

## **Emperor 5001**

### **Chapter 5001: Devouring Maddened Flames**

“Poof!” Elemental King unleashed two fiery beams - one pure and the other had an ice infusion.

This combination managed to morph time and space while maintaining a unique domain. The madness of the flames was somehow soothed by the chilling affinity, resulting in a stable attack.

Ming Shi and the others couldn’t help but gasp in awe. They had seen the frenzied flames several times in the past from Fire Ape and Maddened God. Elemental King’s attack seemed to be a different world in comparison.

This might be the reason why Ice-fire Palace was considered the orthodox branch of Maddened Lineage.

Ice and fire twisted together to form a prison around Flame-eater Child. Just a single ember contained enough power to reduce a peak into lava.

However, the boy slammed against the prison without getting hurt in the slightest. Nonetheless, he couldn’t get out of the domain.

“Follow me back!” Elemental King ordered.

“What is he trying to do?” Ming Shi could see that the king didn’t wish to harm his opponent: “Flame-eater Child isn’t from Ice-fire Palace.”

The king was an ancient ancestor with five fruits while his opponent only had three. It wasn't difficult for him to slay the boy at all but this didn't seem to be his intention.

"The boy might be worth his time." Yunyun whispered: "After all, he's a miracle."

The others agreed with this assessment. Flame-eater wasn't taught by an ancient ancestor but still managed to reach such a high level. Therefore, the palace was most likely interested in learning the process.

Alas, only their king was strong enough to suppress the boy without killing him.

After several slams to no avail, the slow-witted Flame-eater Child tried something else. He opened his mouth and sucked the fiery walls of the prison as if he was a whale.

"What...?" Elemental King became startled since he understood the force contained within his flames.

Other dragon lords didn't dare to face them directly. Even blocking with treasures didn't always work.

"This doesn't make any sense." Ming Shi said: "Wait, his title

The domain weakened as a result. The king didn't give up and shouted: "Fine, let's see your limit!"

He activated the five fruits and fused them into a maddened source. They rotated continuously and turned the domain into something monstrous. Air and the fabrics of reality were melted into liquid form.

The high temperature reduced the ground into scorched earth. Nothing could survive even though the sole target was Flame-eater Child.

The boy continued devouring the flames. Alas, the sheer volume immobilized him while he became engulfed in lava.

Elemental King didn't quite understand. His world of flames was endless yet the boy was somehow unfazed. He had never experienced something like this previously.

"Whoosh!" The sky suddenly turned dark due to a massive figure approaching. The eyes were so big that they resembled two suns.

"Elemental King, this is my territory!" A dignified voice thundered.

"Wild Dragon!" Goldcrest became emotional.

"Boom!" A large claw smashed downward, scaring everything within a ten-million-mile radius.

"Go!" Elemental King sent his maddened domain upward to stop the dark claw.

The shockwaves from the impact vaporized the peaks nearby and frightened the spectating youths.

**Chapter 5002: Pagoda Guardian**

Elemental King went all out but still couldn't stop the palm strike. The force sent him to the ground.

The disparity of a single fruit was in full display. Though his fiery mastery was immaculate, his cultivation was simply weaker. The only way to win was to have a heaven-defying technique.

"Die!" Wild Dragon's tyrannical roar intimidated those beneath.

"Boom!" Three large figures arrived and interrupted the battle, causing violent quakes.

"You shall stop here, Wild Dragon!" The figures shouted in unison, looking like three deities.

They were mountainous statues of different forms. If it wasn't for their animated eyes, others would think that they were mere artifacts.

However, they exuded powerful auras and were actually alive.

"What are they?" Ming Shi asked.

"Three guardian giants." Yunyun whispered.

"Guardian giants?" Ming Shi hasn't heard of them before.

“Immortal Pagoda of Deity, this is their prime fighting force. The guardians are here then.” Goldcrest said.

“Who are these guardians?” Ming Shi asked again.

“Immortal Pagoda Conqueror left a peerless pagoda to the lineage. This serves as their ancestral ground, the very source of their dao. Thus, they leave these statues and ancient ancestors there for generations.” Yunyun elaborated.

“Just three five-fruit dragon lords, how futile.” Wild Dragon laughed heartily.

Those who heard him thought that this was how the number one member of the Ten Monsters should be - always imperious and fearless.

Of course, he was also strong enough to take down these three giants, not to mention that this was his territory. With the empowerment of the serpent deity, he became far stronger than before.

“Boom!” A pagoda appeared at this crucial moment and automatically forced cultivators and demons to the ground. This was due to its existence alone, not that it had activated its power.

It forced the black clouds to disperse, revealing Wild Dragon’s true form.

He was a colossal fire dragon with scales resembling molten metal. Between the plates was flowing lava instead of flesh.

The main difference between him and another fire dragon was his bloated stomach as if he had just eaten a delicious meal. His bloodline alone exuded immense pressure and intimidated all other beasts.

Normally, Wild Dragon was shrouded by dark clouds and fog. Few got the opportunity to see his true appearance until now.

“Wild Dragon’s fortune must have been insane.” Goldcrest commented: “He evolved into a true dragon, albeit this is a thin bloodline. His original form wasn’t like this.”

“What did he look like before?” Ming Shi asked.

“He used to be a lava earthdragon, so more of a fat lizard leaving lava in its wake.” Goldcrest said.

“Haha.” She laughed after imagining a fat lizard crawling around.

“Boom!” The suppressive force came from an old man holding the pagoda.

He wore a gray robe, appearing dignified and intimidating. His gaze alone could destroy the six dao. Cultivators found these eyes capable of sucking their life away.

“That’s a guardian, I think he’s the oldest ancient ancestor in Deity.” Yunyun whispered.

“Old geezer, you dare leave the ancient pagoda?” Wild Dragon was not afraid.

“You shall run rampant no more, Wild Dragon.” The guardian uttered coldly.

“You won’t be able to kill me today, this is my playground.” Wild Dragon laughed.

The two clearly had an ongoing feud and it seemed that Wild Dragon was the underdog.

Rumor has it that this guardian was awfully close to possessing seven sacred fruits. If he had ascended sooner, he would certainly have seven by now. Alas, he chose to protect the ancestral pagoda.

This was a highly-anticipated match and a crowd built up, albeit at a safe distance. Yunyun and her friends also became interested.

“We’re leaving.” Li Qiye, on the other hand, only cared about Flame-eater Child who had left, not worrying about Wild Dragon despite the potentially dangerous battle.

Though the youths wanted to watch, they still followed Li Qiye. After they gained some distance, they heard loud explosions from behind.

They maintained a fast speed in order to keep up. Although the boy appeared clumsy and slow, he was as fast as a spirit while traversing Demon.

Perhaps due to fatigue, he eventually hid inside a valley and sat in front of a deep pit.

**Chapter 5003: Who Am I?**

At first glance, he seemed like a scared child hiding in a safe spot. But given his bored expression, he was more like a python that was full from a meal. Now it was time to digest.

He pulsed with the maddened flames - the result of devouring Elemental King's attacks. He seemed rather bored as he occasionally tossed rocks into the pit.

He was a puzzling existence, possessing all the abilities and instincts of a dragon lord yet lacking a normal state of mind.

Li Qiye approached and sat down next to him. The others stood behind Li Qiye, not daring to utter a single word. They saw him as a slow-witted child more so than a member of the Ten Monsters.

He didn't run away this time. There was not a single reaction either. The group patiently waited, aware that Li Qiye was interested in him.

After a while, the boy seemingly woke up from his stupor. Nonetheless, his eyes were still muddled as he asked with curiosity: "Who are you?"

"Who are you?" Li Qiye smiled.

"I am me..." The boy answered.

"I am me too." Li Qiye said.

"Then who am I?" The boy was caught up in the questions.



"You are you, and only you." Li Qiye answered.

This only confused him even more as he tried to come up with an answer. Alas, there was a minute change in his muddled eyes - the chaos seemed to be flowing, albeit virtually indiscernible.

"I don't know me." He eventually said.

"Ask your heart." Li Qiye replied.

"What is heart?" The boy asked.

"The heart is right here." Li Qiye grabbed his hand and placed it on his left chest: "Feel it."

After a few seconds, the boy giggled and said: "Something's beating."

"Feel it, feel its beats." Li Qiye led the way for him to feel the rhythm: "Badump, badump, badump..."

"Badump, badump, badump..." Flame-eater followed his lead.

As he felt the beat, he closed his eyes as if he was about to sleep. Drooling came next and made him look more like the slow son of the regional lord, one step further away from the appearance of a dragon lord.

Li Qiye smiled and observed the youth.

“Young Noble, is it working?” Yunyun could tell that this was some sort of mesmerization.

“It is up to him.” Li Qiye said: “He forgot himself or does not want to remember.”

“Huh? Why not?” Ming Shi asked.

“Life is cruel.” Li Qiye said: “Sometimes it is better to forget instead of living in misery.”

“He had a sad past?” She stared at him and couldn’t come up with the right scenario for him to purposely do this.

“Not necessarily.” Li Qiye responded: “There might be another reason.”

“Is there a difference in forgetting oneself versus actively trying to do so?” Goldcrest asked.

“The second is an avoidance mechanism for pain. The first case can be more complicated, it might be an injury or something else.” Li Qiye said.

“Do you have a guess as to why, Young Noble?” Yunyun said curiously.

Li Qiye gazed into the horizon and took his time before responding: "A few existences, once they reach a certain cultivation level, might want to forget themselves."

The group exchanged glances of confusion.

Li Qiye then looked back at them and continued: "Some have heavy burdens and responsibilities, others can no longer restraint their dao heart or power. After all, there is a price for everything, especially for power."

"One of the prices is loneliness. There is no one else at the top." Yunyun said.

"Indeed, you got that right." Li Qiye praised with a smile.

"You're too kind, Young Noble." She responded with a slightly embarrassed tone.

"Amitabha, amitabha." A chant could be heard and next came a billowing Buddhist affinity.

A monk appeared before the group - one looking rather casual and carefree. However, everything about him exuded Buddhism.

It was Mahayana again - the highly respected monk.

The young ones were surprised to see him. Nonetheless, they bowed to greet him. This included the vivacious princess.

“Benefactor, seems like we are connected by fate.” The monk placed his palms together and told Li Qiye.

“I don’t want to have anything to do with a monk, nothing good comes out of it.” Li Qiye smiled and went over to a pond nearby, took off his shoes, and played with the water.

“Amitabha. Only those truly connected to Buddhism say your line, they are bound by karma without knowing so.” The monk smiled before taking off his shoes and joining Li Qiye to enjoy the water.

“Let me try to enlighten you so that you can reach the dao of Buddhism?” The monk didn’t give up.

Li Qiye finally stared at the monk and smiled charmingly, wanting to enlighten him instead.

“Buzz.” The monk became shrouded by the image of a heavenly dragon with eight legs. Others couldn’t help wanting to prostrate before his magnificent aura.

It took everything from him to stop Li Qiye’s smile.

“Amitabha.” He lowered his head, not daring to stare at Li Qiye.

This person’s smile had a devilish power far beyond his current Buddhist attainment. He would be the one converted instead.

“This avatar of yours can’t convert me.” Li Qiye stopped and shook his head.

This surprised the youths and made them stare at the monk. He was only an avatar?

The dragon lords prior didn’t notice anything and assumed that he was the real thing. This meant that he wasn’t actually here.

“Amitabha, you are correct, Benefactor.” The monk admitted while placing his palms together.

#### **Chapter 5004: Buddhist Six Paths**

Li Qiye seemed to care more about swinging his feet in the water than the monk.

“Amitabha.” The monk went on: “Benefactor, please visit the Land of Peace when you have time.”

“The Land of Peace?” The group exchanged glances because this place existed in the upper two continents.

Buddhism, one of the twelve lineages, was a subsidiary of the Land of Peace. The latter didn’t belong to any of the five alliances up there.

Rumor has it that it was the source of all the Buddhist lineages in the six continents.

“Still haven’t given up on enlightening me yet? Even your true form won’t be able to do it.” Li Qiye stared at him.

“!” The youths became emotional and took a deep breath.

Mahayana was considered a sacred monk in the lower continents. In history, some conquerors and dragon lords showed him respect despite being stronger. Everyone else followed this precedence.

Whenever people met him, they were instantly impressed by his wonderful aura and Buddhist attainment. Not even powerful dragon lords such as Swordgrasp Venerable noticed anything peculiar. They had no idea that this was merely an avatar, not his true body.

Moreover, he resided in the upper continents? That astounded the youths as well.

An avatar surviving for so long away from the main body while managing to fool everyone else? There was a wondrous barrier separating the continents but it didn’t seem to affect the avatar. Just how strong was the real monk then?

They shuddered after thinking about this issue. Could a twelve-fruit conqueror do something like this? Perhaps not.

They stared at him and gained a new perspective on the current landscape of the lower continents. Everyone thought that the strongest right now was Conceal Conqueror while they started having doubts.

“Amitabha, Buddhism calls for the fateful, Benefactor.” The monk didn’t give up.

“There is no connection between me and Buddhism and even if there is, it’s not a good one.” Li Qiye waved his hand.

“You should change your mind, Benefactor.” The monk said.

“I’m not interested unless you can change your six paths to nine.” Li Qiye said.

The monk became emotional and gazed intensely at Li Qiye. His eyes seemed to be turning into two Buddhist wheels containing three thousand worlds. They could enlighten and convert any living beings or souls. No one could resist this force.

The youths were horrified but fortunately, they were standing behind Li Qiye and had his protection. Alas, just one glance at the monk still gave them the urge to join Buddhism.

Li Qiye waved his hand again and broke the technique: “Enough. Provoke me and I shall stomp your Land of Peace and end you all.”

“Amitabha, I apologize for my impudence and unstable Buddhist heart.” The monk said while trying to calm himself. It has been a long time since he last experienced this emotion.

The world had only heard about the six paths while Li Qiye knew about the nine paths.

“Benefactor, how did you find this out?” The monk bowed, wanting to learn from Li Qiye: “Is it something I can seek?”

He performed a full rite of veneration to show the highest respect while the youth watched with bated breath.

They suspected that the monk was comparable to a twelve-fruit conqueror. Alas, he was still bowing before Li Qiye.

“Sigh, you monks have the thickest skin.” Li Qiye had no choice but to accept the gesture. He helplessly added: “Seems like I can’t rid myself of this annoying fate with Buddhism. How troublesome.”

This comment was suicidal since it insulted all the Buddhist practitioners on the six continents. However, the monk was ecstatic because he understood the implication.

“Benefactor, you wish to tie the knots with us?” He sat down cross-legged and asked respectfully.

“It’s not that.” Li Qiye responded: “The issue is that you monks are so persistent and latch onto me like ghosts. I can’t kill all of you, you just somehow drag your long tail from one epoch to the next.”

“Amitabha.” The monk wasn’t angry at all and was happy instead: “This just shows how strong our connection is. Heaven and earth might wither, the myriad worlds might crumble, but the fate of Buddhism remains.”

“Okay, don’t need to tell me this crap.” Li Qiye said: “This might be able to trick others but not me.”

“This is a fortuitous date. The Land of Peace requires your enlightenment, Benefactor.” The ecstatic monk said.



“No, I don’t want anything to do with that mess. When the calling of fate comes, so be it.” Li Qiye refused but still gave room to be involved in the future.

“Perfect.” The monk said: “I will wait for you forever for our connection is eternal.”

The youths got goosebumps because it sounded like a lover reciting a vow of love.

“I will only help once, it is up to you all to reach the nine paths or whatever.” Li Qiye said.

“Very well, Benefactor, and that’s all we need, we can handle the rest.” The monk happily said.

“Fine, now can you get out of my sight? I get a headache whenever I see bald heads.” Li Qiye waved his hand.

#### **Chapter 5005: It’s Nice Being A Fool**

The monk happily got up and took one look at Flame-eater Child before leaving.

“Amitabha, another good seed.” His sickness resurfaced again after seeing the youth.

He seemed more like a recruiter than a monk, always becoming excited whenever he saw someone “fated” to be with Buddhism.

“So what if he’s a good seed? Want to convert him too?” Li Qiye said.

“That’s the way of Buddhism, converting anyone who is fated to be with it.” The monk said, eager to try.

“Your avatar won’t be able to do it, you’ll be burned to a crisp before anything.” Li Qiye smiled.

“I see...” The monk actually became more interested as if he must carry out the “destined fate”, especially when it was more difficult.

“I might not be able to do it but I believe in the power of Buddhism.” He stared at Flame-eater like a prowling lion.

The more serious he became, the more frightened the youths. A while ago, they would have considered being “connected to Buddhism” a great fortune. Now, they were scared of being involved with him.

“He’s not a Buddhist, fate doesn’t work here.” Li Qiye said: “Plus, there is no point. Your Land of Paradise is only dragging people down with it.”

The monk gave up after hearing this. He placed his palms together disappointedly and bid farewell: “I’ll be taking my leave then.”

Once he was long gone, Ming Shi immediately commented: “I’m so scared of that monk right now, I don’t want anything to do with Buddhism anymore.”

Yunyun and Goldcrest nodded in agreement.

“Buddhism might not want you three even if you wish to join it. Don’t underestimate this monk, common people would love to be converted by him, it is a fortune indeed.” Li Qiye shook his head.

“And I don’t want it.” Ming Shi giggled and said: “I feel that Untethered is a great place to be, no, the best.”

“If he wishes to convert you, your sect will send you to him right away.” Li Qiye said.

Ming Shi got goosebumps because Li Qiye was right. If this big shot were to talk about her being connected to Buddhism by fate, the seniors in the sect would wish for her to join it.

“Then you’ll have to protect me, Young Noble.” She playfully hid behind him.

“Don’t worry, if he wanted to convert you, he would have done it at first sight.” Li Qiye chuckled.

She heaved a sigh of relief while patting her chest. Her optimistic and cheerful nature always made others smile.

At this point, Flame-eater Child finally woke up and opened his eyes, revealing endless cycles derivative within. Alas, this only lasted for a split second.

“I am not me!” He shouted at Li Qiye, confused.

The youths noticed something different about him but couldn't come up with any specific. It seemed as if he gained enough clarity to realize his lack of clarity.

"It depends on what version you're referring to." Li Qiye said.

The child who never reacted to outside stimuli seemed to be thinking about Li Qiye's comment.

"What kind of person am I then?" He asked.

"The question is, who do you want to be? The current you, the past, or the future?" Li Qiye said with a serious tone.

This caused the boy to contemplate in silence again.

"What was he like in the past?" Ming Shi whispered, wondering if he had a happy past or a traumatic one.

Li Qiye didn't answer and gave the boy time to think.

After a while, he asked: "Which is the real me?"

"The one you want to be." Li Qiye answered.

"I want to be that one." He still looked a bit confused but still gave an answer: "Can I do it?"

Li Qiye sighed and said: "Yes, it is possible. I suppose this is fate at work again. Since I have taken your god source, I shall return a fortune upon you."

His expression became serious as he continued: "Remember, do not regret your decision. There is a price for everything regardless of who you become."

"A price for everything..." The boy repeated.

"Young Noble, is there a worse situation for him right now? He's already slow-witted, no one wants to stay this way." Ming Shi couldn't help but interject.

"What's wrong with being a fool?" Li Qiye asked.

She took a second before responding: "No one wants to be foolish and unaware of the world around them."

"What's the point of being aware? Will the pain go away? The fear? The sense of helplessness?" Li Qiye elaborated: "A fool views all things as equal. For example, there is no difference between you or that monk just now. Life and death are also the same. As the saying goes, heaven and earth are not kind, they treat all things as straw dogs. In this case, are you a fool or are you the ruler of the world?"

Ming Shi and Goldcrest took their time digesting this information. Yunyun, in particular, became emotional.

Her experience was different from theirs. As the successor of The Alliance and potentially Primal in the future, others viewed her as a prestigious cultivator. Alas, she was truly struggling, unable to handle the weight and responsibility on her shoulders. She could collapse at any second from the pressure.

To everyone else, she was a beautiful successor of a great lineage. In reality, she struggled like an ant, constantly trying to just keep up.

“Heaven and earth are not kind, they treat all things as straw dogs.” She murmured: “The dao is emotionless yet its practitioners are filled with emotions.”

“Indeed, you are one step in the door now and will become exceptional.” Li Qiye nodded approvingly and extended his finger to tap her forehead.

“Pop!” The sounds of the grand dao echoed in her mind. The chanting morphed her dao foundation into something different.

She trembled and fell to the ground, entering a deep state of enlightenment.

“Big Sis Yunyun is so gifted, able to learn the dao right now.” Ming Shi praised.

Goldcrest felt the same way, realizing that she had just obtained a great fortune. Alas, he lacked the same opportunity and talent.

“This is due to her identity and status, you two are different and won’t be able to grasp this fortune.” Li Qiye said.

The two nodded in agreement.

"I want to look back." Flame-eater Child finished making a decision as well.

"Looking back will change everything in the future, think this over carefully." Li Qiye patiently said.

"I want to look back." Flame-eater nodded and said firmly.

Ming Shi and Goldcrest, at this point, realized that Flame-eater was not a fool. His sixth sense was indeed sealed just as Li Qiye had said.

#### **Chapter 5006: Looking Back**

"There is no turning back from this. This will determine your future, whether it's a happy or a sad one." Li Qiye said.

"Neither happy nor sad, how about that?" Flame-eater asked.

"How is the current you?" Li Qiye smiled.

Flame-eater and the others thought about it.

First, was there anything positive about being a fool? No one in the world wanted this for themselves.

On the other hand, he never worried or felt sadness just like a child. This was definitely a positive.

Moreover, he was a dragon lord with three fruits and still had room to grow. Therefore, he could live without experiencing any negative emotions.

With this perspective, it seemed as if it was better to be him. The lack of sadness potentially implied happiness?

“Is anyone truly happy?” Flame-eater asked.

“In the short term, sure. In the long term, those standing at the apex might not be happy. Even the high heaven worries.” Li Qiye said.

“So being a fool is that nice, especially one that can be a dragon lord...” Ming Shi murmured.

His words made them ponder. It seemed like even the strongest cultivators still had many problems and burdens. This didn’t apply to Flame-eater Child.

“I don’t know...” Flame-eater doubted.

“Ignorance is happiness, everything can you make you smile.” Li Qiye added.



Others had no choice but to agree. Someone like Flame-eater could find amusement in anything, whether it be a treasure, a top master, a gentle breeze, or even an ant...

Conversely, cultivators only cared about power and became greedy at the sight of a treasure. They wouldn't lose a second to glance at an ant.

Flame-eater started thinking about his choice - staying a fool or finding the past first and from that, he would be able to know which version he desired for the future.

After a long while, he looked up at Li Qiye; his muddled eyes became slightly clearer. He said: "I wish to see what I have forgotten."

"Think about why you chose to forget." Li Qiye struck the core of the issue.

Flame-eater shuddered. What was his reason for deliberately throwing away the past?

The youths thought about it as well, assuming that Flame-eater was not always like this.

Was the past too painful? Or could it be that it was a joyous one but alas, this happiness was fleeting? After experiencing this utmost happiness, nothing else in life could compare and this became the source of misery.

"I must remember. I am who I am, regardless of good or bad and in spite of the past or the future." Flame-eater said; his eyes flickered with light.

Li Qiye sighed and said: "People, in the end, always seek a reason for being."

His expression became solemn as he said: "There is no turning back after this. Whatever happens next is due to your choice and will be your destiny."

"Yes." Flame-eater hesitated no longer.

Li Qiye raised both hands and pulled down, causing the sky to tilt - the opening of a new dimension.

Before the youth could come to their senses, he and Flame-eater Child disappeared into this new dimension.

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The dao flowed constantly and poured down like heavenly waterfalls. Runes manifested into reality and were always in production. Time and space were frozen here, only the grand dao was at work.

"Dao exists in the heart." Li Qiye chanted and the dao here resonated with him.

"Dao exists in the heart." Flame-eater repeated and tried to perform the same dao derivation.

"The heart lies in one's thoughts, and as long as they are imperishable, so will the grand dao..." Li Qiye continued.

“The heart lies in one’s thoughts, and as long as they are imperishable, so will the grand dao...” Flame-eater could actually keep up with Li Qiye.

If anyone else were here to see this, they would be astounded beyond words. As Li Qiye chanted, he derived the grand dao and revealed unfathomable mysteries while being in tune with the rhythm of heaven and earth. This was something infinitely close to the power of creation.

During this process, the boy underwent a monumental change - akin to a true dragon being wrapped in a shell made of mud. This shell was finally cracking and he became radiant.

The maddened flames started pulsing at an increasing pace. At first, they were chaotic with various infused elements - water, rage, and unknown affinities...

These flames were devoured by him in the past and they were going wild.

“Boom!” After an explosion at the most critical moment, his metamorphosis was complete.

The chaotic flames were refined and their impurities were burned away, leaving behind the purest maddened flame.

‘Dao exists in the heart.’ Li Qiye’s mantra echoed in his mind and created a supreme chapter.

The time came for Li Qiye to make his move - throwing a needle made out of dao laws straight at Flame-eater’s forehead.

“Break!” He shouted.

“Crack!” The boy’s sealed sixth sense crumbled.

He screamed in agony while something ran amok in his mind. Memories of old resurfaced - a bullied child filled with rage and indignation...

“Ahh!” He opened his eyes again - the muddled chaos has been incinerated in its entirety.

His purified maddened flame surged to the sky and burned everything in this dimension. Stars were reduced to ashes.

The flame engulfed him as well and didn’t spare his physical body. With that shell gone, he became a being made of flames.

The screaming continued as the flames ravaged this entire dimension. The boundless dao laws here were incinerated until nothing was left.

#### **Chapter 5007: Raging Maddened Flames**

The fiery being was filled with rage and madness, viewing the entire world as the enemy.

“Ahh!” His roar echoed through the dimension while black holes were formed from the sheer destruction.

If this power were to escape the current dimension, it would burn all the lower continents into nothingness. Sovereigns and dragon lords were not worth mentioning. This applied to conquerors and dao lords as well.

In spite of this, Li Qiye stood by his side and let the flames hit him while chanting: "... As long as they are imperishable, so will the grand dao

In fact, he seemed relaxed as if he was soaking in a hot spring and enjoying the mild heat.

His words and laws became the only things left in this dimension. They kept the dimensional fabrics together or it would spread to the lower continents.

Li Qiye's mantra served to polish and lead the raging flames. After a considerable length of time, the flames started calming down. He stared at the fiery youth as if this was a masterpiece.

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The lower three continents enjoyed relative peace and sunshine today until a loud explosion occurred in Maddened Lineage.

Its source consisted of an inferno left behind by their progenitor. Because of this, its members didn't need a master to learn the dao.

As long as one was willing to worship the maddened flame, they would be able to cultivate this supreme grand dao and become unbeatable. Some notable figures included Coldflame Conqueror and Maddened Conqueror.

Capable flame users went on to create their own sect, hence the start of the great lineage.

Today, the entire region was shaking violently. A similar phenomenon occurred during the ascension of their great conquerors.

Next came the emergence of a great shadow in the sky. It could be seen from all three continents, not just Maddened.

A frenzied inferno rushed into the air and pierced the sky vault just like a great fist, fully devouring the figure.

All members of Maddened, whether they be regular disciples or ancient ancestors, got on their knees before the might of the inferno. This applied to others in the three continents as well.

Conquerors from the other lineages couldn't believe it. This inferno was simply unstoppable.

In Godchaser Palace, the supreme Conceal Conqueror also opened her eyes. She gazed into the distance and saw a figure bathing in the inferno; her expression changed drastically as a result.

This phenomenon also reached the massive territories of Demon. The great beasts and demon monarchs saw how the sky was being incinerated by the maddened flames.

"Look Goldcrest trembled in astonishment. They exchanged glances and knew that this had something to do with Flame-eater Child.

Fortunately for everyone, this power came out of nowhere and dispersed just as fast.

The ancient ancestors from Maddened were lost and frightened. They came closer to the source but couldn't get inside. They suspected that the figure earlier was using their source to grow stronger. Despite using this dao, they knew that forcefully entering the inferno was suicidal. In the end, they chose to do nothing because this was the only option.

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Back in Demon, space rippled a bit and Li Qiye came out in the same position - with his feet swaying in the water. However, Flame-eater Child was nowhere to be found.

"Young Noble, where is Flame-eater?" Ming Shi asked.

Li Qiye got out of the water and Yunyun helped him put his shoes back on.

"Back to where he came from." Li Qiye said.

"What was that flame earlier?" Goldcrest asked.

He answered with a smile, nothing else. The group couldn't believe it because that inferno earlier could destroy the world.

"Let's go, I don't know if Shadowrider is still in Demon. I'm a little more interested now." Li Qiye said, getting back to the original goal.

Prior to this, Li Qiye was able to pinpoint Shadowrider's direction. Now, traces have been lost.

They traveled to the last known place of Shadowrider's location - a mountain range with the appearance of a coiling dragon.

"Not here, interesting." Li Qiye said while standing at the highest point.

"The clues are gone now?" The youths were surprised since Li Qiye had always been in control.

"A stench of blood is concealing everything. Quite thick too, seems to be a deity." Li Qiye said before moving toward the cliff.

The group followed him and saw a magnificent scene. The two girls became emotional since this was their first time visiting this place.

"Where is this place?" Ming Shi asked.

#### **Chapter 5008: Magnificent Banquet**

The scene before them wouldn't be considered special elsewhere in the lower continents. However, this was Demon.

They saw a succession of towering buildings and grand palaces culminating in the appearance of a great kingdom.



This was not a rare sight even in a place like Chaos. There were still powerful kingdoms and cities in that conflict-stricken realm.

Alas, Demon was inhabited by demons and beasts. The culture of men hasn't extended this far so this place was a unique exception.

Goldcrest's Phoenix City was already impressive and rare enough. Alas, it seemed like a village compared to this kingdom.

Most importantly, Phoenix still had traces of wilderness with statues of birds and beasts. Totems could be seen as well. The same didn't apply to the city before them.

It looked exactly the same as another location in the outside world. It was also filled with human cultivators. They chose to stay for a long period or even started sects here.

"I didn't know there was a place like this in Demon." Ming Shi said while observing the palaces. They looked magnificent and civilized.

"This is Golden Cicada City, one of the miracles in the Ten Great Mountains. It is naturally the largest city here." Goldcrest said with admiration: "This is why everyone respects the king. Not only did he build this great city, he also managed to make the beasts and demon monarchs more civilized. Furthermore, he maintained a strong relationship with the other dao lineages and bring cultivators from the outside here, big shots included."

"It's a proper path, a way to help demons prosper." Yunyun said.

In the Ten Great Mountains, demons and beasts could do as they pleased - a true dog-eat-dog world. There was nothing holding them back from fighting and killing.

Golden Cicada was different. Its king recruited numerous disciples and started an unprecedented civilization in the wilderness.

“Building this city is easy.” Li Qiye assessed the situation: “The difficulty lies in changing the nature of beasts and demons. The Ten Great Mountains are vast and have no lack of natural resources. Powerful demon monarchs and colossal beasts are produced here but without shedding their violent instincts, they will never be able to reach the end of the grand dao and achieve supreme success.”

“When we’re just talking about changing the culture, he might be more accomplished than the commanding gods.” Goldcrest lowered his voice.

This was a disrespectful comment for a worshipper to make. Nonetheless, he thought highly of Golden Cicada King.

Once they entered the city, they became increasingly impressed by its splendor and prosperity. In fact, even humans started inhabiting the city and multiplied for generations now.

How could this be a part of Demon? There were stores and merchants instead of hungry beasts searching for prey.

“Hmm, there are many outsiders today.” Goldcrest noticed something different.

Cultivators from the other great lineages were present, many of whom were big shots and ancestors.

After talking with some passersby, he found out that there was a banquet at the main palace for important cultivators. They recalled Li Qiye being invited by the king himself but Li Qiye refused.

"I heard Bloodfly God will be here too, this is special because commanding gods seldomly show up." Goldcrest said.

Ming Shi was excited and left to communicate with her sect members. A while later, she returned with a beaming smile: "Hehehe, I'll have you all know that this isn't just a simple banquet. Golden Cicada King has two golden sources and he wants to let everyone else see them."

"What is his goal?" Yunyun found this rather strange.

"Interesting." Li Qiye said: "Shadowrider's traces are blocked by the stench of blood. It looks like I have to see your commanding god then."

"Bloodfly God Goldcrest shuddered while putting on a forced smile: "He's a little different since he's in charge of Bug. This deity branch isn't like the others."

"How so?" Ming Shi asked.

"Well, I heard that he likes to suck blood. This is just a rumor, I haven't seen it myself." Goldcrest said, not wanting to gossip about another commanding god.

“Sounds like a villain.” Ming Shi snorted.

“Let’s go take a look and we’ll find out soon enough as long as Shadowrider is here in Golden Cicada.” Li Qiye smiled.

Goldcrest had no choice but to lead the way for Li Qiye. Alas, he felt that nothing good would come from this for Bloodfly God regardless of his power.

The main palace of Golden Cicada was packed to the brim with demons and cultivators from all over the world.

Famous big shots sat in the main positions. For example, Swordgrasp Venerable, Tendril King, and Jun Cuican...

Cuican never hid his aura and let it roam free. This annoyed some of the guests but they didn’t do anything since he was stronger.

Tendril King, on the other hand, hid her aura. Nonetheless, everyone still kept a distance and only admired her from afar. Her regal presence exceeded all of theirs, hence the need to be subservient.

As for Swordgrasp Venerable, a sword intent was always looming. No one dared to get close because the remnant energy rays could pierce their heart.

### **Chapter 509: Skystomper God**

The three were top experts currently in the lower continents. This went double for Tendril King and Jun Cuican due to their immense future potential.

Few had enough clout to invite them to a banquet in the outside world, let alone Demon. Thus, their presence showed just how much respect they had for Golden Cicada King.

Meanwhile, guests kept pouring into the palace.

“Boom!” Three large figures with immense auras landed. People had to look up to see them since they were as large as mountains.

“Guardian giants of the pagoda.” The guests clamored.

All three had five sacred fruits - this was a force to be reckoned with regardless of the time and place.

An old man stood in the center of the three. His expression was chilling and intimidating enough to make everyone's knees buckle. He had six fruits, clearly the strongest in the crowd right now.

“Brother Guardian, it is an honor to have you here.” Golden Cicada King rushed over and enthusiastically greeted him.

The other guests were received by his disciples but he took care of the important guests.

“You’re too kind, Brother Golden Cicada.” The guardian said politely. The group gave Golden Cicada plenty of face by participating in person.

"Everyone's here, I see." Guardian Pagoda didn't appear arrogant or impolite, only indifferent.

Swordgrasp Venerable came from Deity so they had a good relationship. He came over to chat as well.

Tendrill King and Jun Cuican were juniors so they stood up to greet the guardian. Nonetheless, despite being a stronger senior, he didn't show any disrespect.

After all, it was only a matter of time before they surpass him. It might not be a long period either so it would be pointless to act like an imperious ancestor.

"Buzz." Space rippled and two old men appeared above the palace. One wore a plain robe with white flowers embroidered on it - a sign of mourning. The other old man wore a blue robe and hovered proudly in the air.

They had the presence of gods without needing to show off.

"Dual-wheel Gods of Heaven Burial!" Many big shots were startled, not expecting to see these ancient ancestors here today.

"Two ancient ancestors from Heaven Burial, Skystomper God's junior brothers." One guest said.

The two of them raised their hands and created a rippling portal. Another cultivator of a similar age walked out from within.

“Boom!” As he took one step forward, it sounded as if the sky was being trampled upon along with everyone else. This immobilized both humans and demons.

He held a heavenly wheel - an ultimate treasure exuding immense divinity. Even dragon lords trembled at its sight.

“Skystomper God...” Tendril King murmured.

This was the strongest ancient ancestor of Heaven Burial. Putting his six sacred fruits aside, he was feared due to his treasure - Skystomper Wheel, a weapon rumored to be left behind by Heaven Burial Conqueror.

Heaven Burial Lineage had produced numerous top masters and he was one of them. However, none of them could break the mold established by the conqueror and still chose to wield his weapon.

Tendril King wondered about the situation - why did Golden Cicada King invite so many top ancient ancestors here today?

“Long time no see, Brother Skystomper.” Golden Cicada greeted the three masters from Heaven Burial.

“Indeed, Brother Golden Cicada.” Skystomper smiled as if he was speaking to an old friend.

After walking into the palace, he greeted Pagoda Guardian since they were on the same level.

“Long time no see, I didn’t expect you to get an invitation from Brother Golden Cicada.” Pagoda Guardian said.

“I’m not only here for the banquet, there is a brat I must kill.” Skystomper glanced at the crowd and caused them to shudder. No one dared to meet his gaze.

“Who?” Pagoda Guardian asked.

“His name is Li Qiye.” Skystomper’s bloodthirst surged, causing the temperature to drop.

Many exchanged glances; they had heard about Li Qiye killing Halo Monarch already.

Skystomper God was clearly here for revenge because the monarch was both his descendant and direct disciple. They came prepared this time - three ancient ancestors and an ultimate artifact.

“I’ve heard of him before.” Divine Guardian said.

“Sorcery is one way to describe him.” Jun Cuican said, not daring to underestimate Li Qiye.

“So what, he will die for opposing Deity.” Divine Guardian said, releasing his domineering divinity.

“I absolutely agree, no one can oppose our lineage.” Another fierce voice echoed across the region.



A radiance added a layer to everything like flowing mercury. A world of light emerged above the palace and illuminated those beneath.

#### **Chapter 5010: I Am With The Light**

This light was meant to be enjoyed in comfort, not feared. This was a guiding lamp in the darkness, allowing travelers to walk without hesitation. This made people want to submit to the light.

A youth walked out from the radiance. He looked rather average but his holy affinity was boundless.

There seemed to be a hymn accompanying the light itself. It was soothing and mesmerizing. Some felt the urge to kneel before him and kiss his feet.

It chased away the darkness, not allowing anything else to exist but the light. This seemed to be the proper path of the grand dao - gentle and righteous yet dominating.

“Radiant Monarch!” Numerous experts and even demon monarchs wanted to join him. Some had tears streaming down their cheeks due to the warmth of the light.

This was completely different from Pagoda Guardian and Skystomper God. Their auras were forceful while this holiness was nothing but comforting.

Everyone stood up after seeing him including the top dragon lords. He and the other two geniuses were from the same generation but he was one step above them in terms of power.

He possessed six sacred fruits and hailed from Godchaser Palace. Though he wasn’t the only one with this many fruits here, he still had room to grow.

Six fruits might be the limit of ancient ancestors such as Pagoda Guardian and Skystomper God. In fact, given his age and talent, he had a chance of obtaining twelve sacred fruits and creating a sacred tree - the true path toward the apex.

In a sense, it was a shame for him to be born in the same era and sect as Conceal Conqueror. She, more often than not, overshadowed him.

The ancient ancestors had to come out again to greet this newcomer.

"Your light has reached its limit, you will gain the seventh fruit soon." The prideful Jun Cuican respected this capable genius.

"This requires more time, just like how it is only a matter of time before you catch up and surpass me." Radiant Monarch smiled brightly, possessing charisma without an impressive physical appearance.

Jun Cuican felt honored to be praised by the strongest genius right now and laughed heartily: "Haha, you are too kind. I need to spend more time with you so I can learn from the best."

Deity and Luminous were sworn enemies once but the animosity has been cleansed over time. These two geniuses appreciated each other's talent and wanted to be friends.

"Haha, you self-proclaimed righteous cultivators are nothing but a bunch of hypocrites, praising each other while thinking anything but." Someone laughed and interrupted their conversation.

A loud gale manifested into reality, sending debris and weaker cultivators flying.

People looked up and saw a massive fire dragon with a fat stomach. Its draconic aura loomed over all demons. This was a matter of instinct.

“Wild Dragon!” They shouted his title and became afraid. This madman could randomly start a massacre here.

“Hmph.” Skystomper and Pagoda Guardian scowled after seeing him.

“Brother Wild Dragon, please restrain yourself and come have a seat.” Golden Cicada King shouted.

Wild Dragon listened and changed his form into a human. He landed and smiled: “Golden Cicada, how could you not invite me to this grand banquet?”

Golden Cicada chuckled awkwardly before responding: “I didn’t want to bother you because you are so busy. Come, come, sit here.”

He hurriedly led Wild Dragon to the prestigious area with the other dragon lords. They were the top dogs of this generation, three of whom were six-fruit dragon lords.

They represented the strongest force of the so-called righteous path. On the other hand, Wild Dragon was clearly a villain.

Nonetheless, he was not afraid of being next to them. He looked around before smiling at Pagoda Guardian: “Old geezer, don’t give me that dirty look. I’m here to see the commanding god, not to fight you.”

"Hmph." Pagoda Guardian had no intention of fighting either, the same for Skystomper God.

In another location, they certainly had the upper hand and would not let this opportunity go to waste. Killing Wild Dragon would earn them great fame on top of ridding a source of trouble for the world.

"I do admit that Godchaser Palace is rather dreadful in this generation." He then spoke to Radiant Monarch: "You alone is one thing but then there's that Conceal Conqueror as well, certainly more than I can handle."

He didn't mind revealing his thoughts toward Godchaser. This was his style - always direct and honest.

"Then change your ways, Fellow Daoist." Radiant Monarch said: "If you insist on committing atrocities, not to mention us, the light will not spare you."

His tone was both civil and domineering. Few in the lower continents dared to speak to Wild Dragon in this manner.

"Haha, you do have limitless potential but there is a long way to go before you can kill me. I wasn't even afraid of Eight-stallion, let alone you."