

Emperor 5131

Chapter 5131: Why Should I Tell You?

The man regretted coming too late to save True Bear Mountain. He scanned the ruins and noticed Li Qiye who had no need to hide.

He flashed and appeared in front of Li Qiye. He instantly felt perplexed because of Li Qiye's mysterious air.

"Greetings." He slightly bowed.

"What is it?" Li Qiye said lazily.

His attitude surprised the man even more. He didn't think of it as arrogance but rather, a nonchalant attitude toward everyone regardless of who they were.

"I can tell that you're special, Sir." The man sincerely said: "I have traveled the world but have not seen you before. May I ask where you are from?"

"From where I should be and heading for where I should go." Li Qiye smiled.

The man was surprised to hear this response. He bowed again and asked: "Could you please elaborate?"

"Why should I?" To which Li Qiye responded.

The man smiled wryly and said: "You're right, I was out of line, my apology."

"You're rather interesting." Li Qiye chuckled.

"I'll take that as a compliment, thank you." The man excitedly said: "Seems like we were brought together by fate, would you like to visit Dao Alliance for a bit?"

"Not even a little bit, I don't care about the alliances since I'm just passing by." Li Qiye shook his head.

"You're so direct, Sir." The man said: "How about a drink then?"

He didn't wait for an answer before preparing a table and boiling a pot of tea.

Li Qiye didn't refuse this time and sat down. He poured a cup for Li Qiye and said: "This is a special product from Dao Alliance, it will be worth your time."

"The finest tea we have to offer, I believe it is comparable to the grand dao tea from that one village, please try." He introduced.

The tea emitted the sound of the grand dao. Its steam had a shape of a phoenix.

Li Qiye took a sip and nodded approvingly: "It's good."

The man poured Li Qiye another cup; his movement was in tune with nature.

“This is not your true appearance.” Li Qiye said.

“Right, it’s just that my true appearance can be problematic when I travel.” The man smiled.

“Buzz.” He became as small as a fist just like an elf. His clothes had the symbol of a lotus.

It would be foolish to underestimate him because of his appearance. His radiance had a creation affinity, turning him into the center of the world. The celestials floated in accordance with his whim.

Despite his tiny frame, his demeanor became different - domineering and aggressive instead of friendly.

“A sky spirit.” Li Qiye smiled.

The man changed back to his disguise and said: “My little trick couldn’t fool you.”

“I heard about a particular story regarding a sky spirit being ambushed in the midst of dao comprehension by numerous ancestors. However, someone from a forbidden zone came out and protected him, killing all attackers in the process.” Li Qiye said.

The man immediately stood up and bowed again: “Ah, another native, it is my pleasure.”

Li Qiye accepted the gesture and smiled: "Those from Eight Desolaces are always exceptional, not inferior to anyone from the six continents even though they are blessed by the heavens."

"I wholeheartedly agree." The man laughed.

"Seems like everyone is doing well in this foreign land." Li Qiye said.

"Yes. You are a friend if you're from Eight Desolaces. You should really come to Dao Alliance then, the current guardian is Brother All-things. He'll be elated to see you." The man said.

"Not interested." Li Qiye refused again.

"Mmm, hypothetically, if you must pick an alliance to join, which one do you prefer the most?" The man became curious.

"Trying to probe my intention?" Li Qiye asked.

"No, I'm merely curious." The man said: "I don't know how long you've been here and how much you know about the six continents, but you should know that there will be another war very soon, one on the same scale as Immemorial Epoch War and Skysplitter."

He paused for a second before continuing: "In my opinion, no one will be lucky enough to escape it, all sects will be dragged into this mess."

“Now this is a topic I’m interested in.” Li Qiye smirked.

“The leader of Heaven Alliance is ambitious and after Brother Principle’s abdication, Divine Alliance might join them too. They will definitely attack Dao or Imperial Alliance afterward and start another war between the two sides.” He calmly elaborated.

“Celestial Court believes that the time is right?” Li Qiye asked.

“I am sure that they have some backers. The surviving emperors from the previous wars talked about strange guests there but none actually saw them.” The man shook his head: “We believe that they are concocting a plan to take over all six continents at the same time.”

“Is that why you’re traveling everywhere to recruit members of The People?” Li Qiye asked.

“My goal is to help Brother All-things in achieving solidarity among us, that’s the only way to stop Celestial Court or it’ll only be a matter of time before they take over.” The man earnestly said.

“I can see your determination, but some say that joining Celestial Court is not a bad choice.” Li Qiye said.

The man’s eyes suddenly became dreadful and piercing after hearing this. It only lasted for a split second but Li Qiye smiled and said: “Oh? Want to kill me first?”

“I’m sorry.” The man smiled bitterly and shook his head: “My dao heart was not firm enough so I made a fool out of myself.”

"It's understandable, wanting to slay a potential enemy." Li Qiye didn't mind.

"You've just arrived from Eight Desolaces and might not know the situation well yet I already wanted to kill you. This is no different from falling into the darkness. It seems like my obsession might turn me into a monster in the future." He said.

"It's good to be vigilant." Li Qiye nodded.

The man sighed and said: "Brother Sword Sea and I argued over this issue and he went to join Divine Alliance later, what a shame."

"The alliance chosen doesn't matter, everyone has the freedom to choose. You chose yours and he chose his. If a war is inevitable, so be it, fear nothing. Why bother forcing someone to join you?" Li Qiye said.

"If I had been less aggressive and said these words to him, it might have gone differently." The man slapped his thigh and said: "Thank you for enlightening me, Sir." He bowed in gratitude.

Chapter 5132: Small Village

After a long chat and the tea has turned cold, the man stood up and bid goodbye: "If you ever need anything, come to Dao Alliance."

"Goodbye." Li Qiye smiled.

The man left and Li Qiye continued crossing through True Bear Mountain. In spite of its name, it was actually a dangerous territory of varying terrains. Alas, the ferocious demons and beasts were no more after the battle.

He finally came across many villages afterward. It seemed peaceful with wafting smoke from the kitchens, dogs barking, and chicken roosting.

The entrance of this particular one had a signboard, "Joy Village". At first, most would think that this was the name of the village. [1]

However, in reality, all the villages had this signboard at the entrance. First-timers would find this rather confusing.

Upon closer inspection, each signboard had a distinctive mark beneath. For example - one had two tiny characters, "Plum Blossom". Another had the number six.

Outside of the signboard, they all had a female statue as well, depicting a girl dressed in a simple manner with her hair casually tied behind her head.

Normally, such an ordinary-looking girl wouldn't be celebrated in this manner. Alas, there was an indescribable charm to the statue as it told a story. This traveler had a destination in mind yet as she gazed upon this land, her eyes were filled with affection so she stopped in order to guard it.

Similar to True Bear Mountain, Joy Village was the name for the region, not a singular village.

This was a paradise for both mortals and cultivators alike. Many children and old men here have been exposed to cultivation.

Outsiders seemed to be welcomed here as well. They became interested and started preaching the dao to the children.

Some big shots have done so. Dragon lords came and preached to those who were willing to listen. Of course, not all mortals gave a damn. They actually chose to work on their farm or just laze around instead.

This was a rather rare scene - mortals and cultivators actually living together without any distinction.

Other cities had this but mortals always kept away from cultivators and vice versa. There were unwritten laws regarding conduct between the two sides for the sake of maintaining orders and protecting mortals.

Here, there were no sects either. One could learn and ask questions from anyone or even just watch an old man during his cultivation.

Some outsiders found this awfully interesting and decided to impart their crucial dao knowledge to the villagers.

Here, cultivation was not pursued for fame, power, or everlasting life. Instead, it was simply a hobby to pass the time. It was like drawing for a child today and playing tomorrow. There was no pressure to cultivate.

Li Qiye became interested in these unique villages and admired them. He stared at the female statue, especially her tied hair and eyes.

“Achieving your ambition in such a meticulous manner.” Li Qiye sighed and touched it.

“That is Peace Goddess.” A villager came over and said: “You must be an outsider?”

They weren’t afraid of cultivators due to the culture of the region.

“Yes, but I feel like I’m home.” Li Qiye said sentimentally.

“That is her wish and our creed.” The villager said: “Virtually all visitors want to stay, whether it be mortals or cultivators. When the goddess was preaching her dao in the past, this place was a true paradise.”

According to the legend, a girl descended to the mortal world and was considered a goddess. She lived among mortals and taught them the dao, not forming any sect in the process.

Her stay lasted for hundreds of thousands of years. What began in a small village spread to an entire region for the betterment of the world.

It wasn’t an academy and didn’t recruit anyone. Nonetheless, everyone was welcome to stay. There was no competition here, only peace.

Both mortals and cultivators became regular villagers afterward. Thus, there could be hidden dragons and crouching tigers among them.

A random conqueror could be found taking care of a farm. An old man could actually be a dragon lord who was once the ruler of a great sect. Today, he preferred to sunbathe and swat some flies during his free time.

All in all, Peace Village was a unique paradise in the upper continents. Those weary of constant fighting and killing could come here to live without worries.

"An amazing person indeed." Li Qiye said. The little girl has turned into a revered god through a unique method.

"Yes, we are protected by her and live happily here." The village appreciated the comment: "Outsider, if you wish to stay, there is an empty plot to the west. Let me know and I'll go ask around for you."

"I'm only looking for someone." Li Qiye shook his head.

"That's harder then." The villager shook his head: "Our population is rather high, not to mention that people come and go. The person you're looking for might not be here anymore."

"It's alright, I'll take my time." Li Qiye smiled and said goodbye to the villager, taking his time strolling through the villages.

Chapter 5133: Plucking Tea Leaves?

Li Qiye took his time sensing the auras of this world, the invisible dao rhythms that have been accumulating for eras.

It became obvious to him that this Peace Goddess did more than just teach the dao here. She also imprinted a foundation into the land - in the soil, the rocks, the trees...

He wasn't in a hurry to find his target and enjoyed seeing the villagers. He saw children playing and grandpas lazing around. Some villagers were cultivating and creating treasures...

All of this seemed so natural and didn't conflict with one another. Worries and sadness took a back seat.

"Clank! Clank! Clank!" He saw one cultivator soaring through the air while ringing a gong and announcing: "Attention, please! True Bear Mountain has been destroyed by Heavenly Sword. Heaven Alliance seems to be on the offensive against Dao Alliance, please be on guard for potential trouble."

This caused quite a stir among the villagers.

"Will Heaven Alliance attack us?" The peaceful atmosphere was broken.

"What's there to be afraid of? It's not a new thing, Immemorial, Skysplitter, Grand Dao, so many wars already yet our villages are still here." One villager lay back down and relaxed.

"I guess so." The others agreed because Peace didn't care for the struggle between Celestial Court and Immortal Dao City.

"Let Windchaser Hall deal with it." Another said: "Heaven Alliance will start there first, not our villages."

The cultivator who warned them earlier came from this sect.

“Windchaser Conqueror will have to stop the first wave.” They began talking about the potential war.

“The conqueror might not be there right now.” An older villager shook his head.

They were very familiar with this conqueror since he came from Peace. According to the rumors, he came across a special fortune at a young age, allowing him to obtain a dao fruit.

He then started a sect right outside of the village - Windchaser Hall. Afterward, he occasionally visited the village since it was his home.

Many ancestors from there came to the village to teach the dao as well. There was a friendly relationship between the two sides.

Recently, the conqueror rarely appeared. Some believed that he had left Windchaser to join Dao Alliance.

“Leave this matter alone for a bit. Let the brats in the village prepare for the incoming teapluck festival and test their luck.” A few old men said.

A towering peak existed in Peace - as enormous as a colossal giant. All the villages seemed to be built around it.

Since it was surrounded by clouds and fog, its whole appearance couldn't be viewed. Paths could be seen leading to the elusive pinnacle. Up there was a tea tree with branches looking like dragons.

It seemed tiny compared to the peak but its aura was second to none - like a dragon ready to soar. It was rather famous throughout the two continents - its dao tea could be considered the best.

Rumor has it that this was the abode of Peace Goddess. Some went further to say that she eventually transformed into this peak.

These rumors couldn't be verified but no one doubted the effectiveness of the tea. The goddess herself planted the tree.

After drinking the tea, one would be connected with the chaos and the dao. Cultivation speed and comprehension soared subsequently.

Thus, whenever the leaves were ready to be plucked, children from the village would climb up to test their luck. This included outsiders as well.

Meanwhile, Li Qiye was at the base of Peace Mountain since he saw a large gathering including villagers and outsiders.

They stood before the stone path leading up to the pinnacle. A wooden arched door awaited and welcomed them.

"Everyone's here for some tea leaves?" He got closer and conversed with them.

"The clouds and fog are still there, we have to wait." A villager enthusiastically said: "It's too dangerous otherwise and even afterward, only the fateful can get up there."

"Yes, only a few can make it." An older villager joined in: "I think this is true for many eras now."

"Windchaser Conqueror made it up there." Another said: "That's what reason why he was able to become a conqueror."

The crowd started talking about the conqueror right away since they recognized him.

Suddenly, a youth and his entourage boisterously interrupted their conversation. He had the aura of a sovereign who was quite impressive given his age.

Many villagers staggered backward, unable to handle the pressure.

"The tea leaves are available now?" He looked at them and asked.

"Only the fateful can get the tea leaves." A villager snorted.

"For now, that is. True Bear is gone and this land will become a part of Heaven Alliance soon enough. This peak will be under our jurisdiction then." The youth uttered coldly.

“Save those words for the future. Windchaser Hall is still around.” Another genius stepped forward and rebutted.

Chapter 5134: Please Have A Taste

The young sovereign unsheathed his sword right away and sneered: “Oh? Good, I don’t have to send a message myself then. I’m sure I have made our intention clear, you all need to kneel at the entrance and be ready for our arrival.”

“Such strong words, Heavenly Sword Scion. You have a little fame but that’s not enough to spew those words before us. This is our territory.” The genius responded.

“If you want to argue, go outside. Peace does not participate in this mess.” A villager became unhappy.

“Don’t think you can be neutral for long. Peace will belong to Heaven Alliance soon enough, drop your attitude.” The scion declared.

“Brat, even conquerors are mere visitors to our village, let alone a junior like you. It doesn’t matter that you’re Sword Monarch’s disciple.” Another villager said.

“Hahaha, I know that you villagers are very prideful but let me give you a warning, the Supreme will personally arrive, how will you stop him?” The scion laughed boisterously.

“Supreme!” Not to mention the villagers, even the genius from Windchaser became alarmed.

Supreme was the title of an ultimate cultivator in the upper continents - a dragon lord capable of killing conquerors and dragon lords.

Though Space Dragon Emperor and Ox-dragon Ancestor started the path, Supreme made it comparable to the other realms.

Heaven Alliance even had conquerors with twelve fruits yet Supreme remained in charge - a testament to this cultivator's might.

Rumor has it that despite starting later than the two famous legends, Supreme might have created a sacred anima tree earlier.

Though some of the crowd didn't give a damn about Heavenly Sword and Heaven Alliance, Supreme was a different story.

Their silence pleased Heavenly Sword Scion. Bringing up "Supreme" always had this effect.

"Haha, when the great Supreme comes here in person, we'll be in charge of handing out the leaves. In fact, we might even move the tree back to Heaven Alliance." He declared.

"So noisy." Li Qiye stopped looking at the peak and told the scion.

"What did you say to me?" The scion's expression changed after hearing this.

"I am feeling calm today, keep your mouth shut or I'll wring your neck." Li Qiye didn't bother looking at him.

“Hahaha, state your name if you dare to oppose Heavenly Sword and...” The scion roared.

“Pop!” Li Qiye sent him flying with a slap; his teeth fell to the ground.

“Senior Brother!” His fellow disciples immediately rushed over to help him up.

“Brat! I’m gonna kill you!” The scion was livid, never having been humiliated like this before.

“Thousand Sword Formation!” He roared and created a sword formation, sending a rain of blades toward Li Qiye.

“Not bad at all.” The crowd hated him but also recognized his power.

“Boom!” Li Qiye waved his hand and destroyed the formation.

“Ugh...” He grabbed the youth’s neck and lifted him off the ground while still staring at the peak.

“W-what are you... my master is a sword monarch, my master is Soaring Sword...” He shouted in horror.

“Never heard of them.” Li Qiye said.

"I... I am working under... Supreme's order... your clan will be mas-massacred if you touch a hair of mine." He screamed.

"Never heard of them." Li Qiye repeated.

"You..."

"Crack!" Li Qiye wrung his neck and sent him to the afterlife.

Everyone exchanged glances after seeing this.

"I do not wish to be disturbed today, leave." Li Qiye ignored them and entered the entrance of the stone pathway.

The frightened disciples from Heavenly Sword rushed over to grab the corpse and escaped.

"Creak." The gate suddenly closed after Li Qiye's entry.

"What? I've never seen it closed before." The villagers became confused.

"Try going up." Another said.

There was an invisible force blocking entry - the only possible path was through the gate and the stone pathway.

“Boom!” Something repelled the villagers from approaching.

Other experts didn’t give up and rushed over.

“Boom!” The same thing happened to them.

The villagers understood that this was a special occasion - that the peak was meant for that guest alone.

Li Qiye took his time climbing the steps. There were mysteries preventing others from climbing easily but it didn’t matter to Li Qiye.

He made it to the peak and saw the dragon-like tree, always ready to leap into the air and summon winds and rain. Just a few leaves from the tree were enough to grant someone an amazing fortune.

There were stone tables and chairs beneath the trees. Everything had been cleaned spotlessly. A pot of springwater was being boiled with firewood nearby, now simmering.

On top of a table was a scroll held down by a special stone. Li Qiye sat down and read it, “the water is ready, please have a taste. I dare not disturb you.”

The characters brimmed with the dao. Whoever wrote it did so with full sincerity.

Chapter 5135: The Distant Years

Utensils were meticulously arranged on the spotless table. The teapot was made from novenary violet golden clay with the help of ice-fire dao. The cups were made from celestial ice crystals, warm but never hot, and capable of collecting heavenly essences automatically. There was no doubt that only those standing at the apex had access to these tea utensils.

Li Qiye read the characters and smiled: "Not bad at all, capable of seeing this already."

He sat down and gazed at Peace Village beneath. From here, he saw a supreme grand dao engulfing all the villages and gained the feeling of being one with the land.

He then focused on the dao tree instead. The barks looked like dragon scales at this point. It seemed that it was only a matter of time before a complete transformation.

He sighed and knocked three times on the stone table, each in tune with the grand dao. The tree resonated with his calling and dao runes appeared, creating a temporal passage.

"Buzz." A figure walked out of the tree with a pleasant fragrance.

Li Qiye's memories resurfaced after seeing her. She was only around sixteen or so, not breathtakingly beautiful by any means, just pleasing to the eyes.

Her oval face was fair and delicate. Her eyes were clear and dazzling like autumn water. She wore no makeup nor an expensive dress; her hair was tied loosely behind her back. This simplicity was elegant and youthful.

Time didn't leave a mark on her; she remained the same in the past and would be the same in the future.

Li Qiye stood up and their eyes met, sending them back in time.

"So long ago." Li Qiye gently patted her face but it was only an ethereal image with no heat or flesh.

"I'm glad that you were able to go on the path you wanted." He said softly.

The image bowed deeply and gestured for him to sit down again. He did so and she waved her hand - the finest tea leaf on the tree fell into the pot.

She added the boiled water to the leaf and the sounds of a dragon could be heard. It seemed to be teaching the path of the true dragon - a way of transforming into the majestic creature.

Li Qiye slowly took a sip. The moment the tea entered his body, he became resplendent as if he was empowered by a draconic beast.

He took his time with each sip while gazing at the villages. She continued to pour his cup whenever he finished.

“Peace is not a bad outcome for many, it’s rather rare too.” His voice could reach the past where a girl sat before the tree, waiting for his message.

“A single wish fulfilled through the dao, how enviable.” He added while she only listened: “Your effort and vigilance seem to have been rewarded.”

The image nodded.

The two did so until the teapot was empty.

“We’re out of tea, the same for fate and life.” He put down the cup and said.

She stood up and bowed again before dispersing into little particles. They fell down and scattered throughout the entire villages, completely undetected by the villagers.

“Goodbye.” He sighed after seeing this and glanced at the tree. It appeared the same as before but a hint of dao has been lost.

With that, he scanned the villages again and finally noticed a house built on a peculiar ridge. Only those strong enough would be able to see that it was special. He smiled and headed there.

The house was built with old tiles and bricks, still not collapsing after all this time. It had a total of three small buildings, a study, and a separate bedroom. The large windows made them seem rather inviting and easy to live in.

In the courtyard was an osmanthus tree that has barks as hard as iron. Its flowers blossomed and filled the place with its enchanting fragrance. Sun rays seeped through the cracks of the tree and warmed the person breathing below.

Reading in the shade of this tree was perfect since multiple senses were being stimulated at once. One could forget about the flow of time while enjoying themselves here.

This was the case for the middle-aged man wearing a clean robe. Not a single speck of dust could be seen.

Given his composure and elegance, he resembled a famous scholar instead of just a villager enjoying a hobby.

The courtyard blocked out the rest of the world. Not a single distraction could affect him but today was different.

He looked up and saw Li Qiye standing there looking at the osmanthus tree. He got up and bowed deeply: "Seeing you is a supreme honor, Sir."

"This tree isn't from this world." Li Qiye smiled.

"I've heard that it is from a legendary world with immortals, I don't know how true it is since I came across it in a nightmarish realm." The man said.

“Seems like you have been waiting for me.” Li Qiye said.

“I, Landu, do not dare to display my slight skill before an expert since I only have a minor understanding of divination. Two days ago, I calculated and prepared water for you up there.”

“Jun Landu.” Li Qiye sat down and said.

“Just a nobody.” He humbly said.

“You might be a nobody in the six continents but in my opinion, you are one of the most brilliant souls.” Li Qiye praised.

Chapter 5136: Wafting Fragrance

The fragrance of the flowers wafted in the air inside the courtyard.

The duo chatted leisurely beneath the tree. Li Qiye relaxed on a big chair while the man was warming up wine.

Jun Landu was an unknown name to the upper continents. Only the academy from the lower continents recalled his name, perhaps only during the graduation ceremony and deer auction.

Skyquake Dao Controller - a supreme weapon in that region - once belonged to him. He obtained this from the deer auction and gifted it to the academy before disappearing from the world.

Some said that he was just another ordinary cultivator without this weapon - suffering obscurity afterward. A few had searched for him to no avail. There were no clues regarding his whereabouts in the lower continents.

Because of this, future generations spoke of him with a tinge of regret. They believed that with the dao controller, he could have made a legend for himself. Even if he didn't become a conqueror, he could have started his own sect.

None knew that he was spending his time at Peace Village in the upper two continents. Of course, no one would recognize him here anyway.

"You drank the grand dao tea earlier and I don't have anything comparable here, Sir, just this wine that I made myself from the flowers. Please try." Jun Landu said.

Li Qiye raised the cup for a taste of the warm wine. Its aroma flowed into his throat and spread throughout his body, connecting him with the earth.

"It's good." He raised his cup in a toast to both Jun Landu and the tree: "Allowing one to communicate with the world."

"You're too kind, Sir." Jun Landu smiled and poured another cup for Li Qiye.

"Do you know why I'm here?" Li Qiye asked while enjoying the sun.

"Yes, I calculated my future recently and have prepared." Landu smiled wryly before waving his hand.

“Splash!” A sweet milky dew infused with the dao gushed out of the ground, creating a pond in the middle of the courtyard. The purpose was to push up an ancient coffin made of jade.

It seemed to be a vessel for time and life, capable of floating in the river of time for eternity. Runes were embedded by ancient emperors themselves, perhaps meant for a peer of theirs.

“The Qian had a coffin prepared for a widow.” Jun Landu brought the coffin over and said: “When I came across it, I imagined myself being inside after death. What more can one asks for?”

He removed the lid and gently caressed the sidewall: “Looks like I won’t have the chance now.”

Many considered death to be a taboo and ominous subject. Jun Landu, on the other hand, didn’t mind at all.

“You just need to worry about living well.” Li Qiye smiled.

“Death is inevitable and I am no immortal.” Landu laughed.

“You might not be one but you have more freedom than them.” Li Qiye said.

“Earning such praise from you means that my life isn’t so bad.” Landu smiled and patted the coffin again: “Today, it is returning to its rightful master. You were the one who gave it to the Qian, right?”

Li Qiye chuckled and didn't answer him. He placed the sealed corpse into the coffin and branded it with a blessing. The inside became filled with immortal mist as if it was trying to nourish the corpse and bring life back.

"So this is the correct way of using this coffin." Landu observed the process and said: "A true rebirth is unprecedented in this world, only you can perform it."

Li Qiye shook his head: "There's no bringing back someone from the dead, that's reserved for the villainous heaven. Not even I can change this fact."

"Well, no one else but you can do it when there's only a sliver of life left." Landu understood the situation.

Li Qiye was pleased with the comment and sat back down. Landu poured him another full cup.

Li Qiye enjoyed the drink for a while before asking: "What is your pursuit in life?"

"An ordinary man such as myself wants nothing more than just three decent meals a day, maybe a little reading when I have time, listening to the insects and watching the sunset." Landu smiled: "I do not seek the apex for I lack the ability unlike you, Sir."

"If there was a ranking of all the great men and women in the world, you would certainly have a spot among them." Li Qiye said.

"Unfortunately, that doesn't mean much for we're still insects. Heroes have turned into sand. Just imagine the greatness of World Emperor, a true legend, only to turn into smoke." He smiled wryly. [1]

“World Emperor was a hero.” Li Qiye said: “The three races were lucky to have him or they would not be here right now.”

“Yes, I dare not consider myself to be on the same level as World Emperor or you, Sir. That would be a gross overestimation of my ability.” He said.

“Your pursuit is rare and excellent in its own way, not all peerless individual has to shoulder the responsibility in a selfless manner.” Li Qiye said.

“I’ll be content just living a normal life like an insect.” Landu smiled freely.

Not all had the ability to make the same choice as him given the turmoil in the upper continents.

“I see.” Li Qiye sighed.

“I know that the fact that we can live like this is because of people such as yourself, World Emperor, and all the sages in the past. Otherwise, we would have been born as slaves and food.” Landu said.

“Perhaps you wouldn’t have been born at all.” Li Qiye smiled.

Chapter 5137: Hell Bear

“In a way, I do find my lack of initiative shameful compared to the sages.” Jun Landu commented.

“There are no judgmental standards, everyone has the right to pick a path, whether it be heroism and justice or just three meals a day. The sages did it not for gratitude but because they wanted to, so they did.” Li Qiye said.

“Indeed, that’s why I have nothing but respect for you and the others.” Landu said.

Li Qiye closed his eyes and enjoyed the moment of peace. After a while, he praised: “This is a great place.”

“It’s serene.” Landu said: “I traveled the world and finally found a place where my heart can be at peace. If I can be in charge of my own fate later, I would like to be buried here.”

“Being able to arrange your own funeral is a privilege not available to all, a great thing indeed.” Li Qiye nodded.

“That’s the extent of my ambition, it pales before yours.” Landu said.

“I wouldn’t call it ambition, it’s just that I do not wish to stop.” Li Qiye said.

“Why not rest for a bit then?” Landu said.

Li Qiye smiled and closed his eyes, seemingly falling asleep. Landu stopped bothering him and read a book instead.

Sunlight and flowery fragrance scattered in the old courtyard. The winds lulled Li Qiye to sleep while Landu wandered in the world of text. Time flowed gently, unwilling to disturb them.

A while later, loud explosions suddenly detonated outside Peace Village.

“What’s going on?!” The villagers became alarmed and ran out of their houses.

They saw a massive shadow rushing for their villages, breaking one hill after another.

“We’re under attack, get ready to run!” They warned the others while some readied their weapon.

There were hidden masters preferring to live a quiet life. Thus, they weren’t afraid of defending the villages.

However, the statues in front of the villages lit up. They shot out vertical beams that intertwined together to form a net of light.

The dao tea tree at the tallest peak also added its draconic beam to the net. This turned the net into a great bowl-shaped barrier to protect all the villages.

“Peace Goddess is with us!” The villagers, old and young, kneeled in that direction.

“Boom!” The gigantic monster had a destructive momentum and slammed the barrier.

Everyone looked up and saw that it was as tall as a mountain. Its hooves were larger than some villages.

It resembled a bear with a pair of curved fiery horns pointing at the sky.

“What the hell is this thing?” Villagers took a deep breath.

Someone who used to be a big shot said: “It’s a hell bear, not something from this region.”

“Rumble!” The villages shook violently as the hell bear was enraged for unknown reasons, wanting to take down the barrier.

However, the constant smashes couldn’t take down the barrier.

“Please watch over us, Goddess.” Some pale villagers prayed quietly.

Powerful villagers, on the other hand, channeled their energy and prepared to unleash their strongest attack.

“Rumble!” They saw the gigantic claws pushing downward, capable of reducing them down to mincemeat.

The villages were stuck like boats amidst a storm. Of course, Li Qiye was still sleeping inside the courtyard despite the loud explosions. The same applied to Jun Landu who was preoccupied with reading.

“Boom!” While villagers were afraid of a potential disaster, a torrential aura from a conqueror emerged above. Even the hell bear looked up in fear.

Crackles could be heard as lightning bolts came together to form a spear. A pair of invisible hands seemed to be gripping in order to send a heavenly tribulation downward.

“Raa!” It was too late for the bear to run. It pointed its horns up and spewed out hell flames, burning the sky asunder.

“Boom!” It was proven futile since the spear pierced its head and all the way through its body. A rain of blood descended as the creature fell to the ground, dead.

“Windchaser Conqueror!” Though the villagers didn’t see the attacker, they still knew who it was right away.

Chapter 5138: Have A Bowl Of Noodles

The conqueror blasted the hell bear from a distance, never showing his face from start to finish.

The villagers recognized him since he was a feral child from the village. He didn’t forget this and always protected his home.

It didn't take long before disciples from Windchaser Hall brought the corpse away. The barrier then gradually dissipated.

Villagers heaved a sigh of relief. For countless years now, this paradise remained due to various protectors.

It became the morning of the next day. Jun Landu looked up and saw the dawn. Li Qiye finally opened his eyes and smiled: "Now that was a nice break."

"Since you have some free time, would you like to go fishing and sightseeing as well?" Landu asked.

"Why not? Since I'm here already, might as well enjoy myself." Li Qiye responded.

Landu put away his book and said: "I'm sure you're hungry so why don't we go eat something? I know a restaurant that makes their noodles by hand. Very chewy and the broth is rich, the chef is rather skilled."

"Perfect, let's go then." Li Qiye smiled and got up to stretch before following Landu.

As the saying goes - immortals reside in the east sea in the morning and rest in the northern frontier at dusk. They could travel ten thousand miles with one step just to enjoy a bowl of noodles.

At a particular hill were twisting trees with crows perching and entangling vines. After entering a half-abandoned road stretching through the ridge, it felt as if they have traveled to a different dimension.

While looking down, they saw farms and houses in the distance. This was early morning yet the scenery gave the impression of it being twilight.

The road was infected with weeds and grass. After finishing the climb through the road, they made it to a small noodle restaurant with a cloth curtain hanging outside. It has turned black and shiny due to the cooking smoke and oil with the characters, Xiao Zhi.

It was unlikely to have many customers, only the occasional passersby needing to rest and fill their stomach before continuing onward.

To the left of the shop was a bundle of firewood prepared by a youth swinging his axe busily.

“Pa! Pa! Pa!” The rhythmic swing managed to split the wood cleanly every time, showcasing his impressive skills.

On the other side was an old man pulling the noodles, stretching each strand carefully. The flour grains on them were precisely identical in number and size.

His robe was clean but his hands were even cleaner. No one would have a problem with him not using gloves in preparation.

The youth saw Li Qiye and Jun Landu coming closer. He wasn’t surprised about Landu but paused for a moment when his eyes fell upon Li Qiye. The same thing happened with the old man.

He stared at Li Qiye who smiled back at him. He immediately put down the flour and went back to the store.

“Uncle Xiao Zhi, give us two bowls.” Landu asked with a smile and handed the payment over.

The old man accepted and put the coins into his chest pocket.

“Xiao Hu, heat the broth.” He ordered.

“Yes.” The youth added firewood to the stove in a masterful manner. Strands of smoke rose instantly like mountain spirits.

Li Qiye sat down, propping his chin and watching the youth while Landu took out his book again.

Once the water boiled, the old man came over while holding a black carp: “I caught it just this morning, how about two bowls of tender fish noodles?”

“That’s fine.” Landu agreed without looking away from the text.

“Give us two bowls as well.” Two customers entered the shop, one male and one female.

They seemed to be a match made from heaven; their appearance brightened up the shop.

The man wore an expensive robe with an elegant air. The winds seemed to be accompanying him, giving him the ability to soar in the air.

The woman's features weren't stunning at first sight. However, one would never get tired of looking at her. She was akin to a delicate drizzle, comforting and unobtrusive.

It seemed rather strange for them to appear in this remote region, especially at a cheap noodle shop.

"Alright." The old man stuffed the lump of coins into his pocket after being paid by the male customer.

The two then sat down at a table opposite Li Qiye, hand in hand. They nodded at Li Qiye and Landu as a greeting. Li Qiye smiled in response.

The shop was particularly warm and serene; the affairs from the outside world didn't affect them in the slightest.

The old man picked up a knife and skillfully sliced the raw fish into thin pieces before tossing them into the boiling water. Each swing was swift and orderly yet they could still be seen with perfect clarity.

Li Qiye was watching a master at work but the lovers only had eyes for each other. They snuggled together tightly with love flashing in their eyes. This attraction was palpable in the air.

Time came to a halt with everything in harmony, whether it be Landu reading his book, Li Qiye leaning on his chin, and the lovers whispering sweet nothings to each other.

When Landu finished his chapter, the old man also finished and the youth placed a bowl in front of him at that exact moment. The timing was perfect and the others were served as well.

Li Qiye picked up his chopsticks and enjoyed the chewy noodles in combination with the tender fish meat.

As for the couple, they fed each other pieces of fish and soup, showing affection with every move. They seemed to be of one mind and not a single action was wasted. Nothing else in the world existed, only their love.

Chapter 5139: Don't Bother Me

The portion size was perfect for early morning. Eating the fish slices and slurping the rich broth made people think that it was going to be a great day.

The youth was fast with his service and immediately took the bowl and chopsticks away after Li Qiye was finished. He then brought tea over to Li Qiye while the old man went to the corner to take a nap.

This tea seemed unrefined and lacking versus the tea Li Qiye had yesterday. It was bitter with a lingering aftertaste.

The lovers were finished as well and got up to leave. As they were passing by his table, they bowed deeply to him and bid goodbye to Jun Landu.

They returned to the winding road; their fingers still intertwined. The woman leaned into her lover's shoulder the entire way.

Li Qiye smiled as he watched the two disappear from sight and finished his tea. The youth ran over to pour him another cup.

“It’s best to fill tea up to seventy percent.” Li Qiye smiled.

“Why is that?” The youth didn’t understand but still obeyed.

“Seventy will endure while any more and loss is ensured. Seventy is an eternity.” Li Qiye elaborated.

“Seventy is an eternity?” The youth stood there in a daze.

The old man in the corner opened his eyes and asked: “How many percent are you, Sir?”

“Me?” Li Qiye took another sip of tea before answering: “I am perpetually full.”

The old man didn’t respond but the youth asked: “How can anything be full forever?”

“You’re the cup in my hand while I am a boundless ocean.” Li Qiye answered.

“I understand.” The old man bowed and the youth did the same.

“That was delicious.” Jun Landu finished eating after chewing everything carefully. It was unclear whether he had a weak appetite or just enjoyed savoring his food.

“He’s fifty percent full.” Li Qiye smiled and told the other two.

They didn’t say anything since they knew who Jun Landu was. This was not his first time coming here to eat.

“Your noodles are different today, Uncle Xiao Zhi.” Landu said.

“We have a distinguished guest today, so I added fish to the noodles.” The old man responded.

“I’ve been planning on catching these carps and grilling them for a picnic but you beat me to it.” Landu said.

“Mmm.” The old man treated his words like gold.

Li Qiye finished another cup and the youth filled it up to seventy percent this time. Jun Landu went back to reading.

“Carving a beautiful jade is not an easy task.” Li Qiye told the old man.

“How do you think it should be carved?” The old man became interested in the conversation.

“Tell me your current methodology.” Li Qiye said.

The old man glanced at the youth before answering: "It is fine being natural, no need for carving."

"If you have no desire, neither will he." Li Qiye smiled.

The old man pondered for a bit before nodding. The youth bowed and appreciated Li Qiye taking his time speaking to them before going back to chopping firewood.

This time around, the teacup wouldn't empty despite Li Qiye sipping several times.

At this moment, a cacophony of sounds erupted from outside the door - loud voices, hoofbeats, and carriage wheels. But all the commotion came to a halt as soon as it reached the shop and a lone figure stepped inside - an old man wearing a treasure robe pulsing brightly.

He was a dragon lord who didn't bother hiding his aura and a potent sword user. The shop became engulfed in his chilling presence instantly.

"How vulgar." Li Qiye frowned and stopped drinking.

The dragon lord naturally heard Li Qiye and glared at him: "What did you say?"

He had no need to show respect to anyone in this wilderness.

"You are ruining my mood." Li Qiye put the cup back on the table.

The old shop owner glanced at the new customer once and didn't give a damn.

"I am here on business, don't be an idiot now." He uttered coldly.

A youth standing behind him came forward and whispered: "Senior Uncle, he's the one who killed First Brother."

His eyes turned cold right away and he gathered his sword energy - enough to destroy the entire shop.

"You killed my disciple?" He chillingly asked.

"I've killed too many, don't know who you are." Li Qiye said.

"The youth you killed beneath Peace Mountain was my disciple." The dragon lord was ready to fight.

"I do recall." Li Qiye said.

"A life for a life, I will not show mercy." His murderous intent surged with the vastness of an ocean.

He was none other than Sword Monarch, a relatively famous ancestor from Heavenly Sword. His disciple was Heavenly Sword Scion.

"Know your limit." Li Qiye smiled.

“We’ll see about that!” The monarch couldn’t restrain himself after seeing the enemy.

It wasn’t easy recruiting a promising disciple. Thus, his fury knew no bounds.

“Kneel and slap your own mouth before it’s too late.” Li Qiye didn’t bother looking at him.

“We’ll see if you can stop my sword!” The monarch was rarely the target of such disdain. After all, he came from a large sect under Heaven Alliance.

“Clank!” His thrust was swift and fatal, showing everyone that he had earned his reputation.

Unfortunately, he met Li Qiye today. The thrust was inches from Li Qiye’s throat yet he couldn’t push any deeper.

Li Qiye’s fingers had such a strong grip that he couldn’t move his blade regardless of his effort.

“!!!” He became frightened and wanted to retreat.

Alas, Li Qiye flicked the blade and sent it back at him.

“Show mercy!” Someone else leaped into the shop but it was too late.

“Pluff!” Sword Monarch’s sacred fruit couldn’t protect him as his body was split vertically into two halves. This was not the end that he had envisioned.

Meanwhile, an even stronger cultivator had arrived - Soaring Sword Monarch who had defeated True Bear Conqueror.

He tried to save Sword Monarch but it was too late since even the sacred fruit was destroyed.

Chapter 5140: Not Interested

Soaring Sword Monarch was both scared and furious. His disciple, Sword Monarch, had only become a dragon lord recently but this didn’t matter, he was still a dragon lord. This was enough to look down on the rest of the world.

Alas, his killer had no problem slaying him and his sacred fruit. This meant that the guy was far stronger.

“Who are you?” Soaring Sword filled the room with a murderous aura just like his disciple earlier.

“Someone trying to eat some noodles.” Li Qiye lazily said.

Meanwhile, the youth from the shop hurriedly dragged the corpse away and cleaned the blood off completely.

“You!” Soaring Sword nearly vomited blood. He didn’t have time to do anything before his disciple’s corpse was treated with such disrespect. This was akin to a waiter cleaning a dead cockroach off the floor.

His sword intent surged as he thought about destroying everything here.

“Customer, are you here to eat or to rest?” The old man opened his eyes and asked.

His nonchalant words somehow crushed the aura like a gigantic palm, suppressing Soaring Sword completely and causing him to stagger backward.

Meanwhile, all disciples waiting outside dropped to the ground from the pressure.

“You must be the lord here.” Soaring Sword took a deep breath to calm down, forgetting about Li Qiye.

“Not a lord, just a chef trying to survive.” The old man said feebly.

Soaring Sword knew that he got the right person after hearing this. He bowed and said: “I am under the order of Supreme to invite you to Heaven Alliance.”

“Supreme.” The old man’s eyes narrowed after hearing this. The sword intent could slay several conquerors at the same time without any difficulty.

Soaring Sword became alarmed and realized why this old man could be an important guest. However, the sword intent only lasted for a split moment.

"I'm afraid you got the wrong person, I'm just trying to live out my last few years." The old man said with a weak tone.

"I am here bearing a message from Supreme, please take a look." Soaring Sword took out an envelope created by condensing the azure with the might of lightning. Despite being sealed, its dao power was still oozing outward.

He presented it with both hands to the old man. The act of respect was meant toward the letter, not the old man.

"Please accept." He said with a solemn tone and lowered his head.

The old man glanced at it and shook his head: "I don't know who this Supreme is, leave."

This left Soaring Sword in a tough situation. How could he return without delivering the letter?

"I am only a messenger, please accept the letter and you can decide later." Soaring Sword said.

"Please leave, you got the wrong person." The old man insisted.

Soaring Sword came closer, wanting to deliver the letter no matter what.

Suddenly, someone grabbed the letter away from him.

“You!” He looked up and saw that it was Li Qiye who forcefully opened the letter.

“Boom!” A mighty power nearly flipped the shop over. Fortunately, the old man channeled power to protect it.

“Intimidating someone to join in this day and age? Heaven Alliance is getting worse and worse.” Li Qiye smiled.

“Who are you?” Soaring Sword was horrified because Li Qiye dared to open the envelope.

Li Qiye then pressed his palms together and crushed the mighty power in the blink of an eye.

“...” Soaring Sword staggered backward in horror.

The seal of the letter represented Supreme’s will. Thus, this was a direct challenge to both Supreme and Heaven Alliance. Few in the upper continents had the ability to do so.

“Sir, do you know what you have done?” Soaring Sword asked.

“No big deal at all. Now, scram before I kill you.” Li Qiye yawned.

Soaring Sword took a deep breath and quelled his anger. He bowed and said: "You are clearly an invincible master and so is our leader. If you meet Supreme, you will regret not having the meeting earlier and will join us. We welcome you with open hands."

"I will take a trip to Heaven Alliance, but that is to destroy it if it gets in my way." Li Qiye declared.

Soaring Sword hated being treated with contempt. Nonetheless, he couldn't see through Li Qiye and believed that he was far weaker.

"Very well, we'll meet again." He left without any hesitation.