

Emperor 5441

Chapter 5441: How Is Everyone?

The tree possessed an automatic barrier that could stop apex cultivators from entering. Of course, this couldn't prevent Li Qiye from coming into its world with the woman.

Next were barriers erected around the tree by Azure Ancestor. It would notice and potentially attack unwelcome visitors. Alas, it didn't spot Li Qiye and the woman.

While standing inside the tree, they looked around and saw floating stars, feeling as if they were in space itself. The stars glowed with a green shade, seemingly made from countless particles of life. An old mortal on the verge of death could live for several centuries more just by breathing in this affinity.

"This place is good enough to help with your recovery, it will take some time though." Li Qiye sat down and said.

She sat down next to him and gazed at the stars: "Young Master, this is just like that place, albeit not as grand."

"Yes, it makes everyone salivate with greed." Li Qiye nodded.

"And they have made their move." The woman said softly.

"Greed is just unstoppable, a hurdle that cannot be crossed." Li Qiye was not at all surprised.

"Everyone has persevered and built a strong foundation, there is still a long way to go though." She said.

"This is how it should be. If it were so easy, there would be a need for all of you or me, someone else would have done this long ago. Don't underestimate the strength and wisdom of those before us." Li Qiye stared at her and said.

"Right, they were so powerful." She said, aware of the challenges ahead after having faced them herself.

"Someone had already paved the way. Just imagine the difficulty of starting from nothing. We have it easy in comparison." Li Qiye said.

"Yes, the predecessors aided us, allowing us to reach greater heights. Alas, there are greater challenges as well." She said softly.

"It can't be helped, they have been waiting long before this epoch, we can't imagine their history." He said.

"They are no longer waiting now." She said.

"The time has come and I wonder if everyone can hold on long enough. But I believe the preparation is ample." Li Qiye said.

"I don't know, the situation looked dire when I left and morale wavered. There's a fear of overthrow, that's why I came to inform you, Young Master." She said.

"It's alright, you shouldn't have feared the inevitable." He consoled her.

"I'm sure you will be able to handle it, I worried about this world more in your absence." She elaborated.

"Is that why you recklessly descended? To deliver the news and to take a look?" He nodded.

"I made it through but in the last second, someone else ambushed me. It's fortunate that you were prepared for it as well." She said.

"What if I were actually absent, you would not be standing here right now." He sighed.

"I trusted that you would be able to understand and find me eventually." She said.

"Seems like I can't afford to lack confidence when you have so much in me. Otherwise, it won't end well for you, given your cavalier nature." He chuckled.

"Am I not doing well right now?" She blinked playfully.

He smiled after uniting with a good friend from the past. Everything felt as if it was just yesterday.

"How is everyone?" He asked.

"Min Ren was in charge when I left, he is certainly not letting you down." She said.

"Yes, he's the responsible one, unlike a certain mischievous soul." He said.

"I wanted to see you, Young Master, it has been too long." She smiled.

"You probably thought that I was dead since so much time had passed and hope started to dwindle." Li Qiye said.

"No, I always believe in you, Young Master." She said: "You were able to leave that place alive so nothing in this world can kill you."

"It's not like you think, just got lucky with the right circumstances since I was far weaker then." Li Qiye smiled wryly.

"Regardless, you still made it out. We know that you can make the impossible happen." She said.

"Right, but the price..." Li Qiye stared at the sky and didn't finish.

"Everything started with you, Young Master. We are willing to pay any price." She said.

"Well, no need for needless sacrifice. This is still just the beginning, the future is for us to carve." Li Qiye said.

"We're waiting for your return." Her eyes brimmed with confidence.

"I will, it is my journey, after all." He looked back at her.

"When will you set off, Young Master?" She asked.

"I'm afraid I need more time. Although some are growing impatient, there are still loose knots to tie. I can't afford to be backstabbed at the wrong time." He said.

"I will go back first and spread the news." She said.

“Not now, wait for the right opportunity because the calamity is starting.” Li Qiye said.

“Yes, it won’t be too long. We have discussed this issue thoroughly in the past.” She said.

“All the pieces are ready to move, even the villainous heaven.” Li Qiye smiled.

“Seems a bit early.” She pondered.

“Someone had gone too far and disturbed the villainous heaven. Waiting is increasingly no longer the option.” Li Qiye said.

“Another great calamity.” She murmured.

“One like no other before. Who knows if anyone can hold on and leave behind seeds of hope?” Li Qiye nodded.

Chapter 5442: Cornered Dogs

“How can we survive?” She said with a worrying tone.

“So, so difficult.” Li Qiye shook his head: “Nonetheless, the villainous heaven has its own concerns because it’s already very close.”

“Can we force the issue?” She asked.

“No, that’s rather suicidal. If that was an option, it would have been done long ago.” Li Qiye said.

“I suppose we must prepare fortresses then. The rest are doing so as well.” She said.

“It’s necessary, they believe that as long as they can last enough, everything will ebb away eventually. It’s a matter of endurance.” He said.

“And if we seize the initiative and attack first?” She asked.

“The question is who should we strike first and when? If we eliminate some, maybe the calamity will be delayed.”

“Hmm...” She pondered in silence.

“This is easier said than done, not to mention both choices being deviations from the original plan.” Li Qiye said.

“Is there still time to change course?” She asked.

“All of this need time for planning but time isn’t waiting for us. Moreover, they won’t be sitting still and might go all out.” Li Qiye said.

“Right, and they hide so well. We can’t catch them unless they make the first move.” She said.

“That’s why the villainous heaven has to intervene.” Li Qiye said.

“Do you think there is a chance of them descending and making the first move?” She asked.

“Some certainly harbor this idea. Someone was here before you came.” Li Qiye said.

"That's true. Are they changing their plan? Starting from the bottom instead." Her expression became serious.

"Hard to say, it might just be a scouting mission or to look for an answer as well in this world." Li Qiye shook his head.

"Is it an attempt to retreat? I don't think that's viable." She said.

"Definitely not viable in the past, but he came up with a method. It's just that the world isn't aware of it yet but this is not important right now. Time is running out for them." Li Qiye nodded.

"They're cornered dogs." She commented.

"Yes, they'll be jumping the wall and will start biting." He said.

"Who first?" She asked.

"The first is definitely me since I'm the roadblock. But if they can't make it past, it'll be the villainous heaven. If they will die either way, might as well go all out once." He smiled.

"I don't think they're that desperate yet according to our research. Some of them have walls tall enough to potentially outlast it." She said.

"Not everyone and most importantly, since the villainous heaven will be personally taking part, no one truly knows the extent of this challenge. Only the actual survivors will be able to make this claim about their walls." Li Qiye shook his head: "This applies to your wall as well."

"Mmm..." She smiled wryly and said: "I'm losing my confidence now after listening to you, Young Master."

"This is why spreading out is a good strategy. Delay with enough walls and there will be an opportunity. If everyone is gathered in one place, the firepower will be concentrated in a single spot. Failure means death to all but with our plan, some will manage to slip past the net since the villainous heaven has specific targets in mind this time." Li Qiye elaborated.

"I'm afraid of the eventual casualties." She said.

"Don't be afraid of death after getting this far. It is inevitable." Li Qiye said.

"You're right, no one can escape death." She paused for a moment before adding: "I can't wait to see you up above the heaven."

"That day will come." He sighed and said: "Opportunities will present themselves, I have to grasp the correct one."

"What is your strategy for this, Young Master?" She couldn't help but ask.

Li Qiye gazed at the deepest crevices of the sky and said: "My dao will be spreading in there, culminating in a direct break."

"But that's impossible." She became emotional.

"Yes, but that's in the past. A transaction has been requested." He said.

"They came to you already?" She didn't expect this.

"Yes, still within expectations." He nodded.

"This isn't your pursuit." She said: "It'll be a compromise."

"I've thought about this very carefully even before you got here." He nodded: "How long do you think you'll be able to last during the calamity?"

"Hmm..." She took her time because this calamity would exceed everyone's imagination.

"Remember, the villainous heaven will personally carry this out." He said: "The goals are a few tigers, not your group, but the shockwaves alone will obliterate the strongest fortresses."

"We have not forgotten your warnings back then." She said.

"Yet here we are, all of you are having issues already." He said.

"I apologize for our lack of abilities." She smiled wryly.

"I wouldn't put it that way. How long have you been cultivating versus them? They all want that piece of pie, definitely not wanting to share with some newcomers. Not making a move is already showing restraint." He said.

"I suppose we should thank the villainous heaven for not allowing it." She said.

"That's the past. If it really comes to that point, permission no longer matters and they won't hold back." He said.

"Enemies on all fronts then." She said.

"That's why it's time to offer them some benefits or it'll all be in vain." He nodded.

"Young Master, are you acquiescing because of us?" She asked softly.

"It's not that." He smiled: "You all have done enough and plus, if I don't do it, someone else might. I might as well be the one."

"I wish we could be stronger." She held his hand and said.

"Don't dwell on these minor details. Just be prepared to face what lies ahead, I have done what I can." He said.

"Yes, we have to walk our own path eventually." She said.

"That is the reason for our quest, so that everyone can walk their own path." Li Qiye nodded.

"I will return and strengthen our wall." She said earnestly.

"I believe in you, just be wary of all the pits." He nodded confidently.

Chapter 5443: Follow Your Heart

"What do you mean?" She asked.

"The pits have been dug and placed on the path, the stakes are as high as can be." He explained.

"For complete annihilation with one strike." She responded.

"It's not aimed at you all but rather, the villainous heaven. It's just that the pits will catch everyone along the way as well." He said.

"And if you are involved?" She asked.

"They would try to bury me as well since it's a rare opportunity." He smiled.

"I understand. I just hope that I can make it in time." She took a deep breath and nodded.

"The trip is just as perilous as before, you make the decision." He said.

"Young Master, you already told me that this path is one with no return. I am well prepared to meet my end since the start of my journey." She said without any hesitation.

"Very well. Then recover and rebuild your cultivation first before starting the journey. You all must take charge of your own fate, I have done what I can." Li Qiye said.

"Yes." She nodded solemnly: "We'll be waiting for you, Young Master. If we are no longer there when you start your expedition, just know that our spirits are with you."

"I hope I'll be able to see all of you again." He looked up at the sky and let out a sigh.

"We will try our best to not let you down, Young Master." She nodded.

"Just follow your heart, I ask for nothing more." He said.

"And our heart is with you." She said with absolute resolution before sitting down in the meditative pose.

He then placed his palm on her forehead and created a dao maelstrom in her mind.

"Buzz." Her chest lit up and became a boundless galaxy. The maelstrom started moving downward and lit up one star after another. Its rotation began summoning the most refined essences and life force.

Since they were inside Galaxy, the maelstrom could absorb as much as it wanted. Various essences in the form of particles began floating toward her chest.

There were enough of them to create green energy rivers in the air in an elegant and peaceful manner. The particles resembled butterflies landing on desirable flowers. Their flow was of their own volition, not because of a devouring force.

As they joined the maelstrom, they aimed to strengthen her sea of memories and dao foundation.

Given her innate talent and dao comprehension in addition to Li Qiye's power, they could have easily absorbed the entire tree. This would shorten the length of time required.

Despite the tree's immense life force, Li Qiye could have absorbed it in just a short time, not leaving anything left. Instead of doing so, they merely channeled the power of the tree through the woman, flowing from one part to another.

They certainly nourished her without being depleted. Once this was complete, they would flow back into Galaxy. This decision allowed them to cure her without hurting the tree in the slightest, albeit at the expense of time.

Of course, others in Galaxy became startled right away. The tree was their very foundation. The moment the countless rivers of energy started to flow, alarms could be heard by everyone.

Ancient ancestors, dragon lords, conquerors, and dao lords all showed up to face the culprits, viewing this as an existential crisis.

“Who are you?!” One of them shouted while observing the rivers flowing toward the woman.

“State your name or face death!” An ancient ancestor shouted.

However, Li Qiye was busy with re-creating her cultivation and didn’t care to respond.

“Kill them!” A conqueror gave the order. The situation was serious enough for them to attack without finding more information or giving the enemies a chance to retaliate.

“Rumble!” Treasures appeared in the air. Ancient laws turned into various dao. Sacred and dao fruits manifested into reality and became resplendent.

Frightening auras ravaged the battlefield as these top cultivators worked together in order to obliterate the thieves.

They couldn’t afford to let this continue. If Galaxy were to wither and die, that would be the end of Azure Peak as well.

Chapter 5444: A New Life

Li Qiye didn’t bat an eye at the dreadful assault, only resorting to raising one hand.

“Boom!” Everything around him started sinking down; not even the unstoppable attacks could get through.

The opponents roared and channeled all of their dao and chaos true energy. This was proven futile all the same.

He then pushed his hand downward, creating an energy palm in the air with a supreme power. The strongest cultivators were instantly suppressed while weaker ones fell to their knees, unable to resist his power.

In this crucial moment, a divine protector of Azure Peak finally arrived and witnessed this scene.

“Young Noble, please recall your power. The little ones do not know of you, please forgive their insolence.” The protector’s expression turned from astonishment to joy after seeing Li Qiye.

He was an old man with a tall frame seemingly made from metal - an entity built to protect.

Li Qiye pulled back his hand and didn’t say anything to the kneeling protector. The suppressed cultivators heaved a sigh of relief after being freed from the suppression.

They exchanged glances in confusion, realizing that this was above their level since they had never experienced such a powerful pressure.

After a long while, the maelstrom gained a green color and fully encompassed the woman, pulling her into another dimension of the tree.

Li Qiye then finally paid attention to the others.

“Young Noble, do you recognize me?” The divine protector kneeled before Li Qiye with tears streaming down: “You entrusted the tree with me back in the nine worlds, I didn’t expect to be able to see you again.”

He was none other than Sentinel Treant who had participated in Boss Tang’s auction. Back in the nine worlds, he was known as Soldier Tree who was tasked with protecting the new lifeform. After an epoch of cultivation, he had reached an unimaginable level of cultivation.

“Seems like you did not waste your time.” Li Qiye smiled and helped him up.

“It is all thanks to you, Young Noble. I ascended to guard the lord while Soulvine stayed behind.” The old man said. [1]

“It is part of your fortune.” Li Qiye said.

At this time, a girl around seventeen to eighteen years of age descended from outer space. She promptly returned after hearing the news.

Her presence lit up the whole world. All eyes involuntarily focused on her as if she was the center of the universe. She had a petite frame even relative to her peers.

What she lacked in size was made up of a unique aura. Although she restrained her incredible power, strands of energy still oozed out. Her cultivation was simply too strong for her to hide it completely.

A single energy strand could crush heaven and earth. Her unstoppable power could dominate all under the heavens.

Putting aside their power, the strands also possessed a primordial nature as if their owner was the first existence in the world.

From her, all creatures could see the evolutions and derivations of heaven and earth. They could see traces of themselves in her.

The ancient aura remained vibrant and brimming with vitality despite its age. Spectators would immediately think of her as a primordial being.

Her delicate and petite figure shouldered the hope of an entire race. Her green lotus dress seemed to be a gift from nature itself.

Upon closer inspection, she possessed distinct differences from the other races. For example, her ethereal wings were different from any other sky spirits’. The latter had bright wings that were visible while hers were virtually invisible.

Moreover, sky spirits were typically tiny in their true form. Thus, she was actually a giant when compared to her kin.

“Benefactor.” She immediately kneeled before Li Qiye.

“The baby girl you entrusted to us is now all grown up.” Sentinel Treant hurriedly introduced: “She is Azure Ancestor, the first of her kind.”

“Thank you for granting us life, Benefactor.” She said respectfully.

Li Qiye helped her up and smiled: “I cannot grant life. A new race is only possible with the permission of the high heaven.”

Azure Ancestor was none other than the new lifeform in Divine Tree Ridge. In a sense, sky spirits weren’t an entirely new race but rather, a regression of the treants.

“We wouldn’t be here without you, Benefactor.” Azure Ancestor insisted.

Although he didn’t stick around to protect her, she understood that he was the reason for their existence. Thus, she had nothing but the utmost respect for Li Qiye.

“Fate brought us together.” Li Qiye said: “I only helped out in the beginning, your success is due to your own effort and fortune.”

Azure Ancestor and Sentinel Treant told everyone to leave in order to have a private conversation with Li Qiye.

Although they were apex existences now, the meeting with Li Qiye still filled them with boundless excitement. The past came knocking again; everything was still vivid and clear.

Chapter 5445: Fixing Deficiencies

The three sat together, discussing the past and present. Azure Ancestor and Sentinel Treant happily told Li Qiye about their experiences in life.

Azure Ancestor, in particular, had a deep emotional connection with Li Qiye. Although he wasn’t her creator, he intervened and blessed her existence, allowing her birth and giving her enough health to survive.

He also asked Sentinel Treant and many other alchemy plants to protect and educate her. Thus, her current achievements and the success of the sky spirits were due to Li Qiye. She viewed him as her creator and a father figure.

By this point, she was an apex existence capable of fighting any dao lord or conqueror. Nonetheless, she reverted back to a little girl who had just reconnected with her father. Casually chatting and asking him questions filled her with joy.

She wanted to tell him about her life and growth in order to make up for the years of absence. It became clear that she had never forgotten about him, that traces of him were present at every moment of her life. His arrival filled the gaps in her life due to never having met him with wonderful colors.

Li Qiye stared at her and said sentimentally: "The sky spirits don't possess your ancestral physique."

The sky spirits were truly tiny while Azure Ancestor looked more human, albeit petite. The former could transform but that was not their true form.

"I possess this complete body due to your blessing, Young Noble." She said: "The other sky spirits are innately flawed at birth."

"We have tried our best during the birth of a new sky spirit but couldn't do it as well as you, Young Noble. Thus, there is a concept of an ancestral body for the sky spirits, one that is unreachable." Sentinel Treant added.

"Perhaps this is the nature of life, a race shouldn't be perfect." Li Qiye said: "If the sky spirits were flawless at the start, it could have been a disaster. Your race was a special creation and possessed a natural attunement with life force. If it were to have a perfect physical frame as well, it would reign superior to anything else and that's a disaster in waiting."

Their weak frame didn't matter since their harmony with life forces granted them incredible strength. This was the reason why they preferred to stay in the forests and let the world nourish them. Galaxy was the perfect location for the sky spirits due to its abundant life force.

This innate talent made cultivation easy for them. On the other hand, it wasn't entirely unbeatable.

For example, humans' innate gift was their ease of reproduction - allowing them to populate faster than the majority of races. Quantity made up for quality when it came to human cultivators.

"Since I am the first of my kind, I've been trying to fix this issue." Azure Ancestor said: "We are so feeble and easily destroyed. Thus, I created Azure Peak. Although older sky spirits can't be changed, the power of Galaxy might improve the physical constitutions of babies in the future."

She paused for a second before continuing: "I don't hope for them to possess the same body as I do, but I do hope they'll grow a bit stronger. This is one of my lifelong goals."

"We are getting relative success thanks to the tree and the special zone here." Sentinel Treant continued: "The young ones are definitely stronger than the previous generations."

"That's good, fixing innate deficiencies afterward." Li Qiye nodded approvingly.

"Young Noble, can you model the ancestral body for the next generation?" Azure Ancestor couldn't help but ask since he was the one who gave her the gift.

"I can." Li Qiye nodded.

"Young Noble, I have created the right momentum and fortunes in Azure Peak. Could you guide us so that our newborns can have an ancestral body as well?" She asked softly, feeling responsible for her race. This was the reason why she chose to protect Azure Peak instead of traveling freely like other dao lords and conquerors.

Li Qiye shook his head and explained: "Your ancestral body is a gift of nature. The sky spirit is a new race and with enough effort and time, innate deficiencies can be corrected to an extent. For example,

humans can reproduce quickly but their lifespan is short. This is mended through other means, cultivation included.”

He paused for a bit before speaking seriously: “Gifting the ancestral body to your entire race can have disastrous consequences. A calamity, regardless of the form it takes, will descend in time if a new race is superior to everyone else. Extermination is inevitable.”

Chapter 5446: Two Sides Of The Same Coin

“You’re right, but this will take an awfully long time.” Azure Ancestor sighed.

“Be patient since I cannot be the one to bestow the ancestral body or protect your race. Trust me, I didn’t help your race come into existence so that you all can be exterminated. That would mean my effort was wasted.” Li Qiye said.

“I will remember your guidance, Young Noble.” Azure Ancestor said: “We shall take it step by step and appreciate the journey.”

“Good, that is the right path.” Li Qiye nodded: “Accumulate slowly each day and eventually, the ancestral body will come uncontested. At that point, your ascension among the races won’t be as disastrous. There is no shortcut, the price is what will keep your future members grounded and humbled.”

“Do you have an estimate of how long this will take?” Sentinel Treant asked.

“Who knows? But the flower will blossom eventually.” Li Qiye shook his head.

“What if it won’t blossom?” Sentinel Treant wasn’t as confident.

“If that’s the mentality, then there is no need to do anything. Cultivators should just stop cultivating since most won’t become dao lords or conquerors.” Li Qiye smiled.

“You are right, Young Noble.” Azure Ancestor agreed.

Li Qiye stared at her and said sentimentally: “As a dao lord, you still have a very long way to go.”

“My path as a progenitor is even tougher.” She responded.

“Do you choose yourself or your race?” Li Qiye got to the point.

“As the first of my kind, I have a mission to fulfill.” Azure Ancestor: “I must be a proper progenitor and a role model for the sky spirits.”

“Are you sure that your path is the best one for them?” Li Qiye shook his head: “The most suitable path is the best one for each individual. I doubt many sky spirits can become a dao lord as easily as you.”

“Right.” She said softly.

“And if the sky spirits can actually reach your level, what will you do then?” Li Qiye asked.

“That is when my mission ends.” She said.

"Life doesn't always go as planned." Li Qiye smiled: "You cannot bend the world to your will, nor should you attempt to."

"Bend the world to my will?" She didn't expect to be reprimanded for her noble goal.

"For example, if someone desires world peace, then all warmongers will become sinners. If they wish for a world of light, then the darkness shall be dedicated. And if a progenitor wishes for their race to be similar, what will happen to those who are different?" Li Qiye elaborated.

"..." She fell into silence.

"The self is inherently unique so forcing others to follow your same path is an exercise of futility. It is overbearing, tyrannical, and leads to a dangerous path." Li Qiye said.

"I don't believe I'm that extreme." She expressed disagreement.

"For now, yes, because you aren't capable of doing so yet. What if this changes in the future? What if you can bestow the sky spirits the same gift that you have? What will you do to those who refuse your way? Would that be considered betrayal or disrespect? That they do not understand your good intentions and hard work?" Li Qiye asked.

"Well..." She had no response.

Her lifelong mission was to improve the sky spirits. Who would say no to accepting her gift? Would she readily accept the refusal?

"Do not place hope in others nor force others to walk your path." Li Qiye said: "Cultivation allows one to express their individuality. Only by being true to oneself will they truly become successful with the dao. Pursuing someone else's dao is nothing more than a twisted path."

He gazed strongly at her and said: "Keep this in mind, the greater the expectation, the greater the disappointment. Everything concerning the multitude should be approached with an open mind. As an apex existence, exercise restraint over your potential when blessing others, there is no need to strive for perfection lest you risk an imbalance and a backlash that will affect your dao heart. Repeated occurrences will weaken it, leading you toward damnation."

"Is that so..." She remained skeptical.

"I welcomed you as a new race and stopped there. What if I had kept on working and working, placing my hope in the sky spirits only for them to disappoint me? Would I be able to laugh and shrug it off after spending an entire epoch on this goal? No, this disappointment will transform into anger." He sighed and went on: "Many supreme overlords considered protecting the world and its living beings as their initial mission. Unfortunately, the world disappointed them, not worthy of their love for it. That would be the start of their fall and in time, they would want to destroy this unworthy world since it had betrayed their expectation."

Azure Ancestor and Sentinel Treant exchanged glances. They have never thought that far into the future.

"Savior and destroyer, often two sides of the same coin." Li Qiye concluded.

"Have you ever felt this way before, Young Noble?" She asked.

"I have done what I should. The world has its own path and I have mine." Li Qiye smiled: "I place neither hope nor disappointment, I follow the heart and do what I wish, not for the sake of the world or anything else."

"Follow the heart." She murmured.

"I hope you understand my point and think about the direction of your path, what you should do and shouldn't. It is a noble mission but overdoing it will send you to the abyss. You won't be in control after a certain point and before you realize it, it is over." He paused for a second and added: "There is another path that you can take, one that will take you farther."

Azure Ancestor took a deep breath to calm down and knelt before Li Qiye: "Young Noble, you are my guiding light, granting me life and illuminating my path."

"Fate, that's all." Li Qiye waved his hand: "Let's stop here. I will stay in this place, for now, to help someone create their fortune, you two can leave."

The two prostrated one more time before taking their leave so that Li Qiye could focus on healing the woman again.

They ordered everyone in Azure Peak to not bother Li Qiye.

Chapter 5447: Haven Bulwark

The war between The People and The Race started again, spreading destruction from the illusory realms to the upper continents.

In spite of the continents' massive size, the auras of the apex cultivators and their followers could still be felt in all corners.

More and more cultivators were dragged into this mess regardless of their wishes. Of course, most should have nothing to do with these battles because they could be reduced to ashes after one move. Casualties began approaching an incalculable number.

Even powerful dao lords and conquerors started to fall - a sign of continuous escalation.

"Rumble!" Powers from the illusory realms continued to leak out into the actual world. The fabrics of the realms seemed to be torn apart.

Weaker cultivators and mortals trembled in horror since they could feel the shock waves becoming stronger and stronger.

They have lost control of their destiny. Death might come knocking at any moment and they wouldn't have a clue. After all, an uncontrolled blast could wipe out a kingdom in the blink of an eye. Thus, they actually didn't care about the victor, only praying for a swift end to the war.

Survival mattered the most, not the ruling party. Once this spread to the entire upper continents, the winners would sit on empty thrones with no surviving subjects to rule.

“Boom!” A blinding light erupted in Heaven Alliance due to the appearance of a supreme tower. Its ancient dao laws possessed an incredible suppressive affinity. If it were to descend on the upper continents, it would instantly sink both.

It seemed to have been around before the start of heaven and earth. The area within was nothing short of infinite.

“The tower of Celestial Court!” An ancient ancestor bellowed.

“It’s reaching the climax, they want to end this.” A neutral dragon lord shuddered.

The tower was the ace card of Heaven Alliance, rumored to have been given to Light-dragon Conqueror by Celestial Court during his founding of the alliance.

Loud explosions and earthquakes took over the upper continents. However, this disaster didn’t last long because another force seemed to be stabilizing it.

Another blinding light appeared in a different location, connecting Dao and Imperial Alliance. This was a great wall exuding different colors; each color represented a particular divine metal.

It stretched for billions of miles, seemingly capable of surrounding all of the upper continents. It could handle any attack, whether it be an ultimate blow from the dao lords and conquerors or countless falling meteors.

The various metals were embedded with runes and totems as well - the blessings from the wise sages.

“Haven Bulwark!” Another shouted after seeing the walls, especially those from The People.

“It’ll protect us!” Everyone heaved a sigh of relief since the suppressive pressure started to dissipate.

Earlier, the tower of Celestial Court paralyzed everyone even though it was aiming at something else on the battlefield. Now, the walls were erected to stop the tower; protecting the upper continents was only a by-product.

“This will determine the future, we’ll find out soon.” An ancient ancestor gazed at the bulwark and commented.

Chapter 5448: The Winner?

“What if the bulwark can’t stop it?” A dragon lord from The People was worried about the situation.

According to the legends, this wall was built by countless top masters who contributed divine metals. Some believed that it was meant to stop the tower of Celestial Court.

During Emperors War, both sides had activated their tower and wall. However, they didn’t get a chance to use it due to Puresun Dao Lord’s interference.

“This is the pivotal moment.” An ancient ancestor trembled while watching the fight from afar.

The initial skirmish had evolved into both sides using actual strategies prepared for eras now. The wall and the tower could decide everything.

"I don't care who wins, just end this already." Someone said, not caring about either side.

The majority of inhabitants didn't care for the divide when their survival was on the line.

"Rumble!" The tower finally made contact with the wall. The former pulsed brightly and controlled the power of the celestial bodies, wanting to push through.

The wall also became resplendent and colorful, activating its fullest potential. The metals harmonized; their individual powers were stacked up into layers and became far more effective. Great figures appeared - the remnant forces of those who had blessed the wall in the past.

Both focused the full brunt of their power on the battlefield. Alas, due to their size, everyone in the upper continents could see the fight clearly.

The apex cultivators halted their individual fight and retreated to their camp, channeling their power into the respective artifact.

Strands of power leaked into the upper continents; a single one could take down a kingdom. The top cultivators were already destructive on their own. Once together, the devastation multiplied and reached a different scale.

Some of these cultivators had no problem unleashing devastation upon the rest of the world. They found that casualties were just a part of war even when they numbered in the billions.

"Rumble!" Both sides didn't hold back and gave everything they had to power the artifacts.

It seemed to be a stalemate - the tower couldn't take down the wall in just a short time.

"Buzz." Another portal appeared on the battlefield - a group of cultivators wearing regal outfits and possessing impressive auras.

They were led by a dazzling youth who would always be at the center of attention due to his presence. He seemed capable of stopping time itself and gave people a sense of security.

"The Imperial Clan." Neutral spectators became serious after seeing them.

Only the mightiest dragon lords and conquerors could stand close enough to watch. Regular cultivators and ancestors were stuck in the upper continents, completely frozen from the pressure.

"Li Zhitian and his clan." Someone murmured.

The progenitor of the clan was none other than the renowned Crimson Emperor. They were a pillar of Heaven Alliance; their absence was certainly noticed in the war until now.

"Reinforcement for Heaven Alliance." A dragon lord commented.

"Buzz." Another portal appeared near the battlefield, allowing a different group to come out. They lacked the Imperial Clan's regal aura but seemed to be even stronger.

Chapter 5449: Buddhist Emperor

The dragon lords and conquerors in the group varied in age. However, their auras were full of youthful vigor. This lineage was clearly not as old as the Imperial Clan.

The leader was an ordinary-looking old man yet the rest still treated him with reverence. He hid an impressive physique beneath his plain robe.

His white beard looked rather stiff and prickly to the touch. His broad shoulders and robust hands made him look trustworthy and willing to bear any burden.

“Principle Conqueror and the Lu are here too.” Spectators became even more startled than during the appearance of the Imperial Clan.

“Principle Conqueror is finally making a move?” A dragon lord took a deep breath.

“Are they helping Divine Alliance?” Those on the side of The People didn’t like this development, especially the ones involved in the battle.

The Imperial Clan was powerful but they were no longer in their prime. They lacked an apex cultivator so they posed a limited threat to either side.

The same couldn’t be said about Principle Conqueror and his clan - a force capable of tipping the scales. The Lu was in their prime with many capable cultivators but most importantly, Principle Conqueror was another apex cultivator.

“This is it, potentially the deciding factor.” A dragon lord took a deep breath.

Previously, the Lu was considered the strongest clan in the upper continents. However, Principle Conqueror abdicated and his clan also left Divine Alliance.

They lived reclusively afterward and everyone thought that they were finished with the conflict. Alas, their sudden appearance could change the outcome of this battle.

Spectators thought that both the Imperial Clan and the Lu were on the side of The Race. Although the Lu had a soured relationship with Divine Alliance, this was still their home for a long period in history. It made sense that they would show up during this existential crisis.

The arrival of these two factions could bring a swift end to the conflict.

“Boom!” A divine beam descended, paving the way for an old man and his legion.

He was massive with a metallic body, looking like an unbreakable pillar. The members of the legion were just as impressive visually.

When he slightly tilted, everyone could see a girl standing on his shoulder. She possessed a timeless presence as if she was the source of an entire race. Everyone could sense a terrifying power oozing from her delicate frame.

“Azure Ancestor, Sentinel Treant...” A neutral conqueror couldn’t believe it.

“Azure Peak is here too.” One dao lord put on a serious expression.

"I can't believe it, they're joining this too?" One dragon lord commented in astonishment due to the historical neutrality of Azure Peak. Furthermore, Azure Ancestor had not left Azure Peak for eras now.

"Are they here to help The People?" A dragon lord from The Race wondered.

"Right, they should be with The People." His friend whispered.

The reason was due to the perceived close relationship between Azure Peak and Dao Alliance. Moreover, Swordskey Dao Lord was a sky spirit as well.

"Who knows? Azure Peak is from Eight Desolaces, it might be here for another reason?" A dao lord from Eight Desolaces shook her head.

Eight Desolaces didn't have the notion of The People and The Race. This classification was unique to the six continents. Thus, Azure Peak shouldn't have that many attachments to The People.

Nonetheless, it should be noted that Dao and Imperial Alliance had many dao lords who came from Eight Desolaces. In that sense, Azure Peak would have closer ties to them due to sharing the same background.

"Buzz." A Buddhist bridge formed on the horizon and landed near the battlefield as well. Buddhist hymns could be heard, painting the images of hallowed beings in everyone's mind even before their appearance.

"Pure Land too?" Listeners became emotional.

Sure enough, high monks appeared on the bridge. Each of them had totems and images of seven-floor pagodas, inspiring a profound sense of reverence in all spectators.

Chapter 5450: Ancient Princess

The monks accompanied by hallowed hymns were a sight to behold. They seemed to be leading Buddha back to the mortal world to deliver peace and salvation.

"Pure Land is joining this as well?" A dao lord understood that these were the greatest monks from that region. Regular monks didn't possess these visual phenomena.

Pure Land was one of the seven great powers in the upper continents, perhaps the oldest.

The four alliances were relatively young and their history was known. As for Pure Land, it was rumored to have been around before the six continents. Some said that it dates back to the previous epoch.

Thus, little was known about its history and origin. Its power was also incalculable as well since it focused on salvation and spreading Buddhism. It didn't participate in the struggle between The People and The Race since everyone was considered equal.

Because of this neutral stance, it had never displayed its true power and resources before. Nonetheless, most historians considered Pure Land to be stronger than any single alliance. Therefore, apex cultivators exercised restraint whenever they visited Pure Land.

In fact, Pure Land remained standing even during the perilous eras when Celestial Court reigned unchecked. The latter never provoked Pure Land previously - a testament to its power.

Legend told the tales of wondrous cultivators of Buddhism living there. They possessed powers and abilities beyond imagination.

Some went as far as saying that if Pure Land wanted to be in the immortal continent, it would be equal to Celestial Court, Immortal Dao City, and Imperial Field.

The magnificent spectacle resulted in the entrance of an otherworldly woman. She wore a Buddhist robe and an ancient crown while possessing a noble aura accentuated by the Buddhist affinity. This was a rare combination but it manifested flawlessly around her.

With just one glance, one would think of her as a supreme ruler in charge of countless beings. Of course, this wasn't a rare sight because conquerors and dao lords would have something similar.

However, her Buddhist light and halos made her look like a natural-born Buddhist, destined to be enlightened. Who knows if this aura was innate or fostered by her profound knowledge of Buddhism? Either way, as she walked across the bridge, the two different affinities existed in harmony and caused others to gasp in astonishment.

An emperor reigned in the mortal world while a Buddhist transcended the mortal coil. These two paths typically ran counter to each other yet she managed to achieve something remarkable.

"Jilin Buddhist Emperor!" Someone immediately recognized her. [1]

"A truly timeworn existence." Another commented while appreciating her beauty. The Buddhist robe didn't hinder her physical attractiveness and only made her more unique.

Some said that one would be hard-pressed to find an older being than her in the upper continents. She was a peerless princess in the last epoch who chose to cultivate Buddhism.

Few had the pleasure to meet her in person but everyone knew about her legends. The most powerful being who had roamed the world from Pure Land was Meru Buddhist Emperor whom many believed to be Jilin Buddhist Emperor's disciple. [2]

There were accounts of Blessed Dao Lord himself visiting Pure Land to ask Jilin Buddhist Emperor about the path of Buddhism.

All these tales told the world how unfathomable Pure Land and Jilin Buddhist Emperor were.

No one expected her to show up - a being older and more powerful than All-things Dao Lord and his peers.

She didn't show up during the previous Emperors War or during the signing of the Pact of Blessed.

"Which side will they be on?" A dragon lord murmured.

"The Imperial Clan and the Lu might be able to decide this battle but Pure Land will decide the entire war." A powerful spectator believed that Pure Land alone outmatched the two clans.

After arriving, Jilin Buddhist Emperor simply observed the contest between the tower and the wall. Her stance remained unclear. The monks behind her closed their eyes, seemingly entering a state of meditation.

“Wait, if they do not interfere, I have no idea what the outcome will be.” Another commented after seeing the three powers merely spectating.

Meanwhile, the stalemate continued despite both sides’ full efforts in empowering their artifact.

“Boom!” Something suddenly exploded in the territory of Divine Alliance.