

Emperor 5241

Chapter 5241: An Art

"I will definitely go back." Li Qiye stared at him and said with a smirk.

"Big Brother, don't give me that look, I'm scared." Boss Tang got chills and said: "If you want anything, just say the word. What's mine is yours."

"I know, I'll grab anything I want either way." Li Qiye shook his head.

"True. I'm overthinking it then." He let out an awkward smile.

"Have you thought about going back?" Li Qiye suddenly asked, stunning Boss Tang in the process.

Li Qiye saw his expression and nodded: "That's a yes."

"Right, but I won't be returning. This world is great and I'm just like my old man, he's running away and I am the same. Plus, even if I return, I won't recognize anything while still being haunted by the past." He sighed and said seriously: "I'm very content with my life experiences thus far. I have numerous descendants and am rather famous now."

"I see." Li Qiye patted his shoulder and said: "To each his own. It's perfectly fine to pick a different path."

"I do feel bad about not returning with you, Big Brother, I don't have the courage to do so." He said with a smile.

"Returning home is unnecessary for world travelers. Plus, there's nothing there holding you back." Li Qiye said.

"I hope everything will go well with your trip, Big Brother. I'm counting on you." He said while performing a full kowtow.

Li Qiye accepted the gesture and let out a sigh while looking at the incomplete tree.

He returned to the courtyard. The old man who was sunbathing sniffed the air and said: "Looks like you got it."

Li Qiye sat down and nodded.

"Interesting." The old man smiled and said: "We tried so many times to break it down in order to devour them, but they persevered each time. Now, a junior managed to take them down instead of us."

"Not necessarily." Li Qiye closed his eyes and relaxed.

"Perhaps not, but it is still a testament to this junior's frightening ability." The old man said.

“What would you have done?” Li Qiye glanced at him.

“Keke, dealing with just one junior?” The old man mused: “Let me think, I would probably have been preoccupied with the best method to devour him the best. After all, consumption is an art.”

“What if this is not the case?” Li Qiye asked.

“Hmm, then I would need to control my greed or I’ll be the one eaten.” The old man said.

“It’s just that this doesn’t make sense.” Li Qiye shook his head.

The old man opened his eyes just a tiny bit to peer deep into space. He said: “Yes, I think only he can accomplish this. Do you remember that stone I told you about?”

“Looks like he found it.” Li Qiye nodded.

“In my opinion, there’s a high chance that he found all three. Now that’s interesting.” The old man said.

“All three.” Li Qiye stroked his chin.

The old man pondered for a bit before asking: “If I had the determination to find all three, hehe, who do you think I would have raised my blade against first?”

“Not the villainous heaven.” Li Qiye smiled.

“True, still can’t find him with three stones. I have two options, using them as stepping stones or...” He paused and opened his eyes a bit wide to stare at Li Qiye: “... to actually use them.”

“That wouldn’t have ended well for you.” Li Qiye smirked.

“I didn’t mean aiming them against you alone, perhaps they would be better served as sharpening stones, the perfect setup.” The old man said.

“It’s rather reckless, who knows who will be the sharpening stone in that scenario after one mistake?” Li Qiye said.

“See, if I were the villainous heaven, I would be delighted to see such a situation. A little patience before seizing the right moment for a decisive blow, resolving all loose ends in one go. Pests and shadows, gone once and for all.” The old man said.

“Depending on the alliances, the one with the upper hand in this scenario remains unknown.” Li Qiye said.

“I would have gambled it all.” The old man said.

“That’s why you’re not the villainous heaven.” Li Qiye smirked.

“Yes, my biggest flaw is my insatiable appetite. If I could have controlled it, hehe, I would have been able to test my strength.”

“The chance is gone now.” Li Qiye said.

“Sigh, so harsh. Why can’t you let a dead man amuse himself for a few seconds?” The old man complained.

“It’s just not a realistic scenario for you. If you could have changed your way, then I might be the one laying here as a corpse right now.” Li Qiye smiled.

“Heh, hard to say, could be him too.” The old man said.

Li Qiye chuckled in response, not denying this possibility.

“If you want to find him, now might be the best chance. A clear path is laid out before you.” The old man said.

“That’s just as he wishes.” Li Qiye smiled.

“Of course, you can take a different path and catch him off guard. In fact, this might make it possible to catch the villainous heaven off guard too.” The old man said.

“Really now?” Li Qiye asked with a faint smile.

“I am sincerely discussing this matter with you.” The old man felt a bit uneasy.

“It feels like you’re trying to lead me astray.” Li Qiye said.

“Oh? Not confident in your dao heart this time? Afraid of succumbing to temptation? You know, that is not a sin. Falling into the darkness is wonderful, you can freely indulge in your desires and experience incredible pleasure. When I feasted back in the day, the joy...” He licked his lips and his eyes lit up brightly.

“No need to fantasize, you’re already dead.” Li Qiye interrupted.

“Damn it.” Being dragged out of his fantasy left him sad. He then said: “What’s the point of your approach, acting like an ascetic monk? On the surface, it seems like you are in control of everything but in reality, you’re shackling yourself and restraining your potential. You are your own slave.”

“My dao heart has no bounds and my freedom is limitless.” Li Qiye smiled.

“What have you gained with all of these restrictions? Nothing. At least the villainous heaven above is actually in charge. Even when you defeat him, there is nothing for you.” The old man remarked.

“Our difference is why I’m alive and you’re not.” Li Qiye said.

“Hahaha, say whatever you want.” The old man laughed: “I’m sure you will reconsider in the future. Remember my words then, the sweet temptation is irresistible.”

“It is useless trying to persuade me. I don’t need that type of joy to validate my existence.” Li Qiye shook his head.

“How would you know without having tried it?” The old man said.

Chapter 5242: Immortal

The old man clearly tried to persuade Li Qiye to the darkness. Alas, the latter showed no interest.

“Fine, are you going to find him first or not?” He changed the topic.

“Depends on if he is willing to meet. Would be hard otherwise.” Li Qiye said.

“But you managed to find us, it shouldn’t be a problem now.” The old man smiled.

“You all were too easy to find due to your boundless greed. Even if I didn’t search, you would have come knocking on my door eventually.” Li Qiye said.

“If you truly want to, you will be able to find him as long as you are willing to pay the price. I’m sure you have thought about it before.” The old man said.

“Well, it’s just a matter of time, I don’t need to pay anything.” Li Qiye said.

"You will find him before your expedition." The old man understood.

"The same applies to him." Li Qiye said.

"Everyone wants to get rid of the pests in the garden before focusing on the main objective. The question is, which of you is the true pest?" The old man asked.

"I view him as a pest and I'm sure he doesn't have a favorable opinion of me either." Li Qiye said.

"Hmm, if I had really wanted to, I could have followed his clues." The old man said.

"He didn't want you though. Do you know why?" Li Qiye said.

"Greed, and I would have felt the same way. The stench of our greed could be smelled across three thousand worlds. The moment we stepped out, we would have become the villainous heaven's targets right away." The old man shrugged.

"He needs a place to settle and that's not possible with your group around, the heaven will come knocking eventually." Li Qiye agreed.

"But the heaven didn't, do you know why?" It was the old man's turn to question.

"It's rather simple." Li Qiye said: "If you got shit that you want to be eaten, you need dogs. When the job is done, you can kill the shit-eating dogs afterward."

"Asshole, can't you be more refined in your speech?" The old man cursed.

"My language is vulgar, not my logic." Li Qiye said: "The truth is not far from this. Why was I kept around? To take care of you bunch, of course. It's the same for your group too, I didn't see any brotherly affection during the internal strife."

"So you're a dog as well." The old man snorted, annoyed with Li Qiye's coarse words.

"No, I'm the village idiot, ready to fight any dog to death once provoked. Kill first, talk later." Li Qiye said.

"Hahaha." The old man laughed and said: "If you're an idiot, so are the rest of the world. I wish this is true though so you can start going around fighting all the time."

"With whom? I'm still searching, am I not?" Li Qiye waved his hand.

"Don't lie to me and say that you don't know where he is right now." The old man said.

"How should I put this? Anything that hasn't been confirmed is mere speculation, that's not my style." Li Qiye said.

"Haha, time will tell." The old man laughed and said: "Aren't you afraid that the villainous heaven will find someone else?"

“Who else? There are only two idiots in the village and they aren’t interested in the position of the chief.” Li Qiye said.

The old man paused for a while before asking: “You truly haven’t considered obtaining immortality? The immortal can be you.”

“No, there is nothing good about being an immortal.” Li Qiye answered directly.

“Indestructible, eternal life.” The old man said.

“Not interested.” Li Qiye shook his head.

“Everyone wants to become an immortal, there is no exception, the same for him. Death is eternal torture.” The old man said.

“The same for living. I call an eternal life a fate worse than death.” Li Qiye smiled.

“That’s why I said you are ignorant in this regard, having not experienced the true pleasure of freedom. At that point, you will want to live forever.” The old man said.

“Dogs also think that shit is the most delicious meal in the world because they have never considered the possibility of not eating it.” Li Qiye retorted.

“Fuck you!” The old man cursed again.

“You all refuse to acknowledge this truth. Did you or he ever say no once? To overcome the desires in your heart.” Li Qiye said.

“The world was ours, dependent on our whims. there was no need to say no.” The old man said.

“That’s why we are different, the world is the world, I am me.” Li Qiye said.

“And that’s why your life is miserable.” The old man concluded.

“Sure, but at the very least, I’ll still be human. I know what I seek and what I have to give up in order to maintain this.” Li Qiye nodded and closed his eyes.

“To be a human.” The old man murmured.

“Boom!” An explosion resulting in massive heat waves detonated inside Imperial Attendant City.

Everyone sensed an imperial aura within the inferno along with a green light. Vines began coiling up into the air to contain the flames.

“What’s going on?” They became startled.

“It’s Jadeclure Conqueror, is she refining a cauldron?” One big shot became startled.

“Boom!” On another side, an inferno with a dark beam inside rushed into the air. It exuded a tyrannical aura and spread across Imperial Attendant, seemingly wanting to light the city ablaze. If this continued, the taller buildings could be reduced to ashes.

“Darkflame Cauldron Emperor!” Ancient ancestors recognized the owner of this flame.

“Why is here here, is he starting a cauldron too?” Most became confused.

“They’re competing, maybe this will decide whether Suppression Conqueror will return the post back to Imperial Gate.” Experts from the city understood the event.

“What does Darkflame Cauldron Emperor have to do with Suppression Conqueror?” One cultivator asked because this alchemist was not part of Imperial Attendant.

“Darkflame Cauldron Emperor is an honorary member of Hundred Dao. Since Suppression Conqueror wants to maintain his control, he has to go by the rules and defeat Jadeclure Conqueror with alchemy. The cauldron emperor is the only likely candidate.” Someone explained.

“Time is flying by fast, it’s another election.” A last-gen member from the city said: “If Suppression Conqueror and Hundred Dao win again, they’ll lay an even stronger foundation than the previous, one step closer to becoming the orthodox branch.”

Chapter 5243: Imperial Attendant Awaits The Emperor’s Return

The duel between Jadeclure Conqueror and Darkflame Cauldron Emperor would decide the next ruler of Imperial Attendant City.

If the former were to win, Suppression Conqueror would have to return the dominion back to Imperial Gate. On the other hand, his success would allow him to slowly change the system and guidelines, allowing Hundred Dao to be in charge legitimately in the future.

“Rumble!” A lightning tribulation seemed to be forming above the city.

Waves of vines and leaves came together to form a barrier to stop any lightning bolt.

“An alchemy tribulation is forming.” An expert said: “Seems like a cauldron of Time-honed Longevity Pills. It’s about to be refined one hundred times now.”

“Her fire mastery is superb, can she catch up to Heavenly Master Yuan in the future?” Another alchemist commented.

Everyone understood that the presence of a tribulation indicated greatness - the finest grade of pills.

“If it’s really at the finest grade, then just three to five pills are enough to last for a very long time.” An ancient ancestor felt his heart beating faster.

Ancient ancestors wanted nothing more than longevity medicines, and the pills before them were the best of the best. Of course, Darkflame's pills were effective as well, albeit carrying considerable side effects.

If cultivators had a choice, they would certainly pick Jadeclure Conqueror's longevity pills before Darkflame's.

"Boom!" Jadeclure Conqueror's green inferno rushed above Darkflame's cauldron and prevented further refinement.

"Looks like the victor is decided." A few alchemists commented.

"Imperial Gate shall be in charge again." The inhabitants of the city preferred this development - authority returning to the orthodox branch.

However, the imperial aura within the evil inferno intensified and made it stronger. Everyone became frozen since Darkflame seemed to be taken over by a conqueror. His inferno became more than ten times stronger.

"Boom!" It broke through the clouds and tore apart the conqueror's fiery blockade, seizing the upper hand in the blink of an eye.

Jadeclure's cauldron released a fire dragon in retaliation. Alas, the dark inferno had become overwhelming.

"Why?!" Everyone became surprised by the sudden reversal.

“The cauldron emperor has been blessed by an extremely powerful conqueror.” An ancient ancestor said: “It must be Suppression Conqueror.”

“Cheaters!” Those on the side of Alchemy Dao shouted, feeling that the other side was cheating.

“Not quite.” A big shot familiar with the rules shook his head and said: “Jadecure Conqueror could have found someone to empower her as well, it’s just that her allies are weaker. Resplendent Monarch is the strongest but he can’t compete with Suppression Conqueror. This has been the case since the passing of Armor Conqueror.”

“I think Jadecure Conqueror will lose.” Spectators said while feeling sorry for her. It seemed like Suppression Conqueror was about to win again.

Back in the courtyard, Li Qiye observed the duel but he noticed something and got up to open the door.

He then saw a group of people who immediately kneeled in his presence - Resplendent Monarch, Gourdkeeper Monarch, Panacea Monarch, Hallowedsteel Monarch, Saintess Shao Yao, the ancestors of Imperial Gate...

“What is it?” Li Qiye’s brows furrowed.

Saintess Shao Yao looked up and said: “Young Noble, you are the lord of Imperial Attendant. Your servants await your return.”

“Please return to the palace and reign again, Young Noble.” Resplendent Monarch added respectfully.

“I’m afraid you got the wrong person.” Li Qiye shook his head, not interested in taking over Imperial Attendant.

“Our founder, City Lord Zi Yan, drew your portrait, Young Noble.” An ancestor from Imperial Gate presented a treasure box with both hands. He opened the box and presented the scroll to Li Qiye.

He sighed and opened the scroll to see a vivid picture of himself and Zi Yan’s signature.

At the bottom was another line - waiting for your return, Young Master.

“Buzz.” The signature started moving and exuding a violet light. This energy rushed out and turned into an ethereal woman possessing a graceful appearance with a mature charm.

She appeared solemn and dignified, seemingly capable of commanding an army with a simple gesture.

She started this city along with the wise sages to wait for their emperors. Alas, her time ran out during Grand Dao War. After seeing Li Qiye, the ethereal image knelt before him.

He sighed and gently touched her cheek: “An oath lasting an eternity, was it worth it?”

“Young Master.” The image said softly. She outlasted tribulations and calamities due to a single belief - that the young master would return one day to rule again. Imperial Attendant City was meant for him alone.

Chapter 5244: Sticking Around

Madam Zi Yan displayed absolute loyalty during her time with him and continued to do so after his departure. Unfortunately, her devotion was not rewarded for she was gone now.

Everlasting life birthed these sad moments, watching loved ones and friends vanish into thin air. Although no one could truly live forever, some lived longer than others. Bidding farewell to those departing on the next journey first became torturous.

“It will be the same as before, I shall stay.” Li Qiye sighed and said.

“The mortal world welcomes your presence, Young Master.” Her soft voice echoed in his ears as the image dispersed into violet particles. He reached forward and felt them warming his hand, letting out a wistful sigh.

“The emperor has returned.” Resplendent Monarch and the others kowtowed while chanting: “Please return to the palace and wield your authority once more.”

It turned out that after returning to his dynasty, Hallowedsteel Ancestor carefully thought about the meeting.

He summoned ancestors from the various powers before confirming that Li Qiye was who they were waiting for. This has been their mission for eras now.

Of course, Li Qiye wasn't interested in such mundane matters, sitting on the throne and exerting his dominion over others.

Nonetheless, he glanced at the duel in the sky and assented: "Let's go to the imperial hall then."

"Yes, Emperor!" The others became ecstatic and smashed their head on the ground. Tears of happiness streamed down their cheeks. Not even in their dreams did they see themselves being the ones to fulfill the eternal mission.

The group began heading to the main palace of Imperial Gate - the source of the city. City Lord Zi Yan once resided here and gave commands during the great wars.

The wise sages participated in these wars on top of supporting and saving emperors. After her departure, Peerless Monarch and the others kept her legacy and mission alive.

Their golden age has become a distant past. Today, Imperial Attendant City was only known for Alchemy Dao. During Suppression Conqueror's takeover, it strayed farther from the orthodox branch.

From a distance, the imperial palace resembled an unbreakable fortress, built from divine metals meant to endure any offense.

The palace itself was clearly impressive but the most conspicuous things were towering giants standing in the courtyard. In fact, one could spot the giants from nearly everywhere in the city.

The giants consisted of golden pieces assembled with immaculate precision. Not a single gap or flaw could be seen. Regular cultivators resembled ants while standing next to them.

Seeing this for the first time would leave everyone in awe. This was a legion known as Machine. [1]

Some believed that City Lord Zi Yan found them from another domain. Others said that this was a gift from Cleansing Incense Dynasty or even Imperial Field.

They appeared first during the calamity and then in the subsequent wars. At first, the legion consisted of numerous mechanical giants. Unfortunately, only a small number made it to the present day.

After City Lord Zi Yan's death, no one could control them until the appearance of Armor Conqueror. He was one of the machines who managed to reach the dao, eventually becoming a conqueror through cultivation.

He could communicate and control his fellow machines. They served as the protectors of the city during Emperor War, warding off the enemies until reinforcement.

After his death, the machines became decorating giants outside of the main palace, no longer able to move.

In reality, the descendants of Imperial Attendant from all the branches had tried to activate them. Even Suppression Conqueror himself had done ample research on the mech only to find nothing. None was able to activate them.

The machines were highly regarded even by apex conquerors and emperors. After all, heroic tales of the legion were still sung today.

In fact, conquerors from the reclusive Cleansing Incense Dynasty came to help as well. This didn't yield any fruit either outside of confirming the relationship between the dynasty and the machines.

Li Qiye took a look at the giants. This was a familiar sight since he was the one who dragged them back from a broken world. He spent a long period thinking about how to activate them only to fail.

This changed once he started the new epoch. The natural laws changed since the world was filled with his power and chaos true energy.

The machines that were once blessed with his power could finally start moving again.

Chapter 5245: Come Greet The Emperor Already!

As the group waited outside the main hall, a group of armored cultivators walked out with a menacing aura.

They pointed their spears and arrows at Li Qiye and the others.

"Rumble!" Figures landed from above and assumed formation to stop the group. Their bloodthirst was palpable - clearly veterans that had slain numerous enemies on the battlefields.

"Suppression Legion." Resplendent Monarch's eyes narrowed after seeing this.

A general with lightning flashing in his eyes came out of the palace and glared at the unwelcome visitors.

"Ladies and gentlemen, today is the alchemy duel, please leave." He uttered coldly.

"Tell Suppression to come here to welcome our emperor's return!" Hallowedsteel Ancestor shouted in response.

"Ancient Ancestor, choose your words carefully. My lord is the leader of Imperial Attendant, he needs not greet anyone." The general barked back.

"No need to waste words!" Resplendent Monarch roared and took one step forward.

"Kill them!" The general ordered.

The archers immediately released a barrage of arrows that blot out the sun.

"Scram!" Hallowedsteel waved his sleeve and the arrows exploded while still in the air.

Although the legion was impressive, they were facing mighty dragon lords and stood no chance.

Resplendent Monarch also attacked, sending a thousand legionnaires blocking the way flying.

"Such impudence!" More armored generals landed in the courtyard.

“Back off, you all are outmatched here.” A dignified voice released waves of imperial auras.

Even Resplendent Monarch and the others became frozen after sensing this tyrannical presence. All of them combined couldn’t beat Suppression Conqueror.

“Creak.” The gate of the palace opened, revealing Suppression Conqueror sitting on the throne.

Below were generals and dragon lords sitting down along with guests from all over the world. Xiao Qingtian and Li Zhitian were also present. Some conquerors were in the audience as well.

All of them were watching an alchemy duel in the main hall - Jadeure Conqueror versus Darkflame Cauldron Emperor.

Jadeure had two dao fruits so her cultivation was only average among her peers. However, she was still young and had room for growth. Most importantly, her alchemy was exceptional, especially with regard to longevity pills.

She wore a green dress embroidered with simple flowers and vines - tall and slender with beautiful features.

Her eyes brimmed with spirituality, seemingly capable of cultivating alchemy plants. Her weak imperial aura was made up by a gentle medicinal fragrance.

The fragrance granted a comforting feeling. Anyone would feel as if they were gaining more lifespan and would be more than happy to stick hear her.

Her opponent was an old man with a fiery aura of an evil affinity, enough to cause others to tremble in fear. Just one spark from him would reduce anyone to ashes; resistance was futile.

An imperial talisman hovered above him and continuously added him strength - the reason for the immense strength of his evil inferno.

In terms of alchemy alone, he was one step weaker than Jadeclure Conqueror. Alas, his empowered state certainly had the upper hand so it was only a matter of time.

“What is the meaning of this intrusion, gentlemen?” Suppression Conqueror’s throne was surrounded by clouds as he looked down on everyone. His dao laws were as suffocating as ever.

“The emperor has returned. Pay respect, Suppression.” Resplendent Monarch raised his voice.

This caused the guests and neutral spectators to exchange glances. They had a good understanding of the current political climate in Imperial Attendant City.

Some big shots were from the grand alliances, wanting to see if Suppression could further legitimize his claim over the city.

“The cauldron emperor shall win and I remain in charge, meaning that I am the lord of Imperial Attendant. There is no other emperor.” Suppression said calmly.

“It is not too late to kneel before the emperor.” Resplendent Monarch respectfully invited Li Qiye to step forward.

He became the center of the spotlight instantly. Whispers could be heard among the crowd.

Xiao Qingtian and Li Zhitian were awfully curious. They had seen Li Qiye in action before and didn't know what to say. Why was he the lord of Imperial Attendant City now?

Chapter 5246: Let Me Handle This

"Imperial Attendant City doesn't use 'emperor' as a title, right?" A youth whispered.

A senior shook her head in response: "No, Imperial Gate was usually in charge and the leaders were known as city lords."

"The current leader is Suppression Conqueror, this is nonsense." One crowd member snorted.

Outsiders had no problem with Suppression Conqueror being in charge. After all, he had eleven dao fruits and was rather capable.

Moreover, Hundred Dao was a part of Imperial Attendant. They followed the ancestral rules and took control as a result. No one else was more qualified than Suppression Conqueror.

Under his leadership, there was a chance of Imperial Attendant becoming the leader of Imperial Alliance - a return to its golden age.

Some preferred to see the city flourishing under his reign than declining for the sake of legitimacy.

"I've heard of something like this regarding the very title of the city. Imperial Attendant, the word imperial implies an emperor. Rumor has it that City Lord Zi Yan and the others were waiting for someone." An ancient ancestor said.

"It's just a legend that is most likely fabricated by future descendants." Another disagreed because this so-called emperor didn't appear during the previous eras.

Hundred Dao and Suppression Conqueror didn't recognize this legend and mission either, only the powers in the main branches such as Alchemy Dao.

"Suppression, kneel before it is too late!" Resplendent Monarch shouted again.

Listeners thought that this was impossible. Although an eleven-fruit conqueror was not the strongest in the upper continents, he was still one of the best. Telling him to kneel before someone was an idiotic demand.

Suppression became annoyed and focused his gaze. The frightening aura became concentrated and forced weaker cultivators to the ground.

Resplendent Monarch and the other ancient ancestors couldn't handle the sudden increase and staggered backward.

"Hmph." Li Qiye's old servant took one step forward and became a divine mountain capable of protecting the world for ages to come. The imperial aura couldn't move him an inch, only enough to make his robe flutter.

“Who may you be, Fellow Daoist?” Suppression became serious after seeing this. He couldn’t believe that this old servant was able to stop his pressure so easily.

“Just a servant.” To which the old man responded.

Listeners couldn’t believe it. They took a closer look and could tell that he was frightening, just not the ceiling of his power. Why would he be a servant?

Suppression had never experienced this situation before. He met numerous powerful conquerors and dao lords on top of seeing the apex ones. However, none of them had such a powerful servant.

“It’s alright, let me handle this.” Li Qiye gently patted the old man’s shoulder.

The latter bowed and respectfully retreated to the back, closing his eyes and not saying anything else.

Powerful existences could offer their service and allegiance but never in this manner. For example, the alliances had twelve-fruit conquerors working for them. However, they remained imperious and never needed to call themselves ‘servants’.

Nonetheless, the crowd didn’t have time to think and quietly observed Li Qiye.

“He’s the one who changed the eighteen images of the dragon lords.” Someone recognized him.

“How the hell did he do it?” A big shot found this astonishing.

“I heard a rumor of him being Duality Master’s descendant or even son.” A third joined in.

“Duality Master...” This title alone instilled awe into listeners.

He was a man who didn’t cultivate yet could stand on the same level as apex beings. He remained neutral in the conflict and could have a drink at either Heaven or Imperial Alliance.

In fact, tales of him traveling to Celestial Court have been passed down as well. He had a dao discussion with the emperors there and this happened in Immortal Dao City as well.

“In one ear and out the other, I was going to let you off easily but now, seems like I have to kick you off that throne.” Li Qiye yawned and said.

Suppression naturally didn’t take the comment in stride. His eyes flashed menacingly to the horror of the audience, but Li Qiye remained unaffected.

Some who had seen Li Qiye before didn’t understand. How did he always remain calm and aloof regardless of the situation? This was so similar to Duality Master.

“Who are you?” Suppression was frustrated because he couldn’t see through Li Qiye. For one second, the guy seemed like an unfathomable master but in the next, he was just another passersby on the street.

Chapter 5247: Beat You All

“Who I am matters not.” Li Qiye stretched and said: “This is your last chance to scram before I make my move. It will be over then.”

Listeners couldn’t believe what they were hearing since he was talking to a mighty conqueror. Sure, some in the upper continents could kill Suppression Conqueror. However, it wouldn’t be effortlessly even for apex cultivators.

Destroying eleven dao fruits while leaving nothing behind was a difficult task since they were immensely tough. Perhaps only someone who had obtained an anima tree would be able to do so.

“That’s some confidence.” One guest snorted at the comment.

Suppression’s expression darkened. His foul mood manifested into murderous strands that could decapitate dragon lords, let alone regular cultivators.

Only masters such as Xiao Qingtian or Li Zhitian could withstand his aura. The other big shots trembled from the pressure.

His generals were infuriated. They had fought alongside the conqueror and took pride in his success. Insulting him was the same as insulting them. If gazes could kill, Li Qiye would have died a hundred times over.

“You must defeat us before you are qualified to compete with His Majesty.” One general uttered coldly.

The other generals stood up and the atmosphere became serious. Suppression had eight renowned generals - two saints and six gods.

The saints included Sanctified Bones and Heaven's Equal Avian. They were ancient ancestors from Hundred Dao and martial brothers of Suppression Conqueror.

The six gods were famous as well, making a name for themselves via the battlefields.

"That's fine, one at a time or all together?" Li Qiye said with a smile.

"Boom!" A top dragon lord stood before Suppression Conqueror and spread his wings, releasing bright pulses.

"Get through us first or crawl back from whence you came." He was a divine firebird who spoke with a sharp tone.

"Heaven's Equal Avian!" Many took a deep breath after seeing the senior brother of Suppression.

He had eleven sacred fruits since long ago, being far older than his martial brothers.

It's just that Suppression was too gifted and improved rapidly, surpassing his brothers in no time at all.

As for Sanctified Bones, he reached his limit and had to rely on the eighteen images to possess twelve sacred fruits. Talent-wise, he was not a match for Heaven's Equal.

Heaven's Equal was the second in command, dealing with mundane and administrative matters that Suppression didn't care for.

"I'll greet him first with my blade." One general jumped forward and shouted at Li Qiye: "Brat, you think you can get through me?!"

He resembled a bug with a metal carapace and a gleaming blade-like horn. The external runes looked attuned to the dao.

"Skyhorn General!" Someone shouted, recognizing one of the six gods.

His horn had killed numerous mighty foes due to its tough and sharp characteristics. Weapons were always pierced, even sacred fruits.

"Brat, take out your weapon already." He smacked his horn, issuing metallic clanks.

"Very well, seems like I must show you fools what a real weapon is." Having said that, Li Qiye glanced at the middle of the hall where there were numerous seats meant for the wise sages of the past.

At the center was an oval item looking like a ship with a dark color, seemingly made from unknown materials.

Upon closer examination, one would discover that instead of being made up of metals, the exterior actually consisted of runic lines. Because they were seamlessly integrated together, the gaps between them couldn't be seen at all.

Li Qiye reached for it and suddenly, the ship became bright with rays pulsing outward. It activated and flew closer, hovering above him.

“What is this?!” The audience became startled.

This included ancestors from Imperial Attendant as well. Suppression Conqueror himself didn’t know what was going on.

Outsiders assumed that it was a mere decorative piece for the main hall. However, those from Imperial Attendant knew that this was a supreme treasure, albeit inactive.

It was rumored to have a strong connection to the metal giants outside. Alas, not even City Lord Zi Yan and the other wise sages were able to use it.

The rays coming from it possessed a terrifying destructive capability. Suppression stared at it in awe.

Ever since he took over, he had researched the history of the city and its treasures.

Chapter 5248: How Strange

Did Suppression Conqueror only care about authority and influence? Of course not.

As an accomplished cultivator, he naturally didn’t care for political matters. The throne of Imperial Attendant was indeed a shining jewel atop a crown. However, his main goal was to understand and

grasp the mysteries of the city. From that, he would be able to seek a higher dao. For example, the metal giants outside the palace or this ship...

Ever since the takeover, he had never stopped researching these matters. He pursued every single detail in the palace and city, the same for the machines outside.

He once thought about taking everything as his own. Alas, he came to understand that the city must have been built here for a reason. Even if he were to take all the treasures, they would be nothing more than scrap metals.

The ship floating above Li Qiye was one of his main research subjects. He knew that there was something more to it and that he needed to understand its fundamentals before activation.

If he could somehow learn to use the ship and the giants, he would be able to establish a power no inferior to Imperial or Divine Alliance.

The giants' power and effectiveness were proven by City Lord Zi Yan who had controlled them during several wars. With their help, he would be able to reach the height of Illumination and Light-dragon Conqueror.

He couldn't fathom how his years of research were inferior to a single handwave from this youth. Did the ship look down on him and his sincere effort?

"The emperor is back!" At the same time, Resplendent Monarch and his allies were moved to tears. This was another proof that they got the right man.

As members of the main branch, their mission was to protect the city. They knew that everything here was special.

Back when they were in charge, they had tried to understand the treasures as well. Only City Lord Zi Yan was known to have success.

Now, this young man was able to activate the ship of the city, meaning that he must be the emperor in the legends. They have witnessed a miracle and finished their mission.

Li Qiye spread his palm and released tiny laws. Suddenly, the ship above him suddenly crumbled into little pieces.

Before gazes of disbelief, the pieces fell into his palm and turned into small particles. They wrapped around his hand and turned into a fiery gauntlet.

“!” Suppression stood up with his eyes wide open from disbelief.

The ship had turned into a gauntlet - a perfect fit for Li Qiye’s hand. Suppression had never thought of this possibility before.

His theory was that this ship was an ultimate treasure meant for fleeing world-ending disasters. Now, it was clearly a weapon.

“Have you seen anything like this before?” Li Zhitian asked.

The audience members had seen plenty of treasures but nothing like this. Of course, they didn't know that it was from a different epoch.

"That's amazing..." Even Skyhorn General couldn't help but exclaim after seeing this.

"Have a taste of my horn!" He calmed down and became blurry to the audience.

They saw numerous images due to his incredible speed.

"Phantom Thrust!" A few big shots recognized this move.

"Clank!" The ground trembled violently and sparks splashed outward. Most didn't see the attack until it was already before Li Qiye's chest.

His speed was impeccable but most importantly, he gathered all of his strength onto a single point - the horn. This could break through any dao defense and deliver a fatal blow.

Spectators felt a chill in their heart as if they have been pierced and thrust high into the air by his horn.

However, the thrust was easily stopped by Li Qiye and his gauntlet. His movement was fast enough to also leave behind afterimages before grasping the horn.

Before people could digest the event, he lifted the general up and slammed him repeatedly to the ground.

“Bang!” After he became bored, he tossed the bloodied cultivator outside. The latter couldn’t get up while groaning in agony.

From start to finish, it appeared that Li Qiye didn’t use any of his own strength. Everything came from the fiery gauntlet alone.

The crowd exchanged glances after seeing the swift defeat of one of the generals.

However, another general appeared on the other side of the main hall - a centipede with a twisted frame possessing numerous arms and legs. Despite his grotesque appearance, he was adorned with majestic silver armor.

He held numerous bows - small enough to look like children's toys.

Chapter 5249: Try Your Own Fruit

Instead of arrows, the toy-like bows were drawn with dao strings. Once pulled to the limit, these dao strings became extremely sharp and brimmed with power.

Just looking at them made the audience feel as if their body was about to be pierced into a sieve.

“Twisted-shot General.” Others recognized him.

“Try to block my shot?” Twisted-shot shouted.

Despite being enemies, he didn't resort to an ambush. Thus, he announced his attack first.

"Why not?" Li Qiye smiled.

"Perish!" Twisted-shot immediately released all of the dao strings.

They pierced through space and left behind tiny holes in the physical fabric of reality. Moreover, they flew in an unpredictable manner, zigzagging randomly while still maintaining a clear destination - Li Qiye's weak spots.

When the dao strings got close enough, they suddenly became infinitely slow and drilled into another dimension. This made it impossible to block them in a conventional manner. They appeared again in another spot and aimed for a different target on Li Qiye's body.

Li Qiye didn't mind because the gauntlet took a comprehensive approach by spreading out and covering him entirely in armor plates.

The dao strings were certainly unblockable but ultimately, they still had to hit Li Qiye in order to deal damage. Alas, the complete barrier rendered them useless.

This wasn't due to the general lacking power. In fact, that barrage just now was enough to reduce even sacred fruits into bits. It's just that the armor plates surrounding Li Qiye were unbreakable.

"What kind of metal is this?" The general stopped shooting and became startled.

Once he slowed down, people could see that the dao strings were actually made from sticky mucus oozing out of his body. He used a special method to condense and imbue them with the dao. This gave him the ability to injure even Suppression Conqueror while the latter was in full battle regalia. In this case, he didn't see a single mark on Li Qiye's plate.

"My turn, take this!" A different general landed in front of Li Qiye.

This was a large frog with a tree growing on its back. On the branches were trees of various colors.

"Treasure-fruit General!" Someone shouted his title.

He took down a black fruit and threw it at Li Qiye. Normally, a fruit thrown couldn't even kill a child. However, the audience including Li Zhitian's group became serious.

"A cursed fruit." Many cultivators shuddered.

This frog was a strange existence born with a tree capable of producing fruits of various powers. The black one had an embedded curse and was feared by all.

"Pop!" The fruit exploded and covered the armor plates with a black, sticky liquid. It attached to the armor and squirmed like countless worms.

Impressively enough, it managed to infiltrate the armor plates that were completely untouched by the arrow barrage earlier.

“Zzz.” After finding an apparent gap, it drilled into the armor and disappeared from sight.

“He’s cursed now!” A spectator shouted.

The best way to deal with the fruit was to prevent it from exploding and releasing the black liquid. Its offensive potential included drilling into the body and even the true fate. Merit laws seemed useless against it.

“You can’t stop this.” Treasure-fruit was ecstatic to see the infiltration.

However, the armor plates suddenly receded and turned into a gauntlet again. Its rays resumed again and forced the black liquid out while still trapping it.

“What...” Treasure-fruit was left speechless after seeing this.

“Are you feeling cold?” Li Qiye smiled and reached forward.

Treasure-fruit understood that it was time to run and instantly retreated. Alas, he was still hit by the flames carrying the cursed liquid.

It still had the same property as before - always hunting the target.

“Poof!” Sure enough, his evasive maneuvers finally failed and he became engulfed in flames.

The other generals immediately ran over and helped him extinguish the flames. Although he managed to stay alive, he was burned from top to bottom and smelled like a roasted frog.

Chapter 5250: Mediocre At Best

“My turn!” Someone suddenly shouted.

“Boom!” Vines drilled out from beneath Li Qiye and coiled around him with astonishing speed. At the same time, they released venomous fluid capable of burning vitality and lifespan.

Everyone looked over and saw a tree demon growing in size - the cultivator behind the attack. After wrapping the enemy, he started lifting Li Qiye into the air.

Some thought that he was being despicable. Although he stated his intention, the attack came a split second later. This was no different from an ambush.

“Devil-vine General!” Some recognized the cultivator who had a penchant for ambushing from underground. This had caught many individuals and countries off guard.

Unfortunately, the gauntlet released an explosion and destroyed the vines. The venomous fluid didn’t affect Li Qiye either.

Devil-vine couldn’t believe it and decided to retreat. Alas, the gauntlet was faster than lightning and quickly grasped the main body.

Li Qiye uprooted the tree and gathered power. The gauntlet's flames intensified as he spun the tree in the air. The rotational speed increased rapidly and created a lightning maelstrom.

"Whoosh!" He eventually let go and the tree demon disappeared into the horizon. In a remote region, the demon finally fell and smashed into several peaks before hitting the ground.

Just like that, Li Qiye defeated four generals thus far. None was able to block a single move of his gauntlet.

"I'll give it a shot." The fifth general still didn't give up.

He stepped forward and the crowd saw that he had two heads. They weren't identical and looked more like brothers.

"Hmph-ha General." Some recognized him instantly due to his unique appearance.

"Get ready." Hmph-ha General said before splitting into identical clones. However, they were clearly real and not just dao avatars.

"How is he doing this?" A first-timer became startled.

"A skill from birth, or so I've heard." A big shot said while observing the clones.

"Hmph! Hmph! Hmph..." Half of the clones started humming contemptuously.

“Ha! Ha! Ha...” The other half laughed heartily.

The combination of their voice created sonic waves surrounding Li Qiye before pressing inward.

“Crack!” Space itself was collapsing and a black hole appeared to trap Li Qiye. Meanwhile, more sonic waves shot violently forward to destroy him.

“That’s rather destructive, no wonder why he’s the most feared among the generals.” A famous dragon lord commented, unsure whether she could stop the sonic attack.

Li Qiye simply raised his hand, still unperturbed by the black hole surrounding him. Instead of turning into fortified armor like last time, the gauntlet disassembled and turned into concave shields.

The shields sent back the sonic waves with greater intensity right back at the general. The incoming sonic waves couldn’t neutralize them.

The clones were sent flying while still being battered by their own sonic waves. The real general skidded through the ground and carved out a bloody path. He was mangled to the point of being unrecognizable.

Just one move again. The gauntlet’s retaliatory measure easily took care of Li Qiye’s opponents.

The crowd couldn’t believe their eyes. Suppression Conqueror trembled with excitement while being fully fixated on the gauntlet.

“That thing is too strong.” One crowd member said, fully impressed by this treasure.

Imperial weapons required power and vitality for usage. Some of them even demanded a great cost such as blood or lifespan.

However, this gauntlet or ship didn’t seem to require power channeling. It had an auto response against all attackers. Thus, even a child could have defeated the generals with it.

“Generals? Mediocre at best, not worth mentioning.” Li Qiye commented with a smile.

“Let’s go again then if you dare!” Heaven’s Equal Avian shouted.

“Did you not see what happened just now? Fine, I will send you on your way if you seek death.” Li Qiye chuckled.

“Screech!” Heaven’s Equal blotted out the sky by spreading his wings and releasing his frightening aura.