

## Emperor 5411

### Chapter 5411: Whose Pit?

Meanwhile, something else occurred in the deepest area of Dream Paradise. Immortal light and dao seemed to be harmonizing with one visitor - Li Qiye.

He sat inside a pavilion with a table full of the best meals for him. This seemed to be the end of the world - there was no other path forward.

He took his time pouring his own drinks and eating.

"My body... can't handle this anymore." A feeble voice came from the distance.

"You have indeed weakened but is there really a need to hide among the infinite dimensions? That's overly prudent." Li Qiye smiled.

"That's just how it is when you grow old. Can't even get up anymore but I'll still offer you a toast." The voice within the void responded.

The wine pot automatically floated in the air and poured a full cup. The cup then also floated up as if there was an invisible man holding it.

Li Qiye took it and drank it all in one gulp before responding: "I'm sure the cost to hide like this must have been considerable, I don't mind."

Having said that, he prepared another cup.

"Good, I appreciate it." The voice said.

"I haven't forgotten the favor I owe when you all released the power of the wise sages to protect the emperors. There is no need to be afraid of me." Li Qiye said while drinking alone.

"We can rest assured then." The voice became more pleasant after hearing this.

"I honestly don't blame you, it's normal to be cautious given your current state. Eyes are always gazing in the shadows, ready to devour a weakened prey." Li Qiye said.

"It's good that you understand." The voice said, still choosing to hide in space.

"I see, it must have been difficult during my absence. Being viewed as a potential meal can't be a good feeling." Li Qiye chuckled and began eating the delicacies.

"It's a different era now, we have to be careful with visitors." The voice said.

"Who else came to visit?" Li Qiye asked casually as if his meal was more important than the matter at hand.

"That unfamiliar guest, shouldn't be here yet was here." The voice responded.

"It's an interesting topic." Li Qiye smiled.

"We aren't his goal, you are." The voice said.

"Probably thought about having a meal here but you all managed to hide. I don't know if this guest is visiting because of me, could be a different plan. It would be nice if I'm the main target, makes things easier." Li Qiye said.

"In my opinion, your first goal isn't the outer heaven. Three Immortals need you." The voice said.

Li Qiye stopped eating and glanced outside for a second. He then picked up a piece of fin from an unknown fish and continued eating.

"Looks like a total defeat." He commented.

"Yes, conflicting ideologies." The voice said.

"So many ideologies, not united at all." Li Qiye said.

"There is only one thing that can make us united." The voice paused for a moment before responding.

"I know, meals." Li Qiye nodded: "At the very least, you all have exercised incredible restraint, not feasting everywhere like the old geezers, eventually going mad and devouring their own world."

"If we can somehow jump out of this cycle, we can start anew." The voice said softly.

"Whose cycle do you trust then?" Li Qiye smiled.

"We've discussed this matter extensively in the past but in the end, they were just ideas." The voice said.

"Now, some of these ideas are being carried out because a side has been chosen." Li Qiye took another sip.

"Yes, and the change of allegiance marked a turning point." The voice admitted.

"They might be seeing hope or a different outcome, the best outcome potentially." Li Qiye said.

"Perhaps." The voice responded.

"Everyone believes that their choice will yield the best outcome, can't always be correct." Li Qiye chuckled.

"You do know that the biggest variable here is none other than yourself." The voice said.

"Yes." Li Qiye nodded: "Well, picking a side isn't bad at all. At the very least, some of you will be able to make it through instead of all being buried together."

"Well..." After a brief pause, the voice sounded once more: "If we consider this from the perspective of our origin, it's not a bad outcome. At the very least, we've escaped from one pit. Of course, there's a chance that we've fallen into two different pits instead."

"Those from the first pit are nearly all dead." Li Qiye smiled.,

"Thanks to you with your explosion." A rare laughter could be heard.

"The truth is that the second pit has been there for a long time now." Li Qiye said.

"Indeed, it was ready when he left back in the olden ages." The voice agreed.

"That's why choosing to jump into this pit isn't that surprising." Li Qiye said.

"The third pit is you." The voice said.

"I am very excited if you all jump into my pit." Li Qiye said with a smile: "Nonetheless, nothing is free. I'm sure you're aware of the price I'll be paying to make it available."

"You were going to do so either way since it benefits you." The voice said.

"I suppose." Li Qiye paused for a bit and nodded: "And fortunately, it is something I can afford so I'll deal with it."

"It's rare to see you being sincere and generous." The voice seemed happy about this development.

"Since I've benefited, I should be giving something in return." Li Qiye chuckled.

"Don't you find it strange?" The voice said.

"What?" Li Qiye asked.

"He's here but is just watching. If he had made a move, we wouldn't have this opportunity at all." The voice said.

"I do hope that he will be there so I can deal with it altogether, no more complications in the future." Li Qiye gazed at the sky and said.

"Perhaps you should make the journey then." The voice said.

"I will, but he might not be waiting for me." Li Qiye drank.

"A meeting is inevitable. The question is, which of you will be the sharpening stone and which will be the blade?" The voice said.

"Could go either way." Li Qiye smiled.

"Where do you think he'll actually be to wait for you?" The voice asked.

"Before the villainous heaven." Li Qiye speculated.

"I'm sure he wishes to watch on the sideline first, to see both sides weakened." The voice said.

"If that is his dao, he is not qualified to stop my dao." Li Qiye shook his head.

"..." The voice paused for a bit before responding: "True."

"You must do something about Three Immortals, we have done our best." The voice reminded.

"It's amusing how they raised their blade to challenge me." Li Qiye said.

"What would you have done?" The voice asked.

"The only time anyone in our world should raise our blade is when we face the villainous heaven." Li Qiye responded.

## Chapter 5412: Blessed By An Immortal

"You're a roadblock, aren't you?" The voice said slowly.

"That's an interesting way to put it, but I think of myself as something grander." Li Qiye chuckled and took a bite of phoenix wings.

"Putting that aside, it's your turn to respond to the move." The voice said.

"And if I don't?" Li Qiye asked.

"You know the answer, the tree will burn to leave room for a new dao. Of course, this is a calamity to the world, and not just one world." The voice said.

"I don't think any of that will be happening as long as I'm alive. It'll be in vain." Li Qiye said confidently.

"Nonetheless, we must still act because it's spanning across all three timelines." The voice said. [1]

"Three timelines?" Li Qiye's expression became serious.

"That's why we are in this miserable position, just one timeline is not enough to force us to take action or jump into another pit. The world has gone down in one timeline already." The voice said: "Three immortals have paid the price and we had to make a choice as well." [2]

"Looks like not everyone persevered." Li Qiye smiled.

"I don't blame them, and we know that it is more than just one junior or a person behind this. If he is behind this, that changes everything, and I do think this is the most likely scenario." The voice said.

"Well, he and your group share the same origin. In terms of heritage and mutual understanding, if I were in their shoes, I would have chosen that side as well. It's a reasonable decision." Li Qiye said.

"I agree regarding our origin, but as for mutual understanding? I'm not so sure. He has walked for too long, it's impossible to trace now." The voice said.

"Walked for too long." Li Qiye stroked his chin and said.

"I haven't seen him this time but from an objective standpoint, he might no longer be who we know." The voice said.

"Sure, time can change everything." Li Qiye nodded.

"That's why when comparing the two of you, I feel like I understand you more than him." The voice said.

"It is an honor." Li Qiye smiled.

"Indeed, we chose you and have struggled because of it. Otherwise, we could have just acquiesced, no need to be jumping into another pit like this." The voice said.

"I understand and appreciate your decision." Li Qiye said: "But do you think that it would have been better if there was no opposition at all?"

"It's hard to say, it depended on the individual's desire. If it's a matter of dominance, then the outcome would have been easy to predict. But if it's something similar to you or him, determined to see things through to the end, that's a different story." The voice said.

"If my disciples are the ones standing before me, I won't be acting as the roadblock anymore." Li Qiye said with a smile.

"That's wishful thinking, for that to happen will require an immense length of time. Neither you nor him need to wait that long." The voice said.

"So you think the time is now?" Li Qiye smiled.

"Am I wrong? So much time has passed yet he has not shown any sign of movement until now, and you will have to react accordingly. This will be the catalyst." The voice said.

"True." Li Qiye admitted.

"You've pushed first and he's pushing back now." The voice said.

"So much trouble, I only did what I should have done." Li Qiye smiled.

"He's doing the same thing." The voice said: "If you wish to be the replacement and succeed, then he'll just try to replace you. But if this isn't the case, all predictions and calculations go out the window."

"Not if, it's a certainty." Li Qiye said before enjoying a delicious soup.

"That's why it doesn't matter if you're in a hurry or not, he'll have to respond in this epoch." The voice said.

"Just have to be ready for it." Li Qiye smiled.

"Although we haven't seen him, judging by the stone, we're certain that he is well-prepared. This was an important factor in our decisions." The voice said.

"It's just a stepping stone, nothing more." Li Qiye said.

"For whom, that's the key question." The voice said.

"It doesn't matter too much." Li Qiye smiled and said: "The legend of the mortal world finally appeared, being blessed by an immortal."

"The brat isn't only seeking everlasting life." The voice said: "If that is all he wants, he wouldn't go as far as wanting to burn down the entire forest."

"Rather ambitious." Li Qiye said.

"Although you have replaced Trinity with your new epoch, that's only this world and not part of Three Immortals. However, your primordial tree extends to all crevices, everything beneath the heaven is within your grasp now. So, burning this tree might be a shortcut to reap the benefits of your accomplishments." The voice said.

"It's possible, but I don't think the timing is right." Li Qiye said.

“For him, it might be right since he can use it as a stepping stone, he needs it.” The voice said.

“How funny, the stepping stone doesn’t know that it is a stepping stone. Perhaps that’s the problem.” Li Qiye smiled.

“Yes, he doesn’t know, hence his bold advances. You are the roadblock before him so he wants to burn your tree down first.” The voice said.

“It’s one way to stop being a stepping stone, have to seize fortunes instead of waiting for it.” Li Qiye smiled.

“Everything beneath the heaven is under your domination now, perhaps this state is enough? How many had reached this height in history?” The voice said.

“Well, there is one place beyond my reach.” Li Qiye said.

“That one? It’s very, very close to the high heaven.”

“Yes, ample preparation is essential.” Li Qiye said.

“You should still sweep through everything first.” The voice said.

“Feeling a bit worried?” Li Qiye asked.

“We’ve come so far and there is only one path to take now, I’m sure that applies to all the pieces in this game, not just me. We’ll definitely see through it to the end.” The voice concluded.

1. This is vague and can be interpreted differently. Three timelines, or “三世”, can mean too many things. Three worlds, three lifetimes, three generations, three eras, or past/present/future. I’m interpreting it as the past/present/future. ❹

2. Unsure if three immortals here is referring to the world or the actual three immortals, the people ❹

## **Chapter 5413: The Three Stones**

“To the end, huh?” Li Qiye sighed and said: “So much trouble.”

“The brat is hellbent on carrying this out. If Three Immortals can’t handle this, it’ll be conquered and the current world will be next.” The voice said.

“As expected, it’s a pity he won’t have the opportunity.” Li Qiye nodded.

“I have to say that you’ve taught them well.” The voice responded: “An assault of three timelines is still being kept at bay, giving us enough time.”

“Don’t you feel embarrassed saying this? You all ran and left a bunch of juniors to fight for their lives, isn’t this too much?”

“Not at all.” The voice said: “It is their responsibility to defend their world, you taught them that.”

“I never taught them to protect their world, only to maintain their dao heart.” Li Qiye shook his head.

"It's the same idea. Plus, we're too old now to do anything, don't blame us for taking a vacation." The voice seemed to be amused.

"You were afraid of repeating history. If all of you were eaten, it would be a rather big mess." Li Qiye smirked.

The voice paused for a moment before responding: "Yes, that's why we ran here, it's not good to feed the enemy, right?"

"It can go the other way as well, a cornered rabbit might start biting but as for who it bites, who knows? If you all stopped caring, it would have added to the chaos." Li Qiye said.

"True, the reality is that the world no longer has much to do with us. We are merely exercising self-restraint." The voice admitted.

"And I admire you all for that." Li Qiye sighed and said: "Thus, in the future world and its river of time, you all shall have a spot."

"We haven't thought about it that far, we merely do not wish to do so. After all, we have been enduring for years now, why change our way?" The voice said.

"So I guess I can take back my promise then." Li Qiye smirked.

"Don't, your words are worth their weight in gold, no?" The voice immediately responded.

"Ah, okay then." Li Qiye said: "Don't worry, I will not be stingy after you all have made your choice. Your investment shall absolutely pay off."

"Now that's good to hear." The voice let out a joyful laugh and exclaimed: "Maybe I should come out for a drink."

"No need." Li Qiye waved his hand: "Keep on being buried given your current state."

"Fine, fine." The unknown speaker was clearly in a better mood after their conversation.

"It seems like you all don't understand me. I know what should be done and what to avoid. Otherwise, I can just destroy everything and make it simple for myself." Li Qiye complained.

"No one can be trusted during trials and hardships." The voice said.

"That's a good point, I would feel the same in your shoes." Li Qiye nodded.

"But it's all in the past." The voice happily said: "We're just waiting for you to start."

"Don't be so anxious. In due time." Li Qiye smiled.

"Well, it depends on how much confidence you have in your education and how long you think they can hold on. Once they lose, Three Immortals will be done for and war will come here."

"It won't be that fast." Li Qiye said calmly.

"So you've done research already." The voice said.

"Not quite, it's just a feeling, that's all. But you did say that I have dominion over three thousand worlds, so trust my intuition." Li Qiye said.

"I suppose we don't need to worry about it. Just know that when you depart, we won't be coming with you." The voice said.

"Hmm, your injuries are rather serious. Just rest and leave the rest to me, you have done what is needed already." Li Qiye said.

"We simply made a choice, that's all." The voice let out a sigh.

"And that's the most important thing in our cultivation realm, making the proper choice." Li Qiye said.

"What would you do if you had the three stones?" The voice asked.

Li Qiye stroked his chin and said: "I haven't even thought about the gathering or what to do with them."

"But he's doing it. One is a stepping stone, what about the other two?" The voice said with a solemn tone.

"A few things can't be controlled by anyone, not him or the villainous heaven. There will always be deviation even for a perfect plan. Do you think the stones will comply with their wish?" Li Qiye said.

"How will you respond?" The voice asked.

"Controlling all three stones won't have the desired effect or it would have been done long ago." Li Qiye said.

"Seems like you know their condition." The voice said.

"I haven't done enough research but I can speculate after talking to the old geezer." Li Qiye smiled.

"Do you know where they are?" The voice asked.

"As we've discussed, one is moving forward with many great fortunes." Li Qiye said.

"What about the other two?" The voice asked.

"The other one, not in this world." Li Qiye responded.

"I see, there is only one place." The voice understood: "You've been there before."

"Of course, I had to for my goal." Li Qiye smiled.

"So that's why you know about the second one." The voice said.

"It wasn't a part of my plan. This was his move, not mine. Was it a good move? Maybe, but ultimately, this is borrowing someone else's hand to get things done." Li Qiye shrugged.

"What about the final stone?" The voice inquired.

Li Qiye stroked his chin and said: "This is the most interesting stone, also the one with the most uncertainty. It'll be full of surprises."

"Haven't you thought about getting there before him?" The voice asked.



“Why should I? Fate has its own plan and what I seek is not this predetermined fate.” Li Qiye shook his head.

“You will refuse the three stones even when they stand before you?” The voice asked.

“If they insist on being a part of my fate, that’s a different issue.” Li Qiye said.

“Only a matter of time.” The voice said confidently.

“Seems like you understand them more than I do.” Li Qiye said.

“Not quite, I’m sure you know more about them than I do. It’s just that I understand *him* more than you do.” The voice said.

“Good, then let us make use of your knowledge.” Li Qiye smiled.

#### **Chapter 5414: Destroy Heaven Alliance and The Race**

Back in Duality World, an announcement shocked not only the illusory realms but also the upper continents.

Illumination Conqueror planned to sacrifice Ye Fantian at his grotto and invited everyone to participate.

Most were shocked to hear this news but as for the conquerors and dao lords, they worried that their biggest fear was actually happening. His enemies and previous allies understood that he was capable of going to such extremes.

Nonetheless, regular cultivators had differing opinions.

“This is what we should have been doing all along.” Someone who was a fan of Illumination Conqueror after reading about his legends said.

“Right, All-things and his Dao Alliance have done nothing but let The Race grow stronger and stronger. We have to be on the offensive.” Another added.

“Our land has been taken by them for generations now. Illumination Conqueror will lead us back to the glory days.” A different supporter echoed the sentiment.

“That’s right, only by destroying The Race would we have a place to live.” One supporter claimed.

“We are fortunate to have someone like him, he’s the only one who can take down The Race.” A powerful cultivator said.

“Start with sacrificing Ye Fantian to boost our morale, let The Race know that we aren’t to be trifled with.” Certain groups among The People became excited, feeling their blood becoming hot.

Not everyone shared this same thought. A big shot listened to their conversation and murmured: “Who knows if Illumination Conqueror will be able to lead The People back to its glorious past but one thing is for certain, another war will be disastrous for all. The top cultivators are fighting for pride and honor, not actual victory. What about everyone else who will have to suffer from the devastating battles? Will

these cultivators try to hold back? No, they will unleash everything in their arsenal without thinking twice.”

“This is the start of the next war. Preparation is necessary to avoid being dragged in.” A wise leader became worried.

“Where do we hide? Haven’t we suffered enough from Emperors War already? The flames of war will ravage all six continents, only a fortress capable of withstanding imperial-level shockwaves will survive this.” Her ancient ancestor said.

The old survivors of Emperors War witnessed the sheer devastation that resulted when top cultivators went all out. They feared another war more than anything.

“Why the need for this? Just follow the Pact of Blessed.” A dragon lord complained.

Immemorial Epoch, Skysplitter, and Grand Dao War were more or less unavoidable. Both sides had no choice but to fight.

Afterward, a balance was reached and the aftermath of Emperors War allowed harmony and co-existence.

They just needed to follow the rules of the pact and everything would be fine. Only minor skirmishes between individuals and sects happened occasionally.

Alas, when the top cultivators stopped obeying the pact, it could lead to an existential crisis involving all six continents.

“The pact is broken now. I see dark days ahead of us.” An ancient ancestor sighed and said.

“It’s so meaningless, we’re just fighting among ourselves while forgetting the true history. The People and The Race are so intermingled that the classifications are mere fabrications by Celestial Court.” His friend sneered.

On the other hand, supporters of Illumination thought of how to contribute to his cause.

“The right road to take is to destroy Heaven Alliance and The Race. We have to support Illumination Conqueror.” Someone said.

“He should lead Dao Alliance again. All-things Dao Lord is weak and useless, unable to contend against The Race. How many have they managed to kill?” Another added.

“The emperors and dao lords of Eight Desolaces are mere usurpers while Illumination Conqueror is the founder and true ruler of Dao Alliance. Maybe they are actually traitors who conspire with The Race to keep Illumination Conqueror down. I’m sure of it, they conspired to force his abdication in the past.” An expert speculated.

“Stand with him and chase away the usurpers. We shall rebuild Dao Alliance.” His supporters became increasingly vocal and active, wanting nothing more than to launch an attack against Heaven Alliance.

It seemed that Illumination's influence remained at a relatively high level. Some had only heard of his exploits without being aware of the intricacies. They believed that he was the only one who could lead them down the right path.

One observer noted the unrest and commented: "As if Illumination cares about their support or feelings regarding this matter. He will do things just because he wants to."

## **Chapter 5415: Human Sacrifice**

The news of the sacrifice forced both regular cultivators to conquerors to react accordingly.

Of course, regular cultivators' actions and plans had no effect on the outcome since this was a top-level matter. They were mere ants in comparison, doomed to be killed during the great wars.

Illumination Conqueror opened the gates to his illusory grotto, allowing spectators to observe the event.

All entry points were heavily guarded with imperial formations and seals. The runes circled continuously and were protected by dragon lords and conquerors. Illumination gathered all of his supporters for the sake of sacrificing Ye Fantian.

Big shots from both sides arrived and kept a distance, aiming to see the next development. They knew that this would be the actual breaking of the Pact of Blessed. From then on, they might have to greet each other with drawn blades.

Emperors and monarchs, dao lords and conquerors, and many more illustrious characters gathered from a distance.

They understood that Heaven and Divine Alliance weren't going to let Illumination Conqueror carry out this ceremony uncontested.

For Divine Alliance, Ye Fantian was guaranteed to be an apex conqueror. Moreover, this would ruin their reputation as well.

As for Heaven Alliance, it served as the pillar of The Race - the target of Illumination Conqueror. The ceremony was a direct challenge against them.

Thus, they certainly had a common enemy this time around.

"Can Illumination Conqueror actually handle this?" A top dragon lord wondered.

His grotto's defense was fully activated, turning it into an impregnable fortress. Regular sects had no chance of breaking through.

However, his enemies were anything but "regular". They included apex cultivators such as Supreme and Swordsea Dao Lord.

His grotto would surely face the full wrath of both alliances. Nonetheless, he still chose to publicize the act - a truly puzzling decision.

"Don't underestimate him since he had faced Heaven Alliance before. Moreover, his supporters are devoted to the point of being fanatics as well. That might be enough to defend against the incoming

assault." A lord had an optimistic opinion of Illumination, thinking that he had survived numerous conflicts in the past.

"The madman is trying to rise again, so reckless and willing to risk it all." A conqueror observed the defensive lines within the grotto.

It included the famous Devil and Riverwalker Conqueror.

"He's ready to die for a good cause." A conqueror had a good idea of the forces beyond. Illumination had grown desperate after failing several times recently. This was his last attempt - either success or death.

"He has no other move to make on the board." A dragon lord sighed and said.

"It's due to his own obsession that he's alienated. His followers right now are extremists as well, they probably don't care for The People's wellbeing." Someone sneered.

"I can see that." Another commented: "Some are probably stuck in their realm, feeling rather bored. They are using a heroic pretense to satisfy their killing urge."

Illumination's influence waned ever since his abdication after Emperors War. Only regular cultivators would view him as the guardian of The People.

As for top cultivators, they had their own pursuits and would only follow a winner. After all, why would they risk their lives and listen to someone else for a failed cause?

Illumination was aware of this, hence this reckless attempt at rebuilding his image and prestige. Capturing Ye Fantian was the first step; sacrificing her was even better.

He had confidence in taking down the incoming attackers, once again fortifying his position as the leader of The People.

Meanwhile, Ye Fantian was still imprisoned in All-things Dao Lord's dao cage, placed on top of an altar.

She remained calm despite knowing the upcoming sacrificial ceremony.

#### **Chapter 5416: Who's The Strongest?**

She kept her eyes closed and meditated as if this had nothing to do with her. Powerful spectators could see her with their heavenly gaze and had nothing but praise.

Despite their experiences in life, they might not be able to face death as nonchalantly as the young genius.

"What a shame." A conqueror lamented despite being from The People.

"She could have been an apex conqueror with anima." Another sighed.

"Of course, she will be just like Light-dragon Conqueror." A dao lord commented on her potential.

Given her achievement of obtaining twelve dao fruits and baiting the emperors with a heavenly tribulation, she could become comparable to the best of the best.

"Clank! Clank!" A sword ocean manifested into reality outside of Illumination Grotto. It included divine swords imbued with the grand dao, instilling fear into all spectators.

Everyone could see its destructive potential - this was the power of an apex cultivator.

Figures could be seen inside - the leader being Swordsea Dao Lord. His presence caused the world to feel crowded and oppressive.

His ocean was raging and so was his mood. An enraged dao lord could cause devastating damage - a sign that he was going to destroy this grotto at all costs.

He brought with him the strongest members of Divine Alliance. Their auras didn't make things better for weaker cultivators.

"He's furious." A spectator commented.

"We should be the ones angry regarding his betrayal." A big shot from The People said.

They haven't forgotten about his defection. He used to be one of the three pillars of Dao Alliance - a reason for its dominance.

He garnered a lot of fans during Dao Alliance's golden age. Alas, they didn't expect him to leave for Divine Alliance and now, he was acting as its leader.

"Death accompanies cultivators, that's all." A big shot had a different perspective on the event.

While Heaven and Divine Alliance couldn't allow this to happen, certain members of The People wished to see Ye Fantian's death since her tribulation delivered considerable casualties.

"Boom!" A dao path soared forward and swept everything along the way with its majestic power.

A magnificent man walked on the path with many conquerors and dragon lords behind him. Their auras varied in color and shape while possessing the same dreadful attributes.

"Supreme and Heaven Alliance." Everyone became emotional.

It seemed that a fight was inevitable today due to the gathering of these masters.

"Looks like an uneven match." Illumination's supporters worried after seeing his opponents.

"Buzz." Lotus flowers appeared along with boundless life force.

The atmosphere was filled with intense bloodthirst but the flowers lessened this oppressive force, allowing people to breathe easier.

The third party only had one man and two followers, arriving without any fanfare.

"All-things Dao Lord!" All eyes fell on the leader.

"Where are his men?" Others wondered since the members of Dao Alliance were absent.

"Does he not wish to interfere?" An important character from The People asked.

“Heaven and Divine Alliance are knocking on our doors, they need to let go of grudges and unite together.” Another said.

The big shots from The People were unhappy since All-things Dao Lord showed no sign of wanting to aid Illumination Conqueror.

“He probably views Illumination Conqueror as the biggest threat.” A dragon lord didn’t find this surprising at all.

Those on the side of All-things Dao Lord wanted Illumination to fall today. Otherwise, Dao Alliance would never be united.

### **Chapter 5417: The Selfless One?**

Supreme and Swordsea gazed upon the potential opponent, the same for the members of the alliances.

“Brother, what is your stance today?” Swordsea asked.

All-things’ choice was of utmost importance and could decide Illumination’s fate today.

“In my opinion, we should value peace more than anything.” All-things calmly responded: “Everyone should comply with the Pact of Blessed just like before, this is the very foundation for peace.”

“I will retreat if Illumination releases Ye Fantian.” Swordsea said without any hesitation, leaving no room for doubts.

“I shall withdraw with Brother Swordsea.” Supreme said.

It seemed that a strong alliance had been formed between the two alliances - something that was once true in the past.

The relationship between Heaven and Divine had peaks and valleys. They became more distant during Principle Conqueror’s reign. Now, it appeared that the tides had turned.

“It’s over, all that effort for nothing.” A powerful conqueror in the audience sighed and said: “The balance is broken.”

In recent generations, the four alliances maintained a delicate balance, making it easier to adhere to the Pact of Blessed. The balance has been disturbed, causing the other side to potentially react.

“That would be good.” All-things said: “As long as Brother Illumination agrees, everything will return to how it should be.”

“Hahaha!” A boisterous laughter interrupted their conversation.

Illumination showed up inside the grotto with Devil and Riverwalker standing behind him.

“I did not sign the pact so I do not need to comply.” Illumination said.

“But you didn’t oppose it either.” All-things said: “High-ranking members from both sides signed the pact together. You were also invited, Brother, but you didn’t show up, meaning that you implicitly agreed with the pact.”

Listeners didn't expect to hear this at all, especially those who weren't qualified to sign the pact. Illumination Conqueror was actually not part of it?

In reality, most had no control over their own fate. The pact was dictated by the top cultivators alone. If they wanted peace, there would be peace. The vice versa applied as well.

A few reflected on the feeling of being an insignificant ant. Cultivators such as Supreme and Illumination never thought twice about others or asked for the world's opinions.

They were dominant in their own region, never needing to listen to anyone else. Alas, they had no say in this matter.

The Pact of Blessed was imposed on everyone the moment a consensus was reached between the strongest cultivators.

"Heaven Alliance started the conflict so why should I need to adhere to the pact?" Illumination said: "All-things, don't forget your background, you should be fighting The Race by my side. Otherwise, you are no longer qualified to be the guardian of Dao Alliance." Illumination said, wanting to retake his position.

In reality, he struck the biggest weakness of All-things who was often criticized for his neutral stance against aggressors.

Heaven and Divine Alliance have shown their desire to team up. Many believed that All-things should also work together with Illumination and Azure School.

Not doing so meant that he had forgotten the purpose of Dao Alliance. Why should he remain as its leader?

Illumination successfully struck the right chord and changed the public's sentiment.

All-things expected this and answered with sincerity: "As a dao lord standing on the peak, other living beings have no say in my decision. If I were to care about my reputation and claim to have a lofty goal of eradicating The Race, I'd still survive in the case of defeat. But what about everyone else? By starting a war, who will be the first to die?"

He paused for a second and continued: "I have massacred enemies and sects to get to this point, my hands are stained with blood. Don't be fooled that I'm hesitant to start a war out of fear for my personal agenda, it's just that another war will be nothing more than meaningless bloodshed."

Silence took over the scene. Even the big shots on Illumination's side had no response in a short time.

Putting logic aside, All-things was right about one thing - he wouldn't be the first to die if he exercised caution.

"Mortals shall be the first to perish." Timewatcher Conqueror appeared out of nowhere and said: "There can only be peace when all top cultivators die."

Listeners naturally didn't appreciate being viewed as a scourge upon humanity. Nonetheless, they knew that the truth was not far from it.

"This is why, Brother, you should know that the pact is your only way out, the salvation for both The Race and The People. Let us maintain the balance." All-things stared at Illumination.

"I disagree." Illumination responded: "There will be no peace as long as The Race is still around. They started the eternal conflict by initiating Immemorial Epoch War. If we wish to survive, we must eradicate them first and I am willing to die for this cause."

His declaration stirred his supporters again.

## **Chapter 5418: He's Gone Mad**

Those who were swayed by All-things' call for peace felt their blood boiling after listening to Illumination.

Cultivators needed a concrete goal in order to endure the long years of training. Becoming a conqueror was virtually impossible. However, having the ambition of destroying The Race was far easier and grander.

This notion played a large role in Illumination's popularity, giving aimless cultivators a reason to walk on the path.

"If you insist on being stubborn, there is nothing I can do. This will seal your fate." All-things sighed and shook his head.

"So what? We will die for The People and that's enough." Illumination laughed in response, seemingly ready to be a martyr.

However, it seemed that he was rather sincere. He truly believed that he was the chosen savior of The People - the most frightening ideology. His obsession had been engraved deep inside his body and blood.

"Incurable." Swordsea uttered coldly: "I don't know what the future holds for The People, but I'm certain that they are better off without you."

"We walk on different paths." Illumination smiled and said: "Everyone, since we've gathered here today, let's conclude it today."

Everyone understood that words wouldn't be able to solve this issue - only a fight to the death.

"You are asking for death then." Supreme still looked as dignified and majestic as ever.

"To death then." Swordsea didn't have the patience to argue any longer. The rays emanating from his eyes could cut down the stars.

"Brother All-things? Will you oppose The Race with me?" Illumination asked All-things with a serious expression.

"As you said, we walk on different paths." All-things responded: "I agree with Brother Swordsea, that The People is better off without you. If you can survive today, then I will fight you. Only one of us can move forward."



All-things expressed his stance with a strong statement, speaking calmly and resolutely.

"A clear separation." Listeners took a deep breath while staring at the two. Their relationship was officially severed.

After Emperors War, they separated while still maintaining an air of cordiality, giving each other face. Now, All-things has publicly denounced Illumination and stated his desire to kill him.

To kill someone perceived as a hero for The People could besmirch his reputation. Nonetheless, that was all behind him now.

Some were disappointed that All-things would prefer to fight Illumination instead of stopping Heaven and Divine Alliance right now.

"Haha, good. I suppose I should try my best to survive today to give you a chance, Brother." Illumination laughed.

"You won't be alive this time tomorrow." Swordsea said and unsheathed his sword - clearly superior to any other sword nearby.

His sword dao had a focus on being endless and unceasing in both offense and defense. One could sense his anger through his rampaging sword intents.

His strength only made members of The People feel worse. Their mighty trio was now attempting to kill each other so there was no going back to the golden age.

"Bring it!" Illumination seemed eager to fight and a divine light erupted inside his grotto, fully enveloping it.

Great figures appeared to empower this phenomenon, forming an impressive imperial barrier.

Everyone thought that there were still many conquerors and dragon lords following him in this perilous situation. Although his view was extreme, there was something about him that drew in these loyal supporters.

"Start!" Supreme ordered and the members of Dao Alliance stepped forward. Their auras erupted and resembled the roars of dragons.

"Go!" Swordsea also ordered the men of Divine Alliance to march forward. They looked like an army of steel with a single goal in mind - the destruction of Illumination Grotto.

## **Chapter 5419: The Final Badge**

"Rumble!" The area shook violently due to the dreadful imperial auras since the combatants no longer held back.

Spectators from a distance had a hard time standing straight. Though they were prepared mentally for a fight of this magnitude, they found themselves akin to floating duckweed amidst a raging ocean. The waves alone could destroy them at any moment.

They once felt pride for being the strongest cultivators in their region. Now, they weren't qualified to serve as cannon-fodders for this upcoming battle.

They realized that this was not the time to think about politics or the future implications of an all-out war. The only thing now was to think about how to survive.

Some ancient ancestors felt silly for thinking about breaking the Pact of Blessed. It was definitely the only thing keeping them alive.

"Boom!" Heaven and Divine Alliance marched toward Illumination Grotto.

A clear disparity existed between the two sides. Although Illumination had many supporters, his opponents could sweep through the upper continents.

The initial defensive lines began to crumble before the assault.

Nonetheless, Illumination didn't panic and laughed. He then raised an old badge and shouted: "Heed my wish, destroy everything here!"

"An immortal order?!" Everyone became alarmed after seeing this.

"How does he have a second one?!" A conqueror bellowed in astonishment because he had used one previously.

Only five existed and they were priceless. Four have finally been used by Illumination twice, Supreme, and Jadeclure Conqueror. Who had the last one or how did Illumination obtain two of them?

Of course, no one had time to think about these questions.

"Boom!" A supreme power descended - one far beyond anything else in the upper continents. Conquerors and dao lords weren't worth mentioning.

"Not this again!" Someone who had experienced this power twice shouted in horror.

It felt as if an immortal was descending. The power of the illusory realm could obliterate anyone here, fulfilling Illumination's wish.

Everyone fell to the ground, unable to handle the pressure.

"Damn you!" A conqueror cursed.

These top cultivators had no issue dying in battle. However, to go down like this was honorless.

"Heed my wish, I exchange my order for nullify his." All-things raised a badge and said.

An eye seemed to be opening from an unknown place and repelled the pressure.

"The final badge." Illumination commented nonchalantly while everyone else rejoiced.

The ultimate power receded like the tides, allowing peace and light to return.

Everyone on both sides heaved a sigh of relief. Followers of Illumination had different reasons for supporting him.

Some came to fight, not to be destroyed for no reason. Thus, they were furious at Illumination as well.

"Haha, so you had the final one. That's rather unexpected." Illumination laughed with a hint of anger.

"You were right, I didn't have one and had to shamelessly ask Sword Queen for it." All-things sighed in response and revealed the origin of his badge.

"How did you get the second badge?" Swordsea Dao Lord asked.

They have been watching Illumination closely and expected him to have one badge. Thus, Supreme was ready to counter during the first attempt.

However, they had no idea where and how he obtained the second badge.

### **Chapter 5420: Repaying A Favor**

Rumor has it that each of the four alliances had one immortal order. None expected for Illumination Conqueror to possess two.

"Given by a friend." Illumination smiled: "What a shame."

He had purposely used one dream order and baited Supreme into using his. With that, he planned to use the second one today.

Heaven and Divine Alliance had their full forces gathered. Although Dao Alliance and Divine Alliance were missing, All-things alone made a great target.

This second order could kill all of them. In fact, he wanted Immortal Pagoda and Eternal to be present as well.

He had considered the possibilities of All-things or anyone else in his list possessing an immortal order and found it unlikely.

He thought that the last one would belong to Imperial Alliance or Azure Peak. Thus, he purposely never provoked anyone from these powers.

Ye Fantian became the perfect bait for everyone but alas, All-things possessed the final badge.

"You deserve death." Supreme wasted no time and unleashed his void slash again, cutting through the defenses and entering the grotto.

"Go!" The members of the two alliances rushed forward.

"To battle!" Devil and Riverwalker led the other dragon lords and conquerors to fight.

The grand formations of the grotto empowered them while launching impressive beams. Although they were drastically outnumbered, this was the most favorable location for a fight. Illumination had spent untold resources for the sake of creating a powerful foundation for his grotto.

Devil and Riverwalker focused on controlling the flow of the formations' momentum, empowering allies and slaying foes.

Unfortunately, no defensive lines were stopping Supreme's sword. He served as the vanguard and was unstoppable.

The formations - effective but far from omnipotent - couldn't encompass the entire battlefield. They had no chance of locking down an apex cultivator such as Supreme. Devil and Riverwalker realized this and only aimed at other targets, completely ignoring Supreme.

Without anything slowing him down, Supreme killed a dozen dragon lords and conquerors in no time at all.

He appeared before Illumination and unleashed a void slash capable of killing conquerors as if they were mere mortals.

"Boom!" However, a palm descended with a domineering aura. Those nearby felt suffocated as if a divine mountain was pressing down on them.

Supreme pulled his sword back into a defensive pose after the failed attack.

The assailant was none other than an old man. However, he maintained a muscular frame and looked to be rather vigorous. His broad shoulders and arms could lift up the sky.

His physical appearance was impressive but there was a distinct absence of the dao and aura. Nonetheless, he gave everyone a feeling of security, that he could handle anything during the most perilous moments.

"Fellow Daoist Immensity." Supreme became serious after seeing him.

"Immensity Conqueror!" The rest became startled to see another apex conqueror.

Contrary to Supreme and the others, Immensity had been neutral all this time. How did Illumination get him to come here?

"Fellow Daoist Supreme." Immensity greeted back with a natural expression.

In previous eras, both sides have tried to recruit him to no avail.

"I didn't expect you to help out Illumination." Supreme said.

"What can I do? A favor must be repaid." Immensity sighed, revealing the reason for his interference.

"You gave him the second badge." Supreme speculated because Immensity spent most of his time in the three illusory realms.

"Yes, I came across it by chance." Immensity nodded.

This made everyone wonder about the past between Immensity and Illumination. Just how heavy was this debt? Giving Illumination an immortal order wasn't enough?

"I will get past you then." Supreme was not deterred by this unexpected development.

"It is my pleasure to see your blade." Immensity said before summoning his weapon - a truncheon.

It seemed to be made of the stars, hence its incalculable weight.

“Heaven Suppression Truncheon.” Supreme’s eyes narrowed after seeing this.