

Emperor 5061

Chapter 5061: Gift

While everyone imagined the battle or talked with their friends, Li Qiye didn't think much of it.

Those nearby couldn't help but admire him after seeing this. No one could stay composed when a duel with Conceal Conqueror was on the horizon.

At this time, Li Qiye placed his hands on the divine beast tablet and activated it again. Its light rushed upward and came back down like a waterfall, eventually forming a maelstrom.

The markings on the tablet - whether it be from a bird claw or the paw of a bear or the mark of a true dragon - fell off the tablet like runes and joined the maelstrom.

"Rumble!" The maelstrom seemed to be a bridge to another dimension.

Spectators watched attentively, unaware of Li Qiye's intention.

After a short while, the maelstrom and the runes fused together to form a dao portal. Rays and a majestic presence oozed out from the other side of the portal.

"The divine nest!" Vine God gasped after seeing this.

This was the most enigmatic location of Demon and could be the source of their dao. Only the most fortunate gained entry. Strength alone was not enough, even someone like Conceal Conqueror couldn't have done this but Li Qiye was one exception.

All eyes were on the portal because entering meant obtaining a peerless fortune. This was especially true for the demons. They could gain incredible cultivation or even start a deity branch.

However, no one dared to make a move because Li Qiye was the one who opened it.

"Feel like taking a look?" He waved at the two young girls.

"Yeah!" Ming Shi jumped to his side without thinking twice.

Yunyun, on the other hand, hesitated for a moment before bowing: "Young Noble, you have given me plenty so I cannot accept this. Moreover, I have understood something and wish to return to the sect if that is okay with you."

Others could only dream about entering the nest yet she refused this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

In recent days by Li Qiye's side, she had gained a deeper understanding of the dao. Moreover, he had given her something peerless as well.

She thought that she shouldn't be greedy. Possessing too many fortunes might actually be a bad thing. After all, people's talents and abilities varied.

“Good, knowing when to stop.” Li Qiye nodded approvingly and said: “One can also obtain invincibility by focusing on a single dao, go.”

Yunyun prostrated before Li Qiye to show respect before leaving.

The crowd couldn’t believe that she was actually giving it up. They thought that it would be so nice if they were in her shoes.

“I took your divine fragment.” Li Qiye then spoke to Tendril King: “And it won’t be for nothing, come.”

“Me?” Tendril King was surprised. Of course she wanted to enter the divine nest because she was also a demon. All demons in the lower continents dreamed about this moment.

As a five-fruit dragon lord, her goal wasn’t to obtain an invincible art. She knew that only the users were invincible, not the art itself.

She simply wanted to polish her own grand dao and demon source. The divine nest was the perfect place for this. This was why she came running after hearing about Peacock Monarch’s lifespan.

Her plan failed because of Li Qiye but now, it seemed that she had made the right choice.

Li Qiye didn’t wait for her response and entered the portal.

“Senior Aunt, let’s go.” Ming Shi happily said before entering the portal as well.

Tendril King calmed down and followed the two of them, leaving the envious crowd behind.

The portal dispersed after the three of them were inside. The divine tablet gradually sank to the ground and disappeared.

“Such a monumental event.” Vine God reflected.

As the oldest being in Demon, he had seen legends and invincible masters. Alas, there was no one like Li Qiye who defied logic and conventional wisdom.

“Go back now, everyone.” Vine God said.

The commanding gods sat back down on their thrones. Goldcrest seemed rather confused as well, not knowing what to do.

Fortunately, Golden Cicada King came over to help him out and told him the various responsibilities and tasks.

After all, the king knew everything about Bug previously. Although it was Kun now, the worshippers were still the same demons and animals.

With his help, Goldcrest was able to harness the power of worship and improved his cultivation drastically.

After entering the portal, the trio was teleported to another world with a vast azure. The stars up there were brimming with life but upon closer inspection, they noticed certain damages that couldn't be healed completely - holes that weren't filled entirely or rough edges.

Moreover, the way they were arranged seemed to be unnatural and not part of the original scheme. A supreme power must have mended and re-created this entire world.

Chapter 5062: Meeting

As the youths took a deep breath, they felt an infantile life force from all the entities present. This seemed to be the start of a pristine world, still untouched by humans. The winds in the air carried traces of grass and beasts.

"What a comforting serenity." Ming Shi took a deep breath and said while feeling the urge to roll on the green field to forget about the competitive ways and worries of life.

She couldn't help reverting back to her original form - a rabbit. She started running in the field as fast as she could and this made Li Qiye smile.

Tendril King, on the other hand, lacked the same innocence and youthful spark. She was the leader of Untethered, bound with immense responsibilities. Ming Shi was sheltered from all of this.

She took a deep breath before reflecting sentimentally: "This place makes it hard to leave."

Her original form was a vine so she had the urge to take root in this paradise.

“This place is indeed beneficial to you.” Li Qiye smiled.

It took her a while to become accustomed to the area. She then bowed and said: “I apologize, this is my first time feeling such a pure and pristine life force.”

“It’s good that you can sense it, meaning that it is fate of sorts and will be great for your future.” He said.

“I can’t express my gratitude enough.” She bowed her head.

The three of them traveled across this joyous land; Ming Shi was still in her rabbit form and laughed happily.

Tendril King, on the other hand, enjoyed this atmosphere and tried to learn its dao. Each step was a learning process and it brought joy to the heart and mind. This was how cultivation should be.

“I didn’t know that such a paradise exist in this world.” She said while harmonizing with the grand dao.

“It doesn’t.” Li Qiye glanced upward and smiled.

“What do you mean, Young Noble?” She asked.

"As long as there is life, there is karma, and with karma, there are emotions, both positive and negative." Li Qiye said.

"True." She agreed that this was a part of life.

"So-called paradises require protection and self-restraint. Will you practice either on your path?" Li Qiye asked.

"Protection and self-restraint." She contemplated.

"You are a dragon lord and one day, you might be able to reach this realm." Li Qiye said while staring at her: "A choice must be made at the apex."

"A choice must be made?" She asked for further elaboration.

"Yes, you had an original aspiration for embarking on the path of cultivation. If you reach the apex one day, will you look back and reflect to see if the goal is still the same?" Li Qiye said: "This conviction determines how far you go and the choice you will make."

"I see." She then understood what he meant by protection and self-restraint.

"An endless path, to be trodden alone." Li Qiye recited with a touch of poetic grace.

“An eternal path, freed from ego and shackles.” Another voice answered, one with a unique cadence. This gave the impression that the speaker was one of few words. His delivery was slow with an ancient style but this only added to the charm.

“Ah!” On the other side, Ming Shi suddenly screamed and ran to the foot of a towering hill.

“Rumble!” A strange scene occurred - large creatures made of numerous circular bone fragments showed up, looking like worms.

They were also startled by her voice and all looked up. This scared her even more because they only had a hole where the head should be. Inside the hole were numerous rotating wheels capable of grinding anything to dust.

Fortunately, it seemed that they were gentle herbivores, just spending their time feeding on the verdant grass.

When Ming Shi came a little closer, they escaped by drilling into the ground.

“Vast the dao is yet I still meet you. Must be fate.” The ancient voice sounded again.

Ming Shi finally saw the speaker - a divine tiger climbing down the mountain.

It was majestic with an overwhelming presence. Its sheer aura alone was suffocating and regal but the true master was an old monkey sitting on its back. Its fur was clean and neat.

Its aura couldn't compare to the ferocious tiger yet it had no problem riding the creature. This combination seemed as natural as the sun rising from the east.

The monkey also exuded a daoist presence just like an immortal. The skeletal worms earlier came out again and squirmed around the monkey, looking happy like dogs playing with their master.

"Who are you?" Ming Shi was surprised to see such a strange scene. The worms didn't look scary anymore.

"Ming Shi, be respectful. I am a member of Untethered Lineage, it is a pleasure to meet you, Senior." Tendril King ran over and bowed.

"Be at ease, this is just the wilderness." The monkey's voice remained simple as if he hasn't spoken human language in a very long time.

"You look familiar Ming Shi said but couldn't recall the details.

"He created the tiger deity branch." Li Qiye came over and answered.

"Oh, that's what it is! No wonder why, so you were being worshipped by the rooster in the city." Ming Shi exclaimed.

Chapter 5063: A Joyous Rabbit

"Sir." Upon seeing Li Qiye, the old monkey got down from the tiger and came over to bow.

His movements were awkward and he used an archaic speech as if he was a newly enlightened monkey who had just learned to speak.

“You are returning to the source.” Li Qiye couldn’t help but sigh after seeing this.

“Right you are, Sir.” The monkey nodded and asked Li Qiye to sit down.

On the other hand, he squatted down since he was still used to the habit of squatting due to his current state.

Ming Shi and Tendril King came closer. The former stared at the monkey with great curiosity.

They didn’t see a divinity of a founder god from him. For example, Golden Mosquito’s divinity was impressive at first sight - clearly displaying his godhood.

On the other hand, the monkey’s divinity was actually waning. He seemed to be dispersing his power in order to return to being a true monkey.

Ming Shi remained confused but Tendril King had a different perspective due to experience and cultivation realm.

Though the monkey seemed to be degenerating, there was something inscrutable about his expression and words. He was somehow reverting back to the source, allowing him to wield the power of the original dao.

As for her, as she became stronger, she learned more merit laws and her dao power improved. This made her forget about her origin. Eventually, she would become the same as other cultivators, only stronger.

The monkey chose a different path - to reverse the effect of the dao.

"Sir, are you here to guide me?" The monkey asked respectfully like an enthusiastic student.

"What can I teach you? Even if I did, you would eventually walk on your own path again." Li Qiye shook his head and smiled.

The monkey agreed. Despite his curiosity, he still leaned toward his own origin.

"I think I had a dream like that once The monkey scratched his head.

"One where you're a dao lord?" Li Qiye smiled.

"A dao lord?" Something resurfaced for a second in the monkey's mind before disappearing.

"You are a monkey right now but the past is still there, so a choice exists. Do you want to remember or forget your dream?" Li Qiye asked.

"Sir, can I forget?" The monkey scratched his cheeks, looking more and more like a regular monkey.

“If you want to forget, then you will forget.” Li Qiye said seriously: “On this path, you will end up where you began. Returning to the source is a way of returning to the truth of the grand dao. They are similar in principle and have the same result.”

“If you can actually reach this level, then you will forget about the past. God Ape Dao Lord will only be a dream, you shall be you, nothing else but an old monkey in this world.” He continued.

“?!!” Ming Shi and Tendril King were astounded.

There were records of God Ape Dao Lord in the lower continents. He came from a lower world and didn’t look like this back then.

They didn’t know about his exploits in Eight Desolaces and his wonderful creations - Armament Mountain and Eight Treasures Splitting the Heaven.

They were also surprised that he eventually founded a deity branch in Demon. This dao lord was once unbeatable and revered by all. Now, he resembled a common monkey.

If members of Armament Mountain were present, they wouldn’t know what to think about their progenitor wanting to revert back into a monkey.

“Well said, Sir. The path ultimately leads to truth.” The monkey instinctively scratched his head.

“Senior, why do you want to be a monkey instead of a dao lord?” Ming Shi couldn’t help but ask.

In the past, she wouldn't dare to question a powerful being so directly. Alas, being with Li Qiye emboldened her.

"I forgot the details, but the past is nothing more than a dream." The old monkey said.

"You have reached an incredible level, Senior." Tendril King understood his path because she had a relative understanding of the dao and the source: "When you revert to the truth of the dao, your origin will be your dao and vice versa."

"The dao is the dao, I am me." The monkey said: "Can't remember much more."

"This is a different path, to be freed entirely in this world." Li Qiye smiled.

"I don't know if I should say this, but I don't think it's worth it. You were invincible once." Ming Shi didn't understand.

"All for a single wish." The monkey said.

She clearly didn't understand so Li Qiye interjected: "What will you do after becoming invincible?"

"Whatever I want, like running around just now, that was fun." Ming Shi happily recalled.

“Then why don’t you just be a rabbit?” Li Qiye said: “You were born a rabbit, you can be carefree and roam in the plains without worrying about cultivation.”

“Well She couldn’t answer quickly enough.

“Because if you’re a rabbit, the hawk above might eat you, the same with the snakes below.” Li Qiye continued: “But what if you are strong enough to break out of this cycle, is it that bad to return to the origin, being a rabbit again?”

“Mmm She quietly contemplated.

After a while, she said: “What if I don’t want to be a rabbit?”

“Then you must follow a different path to reach the truth of the dao, to seek anima and become the dao.” Li Qiye said: “There is more than one path. The origin can reach the truth, the same for anima.”

“Twelve fruits to craft the perfect vessel for anima on the route to immortality.” Tendril King murmured.

She had five right now and with twelve, she could move on to the next step on the path to everlasting life.

God Ape Dao Lord did something different - wanting to forget the grand dao and his very own identity in order to reach the original truth.

This was something easier for demons compared to the other races. They had a hard time reverting back to their original state and required special methods.

Tendril King had researched this path previously but it didn't make sense for her versus regular cultivation.

Chapter 5064: A Lost Epoch

"A whole life of cultivation only to become a rabbit, is it worth it?" Ming Shi took a while before sighing.

"What's wrong with being a rabbit?" Li Qiye stared at her.

She thought about this seriously before answering: "I won't understand or know anything, no friends either, just a wild animal."

"We're not talking about the same thing. You're thinking of a wild rabbit instead of a rabbit that has reached the truth." Li Qiye chuckled and shook his head: "You'll be one with heaven and earth. What you have forgotten or should remember has fused with the world. No friend? Everything is your friend then."

"Is that so?" She murmured and glanced at the strange worms. They seemed so close to the monkey.

This gave her a new perspective regarding an absolute reversion to the source. The monkey didn't seem to be having a bad time.

"Reversion." Li Qiye pattered the monkey's shoulder: "I can't say that this is the wrong path. Once you jump out of the cycles, that is when it will happen."

"I understand, Sir." The monkey scratched his head again.

Meanwhile, the two women thought about how a dao lord was invincible, especially one with twelve dao fruits.

Alas, this monkey had done that and wanted to take it another step higher, albeit with an unconventional method.

"Okay, I should get going." Li Qiye got up after chatting with the monkey.

The monkey stood up and told Ming Shi: "Fate takes you to the dao and this place, do you wish to stay?"

He clearly wanted to bestow the princess a great fortune.

She immediately shook her head and said: "I don't want to stay here, I'm scared of them." She was referring to the headless worms.

"You don't understand, silly." Li Qiye shook his head: "These unique worms have a divine bloodline, they will transform and be able to eat top masters as if they are fried beans."

"They're divine beasts?" Though the worms looked cute playing with the monkey, she was still scared of them and shook her head: "I still don't want to, let's go somewhere else."

Having said that, she grabbed Li Qiye's arm and coquettishly said: "Young Noble, can I get a different fortune instead?"

"Let's go then." Li Qiye smiled.

The monkey and the tiger walked with them for a while. As they were about to split up, the monkey said: "There's a chance I will not remember anything soon, but it is a blessing of three lifetimes to meet you, Sir."

"Don't worry, you don't remember the world but the world will remember you, that's enough." Li Qiye said goodbye.

The monkey watched their departure before giving a command and happily roaming the plains with his tiger and the strange worms.

"Is it actually good returning to the origin?" Ming Shi asked after they got far away.

"This is a cultivation choice, you will be able to escape the cycles and don't need to worry about the mortal coil." Tendril King said.

"I don't think it's right for me." Ming Shi smiled: "I prefer to just find the truth through cultivation."

“That path isn’t all that great.” Li Qiye said: “It’s endless and that’s not even the hardest path. The true difficulty lies in being able to maintain your original conviction. Otherwise, you might end up turning into the thing you hate the most.”

“The thing I hate the most?” She repeated.

Tendril King understood right away due to her experience while Ming Shi remained confused.

“Is Golden Mosquito God scary and nasty?” Li Qiye asked.

“Hmph, I shudder just thinking about him.” Ming Shi responded.

“There are existences that have gone farther than him, far more powerful. In reality, their intrinsic nature is not different from him at all.” Li Qiye said.

“I don’t want to become someone like that, devouring others.” She trembled.

“In order to prevent that, you must protect your dao heart. As long as it is indomitable, you will be able to travel far even after reaching the truth.” Li Qiye said.

“I will remember your guidance, Young Noble.” She nodded solemnly.

Tendril King could see that Li Qiye has a high evaluation of Ming Shi. This meant that the junior still had a long way to go.

Not to mention regular cultivators, even a genius dragon lord like her might not be able to reach the truth. However, Li Qiye was already talking about it with Ming Shi. The girl's future seemed brighter than hers.

"You can do it." Tendril King patted her shoulder.

The three walked in this land and felt its life force. Ming Shi had a hard time noticing anything special but Tendril King had questions.

"The power of this world seems different from our cultivation." Tendril King asked Li Qiye.

"You are correct, because this cultivation is different, hence the unique nature of Demon." Li Qiye nodded.

"So what is this place?" Ming Shi asked.

Demon was indeed different from the other dao lineages. They had deity branches and the power of worship; everything originated from a place known as the divine nest. The others' system was straightforward and more personal.

"The remnant of an epoch, it has been repaired." Li Qiye said with a casual tone.

"!!!" Tendril King couldn't believe it. She had heard rumors about this but never took it seriously. So the divine nest of Demon belonged to a different epoch?

“What do you mean? Which epoch was it from?” Ming Shi became curious.

“Demon Beast.” Li Qiye glanced at the sky and said.

“Demon Beast.” The two women exchanged glances.

“What was it like?” Ming Shi asked.

“Do you know true dragons and phoenixes?” Li Qiye asked.

“Of course, they only exist in the legends and have never been seen before.” Ming Shi answered.

Some cultivators claimed to have the bloodline of true dragons. The actual creatures remained elusive.

“They were born in that epoch.” Li Qiye said.

“I see, so that’s why we don’t see them anymore, not that they don’t exist, they’re just from another epoch.” Tendril King commented.

Chapter 5065: Let’s Go See An Egg

“What about the other divine beasts? Are they still in this place?” Ming Shi asked.

Li Qiye closed his eye to sense this world. After a while, he opened them and smiled: "Very well, I will let you two take a look."

"Yes!" Both became excited including the experienced dragon lord. She also wanted to witness living legends.

Li Qiye took them to a peak with a towering tree. They were immediately greeted by an impressive amount of chaos true energy.

This aura could last forever without ever waning. Tendril King had a difficult time withstanding it, let alone Ming Shi.

In reality, she had no chance of climbing up the tree without following right behind Li Qiye. The sheer pressure alone could have reduced the two women to blood in the blink of an eye.

They heard thunderous explosions stemming from the lightning bolts coursing through the leaves. Tendril King could tell how feeble she was when facing just a single bolt.

After a challenging climb, they finally reached the pinnacle of the tree where they discovered a bird nest. It was shrouded in clouds and mist, large enough to be a kingdom.

The lack of invisibility was due to an ocean of lightning bolts hovering above it. It poured down from the nest like waterfalls and eventually turned into lightning currents.

The nest was formed by the twisting branches of the tree - something which the monarch had never seen before due to its ancient age.

The moment she touched them, she gained a considerable boost in power. This nest had the power to harmonize with the dao, allowing an unlimited creation of power.

Thus, just staying in the nest was enough to grow stronger - there was no need for active cultivation.

"It's divine..." She murmured. As a vine herself, she had a heightened sensitivity to the nest. She then turned her attention beyond the mist and saw a golden egg at the very center.

It was as bright as the sun and issued loud crackles. The shell had archaic runes of the lighting affinity.

Whenever a crackle occurred, the two women's grand dao would resonate and erupt back. Their fate palaces appeared outside of their control and derived the grand dao.

They were shocked because this was an entirely new experience.

"This is the egg of a divine best?" Ming Shi asked.

"Gestated by the power of heavenly lightning and grand dao, only a divine beast can come to the world in this manner." Tendril King said with admiration.

"You're slightly off here, it is not being gestated by the power of lightning, it is emitting it." Li Qiye shook his head.

"It is producing this much energy already?" Both women became startled.

"That is why it is a divine beast, born to be matchless. At full maturity, it will be the lord of the worlds." Li Qiye said.

They took a deep breath. This creature was monstrous even in this egg form; no other living beings could catch up.

This was the reason why everyone coveted the divine bloodlines, especially the demons.

"Can we adopt it?" Ming Shi smiled and said.

"Boom!" A golden detonation answered her, akin to a giant stomping down with enough force to crush dragon lords.

"Hmph." Li Qiye scowled. His voice alone destroyed everything including the golden explosion.

The powerful egg trembled in fear after seeing this, no longer daring to act imperiously. As for the two women, they couldn't believe it. That explosion could have reduced them to dust if it wasn't for Li Qiye's protection.

"So this is a divine egg." Tendril King murmured. The world had several "divine eggs" appearing before. None came close to this level.

"It's not that simple to adopt one. Even someone who has the ability to adopt won't be able to take care of it, this is a grand fortune capable of seizing the wonders of heaven and earth. It is more of a disaster than a blessing." Li Qiye said.

"I see, I definitely can't take good care of it." Ming Shi said.

"I wonder what the War Monarch's divine egg is like." Tendril King commented on the rumor of that clan obtaining an egg from the nest. Was that one comparable to this golden egg?

"We're leaving, this egg is not something the lower continents can handle." Li Qiye only brought them here to broaden their horizon and had no intention of taking the egg.

As they were leaving, the egg issued metallic sounds, seemingly bidding goodbye.

"It's sentient already." Ming Shi said.

"It is a true divine egg, exceedingly rare even back in its epoch. In fact, it somehow managed to survive the destruction, this is a sign of its supremeness." Li Qiye said, elaborating on how special it was to the two women.

They left the tree and went to another scenic location. Ming Shi and Tendril King were captivated by a scene that should only exist in the paintings.

The land was engulfed in divinity and light. The source came from a snow-white beast with runes exuding the holy affinity.

Chapter 5066: Brutal War Of Past

Its horn was also gorgeous with a purifying light. It came closer and nibbled Ming Shi's sleeve.

"So cute." She happily petted it.

"Is this a..." Tendril King recalled stories about this creature.

"Yes, a unicorn, albeit not the purest of this bloodline." Li Qiye said.

Meanwhile, the unicorn nudged Ming Shi, seemingly wanting to take her somewhere.

"Her heart is pure." Tendril King murmured - there was a reason why the unicorn was so close to Ming Shi. It didn't approach Li Qiye or her, only the girl.

It led them deeper into the beautiful region with mesmerizing mountains and rivers. This tranquil paradise brimmed with the holy affinity. It could turn villains into upstanding cultivators.

The thing surprising them the most was the relatively high population of unicorns. Though they weren't pureblooded, they could still be considered divine beasts in the outside world.

"How rare, esteemed visitors from afar." A charismatic voice sounded, indicating that the speaker was a man of unparalleled grace.

Ming Shi and Tendril King looked over and saw a man sitting on top of a boulder. Due to his simple style, he resembled a shepherd for the unicorns.

He possessed a holy glow as well, purer than any light in existence. Despite his unadorned appearance, his smile was unforgettable and infectious.

He saw Li Qiye and rushed over to bow respectfully: "It's you, Sir, I didn't expect you to come so soon."

The others exchanged glances - he seemed to know Li Qiye.

"Little serpent, you're in charge of this place?" Li Qiye smiled.

"Haha, Sir, this is just a little accomplishment, not worth mentioning in your presence." The youth hurriedly asked Li Qiye to sit down.

"Do you two know each other?" Ming Shi asked and couldn't believe how a man's smile could glitter so magnificently.

"When I first heard of you, Sir, I was but a tiny serpent. Now, I'm still just a tiny serpent in your eyes." The youth said.

"The great Immortal Emperor Jin She, no need to be so humble." Li Qiye smiled. [1]

"Immortal Emperor Jin She?" Ming Shi wasn't familiar with this title.

"An ancient emperor." Tendril King knew about this system from the past. This youth must be extremely old because this title was no longer used, replaced by dao lords and conquerors.

"You are Golden Serpent Emperor?" Ming Shi recalled a grand figure appearing when Wild Dragon was running away. Now that she looked at him carefully, the two were rather familiar.

"It's all in the past." The youth smiled and shook his head.

"The deity of Serpent!" Ming Shi became startled because he was the first founder god of Demon.

"That branch is nothing compared to his previous achievements as an Immortal Emperor." Li Qiye commented.

"I don't deserve such kind praises from you, Sir." The youth bowed again.

He came from Heavenhoof Ravine and possessed a divine bloodline. Alas, this sect was no longer around at this point.

Li Qiye relaxed on another boulder and observed the roaming unicorns.

"I remember when you were a little snake that wanted to become a true dragon." He said.

“Time waits for no one, seems like wasted effort.” The youth sighed.

“Can the power here cleanse the traces of blood from you?” Li Qiye asked.

“I am at peace here and probably will not leave. Tending the herd and enjoying the winds, this might be my permanent home. After all, this is the ancestral nest.” He said.

“The ancestral nest was not your pursuit yet you still returned.” Li Qiye commented.

During their conversation, Ming Shi had run off with some of the unicorns, being close enough to ride one of them.

“I have let you down, Sir. Weariness got the best of me so I ran here to live with these holy creatures. The mortal world no longer matters to me.”

“It is not your fault since the dao is full of obstacles and everyone has the right to pick. This is a great ending anyway.” Li Qiye nodded.

He sighed despite his current joyous situation: “I couldn’t be indomitable like you in any situation and regardless of the time.”

“I can only move forward.” Li Qiye said.

“I am no stranger to blood and death my whole life, it’s just that the last war made me want to quit and go far away.”

"It was brutal." Li Qiye said.

"Yes." The youth nodded: "Can Long and Ba Zhen fell, that was only the first battle too."

"The immemorial epoch war." Tendril King had heard of it before.

"Indeed, The People was utterly defeated and without the protection of the supreme power, they were doomed to be slaves forever or wiped out."

Tendril King read about how the emperors and sages joined that war. She didn't expect to meet a survivor today.

"I don't need to return anyway." The youth revealed a bitter smile.

Li Qiye patted his shoulder and said: "It's amazing that you have tried your best. Look, you're still alive, and isn't this place great?"

"Right, I just don't understand why all living beings will devour each other eventually." The youth sentimentally said.

"There will be an end." Li Qiye responded.

"You're talking about the final battle?" He asked.

Li Qiye smiled and stared at the horizon. After a brief silence, he said: "The final battle."

Chapter 5067: Celestial Court's Unknown Guest

"I'm afraid I can't be by your side, Sir." The youth stared at the happy unicorns and said.

Ming Shi had too much fun playing with the unicorns who weren't afraid of her at all.

"It's fine." Li Qiye didn't mind and closed his eyes to enjoy the breeze. The evils of the world couldn't reach this place.

"This place is peaceful, no need to chase the light either, everything is natural and innate. The dao and power are there without a need for cultivation." He added.

"You're right, Sir." The youth said.

After the war, Immortal Emperor Jin She chose to be a shepherd for the unicorns instead. This was similar to God Ape Dao Lord taking care of the strange worms.

"Some move forward by circumstances, Immortal Emperors and dao lords included. They could have just turned back." Li Qiye sighed.

"The same can be said about you, Sir, yet you choose to move forward." The youth said.

"There's nothing I can do, I am doomed from the start." Li Qiye joked.

"Your determination is unmatched." The youth said: "You emphasized the dao heart to us instead of merit laws and techniques. Alas, some of us have let you down."

"It is expected for this is life." Li Qiye said: "If the dao were so easy, who would fall into the darkness? Who would pick a life without sunlight?"

"Yes." The youth nodded.

Li Qiye didn't say anything else and enjoyed the pleasant atmosphere along with the occasional waves of laughter from Ming Shi and the unicorns.

After a long while, the youth looked up and told Li Qiye: "There's something you should know, Sir. An unfamiliar guest visited Celestial Court."

"Oh, interesting." Li Qiye opened his eyes and said.

"Not much is known during the war, always elusive." The youth said.

"That's not the style of the old geezers." Li Qiye said.

“This person’s existence was spotted by our side but kept a low profile in Celestial Court. We suspected that there was an attempt to settle it all with a single ambush. It didn’t work so a furious darkness came instead and started the war.” The youth said.

Tendril King was surprised to hear this due to some inconsistencies with the records. The most popular stated that darkness suddenly descended during a disaster and Celestial Court came back to illuminate the world. As the savior, it, later on, declared an inquisition against The People. This started the war.

At first, not all members of The People were branded as sinners. Alas, the strong resistance eventually forced Celestial Court to raise the stakes.

Now, it seemed that there was something else going on before these events. Who was bold enough to attack Celestial Court from the inside?

In the present, Celestial Court was absolutely the strongest lineage in all six continents. They were even stronger during their golden age.

“So what happened?” Li Qiye asked.

“Hard to say, this person was never spotted again during the war. It was difficult to find out more information because of Celestial Court’s defenses.” The youth said.

“Looks like a visit is warranted. Maybe some fish will come out to play.” Li Qiye said.

“But if they don’t?” The youth asked.

“That’s where the problem lies, there’s no solution and they will always be looming in the future.” Li Qiye stroked his chin.

“Do you have a plan, Sir?” The youth asked.

“They will have no choice but to come out when the time comes, that’s when I will perform the final clean-up.” Li Qiye smirked.

“And that is when you will embark on your journey?” The youth inquired.

“Whoever started this war did it for a reason. Something must have changed.” Li Qiye said.

“I see The youth was familiar with these higher-level theories. This was a big deal when it came from Li Qiye.

“All parties will lose their patience soon, and that is when I can end it.” Li Qiye said.

“I wish nothing but success for your expedition.” The youth said. Though he no longer cared about the outside world, he still wanted the best for Li Qiye.

“I will succeed.” Li Qiye nodded, telling both the youth and himself.

“Back then, the empress eventually showed up to take care of things. That battle resulted in many top masters falling. She disappeared henceforth after leaving Imperial Field behind.” The youth revealed.

“Imperial Field Tendril King murmured. This was one of the three strongest lineages in the immortal continent.

Celestial Court was the oldest. Immortal Dao City came after and Imperial Field was established after the war.

“Imperial Field was built on the blood and flesh of emperors.” The youth told her.

She took a deep breath. Future generations didn’t know who started this lineage but now, she finally got an answer from a survivor.

“Celestial Court still wanted it.” Li Qiye said.

“Many Grand Emperors appeared at the same time but the bone was gone. All three lineages couldn’t find it.” The youth nodded.

“So relentless and greed, I suppose dogs don’t stop eating shit.” Li Qiye chuckled.

“This will lead to you, Sir.” The youth said.

“It saves me the trouble, it’s already happening.” Li Qiye nodded.

After listening to their conversation, Tendril King realized that the duel between Conceal and Li Qiye was not personal.

Celestial Court ordered her to obtain the item, and this might be the reason why Conceal Conqueror stuck around in the lower continents.

Given her current cultivation, she should be ascending. After all, the usual limit was four fruits. Alas, she had a mission to accomplish and now, Li Qiye was in possession of her goal.

Chapter 5068: Found A Gigantic Tree

Li Qiye chatted with Immortal Emperor Jin She for a long while regarding certain crucial topics. Eventually, Li Qiye stood up and waved at Ming Shi who was still having fun.

She hasn't had enough but still jumped down from the unicorn and returned: "These unicorns are too cute."

"They are born with the holy affinity and regular people can't get close, let alone play with them. Miss, perhaps you are connected with this place by fate and can obtain a fortune here." The young emperor said.

"Doesn't seem too bad." She stroked her chin and thought about how she truly liked this place.

"Should I stay here?" She couldn't help asking Li Qiye.

"All the fortunes here are up for grabs." Li Qiye said: "If you want to, you can pick this one."

“Mmm, forget it, I want to look at the other places too.” She tilted her head for a bit before responding: “Young Noble, what’s your destination? I want to see it too.”

Li Qiye only smiled and didn’t answer.

“You should take a look, Sir.” The youth told him: “The ancestral dragon is still young so you should make the decision for the future’s sake.”

He seemed to actually be interested in this matter.

“Everyone has been working hard, it seems.” Li Qiye smiled.

The youth nodded in response: “They’re trying to look for a new path, giving birth to a new world from the remnant of an old one.”

“I understand.” Li Qiye responded.

The youth’s last worries disappeared after seeing Li Qiye. After all, no one was more suitable to deal with these issues than him.

“Miss, if you are also looking for a fortune, there is a dried root over yonder that is worth your time.” The youth told Tendril King before they left.

Li Qiye nodded: "Might as well take a look, you deserve something to make this worth your time."

"I wonder if I will get to see you again, Sir, or I'll be dead from old age next time you're back. Nonetheless, to have met you in this life was an honor." The youth bowed to bid farewell.

"Take care." Li Qiye said before leaving with the two women.

The emperor watched until they disappeared from sight before returning to his region. He - an unbeatable Immortal Emperor and a legendary founder god - chose to live reclusively away from the outside world.

This wasn't a bad ending for a cultivator who has grown tired of needless bloodshed and death. Though he was stained with blood and flames, now he was able to live innocently like a child.

The trio followed the emperor's direction and crossed through wondrous landscapes - stars and various affinities shaping up physical realms...

They saw both destruction and rebirth along the way - from nothingness came something.

This rebuilding process was easier said than done. After all, there were fragments and damages everywhere after the calamity.

Eventually, they made it to a continent with broken stars and large chasms on the ground. It was actually larger than the lower continents.

Their destination was a basin, looking like the aftermath of a volcano from afar. Once they got closer, they could tell that it might have been the result of a crashing meteor.

"This is it?" Ming Shi looked around and only saw scorched earth - the opposite of her expectation.

This was drastically different from God Ape Dao Lord and Immortal Emperor Jin She's place. Anyone would pick the previous locations instead of this one.

"It's peculiar." Tendril King noticed something due to her impressive cultivation.

"Buzz." After a green glow, she summoned a vine and drilled it into the ground. She then closed her eyes to feel the land.

Something flashed back from underground. This faint glow alone made her sense an unimaginable level of life force.

"Boom!" She wanted to drill deeper but was instantly pushed into the air.

Li Qiye caught her and said: "It's not easy obtaining the fortune here, it will take a long, long time."

"This is exactly what I'm looking for!" She became excited.

“Senior Aunt, what looms beneath?” Ming Shi asked.

“The source of all trees, how incredible, it felt withered though.” Tendril King explained.

“It is a divine tree that has withered, so you’re right. We’re standing on one of its roots right now.” Li Qiye smiled.

“One root?” Ming Shi took a deep breath and gazed at the massive continent: “It is massive, just how large was this tree then? It probably took up the whole sky.”

They saw gigantic trees back in Demon since that region had the largest forest in the lower continents. Of course, none could compare to this tree if she was imagining it correctly.

“It might just take up all of our three continents, maybe more.” Tendril King said.

“Yes, this once shouldered an entire world. Now, there are only fragments left.” Li Qiye said.

“So this was a world tree?” Tendril King realized that she was still underestimating it.

“What destroyed this divine tree then?” Ming Shi gasped. This must be a power far beyond her comprehension.

“Certain existences stretching their greedy hands.” Li Qiye looked up at the sky and said, causing the two women to shudder.

“This fortune is suitable for you. It doesn’t matter which path you pick, reversing to the source or utilizing the grand dao. This tree can allow you to reach the truth.” Li Qiye added.

“I understand.” Tendril King said: “I will stay here for a long period and will do my best to not let you down, Young Noble.”

This place was everything she hoped for with regard to improving her cultivation.

Chapter 5069: Becoming A Tree

“Buzz.” She turned into a morning glory tree, becoming larger and larger. Her branches and leaves took over the entire basin in no time at all.

After taking up all the space possible, she started ascending vertically. This required immense cultivation as the fuel and fortunately, she had enough as a five-fruit dragon lord.

“Rumble!” Her transformation also re-shaped the continent. Peaks with gurgling streams ascended along her side. The water coursed to the bottom and started forming rivers and even oceans.

Ming Shi and Li Qiye witnessed a green continent in no time at all - verdant leaves and shimmering currents.

“She’s so strong.” Ming Shi praised her fellow sect member for this miraculous feat.

“Boom!” A divine light illuminated the continent and created the image of a great tree. Stars circled around its leaves as it gave birth to three thousand worlds.

“So this is a reflection of the divine tree?” Ming Shi murmured. She felt as if this tree could create the six continents without facing any issues.

Alas, the divine light didn’t last long and disappeared after a few seconds.

“I’m afraid I can’t return to Untethered. Ming Shi, do you mind letting the ancestors know?” Tendril King’s voice could be heard.

“I will deliver the message, Senior Aunt.” Ming Shi bowed.

With that, the group was down to two. As they were leaving, Ming Shi kept on looking back at the green continent. She hoped to see her senior aunt again but alas, after a full fusion process, her senior aunt might become a god here and wouldn’t be able to leave.

“Where are we going now, Young Noble?” She asked Li Qiye.

“The ancestral nest, the origin of it all.” Li Qiye told her.

They crossed through more celestial domains and saw unprecedented miracles, at least for Ming Shi.

One of them was a colossal statue. Its broken state didn't diminish its grandeur. Another location of note was a pond with tribulation lighting; a golden eagle was flying inside.

A frightening tsunami of lightning ravaged the pond in an unceasing manner. Nothing could survive in there with the exception of this eagle.

Chillglare Hawk's screech was devastating but it was nothing compared to this golden eagle. It was the roar of a tiger versus an infant crying.

This eagle could devour thousands of dragon lords in the blink of an eye. In fact, it could contrast against true dragons and phoenixes as well.

Its feathers were damaged by the lightning bolts and stained with blood. Nonetheless, it still kept on training in the pond until it noticed something.

"I apologize for the lack of reception, esteemed guests." It finally took a break.

"It's fine, keep going." Li Qiye smiled and said: "Using tribulation lighting to polish your true blood is the best course of action, perhaps you will be able to obtain a divine bloodline."

"Right you are, Sir." The eagle went to a fierce lightning domain while speaking: "I'm afraid I can't entertain you right now."

"It's fine." Li Qiye was only passing by and didn't feel like talking with the eagle.

“Boom!” A terrifying arc struck the eagle, causing it to focus again.

“Excuse me then!” It rushed into the air and faced the lightning arc directly, still capable of withstanding the destructive affinity.

“Is this the founder of Feather?” Ming Shi recalled the seal of Peacock Monarch - a golden eagle.

“That’s right.” Li Qiye nodded.

“These founder gods are so strange. God Ape Dao Lord just wants to be a monkey, Immortal Emperor Jin She wants to be a shepherd, and this golden eagle is a masochist.” Ming Shi murmured.

“It’s because of their varied background, so their pursuit and dao are also different.” Li Qiye said.

“We’ve seen Serpent, Tiger, Feather, and Bug so far. Wood’s Demon Conqueror is probably at the immortal continent, what about Mist? Will we see that founder too?” She asked.

“This god probably can’t stay in the divine nest and is long gone just like Demon Conqueror.” Li Qiye had an answer.

“What a shame, I want to see all of them.” Ming Shi sighed.

Chapter 5070: I’m Here To Help

Li Qiye finally made it to his destination - a dark place with low visibility. Looking ahead, one would see something akin to giant dragons intertwining in the air.

In reality, it was a nest made from massive branches. The two were only seeing a tiny corner of the nest.

Unfortunately, Ming Shi couldn't get any closer due to an unknown power. As she stood there, she speculated that even conquerors couldn't get in.

Li Qiye stared at the nest for a while before speaking: "Wait here."

"Okay." She agreed.

With that, Li Qiye took one step forward and nullified the power. It had no choice but to acquiesce before his presence.

"Hmph." He became more serious eventually and added force. All the laws reversed their course and made way for his steps.

"Boom!" A hole was made, allowing entry.

He disappeared into the nest while Ming Shi sat in the meditative pose, knowing that he would return unscathed.

Inside the nest proved that the initial assessment of its size was accurate. Countless stars flowed together like a river and eventually formed a maelstrom. It could accommodate an entire epoch.

It was spinning rather slowly in this timeless dimension. If it was in the outside world, it might require millions of years before a full rotation.

If it was spinning any faster, its sucking force would cause devastating damage. Upon closer inspection, a top master would be able to calculate its appropriate age and find out that it was still rather young.

Li Qiye took his time analyzing the maelstrom. After a while, he finally spoke: "Am I not welcome here? Must I flip this place over before getting to chat with you two?"

It looked as if he was murmuring to himself since no one else was around.

"Pop!" Space rippled to the sides of the maelstrom. A total of four eyes opened to look at him.

One pair of eyes was golden, as bright as two suns. The other was amber with a glassy feel to it.

Two divine beast auras engulfed the area and could make anyone tremble. Two massive shadows appeared next to the maelstrom as well.

One was a golden dragon while the other was a white tiger.

"Sigh, no matter where I go, you keep haunting us." The white tiger to the right had a domineering voice.

"You should be thanking me for helping you find the ancestral nest. Now, you have obtained atavism." Li Qiye said.

"That is true." The golden dragon on the left was much more friendly in comparison: "It is thanks to your help that we were able to find this place. Now, our bloodline is as pure as can be."

"We also helped you out." The tiger said.

"So what, you two would have been suppressed under that mountain still if it wasn't for me." Li Qiye retorted.

"Hmph." The tiger had no response to this.

"It is an honor to see you again, Young Noble." The dragon cordially said.

"Don't even start, I'm sure he's not here to bring us good news." The tiger said.

"I see how it is, turning your back on an old friend after finding the ancestral nest." Li Qiye sat down in space and said.

"Not to that extent, but everyone knows your unsavory reputation by now, Crow. You don't visit for no reason, I'm sure you're here to exploit us in some way again." The tiger had a fiery temper.

“Well.” Li Qiye stroked his chin in response: “You two were so scrawny before but now, big and fat. Maybe I can really squeeze out something nice.”

“Stop dreaming.” The tiger retorted.

“Young Noble, we’re happy to see you again because after all, we wouldn’t be here if it wasn’t for you. Unfortunately, due to our circumstances, we can’t follow you to battle like before.” The dragon politely said.

“I’m aware.” Li Qiye said.

“Dark Crow, we don’t owe you either, we cured the little girl and trained her into an invincible master.” The tiger said with pride.

They spent immense efforts on this matter and the result was absolutely transformative and unprecedented.

“I’ve guessed as much, and you two deserve all the merits for this.” Li Qiye nodded.

“Let’s not talk about debts like we’re strangers. But the girl really didn’t disappoint and she brightened up this place. She was with us for so long that we consider her family.” The dragon laughed happily.

In the past, they weren’t at her level, let alone being able to train someone to that level.

“That’s why I’m here relaxing and chatting, I remember what you have done and am grateful for it.” Li Qiye smiled.

“I don’t feel any gratitude coming from you.” The tiger said: “Nothing good ever comes from your presence, only bullying.”

“Sigh, that’s hurtful and untrue when I’m such a nice person.” Li Qiye complained: “What can I do when my kindness is viewed as malice?”

He paused for a second before adding: “You should know that I am here with a gift.”

“No need.” The tiger had a bad feeling about this.

“Hahaha, we appreciate your goodwill, Young Noble, but we’re old now and just want to retire here.” The dragon felt the same way and became cautious.