

## Emperor 5481

### Chapter 5481: Ashamed

Li Qiye left the tree, entering a certain dimension with someone waiting for him.

"Teacher." The man in yellow kneeled before Li Qiye.

He was none other than Immortal Emperor Ming Du, a despicable traitor in the eyes of The People.

"Your student has brought disgrace to your name, Teacher." The emperor apologized.

"You did no such thing, your actions were selfless. Few in your position can abandon personal honor and reputation. Get up." Li Qiye shook his head and lifted the emperor off the ground.

"To be able to see and speak with you again, Teacher, looks like I'm one of the lucky ones." He smiled happily.

"You nearly threw your life away by joining Heaven Alliance." Li Qiye said.

"What else can I do when my skills are insufficient? I only wanted to join Celestial Court to get more information about the unknown guest. Somehow, I ended up joining it and ended up in Heaven Alliance amidst the chaos." Ming Du elaborated.

"At the very least, I managed to save Miss Sima and the others. Otherwise, it would have been for nothing." He added while glancing at the woman who had a murderous chilling intent.

She was none other than Sima Yujian who had followed Li Qiye to the thirteen continents in the past.

"Young Master." She bowed her head.

"Look at you, nearly throwing your life away too." Li Qiye shook his head before taking out an old box: "Here, time for you to have it back."

This came from Mist Deity and originally belonged to Sima Yujian.

"I left this as a clue." She gently rubbed the box.

"Because of her disappearance." Li Qiye smiled.

"Perilous, I'm sure, but I believe that she is still alive." Yujian said with determination.

"So I heard that you all tried to assassinate someone in Celestial Court. That didn't work out." Li Qiye brought up the past.

Sima Yujian appeared forlorn after this was brought up. She said softly: "We received information regarding a foreign visitor not from this world."

"An investigation was warranted given the circumstances." He said.

"We asked the empress and she shared the same concern. No one from outside should come here, and Celestial Court of all places." Yujian nodded: "We speculated that this person must have come specifically for you, so we came up with a plan."

Li Qiye sighed and said: "Your cultivation isn't bad but you can't deal with Celestial Court alone, let alone the visitor."

"Jianzhen and I only wanted to scout first but the unexpected happened, forcing us to attack. We fought our way out with Jianzhen in the backline. I alone made it out..." Yujian said: "We're the ones who started the war."

After the failed assassination, the furious Celestial Court declared judgment on the sinners. This was the start of Immemorial Epoch War and a significant reduction in the number of emperors and monarchs.

"You didn't start it." Li Qiye shook his head: "It was settled with the arrival of the visitor. Celestial Court planned this long ago but the overlords had their qualms. The visitor must have given them enough confidence to try, they just didn't expect the fierce response from everyone else."

"The empress and the others prepared for years to create a momentum strong enough to fight that unknown visitor. The casualties were immense." Yujian said with regret.

"They were amazing." Li Qiye said sentimentally.

"If only I were as capable." Ming Du said: "I have done nothing in recent years."

"As I've said, few could do what you did, abandoning pride and reputation." Li Qiye smiled.

Ming Du was anything but a traitor. He joined Celestial Court to figure out all the secrets.

"I tried to find more information but the visitor disappeared after the battle with the empress. I delved into Celestial Court but couldn't find anyone either. Nonetheless, I heard about the method to control True Bones, that's why I volunteered to join Heaven Alliance and descended." Ming Du elaborated.

His main goal was to find the hidden overlords but nothing came to fruition. He assumed that with the visitor's arrival, some of them might actually show up. Alas, there was no reaction.

He then noticed prisoners from the war being moved to a certain place. Further research revealed the existence of a grand momentum and the usage of True Bones.

His insistence across the eras eventually yielded fruits - saving the prisoners from the momentum arrays.

"You make it sound so easy." Li Qiye patted his shoulder and said: "The geezers are wily and patient, it's alright, you have done your best."

"I'm sorry for letting you down, Teacher." Ming Du sighed.

"Look, I can't lock on to their coordinates either since the last epoch. You didn't spend as much time, I'm the one who should be embarrassed." Li Qiye chuckled.

"What should we do now, Teacher?" Ming Du asked.

"What can we do? The inevitable will come and no one will be able to escape." Li Qiye said.

"I understand." Ming Du knew about Li Qiye's plan from long ago, just not the exact details.

"Will you be going to Celestial Court now, Young Master? I must return as well to find Jianzhen." Yujian couldn't stay calm.

"I will but only when the time is right. There is no rush after waiting all this time already." He said: "Are you confident that she is still alive?"

"We had a designated location so I must return there." Yujian said.

"Wait for the right time." Li Qiye said.

"I understand." She bowed and could see the bigger picture and the importance of prudence.

"Do as you like now, I have to leave." Li Qiye said.

They bowed again and departed.

## **Chapter 5482: Your Destination**

Pure Land was renowned for its untraceable lineage and maintained a neutral stance, unlike the four alliances.

The alliances were only known in the cultivation world; mortals didn't have knowledge of them. Most never had the privilege to meet regular cultivators, let alone dao lords and conquerors.

Mortals viewed cultivators as mysterious immortals or gods capable of unbelievable feats. Due to a clear barrier, they had no idea they were protected by the various alliances.

Mortals could eventually become cultivators and join the alliances but by that point, they were now separated from their previous world.

The same couldn't be said about Pure Land. The power of Buddhism protected all within its territories without any prejudice. One didn't need to be a Buddhist to enjoy the privileges.

Moreover, enlightened monks appeared in each generation. They entered the mortal world and blessed the fateful ones, even the mortals.

They assisted commoners and nobles alike with mental problems or being haunted by dream demons. Cultivators could use their assistance when dealing with heart devils as well.

The marks of these monks could be seen all over Pure Land, unlike the top members of the alliances.

Due to their virtuous deeds, those who stayed in Pure Land for a long period gradually sought out Buddhism.

Its influence ran deep just like its rich history. Today, it had a new visitor - Li Qiye who was accompanied by Jilin Buddhist Emperor.

The two took their time walking and sensing the peace of this region. They heard Buddhist hymns and felt the affinity embedded in the winds. Pagodas shrouded by light could be seen in many places, often the source of the affinity. They washed and purified the inhabitants, granting them peace of mind.

Mighty Buddhas were present as well; some capable of enlightening even emperors. The most famous among them was Meru - a Buddhist who eventually became an emperor as well.

The force was majestic yet gentle and pleasant like spring itself. Travelers could relax during their journey.

Lotus flowers bloomed beneath Jilin Buddhist Emperor's steps along the way. The grand dao harmonized in her presence.

She vividly recalled the period of the thirteen continents - the era of the emperors and monarchs and the golden age of her clan.

Everything had changed today. Thirteen continents were reduced to six; most emperors and monarchs were no longer present along with their lineages.

Blue seas replaced the mulberry fields. Eras passed by within the blink of an eye but after meeting Li Qiye again and recalling the past, she understood how much had happened during her life.

The two sat down in front of a cliff to enjoy the sea breezes. Even the ocean and its slightly salty air were filled with Buddhist affinity.

"Young Master, for what purpose do people live?" She eventually asked while staring straight at him.

"Do you wish to enter the world?" He answered with a question.

She tilted her head and ruminated for a bit before responding: "Even if I do, where can I go? Only lands of the past."

"They are boundless." He said.

"Unfortunately, they aren't meant for me." She responded.

"Weary of the world, I see." He let out a sigh.

"I suppose Buddhism is essentially a leap away from the worldly realm." She remarked.

"However, one must still not forget the world. Otherwise, how can they spread Buddhism and deliver salvation?" He smiled.

"Right, the two sides complement each other." She agreed.

"It's beyond that, Buddhism exists precisely because of the world and its living beings." He shook his head.

She softly repeated his line.

"Would Buddhas exist without living beings? They are born from belief so without thoughts and devotion, they will be nothing more than inanimate statues." He said.

"You're right about Buddhism. It exists because of living beings." She agreed.

"This is a key difference between Buddhism and Daoism." He said: "Daoist cultivators train for the arts but monks cultivate to become Buddhas."

He then stared at her and said: "Perhaps you should return to the mortal world for that is your true destination, whether it be as a Buddhist Emperor or a regular person."

"What makes you say this, Young Master?" She asked; her halo suddenly flashed brightly as if it was reacting to Li Qiye's comment.

### **Chapter 5483: You Can Go Farther**

"That is your dao." Li Qiye said.

"My dao." She said softly.

She was once a princess of the Jilin, eventually becoming its ruler. Later on, she entered a Buddhist sect; its name back then was not Pure Land.

She eventually became a Buddhist Emperor and lived reclusively in Pure Land. The mortal coil ceased to be a part of her life.

Today, she entered the world again because of Li Qiye. This was absolutely a challenge to her current dao.

"From an imperial clan to Buddhism, now a return to the mortal realm." He said.

She glanced at the horizon, seemingly capable of seeing the end of the world.

"Fate has separated us, can I still go back?" She asked.

The world had changed entirely. Her clan was no longer there, the same for her friends and family members.

Li Qiye was someone who could keep up with her but he was about to leave.

"The threads of fate weave in and out, it is all in your mind, whether it be Buddhism or anything else." He said.

"I can still break through, Young Master?" She could tell that he was guiding her.

He gently caressed her cheeks; she closed her eyes and felt his heat. His warmth brought her back to the past when she once cared about the world.

"You can go farther, Buddhism is confusing you right now and causing stagnation." He elaborated.

"But Buddhism is the reason for my current attainment." She said.

"Yes, success because of Buddhism, but also failure. You are stuck in the way of the past." He nodded.

"Is that why I should return to secular life?" She said softly.

"No, it's not like that. Buddhism still exists as long as you wish it so. Nonetheless, you've been a Buddha for too long and it is time for a change." He said.

"I see..." She answered: "But I've traveled across the mortal realm before and delivered salvation."

This was part of her journey before becoming a Buddhist Emperor.

"You had the mindset of a passerby who will eventually leave." He smiled.

"Yes, because everything will disperse in the end, the mortal life is ephemeral." She agreed.

"To a new world. If there is nothing worth remembering in this world, sow the seeds in another and make it worthy." He said.

"Another world?" She wondered.

"There might not be anything here for you now but you can start anew in one of the new worlds." He said.

"New worlds?" She became surprised.

"They will appear in due time, nascent worlds grasping for life before the proliferation of living beings. You should be able to find a new path there, no longer limited to the current Buddhist Dao." He said.

"A nascent world... What about you, Young Master? Will you be there too?" She asked.

"Yes, I must pass through them eventually. It's just that I have unfinished business right now." He said.

"When that day comes, I will be going ahead and waiting for you, Young Master." She bowed her head.

He gently tapped her forehead three times and said: "Until we meet again."

He started walking away but she called for him: "Young Master."

He stopped and looked back with a smile.

"You were worrying about me?" She asked.

"I have experienced the same confusion that you are now, the same for the many Buddhist sages in history, the overlords as well. Having attachments is necessary or the dao heart will not be able to persevere." He said.

"I understand, I will be there in the new worlds." She took a deep breath and understood the reason.

"I hope everything will stay the same with you." He smiled and left for a certain area in Pure Land.

The temple seemingly knew of Li Qiye's arrival since a monk was waiting by the entrance.

His kasaya was old with numerous patches. Nonetheless, this didn't matter due to the monk's impressive Buddhist aura. A halo floated behind him with an entire kingdom within.

He possessed a casual demeanor, lacking the dignified air typically associated with enlightened monks.

"We meet again, Sir." The monk greeted.

Those from the lower continents would be startled to see him here - Mahayana Buddha of Myriad Buddha City.

"I agreed to a visit before, so here I am." Li Qiye smiled.

"You are a man of your word." The monk placed his palms together and welcomed Li Qiye to the temple.

Divine chants and sacred radiance could be seen everywhere. Auspicious clouds covered a floating realm of Buddhism.

All living beings here could become Buddhas in due time. The dharma had no limits here.

A particular lotus flower was quietly growing; it seemed to be the center of this realm and Buddhism.

The monk next to Li Qiye suddenly disappeared. After a buzz, the petals of the lotus opened and released wondrous light. Each burst contained boundless potential for Buddhism.

Anyone seeing this phenomenon would want to prostrate before the light, surrendering to the righteous path. This spectacle made it seem as if someone was ascending into Buddhahood.

#### **Chapter 5484: Buddhism To The Myriad Dao**

A total of one hundred and eighty-eight lotus petals finally unfurled, revealing Mayahana Buddha sitting inside.

"Sir." He bowed his head and didn't stand up.

"Six enlightenments, impressive." Li Qiye smiled and said.

"You're too kind, Sir." The monk bowed one more time before the lotus petals closed once more.

Li Qiye sat down in the meditative pose, closing his eyes and waiting patiently.

After a long while, another radiant figure appeared inside the temple.

"My old bones can't greet you properly, My Lord." The silhouette resembled a fusion between a dragon and a cat. Nonetheless, the voice was filled with Buddhist harmony. [1]

"Long time no see." Li Qiye opened his eyes and said.

"Long indeed." The figure said sentimentally.

"Started with Buddhism and returned to Buddhism. The Buddhist seed is back in the kingdom, all karmic ties are gone now." Li Qiye said.

"Yes." The figure agreed: "The world is all yours now, we shall take good care of it."

"You sound as if I'm the one benefitting from this." Li Qiye smiled.

"We do appreciate your protection." The figure said.

"There's cause and effect to everything, just remember that you do not belong to this world, it is my epoch." Li Qiye said.

"I understand, we have no intention of disturbing or competing with others." The figure nodded.

"Of course, I'm flexible and can turn a blind eye to certain things." Li Qiye said.

"You wish for us to pay." The figure understood that their karmic ties were over, it was business now.

"No free lunch for anyone, you know?" Li Qiye smiled.

"Of course, what is your demand, Sir?" The figure understood this logic.

This was his epoch and although they had no intention of conquest, they still occupied territories.

"It's not much at all. We can settle this amicably, I just need you all to hide a seal, that's it." Li Qiye said.  
[2]

The figure fell into silence after hearing this.

"Sir, you are the primordial, our Buddhism cannot compare to you." The figure said.

"I'm not asking for you to reach my level, only to hide something while enjoying my protection, it's that simple." Li Qiye said: "Is that too much to ask?"

The figure smiled wryly and said: "Is that all we will be doing, Sir?"

"If you are willing to do so, do you think your Buddhism will only encompass this small piece of land in the future?" Li Qiye asked.

"We do not dare to encroach on your world, Sir. This paradise is enough for us." The figure said.

"What if I open it up? The implications will be far-reaching, not even the prime of your epoch had this level of influence." Li Qiye said.

"Open it up..." The figure was stirred after hearing this.

"Permission won't be granted, there will be a tribulation." The figure calmed down and said.

"This is my epoch, I will allow it in the future." Li Qiye smiled.

"You have communicated with the high heaven?" The figure realized something.

"The situation is dire, there's not much of a choice any longer. Otherwise, I'll go all-out and become another variable." Li Qiye said.

The figure contemplated the matter before asking: "Sir, aren't you pushing us to the forefront?"

"That's the wrong way to look at it. If I were to excavate this land, why should I leave a plot to you all for nothing?" Li Qiye shook his head.

"This small plot won't be that easy to keep." The figure smiled wryly.

"Let's not get greedy now, can't have your cake and eat it too." Li Qiye said: "You have benefited from my protection, it is time for reciprocation."

"Will you show mercy if we do not wish to comply?" The figure asked after a brief silence.

"I've always been merciful but the world does not let me be myself." Li Qiye smiled.

"What will happen then?" The figure asked with a tinge of helplessness.

"Well, I am powerless to a few things, I can't be watching all of this vast world at once. There will be places with cracks and openings, allowing the heaven to take notice. After all, its villainous eyes are treacherous and always watching." Li Qiye said.

"True, the world is vast indeed..." The figure understood the consequences.



"I can put in a little more effort since we know each other." Li Qiye smiled: "You know that Buddha, right? The one with the burial ground, is that the Buddhism that you seek? If that's the case, then I'll do my best."

"We don't blame you if it comes down to that." The figure let out a sigh. This was his world so if he were to ask for it back, it was time to return it.

"See, I'm rather reasonable for coming here first and letting all of you know to avoid any misunderstanding." Li Qiye said.

"Thank you for that." The figure bowed its head before talking: "Well, Sir, if we do ascend, it's no different from asking for a calamity."

"No, the difference is considerable. Normally, just looking up is enough for them to initiate a slaughter." Li Qiye said.

"You have a deal already?" The figure asked, thinking that Li Qiye already had a plan in motion.

"Not yet, but it is inevitable, an opportunity unavailable to anyone else." Li Qiye said.

"An opportunity..." The figure murmured.

"From Buddhism morphing to the myriad dao, perhaps this is the way." Li Qiye said with a serious expression.

"Mmm..." The figure had a serious expression as well after thinking about a crucial key point.

This wasn't only an attempt to extort them; he seemed to be guiding them as well.

"So, what is your decision?" Li Qiye shrugged and said.

"I suppose we don't really have a say in this." The figure smiled wryly.

"Of course you do, but just know that when the path is chosen, you will have to see it through even if it means crawling." Li Qiye smiled.

## **Chapter 5485: Fate**

The figure sighed and said: "I suppose there's no point in avoiding the inevitable. We will listen to you, Sir."

"Don't sound so pitiful as if I'm forcing you all against your will. Who knows, you might even enjoy it in the future and work hard." Li Qiye shook his head.

"Buddhists like us have little desires." The figure said.

"If that's the case, then why does Pure Land exist along with the search for Buddhist seeds? Seems like desires to me." Li Qiye said.

"What you say makes sense, Sir, but we are merely passing down our legacy, not fulfilling our ambition." The figure said.

“Passing legacy down is not a crime, but that’s just the present. Perhaps this will change in the future into something greater.” Li Qiye said.

“I’m afraid we can’t envision it right now.” The figure said.

“Sure, uncertainties are there, but can you do worse than the old geezer, Di Shi?” Li Qiye smiled.

“Hmm...” The turtle paused for a moment before responding: “We can try with your permission.”

“My permission is trivial compared to your group’s determination. As long as you are willing, everything is possible but of course, there is a cost.” Li Qiye said.

“We will remember, Sir, but it seems like we’ll be bearing the brunt.” The figure asked the crucial question.

“Would you do it if I ask?” Li Qiye stared at the figure.

“I don’t know if our current selves are still of use.” The figure hesitated for a bit before responding.

“At the very least, you all will be doing something.” Li Qiye said.

“We’ve thought about fighting before but eventually decided against it. Perhaps we cannot escape destiny.”

“Honestly, if you all could do something up there, I wouldn’t be standing here right now.” Li Qiye said.

“We are ashamed.” The figure sighed.

“Don’t be. Those who saw and walked away are still renowned, only a selected few can take the next step.” Li Qiye said.

“Right, I couldn’t take the next step because of my heart devil.” The figure nodded in agreement.

“Perhaps waiting is the best for all of you, you will be able to see your true pursuit and defeat the heart devil then.” Li Qiye said.

“Sir, we’ll definitely make plans.” The figure agreed that this was an opportunity.

They didn’t dare to make a move in the past but since this was Li Qiye’s epoch, perhaps they could unleash their full potential.

“It’s decided then.” Li Qiye nodded: “I don’t have any other demand. It’s your own issue if you want to progress further up there. Feel free to stay in this region for now.”

“We understand and shall obey.” The figure and Li Qiye came to an agreement.

With that finished, Li Qiye turned to leave.

The figure called out and asked: “Sir, do you think the burial ground could have survived?”

Li Qiye stopped and sighed: “Hard to say, it’s a very low probability. I don’t know how many survivors there are, perhaps they have turned to ashes already.”

“I hope they’re still alive.” The figure said with a hopeful tone.

"In my opinion, I don't think there's a chance for the nine Buddhas to combine in your lifetime. Don't wait any longer." Li Qiye shook his head.

"I understand." The figure let out a sad sigh.

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Ye Fantian has been waiting and came up to Li Qiye after he left Pure Land.

"Sir, where will we go now?" She bowed.

"Not far, to your future training ground." Li Qiye said.

"We're not going to the immortal continent?" She was surprised to hear this.

"I will be, you will stay behind to train." He said.

"Which merit law would you like me to learn?" She took a deep breath and asked.

"You have your own fortune and supreme grand dao, I don't need to pass down a merit law, that's no longer important." He shook his head.

"What should I do then?" She didn't expect this response either.

Li Qiye summoned True Bones and handed it to her: "Take this with you. You shall not come out of training until you have full mastery over it. Only then will you be able to dominate and become renowned."

Of course, she was already renowned but still needed to go even further.

She became emotional after seeing True Bones - the weapon of an epoch overlord. Not even Supreme could have controlled this paragon artifact without the help of the wondrous momentum. Her current body would crumble just by attempting to use it despite having twelve dao fruits.

Who knows if Celestial Court even had another weapon of this level?

"You're giving it to me?" She asked with astonishment. Who would actually gift a paragon artifact away?

Li Qiye didn't bother to say anything else and placed it in her hand.

She looked down and saw a terrifying aura emanating from the blade, ready to annihilate the entire world. This was before any power channeling.

## **Chapter 5486: I Want To Be An Ox**

"Sir, will I be fighting Celestial Court with it?" She took a deep breath and asked with a serious expression.

"No, I cannot wait that long. Celestial Court will not exist when you are ready." Li Qiye shook his head.

This caused her to tremble because Celestial Court was an ancient existence. According to the legends, it had existed before the splitting of heaven and earth.

This was obviously an exaggeration. Nonetheless, it shared the same sentiment felt by many cultivators. Celestial Court had withstood the test of time, surviving one war after another.

Now, Li Qiye had absolute confidence in destroying it in the near future. Anyone else would have been branded a fool for making this statement. Of course, Li Qiye was an exception.

"Sir, what do you wish for me to do?" She asked, aware of her fortune in both being under Li Qiye's tutelage and obtaining True Bones.

"Think grander, don't be stuck with Celestial Court or this nonsense between The Race and The People." Li Qiye smiled.

"I was short-sighted." She lowered her head and apologized.

"Cultivation is a personal journey with a strong focus on the dao heart. You don't need merit laws, the only thing I can do is to guide the way." Li Qiye said.

"And that is all I need, Sir." She said, not daring to be greedy.

"You don't need to ask me what you should do, answer this question yourself during the journey." Li Qiye said.

"What I should do." She contemplated.

"You won't be able to know the answer right now. Try again once you can wield True Bones." He nodded.

"I understand." She said.

He raised his hand and changed the fabrics of reality, opening a boundless world for her.

"Walk the path of the dao while listening to your heart." He advised.

She stared at the portal and thought that upon her return, this world would change drastically.

"Would we be able to meet again?" She asked.

"If you travel far enough, then yes, we'll meet again." He said.

"I understand. Thank you for giving me this opportunity, I will repay you with my life in the future." She performed nine kowtows in reverence.

He had given her enough confidence to attempt the twelve-fruit method on top of granting her True Bones. Moreover, she had a clear direction of what to do right now as well.

After paying her respect, she leaped into the portal without any hesitation.

Li Qiye closed the portal and wanted to leave. However, he frowned and glanced at someone.

"Young Noble." The person immediately got on his knees and kowtowed as well.

He was none other than Ferocity who had followed Li Qiye previously.

"Why are you following me?" Li Qiye asked.

"I have no family or home, a forever vagabond with no option. May I stay with you and toil like an ox?" Ferocity was intelligent enough to know the great fortune of following Li Qiye.

Others would be killed for this insolence but he had the pleasure of following Li Qiye for a brief time. Perhaps he actually had a chance.

"I don't need an ox." Li Qiye shook his head.

"And it wouldn't be your turn either, brat." A massive snail approached the duo: "I'll be the ox!"

The snail tapped on its shell loudly and said: "Young Master, I'll carry you around."

Li Qiye smiled, having far more patience for this snail than Ferocity.

Ferocity couldn't respond because the snail was none other than Calamity Dao Lord. Of course, he didn't know the history between these two back in Cleansing Incense.

"What have you learned?" Li Qiye shook his head disapprovingly.

"Young Master, I might not be the strongest but my techniques are still unique." Niu Fen smiled wryly.

"So arrogant after learning the Eighteen Solutions." Li Qiye chuckled.

"Hey now, I have my own grand dao now, way better than the solutions." Niu Fen protested.

"I suppose that sounds a bit better, you didn't waste all this time." Li Qiye smiled.

"Young Master, I'm a dao lord, you know? You're making it sound as if I'm a nobody." Niu Fen said indignantly. After all, he was an apex dao lord with few equals in the upper continents.

Li Qiye stared at him in silence, causing him to shrink his head down and add: "Of course, I'm just an insect compared to you, a firefly who can't compete with the bright moon."

"Your shamelessness far exceeds your cultivation." Li Qiye shook his head.

"Of course." Niu Fen smiled happily: "Get on, Young Master, it'll be just like the past."

"What do you want?" Li Qiye was in a good mood as well.

"What else but to follow you wherever you go." Niu Fen said.

"Fine, we'll be going to the immortal continent since I'll be following his path. You should focus on cultivation lest risk embarrassing yourself any further." Li Qiye said.

"To the immortal continent then!" Niu Fen became excited: "We'll crush Celestial Court and the old turtles in there!"

He reverted back to being Niu Fen from the nine worlds, no longer an apex cultivator of the six continents.

Li Qiye jumped on the shell and sat down.

"May I accompany the two of you, Young Noble and Senior?" Ferocity got on his knees.

Li Qiye smiled and summoned a short-handled trident out of thin air. He gave it to Ferocity and said: "Let's see what you can do with this."

"I humbly accept the gift!" Ferocity saw the weapon pulsing with primordial light and became startled. He didn't forget to kowtow and show his gratitude.

"Let's go." Li Qiye patted Niu Fen.

"Let's go!" Niu Fen roared excitedly and disappeared into the horizon.

## **Chapter 5487: Death Of The Emperors, Birth Of The Souls**

The immortal continent remained intact compared to the other five, hence its name. Due to its fortunate state after the grand calamity, the spirit energy and resources here remained ample.

Thus, cultivators here had a clear advantage compared to those in the lower realms. Nonetheless, the rules here were rather strict. Because of this, powerful cultivators preferred to stay in the upper continents instead.

Three major powers divided the continent - Celestial Court, Immortal Dao City, and Imperial Field.

Celestial Court was the oldest, praised to have existed during the start of this world. The size of its territories was unimaginable. Some said that it was larger than all six continents combined.

Because of their resources and prestigious past, many top cultivators chose it as their home. Its influence also started the divide between The Race and The People. This remained active even in the present day.

Public opinions were polarizing. Some blamed Celestial Court for sowing the seeds of discord in the six continents. However, its supporters hailed them as stalwart defenders.

Immortal Dao City and Imperial Field were far younger in comparison. The former was considered the older of the two since the heavenly treasure appeared during Skysplitter War.

Purewood Divine Emperor, Immortal Emperor Fei Yang, and Immortal Emperor Bu Zhan established a new order capable of contending against Celestial Court.

As for Imperial Field, it appeared after Grand Dao War. The empress and her allies combined their power to deal with the darkness.

Some believed that Imperial Field was around way before that, tracing back to the previous epoch. It simply kept a low profile and never participated in the previous wars. This theory perplexed others because why would they stay out of these existential crises?

An explanation was that they were merely training their elites and forming the right formation arrays in preparation for the most frightening war - Grand Dao.

Sure enough, they eventually took down the darkness. Would they have been able to do so without ample preparation and accumulation?

The casualties were immense for the emperors and monarchs. The number ranged similarly to that of Immemorial Epoch War.

Immemorial Epoch, Skysplitter, and Grand Dao left behind numerous battlefields in the upper continents.

Timeline and spatial fabrics shattered, resulting in perilous black holes. The immortal continent only managed to survive these wars due to its fortune after the grand calamity. Any other continent would have been reduced to ashes long ago.

“Boom!” A massive snail landed on the immortal continent.

“Your daddy’s back, Immortal Continent!” Niu Fen laughed after arriving.

He became carefree after taking the role of Li Qiye’s mount, no longer needing to put up a dignified act. Despite his unwillingness, he still had to act properly as a dao lord. Now, he could finally say whatever he wanted to. After all, Li Qiye could deal with anything.

Li Qiye scanned the area and took a deep breath.

“The energy here is so dense.” Niu Fen breathed in as well and said sentimentally: “That’s why it survived so many wars. However, the battle intents are still raging.”

“The death of emperors means the birth of numerous souls.” Li Qiye nodded in agreement.

“You should have seen it, corpses rained from the sky. We had a hard time gathering them for a proper burial.” Niu Fen murmured.

Li Qiye sighed and glanced in a particular direction.

Niu Fen followed his gaze and asked with excitement: “Young Master, shall we destroy Celestial Court right now?”

“In due time, just not right now. We need to warm up first to get more players involved.” Li Qiye smiled and said.

“Haha, I see, have to kill them in one go, getting rid of all those treacherous geezers.” Niu Fen understood the plan and resembled a hoodlum pulling up his sleeves, eager for a fight.

“As for now, we’ll be gathering remains and free the souls.” Li Qiye said.

“Only you can do it, Young Master. We can’t even if we try for a lifetime.” Niu Fen said softly.

Li Qiye nodded in agreement. The three wars resulted in countless deaths. The fallen combatants’ lost souls still roamed the battlefields.

Crossing them over to the other side was easier said than done. Attempting to do so meant incurring karmic consequences. However, Li Qiye was in control of this world and could personally make the souls agree to move on.

He glanced at a particular battlefield and noticed a particular aura - something rather indescribable. Niu Fen noticed it too and said: “Is that where we’ll start?”

"Let's go take a look." Li Qiye tapped its shell.

"I'm afraid I can't go there..." Niu Fen hesitated.

"A place that you don't dare to go? Where did your courage run off to?" Li Qiye couldn't help but laugh.

#### **Chapter 5488: It's Nice Being A Mortal**

"Young Master, that's not fair since it's not just me. Aside from those with unparalleled physiques or some perverts with strange habits, who would want to go to such a nauseating place?" Niu Fen protested.

"Will it kill you?" He smiled.

"No, it won't cost me my life but that's not the point, everyone else avoided him. It's still too much after all these years after the fatal palm strike." Niu Fen dropped his head and said.

"Fine, just wait for me outside." Li Qiye patted again.

"Young Master, you do understand me, you're the best." Niu Fen said happily.

"Right, and you repay me by not even following a simple command." Li Qiye complained.

"Young Master, I will not hesitate to run into a mountain of blades or an ocean of fire for you, I'll be the first to kill anyone who dares to oppose you but to go to the place where Mu Zhuo died? That's too difficult. Back then, everyone was fighting their heart out, enraged with bloodthirst but the moment he got there, they all ran out of the battlefield." Niu Fen elaborated.

"Sounds about right." Li Qiye smiled.

"That's why it isn't my fault." Niu Fen said: "You don't know how terrifying Mu Zhuo was back then. He stopped Celestial Court's advances just by being present... well, I suppose he did contribute meritoriously and bought a lot of time for us to breathe. We might have been finished otherwise."

"I hope he was happy, to do something for others and give meaning to his existence." Li Qiye became sentimental.

"Haha, I wouldn't wish for his existence. Hell, I preferred death in battle over being near him." Niu Fen shook his head: "And I'm not the only one, that aura is unbearable."

"Loathed by both life and death, he reached a limit of the dao with it." Li Qiye said.

"No one dared to attack him either. One smash could have ended him but then, it was like slapping a pile of manure, except the stench would linger for eras." Niu Fen shuddered.

"It's a testament to his greatness. He didn't care about the world and hated himself yet his dao heart was strong enough to stir him into action." Li Qiye sighed and said.

"I would rather be beaten to death than to cultivate his dao. A fate of being repulsed by all with no escape in sight." Niu Fen said.



"You wouldn't be able to do it anyway." Li Qiye shook his head: "Normally, cultivators cultivate the dao first and then their mind and heart. His dao required a particular mindset and mood as prerequisites."

Mortals started this road by wanting to learn techniques and merit laws. Once they reached a certain level, they understood the importance of the dao heart. Powerful abilities alone didn't take them far enough.

Only those with the right dao heart could reach greater heights, eventually striving for potential immortality.

"Seems like he was one step ahead of everyone then." Niu Fen commented.

"Yes, so close to everlasting life since death didn't want him." Li Qiye said.

Lifespan was not infinite for cultivators. They used various methods of life prolongment - the most popular being sealing themselves to pause the flow of time.

Others utilized natural treasures and alchemy materials. Some cultivated secret techniques, hoping to improve their cultivation drastically for a longer lifespan. Another method included utilizing the momentum of special locations...

All in all, these methods were temporary measures and death remained inevitable.

Immortal Emperor Mu Zhuo was special in that he didn't utilize any of these methods. In fact, he didn't even want to live, hoping for the sweet release of death. Unfortunately, this didn't work.

He could have lived longer if it wasn't for the palm strike ending him. He would have most likely outlasted anyone at the emperor level.

"Sigh, forget it, no point in living forever while being reviled by everything. Such a dao shouldn't be cultivated." Niu Fen commented.

"This dao is inevitable once the mind reaches that point. Of course, it's rare for this to happen." Li Qiye smiled.

"I suppose he is indeed worthy of admiration, to be able to do something so unique." Niu Fen said.

"The hardships experienced in order to develop this mindset and the dao." Li Qiye sighed and commented.

"It's definitely better to stay as a mortal in this scenario." Niu Fen said softly.

"Being a mortal was a far-fetched dream to him." Li Qiye gazed into the horizon and said.

Niu Fen had no comment - a once-dominant Immortal Emperor ended up being hated by everyone.

Eras have passed and his repulsive aura still infected this land. Grass and flowers didn't dare to grow here. If a rock could run, it would not be anywhere near this place.

Thus, a basin could be seen and nothing else within the battlefield. People had joked about the basin being the land running away from his corpse. In reality, it was most likely the aftermath of the palm strike.

His killer was not freed from consequences, being subjected to being repulsive for who knows how long?

The repulsion didn't stem from a smell or any other senses. This was an invisible force keeping everyone away and instilling disgust in a mystical manner. This feeling came deep from the mind and couldn't be controlled.

## **Chapter 5489: Charming**

Those near the battlefield were subjected to an instinctive hatred. Perhaps that hatred always existed in the heart and mind, albeit hidden and controlled.

It would resurface one day, whether it be towards a person or thing. Eventually, this hatred could escalate and act as a flood breaking the dam, fully forcing someone into a blind rage.

Just looking at this place alone invoked this uncontrollable feeling, robbing someone of their sanity and control over their own body. This caused an intense feeling of nausea, hence everyone wanting to stay away.

The powerful dao heart of top cultivators couldn't prevent this phenomenon for long enough. Their absolute control over their emotions was utterly nullified under these circumstances.

"Young Master, I can't stay here a second longer." Niu Fen's nausea and hatred gradually intensified as he drew closer.

Of course, he could still last longer but what was the point? This was discomforting and meaningless.

"You've grown complacent." Li Qiye smiled.

"This is akin to picking up a pile of manure and bringing it closer to my mouth, I can't do it. Aren't you sensing it too?" Niu Fen said bitterly.

"Wait here then, I don't want to see your sorry state anyway." Li Qiye said.

"Hehehe, you're the best." He bowed his head and was happy to be spared from this torture.

Li Qiye chuckled and kicked the guy flying before moving ahead alone to the basin. He saw nothing along the way; lifeforms simply didn't want to be here, preferring not to be born at all.

Due to the ever-present repulsive aura, no one had managed to pick up the emperor's corpse to give him a proper burial. Li Qiye was one of the few exceptions managing to get this close.

However, he saw a second exception standing on a mound before the basin. In fact, his brows furrowed after seeing her due to her unmatched appearance. This could temporarily cause others to forget about the unpleasant aura.

She was dressed in black with a thin veil. The loose attire didn't do a great job of hiding her figure and only caused minds to wander with fantasies.

What truly made the heart race was her alluring aura, capable of ensnaring souls. One would become her prisoner after a split second of staring at her.

She only needed to stand there to grasp the senses. Spectators would be driven mad with thoughts of wanting to embrace her as tight as possible, going as far as wanting to fuse into one being with her.

She stirred up one's primal desires and needs without needing to lift a finger. If she were to smile, that would deliver a fatal blow to anyone's sanity and overwhelm the repulsive aura.

Nonetheless, the repulsive aura also diminished her allure to an extent. If others were to come here, they might not be driven crazy right away while being affected by two contrasting affinities.

"We've finally met, Sir." She bowed in Li Qiye's direction and said softly.

Her grateful bow could have been deadly, the same for her soft voice capable of turning bones into jelly.

"I didn't expect to see you waiting here." Li Qiye said with a smile.

"It is because I didn't wish to insult you with my aura so this place was the perfect choice." The woman said.

"A perfect masterpiece indeed." Li Qiye meticulously examined the woman's appearance. Her dress and veil did little to shield her from his eyes.

Eventually, he sighed and said: "Born of nature and self-molded, Lord of Derivation couldn't have done this."

#### **Chapter 5490: Do I Deserve To Die, Sir?**

"Thank you, Sir. You have the vision of an immortal." She bowed gracefully and made people forget about the nauseating aura.

"You didn't wait here only to praise me, right?" Li Qiye smiled.

"I wish to go on a walk with you, would that be alright?" She revealed a kingdom-toppling smile while her eyes flashed with a hopeful glimmer, making it difficult for anyone to refuse.

Her penetrating yet tender gaze could easily ensnare anyone. Accepting her request was the only possible outcome.

"Why not?" He smiled and started walking.

She followed him with elegant steps, keeping the perfect distance for the situation. She was accompanied by a comforting scent emanating from her body. Just one sniff and one would find life to be so beautiful - having the privilege of walking side by side with her.

"Sir, do I deserve to die?" She asked along the way.

"You tell me." He stared at her in response.

She met his gaze with composure and ease, not putting on an act but her innate charm still oozed out. It rippled in her eyes like water, resonating with the heart.

"I don't think I do. If we were to use emperors and conquerors as the standard, I would consider myself to be rather innocent." She said.

He gazed in the distance and said: "Don't dwell only on the present and past, think about the future as well."

"So will I deserve to die in the future then?" She asked straightforwardly, ready for any answer.

"You are the only person who knows the answer." He said.

"Sir, I don't have any ambition nor do I demand perfection." She tilted her head in rumination before answering.

"Good, some use ambition as an excuse before falling into the darkness, becoming the thing they hated the most." Li Qiye smiled.

"That is why I'm more than content to move forward alone." She said with determination.

"Do you know your origin?" He asked.

"I do, and I know the need to cleanse my impurities and address my flaws." She said.

"Good." Li Qiye nodded: "Having ample self-awareness is rare. But, due to your nature, everything can come easy to you. Many things are within reach."

"Seduction is my intrinsic nature but I wish to sever and transform into my own self." She said earnestly: "I do not deny that I possess, but that is no fault of my own."

"That is true, you didn't ask to be born with these physical characteristics, merely created in this manner." He said.

"Thank you for understanding, Sir." She bowed and appreciated his insight.

"However, you do have a gift that cannot be changed." He continued.

"The marvel of procreation. I am aware, Sir." She sighed and said.

Her disheartened sigh could instill deep sorrow into anyone. They would be willing to do anything to see her smile.

"That's why it is not your fault, this was decided during your creation, the meaning of your existence." He said.

"But that is not what I am." She said begrudgingly.

"Yes, you are an unsuccessful product who is purposely limiting your seduction and having a different agenda." He said.

"I only wish to be normal." She agreed.

"What you are can't be changed, but you can decide who you are." He said: "You are a living, sentient creature who is free to pursue your goal, whatever it may be."

"I wish to be free, hence my continuing attempt to transform." She eventually answered after a brief pause.

“And this insistence only adds to your charm.” Li Qiye smiled: “Without this strive for perfection, you wouldn’t possess your current charm capable of driving others crazy. It’s a matter of Buddhism and mystical techniques. When you strive for Buddhism, you will naturally gain techniques despite your wish. So in your case, do not think twice about the seduction that is innate in your flesh and bones. Your charm will diminish as a result.”

“Sounds like a paradox.” She said.

“It is definitely counter-intuitive, but one version is potentially cataclysmic. The other might be fine.” Li Qiye said.

“Please elaborate on what I should do, Sir.” She bowed again.

“Your path is self-perfection but your innate body determines your gifts and abilities. The stronger you become in order to shed it, the greater your charm.” He repeated.

“But what else can I do?” She furrowed her brows.

“In spite of the paradox, once you reach the ultimate state, you will revert to the origin and be able to hide the seduction.” He explained.

“Ultimate state as in the path of the emperors and conquerors?” She asked.

“It is different.” He said: “If you are able to return to your true self, you will be able to go even farther due to your innate advantages, a foundation not found in any other.”

“Listening to you, Sir, is more beneficial than a hundred thousand years of cultivation.” She expressed her gratitude.