

Emperor 5431

Chapter 5431: Unqualified

Shadows belonging to the sacrificed cultivators appeared behind Illumination Conqueror and began blessing him.

Devil and Riverwalker were particularly powerful. Although they were no longer alive, their cultivation remained intact and transferred to Illumination.

This was beyond an addition of raw power. His lifespan and true blood were boosted back to his prime. He reverted from an old man back to a young man with a torrential aura.

His anima tree seemed capable of absorbing all the forces in the world and turning them for his use.

“Boom!” This empowered state allowed him to draw more power out of the illusory realm. It started flowing visibly through him.

His tree remained the same size but its shadow became large enough to blot out the world. Being beneath this anima tree’s shadow froze all cultivators, Supreme and his allies included.

“Want to kill me?! I’m already prepared to die at any moment!” Illumination shouted in a frenzy.

He truly believed that he had done nothing wrong. All of his actions were for The People; the criminals were the ones attempting to stop him.

Li Qiye and All-things Dao Lord were sinners for standing in his way. Their neutral stance and compromises left The People in this weakened state.

Others sighed after seeing this descend into madness. Illumination no longer possessed the manners and bearings of an apex conqueror.

“You, a coward unable to handle the truth about yourself, will amount to nothing. You’re just raging due to your own incompetence.” Li Qiye said.

He still looked like a mortal while Illumination’s anima tree was enormous and imposing. The latter could be the ruler of all six continents.

Unfortunately, spectators would still bet their money on Li Qiye. The insane boost of power didn’t change their assessment of this situation. The illogical nature of this situation left them at a loss for words.

“Face my rage then!” Illumination attacked with the anima tree. It swung down at Li Qiye with an apocalyptic force.

Although only a small part of the tree was actually real while the rest had an ethereal form, this could crush a continent without a problem.

“Bam!” The result didn’t go as well as he hoped for.

Li Qiye caught the tree and uprooted it, prompting him to vomit blood while staggering backward.

“Bam!” Before he could catch his breath, Li Qiye smashed him with his own anima tree, drawing blood and crushing bones. He lay in a pool of blood, broken from top to bottom.

The crowd thought that they were about to see Li Qiye’s anima tree. After all, that would have been the move for Supreme and the others - retaliating with their own anima tree or utilizing their strongest treasures.

Li Qiye surprised all of them by still relying on mere physical strength. How did he uproot an anima tree so easily? Doing so meant he had absolute supremacy over his opponent.

Chapter 5432: Dream Eye

Illumination Conqueror attained a high mastery over his anima tree while borrowing the power of the illusory realm. This granted him enough power to kill apex cultivators such as Supreme or Eternal.

Alas, his anima tree was uprooted by Li Qiye while he lay in a puddle of his own blood.

If he had gotten a chance to fight Supreme and his enemies, it would have been a tragic and stirring tale even in the case of defeat and death - the end for a hero.

Unfortunately, there was nothing talelike regarding this beat down. Li Qiye drove him helpless and insane, looking like a struggling clown. He ruined his prestige and reputation by continually descending into madness.

“Even if I die, my spirit will live on with The People!” The broken conqueror got up and healed his wounds with his dao and vitality.

He had no other thought in his mind outside of a singular obsession - offering everything for The People.

Holding on to this obsession was the only thing keeping him going. Otherwise, he would collapse himself without being defeated due to the atrocities he had committed.

“Boom!” His vitality coiled around his true fate and created a blood maelstrom. He then roared: “We stand together, The People shall never fall!”

Time and space started spinning with the maelstrom as well, creating total chaos in the illusory realm.

A gigantic eye manifested into reality at the center of the maelstrom. Everything else came to a halt.

This caused everyone to gasp while the top cultivators shuddered in fear. They understood what Illumination was doing - calling out the legendary eye of Dream Paradise.

“The mythical eye... the ender of worlds if it opens...” A dragon lord murmured in horror.

“At the very least, the illusory realms will go down.” Another dao lord said.

“Open and obliterate this world!” Illumination laughed wildly before chanting.

Although this was only an image of the eye, everyone believed that it still could destroy the illusory realms. This meant that anyone inside would be killed as well.

“Pop.” The eye opened wide, revealing its profundity - capable of devouring the illusory realms and all six continents.

“Not like this!” Supreme shouted while the others felt the same fear. Li Qiye, on the contrary, only smiled and took no action to prevent it.

“Let us destroy everything, hahaha!” Illumination celebrated as if this would destroy everything before him including Li Qiye.

He didn’t mind dying in the next second since he was going to drag so many members of The People down with him.

“Zzz...” The sound of absorption started since the eye truly initiated its consumption process.

However, it didn’t devour the world, only Illumination Conqueror’s vitality, dao power, chaos true energy, and even his newly-gained primordial affinity.

“Nooo!” He bellowed while deteriorating into a dried corpse: “Devour them!”

Unfortunately, the eye didn’t understand and continued absorbing him who couldn’t resist since he had become a part of the illusory realm. The power he borrowed was now directly suppressing him.

This development caught everyone by surprise. First, Illumination Conqueror knew the secret to summoning the dream eye? Second, they thought that the eye would target them and the illusory realm. Alas, only the summoner himself was affected.

“Bam!” He fell to the ground once all of his essences and true fate were absorbed by the eye, resembling a grotesque corpse.

“I--I stand with The People...” He uttered his last words.

Chapter 5433: With The People

Illumination still thought about the people with his last breath. Alas, the crowd didn’t read the situation quite the same way. This was absolutely a heroic and stirring moment if it came from anyone other than him.

Nonetheless, this could still be a legendary tale for the mortals with certain embellishments added. Songs could be sung regarding a cultivator who fought for his people, eventually sacrificing his life. He paid the ultimate price without thinking twice. Was there anyone more heroic than him?

This happened often in history due to the missing pieces and inaccurate accounts. Devils could be remembered as heroes and vice versa.

This applied in Illumination’s case, especially at the beginning of his cultivation path. Many regarded him as a hero and a protector, fighting against Heaven Alliance for the sake of The People. In reality, his closest allies at that time knew otherwise, hence their eventual turn against him.

The strongest cultivators in the crowd ruminated on the issue, some even let out a sigh including All-things Dao Lord.

Was Illumination Conqueror a scoundrel? A villain? A two-faced hypocrite? Not entirely. In fact, more often than not, he was straightforward and unpretentious - willingly accepted responsibility for his actions.

Unfortunately, his obsession for revenge got the best of him, morphing his vengeance into a noble pursuit and twisting his mind. This persisted until the last moment of his life - a truly frightening reminder.

Since he always thought that he was right, he was willing to massacre anyone and everyone in the name of protecting The People. Those who opposed him were in the wrong and should be branded as sinners, to be erased from this world.

His previous supporters understood how far he had strayed at this point, that he was no longer the cultivator they respected in the past.

His dried corpse painted a stark contrast to how dominating he used to be, capable of commanding numerous cultivators. None expected him to go down in this manner, given his lifelong prestige.

As the saying goes - one might be able to survive an act of god, but no one could survive a self-brought calamity.

"Pop!" The eye disappeared at this point, granting relief and peace back to the crowd. They were still nervous about it potentially devouring everything.

"I hate madmen who don't know their own limits the most." Li Qiye coldly uttered without looking at the corpse.

At this point, not even Supreme and Eternal Conqueror dared to speak. The ordinary-looking man instilled fear down their very spine, robbing others of the courage to stare directly at him.

He easily defeated the empowered Illumination, meaning that he could obliterate anyone among them.

He gazed piercingly into the sky and deeper into space. Alas, there was no reaction from any location in the six continents or above.

After a few seconds, he noticed something and disappeared from sight. The silent crowd had no idea where he went but his absence was a welcomed development.

None dared to make a move because they didn't know his stance. Although he had killed Illumination, this didn't necessarily mean that he was on The People's side. Ultimately, provoking him meant death regardless of one's allegiance.

"It's finally over." One conqueror sighed and said while staring at the corpse.

Would anyone bother to give this apex cultivator a proper burial?

"That last plan could have worked." Supreme commented.

Despite Illumination's insanity, the plan utilizing Ye Fantian successfully baited both Heaven and Divine Alliance. They had no idea that he was capable of borrowing the illusory realm's power, not to mention summoning the dream eye itself.

If it wasn't for Li Qiye's interference, all of them were in real trouble. They were overconfident and thought that given their teamwork, they would have been able to take him down.

At the start of this event, All-things stopped caring about his reputation and was willing to join Supreme for this battle.

This could have brought infamy and ruined his reputation. Nonetheless, this was something that must be done.

Chapter 5434: Promise

All-things knew that although Supreme was antagonistic, he didn't pose as much of a threat compared to Illumination.

If Illumination had been allowed to act untethered, he would eventually lead The People to damnation. His death today erased a heavy burden on All-things' shoulders.

"Goodbye now, gentlemen." He turned toward the others and immediately left.

"After him!" Supreme immediately gave chase.

"Fellow Daoist, you should stick around a little longer." Eternal laughed and began the pursuit as well.

They believed that this was the best opportunity to capture All-things and all of Dao Alliance. It would end the conflict with The Race standing on top.

All-things began scheming with Ye Fantian's capture, wanting to bait Illumination and Supreme into killing each other.

It turned out that Illumination would have been the final victor in this match. His only misstep was not knowing the connection between the ancient heavener and Li Qiye, resulting in the latter's interference.

The end of one match meant the start of another - Supreme and Eternal's pursuit.

"That's it for the Pact of Blessed." The spectating dragon lords and conquerors saw this and knew that peace was no more.

All-things leaped into a different dimension but his opponents were able to keep up with his pace.

He suddenly turned around and stopped.

"Gentlemen, you don't have to be so kind as to follow me the entire way." All-things said.

Supreme and Eternal stopped, seemingly expecting him to stop.

"Brother, let's put an end to our conflict now." Supreme said.

"Don't tell me you have the goal of destroying an entire side as well." All-things smiled.

"No, that is the wish of a madman. However, I am loyal to Celestial Court. Since the six continents are under the court's jurisdiction, I must force The People to comply as well." Supreme shook his head.

“Rather ambitious, wanting to unite all six continents.” All-things said.

“You misunderstood, I do not care about authority. It’s a matter of doing my best to carry out my task.” Supreme said.

“Why must you involve yourself in such worldly matters? It is unbecoming of your ability and potential.” All-things said.

“Perhaps things would be different if I was born in Eight Desolaces instead of Celestial Court. I could be carefree and detached from these issues.” Supreme answered sincerely.

All-things knew that he couldn’t convince Supreme. He turned to Eternal and said: “And you, Brother, you never cared about Celestial Court back in the lower continents and there will always be a spot for you in Immortal Dao.”

“I am not working for Celestial Court and won’t be joining Immortal Dao either.” Eternal said: “I’ll be freed from attachments and worldly affairs after returning this favor.”

“Your words carry a lot of weight.” All-things said sentimentally.

Eternal Conqueror was a legendary figure not bound to the upper continents. In fact, no one expected him to side with Celestial Court considering his exploits back in the lower continents.

Alas, top cultivators’ words were worth more than gold. Immortal Pagoda Conqueror committed to protecting Alchemy Dao and Immensity Conqueror went as far as giving Illumination a dream order.

Eternal - the man who united the lower continents and disobeyed Celestial Court - had to work with Divine Alliance.

“An emperor’s promise should be unbreakable.” Eternal said.

“I agree.” All-things said.

Many top cultivators took their promises to heart regardless of their stance. In fact, one day when a few fell into the darkness, they would still try their best to keep these promises. Eternal was one of them, hence his current allegiance.

“You should submit now, Brother.” Supreme said.

“How confident are you in carrying out this task?” All-things asked.

“If there is no more unexpected interference, one hundred percent.” Supreme didn’t hide it.

“Oh?” All-things stopped smiling because Supreme was neither arrogant nor ignorant.

The two of them have struggled for generations now without a victor. This was because neither side had confidence in a complete victory.

“What did Celestial Court give you?” All-things asked.

“It’s been here all along, it just required more time. That’s why some choose to stay here in the upper continents, you included.” Supreme said.

The three of them were apex cultivators capable of ascending to the immortal continent. However, they had their own reasons for sticking around.

Most never returned to the lower continents but the upper two continents occasionally had visitors from above.

“So Celestial Court’s ace card is ready now?” All-things inquired again.

Eternal glanced at Supreme as well, curious about the answer.

“Just a few.” Supreme nonchalantly said.

Chapter 5435: Heaven’s Favorite

The four alliances maintained a delicate balance after Emperors War; none displayed clear dominance and absolute advantages.

Today, Supreme seemed confident in breaking the established mold.

“What did you get from Celestial Court?” Eternal couldn’t help but ask.

The two had a peculiar relationship - neither entirely friends nor foes, seemingly allies with a hint of tension.

“Just some insights and connection. I can show you if you wish.” Supreme answered vaguely but still admitted to having gained something from Celestial Court. The actual details might not even be available to the upper echelons of Heaven Alliance.

Nonetheless, it seemed that Supreme was willing to divulge the information to Eternal - a sign that he wanted to strengthen their relationship.

However, Eternal didn’t press the issue and focused on the task at hand.

“Brother, what will you do now?” Supreme asked All-things.

“I’m sure you didn’t come here alone without ample preparation, can we get started?” Eternal smiled.

“It is an honor to be respected enough to have the two of you after me alone.” All-things said.

“He’s right about one thing, it’s been a long time since our last fight. Today is as good as any day.” Suddenly, a dao path appeared.

A man wielding a righteous sword dao approached the group using this path. Was the sword dao righteous because of his noble personality or vice versa?

“Brother Darkfrost.” Supreme and Eternal greeted All-things’ expected reinforcement.

All-things certainly came prepared for Illumination’s sacrificial ceremony. Darkfrost has been waiting the entire time.

“I’m sure our alliances have more capable cultivators than just us.” Supreme revealed a rare smile, perhaps more captivating than that of a beauty.

"Imperial Alliance certainly will not stand and watch on the sideline." This time, it was a swordswoman who possessed an everlasting sword dao.

"Sword Queen, so Imperial Alliance is finally making its move." Supreme said while staring at the woman with a sword in her embrace.

"I've been waiting for this." Eternal was interested in dueling someone possessing a similar affinity to his.

"So it's a three-on-two? Do you have anyone else?" All-things asked Supreme.

"Clank!" Another appeared and was accompanied by a rampaging sword ocean.

"Brother Swordsea." No one was surprised to see him either.

"A rare moment of all of us being present. Let us end it here and respect the victors instead of suffering a prolonged war. It doesn't matter who rules in the end." Swordsea laughed and said.

"Eight Desolaces are filled with talents." Eternal couldn't help but comment.

Among them, four came from Eight Desolaces. He and Supreme were the only ones from the six continents.

Now, the delicate balance emerged again - three on three.

"Give the command." Darkfrost told All-things.

The latter nodded and shouted: "March!"

"Boom!" A grand formation created a portal. After loud detonations, numerous cultivators walked out including Skysword, Stone Monarch, Hallowed...

An army consisting of thousands of the best cultivators appeared behind All-things Dao Lord. Their auras erupted like the roars of a million stars.

"March!" Supreme and Swordsea Dao Lord gave a similar order.

Another portal appeared along with the sounds of war horns. On the other side were Five-sun, Immortal Emperor Xu Kong, Ye Fantian, and many others.

The world became tiny in the presence of these powerful cultivators. After all, any attack from a single member could destroy a kingdom.

"Boom!" A third portal allowed a pagoda to manifest into reality. On top of it was a man whose hair cascaded over his shoulders.

He was blessed with an ethereal radiance and immaculate physical features. His imperial robe shared the same perfection, making him appear like a dragon among men.

He could be seen from any distance due to his imposing presence. In fact, he drew more attention than his renowned pagoda. Anyone would immediately think that they were looking at heaven's favorite or an immortal.

His talent and achievement didn't actually matter. His appearance alone made him seem destined for greatness. He was born to be great while others had to work to reach the same height.

This man needed neither courage nor diligence. Just existing alone was enough for him to become a conqueror in due time.

"Immortal Pagoda Conqueror." The other side became serious after seeing him.

"Everyone, we meet again." Immortal Pagoda stood proudly and said. His seemingly arrogant demeanor was not pretentious or an attempt to intimidate others. This was his natural aura that had been there since birth.

Chapter 5436: Who Else But Me?

Immortal Pagoda was unstoppable back in the lower continents and had the same success in the upper continents.

He was ferocious and decisive during his conquest, destroying numerous kingdoms and sects along the way. The most frightening thing about him was his inborn primordial dao fruit - something most likely superior to having twelve fruits.

However, given his physical gifts, many believed that he would have been an apex cultivator even without the special fruit.

His appearance caused the first imbalance - four to three apex cultivators. Moreover, All-things, Darkfrost, and Sword Queen specialized in offensive abilities. They wouldn't be able to stop his pagoda.

In the past, Calamity Dao Lord played the role of stopping him. Moreover, they had Illumination Conqueror as well.

Today, Illumination was dead while The Race still had another apex cultivator - Principle Conqueror.

Ever since his abdication, he was rumored to have been living reclusively back in his clan, no longer showing up. In spite of this, he should still stand with The Race during an all-out war.

"Who will stop me today?" Immortal Pagoda asked, looking ready to fight anyone.

Members of The People certainly felt great pressure due to the destructive nature of his pagoda.

"Who else but me? Haha, won't be difficult playing with your pagoda at all!" Suddenly, a ray stretched closer from the horizon, allowing the rider to appear on the battlefield in no time at all.

"You're finally here." All-things smiled and said.

The rider was a thin old man with an antennae growing on his forehead. He had a shell on his back with twelve intricate patterns. The flowing runes could deduce the utmost wonders and mysteries of the world.

Although the old man appeared weak and feeble, the flickering flash in his eyes contained a primordial tablet capable of halting the flow of time.

“So you are back, Fellow Daoist Calamity.” Immortal Pagoda glanced at his shell and said: “I heard that your shell broke down.”

Fortunately, the descendants in Imperial Attendant City still remembered him and used a dream order to save him from his captivity.

“Hahaha, wasn’t difficult crafting a new one since I was bored being stuck in that palace. This one is so much better than the previous, I wonder if your pagoda has improved as well.” Calamity said.

“We’ll find out now!” Immortal Pagoda’s primordial fruit started crushing space and freezing everyone.

This battle consisted of the best of the best. Nonetheless, most were fundamentally weaker due to a lack of primordial affinity.

This applied to All-things and the other apex cultivators. They possessed anima but this was still one step lower than the power stemming from the primordial fruit.

“Good!” Calamity laughed but didn’t underestimate his opponent.

He raised his shell containing the mysteries of heaven and earth, condensing them into an impregnable wall. This was the toughest defense, no different from an indomitable dao heart.

“Impressive, your shell is indeed better now.” Immortal Pagoda praised.

Calamity stopped being complacent after losing his old shell to the palace gates. He spent years creating a new one - a culmination of his lifelong dao search and the innate gift of his race.

“The same goes for you, let’s do this!” Calamity said and pushed his shell forward. Despite being a defensive technique, its momentum still swept through the battlefield while being dangerous all the same.

Immortal Pagoda seemed happy to be facing a capable foe. He raised his pagoda and commanded it to descend while releasing chaos energy.

A battle between these mortal foes wouldn’t end any time soon, the same as how it used to be during the previous war.

“Brother, try this!” Supreme made his move as well, slashing his void dao in the direction of All-things Dao Lord.

All-things took this seriously and activated his renowned mantra. One entity turned into a dao capable of supporting all things.

“Try this!” Darkfrost picked Swordsea as his opponent.

“Bring it!” Swordsea could control his ocean of swords with a single thought, wanting to drown the other sword user.

Both of them were practitioners of the nine heavenly sword dao.

“Fellow Daoist, shall we?” Sword Queen performed her everlasting sword technique.

Eternal immediately activated his bloodline and temporal affinity in retaliation.

Chapter 5437: Beware Of Cornered Dogs

War had begun in the upper continents starting with the strongest cultivators.

Others outside of the battlefield trembled in fear. Sects and kingdoms recalled their disciples and tried to evacuate. There were no winners for regular cultivators.

They were as feeble as ants compared to the conquerors and dao lords. This was a matter of survival, not glory.

Alas, how many could stay safe under the wrath of the battles? Some thought about running back down to the lower continents or hiding in the illusory realms...

As for Li Qiye, he returned to the courtyard in Imperial Attendant City to take a look at the pond. It now radiated brightly but this didn't disturb the old man from sleeping on his rocking chair, swaying back and forth.

The war between apex cultivators and even the destruction of the world didn't matter or affect him in the slightest. The flow of time became restricted by the sway of his chair.

Li Qiye glanced at the flashing pond before sitting down next to the old man.

"Awakening soon, your plan is working." The old man said without opening his eyes.

"And it is due to your good fortune, this saves me a lot of effort." Li Qiye smiled.

"If you know this, scram and don't let me see you again." The old man responded.

"You don't have to remind me, I'll be leaving and you won't be able to see me even if you want to." Li Qiye nodded.

This earnest answer left the old man in silence.

"It's goodbye then." He remarked.

Their relationship was rather peculiar. Li Qiye had killed him and wouldn't leave him to rest in peace. The hatred should be immense but this wasn't the case.

He was dead and Li Qiye's presence actually brought a little color to his dull death. Moreover, Li Qiye was the only person qualified to speak with him in this world. Silence would be his only friend after Li Qiye's departure.

"Yes, you can finally rest in peace here now." Li Qiye said.

"I will do whatever I want." The old man protested.

"Death is a process as well, I wonder if you will be able to endure the incoming years." Li Qiye smiled.

"What's there to endure? I'm already dead." The old man said.

"Not having someone to talk to." Li Qiye said.

The old man paused for a moment before admitting: "True, it's a shame I can't kill you right now."

"Yes, no chance." Li Qiye said.

"Well, although I can't do it, someone else might finish the job in the future." The old man said.

"Perhaps." Li Qiye stroked his chin and pondered his potential doom.

"Go and find out, it is indeed time to set off, others might be waiting for you." The old man said.

"They're getting impatient but I'm not in a hurry." Li Qiye said.

"Cornered dogs are capable of jumping the wall on top of biting someone. I'm afraid this wall might not be high and sturdy enough." The old man said.

"The matter of the wall is none of my concern. Someone else will take care of it." Li Qiye glanced at the sky.

The old man stared at the sky as well before responding: "I'm afraid the wall can't be fixed this time, war is coming."

"A descent isn't strange, not like it hasn't happened before." Li Qiye said.

"It's different this time, the villainous heaven knows this too." The old man disagreed.

"Mmm..." Li Qiye nodded and said: "All of this might be a pit waiting for someone to jump in. One misstep means being buried."

"The one being buried is up to debate. We've all experienced this before." The old man sneered.

"In my opinion, the villainous heaven is too merciful in this case." Li Qiye said.

"Not merciful but apprehensive of certain things." The old man said.

"This will be a large-scale one, a complete annihilation." Li Qiye mused.

"Not easy to annihilate such a large pit that was deliberately excavated." The old man said.

"Yes, so much sneaking around in the past, digging while avoiding the villainous heaven. But now, they're doing it so openly." Li Qiye said.

"A pit to bury the heaven, what a clever idea. It's a pity that in the end, they'll be buried themselves." The old man laughed.

"Is that what happened to your group back then?" Li Qiye had a sly smile.

"Hah, your defeat up there was probably worse than ours." The old man responded.

"True with regards to the circumstances." Li Qiye nodded: "But I am different, still able to restrain my desires and maintain my dao heart."

"Easier said than done, come back and say this again once you're presented with an opportunity to devour the villainous heaven." The old man said.

"I don't have this intention nor do I need to." Li Qiye stared at him and said earnestly: "This is why I'm different from you and him."

"Hmm..." The old man pondered briefly before replying: "He would probably choose to devour."

"Well, the inevitable is coming." Li Qiye looked at the sky again and said softly.

"Have to seize the opportunity to strike when the foes are sickly." The old man urged: "This is a good chance."

"Haste makes waste." Li Qiye smiled: "Plus, who will be sick then?"

"You're just unsure whether you'll be stabbed in the back or not." The old man said.

"That's one of my flaws, too trusting and sincere." Li Qiye responded.

"If what you say is true, you would have responded. I see that you have no intention of doing so." The old man asserted.

"Like I said, no rush." Li Qiye repeated.

"It seems like I'm the one impatient when I'm not even in the match anymore. We'll see who will be the first to lose their composure." The old man said.

"That doesn't matter too much, a full sweep is necessary." Li Qiye sighed and said.

"It'll come at a cost, it depends on how much you're willing to let go." The old man said.

"I'm just a passerby." Li Qiye said sentimentally.

"A world without people means there are no passersby. You will be the master, not a visitor." The man joked.

Chapter 5438: Raising A Frog Or A Dragon?

"I suppose you're right, I'm no passerby if the world is empty." Li Qiye smiled.

"That's why in order for you to play your favorite role, the world needs to be rather vibrant with life." The old man said.

"You speak as if you're still alive." Li Qiye gave him the side eye.

"I'm infected by the mortal coil now." The old man smiled.

Li Qiye smiled and could see that even this apex being couldn't handle eternal loneliness.

"Let's talk about something else. My legacy doesn't mean much to you but it is still somewhat interesting." The old man said.

"I see, then I'll introduce you to someone." Li Qiye said before telling True Bear to come in: "What do you think of this seedling for your legacy?"

"So average, not worthy of my legacy." The old man said.

Li Qiye nodded and said: "Who in this world is worthy of your legacy and can shoulder it? Nonetheless, if you wish to do so, he has followed me for some time and I have laid a foundation for him. His nature is back to its origin so he will have a heart of a child in the future, a blank slate filled with curiosity."

The old man stared at the bear who lay down on the ground, looking rather obedient.

"Things don't always go as planned. He had passed down his legacy as well to someone deemed supreme." Li Qiye said: "Do you want your legacy to pass down or do you want to keep on waiting?"

"Keep on waiting." The old man said.

"Even if you keep on waiting for the perfect inheritor, they will not be able to surpass you. Even if I were to inherit it, I can't surpass you in this dao either. The transcendence has to be internal, not through external grooming." Li Qiye said.

The old man didn't respond but knew Li Qiye was right.

"Then what's the point of waiting?" Li Qiye said: "If it is a matter of passing down your legacy, he is rather suitable. Polished where necessary, consolidated where needed, a bestial nature returned to its origin will blossom into a heart of purity. I believe you will have a hard time finding a better candidate, not to mention needing to personally nurture and build a foundation yourself."

"You make it sound like I'm taking advantage of you." The old man grumbled.

"It's just how kind I am, always considerate and thinking about what I can do for others. That's why I'm doing my best to assist you with your idea." Li Qiye said.

"Beneath the nice words loom all your nefarious intentions." The old man sneered.

"To mistake kindness for treachery." Li Qiye said: "Well, I'm generous enough to not take this excellent seedling for myself, that's the reality of it."

"You want him to go up." The old man said.

"Think what you may, I can't convince you otherwise." Li Qiye shrugged in response.

"That's right, you're not fooling anyone with your plan." The old man sneered.

"You're not raising a frog in the well but a true dragon. Would the dragon always want to be cooped up in a small well? No, it wants to soar up to the heavens." Li Qiye said.

"I can't argue with that." The old man said.

"Who are you but an apex existence in your prime? Your legacy can't just stay in this small well." Li Qiye went on.

"No need to flatter me." The old man said coldly.

"Not flattering at all since you're already dead, unlike the other geezers. You died thoroughly and even took care of your corpse, not causing any trouble. This is not to say that you didn't cause enough trouble during death, but in my opinion, you are deserving of leaving your legacy behind." Li Qiye said.

"Bah, speaking as if you're the boss already." The old man said: "Dark crow, I'm not falling for this."

"I'm speaking the truth but this is also a reminder to you, I don't always play nice if people start causing trouble." Li Qiye responded.

"You never played nice." The old man sneered.

"Let's go back to the topic of you being thoroughly dead. There's no chance anymore, right? So did you leave anything up there? A man of your grand stature certainly must have. Otherwise, it would be a little embarrassing since even the juniors left their mark. How impudent of them in that case." Li Qiye said.

"Hmph." The old man snorted but this was indeed a chord struck in his heart: "I am satisfied with how I spent my life."

"The problem is that you're a hungry ghost now." Li Qiye smiled.

"And it's all your fault." The old man scowled.

"You can't starve in death after starving for the majority of your life, that would be awfully tragic. You can't lose face like this." Li Qiye continued.

"Hmph, the others are just clowns. After the next sweep, they'll all be ashes." The old man became irate.

"And that is where you will win, standing above them and grasping eternal glory for you are still here. Be happy with this and give someone else a chance to climb up in your stead." Li Qiye said.

"Since when are you so noisy, sticking your nose in someone else's business?" The old man asked.

"Sigh, I owe you so I must work hard." Li Qiye smiled.

"You just want some cannon fodders to pave the way." The old man said.

"The truth is that even if you don't do anything, it doesn't affect me at all. I'm only worrying about your legacy." Li Qiye shrugged.

The man fell into silence.

Li Qiye gently patted the bear's head and said: "This seed is really not bad at all."

"It can barely inherit ten to twenty percent of my legacy." The old man said bluntly.

"Right, but who can inherit all of your legacy?" Li Qiye nodded.

The old man agreed - this was indeed an impossibility.

"If it were so easy, he wouldn't have waited until now. He didn't find a single one throughout the epochs." Li Qiye said.

"And you?" The old man asked.

"I haven't found one either. It's already a blessing to find good seeds." Li Qiye answered.

The old man stared at the bear again. He truly didn't think that the bear was worthy of his legacy.

In reality, Li Zhitian, Li Xian'er, and any other geniuses were no different in his eyes. It was a matter of picking one ant or a different one. They were all ants in the end.

However, the bear had been polished by Li Qiye - this was its unique part.

"So, what do you think? Just ten to twenty percent should be enough for him to establish a foothold for your legacy there." Li Qiye asked again.

Chapter 5439: Goodbye, Crow

"Fine, the bear can stay." The old man was eventually persuaded.

"Congratulations, your legacy lives on after so many years." Li Qiye said with a smile.

"Lives on, huh?" The old man glanced at the bear before looking up at the sky.

As an apex existence that had treated the world as food, he had no attachments and didn't think about leaving a legacy behind. The only thing was to survive - that would be his mark and legacy.

Alas, this was no longer the case after his death. Li Qiye exploded and obliterated him, delivering his true death.

Therefore, given the inevitability of being forgotten, he thought about leaving behind a legacy.

Alas, who was worthy of this? The greatest geniuses were mere ants in his eyes, unable to actually shoulder his greatness.

Nonetheless, he eventually relented. Just ten to twenty percent was good enough to become utterly dominant. Plus, the bear could actually exceed expectations and excel in the distant land.

"Try your best now, your destiny is in your hands." Li Qiye patted the bear again.

It let out a soft cry and rubbed its head against his hand, knowing that this was time for their separation.

"Splash! Splash!" The water in the pond started boiling and became radiant. The rays seemed to have a corporeal characteristic and could be touched.

"Crow, this is goodbye." The old man stood up.

"Yes." Li Qiye stood up as well to bid farewell to his once mortal foe.

"I wish you the best but unfortunately, I will not see the day when you slay the heaven." The old man sighed.

"Be well now." Li Qiye said.

"You too." The old man bowed slightly and disappeared from sight along with True Bear.

The courtyard became particularly quiet with their departure. Nonetheless, its seal remained, blocking it from the rest of the world. A billion years could pass and the separation would still remain.

"Splash!" A supreme beauty emerged with water droplets streaming down her body - words couldn't describe her unparalleled appearance.

She was blessed with a slender figure, long legs, and immaculate features - all culminating in a peerless charm and aura. Her long, lustrous hair flowed down to her waist. As it swayed gently, an ethereal aura oozed outward.

Her anima focused on harmony with heaven and earth. Looking at her was akin to looking at all the beauties of the world.

Anima had become so innate that just one smile or frown contained this profound affinity, striking the heart and leaving an indelible mark.

A single glance would leave an unforgettable impression. Her wondrous image would always shine brightly in someone's memory, capable of helping them in their darkest moment. This purifying factor made her beauty extend beyond mere physical boundaries.

She looked around, seemingly confused about her location and who had saved her. She didn't remember the circumstances of her death either.

However, she finally saw Li Qiye and trembled from being overwhelmed. As an apex cultivator, nothing could move her until his familiar figure today.

The image of him was engraved in her memories. Thus, she immediately recognized him.

"Young Master!" She ran over into his embrace.

"It's really you!" She didn't know what was going on since this could be a dream.

"It's me, I'm really here." He smiled and gently stroked her long hair.

She hugged him tightly, afraid that he might disappear if she were to let go.

A long while later, he said: "Long time no see."

"Yes, long time no see." She nodded and looked up carefully at him: "You really did it."

"Have I ever failed before?" He smiled.

"No, of course not." He said.

She nestled in his chest for a moment before asking: "Is everything okay?"

"Yes and no." Li Qiye responded.

"And Heavenguard?" She asked.

He sighed and comforted her: "No longer around, they have accomplished their mission wonderfully, truly deserving of pride."

"It's inevitable." She sighed softly. After all, the rise and fall of sects were normal occurrences. Nothing could last forever.

"Why did you throw your life away? Was that necessary?" He asked.

"I returned in order to warn you, Young Master. The situation is dire." Her expression became serious.

"I know, I noticed signs everywhere, not just from you." He said.

"Someone descended with a sinister plan." She revealed.

"Yes, within expectations, albeit a little soon." He nodded.

"Are you making your move now, Young Master?" She asked.

"No rush. Your cultivation has crumbled so let me take you to a place for recovery first. Otherwise, you'll turn into a mortal." He said.

Chapter 5440: Galaxy Tree

The upper continents had four alliances and three other great powers - Lesser Firmament, Azure Peak, and Pure Land.

Lesser Firmament didn't interact with the world, rumored to be the home of ancient emperors and monarchs.

Pure Land was another ancient lineage - a kingdom of Buddhism.

Azure Peak was the newest among the three lineages, created by Azure Ancestor as a place for the sky spirits. It had stood strong for eras, not falling to any of the great wars.

Two main factors played into its survival - its neutrality and the immense strength of Azure Ancestor. Anyone in the upper continents would have to think really carefully before maneuvering against Azure Peak.

Azure Ancestor came from Eight Desolaces. According to historical texts, the sky spirits only became a race after the ancestor's appearance. The coming of a new race signaled a change in the world.

Of course, the ancestor didn't create this race, only the first of its kind. The ancestor went on to become the first dao lord of the race as well, eventually excelling enough to be considered one of the ten greatest dao lords.

The ancestor became even stronger after reaching the upper continents, being considered superior to All-things and Supreme, perhaps even Apricot Dao Lord.

However, after the foundation of Azure Peak, the ancestor never appeared again. Thus, the apex cultivators had no idea of the ancestor's true power; they didn't wish to have an unnecessary confrontation.

In history, the four alliances had attempted to recruit Azure Peak only to fail. The only case of success was Swordsky Dao Lord joining Dao Alliance alone.

Everyone understood that the balance would break if Azure Peak were to change its neutral stance.

It had no political agenda or ideology, only serving as the home for the sky spirits. This was a fundamental difference between Azure Peak and the four alliances.

Li Qiye and the woman appeared above Azure Peak and looked down to see a land brimming with majestic life force. They saw excitement and endless possibilities with a new race.

A towering tree caught their attention next; its branches and leaves encompassed the entire peak.

Others called it Azure but its real name was Galaxy. Even the stars rotated beneath its incalculable height. It became its own world with mountains and rivers; waterfalls cascaded thunderously down from the top.

Buildings and palaces were built on the branches by the sky spirits. White cranes soared in the air while large beasts roamed the branches.

Some believed that the tree was planted by Azure Ancestor for the sake of creating a home. However, others believed that the tree was actually older than the ancestor and was transplanted from outer space. A third account stated that the tree has been here all along, albeit in a dormant and sealed state.

The actual history no longer mattered since now, it belonged to the sky spirits alone. As long as the tree was still around, so would Azure Peak.

"A good place, so much life force." Li Qiye nodded approvingly after taking a look at the magnificent scenery.

"There are peerless alchemy medicines here." The woman said softly.

Alchemy Dao was known to have the highest quantity of alchemy fields and materials. However, for the best and oldest ones, dao lords and conquerors would have to come to Azure Peak.