

Emperor 5471

Chapter 5471: Celestial Court's Three Immortals

"I'm rather curious, who is your master in Celestial Court?" Li Qiye smirked while asking.

None expected him to shift the conversation. Strangely enough, his closest allies didn't know the answer either.

His background was a mystery. Some believed that he came from Celestial Court but his allies didn't think so. He was born in the upper continents as far as they knew. The journey remained unknown but he eventually made it to Celestial Court at a young age.

Another popular speculation included his being born in Celestial Court but was sent down to the upper continents for training.

Li Qiye's question piqued everyone's interest. Who was his master?

"I am just a junior fortunate enough to earn the love of the seniors in Celestial Court." Supreme humbly answered.

Li Qiye shook his head and said: "You're not fooling anyone. Nether Emperor and the likes are not worthy to be your master. His disciple wouldn't be as trusted, in fact, he himself wouldn't be given True Bones and this supreme momentum."

"Senior Nether was once the Lord of Celestial Court, a true paragon." Supreme didn't answer directly.

Nether Emperor was an unfamiliar name now, only the oldest emperors and monarchs knew of him.

The current lord was Sword Emperor; Nether was his predecessor. Sword Emperor was a rising star and contributed greatly during Immemorial Epoch War. Nether abdicated afterward and gave his role to Sword.

Sword's success also incited criticism and ridicule in secrecy. The reason was rather simple - his background.

Back during Time Immemorial, the Qian were branded as sinners by Celestial Court. Thus, they retaliated and led The People against the oppressors. Among their nine Heavenly Emperors, they had the unbeatable World Emperor and the brilliant Sword Emperor.

Unfortunately, Sword decided to join Celestial Court, going as far as destroying his own clan as the commander of the opposing side. His peerless contributions during the war paved the way for his ascension as the next lord.

Nonetheless, whispers of derision could be heard in the background regarding his traitorous behavior.

Of course, a few emperors and monarchs had no problem with this. After reaching a certain level, their originating sect and clan no longer mattered.

This happened rather often whenever someone ascended from the nine worlds or Eight Desolaces. Their ancestors could stand with The People but they chose to join The Race instead, resulting in an inevitable battle.

Now, everyone believed that Supreme's master was either Sword or Nether Emperor. The former had an unmatched sword dao so he could teach Supreme the way of the sword. However, Li Qiye didn't seem to think so.

"You have a different guess, Sir?" Supreme asked.

"Among the old monsters in Celestial Court, only four or so of them can actually show themselves. So one of the three immortals or that old man." Li Qiye said: "So tell me, which of the four is your master?"

Listeners became emotional after hearing this. In reality, outsiders didn't know much about Celestial Court.

They were aware of supreme cultivators there such as Crimson, Nether, Heaven Burial, Light-dragon, and Sword. Anyone older was a mystery to them.

"Your words always hit the mark, Sir." Supreme sighed and said: "I shouldn't be opposing you but alas, I am bound by duty."

He admitted that Li Qiye was correct. Unfortunately, listeners didn't know anything about these four existences.

"The three immortals of Celestial Court." Jilin Buddhist Emperor murmured, seemingly aware of these beings.

"I've heard of them." All-things Dao Lord said with a hushed tone: "They were awakened when the duck egg buyer led the coalition all the way to Celestial Court."

"Did they fight?" Hallowed Dao Lord asked with a serious expression.

All-things shook his head, unaware of the answer since he wasn't involved in the war back then.

"The old geezer has legends too, but I think only two people have seen him before." Swordsea Dao Lord joined in.

"Who are the two?" Ye Fantian asked curiously.

"Jiao Heng and Duality Master. Jiao Heng's visit was too long ago for the details to be known, but Duality Master had visited, rumor has it they even shared a drink together." Swordsea said.

"How strong is this cultivator?" Ye Fantian asked again.

"I do not know. From pieces here and there, there is a chance that he was the founder of Celestial Court. Of course, I have no solid evidence."

"The founder of Celestial Court." Ye Fantian was shaken since one could imagine his power after hearing this. How could he still be alive?

"Is this duty or just being a cannon fodder?" Li Qiye smiled while staring at Supreme.

"A great favor must be repaid by loyalty." Supreme said: "Sir, you must step over my body first if you wish to destroy Celestial Court. My bones shall be the first step of your path."

"You have good self-awareness among many other things, all valuable characteristics." Li Qiye clapped and said: "Fine, put down True Bones and you may leave this place unscathed."

Everyone took a deep breath. Someone of Li Qiye's level didn't need to bluster. Was he confident in defeating True Bones and killing Supreme?

They glanced at Supreme. Would he continue in spite of the odds?

"I am grateful for your affection, Sir. But, my devotion isn't mere empty words." Supreme shook his head.

Chapter 5472: Lord Of The World

"Very well, shall we get started?" Li Qiye asked with a smile.

"Sir, we await your guidance." Immortal Pagoda Conqueror said before gathering his power.

He had the might of the four broken realms behind him, channeling their forces through the four pagodas.

They empowered his primordial fruit, turning him into a gigantic lord wielding four different forces. Each of his breaths could release this power, easily destroying a continent or killing a top cultivator.

Although he was already stronger than virtually anyone prior to this, his power surged to an unsurpassable level.

"The heaven's favorite." Any spectator would have this notion in their mind. Now, his prophecy of being the greatest was being fulfilled.

This was different from Supreme's form as well. The latter was given to him by Celestial Court while Immortal Pagoda most likely prepared the pagodas in the four realms himself.

"Come." Li Qiye smiled and waited for the enemies to attack first.

"Perish!" Immortal Pagoda relied on his famed artifact once more. It exuded a blinding radiance and descended with the four of the broken realms, crushing everything along the way.

At this point, even All-things or Sword Queen wouldn't be able to stop it. A direct confrontation would result in them being blown to smithereens.

The upper continents and their living beings were subjected to unbearable pressure. They should be feeling dread because the pagoda could reduce all of them to blood.

If Li Qiye couldn't stop the attack, this would break through the battlefield and leak into the actual world. Countless would perish as a result and the landscape of the continents would be changed permanently.

"Take this!" Supreme swung True Bones as well.

The hum of the sword pierced through time itself and could be heard from the past to the future.

“Boom!” It split the world open while slashing at Li Qiye. If it could make it through him, it would certainly divide the upper continents into two new halves. The death count would be incalculable.

“Boom!” Souls left the body after witnessing the power of the two attacks.

Even the strongest cultivators who had dominated the nine firmaments were at a loss for words. This displayed a new concept of power, more than enough to eradicate anyone.

Everyone understood that Supreme and Immortal Pagoda Conqueror were the true lords of the upper continents since they had access to these ace cards.

They simply kept it hidden for a multitude of reasons. Alas, Li Qiye has forced them to show their hands, pushing them to the edge of despair.

Li Qiye smiled and became resplendent with an immortal light. Each of his movements was accompanied by the grand dao and all the laws of this world.

Although he still didn’t activate his aura and cultivation, everything within the six continents bent to his will.

His fusion with the world calmed everyone down instantly; the apocalyptic dread from the two attacks suddenly vanished.

As long as he stood at the forefront, the forces of destruction wouldn’t be able to get past his mastery of the grand dao and all other affinities.

Other self-proclaimed lords in the six continents were mere pretenders, unable to reach the apex.

The supreme forces of the two attacks suddenly exploded the moment he raised his hands. They caused devastating damage to the battlefield but didn’t hurt him at all.

He stopped the skeletal swords with two fingers, reserving his palm for the immortal pagoda. This scene left spectators breathless.

Chapter 5473: A Certain Someone

The insurmountable odds didn’t apply to Li Qiye. Although the crowd was shocked by the grand spectacle, they didn’t find the result surprising.

They felt something about his current state, that he was one with the world. No, he was the high heaven itself.

The high heaven was a concept beyond their grasp - unimaginable and unfathomable. Nonetheless, they could tell that this entity was true, evident by the terrifying tribulations.

Li Qiye was just as unstoppable as the heavenly tribulations. The skeletal sword and the combined might of the four broken realms were overwhelming, just not when the target was Li Qiye.

He was one with heaven and earth. Everything else could be destroyed and he would still exist. Some insightful cultivators gained a new understanding of anima and the true self. Was this the highest level?

“Anima... seeing the high heaven at the end of the path...” One of them murmured.

Prior to this, they had a vague idea of the end of the path after cultivating anima. Alas, something flashed in their mind after seeing Li Qiye’s current state.

“Seeing the high heaven...” The empowered Supreme and Immortal Pagoda became emotional as well, reaching the point of being “enlightened”.

Could this be the final destination of their path, the end of the dao?

One could now hear lightning crackles and thunderous explosions above Li Qiye as if a tribulation was forming. This only lasted for a few seconds before receding.

A valiant woman in the upper continent looked up and saw Li Qiye’s current state, murmuring: “Is it necessary to display the high heaven’s appearance when garnering this little power? Show-off.”

Meanwhile, Li Qiye prevented the sword and the pagoda from moving an inch. Supreme and Immortal Pagoda could see that this was futile.

“Senior, lend me a hand!” Immortal Pagoda shouted to everyone’s astonishment.

Who in the upper continents was qualified to help him now, given his empowered state? Moreover, “senior”?

“Celestial Court, descend!” Supreme shouted as well.

Everyone became tense and felt something ominous was unraveling.

A figure appeared in the deepest region of Ultimate - a place known by cultivators yet unexplorable. The dao profundity there was beyond the reach of apex cultivators.

Space and time morphed chaotically around him, unable to maintain their original form. This caused him to be ethereal like a shadow.

Nonetheless, they felt that he had understood all the mysteries and truths. No secrets in this world remained for him.

“Boom!” He raised one hand and took control of the four broken realms, activating the final radiance of a setting sun and extracting all of their power.

“Rumble!” The upper continents couldn’t contain such a frightening force and started expanding violently.

Storms and gales manifested into reality, ravaging the continents.

“Profound Emperor!” An ancient Grand Emperor saw him and gasped.

“Profound Emperor?” This was a nearly forgotten title - an immemorial being who was the founder of Divine Alliance.

In the distant epoch, only a few cultivators could be considered his equals - the most notable being Purewood Divine Emperor and World Emperor.

He disappeared not long after starting Divine Alliance. People speculated that he had chosen to live reclusively in Celestial Court or passed away from old age.

None expected to see him in Ultimate. Some have gone there before without knowing that it was his abode.

Chapter 5474: Secret Of The Momentum

His appearance shocked all the spectators, causing them to gasp. During Immemorial Epoch War, he stood equal to Crimson Emperor of Celestial Court and Immortal Monarch Yi Ye of Immortal Dao City.

Crimson fell in the battle while the monarch no longer appeared in public. Today, Profound was finally seen again.

“Boom!” At the same time, a primordial light descended - one that could only be seen during the start of time.

The image of Celestial Court manifested into reality, prompting others to kneel on the ground. However, the most frightening aspect was the bright stars rotating around the court while exuding an unrecognizable power.

“What is this affinity?” Others haven’t seen this type of power before.

A monarch became overwhelmed with emotions and shouted: “It’s from a heavenly treasure, he’s borrowing its power!”

Sure enough, this unknown affinity eventually attached itself and blessed Supreme.

“Clank!” True Bones was finally able to display its true power.

A terrible phenomenon emerged behind the sword - skeletons belonging to true dragons, the strongest monarchs, dao ancestors...

The strongest beings of an epoch were robbed of their bones and vitality - all for the sake of creating True Bones.

With the help of an unknown heavenly treasure, Supreme gained the force of an overlord capable of using True Bones to its fullest potential.

While everyone thought Celestial Court was on the verge of descending, a golden river shockingly appeared with the yin and yang separated.

“Activate!” Someone shouted and destroyed the visual phenomenon, revealing a hidden peak.

This was hidden by a supreme method but when the image of the court appeared, the stealth method was at its weakest. The attacker was none other than an Immortal Emperor - a middle-aged man wearing a yellow outfit with a hat, looking like a laborer.

"Immortal Emperor Ming Du!" Everyone was surprised to see him floating in space near the mysterious peak.

Was he not a member of Heaven Alliance? Why did he interfere with Supreme's summon?

As a senior member of Heaven Alliance, he was tasked with defending it during the war. Otherwise, The People might take advantage of their absence and attack their home.

"Boom!" He destroyed the peak as well, revealing another hidden entity - a giant made from peerless metals.

It slightly resembled the metal giants from Imperial Attendant City but was fundamentally different.

He then tore the giant apart, exposing the dimension inside. It was nothing more than a shell to hide strange effigies within.

No, these were living people lying on circular slabs positioned on top of a dao altar. The entire platform was inscribed with mysterious runes, channeling energy from living beings and using them as batteries for the sake of activating momentum...

The internal hull of the giant had countless dao stones and refined jades - all part of a supreme momentum's framework.

"So this is the source of the supreme momentum." An emperor took a deep breath.

Putting the immense resources aside, they used living cultivators as fuel for the momentum.

"They're ancient emperors and monarchs." Someone recognized these cultivators stuck in stasis.

"That's... that's Qian Dao Heaven Emperor, didn't all of them die back then?" A Grand Emperor from the Heaven Race recognized the founder of the Qian.

Qian Dao Heaven Emperor was rumored to be the second Grand Emperor after Purewood Divine Emperor. Rumor has it that every top member of the Qian was killed with the exception of Sword Emperor.

"Look over there, Majestic Emperor of the diviners." A different monarch saw another person and whispered: "He betrayed Celestial Court during Immemorial Epoch War."

The living batteries included members from both The People and The Race. Their descendants thought that they had fallen during Immemorial Epoch War.

As for Li Qiye, he focused on a woman who was sealed as well. She still looked young and wore a gray dress, nothing more.

Her simplicity was unique in that it made everything else seem superfluous. She was a deadly weapon, devoid of unnecessary components.

Chapter 5475: Heaven Raiser

The woman was beautiful with gentle features and porcelain skin. Her eyes remained open in her frozen state, looking like jewels. Her figure was just as immaculate - slender yet curvy in the right places. A golden ribbon was tied around her waist and accentuated her alluring curves.

Unfortunately, most would avert their gaze due to her intense murderous aura. It took the form of flames around her, causing others to back away.

She seemed to be the king of all assassins but alas, she was still captured and being used as a battery like the rest.

Li Qiye's eyes flashed menacingly after seeing her.

Everyone else was shocked as well to see the cultivators hidden behind the source of the supreme momentum. Some of these prisoners were ancient beings that once dominated their eras.

Supreme was certainly not the person who came up with this. He was yet to be born during their era; the only answer was Celestial Court. Even members of Heaven Alliance shuddered after seeing this revelation.

Perhaps one day, they would be sacrificed as well if Celestial Court deemed it necessary.

"No wonder why this had to be kept a secret." A monarch said with a solemn tone.

Outside of strategic reasons, they had no choice but to keep this a secret. Otherwise, they risk the animosity of both The Race and The People. Some might start leaving Heaven Alliance as a result.

"No one would find out without Immortal Emperor Ming Du's interference." A dao lord said.

This was no coincidence; the source would still have been hidden behind the gigantic shell if it wasn't for Ming Du's attack. He waited for this exact moment to show the world what Celestial Court had been hiding.

"Boom!" Profound Emperor channeled enough power in the four broken realms, clearly having more mastery in this process than Immortal Pagoda Conqueror.

"Clank!" Meanwhile, the supreme momentum still powered True Bones, preparing for another assault.

However, something massive flew out of Ultiamte - the same entity that had escaped from Lesser Firmament.

This time around, a primordial radiance ignited and chased away the fog shrouding the entity. This revealed a middle-aged man. A dark wound on his chest started closing as well.

"Three souls as one!" He roared thunderously.

Inside Lesser Firmament, the man wearing Moon Embrace lost control of his body and started flying toward the horizon.

As for Firmament Godchild who had gotten far away, he was still lifted off the ground. He shouted: "Damn it all, I just want to be free, why is this happening to me? I don't want to shoulder the heaven anymore! Not like this!"

Unfortunately, his complaints fell on deaf ears. He was still dragged in the direction of Ultimate.

It only took a second for the two to arrive and combine together with the recently recovered man. The three souls became one again.

"Boom!" An eruption of light temporarily blinded everyone.

Once it dispersed, everyone could see the man clearly - someone capable of shouldering the high heaven.

The gods and emperors paid tribute to his greatness; The myriad dao paled in comparison. One step of his could cause the celestials to rain from the sky. He could overturn the ages with a mere gesture - a truly unbeatable being.

Profound Emperor's expression soured after seeing him.

"Wo-World Emperor, World Emperor of the Qian!" Many ancient emperors and monarchs couldn't believe their own eyes.

"That's World Emperor?" Others had heard of his legends before.

He stood at the apex during Time Immemorial and even the previous epoch. Rumor has it that he was the lord of all three races, even going as far as reigning over Celestial Court.

The Qian certainly dominated with their nine emperors. However, he was still the most important factor. Even the arrogant Crimson Emperor couldn't defeat him in combat.

He was the first to stand against Celestial Court's judgment against The People, leading his clan against tyranny.

Unfortunately, Sword Emperor betrayed him and in just one night, his clan disappeared from the world.

His tragic fate made countless people sigh with regret over the years. Today, it looked like he had escaped with severe injuries. Some of his clan members were still alive, albeit being used as living batteries for Celestial Court.

With his injuries healed and his souls as one, he awed the world with his presence once more. Nostalgia swept through the old cultivators near the battlefield.

"Can Profound Emperor stop him?" They could tell that a battle between these two was inevitable - both top-tier members of the three races.

Chapter 5476: My Mission Is Over

"Boom!" World Emperor activated his immortal armament for a direct attack on Profound Emperor.

The immense distance between them meant nothing as a torrent of power soared forward. Profound no longer had time to help Immortal Pagoda, needing to use his dao to stop World Emperor. They turned all of Ultimate into a battlefield.

“Time to end this.” Li Qiye leaped into the air, still accompanied by the myriad dao since he was the paragon of this world.

“Whoosh!” He swung his hand like an axe, no longer holding back.

Supreme’s True Bones and Immortal Pagoda’s empowered state were certainly strong. Alas, they couldn’t stop an attack from the high heaven.

He destroyed Supreme’s momentum and crushed the power channels from the four broken realms.

His aura affected Ultimate, dispelling all the dao there. This caused Profound Emperor to spit out a mouthful of blood.

He understood the gravity of the situation and immediately fled for his life, running through a portal prepared deeper inside Ultimate. World immediately gave chase and disappeared as well.

“Ahh!” Supreme couldn’t withstand the blow without the supreme momentum. His sacred fruits and tree disintegrated instantly.

Immortal Pagoda didn’t fare any better. His supreme dao and everything else were destroyed with the exception of his primordial fruit, purposely left intact by Li Qiye.

Silence returned to the scene after Li Qiye obliterated his opponents. The phenomenon of Celestial Court and the pulsing power of the unknown heavenly treasure were eradicated as well.

The chop earlier by Li Qiye seemed akin to a blow from the high heaven, fully suppressing powerful cultivators and mortals.

“You are unbeatable, Sir. My mission... is over...” Supreme uttered his last words before turning stiff and dead.

“Hahaha, I... I witnessed invincibility, no regrets...” Immortal Pagoda laughed as well before coughing out blood; his legs kicked out one last time before following Supreme to the grave.

The crowd needed a moment to digest the death of these two apex cultivators. Both were destined for greatness and sure enough, they lived up to everyone’s expectations. They still deserved respect despite dying to Li Qiye today.

The two carried out their duty and died valiantly in battle. Their era was now over, ended by Li Qiye who didn’t need to resort to using a weapon. Everyone trembled after recalling how easy it was for Li Qiye.

“What a shame, they were brilliant.” Someone commented while watching Li Qiye taking away True Bones and the primordial dao fruit.

“Emperor, you are invincible.” A monarch bowed in Li Qiye’s direction.

Others regained their wits and also bowed, realizing that this was a being far beyond their reach.

Supreme and Immortal Pagoda could have massacred all of them earlier, yet they couldn't last a single move against Li Qiye.

This battle ended in no time at all. Since Li Qiye showed no intention of pursuing the issue, members of Heaven Alliance quietly retreated after Supreme's death.

To try rising up against Li Qiye was a suicidal endeavor. Having the number advantage didn't matter in the slightest. From now on, Heaven Alliance will only exist on paper.

All-things and his allies heaved a sigh of relief. Heaven Alliance had all but disbanded. Divine Alliance wasn't in a better state either.

Their mission of protecting The People was finished and they could focus on cultivation again. There was no need to act as protectors any longer.

"Peace at last?" Mortals back in the upper continents couldn't witness the fight and the splendor of the emperors.

Nonetheless, the pressure was now gone and they could finally stand up again. Warm sunlight returned and made them feel lucky to be alive.

Some thought that perhaps it would be better for the world if there were no emperors and gods for they were potential sources of calamity.

They have heard legends about Emperor Wars before. Nearly experiencing a second one made them pray for a swift end to any conflict.

Chapter 5477: Fortune

The crowd stared at Li Qiye as if he was the high heaven itself. Jilin Buddhist Emperor and Azure Ancestor took their men closer for an official audience.

If it wasn't for their ancestors, they wouldn't have been qualified to pay their respect to Li Qiye. This was akin to mortals and regular cultivators wanting to have an audience with a dao lord - just simply impossible.

"My Lord." Principle Conqueror kneeled before Li Qiye along with his descendants.

Li Qiye had visited the Lu in the past. Alas, he had no ties with them now outside of Principle being wise enough to serve him.

Li Qiye glanced at them and said: "I shall be leaving soon and given our fateful connection, you may ask for a fortune."

Everyone listened attentively and became envious of the Lu. Although top cultivators didn't necessarily need anything, their sect and clan certainly needed help.

To have a fortune from Li Qiye meant that their descendants could prosper for eras to come. Everyone else desired a favor from the conquerors while the conquerors wanted nothing more than to be granted a wish by Li Qiye.

“You are too kind, My Lord.” Principle said: “But the Lu has already received your grace in the past and further greed will only birth complacency and pride. We ask for nothing more.”

This surprised many top cultivators nearby. This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity yet Principle politely refused.

However, after thinking it through, some thought that this was a reasonable decision. The Lu was already strong enough with ample resources. Their descendants were blessed at birth.

Future prosperity depended on their descendants’ efforts and had nothing to do with Principle.

“That is fine.” Li Qiye nodded: “Humility is a virtue that can grant stability and peace.”

“We will not let you down, My Lord.” Principle bowed again with his descendants.

He knew that this might be their last meeting because Li Qiye wouldn’t just stop at the immortal continent. He would soar to a place unreachable by the likes of them.

Li Qiye nodded approvingly before gesturing for Li Zhitian to come closer. The latter obeyed and brought his fellow clan members over as well.

In reality, they were in a tough position. The Imperial Clan was a part of Celestial Court and had been a pillar for Heaven Alliance.

Li Qiye had stated his goal of attacking Celestial Court, meaning that he would be fighting their ancestors eventually. Therefore, Li Zhitian had no reason or qualifications to see Li Qiye.

Nonetheless, he was summoned and respectfully accepted the call.

Li Qiye smiled at him and said: “You have an open mind and an open heart, you do not discriminate between The Race or The People. Are you aware of your duties now?”

“Young Noble, that will be my life goal, I will guarantee peace and never show bias between the two sides. I will not let you down.” Li Zhitian understood and knelt.

Li Qiye handed him the primordial fruit and said: “Let us see what you can accomplish then.”

“I humbly accept.” Zhitian accepted the primordial fruit.

All eyes were on him. Most couldn’t use the primordial fruit since they had their own dao fruits. This didn’t mean that the fruit was useless outside of cultivation.

The primordial fruit was gained through cultivation or fortune. No one else had access to one otherwise.

Since Li Zhitian had one outside of this, it implied that the Imperial Clan would have a primordial-fruit user in the future - an existence comparable to Immortal Pagoda Conqueror or their ancestors, Crimson Emperor and Titanic Conqueror.

The group paid respect one more time before leaving.

“Benefactor, will you visit Azure Peak again?” Azure Ancestor bowed, aware of how fleeting this moment was.

She was different from the others, possessing a special bond with Li Qiye. He was there to protect her during the moment of her birth and could be considered her father.

"I'm afraid not." Li Qiye smiled and shook his head. He then gestured for Li Xian'er to come over.

"She'll stay in Azure Peak, she will do great things in the future and it is mutually beneficial." Li Qiye said.

Both didn't have a problem with this. Li Xian'er had no home to speak of so Li Qiye purposely set up Azure Peak as a new home for her. This would pave a stable path for her future, not letting her fall into the darkness.

The two women bowed one more time and retreated to the side.

Li Qiye turned his attention toward Ye Fantian and said: "You may tag along with me to train for a bit."

This shocked everyone in the audience. By this point, Li Qiye's superiority was apparent to all; they thought that he was the embodiment of the high heaven.

Apex cultivators were mere insects compared to him. Thus, this invitation took them by surprise.

Chapter 5478: Gentle Breezes

Ye Fantian became the center of attention since she had just been offered the ultimate fortune. Her future had limitless potential if she were to accept.

She was already brilliant for cultivating twelve dao fruits at the same time, something that had only been done by Light-dragon and Demon Conqueror. By choosing to follow Li Qiye, she would undoubtedly exceed her predecessors.

Ye Fantian glanced back at Swordsea Dao Lord. Although she had left Divine Alliance, she still didn't forget about her roots.

"Go, I have nothing more to teach you on this path." Swordsea was excited for her and said: "I'll be in isolated cultivation after this for who knows how many years? Being taught by the young noble is a supreme fortune."

He was her unofficial master but now, she had carved her own path after possessing twelve dao fruits. He didn't have much to teach her any longer and supported Li Qiye's decision.

She kneeled before Swordsea and performed a full rite while speaking: "It was a blessing of three lifetimes to have you as a master. Please accept."

With that, she kowtowed nine times. Everyone understood that she might not return to see Swordsea again, unable to repay his kindness. This gesture was warranted so Swordsea didn't stop her.

After finishing, she stood up and bowed to those standing behind Swordsea: "Seniors, I will not forget your kindness." They had helped with her training and even protected her.

"The dao is endless but you all will go far." Li Qiye then turned toward All-things and his allies.

They didn't have a strong connection with Li Qiye so they didn't kneel. All-things was the most polite out of them and bowed: "We will cherish your advice, Young Noble, and will not stop progressing."

Li Qiye nodded and didn't say anything else.

"Will we meet again?" Xiao Hu ran to the front and looked up at him.

Li Qiye gently stroked his head and smiled: "That depends on your future accomplishments."

"I will try my best." The youth clenched his fists and declared before running back to Hallowed Dao Lord.

"I should pay Pure Land a visit." Li Qiye said.

"I'll accompany you, Young Noble." Jilin Buddhist Emperor said softly, not expecting to see him again after an epoch of time.

"Return first and wait." Li Qiye said before gazing into the distance where someone was waving at him.

"We will be waiting, Young Noble." She bowed.

Li Qiye nodded and floated up into the air, eventually disappearing into the horizon.

Everyone heaved a sigh of relief after his departure. The battle today was unforgettable even to the battle-hardened veterans since it changed the direction of the upper continents.

Li Qiye left an indelible mark in their memories. They thought that they had gone far enough on the dao path. Alas, witnessing his power made them wonder whether they had even started cultivating. There was much work to be done, but at the very least, the possibilities of the dao were clearly endless.

An ancient pine coiled like a dragon above a divine peak. The latter towered over the landscape but still seemed tiny compared to the tree.

A woman perched on top of one of its branches, kicking her legs back and forth. She wore a white robe with her hair tied up in a bun, looking like a man at first sight.

Her appearance could only be described as average. Nonetheless, she had no dead angle and one could never get tired of looking at her. Ordinary yet remarkably captivating - words couldn't describe the juxtaposition.

She had drunk with Li Qiye previously and now, he joined her again on the tree branch.

Gentle breezes caused the pine needles to sway softly and rustle like the waves of the ocean. The world could be seen in its entirety before them.

She glanced at Li Qiye and asked: "So? Did you feel cool playing the high heaven?"

She paused for a moment and had a faint smirk: "Being the high heaven feels pretty good, right?"

"How pointless, just another repetition. What I seek is not to replace but rather, an answer." He shook his head in response.

"Why not ask me?" She smiled playfully but her suggestion contained strong implications.

“Even if I were to ask you, you don’t know the answer, it is the same yet not.” He said.

“Oh? So you’ve figured it out.” She smiled.

“What I saw before wasn’t like this.” He said: “I didn’t recognize it then.”

“Because I defeated you so thoroughly.” She said before pausing for a bit: “Yes, the same yet not, but in the end, the same origin.”

“Indeed.” He admitted: “From what I can tell, this impossible matter has precedents.”

“It’s different this time, mission-wise.” She shook his head.

“Why does it come?” He stared at her and asked.

She cast a glance at the horizon and didn’t answer. It seemed that all living beings and the lands were within her sight.

After a brief pause, she said slowly: “This world is truly beautiful.”

“There are some ugly aspects but yes, it is beautiful indeed.” He nodded.

Chapter 5479: Absolute Dominance

The woman took her time sensing the unique auras of the world. After a while, she opened her eyes and said: “How wonderful, really a cause for hesitation.”

“Hesitation doesn’t save it from being reduced to ashes.” Li Qiye smiled.

“You’re ruining the mood.” She said angrily.

“We both know what will happen.” Li Qiye shrugged.

“I am not the one responsible.” She tilted her head and said.

“Then who is responsible? My epoch is nearly at its prime, the inevitable is coming.” Li Qiye said.

“Yes.” She pondered for a moment and admitted: “The path that you’re on will actually hasten it.”

“That’s not surprising.” Li Qiye said: “So it won’t be you.”

“Everyone has their own karma and body, the same for me.” She shook her head.

“Then perhaps it is time for a change, a new body.” Li Qiye said. [1]

“True, that body has been gone for a long time.” She said.

“It’s rather commendable. Entering and learning the world, growing to love it, enduring hardships without any regret.” Li Qiye said.

“Trying to persuade me?” She uttered coldly.

“That’s useless. You are not stronger than the other body, there is nothing you can do for me even if you stay here.” He said.

"Looking down on me?" She glared at him: "Perhaps the beating last time was insufficient, not taking me seriously anymore after barely surviving."

"Of course not." He shrugged: "You are perfection across the ages, transcending and ever transforming, neither male nor female nor anything else..."

"Is that an insult?" She seemed eager to beat Li Qiye down; her eyes flashed menacingly.

"I'm merely speaking the truth, you didn't look like this the last time we met. Plus, male or female, there's no difference at all to you since you are beyond such definition." He said.

"Whatever." The woman scoffed: "He is him and I am me, he has his own karma and so do I."

"A single wish can change all of this. The karmic ties of the world do not bind you, you have a separate karmic system altogether just like him. Everything can be resolved." He said.

"Your attempt at creating a rift between us is useless." The woman said: "We have the same source so it's idiotic that you're even trying."

"Is that so? Under the previous circumstances, sure, but what about now? If I remember correctly, a different body does not think so." He said.

"So what? Born from a hundred deaths but it's all fleeting, just merely surviving in this world." She said.

"Isn't that enough? Having fought countless emperors alone and sweeping through the continents." He said.

"That's just strutting around in an anthill, not worth mentioning. The past body could have destroyed numerous epochs with a single wave." She said with disdain.

"You're not wrong, it's definitely not on the same scale." He paused for a bit and said: "However, that ant certainly enjoyed their time and life. Only by actually experiencing life would one be able to learn of its joys."

"Am I not a living being right now?" She said.

"You are alive, not a rock, but you have too much awareness of your own. You're not settling in, choosing to observe the world instead of actually experiencing the joy of life." He said.

"Don't forget about the suffering." She snorted.

"As long as there are living beings, there will be joy and suffering." He nodded.

"No need to persuade me." She shook her head: "He is deeply infected by the mortal coil, not I. I do not have such karma and need not such karma."

"Yes, your karma originated from a single thought and source." He said.

"If I were you, I would think more about how to escape or your preference of how to die." She suggested.

"I'm afraid I haven't thought of either." He smiled.

"I suppose your confidence is still intact despite running with your tail between your legs back then." She snorted.

"Let's not dwell on the past and plus, I consider it a victory since you couldn't kill me." He smiled.

"Hmph, we'll get another opportunity soon enough." She sneered.

"That day will come, but you probably won't remember what you have said today." He said flatly.

"This world is ephemeral, nothing more than a passing cloud. Dissipating is inevitable, no need to leave traces." She said.

"This is your karma and your meaning of existence?" He asked.

"Skip this nonsense. Everything is possible, my body can be his or that body, and the three can be united as one again."

"I think it's impossible to have three bodies now." He smiled.

"Not right now but in the future, the near future." She pondered for a moment before responding seriously.

Li Qiye's expression changed as well. He nodded in agreement: "Yes, that body will definitely appear."

"And that is when your epoch shall be destroyed." She tapped his shoulder and said: "See, I'm nice enough to give you a heads up so you can prepare in advance lest be caught off guard."

"How can I ever repay you?" He joked.

"Do you actually want to repay me?" She asked.

"No, only if you stay. How can I repay someone who won't be here?" He waved his hand.

"Hmph, always scheming." She sneered.

"How am I scheming when it is entirely up to your desire?" He disagreed.

"It's not possible. My body is incomparable to his, you have an immovable dao heart, I have an immovable body. You have no control over it." She said.

"Yes, I am powerless here indeed." He nodded.

"Just accept reality, death will come knocking." She said.

"Death, to me, is also joy, a sweet release." He earnestly said.

"What if death avoids you?" She stared straight at him.

He understood the implication and let a sigh before replying: "It's inevitable, each has their own destiny."

Chapter 5480: The Flames Will Spread To You

"You do not wish to save?" The woman asked.

"I can save one but not all living beings. They have their own destiny." He said.

"Looks like you're just as heartless as us." Her eyes narrowed.

"It's fine to call me heartless, but I'm different from you all who were born without emotions." He disagreed.

"True, we never had emotions." She clapped in agreement.

"But, you're infected by the mortal coil now." He had a glimpse of amusement in his eyes while glancing at her.

"Don't give me that look, so what if I'm infected? I can sever it easily." She smiled.

"I don't think severing this karma is that simple." He responded.

"Do you know who you're talking to? My body can sever the mortal coil, I'm not him." She said with determination.

"Perhaps." He didn't wish to contest this issue.

"I must make my move." She warned: "It'll be a full sweep when I arrive, you best be prepared."

"For what? You do your thing, I'll do mine, that's all." He shook his head.

"That's not your style, they are the closest to you." She said.

"Yes." He said sentimentally before sighing: "Closest to me indeed."

"But you will just watch them die?" She sneered: "For the sake of watching the tigers fight and take advantage of the aftermath?"

"To be carefree without looking back is a great fortune. They know what they will face before embarking on this path. Death is an acceptable ending; they must face this tribulation with courage."

"As you wish, I will not be holding back for any reason." She shrugged.

"Are you sure you can carry it out?" He asked.

"Don't think I can? I will fight you right now in your own epoch." She aggressively declared.

"No, you have seen everything before and killed wondrous cultivators. It's just that no one will sit idly awaiting death, even rabbits will start biting when pushed to the brink." He shook his head.

"I want to see how they will bite." She said.

"Biting is one thing, they're most likely digging pits and waiting for you to jump in so they can bury you." He smiled.

"The pits need to be rather large. This has been their plan for a long time now." She chuckled.

"Patience has run out. Even your other body can wait no longer." He said.

"Just part of the cycle, a full sweep will right everything." She uttered coldly.

After a brief pause, he changed the topic: "Don't you ever thought about being yourself?"

"Have you lost your mind? I am myself." She glared at him.

"I have a *me* as well. He asked me if I was being too cruel to myself. I didn't think so but that was his perspective, an unmatched hardship and cruelty." He glanced at the sky and said.

She didn't respond quickly this time. After a few seconds, she asked: "So you feel that you're a bastard because of this?"

"A bit." He shrugged: "But if I'm a bastard, who else isn't? Putting that aside, do you think I'm suffering?"

"Your words are useless, I am immovable." She gazed at the distance for a bit before lowering her head.

"I'm not persuading you to do anything." He shrugged: "Well, I'm sure the trip must have been hard so you shouldn't return empty-handed, and what's more significant than changes for us?"

Having said that, he pointed at his head and said: "For us, changes can happen with a single thought."

"That's your perspective." She smiled: "This doesn't happen with a single thought, it happened epochs ago for the other body."

"Sure, but a single thought sparked the change." He responded: "A seed was planted and it would blossom in the future. It has taken root in our epoch."

"Heh." She chuckled and said: "A single thought or not, it's meaningless because you cannot wait to see that day. Your epoch and your world, even you will have been reduced to ashes."

"Don't be so sure. Perhaps all of you won't be there in that distant future but I will be." He said calmly.

"Replacing us?" She glared at him.

"You already know that I do not wish to walk on a path that has been paved, nothing changes in that case. I only want an answer." He shrugged.

"It won't be as you wish." She shook her head, having absolute confidence in her assertion.

"Either way, it must be done, just like how you will descend regardless of your wish for this is your karma and duty." He said.

"I can sever it if I wish to." She responded.

"Exactly, and when that happens, your body shall be no more." He laughed: "You do harbor this thought so I don't need to say more."

"Worry about yourself first, the flames will eventually reach you." She said.

"They will reach you first. I'm not the one who can't sit still right now, you know this." He smiled.

"I can't wait until I beat this smug grin off your face." She snorted.

Today, no one in this world would dare to speak to Li Qiye like this. Alas, she seemed confident in carrying out this threat.

"How pitiful. The next time we meet, you can't even keep your words since you won't recognize and remember me, not even remembering your own threat." He shook his head.

She froze for a moment because this was indeed the case.

"Who knows? I remember you now and still find you as annoying as ever." She said.

"Since you've descended into my world, we have connected. Once you're gone, so will the bridge." He said.

She didn't respond this time.

"Sometimes I wonder about this feeling. Is it my own desire or something else?" He asked.

"Did you ask your other self this?" She stared at him.

"No, and it's too late now. Plus, it's probably not that important." He said.

She ruminated the last line before glaring at him: "You better give up on this idea. After I finish my sweep, we will have our life-and-death battle."

"Very well, I'll be waiting to see if you still remember these words when the time comes." He smiled.

"I will remember." She stood up and nodded at him. With that, she departed from the tree.