

Emperor 5171

Chapter 5171: An Eternal Light

He closed the coffin and stored it, preparing for another difficult task.

He raised both hands and summoned the most profound dao. Visual phenomena of the yin and yang becoming chaotic emerged. The river of hell started flowing backward.

Just one wrong move and the gate of hell would open. Thousands of ghosts and fiends would appear to drag him into the abyss and devour him.

However, his primordial light was eternal. He stood at the center of life and death. Neither heaven nor hell could sway him for his wish was more powerful.

He stabilized the soul fragments and morphed them into a cosmic light. With that, he infused the light back into the two flowers.

“Cannot endure in this cold void. I will lend you my assistance.” He sighed and said.

He forcefully pulled the flowers that were growing in the void before refining this dimension into them.

He then closed the dimension and returned to the garden, placing the flowers at the very center of this hallowed land.

The flowers could then bathe in the endless life force. Moreover, the king medicines would also strengthen them with their medicinal properties.

He raised his hand again to use a primordial method, infusing two light pillars into Immortal's Peak.

"Rumble!" A supreme power sealed the peak, never allowing anyone else to take a single step inside.

"What is this phenomenon?" All the big shots nearby became alarmed.

"The immortal medicine?" A top alchemist became excited.

Excitement filled the air but no one could make it to the base, let alone climb up the peak.

There was one exception - an old woodcutter who made it to the base.

"Someone's coming." He looked up and murmured.

As for Li Qiye, he had accomplished his mission. He took one look at the flowers and the garden before smiling: "Now, bask in the sunlight. We'll see what awaits you two in the future."

Having said that, he descended.

The light inside the two flowers pulsed feebly as if they were alive. They fluctuated in his direction, seemingly waving goodbye. Life force seemed to be gathering in the pistils, perhaps they would be able to come back in the future.

As he walked down the steps, he noticed something and stopped.

“Cold and bright is the sight of Mount Emei...” He heard someone quietly singing - an old woodcutter carrying a bundle of firewood on his back.

Though dressed in simple attire, his aura couldn’t be overshadowed. Moreover, this was the base of Immortal’s Peak.

He came over and put down the bundle of firewood along with his straw hat. He bowed and said: “Greetings, Sir.”

He raised his head, revealing his rugged features as if they were carved from stone. His eyes radiated a steadfast gleam as if nothing could deter him.

An eternal light shining the ages - this was one way to describe him.

“Greetings.” Li Qiye nodded in response.

The old man then cleaned a rock and placed some leaves on it before asking: “Please have a seat.”

While Li Qiye sat down, he took out a gourd and said: "I don't have much to offer, only some wine to warm you up."

Li Qiye accepted and took a big gulp before commenting: "High quality, made from impeccable techniques." He then returned the gourd.

"You have good taste, Sir." The old man took a big gulp as well.

He put the cork back on and said seriously: "Sir, you have a thing that Celestial Court desires."

"You want it too?" Li Qiye smiled.

The old man rubbed his chin and said: "I've thought about it but I'm not sure of your actual depth."

"A wise person should know how to proceed." Li Qiye said.

"Wise people are often persistent and hopeful as well." He said.

"How many can be persistent to the very end? Giving up can be a good thing. Once you lose hope, anything is possible." Li Qiye didn't care.

"Despair only comes when one's grand ambition remains unfulfilled." The old man said.

“Everyone believes they harbor grand ambitions.” To which Li Qiye responded.

“You have one as well.” The old man stared at Li Qiye.

“No, just personal desires.” Li Qiye corrected with a smile.

“When embarking on the path toward the gran dao, one should aspire to think on a grand scale and possess a vision that extends through eternity...” The old man said solemnly.

“I have calluses in my ears from listening to these grandiose words.” Li Qiye interrupted him: “You are merely displaying your skill before a true master. My heart-stirring speeches have become realities, eternal truths and mantras passed down for eras.”

“Sounds to me like you care more about the world than you let on.” The old man said.

“Proclaiming love for the world and such is nothing more than self-fulfillment. All those who claim to be saviors will bring destruction upon it.” Li Qiye chuckled.

“Sir, your view is mistaken.” The old man retorted: “The world would be in turmoil and its inhabitants would suffer in the absence of a noble aspiration to support and guide.”

“Turmoil and suffering are brought about by those with grand ambitions.” Li Qiye shook his head.

“With all due respect, that is a cynical outlook. The will to do good is absolutely crucial in keeping this world safe.” The old man said.

“Do you see this blade of grass? And that tree over there? Do they have any ambition of protecting the forest from the wind and rain?” Li Qiye smiled: “If they do, they will have to grow larger and larger, taking up all the water and sunlight. How will anything else grow beneath? Is that still considered protecting the forest?”

“Well... a towering tree will become home to birds and beasts...” The old man said.

“What does that matter? Do you care more about the birds or the forest?” Li Qiye responded: “In the end, it will be outside of your control and you will have to go with the flow.”

“Sir, aren’t you becoming a towering tree?” The old man asked.

“No, I am becoming a towering tree not to save the forest but to be closer to the sun.” Li Qiye answered.

“...” The old man pondered in silence.

“Those who hold lofty ambitions and consider themselves as saviors will fall harder than anyone else when faced with failure. They will believe that their failure is the fault of the world, and that its inhabitants are not worthy of salvation so they bring about destruction instead. Once again, mere self-soothing excuses, the result of their own wavering heart and misguided intentions.” Li Qiye concluded.

Chapter 5172: All Because Of Vengeance

“I do not agree with your view, Sir.” The old man eventually said.

"I need neither your endorsement nor opposition." Li Qiye smiled.

The old man wasn't used to being spoken to in this manner. He swallowed his words and became slightly annoyed.

He took a deep breath and said: "Let us not dwell on the grand dao or ambition. Sir, you have an ancestral item that Celestial Court must have. Once they know, they will send their full forces against you."

"So what? I'll be seeking them out anyway." Li Qiye yawned.

Li Qiye's indifferent attitude made it difficult for the old man. He patiently said: "Sir, do you know about its other use?"

"What is it?" Li Qiye asked.

"It can trace a bloodline back to the source." He became serious.

"What does that have to do with me?" Li Qiye said.

"Sir, you probably heard about the three races sharing the same origin." He said.

"Yes, and then?" Li Qiye nodded.

He ignored Li Qiye's arrogant attitude and continued: "There is a method to..."

"You want to destroy them." Li Qiye interrupted with a cold tone.

He shuddered and hesitated for a moment before replying: "Yes, it will bring peace for eras to come, no more trouble."

"Wow, so ambitious, destroying The Race for the sake of peace." Li Qiye chuckled.

"War and chaos start from their side." His eyes flashed with murderous intent, albeit only for a split second. Nonetheless, it was enough to cause a global-scale bloodbath if he wished for it.

"Have you started a sect before?" Li Qiye asked.

"Yes." He didn't know where this was going.

"Let's assume a world without The Race. Would your descendants and sect members live in harmony forever? No, they will also start conflicts among themselves." Li Qiye said.

"That's just competition." He responded.

"The main point is the intent." Li Qiye said: "Do you think of your goal as being noble, that you're carrying out justice? Did you become a cultivator for this?"

Li Qiye got up and stretched: "Massacres are common, cultivators at the apex have all done so before, but let's not twist it now. Don't pretend to be a savior for your own personal gain, you are treading a thin line. Once you cross over it, you'll fall."

"My heart and goal are unchanging." He said firmly.

"I can see that you are hellbent on vengeance. Call it what it is, it is not justice that you are trying to obtain." Li Qiye glared at him once before descending again.

He stared in the direction of Li Qiye; his eyes pulsed brightly continuously. He clenched his fists but after a long while, he slowly unclenched.

'Not an idiot after all, otherwise, this place would be your grave.' Li Qiye's voice echoed in his mind.

He took a deep breath after hearing this and stood there, pondering. Eventually, he picked up the bundle of firewood and left.

"Boom!" A massive attack left a huge palm print on the ground.

The crown prince of Iron Tree was sent flying. His armor plates were broken from the attack.

As for his men, they were now corpses scattering all over the ground.

“Raa!” A colossal bear roared in a frenzy.

This was none other than True Bear Conqueror. His appearance had changed completely with bones protruding out of the flesh. His fangs were longer as well, looking like blades.

He tried his best to control his rage but this was to no avail. It turned out that because of his desire for revenge made him recklessly break through.

His two dao fruits were unstable and could collapse at any second. Nonetheless, he still joined the battle.

Although he got his wish, the injuries worsened his dao, hence his swift exit away from Windchaser Hall.

His destination was Immortal’s Peak, hoping to find a king medicine capable of suppressing his violent thoughts. Alas, he couldn’t find any and his mind became increasingly unstable.

“Raa!” He grabbed numerous plants and pills and hurriedly ate them.

“Run!” Saintess Shao Yao shouted at the crown prince, wanting to run.

She stuck around because she came across a precious plant. However, True Bear Conqueror appeared out of nowhere.

Of course, they didn't know that this wild bear was actually a conqueror. He grabbed the plant and ate it right away.

The crown prince and his men surrounded the conqueror, wanting to earn points with the saintess.

Alas, they were no match for the conqueror despite his best attempt to not kill them. Just one smash ended up killing virtually everyone.

As the saintess turned to run, she saw an incoming smash from the conqueror.

"Ahh!" She screamed after seeing this, believing that this was her last moment.

However, this didn't happen so she opened her eyes and saw someone blocking it

Who else could it be but Li Qiye?

He stared at the conqueror and sighed: "Impatient and reckless only to suffer backlash. Your cultivation is finished, you are now a wild beast."

He shook his head disapprovingly before raising one hand and creating a dao needle. He sent it through the bear's forehead without any difficulty.

True Bear seemed to be struck by lightning afterward. He trembled and lightning crackles could be seen everywhere. On the other hand, his madness was being subdued. The bony overgrowths slowly shrank back into the body. His gigantic frame was reduced to that of a regular bear.

Chapter 5173: Blood For Blood

“Young Noble, you have saved me twice now. I don’t have much so the only thing I can do is offer my wholehearted service...” Shao Yao calmed down and bowed toward Li Qiye.

“It’s okay, I don’t need a servant. Return from whence you came.” Li Qiye waved his hand and interrupted her.

She became embarrassed right away. Who wouldn’t want the service of Alchemy Dao’s future successor? Alas, he didn’t seem slightly interested.

“As you wish, Young Noble.” She didn’t know what to do outside of whispering with her head lowered.

The crown prince had just gotten up and saw this. He risked his life only to see her plead allegiance to this ordinary brat? Even a fool could tell that she had special feelings for him.

“Is this your beast?!” He shouted with jealousy.

Li Qiye ignored him and continued to stare at True Bear who was regaining his wits.

This could have been the worst possible end for him - becoming to a frenzy beast with no sentience. It would have been better if he had died earlier during the near-collapse of his two new dao fruits.

Now, Li Qiye managed to subdue the rage and even protected his grand dao and the fruits. He maintained the conqueror at his best state. Unfortunately, he was now sealed in his true form.

“Keep on training and you will obtain your desired state eventually.” Li Qiye smiled and tapped on the bear’s head.

“Ooo, ooo...” The bear nodded at Li Qiye.

Despite losing his human form, this type of atavism was immensely beneficial. He could train and become stronger at a faster rate henceforth.

“Hey, did you hear me?!” The crown prince shouted since Li Qiye ignored him.

“Scram if you want to live.” Li Qiye finally answered, still not bothering to look straight at him.

The crown prince turned red; his youthful vigor and jealousy got the best of him.

“Do you know who I am?! I am the crown prince of Iron Tree, we have countless masters that...” He furiously shouted.

“Whatever.” Li Qiye waved his hand dismissively and interrupted him.

The crown prince trembled with rage. His kingdom was influential in Imperial Attendant City and famous throughout the continent.

“Bam!” Majestic cultivators landed around them.

The leader wore an iron crown with thorny decorations, a golden robe and other expensive trinkets. A draconic aura could be sensed as well.

The experts accompanying him were mighty sovereigns.

“Father!” The crown prince became ecstatic and joined the group. It turned out that during the crisis, he had called for help.

“Iron Throne Monarch.” Shao Yao’s brows furrowed after seeing him.

He was the current ruler of Iron Tree and had three sacred fruits. According to the legend, this kingdom was founded by Adamantine Godmonarch - a being from the same generation as the sages of Imperial Attendant. She had fought alongside them before and contributed commendably. Because of this, they allowed her to establish a kingdom right outside of Imperial Attendant.

During her reign, Iron Tree was the strongest kingdom in this jurisdiction. Now, it no longer possessed the same strength and glory of past, becoming just an above-average power.

He looked around and saw the corpses; his expression soured. Once he saw Saintess Shao Yao, he bowed and said: “So you’re here too, Saintess. May I ask if you saw the culprit behind this?”

She was a junior in terms of cultivation but because of her special status, the monarch asked respectfully. Moreover, Iron Tree was a tributary of Imperial Attendant.

Although their founder was immensely strong, she still couldn't compare to the unbeatable sages of Imperial Attendant. Nonetheless, she still wanted to protect Imperial Attendant, hence the creation of Iron Tree right by the outskirt.

Many things have changed with time but this relationship remained, hence the monarch's attitude toward her.

She didn't have time to respond before the crown prince jumped in: "Father, this person's tamed beast did it, the thing massacred our riders!"

"I'm afraid there's a misunderstanding." She hurriedly said.

The monarch gazed at Li Qiye and released his oppressive aura. As a three-fruit dragon lord, this affected everyone with the exception of Li Qiye.

"Sir, may I ask for your name?" He said with a serious tone.

"None of your business." Li Qiye wanted to leave.

"You want to leave after killing them?!" The king shouted and his men surrounded Li Qiye.

"So what? If you don't want to die, scram." Li Qiye said with a smile.

This infuriated the monarch. It was one thing for him to be respectful to the saintess but this junior dared to treat him with disdain after killing his men?

The saintess saw that the situation was escalating. Alas, she panicked and couldn't find the right words.

"Hahaha, although Iron Tree is not a top sect, we still won't be bullied so easily. We demand justice for our fallen brothers, that's not out of line, is it?" The monarch had a reasonable demand.

"It's fine." Li Qiye said.

"Blood for blood!" The crown prince shouted.

"How will you pay back this debt?" The monarch glared at Li Qiye.

Chapter 5174: Kowtow

"I don't think I'll be paying this back with my blood." Li Qiye responded.

The saintess calmed down and interjected: "This has nothing to do with the young noble. He saved us from the beast."

"No, look at how obedient it is to him, he released it wantonly with no regard for human lives!" The crown prince disagreed.

“Iron Prince!” The saintess was livid and raised her voice.

The crown prince didn’t dare to disobey her and hid behind his father.

“Saintess, our members cannot die in vain. If I ignore this matter, how can I ever hope to lead my kingdom in the future? We deserve a proper answer.” The monarch bowed.

With that, he turned toward Li Qiye and uttered coldly: “Your carelessness results in your pet murdering our disciples. This is punishable by death but out of consideration for the saintess, hand over the bear first then we shall take you into custody for a trial in Iron Tree.”

Li Qiye yawned and said: “You don’t want me to go to your kingdom since it cannot handle the weight of my steps and shall be destroyed.”

The saintess became anxious because this was fanning the flames.

“You!” The monarch turned red.

“This is ridiculous! Your impudence is punishable with clan extermination!” An expert behind the king shouted.

“No mercy for those who disrespect Iron Tree!” Another chimed in.

"Hmph!" A thunderous scowl erupted, causing all of them to drop down to their knees.

"I want to see who dares to talk about destroying our kingdom!" The voice made everyone feel as if they were trapped in a layer of ice.

A flying palanquin brimming with dao laws descended to the ground and an old man walked out.

He wore thick armor plates, capable of destroying both mountains and experts by smashing them. His aura was a ferocious and deadly one, leaving no room for people to breathe.

"Ancient ancestor!" Even the king got on his knees after seeing him.

"Hallowedsteel Ancestor." The saintess became alarmed after seeing him.

He was one of the strongest cultivators from Iron Tree who ruled for six generations before abdicating. Most importantly, he had nine sacred fruits so his words were the laws in Iron Tree.

"Run!" The saintess drew nearer, her voice a hushed plea.

"Why?" Li Qiye smiled.

"You're in a precarious situation, two hands can't handle four fists." Her tone became urgent.

She didn't want to say that he wasn't a match for the ancient ancestor. Moreover, there must be other masters from the kingdom present if he was here too.

She even pushed him away, thinking that she would buy him time afterward. Unfortunately, he still stood there with a smile. This made her feel like an ant crawling on a hot pan.

“Let’s see who you are, arrogant soul-” The ancient ancestor was imperious as he looked around.

However, he couldn’t finish his sentence after he saw Li Qiye and became frozen.

The imperious aura suddenly disappeared right away to everyone’s astonishment. The members of Iron Tree thought that he would instantly kill the junior or at least give them the command.

“Bam!” A loud bang hit the ground due to his armor plates. This was because he was on his knees.

“Bam! Bam! Bam!” He kowtowed repeatedly, smashing his forehead onto the ground.

Everyone became slack-jawed at the sight of their nine-fruit dragon lord kowtowing before this junior without uttering a single word. Keep in mind that he was a famous cultivator across the upper continents as well.

However, the monarch reacted quickly and kowtowed, following his ancient ancestor’s lead. What else could the others do after seeing their two leaders but get on their knees as well?

“Bam! Bam! Bam!” The ground was shaking from everyone slamming their forehead into the ground.

This left the saintess speechless. Even her master, Jadeclure Conqueror, treated this ancient ancestor with courtesy.

The ancient ancestor had lived for countless eras now and was one of the oldest dragon lords in Imperial Attendant. Rumor has it that he had met the founder of Iron Tree during his youth.

Li Qiye didn't say anything and observed the crowd kneeling before him. This resulted in a magnificent yet inscrutable spectacle.

Two dragon lords and nearly a thousand experts were showing reverence to him as if he was their ancestor. They seemed to be afraid that they weren't filial enough and continued to kowtow as many times as humanly possible.

As the saying goes - no one can slap a smiling face. Thus, even if Li Qiye had wanted to kill, seeing the act of apology made him change his mind.

"Enough, at least say something." Li Qiye smiled.

Hallowedsteel Ancestor finally stopped and took out an item. His hands trembled as he presented it to Li Qiye, still not daring to utter a single word.

Chapter 5175: Time Erases All

The item was a necklace with a heart-shaped pendant - something normally worn by women.

It was intricately crafted from an unknown gemstone with a radiant glow, possessing a profound sophistication. Opening the pendant revealed a portrait that looked rather animated due to the special method.

Li Qiye was surprised for a second since this was his portrait.

“Where did you get this?” He asked Hallowedsteel.

“This was passed down to me during my youth by our founder before her passing.” Hallowedsteel said softly.

Adamantine Godmonarch didn't have children so as a member of a side branch, he was chosen to carry the heirloom.

During his youth, she had told him many wondrous tales including the great wars. However, she also told him about the times before that.

He recalled a legend regarding one man. Whenever she told stories about him, she would open the pendant to gaze at the portrait, lost in a deep trance.

As he grew older, his knowledge also expanded and he understood the significance behind this.

“I see.” Li Qiye understood.

"Her last message was if I ever come across the man in the pendant, give it to him." Hallowedsteel looked up to stare at Li Qiye and understood that it was really happening.

This has been on his mind since his childhood but he never expected to meet Li Qiye before. He managed to survive for so long and as he was facing the end of his lifespan, he finally met the man himself.

He understood the gravity of the situation. The founder was an amazing existence with a glorious past, meaning that this man was on another level.

"Very well, I shall take it." He accepted the pendant and wiped the portrait.

"The ancestor said that those days were her happiest memories and how she yearned for the past." Hallowedsteel spoke with fear in his voice.

Li Qiye sighed and memories resurfaced - a girl who was stubborn and hotheaded before becoming as gentle as water.

Alas, death was inevitable even for an exceptional cultivator. Those in his past started leaving, one by one.

"I understand." He stared at them and said: "Out of consideration for your progenitor, I will not pursue this matter."

"Thank you, Young Noble." Hallowedsteel glared at his men before kowtowing one more time.

All of them left afterward, leaving Li Qiye behind with Saintess Shao Yao who was staring curiously at him.

As for Li Qiye, he remained immersed in old memories - a time when he traveled with a diverse group and the young miss.

However, he was only a passerby who left rather quickly without leaving many traces. Despite his short stay, he still left a deep impression and changed someone's fate.

If it wasn't for him, she would only be a minor cultivator at best - perhaps the sect master of a weak sect. She would be buried in the river of time and the same for her sect.

In actuality, she ended up becoming a divine monarch and tried to catch up in order to see him one more time.

Unfortunately, due to her limited talent, she passed away without being able to see him. The only remaining trace of their relationship was her memento.

"The supreme is emotionless because time does not permit otherwise." Li Qiye said softly, understanding that no one could overcome the restriction of time.

He then glanced back at the girl and said: "Why are you still here? This place is dangerous and you're not strong enough."

"I'm looking for a particular medicine." She was scared to look at him in the eyes.

“What?” He frowned.

“A floating immortal lotus.” She felt tense when talking to him.

“There’s one here indeed.” He said.

“Right, you saw it too. I couldn’t catch it fast enough and it ran away.” She lifted her head and saw his eyes. This caused her to blush and lowered her head again: “My cultivation isn’t strong enough to capture it.” Her voice was as quiet as a mosquito buzzing toward the end.

“Only an alchemy emperor can catch one effortlessly.” He shook his head: “As for you, you need an enticing mist to lure it first.”

“Young Noble, so you do know the alchemy dao.” She became excited.

“To be exact, I am indeed related to your sect.” He smiled.

“How so?” She felt her heart beating faster when talking to him.

“It’s long ago, no need to dwell on it.” He responded: “Fine, I’ll lend you a hand. Catch it and leave quickly before this place becomes your grave.”

“I understand.” She became excited.

He didn't say anything else and started walking. The girl filled with different emotions followed right behind him.

"To find this lotus, one must walk upstream. It is usually hiding at the source." Li Qiye taught her along the way.

She listened attentively in order to learn. After a long lecture, she couldn't help but ask: "Young Noble, are you an Alchemy Emperor?"

Her master was also an Alchemy Emperor whose knowledge in this field was second to none.

Chapter 5176: Passerby

From what she heard so far of Li Qiye's impeccable view of alchemy, she felt as if he was a better alchemist than her master.

Such thought seemed improper but she truly had this impression. His alchemy method was more refined and exquisite.

"I'm not." He shook his head.

"Where are you from, Young Noble?" She couldn't help but ask, thinking that he must be someone famous.

"Just a passerby." He gave her the same answer as he would to anyone else.

The two traveled upstream until they saw a pond with green water.

"It should be here." Shao Yao was still a direct disciple of an Alchemy Emperor and sensed the plant.

"Should we start sealing it now, Young Noble?" She asked.

"No need." He smiled and waved his hand.

"Splash!" A whirlpool formed in the small pond and a lotus plant floated upward.

It was as white as snow. The petals looked illusory with emanating strands of light, resembling something from a dream. Green leaves were arranged neatly and brimmed with spirit energy.

It didn't want to come out but alas, Li Qiye forced it to do so. He waved again and the flower left the plant to flow in his direction.

This was a sentient king medicine - a being created under perfect circumstances after countless years. It simply didn't understand why its precious flower was being taken away. This helpless feeling was a new sensation.

The flower looked like a floating fairy; its movement resembled immaculate dancing. It landed on Li Qiye's hand to Shao Yao's astonishment.

That king medicine was immensely strong and would defend its flower at all costs. Capturing it required using clever methods such as bait medicines to catch it off guard.

All Li Qiye did was wave his hand and the flower automatically landed in his hand. Not even her master could replicate this feat.

“It’s this simple?” She murmured. That was no different from plucking a regular flower.

Li Qiye then handed her the flower.

Meanwhile, the lotus plant itself became frozen. It didn’t feel or sense anything before losing its precious essence accumulation in the form of the flower.

“A floating immortal lotus!” Suddenly, a youth accompanied by a group of cultivators appeared.

He wore an alchemist robe while engulfed in a fiery aura with a hint of medicinal fragrance. His body served as a cauldron, always ready to produce pills.

“Boom!” He formed a mudra and summoned fiery chains to wrap around the king medicine.

The latter was looking at Li Qiye in a daze and didn’t expect a third party to appear.

As it tried to flee, the youth roared: “Don’t even think about it!”

He tossed out a small banner and was able to seal the entire pond, the lotus plant included.

“Such superb skills, Pill Monarch!” The experts standing behind him cheered loudly.

He naturally enjoyed the praises and gloated: “That was my master’s secret art, second to none in this world.”

“Of course, Cauldron Emperor’s alchemy is peerless indeed.” The others were more than happy to play along.

The complacent youth then noticed the flower in the saintess’ hand. He bowed and said: “Saintess Shao Yao, long time no see.”

He ignored Li Qiye and assumed that the guy was just an ordinary disciple.

“Long time no see, Oddflame Pill Monarch.” She didn’t seem particularly pleased to see him.

The youth was a supreme genius in terms of alchemy. His master was Darkflame Cauldron Emperor - the most capable rival of Jadeclure Conqueror.

The youth had done a commendable job in learning from his master.

“You’re here for the floating immortal lotus as well? Haha, I do want to see your incredible alchemy skills.” He laughed.

“No need for that.” She refused right away.

“Looks like we’re both lucky today, you got the essence flower while I get the plant.” He prepared to close the seal in order to take the plant.

“Release it.” Li Qiye ordered.

“What did you just say? Why should I?” The youth glared at Li Qiye.

“Because I say so.” Li Qiye smiled.

“Hahaha, how bold.” The monarch laughed and asked the saintess: “Is he a member of Alchemy Dao?”

“No.” She responded flatly.

“Good, then brat, do you know who I am?” The monarch said imperiously.

“No, release it now.” Li Qiye said.

“You must be tired of living, to actually be making demands before me.” The monarch said. He was confident due to his influence as a top pill master.

"It's best that you listen." The saintess told him.

This surprised the monarch but he ended up laughing boisterously before declaring: "I am taking all the king medicines from Immortal's Peak today. Those who stand in my way shall be eradicated."

Chapter 5177: Biting Rabbit

"Boom!" He whistled afterward and six large figures descended.

They exuded mighty dragon-lord auras, looking like gods. His entourage became intimidated; they initially followed him, hoping to build a relationship for the future.

They didn't expect him to have these powerful cultivators as guards. No wonder why he wasn't afraid of anyone.

"Orthodox Six Gods!" The saintess was surprised to see these powerful dragon lords.

Rumor has it that they came from an ancient clan that was no longer around. Now, after coming across some ancient scrolls, they became dragon lords and vowed to establish their clan again.

Of course, some believed that they were merely embellishing their background and adding non-existent prestige.

"I am here under my master's order to take all the king medicines in Immortal's Peak." Oddflame Pill Monarch was confident.

Some thought that this was a bold claim but others believed in his ability. After all, he had the alchemy knowledge and six capable cultivators.

"I will not show mercy to those who stand in my way." He emphasized while staring at Li Qiye.

"Go!" He then focused on closing the seal in order to seize the lotus plant.

It tried to escape but couldn't break the technique.

"Pop!" Li Qiye raised his hand and dispelled the seal, allowing the plant to run.

"Brat, you dare provoke me?!" The pill monarch was furious after seeing this.

"Yes." Li Qiye responded.

"Fine, I will show you a fate worse than death then!" His eyes flashed murderously as he ordered:
"Gods, capture him and tear out his tendons!"

"Oddflame, enough of this." Shao Yao shouted.

“Saintess, this has nothing to do with you!” Oddflame was livid.

“Junior, surrender obediently now.” The leader of the six stepped forward and uttered coldly.

“You’re a dragon lord? Willing to be someone’s hound over some minor gains, how shameful.” Li Qiye criticized.

“Hmph, you’re asking for this!” The god roared.

“Don’t kill him, we’ll crucify him here to nourish the plants with his blood.” Oddflame snorted.

“Sigh, a bunch of fools. Since you want to capture all the king medicines, I’ll let you meet them.” Li Qiye said before whistling.

“Rumble!” Suddenly, numerous auras engulfed the sky.

“A ten-million-year vermillion tree!” The pill monarch spotted a divine tree with ripe fruits and became excited.

The six gods immediately rushed for these fruits. However, a vine whip forced all of them back.

“Six-wheel Godvine!” The pill monarch became startled again.

“Whoosh!” More medicine kings appeared - violet horse grass, seven-star crescent flower, timeworn flora...

Cultivators became ecstatic and immediately rushed for them. The six gods stabilized themselves and activated their power in order to form an energy net.

Unfortunately, these medicine kings seemed to be working together and summoned an incredible earth vein.

“Rumble!” Endless spirit energy oozed out of the vein.

“Shit!” The young monarch was a genius and could see that something was wrong, prompting him to escape.

As for the others, they were blinded by greed and didn’t grasp the situation correctly. The only thing on their mind was capturing the king medicines.

It was too late once they realized the precarious situation. The earth vein’s momentum suppressed everything.

“Ahh!” The human cultivators were reduced into meat paste by the pressure.

The six gods resisted the pressure but it was too late. The medicine kings’ roots drilled into their body for a draining process.

“Ahh!” Even their sacred fruits were devoured in no time at all.

These famous cultivators unexpectedly became dried corpses in the wilderness. The only person managing to escape was Oddflame Pill Monarch. He noticed that something was off after hearing Li Qiye’s whistle and decided to run.

“A stampede of king medicines...” Shao Yao turned pale since she had never seen so many of them together in one place.

“Alchemists can be too reckless, humans are viewed as potential food as well since these king medicines have lived for too long. Even a rabbit will bite when pushed to the edge.” Li Qiye said.

She trembled in horror due to the overwhelming auras. Li Qiye was right - any of them could eat her alive, just like cultivators eating plants and pills.

He waved his hand and the group immediately dispersed, once again shocking her.

She calmed down and thought that not even her master could do this. Only one person could do so - Heavenly Sage Yuan.

Though the world knew of Heavenly Sage Yuan as an ultimate alchemist, Shao Yao heard that the progenitor was actually an incredible agriculturist - capable of planting and nurturing king medicines.

One particular legend stated that when the progenitor visited a mountain, all the plants there wanted to leave with her. This included medicine kings.

Members of Alchemy Dao had never seen something similar in real life before until now. Shao Yao immediately believed that the legend was real after seeing Li Qiye's summon.

Chapter 5178: Good Dogs Don't Block The Road

"You got your floating immortal lotus now, it is time to leave." Li Qiye told her and started leaving.

She didn't expect him to leave so soon and hesitated for a second before mustering the courage to call out: "Young Noble, where are you going?"

He didn't stop to answer.

"Will we meet again?" She shouted again, feeling her face turning hot and fearing that she was being too obvious with her intention.

"If it is meant to be." Li Qiye responded and disappeared.

She stared in his direction in a daze, thinking that she wouldn't be able to meet him again. After all, they were mere strangers and Li Qiye had done enough for her.

She sighed with disappointment before packing up her belongings to return to Alchemy Dao.

Li Qiye entered a dimensional pathway and appeared outside Imperial Attendant with the next step.

From a distance, this was a magnificent city with a vast imperial aura. It resembled an entity that has not fallen for millions of years now.

This was not a sect yet was superior to one. Supreme existences have resided here and given it their blessing.

The list was long - Heavenly Sage Yuan, Ox-dragon Ancestor, Space Dragon Emperor, and many more...

During its golden age, it served as the center of the world. Even Divine Alliance paled in comparison.

It had an auspicious air with countless visual phenomena looming above - signs of how hard it would be to take down.

As for Li Qiye, he focused on something else entirely - an indiscernible death energy hidden beneath everything.

A frightening existence had died here yet their death energy still remained. If left unchecked, it could turn this place into a forbidden zone with no living beings.

Strangely enough, it has been controlled and actually turned into a foundation for Imperial Attendant.

This method was simply unfathomable and unknown to the rest of the world. Even newer emperors and conquerors didn't notice this unique phenomenon.

“Wonderful, looks like the old geezer died a clean death.” Li Qiye reflected with a smile before entering the city.

His visit prompted an inconspicuous old man sitting in a corner to open his eyes. Given his tattered robe, everyone would think that he was a beggar. His shriveled and thin frame didn’t help either.

He leaned on a broken wall - one in a terrible state just like him. However, he seemed to be enjoying himself, just basking in the sunlight.

Although he appeared to be barely clinging to life as if he hadn’t eaten anything in three days and three nights, he nearly groaned with pleasure from just basking in the sun. This alone satiated all of his needs.

Thus, he became uncomfortable when someone drew close enough to block the sunlight.

“A good dog does not block the road.” He saw the culprit and commented.

This was none other than Li Qiye who didn’t take offense at the comment. He smiled and sat down next to the old man, leaning on the broken wall as well.

This was a remote region of the city but some passersby still took a look at Li Qiye. It seemed strange because he didn’t look like a beggar. Why was he here with the old man?

“What does death feel like?” Li Qiye was extremely comfortable in this corner as if he was cut off from all the troubles of the world, just laying in the dirt like a worm.

"Feels pretty good, pretty good." The old man responded. He paused for a second and added: "You should give it a try."

"Humans and all living beings will die, so I will experience it eventually." Li Qiye smiled.

"You're no human." The old man said.

"I can say the same about you, still won't die completely." Li Qiye retorted.

"You know that there was no glory in your victory." The old man spoke with a matter-of-fact tone: "If it wasn't for that bang, you would be the one dead."

"No, I would have slain you for certain in a one-on-one fight." Li Qiye chuckled.

"I wouldn't have given you that opportunity." The old man said lazily.

"Why didn't he kill you all?" Li Qiye spoke as if he was talking to an old friend.

The old man revealed a sullen smile: "I didn't think about this issue since I was too hungry and only wanted to eat. Now, the dead have time to think clearly."

"What did you come up with?" Li Qiye asked.

“He was most likely waiting for you, that was the entry ticket.” The old man said.

“I wouldn’t have needed it if you all weren’t so ravenous.” Li Qiye said.

“He’s one step ahead and is waiting for you. Of course, to us, being killed by you or him is still the same thing.” The old man said.

“No, it’s better to be killed by him, my dull knife prolongs the agony.” Li Qiye said.

“Not like you had a good time. Your flesh was pretty delicious. I enjoyed it very much.” The old man smiled.

“Want some more?” Li Qiye asked.

“I am as dead as can be, even the meat of the villainous heaven can’t please me now. I won’t be able to feel a thing.” The old man shook his head.

Chapter 5179: Still Getting Rid Of Loose Ends After Death

“I do have to say that I admire you for taking care of loose ends even after death. Not even a strand of death energy is running rampant. On the other hand, your brothers are still causing trouble afterward, creating forbidden zones with chaotic energies.” Li Qiye said.

"I have a reputation to maintain, gotta go out in a dignified manner. Since this grave is my eternal home, I have to clean it up since I don't to lay in filth. That's where you went wrong, if you kill someone, you have to properly take care of their remains too." The old man said.

"Who will pick up my corpse then? I got reduced into nothingness, at least you fared a bit better." Li Qiye chuckled.

"True, it went pretty bad for you." The old man nodded in agreement for once.

During their conversation, another white-haired old man wearing a blue robe appeared nearby. He had a muscular frame, looking rather tough. His beard looked rugged, most likely prickly to the touch.

Due to his broad shoulders and rough hands, he gave the impression of someone capable of doing physical labor without any complaint.

He crouched in the other corner instead of getting closer, becoming another beggar on this street.

However, Li Qiye and the first beggar didn't pay attention to him.

"Do you know about those three stones?" The old man asked.

"Yes, I've thought about them before." Li Qiye nodded.

"I see..." The old man shifted his body a bit, seemingly becoming numb from laying in the same position for too long: "He will too, I'm sure you'll have to deal with it eventually."

“Why does everyone force me to do things?” Li Qiye asked.

The old man stared at Li Qiye and said: “You have the ticket right now and besides, you’ve been pulling him along too, he knows it.”

“Of course.” Li Qiye agreed.

“You can tell how bored I’ve been after death, spending all my time pondering about this stuff. You will have to face it.” The old man said.

“Why would he take the time?” Li Qiye asked.

“These three stones are different, they might not devour or merge with each other.” The old man said.

“Waiting for me.” Li Qiye said.

The old man nodded: “Since you have the ticket, you must participate. That’s the whole point.”

“And if I don’t?” Li Qiye smirked.

“It’ll be a problem then. If you don’t enter the stage, then he’ll make his move before the villainous heaven.” The old man said while keeping his eyes closed.

"That's what I want because finding a person is so exhausting. Let him come to me, it's more convenient that way." Li Qiye said.

"That depends on the price you're willing to pay." The old man revealed a smile that could frighten emperors.

"I might not have to be the one paying." Li Qiye said.

"It's different." The old man said: "You two are simply different. He has nothing to lose, the same can't be said about you."

"Is that so?" Li Qiye stroked his chin.

"I know that he personifies this phrase - all are mere straw dogs beneath the heaven." The old man nodded.

"Just the same crap as the villainous heaven, nothing new." Li Qiye shook his head.

"It's rather interesting. The two of you both have a chance but your pursuit is different. He might become the second villainous heaven, not you."

"It would be meaningless and uncreative. Even if one becomes the villainous heaven, there will always be someone else to take the spot." Li Qiye said lazily.

“That’s why we’re different from you two, we just want to devour.” The old man chuckled.

“You all have gone mad.” Li Qiye commented.

“Indeed, you will become like us once you are no longer able to control your desires.” The old man said.

“It won’t happen to me, I know what I want and what I seek, that’s all there is to it. I do not covet anything else.” Li Qiye said.

“Hence my statement regarding our differences. However, he may be the same as the villainous heaven.” The old man said.

Li Qiye opened his eyes and stared at the sky: “How boring, a fate worse than death.”

“I have no complaints about death right now, feels pretty good.” The old man nodded.

Meanwhile, the old man dressed in blue sitting in the other corner prepared a large piece of paper and wrote something down.

“For sale.” The characters were written crookedly.

He raised the piece of paper, seemingly advertising himself to passersby but most importantly, Li Qiye and the other old man.

Since the two were sunbathing with their eyes closed, they didn't seem to notice him. Nonetheless, he kept on raising the piece of paper in their direction.

The old man started the conversation again: "Though you have killed all of us, it doesn't mean that all obstacles are gone. You need to kill more before reaching the villainous heaven."

"Right beneath." Li Qiye wasn't surprised.

"Hahaha." The old man laughed and said: "The villainous heaven thinks that all realms are within the constant cycle and never gave much thought about what looms right beneath."

"The shadows down there are challenging indeed. Who doesn't have a shadow?" Li Qiye commented.

"That's why you're needed." The old man said.

"Not him?" Li Qiye chuckled.

"If I were the villainous heaven, I would be trying to cooperate with you instead of him." The old man smiled.

"Oh? For what reason?" Li Qiye asked.

"If you need someone to work with, would you seek out someone who is identical to you?" The old man stared at Li Qiye.

"I'm unsure, but that makes sense." Li Qiye nodded.

"Therefore, the villainous heaven will look for you, and that's when you need to deliver a blow during the negotiation." The old man said confidently.

"A kind man such as myself never takes advantage of someone during their time of need." Li Qiye shook his head.

"Hahaha, what will you ask for then?" The old man didn't buy it.

"We'll just talk for a bit, I don't have that many demands." Li Qiye smiled.

"Fucker." The old man couldn't help but curse, seemingly on the verge of standing up to smack Li Qiye. However, he exercised restraint and only said: "That's precisely taking advantage of someone during their time of need."

"Haha." Li Qiye seemed a bit embarrassed: "Maybe."

"I wouldn't want to negotiate with you if I were in his shoes, you bloodsucker." The old man said.

"Well, who would you want to be killed by?" Li Qiye asked.

"Hmm..." This question required the old man to take his time.

"Neither." He eventually answered.

"The villainous heaven is the heaven because he's exceptional and superior in some aspects. He is certain of victory, hence your eternal defeat." Li Qiye said.

"True." The old man admitted.

So many epochs and they couldn't defeat the villainous heaven, only to be imprisoned and driven crazy by hunger.

"I'm sure it's interesting for him, watching you all fight to the death." The old man said.

"Not necessarily." Li Qiye smirked.

"Don't tell me you want to team up with him?" The old man stared inquisitively at Li Qiye.

"He wants to join forces with me even more, perhaps." Li Qiye stroked his chin.

"Definitely plausible." The old man nodded: "We do not need to restraint our desires but you, on the other hand, are willing to do so."

Chapter 5180: A Flower For You

The sunlight made paradise out of nothingness. Even the broken walls were comforting as the group relaxed.

"If you make it there, will you take the villainous heaven down?" The old man murmured, seemingly imagining that scene.

"All I seek is an answer. If I have to kill, so be it." Li Qiye said.

"I'm sure you've thought of this before." The old man said: "It will be the same, more or less."

"That may not be the case." Li Qiye smiled: "There is no absolute in this vast world and its countless inhabitants."

"History disagrees with you, little has changed throughout the eternal cycles." The old man said.

"Speak for yourself, that would only be the case if you all were successful in overthrowing the villainous heaven." Li Qiye said.

"Now I'm offended, you are looking down on us." The old man had a look of indignation.

"Then tell me, what were you trying to accomplish? Make it sound grandiose." Li Qiye said.

"If I were still alive and somehow manage to overthrow the villainous heaven, I'll start by devouring everything. What's more important than filling one's stomach?" The old man smiled.

"At best, I'll just be thinking about replacing him." The old man added: "I wonder what goes on in your head."

"I was born a mortal and do not think about becoming a god, I know my limitation. You, born a god, cannot understand the thoughts of a mortal." Li Qiye said.

"Interesting perspective." The old man said: "Three thousand worlds and their inhabitants are nothing more than food and ants."

"That's why I do not wish to think like a god." Li Qiye smiled.

"Is that so? During the eternal cycles, many mortals have ascended to the apex and entertained the thoughts of becoming a god." The old man responded.

"A mortal shell yet the ambition of a god?" Li Qiye smiled and said: "That's only an excuse for fear, they fear death yet do not want to admit the flaws in their dao heart."

After a brief pause, the old man said: "You can become a god."

"What do you think will happen then?" Li Qiye asked.

The old man opened his eyes and said seriously: "I'm afraid you would consume us, one by one."

"Then I'll be the same as everyone else, a mortal with a grand ambition." Li Qiye smiled.

"It's not a defect." The old man said.

"I disagree entirely. A god with defects shouldn't exist, and the same for immortals. It is a mental disorder that can cause great harm."

"Haha." The old man couldn't help but laugh: "I can only imagine his face after hearing this. He is proud of being an immortal and now, you're saying that it's a mental disorder."

"Pretty much." Li Qiye said: "Recently, the stronger the cultivators, the sicker they are."

"Then you're not far from being mentally ill." The old man clicked his tongue.

"This is the time to stand firm and why I keep a close watch on my dao heart. Just a little slacking off will be enough to go crazy." Li Qiye squinted while looking at the setting sun.

"Going crazy isn't too bad during starvation. It makes you rather clear-headed and aware." The old man said.

"All madmen say that about themselves." Li Qiye chuckled and shifted a bit, continuing to enjoy the sun.

"I suppose." The old man nodded: "Alright, why are you here? I'm sure it isn't to visit me."

"Is there a problem with visiting an old friend?" Li Qiye smirked.

"You wouldn't visit for no reason." The old man said.

"You're right, it seems offensive like I'm gloating if I'm only here to visit, like I'm looking down on you." Li Qiye said.

"I don't care what you think." The old man said.

"Here's the deal, I have a half-dead person with me. I've searched around and there is no spot as good as your place." Li Qiye said.

"Damn you!" The old man wanted to smack Li Qiye.

"Calm down, calm down." Li Qiye responded: "I'm here to negotiate and plus, you're already dead. Others would have no complaints while you're taking up such a good spot with a dao source. It shouldn't be wasted because saving one life is more valuable than building a seven-floored pagoda."

"Don't even think about it!" The old man refused.

“Sigh, don’t be like this.” Li Qiye said: “I’ll give you an auspicious flower, okay? Someone who pays attention to details like you is probably feeling uneasy since there is still stagnant death energy left. You won’t be able to rest in peace so I’ll help out. The flower will let you rest in a dignified manner, a complete and beautiful death, unlike your brothers whose graves are disgusting with miasma and death energy.”

Having said that, he patted the old man’s chest and said: “You are a great man and I am more than happy to embellish your resting place. You can enjoy death with honor while I’ll live comfortably knowing that I have done a good deed. This is a win-win situation.”

“Poof.” The old man turned into smoke and disappeared from sight without responding.

Li Qiye smiled and shook his head: “Sigh, so stingy. You’re already dead, at least be a little useful and kind to each other.”

Who knows if the old man heard his comment after leaving?

With that, he stood up and walked deeper into Imperial Attendant. As he was leaving, the old man in blue also got up and raised his paper sign in Li Qiye’s direction.

The latter only smiled and shook his head, not interested in a purchase. However, the old man didn’t give up.

He hung the sign on his neck and followed Li Qiye. This became quite a sight for passersby.

The city was massive enough to accommodate an entire kingdom. The high population consisted primarily of The People.

This was because the founding sages of the city were part of The People as well. It became an asylum during the various wars, always standing strong.

In fact, it was older than Imperial Alliance or perhaps even Imperial Field from the ancient continent. The first lord was known as City Lord Zi Yan; many other powerful cultivators joined afterward including Heavenly Sage Yuan, Ox-dragon Ancestor, and many emperors.

Many generations later, Space Dragon Emperor, Immortal Emperor Qilin, and Calamity Dao Lord joined as well.

Unity was a key characteristic of the city under City Lord Zi Yan's leadership. It only started changing after the rumors of her death during Grand Dao War.

The city split into various sects - Alchemy Dao, Imperial Gate, Qilin Manor...