

## Emperor 5501

### Chapter 5501: Uninvited Guest

He recognized her - someone who has been missing for eras now. When they first met in the nine worlds, she gave him the impression of being persistent and spirited, strong yet serene, unambitious but capable...

She was an unpolished gem so he taught her the scripture known as Sunset Glow. He believed that given her dao heart, she could accomplish great things.

During Eight Desolaces, those fortunate enough to be taught by Li Qiye soared and became dominant figures - dao lords or renowned "immortals".

She didn't appear during Eight Desolaces; he didn't come across her lineage or legacy either. It was as if she had disappeared in the river of time.

Of course, Li Qiye didn't find this surprising since not all seeds could go far on the dao path. Many eventually stopped and became mediocre and unremarkable, blending in with the masses and fading into obscurity.

He didn't pursue her absence during his visit to Eight Desolaces. Thus, seeing her statue on the six continents was somewhat surprising. Moreover, this was the immortal continent and she was clearly the most important figure in this temple.

It seemed that she didn't become an Immortal Emperor or a dao lord. Nonetheless, she had made a name for herself in Sunset Glow Valley.

Ultimately, her silent ascension to the six continents matched her personality - calm and unyielding, strong but not domineering.

His astonishment only grew after seeing the base of the statue - a tablet engraved with profound runes from an untraceable period.

It was incomplete, seemingly taken from a larger piece to this place.

"Hmm..." Li Qiye knew that there was only one place where these runes could be found. He sat down on a woven mat and took his time analyzing the runes.

After an unknown period of time, he had an answer for the tablet's true origin.

"Immortal Dao City, I see, it is indeed different from the other eight." He murmured.

At this moment, an old face suddenly appeared out of nowhere. This could startle or terrify anyone due to the dark lighting of the temple.

The wrinkly old woman had an oil lamp in her hand. She came to light the incense burners and candles.

She wore a tattered dress that looked too small for her current size. The fabrics might have shrunk over the years.

Her hair was gray and thinning; she was missing many teeth as well. She resembled the flickering candles in the temple, on the verge of death at any moment.

"Sir, where did you come from?" She only approached to take a look before resuming her task.

Her movement was deliberate and meticulously, carefully shielding the flame with her hand as if afraid of it being extinguished by winds.

"From a distant place." He smiled.

"I see." She glanced at Li Qiye before staring outside and commenting: "It's been many years since we've received visitors, not that we get many either way."

"I came uninvited." Li Qiye said.

"That's alright." She nodded and said: "Well, we don't invite outsiders so all visitors are uninvited."

"Why did you stop?" Li Qiye asked with a faint smile.

"The world is no longer the same. Our valley has been reclusive for years now after the departure of Cloudsweep Fairy. The disciples focus on cultivation, no longer participating in worldly affairs." She sighed before looking at the statue in front of Li Qiye: "That's Cloudsweep Fairy, our legend for heralding a new age of prosperity."

"Oh? I'm curious about this legend." Li Qiye smiled.

She glanced at the oil lamp in her hand and said: "My memory is hazy due to my age and plus, this is ancient history. Even the fairy had passed away long ago."

"Yet she is still remembered and celebrated?" Li Qiye asked.

"Yes, if it wasn't for her, the sect would not be around right now. We must pay our respect for as long as we exist." She nodded.

"I can see that." Li Qiye glanced at the statue and nodded. They placed her in the central position even over their own progenitor.

"According to the legends, she was not a member of Sunset Glow. She most likely came from below." The woman continued.

"Eight Desolaces." Li Qiye said softly.

"Yes, the place known as Eight Desolaces." She looked up and stared at Li Qiye: "Have you been there before, Sir?"

"I've been to many places." Li Qiye smiled.

"A true master indeed." She said: "I spent the majority of my life in Sunset Glow and have only heard of Eight Desolaces, a land of many heroes and talents."

Li Qiye chuckled and didn't respond.

"I believe that the fairy was neither a dao lord nor a conqueror when she first arrived. She came to our sect by chance during a ruinous period after the devastation of the great war. We only had a few disciples left and this place was on the verge of being abandoned." She said.

Although Sunset Glow was a relatively powerful sect in the previous epoch, Immortal Epoch War wiped out even the behemoths. It was fortunate to have survived, partly due to its isolation policies. They only had five or so disciples left when Cloudsweep Fairy arrived.

"She still chose your sect." Li Qiye said.

"Right, I heard she said that because she likes our name, Sunset Glow, that these words are connected to her by fate." She nodded.

## **Chapter 5502: With Sunset Glow**

Li Qiye sighed and said: "Sunset Glow Scripture."

The current generation couldn't quite imagine the destruction of Epoch Immemorial War. Behemoths were lucky to survive. Having five or so members left was the blessing of three lifetimes.

Sunset Glow's fortune drastically increased when Cloudsweep Fairy arrived and chose it as her home. Given her power then, she would have been able to join Immortal Dao City or Imperial Field.

Nonetheless, due to the scripture given to her by Li Qiye, she chose the valley over the others. This was a matter of fate.

Under her leadership, the sect started rising again. Of course, it was still just a ship among a raging ocean known as the immortal continent.

In order to avoid becoming ashes, they maintained their reclusive policies. Thus, people have heard of them but few had the privilege to visit. Some were rather curious because the valley was known for having beautiful female cultivators.

"You know about our scripture, Sir?" The old woman looked surprised.

"A little bit." Li Qiye smiled.

"As far as I know, our fairy cultivated this scripture alone, not picking anything else." She said.

"I see." He commented.

"She came to the immortal continent to find someone, only to stay here at our sect due to fate." She added.

"Did she find this person?" Li Qiye asked.

"I do not think so, perhaps that person was no longer alive or couldn't be found. Nonetheless, she was willing to spend her last moments here." She shook her head.

"Started with Sunset and ended at Sunset." Li Qiye sighed.

She quietly murmured his line before commenting: "Sir, maybe you could have been friends with our fairy."

"What makes you say that?" Li Qiye asked.

"I feel that you possess a similar aura, a rather solitary one." She said.

"I'm just a traveler." Li Qiye smiled.

She tilted her head in rumination before responding: "Our fairy was most likely the same way. Her heart was not here as she yearned for something else."

"To have thoughts is to have pursuits." Li Qiye said.

"Yes, the fairy certainly had something in mind. Unfortunately, I don't think she managed to realize her dream despite waiting patiently. As far as I know, she was content before peacefully passing away."

"She managed to fulfill destiny, to find a home in Sunset Glow." Li Qiye said with a tinge of emotion.

"A touch of fate indeed." She nodded.

Cloudsweep Fairy had a special attachment to the characters, "Sunset Glow". They brought back memories and yearning. Her journey brought her to the immortal continent but she didn't find the person she longed for. Although Sunset Glow Valley was not her ultimate goal, she found closure to her story here.

Li Qiye nodded and stared at the statue in silence. The old woman continued lighting up the candles.

Once she was finished, the hall became bright and warm again. Millions of years passed in the blink of an eye; emperors and fairies couldn't avoid the inevitable.

Nonetheless, some were still remembered and worshipped - a testament to the glorious life they had lived.

Li Qiye closed his eyes and basked in this moment. The candles illuminated and he seemingly turned into a statue.

The old woman left him alone and quietly left the hall. She had done her job of adding warmth to the statues.

Perhaps this was one of the reasons why Cloudsweep Fairy chose to stay here until the very end. The sect didn't forget their roots and ancestors.

As for Li Qiye, he enjoyed a moment of peace after the recent battles. Although he was an outsider, no one came to bother him. It seemed that they didn't have a problem with his presence or suspected any malice.

Eventually, a fragrant breeze wafted in due to a female cultivator's arrival. She knelt beside Li Qiye and paid respect to the ancestors of Sunset Glow. She then focused on the tablet with the ancient runes, wanting to figure out its mysteries.

More time passed and Li Qiye opened his eyes, noticing that she was exceptionally beautiful with striking red lips and expressive eyes. However, there was a dignified air to her, preventing anyone from having impure thoughts. She was dressed in red, accentuating her fiery lips.

"I believe you are the first outside to sit here, Young Noble." She said with a slightly mischievous smile.

"It is an honor." He said.

"Fate has brought you here." She had a pleasant laughter as well.

"Oh?" Li Qiye was amused by the talkative woman.

"It's because we have a stealth technique that doesn't allow anyone to get through yet here you are, Young Noble." She said.

"It's quite a big stretch to call it fate." He said with a smile.

### **Chapter 5503: Last-minute Attempt**

"That's not right, Young Noble." The woman seemed happy to continue the conversation: "Would you have been here without fate calling? No, I don't think you would have taken a second look at our sect."

"I suppose the world is rather large and I didn't necessarily need to come here." Li Qiye stroked his chin.

"Not only did you visit, you also sat before our ancestors and analyzed our tablet. Our sect might be small but it has beautiful scenery. The temple, venerable it may be, is not a place for sightseeing." She continued.

"I do like sitting here." He nodded.

"All of this points to fate, we are connected by fate, hence your presence in our venerable temple." She continued.

"Sure, let's call it fate then." He said.

"Young Noble, I should have been the one to show you ample hospitality but I'm afraid I can't do so." She apologized.

"No need for troublesome formalities, I'm just here to take a quick look." He shook his head.

"I appreciate it, Young Noble." She bowed politely.

"What are you occupied with?" He asked.

"I am here to pay respect while trying to make a last-minute attempt at something." She said while glancing at the runes on the tablet.

"Is it important?" He smiled.

"Yes, Sunset Glow requires a leader and I wish to offer my service." She propped up her chin with both hands and furrowed her brows.

"It sounds like your rivals are capable." He speculated.

"My junior sister is exceptional. Our cultivation is about the same but she had traveled outside, so her experience and knowledge surpass mine." She said.

"Not always the case." He responded: "As long as you have an open mind, your wisdom grows as well."

"I certainly hope so." She giggled and said: "Hearing this lightened my heart."

"From what I can see, you are rather confident." He said.

"Not quite, I'm just ready to give my all to Sunset Glow. But first, I must gain the recognition of the immortal artifact." She said.

"Immortal artifact?" He asked.

"Seems like you don't know much about our sect, Young Noble." She blinked mischievously.

"Just a little bit." He admitted.

She glanced at the central statue and elaborated: "Although Cloudsweep Fairy was not our founder, all of our current foundation and resources were bestowed by her. Anything else from the distant past before her era has gone missing. It was just too long ago."

The calamity and wars have weakened the sect. Their prior resources from the last epoch were either expended or gone missing.

Although they kept the same name, they didn't actually have much to do with Sunset Glow Devil Emperor and the other members.

Nonetheless, Cloudsweep Fairy never made an attempt to take over or change the sect's name. She still honored these ancestors and passed down their tales. Otherwise, future generations of Sunset Glow would have known nothing about their origin.

"I can see that." Li Qiye nodded.

"Our fairy was unstoppable and had entered Immortal Dao City before." She continued.

"That is impressive." He commented while staring at the tablet.

"Young Noble, you do know your stuff." She said, aware of his focus on the tablet.

"Yes, it is from Immortal Dao City." He nodded.

"Rumor has it that our fairy entered that place alone in search of someone." She continued.

"It was not fruitful." Li Qiye sighed.

She nodded and said: "Right, but the records talk about her being able to enter a special domain in Immortal Dao City, something that couldn't be done by other monarchs and emperors."

Immortal Dao City - one of the Nine Heavenly Treasures - descended one day out of nowhere. Immortal Monarch Yi Ye and his allies seized it, turning it into their camp and a fortress for The People.

It naturally contained many secrets. Rumor has it that the leaders managed to enter the deepest crevices of the treasure, able to witness its dao profundities.

"She didn't only bring this tablet back." He said.

"Yes, she obtained the tablet first before entering the special domain. Immortal Emperor Fei Yang and Immortal Emperor Bu Zhan gained nothing from it but our fairy brought back the immortal artifact." She said.

"An indomitable dao heart comes with rewards." He said.

"You heard of this before?" She couldn't believe it.

"A lack of desire was rewarded with an immortal artifact." He said.

"Incredible, these were all written down in the ancient text only available to our sect. I don't know how you have speculated all of this. I heard that the emperors were in awe when this happened." She continued.

"And you wish to be recognized by the artifact." He said.

"I do, it has been a while since we last had a leader. I wish for our generation to excel and live up to the greatness of our ancestors." She said.

"You're not the only one." He said.

"Right, my junior sister has a lot of potential and is about as strong as me. We can't get the artifact to recognize us." She said.

This woman in red had the title of Sunset Glow Goddess - a genius with six sacred fruits. She was chosen as the successor and has been assigned many duties.

"You won't be able to." He shook his head.

"Isn't that a little rude, Young Noble?" She glared at him.

"Given your abilities, getting recognition is tough enough, let alone controlling it." He said.

She stroked her chin and said: "I know you're right, ten emperors of Celestial Court coveted it too. They came but were sent flying by our fairy with just one hand sweep using the artifact. How can the likes of us hope to use it?"

This exploit was the reason why their fairy had the title of Cloudsweep.

## **Chapter 5504: I Choose You**

"You're trying to comprehend this tablet." Li Qiye said.

"Yes, but that would be an unprecedented feat. Only our fairy has been able to do so, I'm here to attempt the impossible." She said.

"You're not the only one who can't understand it. It's alright." He said.

"I just need to be recognized by the artifact." She didn't have an issue with her lack of comprehension and continued staring at the tablet.

After a while, she turned towards him and asked: "Young Noble, what do you see?"

"What's the punishment for spying on another sect's secrets, decapitation?" Li Qiye smiled.

"Sure, for other sects." She nodded because this was indeed the truth.

Li Qiye seemed to be violating this by observing the tablet of Sunset Glow Valley. However, the sect didn't have a problem with it.

"But remember, you and our sect are definitely connected by fate, so it is fine for you to take a look." She winked cutely at him.

"This fate thing is rather convenient." He nodded and smiled.

"Young Noble, you're making it sound like you understand the tablet." She realized something and became excited.

"Just a little bit." He smiled.

"No way, there is a reason why you're not leaving. If you can somehow understand the tablet, you can control the immortal artifact just like our fairy." She started fantasizing.

"I don't know about that." He smiled at her.

"You are amazing." She said enviously: "You've only been here for a bit and immediately noticed something right away. Heck, you might be more than just connected to our sect, it seems like you're the chosen one. We should be welcoming you with a grand reception."

"Now that's pushing it, I have no relation to your sect." He shook his head.

"Young Noble, do you know of our ancient tradition?" She smiled mischievously.

"What are you up to?" He smiled.

"I see, you don't know." She was clearly playing around with him.

"How does an outsider such as myself know your tradition?" He said.

"Don't worry, I know about it. It originated from our progenitor, Sunset Glow Devil Emperor." She responded.

Li Qiye only smiled and didn't answer.

She happily continued teasing him: "You see, when the circumstances are right, the sect can select an Emperor Consort, one who might lead the sect."

Having said that, she stared at a male statue in the hall and said: "For example, our second Grand Emperor knew that a disaster was coming so she picked an Emperor Consort and left him in charge of Sunset Glow. This was proven to be a successful decision."

As male emperors had queens, female emperors also had consorts. The second Grand Emperor of Sunset Glow trusted her consort to properly take care of the sect during her time of crisis.

"And?" He asked.



"How about I pick you as our next Emperor Consort? You can stay here and be recognized by the immortal artifact, doesn't that sound marvelous?" She held his hand as she said this.

"Not interested." He swiftly refused.

"Why not? Am I not pretty enough?" She asked directly.

"You are." He smiled.

"Don't you want to be my Emperor Consort?" She showed no sign of embarrassment.

"I'm just a passerby who will not stop traveling." He shook his head.

"Oh?" She didn't expect this answer from him and became curious: "Wait, so there is no place or anyone who can make you stop?"

"My dao has no end." He smiled.

"How lofty." She said with admiration as she stared at him: "It seems like your height is beyond my imagination. I can't pick you as my consort then."

"Have a little more confidence. With enough luck, you can guide Sunset Glow to a bright future." He said.

"The more you talk, the more I think that you can control the immortal artifact." She said.

"Well, it's because I can." He said.

"You can't do it if you don't become my consort." She shook her head.

"If I want something, I will just take it." He said.

"That's stealing." She didn't expect this response.

"I'm just taking it, not stealing from anyone." He said.

"When you take something that doesn't belong to you, it's stealing. You're ruining the mood. I told you, you can have it if you want. Just become my consort." She grabbed his arm and said.

"You're not even the valley lord yet, already thinking of how to cook the duck before catching one." He chuckled.

"That's okay, I just think that our valley can use a capable Emperor Consort. If you don't want to marry me, you can marry my junior sister instead. I'm sure that you will do great things for our sect." She smiled cheerfully.

"Great things?" He asked.

"It goes back to fate again. Without the interference of fate, you wouldn't be sitting here right now. No one else had this fateful connection for eras, so there must be a reason and I wish to push it further." She explained.

"You're overthinking this." He said: "It won't happen though."

"Well, how about staying here for a bit? Our valley can be quite fun, no need to leave right away." She asked softly.

"This world is vast. If I were to stay at any place that is fun, I would run out of time." He said.

"You've been to many places?" She asked.

"Indeed." He responded.

"I'm sure there are many legends and adventures about you left behind in these places. What about your descendants?" She stared at him curiously before asking the key question.

### **Chapter 5505: Sisters**

Li Qiye chuckled and didn't answer her last question. Their conversational flow was then interrupted by a scented breeze emanating from another visitor - a beauty who lit up the temple with her presence.

She was just as gorgeous as Sunset Glow Goddess while having a different temperament and style.

She wore a blue dress and stood proudly like a blade. This sharp aura didn't diminish her beauty. Her face was as radiant as the moon; her eyes akin to stars. Her brows had a sharp contour.

She exuded an air of authority like a king but also a subtle gentleness that added harmony to her overall appearance. This hint of femininity invited secret admiration.

She conveyed a sense of wisdom instead of the mischievous liveliness of the goddess, similar to a treasured sword hidden in its scabbard. She instilled a sense of calmness into others, that they could rely on her in any situation. Her figure, of course, didn't pale before the goddess' either.

She was surprised to see Li Qiye and Sunset Glow Goddess sitting together in front of the statues.

"Senior Sister." She bowed politely at the goddess before staring at Li Qiye in confusion. When was the last time they had a visitor?

"Bai Feng, come meet the young noble." The goddess waved at her and smiled.

She came over and slightly bowed to Li Qiye, paid respect to the ancestors, and then sat down next to the duo.

"Here to take a look at the tablet too?" The goddess smiled.

"The grand ceremony commences soon so I am here to pay respect to the ancestors and make a last-minute attempt." She responded.

"That's exactly what I'm doing, let's see which of us will get it first." The goddess smiled.

"You are more intelligent than I am." She said humbly.

"No need to be polite because if I were smarter than you, I wouldn't have six fruits just like you, it would be eight or ten." The goddess smiled.

Her straightforward nature caused the newcomer to reveal a faint smile.

"Be honest now, you want to become the valley lord?" The goddess winked at her.

"We are both successors of the sect, Senior Sister. I am qualified and possess such aspiration." She responded.

"I don't think that's the only thing you want to do though." The goddess put on a devilish smile.

"Senior Sister, it is our duty to do our best for the sect. I dare not act for personal gain." She relied solemnly and candidly.

"I believe you, but don't you think that such a position will benefit your clan?" The goddess said.

"Well, Senior Sister, there were things outside of my control when I joined the sect." She hesitated for a moment before replying.

"I know." The goddess smiled: "Junior Sister, I think you have a good chance given your innate talent."

"You're too kind, Senior Sister. You have a good chance as well." She bowed her head politely.

The two martial sisters had a good relationship but were also competitive. After all, not holding back was a sign of respect for the opponent.

"I have a different path now, don't you know?" The goddess said playfully.

"A different path?" This surprised her.

"I'm picking the young noble as my consort, he'll become the valley lord in the future." The goddess said.

This prompted her to take a careful look at Li Qiye. He appeared ordinary, not a supreme genius or an unstoppable conqueror.

"Senior Sister, you shouldn't joke about this serious topic." She frowned.

"I'm not joking at all and I'm aware of how serious it is. It pertains to my lifelong happiness and the prosperity of the sect. You and I, let's be honest, we're not confident in being acknowledged by the immortal artifact. We know our own limit best, right?" The goddess said.

"Senior Sister, you believe that this young noble can be acknowledged?" She said skeptically.

Her senior sister didn't look like she was lying. However, it sounded ridiculous.

In this generation, both their ancestors and peers couldn't win the approval of the artifact, let alone an outsider.

"Young Noble, you tell her." The goddess said.

Li Qiye only smiled and didn't join their conversation.

"She is my junior sister, Qin Baifeng of the renowned Qin, the heaven searchers. She is my most capable rival in the sect, who do you think will win between us?" She continued.

"Oh, a descendant from Heaven Searching Sect." Li Qiye smiled at the woman in blue.

She became startled after hearing this. Few knew about their connection to Heaven Searching Sect. The latter was no longer around; their clan was a surviving branch.

"You know our clan and history, Young Noble?" She stared at him.

"Indeed, some acquaintances there." Li Qiye smiled.

Her astonishment only grew because she knew nothing about him.

"Divine Emperor Baili was world famous." The goddess told him. [1]

"Divine Emperor Baili." He smiled after hearing this name.

"It's all in the past." Qin Baifeng sighed and didn't wish to bring up her ancestors' glorious past. In a sense, the glory of the past only served as a painful reminder of what they were now.

"Young Noble, I have to go now." The goddess stood up and smiled: "Will you accompany me to Sunset Peak?"

"No." He shook his head.

"But you must since I'm choosing you as my consort." She insisted.

"How silly." He chuckled.

"My Young Noble, you best not run away." She kissed him on the forehead before running off like a mischievous spirit; her voice trailed from the entrance.

Baifeng was left speechless because her senior sister was normally prideful and reserved. What was so special about him?

However, this was not the time for her to be distracted. She focused on the tablet again but as time passed, she knew that this was futile.

She had tried before several times to no avail. Since it was brought back from Immortal Dao City with the artifact, perhaps the two were connected. It might be the key to activate the artifact.

Alas, no one in the sect had been able to understand the tablet's mysteries.

## **Chapter 5506: The Tides Rise And Fall**

Qin Baifeng stopped trying and let out a sigh. If this tablet could be solved, it would have been done long ago.

Her senior sister was right - this was only a last-minute attempt with no chance of success.

"Your talent is exceptional but your mindset is lacking compared to your senior sister." Li Qiye glanced at her and said.

"Could you elaborate, Young Noble?" She became slightly emotional after hearing the casual remark.

Her talent left no room for doubt. After all, she gained the ancestors' approval despite being a recruit from the outside world - a contrast to Sunset Glow Goddess who was born here.

"It's an innate thing, your senior sister is more suited to lead the valley, a natural fit." Li Qiye said.

His comment might have angered anyone else since it was rather rude, especially when it was directed at a six-fruit dragon lord. He praised her rival while putting her down.

They might think that he was purposely insulting her after being chosen by Sunset Glow Goddess as her consort.

In this case, Qin Baifeng didn't think that this was personal.

"What makes you say this, Young Noble?" She asked calmly.

"You came from an impure world, so you have impure world views. Your senior sister was born and raised here, her bright heart is one with it." He said.

"Your logic is sound." She humbly nodded and said: "I am indeed an outsider. Although I won't actively plan for the clan, it will benefit if I were to become the valley lord."

"Heaven Searching had four monarchs in the past. Why does it need to rely on Sunset Glow?" He asked.

"The truth is that our clan is barely hanging on now." She sighed and admitted with a sad expression. It was impressive that she would admit this to an outsider.

Alas, this was simply the truth. Heaven Searching was reduced to ashes after Immemorial Epoch War. Their clan was the sole remaining branch.

In order to honor the past, they kept "heaven searching" as part of the clan's motto.

"The tides rise and fall, no one can escape." He said.

"Young Noble, where are you from, and why did you visit our valley?" She became curious about him.

She didn't think that he was allowed inside by the senior sister.

"I'm just passing by, that's all." He smiled.

"It's not that easy to enter our sect." She was skeptical.

In the past, Cloudsweep Fairy didn't wish the sect to be involved in worldly struggles that might end disastrously. Thus, she used a special technique to protect the valley; it could have been concocted by the immortal artifact.

From then on, no one could enter without permission or invitation - not even powerful emperors and monarchs. Was this man strong enough to infiltrate their valley undetected?

"I was invited." He said with a smile.

"Invited?" Baifeng was surprised because she and her senior sister were in charge of the sect's administration. However, they didn't invite him.

"The matron invited you?" She asked since this was another possibility.

"No, a white cloud did." Li Qiye shook his head.

"Really?" Though this sounded unbelievable, intuition told her that he wasn't lying.

"A white cloud..." She murmured.

"Sigh, the two of you cannot grasp that artifact." He suddenly said.

"What makes you so sure of that, Young Noble?" She became curious.

"Because you two can't even understand one tablet from Immortal Dao. The artifact will not acknowledge you, let alone be controlled by you." He said.

"You can understand the tablet?" She took a deep breath.

"Not difficult at all compared to controlling the artifact. It is hopeless for you two." He said.

She wasn't offended because no one else in the sect had been able to do so. Rumor has it that the artifact was deeply connected with Immortal Dao City. Perhaps one would be able to see some of the heavenly treasure's secrets with it.

She then understood why her senior sister talked about picking him to be her consort. This ordinary man could read the tablet - something rather pivotal to the sect.

"Do you think you can control the artifact, Young Noble?" She asked again.

He only smiled and didn't respond.

"Are you willing to stay here?" She couldn't help but ask.

"Don't tell me you want a consort too." He teased.

"... The winner can decide that..." She turned red despite being a six-fruit dragon lord, not daring to look straight at him.

"Not interested." He shook his head.

"Well, if you stay, Young Noble, we will honor you as an esteemed guest." She regained her composure and said.

"I'm afraid this tiny Sunset Glow Valley can't persuade me to stay." He couldn't help but smile.

## **Chapter 5507: Dao Path**

Although the comment insulted Sunset Glow Valley, it truly couldn't compare to the behemoths such as Immortal Dao City. Nonetheless, Li Qiye made it sound like they weren't worth a single coin.

"We do not dare to insist if that is against your will, Young Noble." Qing Baifeng let out a sigh.

"Hmm, not as insistent as your senior sister." Li Qiye smiled.

"Her mindset and optimism are exceptional but I will try my best." Baifeng said softly.

"Now that's a better answer. Whatever you lack on the dao path, you can make it up with the dao heart later." He nodded approvingly.

"I appreciate your advice, Young Noble." She bowed and said: "I have to go as well. Please come to Sunset Peak if you can, our grand ceremony commences soon."

Li Qiye nodded and didn't say anything else. She bowed again and left the hall.

He stared at the central statue and became sentimental due to the familiar face. Some, once parted, could never meet again for they are separated just like heaven and earth.

He extended his hand and closed his fingers, activating the ancient runes on the tablet. They became resplendent, seemingly returning to life.

"Buzz." They flew toward his palm like bees returning to the nest. It didn't take long before all of them were there, initiating a dao derivation process. Eventually, they fused with his palm and disappeared from sight.

However, the tablet still looked the same and the runes were still there. It was as if nothing had happened.

Only those with enough determination and comprehension would eventually note a difference. The runes' true power and auras have been taken - only their physical shell remained.

"Was this the right choice? There was still time." He sighed and said while looking at her statue.

Alas, the statue didn't respond. He stood up and started walking toward the entrance.

"Young Noble, have a safe journey. I hope the beautiful sunset will always accompany you." The old woman appeared out of nowhere and waved at him.

"Goodbye, may the sunset be with you too." He nodded and wished her well.

He left the temple and entered the valley, seeing a vast mountain range. The sect was entirely independent and self-sufficient - the home of both mortals and cultivators.

They didn't mingle with the outside world and continued to be reclusive after the era of Cloudsweep Fairy.

Of course, they were rather prosperous and populated now compared to their darkest days. They had enough territories to maintain the isolation.

Li Qiye walked around until he reached a town sharing the same name as the valley - the home for many disciples and mortals.

Cloudsweep Fairy herself chose to stay here instead of Sunset Peak. Rumor has it that she was the one who built this town.

Every brick and tile of her house contained her love and emotion as she spent her last days here. Thus, many disciples viewed the town as a second ancestral ground.

Despite being a town, the place was lively with merchants and mortals - a stark contrast to the transcending air of Sunset Peak. This made it more pleasant to be around.

Li Qiye was surprised to see the architectural style of the town. This made memories of the past appear in his mind.

The structures were different from the current style in the six continents, even the thirteen continents and Eight Desolaces.

No one could recognize the style now because it belonged to Crimson Night Kingdom of the nine worlds. This style could no longer be seen anywhere else in the world.

As someone who had lived during that epoch and visited Crimson Night, he immediately recalled these memories.

Of course, the inhabitants themselves didn't know the reason why their town was built differently than the outside world.

He became emotional and understood why she chose to stay here instead of Sunset Peak. She traveled through worlds, hoping to find a certain someone.

The immortal continent was not home and she had no intention of staying here at first. Other emperors and dao lords came here for the sake of cultivation, wanting to become stronger.

This was not her goal. She would have preferred to stay in the nine worlds if it wasn't for the search.

The thing that kept her here were the words "Sunset Glow", the scripture that started it all. These characters were friends who accompanied her through her quest. She believed that as long as she remained diligent, she would have been able to see him again.

In the end, she realized that time was running out. Thus, she built this town and turned it into home.

He could feel her emotions and thoughts while gazing at the small town. She could have gone farther on the dao path but she picked Sunset Glow.

"Should have kept on going on the dao path, don't stop for anyone..." He said wistfully.

## **Chapter 5508: A Secret**

Cloudsweep Manor was the largest house in the town. It had a courtyard decorated with a rock garden, large trees, and a training field.

This made people think that it was a training branch for the sect. However, it was more popular than Sunset Peak since this was the final resting place of Cloudsweep Fairy.

One could sense the ripples of the grand dao upon entering the manor. Each inch of land has been blessed by dao laws. In fact, the dao power would harmonize and assist with dao enlightenment.

The fairy had imbued her power and dao laws into the manor, turning it into the best location for cultivation in Sunset Glow. Even mortals who were not a part of the sect could visit, meditate, and feel her remnant auras.

According to the legends, she had imprinted the complete scripture into the major. One didn't need to join the sect to have access to this dao road.



There was another reason why everyone wanted to visit the major - finding a potential secret left behind by her.

Numerous speculations arose regarding this secret. One stated that her strongest treasures were waiting for the fateful ones. Another claimed that it might be related to the immortal artifact.

A third was only privy to the ancestors of the sect - the immortal artifact was too profound, representing a force within Immortal Dao City. Although she had control of it during her life, she didn't fully comprehend it.

During her stay in Sunset Glow, she devoted all of her time and energy to this goal, eventually culminating in her death. The lessons and dao that she learned were stored in the manor, awaiting the fateful ones. Because of this, disciples came to train on top of searching for this secret.

Li Qiye walked around to enjoy the air of the major. He could feel the dao transformations of the scripture after every step. After all, he had perfect mastery, being the one who taught her this dao.

"Boom!" He saw disciples meditating everywhere. One of them managed to harmonize with the dao, resulting in a loud blast.

Another understood a section of the scripture and resplendent runes appeared around her. The deeper she delved, the more she gained - an energy scripture appeared before her and revealed some of its mysteries.

"I-I did it!" She was ecstatic and jumped up after learning more about this dao.

Disciples here didn't hide anything since the manor was available for everyone to learn. In fact, some were only curious about Li Qiye - an outsider. A few came up enthusiastically to greet and welcome him to the sect; most kept on cultivating without worrying about someone else's business.

After observing the nostalgic architectural style, he stopped and sat down in a pavilion. On the wall was a faded painting. Amidst the blurry outlines, there seemed to be a woman walking in a meadow. Above her was a drifting white cloud.

This place was full of life. When Li Qiye closed his eyes, he had traveled back in time during the fairy's era - living and cultivating the dao in this place. She became inches away from him.

Meanwhile, a kind villager from the town brought him tea and snacks. These were food from the mortal world yet Li Qiye didn't mind at all despite having been exposed to the finest delicacies.

He sipped the tea and took his time eating. This felt like a return to the nine worlds - a truly comforting experience.

At the same time, loud commotions came from the entrance of the major. This was due to the arrival of a young man with an impressive aura. Halos emanated from him along with rotating runes.

He walked confidently and caused everyone to pause their training and stand up.

"First Brother." They bowed to greet him.

"I just got back, no need to be so polite, everyone." He had the imposing might of a dragon lord.

“First Brother, it’s rare to see you here, back for the ceremony?” Another disciple asked with a smile.

“You want to become the valley lord?” One more asked curiously.

“No, an outer disciple such as myself is not qualified.” Mu Shaoyun shook his head.

Despite being the oldest of the generation, he was not qualified to become the valley lord due to his status as an outer disciple. Qin Baifeng, despite being an outsider, had become an inner disciple.

Moreover, he was only third place in terms of power, being a four-fruit dragon lord.

## **Chapter 5509: Take A Look**

“A visitor?” Mu Shaoyun saw Li Qiye and knew that he was an outsider.

“Fellow Daoist, where are you from?” He came over and bowed slightly.

“I’m just passing by.” Li Qiye smiled.

“May I ask who invited you?” Shaoyun found this rather odd.

“No one.” Li Qiye took another sip of tea.

Curiosity turned into confusion because no one could enter their sect without an invitation. Listeners nearby quietly discussed this matter as well.

Why was an uninvited outsider present, especially when the grand ceremony drew near?

Shaoyun contemplated and thought that the ancestors along with his juniors sisters wouldn’t let this go unnoticed.

Nonetheless, since Li Qiye didn’t want to speak, he couldn’t press the issue.

“Fellow Daoist, we apologize for the lack of reception since everyone is busy with the grand ceremony.” He said despite being skeptical.

Skepticism was the biggest difference between him and Sunset Glow Goddess. The former was an outer disciple who had traveled extensively. His heart carried prejudice and doubt since he had seen the world.

“It’s fine.” Li Qiye smiled and ate a piece of snack.

Shaoyun was a little peeved by Li Qiye’s indifferent demeanor. The guy was acting as if this was his home - the others were mere guests.

This was a rather bizarre feeling but Shaoyun dropped the issue.

“First Brother, are you attempting again?” A disciple asked him.

“Yes, a revisit to gain new insight into the scripture.” Shaoyun laughed and had ample confidence in his ability.

After all, he was powerful with four sacred fruits - this was relatively amazing in not just Sunset Glow but the entire continent. He was certainly worthy of the character, "genius".

"You have such a good grasp on it already and can manifest chapters at will." Another disciple shared the same sentiment.

"No way, my attainment is still limited." Shaoyun sat down and began meditating.

Sure enough, the grand dao harmonized with him. Dao laws and runes appeared along with mystical hymns.

"Incredible, that's why he's in third place." Others gathered and talked about his swift comprehension.

"Only someone like First Brother is worthy of our goddess." Another said.

"Right, if the goddess wishes to pick a consort, it has to be him." They started gossiping about this matter.

Everyone knew that he had a crush on Sunset Glow Goddess. This was indeed a good match.

However, someone else came into the manor and silenced the crowd. Many bowed in her direction.

"Senior Sister Qin." Their expression became serious and dignified.

Unlike Mu Shaoyun, Qin Baifeng actually had authority in the sect, capable of delivering judgment and punishments.

Moreover, she wasn't as lax as Sunset Glow Goddess so many were afraid of her.

"Junior Sister, you're out too? It's been a while, let's have a drink?" Shaoyun stopped meditating and stood up to greet her.

"You're back, Senior Brother." Baifeng nodded in return and said. Her eyes then fell upon Li Qiye who was relaxing inside the pavilion.

He poured his own drink and merely observed the painting on the wall.

She started walking over in his direction while everyone else gossiped again.

"Do you know him, Junior Sister?" Shaoyun thought that she might have been the one who invited Li Qiye.

Few in the sect had the authority to invite outsiders; she was one of them. Moreover, since she was from an external clan, she most likely had acquaintances from the outside world.

Alas, she didn't answer his question, leaving him with a wry smile. This was her style - never giving anyone face or expressing clear emotions. Only the goddess could occasionally make her smile.

"Young Noble, you're taking a look at the dao here?" She sat near him and asked, further fanning the flames of gossip.

Everyone thought that their cold senior sister might actually have a boyfriend.

"Indeed." He smiled and only poured his own cup.

She didn't care for tea or snacks, only curious about his goal. She glanced at the wall and asked: "What do you think about it?"

"Trying to figure out some clues?" He smiled.

"No, I'm just curious about what you think since you're a first-time visitor." She said.

"Wow, Junior Sister, since when do you pay this much attention to someone else?" A cloud landed from the sky and a pleasant voice could be heard.

"Senior Sister!" Her appearance excited the crowd.

Sunset Glow Goddess had a better reputation than Qin Baifeng due to her amicable and outgoing nature. She resembled a kind neighbor, not an imperious core disciple.

If they had to pick, they would prefer her over Qin Baifeng despite the two being evenly matched in terms of ability.

Mu Shaoyun's eyes lit up after seeing her, not hiding his affection in the slightest.

"Long time no see, Junior Sister, how I've missed you. You are even more brilliant than before." He rushed over and greeted her.

"Welcome back, Senior Brother." She smiled at him before entering the pavilion and sitting down next to Li Qiye as well.

"Young Noble, I'm sure you're not only here to sightsee." She winked at Li Qiye.

Shaoyun's expression soured after seeing this.

## **Chapter 5510**

The crowd clamored at this sight and began gossiping again. They believed that Mu Shaoyun and the goddess were a great match.

Now, this outsider popped up out of nowhere. Of course, they had no ill will toward Li Qiye; some were even happy to see him.

However, they knew nothing about his background, only that both their senior sisters were interested in him.

"Does First Sister like him?" Someone whispered.

"No way, why would First Sister like an outsider?" Her friend whispered back: "This is his first time here, they've probably only met recently, it can't be love or anything."

"Don't you know about love at first sight? Maybe that's what going on here." Another boldly speculated.

The group then took a closer look at Li Qiye and came up with the same conclusion - ordinary. Any random male disciple from their sect was superior in terms of appearance.

"He doesn't look special at all. Remember, First Sister is a dragon lord." The whispering started again.

A six-fruit dragon lord was far from being unbeatable in the immortal continent. Nonetheless, she was still an influential character - a peak that couldn't be surpassed by the average cultivator.

The one affected the most was none other than Mu Shaoyun since everyone knew about his crush.

Although the goddess was friendly with everyone, she still kept a certain distance. Moreover, others never crossed the line due to her power and status.

However, she seemed particularly enthusiastic and close to Li Qiye - something Shaoyun had never seen before. Thus, he immediately considered Li Qiye as a love rival.

"What does it look like then?" Li Qiye smiled, seemingly having a good time while being surrounded by two beauties.

"Young Noble, shouldn't you offer us some tea first?" The goddess said before glancing at the pot.

"No." He answered directly.

"Junior Sister, I'll brew you a pot if you wish to drink." Shaoyun offered with a smile.

"Thank you, Senior Brother, but it's quite alright." She shook her head, clearly not interested.

She then peeled some boiled peanuts and fed Li Qiye who was happy to oblige. This caused another commotion among spectators as if a bomb had just detonated.

Even a fool could see that their relationship was special. Peanuts were a simple snack in the mortal world. However, they were rather significant since she was the one feeding him.

"Didn't I tell you, she likes him." The female disciple from before said excitedly.

They had no prejudice against the outsider. In fact, this might become a beautiful romance akin to a princess loving a poor scholar. The tale of this would spread throughout the valley.

"How did she meet him?" Another found this surprising because their First Sister had never left the valley before.

"I told you, it has to be love at first sight since she's a sensitive soul." A different disciple said.

"Are they going to get together? No way, right?" One more whispered.

"Why not? It's not like we can't marry outsiders, it happened all the time in the past." Someone said, preferring to witness a potential romantic tale.

"It's different, First Sister might become the valley lord, our successor." A relatively older disciple shook her head.

"Abandoning ambition for love." One girl's eyes lit up and said: "She'll drop her status and will leave with him, becoming a virtuous wife and mother instead."

"That should not happen." The older disciple responded.

The girl overwhelmed with excitement glared at her and said: "Why not? Even if First Sister leaves, we still have Senior Sister Qin, our valley will be just fine. First Sister is so pretty and full of life, she deserves happiness."

Although they had no idea about Li Qiye's background, a few pure-hearted girls were already fantasizing about the romance.

They even thought about the future - how many children would Li Qiye and First Sister have together? What would their names be? Would this family return to the sect later and recognize their heritage?

On the contrary, Mu Shaoyun's face became increasingly ugly. He had always thought that they were meant to be despite not spending enough time together. After all, he was the most qualified candidate in the valley.