“Nothing, Senior Sister Jian.” An older student was quick-witted and spoke with a smile: “It’s just that we heard you brought a friend home. You know that good and bad people intermingle in Abroad, so we would like your friend to register in order to keep everyone safe.”

He gave a proper and acceptable reason.

“No need.” Yunyun said coldly.

She had both authority and power to back up her words. In the case of an actual fight, it would be hard for them to find students capable of stopping her.

The students exchanged glances after hearing this.

“What is it?” A voice came from the hall.

They looked inside and saw Li Qiye walking out.

“That’s him.” One student raised his voice.

All eyes were on Li Qiye as he walked out of the house. Bai Shaojin had already left from the back entrance under Li Qiye’s command.

Those from Deity were happy to see him. One of the speakers earlier said: "Senior Sister Jian, we only want to register him by asking a few basic questions, there's no malice involved."

The disciple turned to Li Qiye and asked politely: "Brother, may I ask where you are from?" He wanted to get the information quickly before Jian Yunyun had a chance to refuse. The task was important, and failure to complete it could result in punishments from the senior members of the sect.

Li Qiye gave a non-committal answer: "I am just a passerby. I am from where I am from."

The group exchanged glances, some becoming visibly annoyed. One of them shouted: "You have some nerve to not take this seriously!"

Members of Deity were proud regardless of their actual origin. The lineage had reigned for a long time, and they took pride in this. Thus, Li Qiye's nonchalant response was viewed as a provocation.

"Who gave you the right to shout before us?" Yunyun's eyes turned aggressive as she unleashed her sovereign aura. It filled the courtyard and left the uninvited students frozen, feeling as if they were being weighed down by an immense pressure akin to the weight of a mountain.

They were taken aback and stumbled backward. Although she was not the top genius of this generation, she was still a Supreme Sovereign. They exchanged glances among themselves, realizing that their position was disadvantageous.

"Miss Yun, please don't be angry. I apologize on their behalf. "Another person stepped forward, exuding a powerful aura that counterbalanced hers.

The members of the Deity sect made way for him and bowed, showing reverence. The youth had a halo behind him, pulsing with an impressive aura that left others in awe and trembling in his presence.

"Halo Scion." Yunyun frowned slightly after seeing him.

"Miss Yun, call me Huantian, no need to be a stranger." He looked like a fan of Yunyun. [1]

"I didn't expect you to support Deity." She had no intention of returning the sentiment and said coldly.

"Our ancient ancestor is close to Immortal Pagoda, I am here to help a bit." He replied.

The mention of this ancestor immediately silenced the scene. He was referring to the legendary Skystomper God of Heaven Burial.

"That's your problem, don't be overbearing in my yard. Leave." She responded firmly.

But Halo Scion had no intention of leaving, his eyes fixed on Li Qiye: "Miss Yun, where is he from?"

"None of your business." Jian Yunyun's expression grew increasingly unfriendly.

Chapter 4922: Deity's Arrogance

By this point, many neutral students had gathered around Jian Yunyun's house, watching the scene unfold and making comments.

In fact, there had been underlying tensions in Abroad for the last two days. Members of Deity had teamed up to spy on their fellow students. The simpler cases had resulted in minor questioning, while others had escalated into full-blown interrogations.

Those from The People sect despised the actions of the members of Deity. However, since they were united and powerful, there was nothing that could be done to stop them.

Therefore, the crowd enjoyed seeing Jian Yunyun standing up to Halo Scion, as he had been repeatedly doing this over the last two days.

Many didn't dare to speak out against him, as he was a formidable cultivator and most importantly, a descendant of the Skystomper God.

"That's Senior Sister Jian for you, so cool." One student whispered.

Her fans had nothing but praise for her. One of them said: "Obviously, she's not weaker than Halo Scion at all, and need I say more about her prestige?"

Halo Scion appeared embarrassed after receiving a stern reaction from Yunyun. He smiled wryly and said: "Miss Yun, this is for your sake just in case there is anything shady going on."

"No need. Please return, this is Abroad Palace of the academy, not Deity." She refused.

The group found themselves in a tough position due to her unyielding attitude.

“Miss Jian, you are mistaken here. Abroad has villains and thieves roaming about.” A steady voice answered instead.

Another youth appeared and everyone from Deity bowed toward him.

He donned a dark-green robe, exuding an air of both handsomeness and authority. He resembled a concealed blade, ready to decapitate at a moment’s notice. His stern gaze made others tremble.

“Swordgrasp Young Noble.” Some blurted out his title. Even those who had prejudice toward Deity lowered their head.

“So that’s their backer.” Someone else whispered. Of course, this was obvious given their recent arrogance.

The young noble was an Immortal Sovereign. Only one or two students in Abroad were stronger than him.

His support emboldened them, allowing them to search people and even their dwellings. He naturally came from Swordgrasp - a unique power in Deity since it could communicate directly with Divine and Heaven Alliance.

In a sense, it could control all of Deity. The only thing preventing this was Conceal Conqueror’s strength. Her current sect, Godchaser Palace, served as the current leader of Deity.

Nonetheless, Swordgrasp’s influence remained relatively strong in Deity.

“Who are you? Which sect are you from?” The young noble came over and glared at Li Qiye.

His tone was far more demanding than Halo Scion. The latter was a fan of Jian Yunyun and remained cordial.

“Introduce yourself first before asking someone.” Li Qiye leaned on the door and smiled.

His casual demeanor frustrated the young noble. He was actually considered a supreme genius, half a level above Halo Scion and Jian Yunyun.

“Don’t be suicidal.” His eyes gleamed menacingly.

His aura erupted and made many stagger backward. Weaker students actually fell to the ground.

“Swordgrasp, you don’t get to act unbridled at my place.” Yunyun was furious and activated her power.

“Buzz.” A tree capable of shouldering the heaven appeared behind her. It opened its own domain to stop the incoming aura.

After all, Heavenraiser Tree was a peerless art. She managed to stop a slash from Ascension Sacred Lord, let alone someone from the same generation.

“Miss Jian, harboring thieves will provoke our lineage.” Swordgrasp Young Noble didn’t relent.

Eyes turned toward Li Qiye. Some thought that he might be the thief.

The news of this matter had spread all over the academy. However, the culprit remained at large.

However, after getting a good look at Li Qiye, they didn't think that he was someone capable of stealing from Deity.

"Deity is rather imperious nowadays. Do you think you're still special at the academy? Run back to Deity if you want to act cool." Ming Shi landed next to Yunyun and laughed.

She winked at Li Qiye and said: "Don't be afraid of them, we got your back."

"Princess Ming Shi is here." Students from The People became more confident after seeing her.

She was from Untethered which was stronger than Primal right now. This was the only lineage in the lower continents capable of competing against Deity since it had a seven-fruit dragon lord.

"Ming Shi, you wish to get involved in this matter?" Swordgrasp coldly said.

Meanwhile, Halo Scion quietly told Yunyun: "Miss Yun, abstain from this serious matter. Deity is not messing around this time, ancient ancestors are present."

Heaven Burial and Deity were on the same side. Alas, he still wanted to help Yunyun.

Others heard this and got chills coursing down their spine. There were ancient ancestors presiding over this matter? This was far beyond their reach then.

“So what? Our lineage can bring ten here right now, you’re not the only one with ancient ancestors.” Ming Shi had no fear, unlike Yunyun. Primal lacked solidarity currently and she was powerless.

“Hell yeah!” A member of The People shouted: “We have ancient ancestors too!”

“Damn right, Deity should know better than barking here.” Another joined in after Untethered’s involvement.

Chapter 4923: Swordgrasp Young Noble

Swordgrasp Young Noble had an ugly expression. Jian Yunyun was not only challenging his prestige but also provoking Deity.

They only wanted to search, not expecting so much resistance to the point of it being a matter of The Race versus The People.

The racial animosity was long-lasting in the past even in the lower three continents. Alas, the end of the great war resulted in peace. They intermingled among themselves and stopped fighting.

Minor skirmishes were unavoidable but the overall picture looked optimistic.

Abroad Hall was the perfect example. Not to mention the students, even conquerors from both sides co-existed in peace.

Now, Swordgrasp Young Noble took pride in his bloodline and background. Therefore, it was inevitable for him to look down on The People.

However, these students were shouting and putting down The Race? He naturally didn't stand for this.

"It sounds like The People are a bunch of thieves, not willing to be transparent. Sinners will always be sinners, their vicious nature will never be gone. However, you have gone too far by stealing from Deity. This is punishable by death." Swordgrasp didn't hold back.

"Bah!" Ming Shi instantly responded: "You act as if The Race and Deity are superior. If Deity was so great, why couldn't it stop Luminous Conqueror from crushing it?"

"That's right, Deity doesn't get to bully people without consequences!" A few students from The People started shouting.

"Demon will stand with The People here since Deity has overstepped its bounds." Another cultivator spoke: "Your lineage lost something and immediately suspected us, wanting to search students' homes. Do you still view everyone as sinners? No, this is Abroad, show some respect."

This person was none other than Goldcrest Young Noble from Demon. He chose to support Ming Shi and Jian Yunyun because he wanted to please Yunyun.

Back before the classification, many demons were part of the hundred races. They were deemed sinners by Celestial Court as well.

Today, Demon stood with The People. The ten great mountains didn't always follow the rule but they often supported The People if a choice had to be made.

"Well said!" Many supported him: "Goldcrest is indeed a genius of Demon and our faction!"

Of course, he didn't care for these praises and got closer to Yunyun: "Miss Jian, do you agree?"

"You're completely right, Brother Goldcrest." She said flatly.

Though she wasn't overly receptive, he was still more than satisfied: "Thank you, thank you."

Ming Shi smirked at him and said: "I didn't know a rooster is this good at pleasing women."

"No, I was merely telling the truth." Goldcrest laughed heartily.

"So shameless." Ming shi commented.

Those from Deity were surrounded on all fronts. Swordgrasp Young Noble's expression became increasingly unhappy.

"Is this a challenge to Deity?" He uttered coldly.

“Don’t try to scare us, paper tiger. You don’t speak for Deity or Conceal Conqueror.” Ming Shi barked back: “Let me ask you then, is this a challenge to Untethered?”

She copied his tone and demeanor for the last phrase before bursting out in laughter. The crowd seemed to enjoy her joke and laughed as well. Her bold attitude gave them confidence in that Deity wouldn’t be able to act with wanton disregard.

Li Qiye also smiled because he enjoyed her quick-witted tongue.

“Looks like it’s time to find out who is superior.” Swordgrasp was livid.

“Clank!” A sword flash gleamed in his eyes.

Everyone felt a terrible sword dao wafting in the air. Weaker students were immediately suppressed.

“An Immortal Sovereign.” Even top students retreated, not daring to be brave.

Only students such as Ming Shi, Jian Yunyun, and Goldcrest Young Noble could withstand it.

“If you’re looking for a fight, you got it.” Yunyun activated her Heavenraiser Tree again.

“You can prevent this by handing the brat over.” He gazed at Li Qiye.

“You don’t get to command people in Abroad.” She said.

“Miss Yun, there is no need to involve yourself over him, it is a serious matter.” Halo Scion urged.

“No, if Swordgrasp Young Noble wishes to be imperious, then I want to see his sword dao today.” Goldcrest stepped in front of Yunyun, wanting to fight in her stead.

“How decisive, I’m sure Big Sis will appreciate your move.” Ming Shi gave him a thumbs-up and said: “Teach that Swordgrasp a lesson, leave the Halo brat to me, wait, no, Big Sis can fight him.”

“Very well.” Goldcrest was motivated due to his competitive nature on top of this being a chance to earn romance points.

His demonic energy surged. Though he was small in stature, people felt as if he has become a giant.

“What an impressive aura, he is definitely a top contender.” One spectator said.

“So be it.” Swordgrasp intensified his aura and immobilized many spectators.

“...” Many trembled in fear after sensing this sword energy.

“Halo, shall we spar?” Yunyun asked.

Halo Scion smiled wryly and glanced at Li Qiye: “Miss Yun, you know that I have no intention of fighting you. However, if he is actually the culprit, I once again ask you to hand him over, not because I’m working for Deity or anything. I’m serious when I say that Deity has several ancient ancestors here right now, I only want what’s best for you.”

This was indeed the truth. He came from Heaven Burial and didn’t need to work so hard. However, he was good friends with Swordgrasp’s group.

Most importantly, he wanted Yunyun to stay away from this mess because Deity had powerful cultivators available.

Chapter 4924: First Brother

Goldcrest and Swordgrasp’s aura filled the area and made students gasp.

The former’s demonic energy resembled an all-devouring tsunami. Swordgrasp’s sword energy was extremely sharp and made those nearby feel a bone-deep pain.

They were some of the strongest geniuses in Abroad. The crowd wisely backed off in order to avoid needless injuries.

Some capable students whispered among themselves. Those from The Race sided with Swordgrasp and vice versa.

“Boom!” Suddenly, a figure appeared, landing with a powerful impact that created a deep pit and cracked the surrounding ground.

He stood there and released a rampaging aura far surpassing the two geniuses.

“A dragon lord!” Everyone felt something different. This power froze both Supreme and Immortal Sovereigns, seizing the audience by their throat.

All eyes were on this newcomer - a youth shrouded in radiance. Each strand of light looked sacred as if he was a god and a representative of the light.

His eyes were stern and imposing as he released powerful waves of energy to dissipate the demonic and sword energy.

This sent some students flying up into the air. The stronger geniuses tumbled backward.

“Radiant Young Monarch!” Both regular and brilliant students shouted his title.

Those from The People shuddered, no longer cheering Goldcrest Young Noble.

“So this is a peerless genius.” They were afraid to see him.

On the other hand, those from The Race had nothing but admiration since they believed in his supremacy.

His title was well-known throughout the lower continents. He hailed from Godchaser Palace, a great power comparable to Eight-stallion Dynasty when its dao lord was still around.

Whenever this sect was brought up, people would think of a particular being - Conceal Conqueror.

However, it had another supreme genius - Radiant Monarch. Conceal Conqueror was considered the number one cultivator while Radiant Monarch stood at the peak of the young generation.

Conceal Conqueror was half a generation older than Radiant Monarch. Some speculated that if they were from the same generation, Radiant Monarch might not be weaker at all.

Even Conceal couldn't fully overshadow the monarch - a testament to the monarch's abilities.

Radiant Young Monarch was a direct disciple. He didn't let down his master by also reigning over his peers, already possessing one sacred fruit at such a young age.

The crowd didn't dare to meet his gaze. Their confidence crumbled before this superior cultivator.

"Brother Radiant." The arrogant Swordgrasp and Halo Scion greeted him.

"Thieves have stolen a supreme item from Deity. It must be returned so I would appreciate your cooperation. There will be consequences otherwise." The young monarch asserted.

The Race's members became haughty right away, knowing that their opponents must yield.

“How awe-inspiring, Young Monarch.” Ming Shi sneered: “But you have no jurisdiction over us here.”

“Your Highness, excuse me then.” The young monarch focused his aura straight on the princess.

She couldn’t deal with it so Yunyun used her tree technique to create a separate barrier.

Alas, he had no problem pushing the barrier down.

“Damn it!” Goldcrest Young Noble shouted and wanted to help.

“Boom!” However, another cultivator appeared and raised his sword, easily dispelling the young monarch’s pressure.

“Young Monarch, this stops here.” He spoke in a calm and measured tone, his gray robe flowing around him as he commanded attention with his majestic presence.

“First Brother!” Students from both sides lowered their head once to show respect.

“First Brother.” The young monarch became serious.

He was the student in charge of Abroad Hall - Yue Shanjian. Zhuo Yijian, the Sword Lord, was his master.

In the last millennium, he presided over the matters in Abroad. Everyone who came in would address him as “First Brother”.

He was strong enough to deserve their respect, being a one-fruit dragon lord.

Chapter 4925: Expulsion

In the last thousand years, top masters have traveled to Abroad for dao study. They were stronger than Yue Shanjian but still called him “First Brother”.

This wasn’t due to his age but rather, his responsibility and duty in Abroad.

“Clank!” The young monarch’s aura couldn’t get through the unbreakable sword dao.

Sword hymns could be heard and it actually pushed back the light.

“First Brother.” The young monarch’s expression soured.

Yue Shanjian waved his hand and said: “This ends here. Everyone, leave.”

“First Brother, letting thieves run rampant will diminish Abroad Hall’s prestige.” The young monarch didn’t want to give up.

He wisely ignored Deity's action and focused on the "thieves" instead.

"Abroad is an educational institution for all, whether they be a saint or a villain. The everlasting prestige of Abroad won't be ruined over this little matter." Shanjian responded.

He spoke calmly but with confidence and stirred the crowd. This was indeed the truth since countless top masters had learned at Abroad before.

The lengthy history naturally included heinous villains as well. However, did this ruin Abroad's reputation and prestige? No, cultivators in the lower continents continued to join it.

This was the all-welcoming Abroad - something different from any sect or kingdom. No single cultivator would ever make it more famous or lessen its popularity.

Even if there were thieves and villains here in Abroad today, it simply made no difference.

"But First Brother, villains and thieves should be persecuted." The young monarch still tried to take the moral high ground.

"Radiant Young Monarch." Shanjian stared at him and said: "Deity must stop its operation right now in Abroad. This is my will and the academy's. Pass this message to the ancestors."

He got straight to the point instead of running around in a circle with the young genius. Plus, the academy didn't give anyone face regardless of their background and backing.

“First Brother, do you wish to protect the thieves?” The young monarch asked.

“If you are unsatisfied with anything, you may leave Abroad. The academy does not restrict students from doing what they want but also does not welcome troublemakers.” Shanjian responded, implying that expulsion might be the consequence.

This flustered the young monarch. Everyone immediately quieted down.

Entering Abroad was rather easy. Just a quick registration was all it took. The reason didn't matter either; even beggars could come here to search for food.

Expulsion simply wasn't a thing in history. After all, if people hated it here, they could just leave. In a sense, being expelled would be extraordinarily rare - potentially unprecedented - and humiliating. Everyone in the lower continents would hear of this and laugh at them.

Rumors might be spread as well regarding the circumstances, true or not. Since heinous villains had gone here without being kicked out, what would one have to do to suffer this punishment?

Therefore, the young monarch didn't want the infamy. This humiliation would follow him for a lifetime.

His friends, Swordgrasp and Halo, didn't interfere either. Their background didn't matter since even Conceal Conqueror obeyed the rules here.

In the end, the young monarch scowled once before leaving. Throwing out fierce words was useless because the academy has shown its stance, not allowing Deity to continue its search.

“This matter is over, disperse.” Shanjian told the crowd and then left.

Both factions bowed in his direction since they knew that he was only carrying out his duty. He had never shown favoritism to either side before.

The crowd dispersed, leaving Li Qiye and the others behind.

“Young Noble, we protected you just now, isn’t this a big contribution? If you have anything nice, you should share it with us.” Ming Shi winked at him.

“Big contribution? No, this is how it should be. If The People do not show solidarity, they deserve to be bullied by The Race.” Li Qiye chuckled.

“You’re right, Young Noble.” Yunyun responded.

At the start, if students from The People had shown enough courage and solidarity to stop Deity’s search, this wouldn’t have happened in the first place.

“How stingy.” Ming Shi murmured in a cute manner.

As the conversation continued, a girl with a scattering of freckles on her face approached. Though her attire was unassuming and her features were unremarkable, her eyes were striking as she fixed her gaze on Li Qiye.

Chapter 4926: Mysterious Freckled Girl

She appeared to be around the same age as A'zhui from Eight-stallion. Her eyes brimmed with vigor and cleverness.

Her calm aura resembled a heavy stone submerged in dead water as if she had a vow of silence. The myriad laws and the world itself found serenity in her presence.

Only the gentle wind was left behind and the quiet trickling of springs. This helped those near her find peace. There was no need to speak, only silence meditation.

She stood in front of Li Qiye and stared at him. Her conspicuous freckles didn't ruin her beauty but actually accentuated it. She seemed to be happy like a little sparrow and infected everyone with her mood.

Her big, round eyes seemed to be speaking to him. Li Qiye crouched down to stare into her eyes. It was the same as being in the middle of an ocean.

"Little one, do you have something to say to the young noble?" Ming Shi asked.

The girl didn't respond and continued staring at Li Qiye. He did the same, appreciating her jewel-like eyes.

After a while, he gently rubbed her head for a bit before pulling back. She smiled happily and something akin to the harmonization of the dao occurred.

She then bowed deeply toward Li Qiye before leaving.

“That girl doesn’t speak, maybe she can’t?” Ming Shi said.

“She can.” Li Qiye smiled.

“So you know about her? Tell me.” Ming Shi asked.

Li Qiye only smiled in response.

“She joined about the same time as us but I haven’t heard her talk before either.” Goldcrest Young Noble became curious.

“There are many strange and interest students in Abroad, she is one of them.” Yunyun said.

“Yes, a mystery indeed.” Ming Shi said: “No one knows her origin and cultivation method. She doesn’t speak or hang around anyone.”

At first, Ming Shi thought that the freckled girl was mute and couldn’t speak. This filled her with sympathy so she asked around for the girl’s information. No one knew anything.

Yunyun could tell by Li Qiye’s smile that he could see what was going on but didn’t want to tell them.

The freckled girl left a deep impression on her. Why was she here in Abroad? She didn't look like a mortal or someone from a smaller sect because a mortal body wouldn't have that much spirituality in the eyes.

Of course, she was merely curious and didn't feel the same sympathy as Ming Shi. The latter was different since she came from Untethered.

This lineage currently was mighty. She had powerful seniors who loved her. Her favorable environment fostered kindness and virtuous intentions.

The same couldn't be said about Yunyun. Primal was currently a mess and she was overwhelmed with responsibility. She had no time to worry about anything else.

The group went back inside the house. Ming Shi sat down and said: "Deity must have lost something incredible, that's why Radiant Young Monarch's group is so anxious."

"Yes, after all, Swordgrasp and Immortal Pagoda are working together, Godchaser Palace too. Godchaser is very prideful and doesn't like to work with others unless it is something of crucial importance." Goldcrest added.

Normally, Swordgrasp School had a unique position in Deity. The current generation was an exception because of Conceal Conqueror.

Her existence propelled Godchaser above all the other sects in Deity. Moreover, it had Radiant Monarch as well.

Yunyun was amused because she knew the answer - Benevolence. Of course, she wasn't in a position to tell them.

"Okay, if there's nothing else, let's take a break." Li Qiye smiled and had no interest in this matter. He only wanted to visit the academy for a bit to see this old place.

"There is something else, very exciting stuff." Ming Shi giggled at him.

"What is it?" He asked.

"Our class will be graduating soon." She revealed.

Goldcrest and Yunyun exchanged glances, becoming emotional.

"Time passes by so fast. No wonder why some stick around after their term." Goldcrest sentimentally said.

There was no requirement to leave after graduation. If one had thick skin, they could continue staying. Some would actually do so their whole life.

Because of this generosity, those who became successful later on would send amazing gifts back here.

After all, cultivation was difficult. Their period at the academy might be the easiest time. It gave them shelter and peace, no need to worry about life and death.

“Since we’re graduating, we need to gift the academy with something.” Ming Shi said.

“Do you guys have anything in mind?” Goldcrest asked.

Some students had amazing resources due to their backgrounds. They could indeed give great gifts to the academy during their graduation.

“I haven’t thought about it.” Yunyun smiled wryly. The situation in Primal didn’t give her time to think.

“We have to brainstorm then.” Ming Shi smiled.

“I’m not a student at the academy.” Li Qiye didn’t want to participate.

“Sure, there are two things that will interest you.” Ming Shi said.

“What?” He asked.

“The graduation ceremony and the deer pawnshop.” She said.

“Oh right, I completely forgot about it.” Goldcrest calculated with his fingers: “Seems like our class is rather lucky.”

“We have to go take a look.” Yunyun actually became excited.

“Not just take a look, we should do a great job in order to repay the academy.” Ming Shi said.

Chapter 4927: Deer Pawnshop

The stress caused by Deity’s search disappeared right away since many students were about to graduate.

The academy would open its door and the timing coincided with the appearance of a certain pawnshop.

There were timings to its appearance. Moreover, only students were allowed to participate. The risk was low while the reward was potentially sky-high.

Excitement filled the air for the incoming ceremony. Graduates would have a chance to gift the academy a useful gift or merit laws. Or, they could also earn generous prizes during the ceremony.

There was nothing else like the academy in the lower continents. One just had to participate in the graduation ceremony and test their luck.

Many have been lucky in history and became famous later on. This was another reason why top masters paid the academy back so handsomely. Of course, some students still thought about what they should leave for the academy before all of this.

“Let’s go to Book, maybe we’ll find a nice treasure for the academy.” A genius from a great power contemplated this matter.

Of course, others only cared about their own gains during the ceremony. Discussions sprung everywhere.

“If we can obtain Demon Conqueror’s treasure during the graduation ceremony, we can ride it to the top.” One student said.

“Our ancestor left behind an heirloom here, I want to bring it back this generation.” A member of a declining sect relied on this opportunity to revitalize it.

“Don’t forget about the deer pawnshop. If we get lucky there, we’ll be able to pay the academy back.” Another said.

A few merely wanted everything while not paying any price. In their mind, they wanted to become invincible first. It wouldn’t be too late to return to the academy afterward.

Meanwhile, the academy was busy hanging up red lanterns as well. Later on that day, they floated up in the air and created a path reaching the horizon.

“Sky Way is up now. We’re so lucky, the pawnshop will really be there.” Many students became ecstatic.

“Let’s go, no more wasting time. It will start soon.” Some couldn’t wait any longer.

Unfortunately, it was packed with people even before the start of the event. After all, everyone from Abroad was trying to get there.

“We should go too, everyone is there already.” Ming Shi couldn’t wait and started pulling Li Qiye while running.

“For the majority of people, seeing the pawnshop is the blessing of a lifetime.” Goldcrest told Yunyun who wasn’t that interested.

She didn’t come for any treasure, only to look for a certain person during the ceremony. This was one clue to the empress dowager’s disappearance.

Nonetheless, she didn’t want to kill the mood and followed along.

“You know that there is an earth-shattering secret behind this pawnshop? Hehehe, you’ve read many books and know everything, right? This is your time to shine.” She happily pulled Li Qiye’s arm.

“How so?” Li Qiye asked.

“Watch and tell me when there is something really good before pawning, then I can show it off during the ceremony.” She said.

“Why should I?” He gave her the side eye.

“This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity since the pawnshop isn’t always there. Most importantly, you can finally make good use of your knowledge. If you can figure out its mystery, wouldn’t it be the proudest moment of your life?” She said shamelessly, trying to get him to help.

“What’s there to be proud of about figuring out one mystery, let alone it being the proudest moment of my life?” Li Qiye said.

“Oh? Then what do you think is worth being your proudest moment?” She asked.

“Being a good person.” He responded with a serious tone.

She stopped running and stared at him: “What kind of an answer is that? Being a good person isn’t hard at all. Even mortals can do it without any problem.”

Yunyun and Goldcrest didn’t expect this response either.

“For me, being a good person is the hardest pursuit since it requires an unchanging heart.” Li Qiye said.

“An unchanging heart...” Yunyun realized something.

“For a tiger to be good, it needs to not eat humans.” Li Qiye said.

“But you’re not a tiger.” Ming Shi retorted.

Li Qiye smiled mysteriously. For some reason, this smile creeped her out.

“Okay, don’t be going crazy on me now, we can just go test our luck.” Ming Shi shook her head and kept on pulling Li Qiye forward.

Once they made it there, they saw that it was completely packed. Nonetheless, male students came over and showed them a spot.

“Looks like our Big Sis’ charm is unbeatable.” Ming Shi laughed due to the suitors making a path for them.

“It’s starting soon.” A student said.

They were one of the latest groups to get here. Everyone silently awaited the pawnshop’s appearance.

“An evil wind.” Li Qiye suddenly noticed something and focused his gaze deep into the sky.

Chapter 4928: Deer Man

“What the heck are you talking about, evil wind?” Ming Shi asked. Yunyun and Goldcrest didn’t feel anything either.

Li Qiye didn’t look down for a while, still with a smile.

“Is there something peculiar?” Yunyun whispered.

"It's coming." Li Qiye said.

The princess heard this and grabbed Li Qiye's hand again: "You have to help me, let me be lucky once."

"I'm not your lucky star, how am I going to do that?" Li Qiye responded.

"No, do it right now." She coquettishly winked her eyes repeatedly, trying to be cute: "This pawnshop absolutely has numerous secrets, our ancestors have tried before to no avail. Don't be shy now and miss this rare opportunity, this is your chance."

Her tone became forceful at the end, causing the other two to shake their head.

"The princess has no shame." Goldcrest commented.

"I dare you to say that again, Rooster." Ming Shi glared at him.

He chuckled and wasn't afraid of her. Plus, he gave her a lot of leeway due to her lively and kind nature.

"Now." Li Qiye said.

Ming Shi dropped the issue with Goldcrest and looked up at the sky.

“Ring, ring, ring...” Everyone suddenly heard ringing from a distance even though there was nothing in sight.

It brought about a joyous atmosphere as if something grand was coming.

“Finally!” Students rejoiced after hearing this and lost their patience. All turned their head toward the source.

Radiant Young Monarch and Swordgrasp Young Noble were present as well, sharing the same excitement.

The ringing became increasingly pleasant and louder. Suddenly, a figure appeared and left a dark trail along the way. Each leap consisted of ten million miles, taking it from the horizon to above the academy in no time at all.

“Yes!” The students sheered.

“It’s here, it’s here!” Ming Shi couldn’t contain her excitement and gripped Li Qiye’s hand tighter:
“Young Noble, look, look at its secrets!”

So it turned out that the so-called pawnshop was a carriage pulled by a deer. The carriage was bright red and had a happy aura.

A lantern was hung by the side, nearly out of oil so the flame was flickering. Nonetheless, it managed to light a path for the carriage.

Everyone then turned toward the driver - an old man also wearing a bright red robe. It covered him completely and prevented others from seeing his frame.

He had a red hat as well on top of a long, white beard, hiding his features.

The thing attracting everyone's attention was an overly large sack right behind him. It seemed to have numerous treasures inside.

"Wait, it's all wood." A few students took note of this and were surprised. Everything was made from wood, whether it be the deer, the carriage, or the old man.

Upon closer inspection, they didn't seem to be carved but were actual entities. It was as if there was a type of tree growing into this form after countless years. All three entities were one, not separate.

Moreover, they had a connection to the world itself. As it flew in the air, it was no different from the air or the earth.

"I didn't expect this." A first-timer student said.

"This is the pawnshop, it has always been like this." A friend who had heard about this from his ancestor said.

"Are the rumors true then?" The first student asked, skeptical about this being's fortuitous ability.

“It has been around for millions of years. In fact, it might date back to the founding of the academy, so you tell me.” The friend responded while staring at him as if he was an idiot.

Numerous stories existed of lucky people becoming masters thanks to this event, the most recent one being Greenmountain Conqueror.

He was a great genius from Reincarnation but had issues with the grand dao, unable to harmonize with it.

As a student in Abroad, he eventually found a scroll from this event, and harmonization became possible. Due to his innate talent, the dao became easy enough for him to become a conqueror.

This was a prime example of the potential benefits stemming from this event. Thus, all the students were excited to participate.

“Long time no see, young friends.” The wooden man spoke. His voice was no different from a living grandpa and was brimming with life.

The tone soothed and comforted listeners, changing their state of mind. Skeptical students suddenly found the rumors plausible afterward.

Chapter 4929: Pawning

“Children, the time to pawn is now.” The old man said: “Take out whatever you don’t need even if it’s a broken flower pot.”

He tapped on the red sack and added: "Inside this are celestial treasures and supreme dao arts, I would go even as far as using the word 'immortal' to describe some of them..."

This excited the crowd right away. Their eyes flashed brightly but they didn't notice the old man's expression.

A more neutral party would view him as a merchant trying to trick innocent children. Of course, he greatly exaggerated as well, wanting to advertise his items.

Alas, the students truly believed the historical precedent and ignored his shady demeanor and speech. After all, even conquerors were created by this event.

"Anything will do?" One student shouted.

"Of course, whatever you don't need at home, even a soiled underwear when you were younger. On the other hand, a top treasure will do as well. Remember, there is only one chance." The old man said.

Many students laughed after hearing the joke.

"So I can pick up a random stone and pawn it?" Another became curious.

"Indeed, but just one chance." The old man laughed.

"Idiot, still want everything for nothing?" A knowledgeable student snorted: "No sincerity at all, you won't get anything."

The rules were rather clear - everyone had one chance. It didn't matter what the chosen item was; it could be a rock or a piece of cloth.

Some believed that the exchange was not equivalent. However, most didn't buy it. They believed that there must be some sincerity involved.

Those who wanted the best treasures while giving up nothing couldn't possibly win. Therefore, most took the exchange rather seriously.

"Do you really have those great treasures?" One student asked.

"Of course, the best of the best." The old man patted his sack and said: "This is your opportunity to get what you want. If you dare to imagine your wildest dream, it will be in here."

"Then you have the best weapons as well. Are you not afraid of someone robbing you?" Another asked.

The old man only smiled without answering.

"That's suicidal. An ancient god believed in his power before and was obliterated." An older student responded instead.

"Moonbreaker Wolf." A different student took a deep breath and remarked.

In reality, some had attempted this before. A particularly famous example was Moonbreaker Wolf - a monster with ten sacred fruits. He waited in Abroad until the event for an ambush, only to go down as a tragic reminder.

According to the legend, he was captured by the old man and thrown into the sack, never to appear again.

Thus, top masters themselves didn't dare to try, let alone the students.

"Okay, children, let's get started. We don't have much time." The old man smiled heartily, looking like a peddler selling subpar merchandise to ignorant children.

"I'll try." Someone became impatient but his friend pulled him back.

"Don't be the first, I've heard that the first trader always had the worst luck." The friend whispered.

It's clear that those aware of this were hesitant and waited for someone else.

"Really?" The student asked.

"Yes, the probability of winning is already low. The odds are worst for the first and last." The friend said confidently.

However, one youth wearing a tight robe defied this belief. He walked forward, accompanied by a pure aura. Though it wasn't oppressive, it granted him an everlasting presence. Everything else including dao power was forced into the rotation.

Students trembled and didn't dare to get close to him.

"The young noble of Reincarnation City, Qing Songke." Everyone in Abroad knew who he was - a genius on the same level as Yunyun and the others. He came from one of the twelve lineages - Reincarnation.

He came closer and bowed toward the old man: "Sir, I heard that our Greenmountain Conqueror had obtained a fortune from you, an amazing scroll. May I ask if this is the truth?"

Everyone listened attentively because they were aware of the popular tale.

"Too many young friends have come and I don't remember." The old man was not interested and waved his hand: "If you want to pawn something, do it, there is a long line behind you."

Songke took a deep breath. Though he wasn't from Time Mountain as the conqueror, he had always viewed Greenmountain as an idol.

He wanted to participate in the pawning process and become a second Greenmountain Conqueror.

Thus, he gritted his teeth and made up his mind. He took out a box and opened it, revealing a gentle glow.

He handed it to the old man and said: "This is our city's Heaventouched Water Jade. I am pawning it."

"Damn!" Many students blurted out.

This was a special product from the city. Only one would appear every thousand years.

The old man didn't bother looking at it. He put it away and untied the sack, demanding: "Go, one chance."

Chapter 4930: Gambling

Qing Songke prepared himself and reached inside the sack.

Everyone watched with bated breath and became nervous. After all, he was the first to attempt.

If he were to be extremely unlucky, this misfortune might infect the entire event. A second at this moment felt like an eternity.

"Time's up." The old man said.

He unwillingly pulled his hand back, revealing to the crowd that he found nothing.

"Just like the rumors, the first is always unlucky." A student said with disappointment.

“Next.” The old man said.

Songke’s failure didn’t stop others from wanting to try. The temptation of success was too great.

“I’m going.” The next student took out a regular firestone.

He reached around for a bit and pulled out an ingot of shimmering metal.

“Crimsonmountain Metal.” Someone recognized the ingot and shouted: “That’s quite a hefty profit.”

Of course, this wasn’t a supreme fortune at all but the quick profit gave everyone hope.

“My turn, my turn!”

“No, I was ahead of you!”

...

Students wanted to beat each other to the line since this was a shortcut to supremacy.

Among them were some sincere souls who took out the best treasures. Alas, the majority relied on luck and only pawned the most ordinary items.

Some examples included a cultivation manual from the mortal world and ordinary ointments. A few took out some strange stuff that must have been picked up randomly, not worth a single coin.

The old man was fully surrounded by shouting students in no time at all. He accepted all the items without taking a second look. It was as if trash and treasures were the same in his eyes.

Because of this, a few thought about just using the cheapest things possible to pawn, believing that luck was the most important factor.

Of course, some of their friends disagreed and sneered at them.

One guy said: "What you're pawning is not your item but rather, your fortune. There is only one so sincerity is very important here."

However, the majority of both sides didn't gain anything. The luckiest ones so far only obtained some decent treasures.

"This can't be right, how can I be so unlucky?" A student said with indignation after pawning off his most valuable treasure and only getting an entry-level one back. He lost everything and was furious.

"Just accept the loss gracefully. No one forced you to play." The old man said with a friendly smile.

This was indeed the case; the old man didn't force anyone to trade. Moreover, no one here could do anything to him because he was clearly stronger than them.

Not all complained. Another exchanged a regular item but ended up taking a pagoda out of the sack.

“Boom!” Waves rushed out and smashed everyone in the chest, causing them to feel as if their body was cracking down.

“What a treasure...” They observed ancient runes and laws pulsing around the pagoda. It seemed capable of refining heaven and earth.

“Young man, you’re quite lucky to get this World-eater Pagoda.” The old man laughed.

“Th-thank you, Senior.” The student was overwhelmed with emotion. He bowed at the old man and instantly disappeared into the crowd.

He clearly had a humble background and didn’t want to die because of greed.

“I’m so jealous.” Many clamored since he was the first to obtain something noteworthy.

Those who had doubts after so many failures saw hope again and became lively.

“The pawnshop is real, we can get something great from it.” Some wanted nothing more than to reach inside that sack.

As time passed, no one was able to duplicate the feat done by that unknown student.

“The chance seems rather low, it’s just a gamble.” Goldcrest Young Noble commented.

“Yes, an exceedingly rare yet potentially lucrative fortune. No one can afford to miss it.” Yunyun said.

The buy-in for this gambling attempt was low so it didn’t matter to the students.

“Go.” Li Qiye told Ming Shi.

Her eyes lit up as she said: “You found out his secret, right? Hehehe, will I get something amazing?”

“Trust me, you will obtain a grand fortune.” Li Qiye smiled and rubbed her head.

His confident declaration attracted unwanted attention.

“Who do you think you are? The old man might be able to say this but you’re just a junior. Know your place.” One student said.

Of course, those nearby have been paying attention to their group. After all, it consisted of three top dogs in Abroad. They didn’t know who Li Qiye was and wondered why he was with them.