

Emperor 5351

Chapter 5351: Against The Heaven

“If there are immortals, this world will cease to exist.” Li Qiye smiled and shook his head.

“Why is that?” Xiao Hu became surprised: “Why can’t they co-exist?”

“You will understand one day after reaching a certain height.” Li Qiye said.

“I see...” Xiao Hu still didn’t understand.

“Off to Dream Abyss we go.” Li Qiye started walking and the youth hurried to catch up.

Dream Abyss was one of the most magical areas in the three illusory realms. Some believed that this was the real Dream Paradise - the rest were mere borders.

Rumor has it that the deepest region of Dream Abyss was the home to an immortal. Of course, top cultivators didn’t think so.

Nonetheless, they knew that there was a supreme fortune there capable of taking them to the next height - anima or the path toward immortality.

Moreover, the area also had a unique and coveted product - anima dreamwater. Therefore, reclusive dragon lords and conquerors always came out of their training to visit the abyss when possible.

When Li Qiye and Xiao Hu came to the entrance, they saw big shots everywhere. Surprisingly enough, the place wasn't frightening despite being called an "abyss".

Chaos true energy slowly poured down a radiant opening. Wondrous lights flashed everywhere, looking like particles and lamps capable of guiding people in their dreams to the right destination.

This created the scene of a great cosmo. Entering the abyss felt the same as entering one's dream with endless possibilities.

"I'm jumping!" Someone shouted, either to muster enough courage to move forward or to let his friends and families know that he might not be coming back. He descended like a shooting star and disappeared from sight.

"Stabilize and protect your mind first." A big shot told her disciples: "Do not forget the way."

Having said that, she closed her eyes and jumped down. The rest of the juniors did the same.

"Are we jumping too?" Xiao Hu took one step back while staring at the massive abyss.

"Scared?" Li Qiye asked with a smile.

"A little, Master talked about needing absolute concentration to protect the dao heart. That's how to remember that we're just in a dream and must wake up. Otherwise, we won't even make it past the entrance." Xiao Hu turned red but still obediently answered.

“That is correct. This is a dream so if intruders can’t wake up, they’ll fall into an eternal slumber.” Li Qiye said.

Xiao Hu took a deep breath to calm down and muster courage.

“Are you going to jump?” Li Qiye asked.

“Yes, I will definitely be able to do it.” He nodded solemnly.

“Good, then we’re going.” Li Qiye smiled but gave the youth more time to prepare.

Xiao Hu stared at the bottomless abyss and removed all mental impurities and unnecessary thoughts. He then leaped into the abyss with Li Qiye following right behind him.

The moment they jumped in, everything in front of them became blurry as if they were surrounded by clouds and mists.

Next was an expanse of colorful lights and energies - something akin to an immortal paradise. Its size was unimaginable and contained everything possible under the heaven - mysteries of the dao, the firmaments, and endless cycles.

The most amazing thing was what could only be described as the source of all life - a primordial chaos capable of gestating various entities.

Derivations and possibilities were in abundance. Li Qiye himself saw a great army standing before him consisting of countless emperors and monarchs, ready to carry out his bidding.

He raised his sword at the high heaven - the ultimate opponent harboring the unfathomable secrets of immortality. Even the strongest cultivator would have to look up at this wondrous sight.

Nonetheless, he was sure that this ultimate being would still fall beneath the march of his cavalry, prepped for the final blow from him.

He was destined to surpass the heaven and become something greater than immortals. His radiant emperors and followers spread out across the realms, unafraid of the darkness and its overlords.

They built magnificent palaces and fortresses in preparation for the final battle. The only thing left was awaiting Li Qiye's command.

Everything was within his grasp and absolute control, whether it be the past, present, or the future. Victory against the high heaven was certain and he would become eternal.

Li Qiye smiled after witnessing this and shook his head: "Unfortunately, you do not understand me. I've never thought about replacing the villainous heaven or what's above. I seek but an answer."

With that, everything became dark and unstable, on the verge of collapsing.

"And plus, if I were to play along with this dream, would it be able to accommodate my ambition? No, this entire realm will fall."

If he were to let his ambition run rampant, this entire realm would collapse - unable to derive the future resulting from it.

Chapter 5352: Innocence

“Buzz.” Li Qiye exited the dream realm. Although he didn’t forcefully leave, the dream itself receded like the tides.

As he had said, Dream Abyss might be unfathomable but it couldn’t accommodate his dreams. It wouldn’t be an issue of him being unable to wake up - the entire thing would collapse beforehand.

His dreams have surpassed the limits of Dream Abyss. Thus, he started falling naturally like a feather without using any movement merit law.

He wasn’t the only one capable of this simple descent. Top cultivators utilized their power and strong dao heart to wake up from their dreams.

The weaker cultivators, especially the juniors, continued to be engulfed by the dreams. They would need external help from their fellow sect members to regain their sanity.

“Ahhh!” Screams could be heard as some cultivators smashed the ground, only waking up at the very last second to let out one last cry.

“Bam!” Some dead victims were fortunate enough to not wake up at all - still drowning in their beautiful dreams before death. This wasn’t a bad end at all since they got to experience their desires without awareness of the grim reality.

As Li Qiye floated downward, he matched his speed with Xiao Hu and took a look at the youth.

At first, Xiao Hu had a smile on his face, clearly enjoying the beautiful dreams. Nonetheless, as the beloved disciple of a dao lord who trained him meticulously, he eventually realized that it was time to leave the dreams.

His expression became conflicted as he clenched his teeth; his body writhed back and forth. Alas, the dream didn't want to let him go.

Beads of sweat formed on his forehead and his complexion became red. He looked as if he was shouldering a million mountains.

"Ahh!" Eventually, he didn't let down his master and returned to reality.

"Am I still dreaming?" The youth still drenched in sweat stared at Li Qiye in disbelief.

"Congratulations, you have passed the trial and will have a bright future if you can keep this up." Li Qiye smiled.

"Great, that's great..." He was ecstatic to hear this. The struggle to wake up was far from easy - it felt as if he had crossed through an entire ocean and climbed countless peaks. One couldn't imagine the pain without having experienced it.

During their descent, they saw more victims being pulverized from the fall and heard screams everywhere.

Once they landed, Li Qiye asked Xiao Hu: "What did you see in your dreams?"

Xiao Hu was embarrassed but still told the truth: "I saw a lot, like living numerous lifetimes. I followed my master and he managed to break through to find anima. Our journey was endless and we were so happy. I was with him when he became an immortal."

"I see." Li Qiye said.

"Well, I traveled a lot when I was younger to look for food but after I met Master, I've never left his side." Xiao Hu said.

"Don't you want to embark on a journey to become a conqueror?" Li Qiye asked.

"I'm content just being with Master." Xiao Hu scratched his head and said.

"Such childlike innocence is rare." Li Qiye patted his shoulder and said: "But haven't you thought about how your master will become stronger and you won't be able to catch up? He can't stop and wait for you forever, you'll become a burden at that point."

Xiao Hu froze since he hadn't thought that deeply regarding the future. A light started flashing in his mind as he realized this predicament - being too weak compared to his master.

This had already happened since he was too weak to accompany his master in his quest to kill Supreme. His master worried about his well-being and entrusted him to Timewatcher Conqueror.

The enlightened youth took a deep breath and bowed toward Li Qiye: “Young Noble, thank you for letting me know what I must do. I will try my best to not hinder Master’s pace in the future.”

Li Qiye smiled approvingly and didn’t say anything else.

In fact, it would be amazing for him to be able to follow Hallowed Dao Lord. After all, although the latter wasn’t the strongest cultivator right now, he still had an illustrious past in Eight Desolaces.

The two made it to a large river that blocked everyone’s path. There was no end in sight, only fog and mist obscuring visibility.

The water surged violently and was turbid, looking like that of the yellow river. There seemed to be countless wailing specters being dragged by the currents toward the unknown. The wails naturally frightened first-timers.

Of course, some big shots didn’t worry because they were confident in their own abilities and flying treasures.

Chapter 5353: Create A Dream

Some confidently soared through the river using their flying techniques or treasures.

Alas, loud splashes occurred every single time. The specters in the river immediately pulled them down.

Some struggled and tried to break free. In theory, powerful cultivators couldn't die from drowning but the specters insisted on pulling them to the bottom. Eventually, they disappeared from sight and the struggling stopped.

"So suicidal." Some dragon lords sneered after seeing the arrogant fools flying to their deaths.

"How do we get by this river?" Xiao Hu was afraid after seeing the first wave of casualties. They were all considerably stronger than him.

"Follow the crowd, you'll see." Li Qiye gave him a pointer.

Xiao Hu looked around and saw some famous dragon lords walking along the shore, seemingly looking for something.

He hurriedly followed them upstream as well. It didn't take long before they stopped before a ferry.

Ancestors and dragon lords departed on boats made of paper thin enough to be poked through with a slight touch.

It didn't make sense that these paper boats could withstand the violent waves, not to mention the ferocious specters. Nonetheless, floating safely across the river was possible with them.

They came from an old woman sitting on the ferry. Her old dress was tattered, revealing her bark-like skin. In fact, there were roots growing from her feet but they didn't offer enough support. A walking stick supported her entire body; she would topple over without it.

She had sunken cheeks and her eyes were tiny and listless. One would think that she didn't have eyes at first glance.

"Dream Matron." A dragon lord recognized her.

"Hello, little one, come over here, let me read your palm and dream." She waved and smiled at anyone who came close.

However, her friendly smile still gave off a creepy vibe. Thus, the youth didn't want to approach.

"You have to let Dream Matron take a look at your palm and dream if you want to cross this river." A senior told him.

The youth had no choice but to come closer and present his palm. Her empty eyes flashed while taking a look at it.

"Not a bad dream, little one. Do you want to cross? A dream for a paper boat, it will grant you safe passage." She laughed and said.

The youth hesitated for a moment before nodding and agreeing to the transaction.

Her eyes became as bright as the stars and surprised spectators. Something seemed to be fueling them.

The youth shuddered as if a cold breeze had just passed by. He turned pale but didn't feel any other adverse effect.

She took a small paper boat out of nowhere and said: "Little one, drop it on the water and it'll help you cross the river."

The youth accepted it and followed her direction. Once the miniature boat touched the water, it immediately became rideable. He jumped on it and rode the current to the other side.

"Dream Matron, I wish to trade a dream for a boat." A one-fruit conqueror came over and requested.

She took a look at his palm and said: "That's a conqueror for you, capable of creating a dream so quickly. Fine, it's a deal."

Her eyes became enchantingly resplendent like the stars once more and made everyone forget about her ugly and frightening features.

The conqueror felt a breeze blowing by as well after the trade. He obtained a boat and set out on the journey.

"I want a paper boat." An old ancestor came over and offered his palm for her to read.

She took a look and said: "There's no dream for the near dead. Go away now."

The ancestor turned red and still didn't give up. He channeled his merit laws and impressive vitality, wanting to create a dream.

“Take a look again.” He requested.

“Stand aside, you’re not strong enough to create a dream.” She shook her head.

The ancestor had no choice but to leave with his head hanging dejectedly. He couldn’t do the same as the conqueror so the only method left was to ride a boat with someone else.

“She’s trading for dreams?” Xiao Hu observed the big shots make the trade.

“For food and nourishment, it’s a good trade.” Li Qiye said.

“What happens to those who trade their dreams?” Xiao Hu asked and didn’t think that it was a big deal.

After all, everyone had plenty of dreams. Conquerors could even create them.

“This varies greatly depending on fortune and strength.” Li Qiye patiently explained: “Some lose their dream and will never dream again while powerful conquerors can create dreams out of thin air.”

“Brat, come over here, let me see your palm in exchange for a boat.” Dream Matron waved her hand since it was Xiao Hu’s turn.

The naive youth listened and came over. However, Li Qiye pulled him back.

“We won’t be able to cross without a paper boat.” Xiao Hu said in confusion.

Of course, he didn’t understand the significance of losing his dream due to his naive innocence.

Chapter 5354: Can You Eat It?

“As I’ve said, it’s different depending on the individual. Your dream is a delicious feast to her while those with impure thoughts only offer a barely acceptable meal. It’s a terrible trade for you.” Li Qiye said.

“Dreams differ in quality?” Xiao Hu asked.

One could go to bed and dream only to wake up and forget everything the next day. Dreams didn’t matter that much. They were intangible and useless while the paper boat was definitely helpful.

“What is your dream?” Li Qiye asked.

“Spending time with my master.” Xiao Hu said without needing to think twice.

“Dreams during sleep are different than one’s dream.” Li Qiye said: “Some dream about becoming rich or being surrounded by women, these are low-level dreams. A dream created by a conqueror is also mediocre, no different from a single thought. As for you, you have a childlike innocence so your dream is pure, countless times more delicious. However, when you lose this dream, you will lose one of the most important things in your life.”

"I see..." From what Li Qiye said, trading the dream away could have negative repercussions for his future. He would no longer want to accompany his master and become an entirely different person.

"Thank you for stopping me, Young Noble." He bowed after realizing this.

Li Qiye patted his shoulder and walked forward.

"Take a look at my palm instead?" He presented.

At first, Dream Matron didn't notice anything peculiar until she took a glance at his palm. This immediately frightened her so she wanted to run. Alas, Li Qiye easily captured her.

"Boss, should you be bullying this old woman?" She looked straight at him and put on a forced smile.

This smile was uglier than if she were sobbing hysterically. Alas, she was the one feeling afraid right now.

"How am I bullying you? I'm only asking for a paper boat." Li Qiye smiled.

"Boss, you can just cross the river, you don't need my crappy boats." She looked as if she was at a funeral.

"I'm just following local customs." Li Qiye answered.

The woman took out a miniature boat and said: "Boss, here, just take it, you can have as many as you want."

She didn't mind giving this walking disaster one hundred or one thousand boats if it meant that he would go away. It would be far worse being entangled with him.

Li Qiye let go of her and accepted one boat. He smiled and said: "Tree grandma, why are you doing this whole dream thing? Not enough true coins?"

She honestly responded: "Boss, times are changing. It is no longer the era of the three immortals. My reserve is nearly empty and I'll starve eventually, there's no true coin here so dreams are the only way to get through this tough period."

"True." He nodded in agreement.

She suddenly came up with a great idea and requested: "Boss, how about this, why don't you create a dream for me? If I can eat your dream, I won't have to be a beggar here like this, please take pity on this old woman..."

"Are you sure you can eat it without exploding into bits?" Li Qiye chuckled in response.

She immediately realized the folly of her request. Who was Li Qiye? How could she eat a dream created by such an existence?

"I apologize for not knowing my own limits. Hunger has done a number on my senile mind." She swallowed her saliva and restrained her appetite, ignoring the delicious feast laid out in front of her.

“It’s good that you can control your greed.” Li Qiyer commented.

She rubbed her palms together and got cold sweat: “Boss, just one sentence from you is so enlightening, you are indeed the greatest hero in history, one never seen before and will never appear again...”

“No need for that, you can keep on doing your thing.” Li Qiye didn’t trouble her any further and moved on.

Xiao Hu walked behind him and thought that he was frightening. She could eat dreams from conquerors but it seemed that Li Qiye’s dream would obliterate her.

In other words, since these dreams were created from thoughts, just his one thought was too much for her to handle. Perhaps it could reduce conquerors and dao lords to ashes as well.

Xiao Hu shuddered after coming to this realization and understood more about recent events.

While next to the river, Li Qiye tossed the boat into the river and it grew larger. The two of them boarded and disappeared into the fog.

At first, Xiao Hu remained cautious due to the raging currents and the wailing specters. A bit later, he came to find that this was unwarranted since the thin boat remained stable. It felt the same as sitting on the ground, devoid of turbulence.

“So what is this thing?” He asked while looking at the boat.

“The material itself doesn’t matter, it is an amnesty order.” Li Qiye said.

“An amnesty order?” He didn’t understand.

Li Qiye gently touched the boat with his finger.

“Buzz.” An ancient rune appeared in the center of the boat, pulsing with a mysterious power.

“This is it?” Though Xiao Hu was not a supreme genius, he still learned many things under Hallowed Dao Lord.

However, this rune and its fundamental structures were different from anything he had seen before.

“It doesn’t belong to this world.” Li Qiye smiled and stopped there.

The boat drifted across the river, unaffected by the currents and the specters. Visual phenomena started popping up before their eyes.

Xiao Hu was an experienced traveler with ample knowledge. He had seen some legends only available to conquerors and dao lords in the past. Alas, the phenomena on this river were all foreign to him.

Chapter 5355 – Shameless

Xiao Hu found himself looking at strange worlds in the mist. Piercing sounds came from afar - it turned out to be a whale of incalculable size.

It had an ethereal body with embedded stars, flying through everything without facing physical resistance.

It soared playfully in the air without absorbing any external star. As it passed through, the stars became increasingly beautiful and resplendent. Thus, it felt like an ocean washing away the impurities of the sky.

Another notable scene consisted of countless stone statues. The flow of time ravaged them but left behind no mark. In fact, time itself started deviating around them, creating diverging cycles. It felt as if they were the start and the end of various eras along the river of time.

One more was a heavenly waterfall that could be seen from anywhere. The vast expanse didn't hinder others from appreciating its magnificent nature.

Instead of water, it released a constant stream of refined jades surrounded by primordial chaos. Cultivators just needed to be at the base and prepare their spatial pouches to obtain incalculable wealth. If they could somehow move this waterfall back to their sect, it would guarantee an eternal source of cultivation resources for ages to come.

"How magical..." Xiao Hu murmured after seeing the various phenomena.

They weren't the only ones drifting; many other boats shared the same journey. Xiao Hu noted dragon lords and conquerors.

Some chose to hide their auras while others proudly showed off their cultivation.

Xiao Hu was immersed in the spectacles while Li Qiye actually scanned and understood them. He would be able to derive any of them effortlessly afterward.

“Boom!” Suddenly, a blastwave emanating from a dragon lord caused the currents to be more erratic. Other passengers had to hold on tight to their paper boat, not wanting to fall into the water.

The target of the blastwave didn’t fall off the river and shouted furiously: “Xu you bastard! How dare you try to ambush me here? Die!”

He unleashed a dao palm strike and knocked another big shot out of a paper boat. The latter fell to the ground and was dragged down to the bottom by the specters. Resistance was futile.

“Ahh!” He screamed and struggled but eventually, only his hands could be seen slowly disappearing into the water.

Everyone took a deep breath and held on tighter to their boat. Everything would be fine as long as they could remain on it.

“Ferocity!” They took a deep breath while gazing at the assailant.

On that day back in Lesser Firmament, Ferocity immediately fled after noticing that something was amiss. He was absolutely the first to run, showing no sign of caring about his notorious reputation.

He was given the title of “Ferocity” due to his arrogant and crazy attitude, always acting as if he was the greatest in the world.

In fact, he dared to oppose Supreme despite the latter's proven supremacy. However, he still ran like a stray dog before Li Qiye - a stark contrast to his reputation.

Ferocity saw Li Qiye again and his expression changed dramatically.

"Ferocity..." Xiao Hu was afraid since his boat was coming closer to this famous cultivator.

This time around, Ferocity jumped onto Li Qiye's boat instead of running away. This scared Xiao Hu even more.

However, Ferocity suddenly became docile and prostrated before Li Qiye: "Please punish me for not showing respect to you earlier, Young Noble."

Eyes widened with astonishment at this sight - the notorious cultivator acting subservient like a servant.

Others looked down on this act because nothing was more important than dignity and honor for them. They preferred to die in battle instead of begging for mercy.

Moreover, Ferocity did this on his own volition; the circumstances didn't force him to do so.

"Hmm, perhaps I should punish you." Li Qiye said with a smile.

"I will not utter a single word of grievance, Young Noble." Ferocity said shamelessly.

“Aren’t you being a bit shameless for a dragon lord?” Li Qiye shook his head.

“I am far from being the only one who kneels before a supreme existence such as yourself, Young Noble.” Ferocity responded.

Chapter 5356 – May I Fill The Role?

“I can’t argue with that.” Li Qiye chuckled after hearing this.

“Because I merely speak the truth, Young Noble. Top cultivators had no issue kneeling before you because they are insects in comparison. I’m an even smaller insect so I feel no shame in this.” Ferocity’s skin became increasingly thicker.

“You are certainly more pragmatic than most.” Li Qiye said with a smile.

“Young Noble, you may not know this but I was a vagrant cultivator. It’s just that as my strength grew, so did my ego.” Ferocity turned red after hearing this.

Unlike Li Zhitian who was born with a golden spoon, Ferocity struggled to survive each day in the past. Those who came from prestigious clans couldn’t imagine his suffering.

Xiao Hu certainly sympathized with Ferocity after hearing this because he lived the same way before meeting his master.

“Is that why you’re here?” Li Qiye smiled.

“Vagrant cultivators’ knees buckle when they see emperors and dao lords, they aren’t qualified to be in one’s presence. The same case applies here.” Ferocity said.

Xiao Hu agreed because when he was a beggar, he never had the chance to see dragon lords, let alone emperors. Kneeling before them was an honor.

After traveling with Hallowed, seeing them became a normal occurrence so he stopped thinking that it was a big deal.

“Your clever flexibility is both your best qualities and your downfall, the reason why you can’t catch up to Supreme.” Li Qiye said.

“He had a noble origin so it’s rather unfair. If I had been stubborn, I wouldn’t be alive right now.” Ferocity responded.

He had tasted bitterness unknown to prestigious clan members. Although he was successful now, it was a tough road. He witnessed other vagrant cultivators fall along the way despite struggling just as hard as he did. Pride and dignity didn’t save them.

Xiao Hu, unlike the others, had no problem with Ferocity’s act today.

Li Qiye stared at him and said: “It’s fine to be pragmatic. Nothing is constant in this world, dignity and honor are what you make of them. However, there are things that must be upheld or you will fall into depravity.”

"My aspiration for the dao is strong but if my heart ever wavers, I will be aware of it." Ferocity understood the message.

"It seems you understand the core tenets, Impressive." Li Qiye held him in higher regard after hearing the answer.

"Then will you take me in, Young Noble?" Ferocity could see that Li Qiye had a good impression of him.

"Aren't you with Divine Alliance?" Xiao Hu couldn't help but interject.

"I am only a guest there. I owe Swordsea nothing, only working for certain benefits." Ferocity responded: "Young Noble, I can see that you are missing a servant. May I fill the role?"

"Am I invisible to you?" Xiao Hu smiled and said.

Ferocity glanced at the youth. Normally, he would make mincemeat of any brat daring to speak to him like this. Alas, the guy was with Li Qiye.

"No need." Li Qiye refused.

"Then I can be an errand boy, make you tea and such." Ferocity asked again.

"I'm already doing that." Xiao Hu seemed afraid that someone might take his position.

"The road is large, you can go wherever you want." Li Qiye smiled and said.

"That's good, that's good." Ferocity was glad to hear this since at the very least, Li Qiye wasn't chasing him away.

"Aren't you a famous dragon lord often compared to Supreme? What happened?" Xiao Hu said.

"Just a false reputation." Ferocity shook his head.

Whenever people brought up Ferocity, they would talk about his past rivalry with Supreme. Thus, comparing the two was unavoidable but in reality, there was a considerable gap between them.

He went on to say: "I am no match for Supreme who is a role model for all dragon lords. My cultivation is decent but that's it. It's a shame that I never got the chance to meet Space Dragon Emperor and Ox-dragon Ancestor, unable to see the pinnacle of the dragon lords. Nonetheless, Supreme leads the way now."

Xiao Hu wanted to tease the guy but didn't expect him to be so honest with his assessment.

"Why didn't you go to Heaven Alliance then?" Xiao Hu asked.

"Two different matters. Supreme only wants those who are ready to die for him, Swordsea offered a business deal, nothing more." Ferocity said.

Xiao Hu thought that this made sense.

“How about this, let’s trade spot? I’ll take care of the young noble and you can just rest.” Ferocity sat down next to Xiao Hu and said.

“No thanks, you’re being too obvious.” Xiao Hu gave him the side eye.

“Am I? Let me show you my sincerity then.” Ferocity said and took out a resplendent pagoda exuding mysterious light.

“Isn’t this a good treasure?” Ferocity wanted to bribe the youth.

“You think you’re the only one who has treasures?” Xiao Hu said before casually taking out a precious jewel containing an entire yin-yang cycle.

“...” Ferocity didn’t expect the brat to outdo him with a random treasure.

Chapter 5357 – Sacred Tree

The trio rode the same boat across the dangerous river. Xiao Hu was annoyed by Ferocity since the guy was trying to steal his spot.

Ferocity wanted to stay by Li Qiye and felt bored along the way. Thus, he decided to occasionally tease Xiao Hu.

Others might be afraid of Ferocity but not Xiao Hu. After all, he spent his time with Hallowed Dao Lord and had met many big shots previously. He had a good response and traded blows with Ferocity. The latter couldn't do anything to Xiao Hu in Li Qiye's presence.

Eventually, they made it to the other shore. Once they left the boat, it started crumbling into the water.

More cultivators reached the other shore; their boats disappeared as well.

They saw a mountain range with towering peaks and heavenly waterfalls. Palaces were built among the clouds and exuded flashing rays. Within the ravines and gullies were noises from treasures.

"Fortune awaits us!" Many big shots and ancestors became impatient and started rushing toward the hidden palaces and ravines.

As for the top conquerors and dao lords, they didn't care for these treasures and fortunes. Their goal was something else entirely.

"Why are you here?" Xiao Hu asked Ferocity.

"I am here for anima dreamwater, nothing more." Ferocity revealed.

"Oh, you're trying to create a sacred tree." Xiao Hu said.

“Don’t be tricked by him, he already has anima.” Li Qiye chuckled and told Xiao Hu.

“You have a sacred tree already?” Xiao Hu couldn’t believe it because his master was still unable to reach anima.

Of course, an anima tree of a conqueror was different from a dragon lord’s sacred tree.

“Wait, I know of your reputation of being arrogant and untethered, but how are you losing every time when you already have anima?” Xiao Hu questioned.

“Who says I lose every time?!” Ferocity angrily glared at the youth.

Xiao Hu wasn’t afraid and said: “My master told me about how you got crushed by Immortal Pagoda Conqueror.”

“Crush is the wrong word, it was only a flesh wound.” Ferocity coughed awkwardly and said: “Plus, it’s Immortal Pagoda Conqueror we’re talking about. Not even All-things and Supreme can withstand that pagoda, he has a primordial fruit, you know? How many conquerors or dao lords in history do you think have one?”

“True...” Xiao Hu agreed again.

Ferocity decided to tease the youth again: “Your master can’t push up that pagoda either, just one go and he’ll take a journey down to the yellow river.”

“You!” Xiao Hu became angry as well but couldn’t retort.

He wasn’t ignorant enough to think that his master could survive an encounter with Immortal Pagoda Conqueror.

Firstly, this conqueror possessed the unique primordial fruit. Secondly, his master had yet to obtain anima.

“The only person who can stop that pagoda directly is Calamity Dao Lord.” Xiao Hu eventually said.

“Can’t argue with that.” Ferocity was happy to see the youth being annoyed.

“Hmph, at least my master dares to challenge Supreme. What about you?” Xiao Hu barked back.

“I will not since the gap has only widened since my last defeat. His sacred tree is mighty and beyond my reach. I admit that your master is impressive, not only because of his sword dao but also his courage and determination which I lack.” Ferocity had no problem admitting this.

“It’s not that you lack them, you’re just not as courageous and determined as Hallowed.” Li Qiye said: “If he were to remove his bloodline shackles, he’d become an exceptional apex dao lord.”

Xiao Hu had a proud expression after hearing Li Qiye’s high evaluation of his master. It was particularly meaningful since it came from Li Qiye himself.

“Yes.” Ferocity accepted wholeheartedly because Hallowed was well-respected among his peers.

“Buzz.” As they moved forward, they heard the sounds of battle.

“Boom!” Mighty auras surged around them; any weaker cultivator would be blown flying or even killed.

They looked up and saw a towering tree, enough to astound anyone. Its light made it seem ethereal without a physical body. However, upon closer inspection, one could really touch it.

Since it blotted out the sky, its light illuminated the region. Otherwise, there would only be darkness around the great tree. The light seemed to be protecting and blessing everything underneath.

Surprisingly enough, the colossal tree only had nine leaves. Nonetheless, each was as large as a continent.

They had their own galaxy - sun and moon, the stars, and then all the beautiful landscapes commonly seen elsewhere. Due to their sheer size, just nine leaves were enough to blot out the sky.

Chapter 5358 – One Leaf, One World

The nine leaves contained supreme power, making it difficult to cross through them. Nonetheless, this must be done in order to climb the entire tree whose pinnacle existed at the end of the sky. While standing up there, it felt as if the entire cosmo was within reach.

In reality, a bud existed at the highest point, yet to become the tenth leaf. On this bud was a water bead the size of a fist.

It seemed to be carved out of a crystal but no crystal could ever compare to it. Time seemed to be flowing within.

When a cultivator utilized their heavenly gaze to observe the water bead, they would be drawn into the temporal affinity within.

It allowed them to observe any moment in the past, not missing a single detail. They could watch the moment of their birth and listen to their first cries. They could also see their most painful or happiest memories.

The future was encompassed as well - seeing a future version within the light - a moment of standing on the apex or living reclusively. It could also be a terrible fate of being banished to an inescapable dimension, languishing for ages to no avail.

Therefore, it became impossible not to be immersed in gazing at the water bead. It simply contained too much relevant information.

Spectators had different emotions while looking at it. Some rejoiced and raised their fists while others expressed sadness and remorse...

"Anima dreamwater!" A conqueror shouted its name, wanting nothing more than to grasp it.

Ancestors and lords didn't need this water right now. Although it was priceless, they had no use for it yet. In fact, most would never reach this level.

Only the strongest dragon lords and above desired it for the sake of traveling farther on the dao path. Some were only one step away from anima and this could be the final push.

Many began climbing the tree, hoping to be the chosen ones. They must cross through the nine leaves first for there was no other way.

Each leaf contained its own suppressive force, it also had other great fortunes and treasures. Of course, apex cultivators didn't care for them and maintained their focus.

Some first-timers overestimated their ability and were knocked down instantly by the first leaf. Top cultivators, on the other hand, kept a steady ascension.

"So this is anima dreamwater." Xiao Hu activated his heavenly gaze to take a look for the first time while being overwhelmed emotionally.

He heard about this water so many times in the past and wanted nothing more than to obtain it for his master.

As time passed, he found that the dreams in the water seemed so real. This was as if he was seeing into his own past and future. He protected his dao heart but leaving this trance proved to be exceedingly challenging.

"Pop!" Li Qiye smacked the back of his head and pulled him out of the vision.

"Is it true?" The youth bowed in the direction of Li Qiye first, no longer daring to look at the water.

"This is what you are looking for, anima or the true self." Li Qiye said: "What you saw in the past and the future were merely your own thoughts. Whether they're true or not is debatable since the dreamwater

does not have all of your memories. It can't derive your future either so it is up to you to find your true self. That is when the visions stop."

"So I only saw my own thoughts just now?" Xiao Hu calmed down and murmured.

"Yes, they are reflections of what is in your mind. You must find your true self among them." Li Qiye smiled.

"I can't then." Xiao Hu said without confidence and believed that only the apex cultivators could do so. He had a long way to go before being able to find his true self.

Meanwhile, Ferocity observed the dreamwater as well without being mesmerized by the events.

"Activate!" When the time was right, he entered his own mind and found anima. After all, he already had a sacred tree so this wasn't difficult for him.

His eyes became resplendent and the aura spread to the rest of his body. Xiao Hu felt as if he was igniting his life, causing him to be filled with vitality and life force. Ferocity had reached a mighty level but the dreamwater was still useful to him.

"Boom!" Suddenly, an eruption of power sent many cultivators flying.

A group had reached the ninth leaf and set their sight on the highest point of the tree. Unfortunately, there was only one drop of dreamwater.

Therefore, a fierce battle between four combatants ensued. It included one conqueror and three ancient gods who were brothers.

The latter worked together to suppress the single enemy.

Chapter 5359 – Battle Between Dao Lords

“Rumble!” The conqueror released his three dao fruits. They turned into dao sutras and released immense power.

“Sutra Conqueror cannot beat the ancient gods from the Lin.” A mighty dragon lord commented.

“Boom!” The ancient gods released their totems and worked together in unison to suppress the opponent.

Sutra was strong but couldn’t handle three equally capable foes at the same time. Moreover, these brothers had impeccable teamwork as well.

He was sent flying, vomiting blood before smashing the ninth continent.

“You win.” He didn’t force the issue and jumped off the continent. The dreamwater alone wasn’t worth risking his life and more importantly, this was an unfair fight.

It wasn’t humiliating to accept defeat since there was no pre-existing feud, only a competition for a treasure.

The brothers from the Lin didn't give chase and maintained their focus on the dreamwater.

"My turn." A cultivator laughed confidently while leaping through the leaves. His dao lord aura engulfed the entire tree.

It only took him a few seconds to make it through all nine leaves. He possessed a tall and muscular frame, looking like an uncrossable mountain.

He seemed to be carved from jade but not in a feminine manner. His jade-like skin was decorated with bulging muscles brimming with strength. Waves of light emanated from his chest, exuding the highest concentration of power. There seemed to be a wheel of life there, always empowering him with life force.

"Lightgrasp Dao Lord!" Everyone was startled to see him including the three ancient gods from the Lin.

He came from Eight Desolaces and was the last dao lord of Righteous Sect. As a golem, he possessed a jade-like body.

However, instead of it looking lifeless like jade and rock like the rest of his race, he seemed to be brimming with life force.

"Seniors, do you desire the dreamwater as well?" His aura far surpassed the three ancient gods.

The latter's lifespan was on the verge of running out since they were far older than Lightgrasp Dao Lord.

“Hmm...” They exchanged glances before one spoke: “Indeed, the younger generation will surpass us all.”

They angrily stomped the ground once before decisively jumping off the ninth leaf. They understood that they were outmatched in terms of raw power and vitality.

With them gone, Lightgrasp looked upward at the dreamwater.

“Dao Brother, that is mine.” A sonorous voice sounded and next came a flood of heatwave.

Spectators nearby felt it and had no choice but to back off.

Another figure climbed the leaves with immense speed and the heat of numerous suns. The ground along his path became scorched.

He landed on the nine leaves and was engulfed in flames. Five unique suns hovered around him; each possessing a different type of fire - golden, blue, draconic...

They rotated continuously and empowered each other, resulting in an everlasting harmonization.

Its master resembled the god of the sun, capable of illuminating and burning the myriad realms.

“Five-sun Dao Lord.” Others recognized him right away - another famous cultivator hailing from Eight Desolaces, the progenitor of Five-sun School.

“Fellow Daoist Five-sun.” Lightgrasp smiled and greeted him: “Shouldn’t you be enjoying your retirement in Divine Alliance instead of making the long journey to Dream Abyss?”

Although he sounded polite, everyone could hear the sarcasm because Five-sun Dao Lord had joined Divine Alliance.

“Fellow Daoist, we’re from Eight Desolaces, we’re not part of The People or The Race. It’s just a personal choice deciding which alliance to join.” Five-sun smiled in response.

Cultivators from Eight Desolaces didn’t carry the same burden as those from the six continents. The latter’s affiliation was often decided at birth.

If they were born in a household of The People, they must join The People later on lest they want to be reviled as traitors. The same couldn’t be said for those from Eight Desolaces. At worst, they would only risk animosity and a few negative comments here and there.

“Sure.” Five-sun Dao Lord merely made a casual remark and didn’t think much of it.

“Regardless of our affiliation, I’m afraid a battle between us is inevitable.” Five-sun Dao Lord said.

Chapter 5360 – I Am Anima

Lightgrasp glanced at the dreamwater before positioning himself to block Five-sun.

“Seems that way.” He said, becoming serious.

A duel between two dao lords was not to be interrupted by anyone at a lower level lest they wanted to be killed by the remnant blast waves.

“Either that or you will let me through.” Five-sun had no intention of relenting.

“You will have to defeat me first.” Lightgrasp said.

The two of them had no feud and Lightgrasp actually didn’t mind Five-sun’s affiliation with Divine Alliance.

However, even friends would fight for anima dreamwater, going as far as fighting to the death. Top cultivators didn’t care for mundane matters and trivial feuds. Alas, this was a key to reaching anima and creating a tree.

“I apologize for my rudeness then.” Five-sun roared and gathered energy. His five suns released unique flames but they joined together in perfect harmony.

“Five-sun Cycle!” He utilized his strongest attack and trapped Lightgrasp within a cycle of flames.

The cycle only contained death and destruction. Even an eternal body would be burned down with time.

Five-sun King had a similar flame back in Eight Desolaces. This was nothing in comparison to the dao lord's power.

Unfortunately, this caused unwanted casualties among the spectators. Although they were on the other leaves, they were still reduced to nothingness.

"Bring it!" Lightgrasp was not afraid. His chest became resplendent and sent out rays. They circled around him and created an armor of light.

"Highest heaven!" He roared and grasped the power of light, blinding the crowd in the process.

Spectators had to look away, even those standing at the base of the tree.

"Boom!" The two of them didn't hold back and showed the world their devastating techniques. Others could no longer climb the nine leaves as a result since they still preferred to live.

However, Ferocity was one exception.

"I'm going!" He leaped up one leaf after another while enduring the heat waves.

Everyone saw his hair fluttering crazily in the air. Many shouted his title: "Ferocity!"

"He's taking the dreamwater now!" Xiao Hu became anxious.

“You can’t compete with him anyway so calm down.” Li Qiye said with a smile.

Xiao Hu fell into silence for a moment before asking: “Young Noble, you don’t need the dreamwater?”

He preferred Li Qiye obtaining it over Ferocity.

“The water is precious and rare but I don’t need it.” Li Qiye shook his head.

“Your anima tree has already pierced the heaven?” Xiao Hu didn’t quite understand who Li Qiye was at this point.

He believed that having a full-grown tree was the completion point, creating a path toward everlasting life.

“I am anima.” Li Qiye smiled.

“...?” Xiao Hu didn’t expect this response. Something flashed in his mind for a split second but he didn’t quite grasp it.

Only an apex cultivator with an immortal avatar would be able to find or create anima. How could he be anima?

“Do you mean that you are born with anima? Is that possible?” He asked.

“Yes.” Li Qiye smiled and said.

This was an entirely new concept to Xiao Hu since he had never heard of it before. However, Li Qiye wasn’t one to lie.

“Is there anyone else?” Xiao Hu became curious; his eyes widened with astonishment.

Li Qiye smiled and looked up at the tree, not answering the question.

Meanwhile, Ferocity stood on top of the ninth leaf and watched the fight between the two dao lords.

“Looks like the dreamwater is mine.” Ferocity laughed and took advantage of the situation.

“Ferocity lives up to the legend, I believe that he was Supreme’s rival once.” A dragon lord whispered after seeing Ferocity easily enduring the heat waves.

Recently, his reputation had taken a hit. First, he was injured by Immortal Pagoda Conqueror and had to flee. At Lesser Firmament, he fled again without putting up a fight.

Thus, some believed that his reputation was undeserved - that he was Supreme’s rival in name only due to the circumstances.

Now, his cultivation was clearly impressive in order to withstand this devastating battlefield.