

Emperor 5161

Chapter 5161: You Are Not Qualified

Spectators on both sides saw the beauty of life in the duo's love. Thus, they excitedly cheered for the interference.

After calming down, they saw a black piece rotating in the air and realized that this was the culprit.

How could this be?! The thing that broke the barrier was a mere go piece?! [1]

Everyone thought that it would be a conqueror with at least ten dao fruits or a similar master.

"Thank you, Sir." Windchaser and Harkrain regained their wits and understood who it was right away - Li Qiye.

Heavenly Sword Conqueror and Sacred Sword Monarch became alarmed. The ancient emperor shrouded by the black clouds also stood up.

"Who are you?!" Heavenly Sword roared.

"You are not qualified to speak with me." Li Qiye continued playing his match with Jun Landu.

The trio and the crowd were shaken by this domineering declaration.

This was a common phrase by top cultivators against an opposing junior. The problem was that Heavenly Sword had six dao fruits, not an unknown junior.

Nonetheless, this person took down two mighty barriers with a single go piece - a testament to his strength.

“Who is it?” This was the question in everyone’s mind.

“All-things Dao Lord? Or Azure Ancestor?” Someone speculated.

“No, they would show themselves or be here already.” A powerful dragon lord who had met these two beings before shook his head.

“Then who is it?” Many tried to come up with a name among the top emperors and conquerors.

“Another ancient emperor, maybe?” Another wondered.

In theory, someone this strong should be renowned since he might have a golden avatar already.

“Who might you be, Sir? There is no need to hide like this.” An ancient voice came from the black clouds.

“Sunshroud, know your place.” Li Qiye’s supreme voice descended from the sky.

“Boom!” He made his move by reaching for the black clouds while still in the courtyard.

“Activate!” The ancient emperor activated all eight Heaven’s Wills for protection. It felt as if the sky itself was a barrier.

Alas, this was not enough to stop Li Qiye’s attack. An explosion dispersed the clouds and the emperor was revealed while spitting out blood.

He wore a black robe and had a muscular frame. There seemed to be a sun within him, causing his eyes to pulse brightly.

Others couldn’t help but want to prostrate due to the power of the Heaven’s Wills.

“Sunshroud Divine Emperor!” An old dragon lord recognized him. [2]

Rumor has it that this emperor was alive even before Immemorial War and had created a sect.

“Looks like you haven’t wasted your life, to gain another five wills.” Li Qiye’s voice loomed above.

According to the legend, the emperor only had three Heaven’s Wills but later on, fortune blessed him with another five.

“Who are you?” Sunshroud became confused because the assailant clearly knew him. This meant that this was another being from time immemorial.

He feared anyone who had lived this long because there were some horrifying characters - Purewood Divine Emperor, Immortal Emperor Fei Yang, Immortal Emperor Bu Zhan...

These characters were all above his level. There were even more frightening masters that have started the journey and were no longer around - Immortal Emperor Min Ren, Origin Heaven Emperor...

There were too many possibilities for him to pinpoint.

“Who I am does not matter. The important thing is that my mood is soured by the three of you. Now, be smart and cripple one grand dao. I shall forgive you then.” Li Qiye said, causing everyone to gasp.

Even Supreme, All-things, Sword Queen, and Azure wouldn’t make this statement. After all, they were in the same cultivation realm; it’s just that some were stronger than others. No conqueror or emperor would accept such humiliation.

“This is my first time hearing this since my debut.” Sacred Sword Monarch was furious.

Was this a joke?! Even Supreme couldn’t command him to do so!

“Come out and fight, we are waiting!” He shouted.

They then looked around, wanting to see the identity of this terrifying opponent. As accomplished cultivators, there was no way they would submit before seeing the opponent.

"I shall not show mercy then." Li Qiye stated and reached for the monarch.

"Die!" The latter roared and summoned an ocean of swords around him for a flawless defense.

Unfortunately, the massive walls crumbled before Li Qiye's invisible hand and he was caught.

"Heavenly Sword Annihilation!" The conqueror became startled and joined the battle.

A heavenly sword capable of untold destruction manifested into reality and swung forward.

"Boundless Darkness!" Sunshroud Divine Emperor released black clouds toward the invisible hand.

"Boom!" Alas, their impressive techniques were useless, unable to save the monarch from the tight grip.

Chapter 5162: Body To Sword

The monarch struggled and activated his sword dao. His nine fruits exuded chaos true energy and explosions, capable of opening a new world. All of this paled in comparison before the grip. His bones started cracking from the pressure.

A terrible scene unraveled before spectators - one invisible hand immobilized him while another slowly refined him - removing his skin and changing his flesh and bones.

"Nooo!" He bellowed in agony and realized the gravity of the situation. His sacred fruits suddenly became as bright as possible and the world shook violently.

"Shit, he wants to self-destruct!" A dragon lord shouted.

His true fate appeared for he preferred to die than to be subjected to whatever this fate was. A blinding light appeared around him but the invisible hand gently waved and sealed all grand dao and affinities.

"Boom!" The fruits and true fate on the verge of exploding were sent back into his body for the refinement process.

"Noo!" He let out a scream of desperation and fear.

"Rumble!" After loud explosions and quakes, lightning bolts and flames were added to the process. Eventually, a sword appeared before everyone.

One made of bones that have been refined numerous times, bearing no semblance to its original form. It looked like a piece of jade now since the flesh and blood have been removed along with all other impurities.

Nine sacred fruits were embedded into the blade in a balanced manner. Thus, their power remained.

Ancient ancestors and dragon lords were at a loss for words - a nine-fruit dragon lord had just been refined into a skeletal sword while still alive.

Watching the actual methods traumatized some of them. This was doubly true for his allies - Heavenly Sword Conqueror and Sunshroud Divine Conqueror.

They had tortured and killed mortal enemies before. This was just the way of cultivation. Alas, this refinement process was new to them since it was so perfect.

The sacred fruits and true fate have been sealed into the skeletal sword. Therefore, it possessed the same power as Sacred Sword Monarch.

“Damn...” An ancient ancestor shuddered and dropped to the ground.

Watching the swift takedown wasn’t strange. After all, any dragon lord with ten fruits or more could have easily killed the monarch.

On the other hand, capturing and refining him were much more difficult. It might require a conqueror with ten dao fruits or more, not to mention a lengthy period - perhaps ten thousand years or more.

Worst of all, this person didn’t even show up so it looked as if invisible hands were responsible for all of this.

Now, the pale divine emperor and conqueror shared the same thought - run!

The assailant wasn’t lying about showing mercy. They should have taken the first deal of crippling a grand dao.

“Death.” Li Qiye’s voice echoed again and the invisible hand swung the skeletal sword at Heavenly Sword Conqueror.

The latter had no choice but to make his move, releasing all of his energy and vitality. He went as far as burning his true blood.

A new heavenly sword appeared - one strong enough to split the azure.

Alas, the skeletal sword could cleave through any existence, rendering the heavenly sword impotent.

It split the energy sword into two halves and caused the conqueror to scream.

“Ahh!” The dao fruits were obliterated; all of their mysteries became ashes. Heavenly Sword was dismembered from the top down; blood splashed everywhere.

Sunshroud Divine Emperor turned pale and tried to flee. He rarely felt this level of fear before, not even during the previous epoch and its wars.

“You’re not getting away.” Li Qiye’s voice lingered in his ears as the skeletal sword slashed the air again.

Sunshroud immediately performed swift maneuvers, crossing through the domains. He knew that this wasn’t enough so he utilized his eight wills as well. This was proven futile since they were easily cut down by the sword, unable to slow it down in the slightest.

Chapter 5163: Karma Is Everywhere

“Ah!” Skyshroud Divine Emperor was dismembered as well; his two halves fell to the ground.

In spite of his speed and masterful maneuvers, he couldn’t escape the frightening slash.

Three powerful cultivators were slain just like that before the speechless crowd. They were invincible in the mind of regular cultivators but now, a mysterious being killed them all without needing to actually be present.

Conquerors and even ancient emperors were insects in comparison.

“Anyone else got a problem here?” The voice spoke again while the skeletal sword remained in an offensive pose.

No one answered - not even Supreme or All-things Dao Lord. Everyone held their breath because even breathing right now could be construed as dissent.

“Good.” Li Qiye said before raising the skeletal sword for a throw.

“Whoosh!” It smashed into Heavenly Sword School’s ancestral ground, blowing everything into smithereens.

“Ahh!” The ancient ancestors and the upper echelon became ashes in the blink of an eye. They had no chance of putting up a fight.

This was karma for starting this mess - destroyed by a weapon made of their strongest ancient ancestor.

From start to finish, no one had an idea of who this being was. It was as if the entire world was not qualified to know his existence.

A few seconds later, those nearby felt the invisible hand dispersing and everything became normal once more. Windchaser and Harkrain Conqueror were nowhere to be seen.

There was no trace of the attacker either, only the destruction of Heavenly Sword and the corpses of three masters to remind everyone of the battle.

"Who is it?" Someone whispered after a long while.

"Is there anyone like this in the upper continents?" A dragon lord said softly.

These big shots kept a hushed tone, seemingly not wanting to offend someone.

"I don't think so." A knowledgeable ancient ancestor mused this issue: "Because if such a person exists, no alliance would stand a chance."

Everyone felt that a being of this level joining an alliance would completely shift the balance.

"You don't think an entire alliance can win?" A dragon lord said.

“Hmm, what about conquerors and dao lords with anima? The same for the ancient emperors and monarchs.” Someone asked.

However, these apex beings were in the immortal continent, either Immortal Dao City or Celestial Court.

“I just know that changes are coming after this.” One big shot gazed at the sky and commented on the destruction of Heavenly Sword.

“Sigh, another loss.” Jun Landu smiled wryly and shook his head.

Meanwhile, Windchaser and Harkrain Conqueror kneeled before Li Qiye.

He accepted their gesture and smiled: “Wonderful things still exist in this world, let us cherish and invest in them.”

“We will remember your guidance, Young Noble.” The two conquerors bowed again.

“You two have finally become official after this tribulation, the future is rather promising.” Jun Landu smiled.

The two of them bowed toward him as well, aware that Jun Landu was the driving force behind Li Qiye's involvement.

He smiled and waved his hand, telling them to leave.

They knew that he didn't like having guests in his courtyard so they obeyed.

The middle-aged man got up and didn't say anything, only bowing toward Li Qiye before leaving.

After his departure, Jun Landu said: "Sir, the last few leisurely days weren't so bad, right?"

"I don't know how leisure I was." Li Qiye smiled.

"The food still left a lingering taste. It's a shame that I can only taste these delicious flavors alone. How boring." He shook his head.

"A carefree life is enviable, I'm afraid I can't be idle though." Li Qiye said.

"Right, the mortal world cannot hold your ambition back. On the other hand, I prefer to stay here since I truly love it." Jun Landu said.

Li Qiye gazed at Peace Village and said: "This blessed land is lucky to have you."

“Or perhaps it is because of this blessed land that my life has some value.” Jun Landu said.

“Karma in everything.” Li Qiye patted his shoulder: “This world deserves a happy ending.”

“It is all due to the wise sages before us.” Jun Landu said: “I am just tagging along, more than content to just stay here.”

He closed his eyes and took a deep breath, seemingly becoming one with Peace Village for an eternity.

“Must be nice.” Li Qiye said sentimentally. After a brief pause, he said: “This short break is over, it is time for me to leave.”

Jun Landu’s expression became serious. He got on his knees and respectfully bowed: “Sir, I’m not sure if we will ever meet again since I might be a pile of dirt upon your return. Being able to spend the last few days with you was an honor of a lifetime.”

“Meeting you has left me with joy as well.” Li Qiye smiled and bid farewell.

Chapter 5164: Herb Gatherer

Immortal’s Peak was a magical location in Grand Dao, a favorite destination for many.

The upper continents consisted of Hallowed Heaven and Grand Dao. The former was home to Heaven and Divine Alliance while the latter had Dao and Imperial Alliance.

Immortal's Peak stood at the border of the two alliances - a wilderness filled with gigantic beasts and alchemy ingredients.

The peak itself was known to be a magical garden for herbs and grass. The surrounding had varying terrains - unique-shaped mountains and valleys.

The titular peak was still the highest one, pointing straight at the sky just like an immortal leading the flock to paradise.

Rumor has it that there were immortal-level herbs here because many have seen wondrous phenomena from a distance. The fragrances of medicine were magical and not seen anywhere else in the world. Just sniffing them alone improved all aspects of cultivation.

Alas, none managed to find them. The problem was a lack of accessibility.

Although Immortal's Peak could be seen clearly ahead, actually reaching the area was rather difficult.

One could walk through the mountain range for ten million miles and still couldn't make it to the peak itself, let alone try to climb it.

Top conquerors and dragon lords had attempted before. Only the strongest ones made it to the climb, at least according to unverifiable rumors.

Thus, most believed that the treasures here were reserved for the fateful ones. Ability alone was not enough.

On the other hand, climbing the main peak wasn't crucial to the area's popularity. The surrounding mountain range also had valuable treasures and medicines.

Of course, only top alchemists had the skill and knowledge necessary to obtain the best ones. Otherwise, most could only watch the alchemy treasures run away before their very eyes.

Knowing the right method was crucial in capturing sentient medicines. Otherwise, they could either escape or be damaged during an improper attempt.

Today, a girl had ventured deep into the mountain range and made it to a mountain spring with clear water.

She wore a pleated dress and her beautiful hair was tied up into a ponytail, giving her a lively and energetic look.

The shimmering medicine basket she carried on her back was a precious treasure, blessed by incredible seals and alchemy dao.

This was specifically crafted for storing and trapping medicines. There was no escaping once captured.

In fact, it revealed her identity to everyone, whether they be from the alliances or were just vagabonds.

Imperial Attendant City - a famous sect across the upper continents. They had two special products desired by all.

Nine-form Imperial Remedy and Time-honed Longevity Pill - the culmination of their alchemy dao.

The former could heal the majority of illnesses and wounds even for emperor-level cultivators. Normally, wounds inflicted on emperors could only be healed by them. However, there were heavenly injuries above their recovery ability and that's where Nine-form Imperial Remedy came in.

Some believed that if this alchemy product were to fail, the patient should just wait for death. Back in Immemorial Epoch War, it saved numerous emperors and monarchs from certain death.

As for the latter, its effect was obvious - the best life-prolongment medicine in all of the upper continents.

Most longevity pills were divided into levels and had limitations. The stronger the cultivator, the less effective. The more times used, the less effective.

Time-honed Longevity Pill, on the other hand, had the same effect for both regular cultivators and conquerors. The problem was the arduous alchemy process.

Only a single cauldron could be finished every ten thousand years. Therefore, they were highly contested.

Thus, Imperial Attendant City and its members were widely respected, and this girl was one of them.

She was beautiful like a budding peony. She had a bright aura radiating joy to those who lay eyes upon her, leaving them with happiness as well.

She has been pursuing a precious medicine after spotting it during her visit. It has been escaping other pursuers but she managed to keep up.

The mountain stream was overgrown but she still noticed the target, unable to escape the lure of her alchemy whistle.

She pushed aside the thick grass in order to search for it.

“Whoosh!” A green branch suddenly sprung for her face.

She reacted quickly and waved her hand to form a barrier.

“Boom!” It easily destroyed her barrier with lightning speed and didn’t stop.

She became alarmed but her medicinal basket flashed brightly. A female figure manifested into reality and attempted to stop the branch.

Unfortunately, this branch was just too strong and crushed the visual phenomenon.

“...” She covered her eyes, awaiting death due to the gap in power.

However, nothing happened for a long while. She calmed down and removed her hands; her face was yet to be pierced by the branch.

She saw a youth standing in front of her - one as ordinary as could be, whether it be his physical characteristics or his robe.

Nonetheless, he managed to capture the spirit branch and immobilized it with his hand while still relaxing with a smile on his face.

"Thank you..." She was still frightened by the near-death experience.

"Who gave you that basket?" He asked.

"My master." She answered.

"Name?" Li Qiye asked again.

She was taken aback by his impolite mannerism and abrupt questioning.

Chapter 5165: Ordinary Youth

She was not being arrogant but others always spoke to her with respect because of her background.

Nonetheless, she politely answered: "My master is Jadeclure Conqueror."

"No idea." Li Qiye shook his head.

This frustrated her because who didn't know her master?

Jadecure Conqueror had two dao fruits. Of course, this meant that she was far from being the strongest.

However, others had nothing but respect for her due to her peerless alchemy dao. She was capable of producing the two ultimate pills of her sect.

Thus, even characters such as Supreme needed to ask for her help in due time. From there, one could easily see her influence and fame, making Li Qiye's ignorance unfathomable.

"My master is in charge of alchemy in Imperial Attendant City." She elaborated.

Though he perplexedly lacked knowledge, she knew that he was stronger than her due to the green branch.

"No idea, but I am familiar with your alchemy dao." Li Qiye smiled and said.

"This is the dao of our Ancestor, known to the world as Heavenly Sage Yuan." She said: "We are sole inheritors of this mystical dao."

"I see." Li Qiye smiled after hearing this because he was the one who created this art.

His smile confused her. Was he looking down on their dao? No, it didn't quite seem that way.

“Our Ancestor saved numerous emperors and monarchs in Immemorial Epoch War using this dao.” She elaborated with pride.

Others addressed the founder of Imperial Attendant City as Heavenly Sage Yuan. The reason for the word heaven was that she had created pills for the sake of mending the heaven.

During the war, she saved countless top cultivators from The People or the casualties would have been far worse. Thus, she earned a special spot in the historical annals.

After the great war, the relationship between the two sides drastically improved. Emperors from The Race finally got the chance to ask her for help.

Alchemy was a popular art but other alchemy sects couldn't compare to Imperial Attendant City.

“It is unmatched indeed.” Li Qiye said with a strange smile again since he was praising himself.

From her side, it didn't sound like praise. Others always changed their tone when talking about their alchemy dao but not him.

Nonetheless, she changed her focus to another important matter. She bowed deeply and said: “My name is Shao Yao, thank you for saving me, Young Noble. If I can ever be of assistance in the future, just let me know and I will try my best.”

Others would be jumping with joy to hear this from her since she was the saintess of Alchemy Dao. Her promise meant that it was possible to gain access to the two legendary types of pills.

Someone with this privilege would be highly regarded even by dragon lords and conquerors. However, Li Qiye accepted her gesture without saying anything.

This confused her more. Did he not know the significance behind her comment? If he hadn't saved her life, she wouldn't have made such a generous offer.

"What is this thing?" She turned her attention to the green branch caught by him.

It was strong and fast enough to catch an alchemist like her off guard. Moreover, she was a Heavenly Sovereign already.

"Come out." Li Qiye pulled the branch up and caught the actual culprit - a blood ginseng with a red glow.

It already had a human shape and possessed immense medicinal power. Dragon roars could be heard coming from within.

It struggled and didn't accept its fate. Two green eyes suddenly opened and could mesmerize anyone.

"Green-eyed blood ginseng!" She shouted in astonishment because she thought that it was a one-million-year-old blood ginseng at first.

This ginseng was extremely rare and ferocious. It was the hunter so alchemists knew to stay away. This was her first time seeing it; their precious garden didn't have this type.

Now she understood why her defenses were useless. This was something far beyond her level. Perhaps her master could catch it. Anyone else was suicidal in attempting.

Chapter 5166: I Know A Little Bit

Li Qiye flicked the disobedient ginseng's head as if he was disciplining it.

"Bam!" The ginseng immediately closed its eyes and let out two pitiful cries. It lay in his hand like a well-trained pet.

"What?" She became slack-jawed after seeing this.

According to the scrolls, this type of ginseng was violent. Her master would need to use a special seal in order to imprison it. What was that flick just now?

If it were so docile, no one would need to learn alchemy and special techniques.

"Was that an alchemy technique?" She asked.

"No, just a flick." Li Qiye shook his head.

"..." She had no response but thought that he didn't need to lie to her. Plus, it didn't matter even if it was an alchemy technique since she learned nothing from it.

“Young Noble, are you an alchemist?” She asked with uncertainty, thinking that he was a hidden master.

“No, I just know a little bit about alchemy.” Li Qiye smiled.

Of course, he wasn’t a simple alchemist since he was the one who taught Alchemy Ancestor.

“I see...” She murmured.

“Boom!” Their conversation was interrupted by someone landing from the sky.

He wore a red robe while pulsing with a frightening demonic aura. The vegetation nearby withered due to his presence.

“Crimson Dragon Monarch.” She became alarmed after seeing him.

“Miss Shao Yao? Excuse me.” he politely said.

He was a crimson serpent who later on attained the dao. His venom had slain numerous foes before.

His affiliation was Divine Alliance. As a two-fruit dragon lord, he didn’t need to be polite to a junior like her. However, her background was unique and he might even need to ask her sect for help in the future.

"A one-million-year-old blood ginseng." He gazed at the ginseng in Li Qiye's hand.

She didn't bother correcting his mistake because she made the same one.

"You caught it?" He asked Li Qiye, thinking that the guy got lucky.

"Yep, came across it by chance." Li Qiye answered.

The monarch didn't hide the greed in his eyes. This ginseng was extremely nutritious. Eating it might give him a third fruit or at the very least, prolong his life considerably.

"Are you a member of Alchemy Dao?" He hesitated, not wanting to provoke the wrong person since Alchemy Dao's influence couldn't be understated. Everyone wanted to please this sect so they would be more than happy to take care of its enemies.

"No." Li Qiye smiled and shook his head.

The monarch glanced at the saintess, hoping to see the truth.

She shook her head as well since this was the truth.

"Little Brother, I can feel a fateful connection between the ginseng and myself." The monarch's greed triumphed after receiving confirmation.

“How so?” Li Qiye asked.

The monarch took out a pot and said: “This is a priceless vessel. Would you like to make a trade?”

He paused for a bit before adding: “It can create a treasure each day for you and will guarantee a lifetime of wealth.”

The saintess thought that this was ridiculous. The monarch must be thinking that he was talking to a naive junior.

He was right about the pot’s effect. It could produce a treasure each day but this was limited to the mortal level. For example, a shining pearl or jade - completely worthless in the eyes of masters.

“I’m not interested in trading it.” Li Qiye shook his head.

“Little Brother, let me know what you want. How about joining Divine Alliance? I can give you a glowing recommendation.” The monarch insisted.

“No need.” Li Qiye flatly refused.

This infuriated the monarch. If it wasn’t for the saintess’ presence, he might have just taken it already.

“It is meant to be with me.” He repeated.

“Yes, you brought this up already.” Li Qiye nodded.

“So I must have it.” The monarch’s eyes became fierce.

“That’s your issue.” Li Qiye ignored the implication.

“Brat, be smart and hand it over.” The monarch changed his tone and uttered coldly.

“And if I refuse?” Li Qiye smiled.

The monarch was surprised, thinking that there was something wrong with the brat’s brains. Did he not know how to act before a dragon lord?

“Do you know who I am?” He asked.

“Just a nobody.” Li Qiye shook his head.

“Hahaha!” The monarch trembled with rage before bursting out in laughter.

The saintess thought that the monarch was indeed relatively famous. However, the guy didn’t even know her master, let alone him.

“Brat, don’t you know your impudence is deserving of death?! Hand the blood ginseng and take the pot right now or I will end your life!” The monarch shouted, still insisting on a trade instead of robbing Li Qiye.

“You really want this blood ginseng?” Li Qiye smirked.

“Yes, hand it over now!” The monarch thought that Li Qiye was finally about to give up.

Chapter 5167: Waiting For The Immortal’s Return

“I’m just worried that you won’t be able to keep it.” Li Qiye said.

“There is nothing I, Crimson Dragon Monarch, can’t handle.” The monarch laughed.

“He’s telling the truth.” The saintess interjected.

“I can easily subdue a million-year blood ginseng. Junior, don’t waste time.” The monarch didn’t buy it.

“Fine, take it.” Li Qiye smiled and flicked the ginseng.

It immediately lunged at the monarch.

“Come!” The monarch reached for it, looking confident.

However, it dodged the grasp and coiled around him before stopping on top of his head, catching him off guard. The roots turned into a palm and pressed down on his head as it opened its green eyes.

“Buzz.” Since the monarch’s head was being held in place, he had no choice but to look at the green eyes.

He misjudged the ginseng from the start and thought that it would be easy. Thus, he was caught off guard and became mesmerized by its special ability.

Roots began drilling into his body and grew at an insane rate, piercing into each inch of flesh. However, there was no sensation of pain.

Nonetheless, he understood how dangerous this was and broke free from the spell: “Activate!”

His two sacred fruits immediately attempted to halt the overgrowth within him. Alas, the eyes of the ginseng became larger and brighter. Its light invaded the monarch’s eyes.

The monarch lost control of his body and reverted to his original form - a gigantic glowing snake.

The saintess shuddered after seeing the ginseng’s frightening eyes. This was her first time seeing it in person; this made her realize how weak she was. It definitely didn’t need the eyes to kill her a while ago.

“Zzz...” The roots began sucking the monarch’s blood. This process happened so quickly that the radiant dragon turned thinner at a visible rate.

“Ahh!” During his last seconds, the monarch woke up and tried to resist. Alas, his blood had been fully drained while he was still under the ginseng’s spell.

“Crack!” Finally, the two sacred fruits were also devoured and cracked into pieces.

Just like that, a dragon lord had been killed due to carelessness. The ginseng gained a ruby glow after absorbing the monarch.

After seeing this, one would gain a new understanding of its value as an alchemy ingredient. As for the saintess, she thought that it was more frightening than the descriptions from the scrolls.

They only depicted its value and medicinal effects, not its hunger and offensive potential.

Once it had a full meal, the ginseng glanced back at Li Qiye for a second before drilling into the ground, not wanting to be around him for another second.

“Everyone wants to eat ginseng, but the opposite is also true.” Li Qiye smiled and shook his head.

She paused for a moment after hearing this and saw him walking away. She caught up and said: “Young Noble, are you here for the immortal medicine?”

“Immortal medicine?” Li Qiye stopped and stared at her.

"You haven't heard the rumors? It's due to the special phenomena accompanying its appearance." She said.

"You're an alchemy from a reputable sect, tell me your opinion on it." He asked.

His tone made her feel as if she was being tested by a senior from the sect.

"When we discuss immortal medicine, we are often referring to alchemy ingredients above the imperial level. Everything above falls into this general classification." For some reason, she decided to answer earnestly.

"However, our ancestor taught that there is no true immortal medicine in our world. If they do exist, it means that immortality is possible. Since no one has obtained immortality, we can conclude that immortal medicines also do not exist." She continued.

"Sounds about right. Good answer." Li Qiye smiled.

"Young Noble, are you related to our sect?" She couldn't help but ask.

He only smiled and didn't answer.

"But, our ancestral scroll does have a different explanation for Immortal's Peak." She continued.

“Oh?” He became interested.

“There is indeed a heaven-defying ingredient here.” She said calmly: “But our ancestor says that this isn’t the important point but rather, the peak’s origin. In the past, there were fairies who observe the sky here.”

“Fairies?” He smiled.

“Yes, they were waiting for an immortal.” She nodded.

“Sounds like a tale, nothing more.” Li Qiye said.

“I don’t believe in rumors but this came from our ancestor. It states that one day, an immortal will return. The fairy isn’t the only one who is waiting, others are as well.” She shook her head.

“Waiting for the immortal.” Li Qiye paused for a bit before sighing: “Immortals don’t exist.”

“Our ancestor was sure of it.” She said with confidence: “The two fairies made this place their home after a long search for the immortal. Eventually, they kept on waiting and waiting before turning into the peak, hence its name.”

Chapter 5168: Immortal’s Peak

Li Qiye glanced at the peak and let out a sigh again.

"You don't think there are immortals?" The girl saw his expression and asked.

"Do you?" He answered with a question.

"No, I don't think so because there are no true immortal medicines." She hesitated for a bit before answering. After a few seconds, she added: "Why did they wait for an immortal?"

From the records and tales back in her sect, she believed that her venerable ancestor was waiting for an immortal as well.

Her ancestor, Heavenly Sage Yuan, had met countless legends before. The mythical emperors and monarchs had sought her assistance with alchemy. Who could this immortal be, seemingly a level above them all?

"And you're right about that." Li Qiye said.

"..." She felt disappointed despite being right since she wanted to hear the opposite answer.

"Rumble!" Suddenly, an armored cavalry descended from above, led by a youth wearing an iron cap with a sharp and indomitable aura.

He was an Immortal Sovereign - a top genius.

"Saintess." He bowed toward her and his men did the same, creating a wave of steel.

"Crimson Dragon Monarch!?" he then noticed a corpse and became alarmed. He rushed over and asked:
"Saintess, are you hurt?"

"I'm fine." She waved her hand.

The youth maintained caution due to the monarch's death. He stared at Li Qiye in disbelief before asking with a serious tone: "Who may you be?"

"Crown Prince, mind your tone." The saintess chastised.

The youth immediately bowed after hearing this: "Yes, Saintess."

He was the crown prince of Iron Tree, the son of a dragon lord. Alas, his prestige couldn't compare to hers.

Moreover, he had a crush on her as well but unfortunately, he had ample competition. Numerous behemoths were willing to have a marriage alliance with any member from Alchemy Dao. In this case, she was the successor.

"Young Noble, is it alright if I accompany you during your search?" The saintess bowed slightly toward Li Qiye.

Her polite manner annoyed the crown prince. Why would someone of her status - not inferior to a goddess - need to lower herself to accompany this man?

“No need.” Li Qiye refused and walked away.

“Take care, Young Noble. Please visit us at Imperial Attendant when you have time so that I can be a good host.” She said with sincerity.

Alas, he didn’t bother looking back or answering her.

She stared in his direction for a long while and this annoyed the crown prince even more. The goddess in his heart had never treated another man like this.

“How arrogant.” He murmured: “Saintess, that man disrespected Alchemy Dao and should be punished.”

She glanced at him and moved forward without responding. He didn’t get the message and followed her.

Li Qiye headed straight for the main peak. Although it was elusive for even dragon lords and conquerors, nothing could hinder Li Qiye’s path.

He easily solved the labyrinth consisting of ever-changing momentums. He made it to the base and looked up with a smile: “Not bad, using the world’s momentum so masterfully.” With that, the ascension commenced.

The peak had numerous mystical stones and towering trees. Green streams coursed down the sides. It was as if the spirit energy from the region all gathered here.

There were plenty of precious alchemy materials here - one-million-year-old blood ginseng, violet heavenly flowers, profound vermilion fruits... The plants here were virtually never seen anywhere else.

They were kings among kings, capable of traveling at immense speed. A few were stronger than conquerors or dragon lords.

As he climbed up, he felt auras comparable to that of emperors. The sheer pressure alone could drive someone directionless as if the world was spinning around. One would fall into another dimension and be completely lost.

Leaving the spatial labyrinth as fast as possible was imperative. The longer the stay, the higher the chance of being lost forever.

As for Li Qiye, he only needed a few steps to cross through the dimensions. The special formations couldn't slow him down.

"Pop!" With a final step, he crossed through all the obstacles.

"Impressive." He couldn't help but praise.

He saw his destination - a garden surrounded by a clear stream. The rarest and most precious plants and flowers could be seen here. This included various types of king medicines.

Tiny heads quietly peeked out of the ground after noticing an intruder. Though they hid just as fast, their medicinal fragrances filled the garden.

They were clearly sentient and this garden served as their home.

“A perfect garden, no wonder why amazing plants can grow here. This is what I’ve been trying to find.” He nodded after analyzing the peerless garden.

Chapter 5169: The Two Saints Together Make The Heavenly Dao A No Bother

His goal was to find a particular medicine in order to revive the corpse. This was the second step after obtaining the coffin of the Qian from Jun Landu.

Although the garden hasn’t been maintained by anyone, it still matured perfectly fine. The plants had their own autonomy and fortune to reach the dao. They kept the garden proper themselves.

It was protected by supreme formations and the veins of heaven and earth. Thus, even apex emperors didn’t dare to take the risk of coming here.

The king medicines kept an eye on this uninvited guest to see if he bore malice. After all, just obtaining a single king medicine meant a lifetime of benefits.

Of course, this wasn’t Li Qiye’s goal. He focused on his search while crossing the garden.

He reached a mound with an arched gate supported by two large pillars made from an unknown type of rock. They appeared capable of upholding the heaven itself.

There were two stone chairs on the platform. Sitting on them made one feel as if they were in charge of the cosmo while looking down on the rest of the world.

Li Qiye then stared at the rhyming couplet written on the two pillars - the two saints together make the heavenly dao a no bother.

He smiled after reading this popular couplet originating from Eight Desolaces. It described two saintesses - Saint Miao and Saint Wu. [1]

They were no longer seen in Eight Desolaces, resulting in rumors regarding their death or seclusion.

Some peerless cultivators researched this matter and understood that the two saints were looking for something their entire life. Most believed that their pursuit was the immortal dao.

It seemed that the true answer was that they had left Eight Desolaces and ascended to the six continents.

Li Qiye didn't need to think since the answer was obvious

"Waiting for the immortal." He sighed and shook his head: "Time waits for no one, why did you two waste time here?"

He also understood why this place had the medicine he was searching for.

“Buzz.” The dao platform recognized his aura and activated on its own volition. Runic arcs and dao power appeared, gathering the essences of the world.

“Rumble!” A bright beam shot up into the air after a full activation.

This was seen by everyone in the region including Saintess Shao Yao. She was shocked because it was different from anything seen previously.

For some reason, Li Qiye’s face popped up in her mind. She thought that he might have something to do with it.

“Look at this phenomenon, is it an immortal medicine?” The crown prince of Iron Tree became excited.

“Saintess, should we go take a look?” He asked.

If he could somehow climb the peak and obtain the medicine, it wouldn’t be difficult to marry her in the future.

“No need.” She shook her head in response: “An apex conqueror would have taken it long ago, we lack the fortune and ability to do so.”

In history, ancient ancestors from Alchemy Dao have attempted to climb the peak. Alas, none of them have been successful. Her master had failed as well.

Nonetheless, she believed that the founder was able to reach the top and that there was a connection between the two. Of course, this was only her personal speculation.

“Rumble!” The entire platform started rising and changing the flow of all affinities. Once it got high enough, it teleported to a different location.

Li Qiye saw steps made of stars before him. Each celestial step was immensely heavy and beautiful.

Whenever he stepped on one, they would light up and illuminate him with a gentle glow. This was nothing short of a sincere welcome. They appeared to be happy in his presence - no different from a girl in love who has been waiting for too long. Upon the sight of her lover, all of her emotions erupted with excitement. Being the receiver of this was akin to returning to home and paradise.

One couldn't help thinking about staying in this vast expanse forever. This applied to Li Qiye as well, albeit in a bittersweet manner.

At the end of the passage was the same platform with the two stone chairs. To the middle of the platform was a single stem and two branches; each branch had two leaves and a flower.

The two flowers' pistil exuded eternal rays of time. The leaves themselves were complex like worlds, seemingly enjoying the rays.

Chapter 5170: Bring About Longlasting Peace

The rays alone could illuminate three thousand worlds and command respect and attention. How could two mere flowers possess such wonders?

“Soulbearer Cosmic Vessel.” Li Qiye sighed and said.

The name made it sound like a boat but in reality, this was a unique alchemy flower. Li Qiye needed them in order to hold the soul of that corpse.

According to the rumors, the fairies turned into Immortal’s Peak during their wait. In reality, they actually died here and implanted a strand of their soul into the flowers.

They waited and waited but alas, time ran out for them. Nonetheless, their obsession and desire remained; they hoped that the wait could continue even after death. This became possible after they came across this special flower.

“Let’s meet again then.” Li Qiye sighed and woke up the souls.

“Buzz.” The rays turned into waves of light afterward, eventually culminating into an ocean of light with two figures at the center. One was a gentle orchid while the other had the might of a war god.

They were supreme in both physical appearance and temperament, looking to be a perfect pair. As they gazed upon Li Qiye, time reversed back to Dongting Lake of the nine worlds.

Alas, these sweet memories were too short and the last separation was final. In this ephemeral moment, Li Qiye suddenly had a thought of just being a fisherman back at the lake - no soaring through the air or connecting a grand plan.

Working at sunrise and resting at sunset like a mortal, spending time with his loved ones. Even a few short decades were more than enough.

“Everything becomes nothing in due time, no need to worry.” He gently caressed their face.

Although these were soul remnants, they were still sentient and could feel his touch. Tears inadvertently streamed down their cheeks.

The presence of love made life worth living. On the contrary, was it worth living for ages in an icy solitude? That would drive anyone crazy in time.

They became satisfied with the meeting and pointed at the sky.

“Boom!” The area suddenly changed and a mirror manifested into reality. It depicted a battle starting with descending emperors.

Emperors and monarchs from The People rushed to meet them, resulting in an earth-shattering clash where blood flowed like rivers. One emperor and monarch fell after another.

Eventually, a loud detonation interrupted the battle and a dark portal opened, making way for a dark hand. It completely obliterated all the emperors standing in its way.

The alliance was overpowered until reinforcement came - a group of female cultivators normally praised as empresses and fairies.

They harnessed the power of a heavenly dao and started a realm of beasts alongside a primordial forest. Even a wheel of time was created for this battle. These various domains empowered and granted them enough power to fight their enemies.

They slew opposing emperors and eventually took down the gigantic dark hand. Alas, images of their death also popped up in the mirror.

Despite persevering and winning the battle, the majority of emperors and empresses exhausted their strength. Some perished from severe injuries while others' lifespan came to an end.

"A longlasting peace due to their sacrifices." Li Qiye lamented.

The emperors and monarchs used their power and lifespan to support the various domains, granting both offense and defense to the empresses. The latter exchanged everything and came out victoriously against the dark hand.

The loss in this battle was just as devastating as Immorial Epoch War. The only difference was the relative lack of involvement from Immortal Dao City and Celestial Court.

With that, the mirror disappeared and the stars returned. The two saints then stared at Li Qiye in unison.

Though they wanted this moment to last forever, their soul was on the verge of disappearing.

“Poof!” The light around them dimmed down.

In this split second, the well-prepared Li Qiye utilized a primordial dao. It locked and stabilized their soul fragments.

This was easier said than done. After all, controlling a primordial dao required an immense understanding of life. The two figures remained and didn’t disperse.

“Creak.” Li Qiye slowly opened the coffin of the Qian, revealing the corpse that was immersed in Yin Sever Aqua.

He then took his time understanding the flowers before using an ultimate art to extract its essences.

“Buzz.” With a slight grasp, he released the starry rays down into the aqua.

Stars appeared in this special liquid and started forming their own cosmo. Life conversed and took shape regardless of the tribulations. Even a soul in the afterlife would be able to slowly return to the mortal world.