

Emperor 5521

Chapter 5521: Spoiling The Mood

The crowd thought that the challenge was reasonable - Shaoyun should have this opportunity to do a check for the sake of the sect.

"Fool." The goddess murmured.

The matron let out a sigh and didn't stop him.

"If you disagree with our decision, you may ask my sword first." Qin Baifeng said domineeringly.

Putting her superior position aside, she was still stronger than him. This left him in a tough position but Li Qiye smiled and waved his hand: "I got this."

"Finally, and here I thought you would keep hiding behind women." Shaoyun uttered coldly.

Li Qiye shook his head and said: "A dragon lord yet still idiotic. The valley will remove you."

"Hahaha!" Shaoyun burst out in laughter and said: "Remove me? Who do you think you are?! You will be dead to my blade first!"

"Boom!" His vitality erupted and four sacred fruits manifested into reality, releasing a domineering aura.

"Brat, accept death!" He created a dao sword with frightening energy.

Members of the valley became afraid since just the rays alone could decapitate them.

"Take this blade-" Alas, he couldn't finish speaking before Li Qiye raised his hand and controlled the immortal light of the valley.

"Damn!" He saw this and raised his sword for a parry. Unfortunately, it was too late.

The beam struck him with an unstoppable power. This was something far beyond his ability to block.

"Ahh!" He instantly exploded into a bloody mist. The wind blew him away, leaving nothing behind outside of an astounded crowd including the matron.

Qin Baifeng and the goddess didn't know how to feel either. They couldn't get through the immortal light while Li Qiye was able to control it like a weapon.

Shaoyun being obliterated was expected but how did Li Qiye do so? Could he control the immortal artifact as well?

The goddess had suspected something similar but this still exceeded her imagination.

"The mood of this beautiful place was ruined by a cockroach." Li Qiye said with a smile while the crowd still needed a moment to calm down.

The light followed Li Qiye like a dragon as he entered the valley.

“Buzz.” Whatever was deeper inside the valley became more resplendent, unleashing an ocean of brilliance capable of drowning the sect.

Fortunately, it merely filled out the valley and didn’t leave the entrance.

“It’s not leaking out, that’s good.” Many disciples heaved a sigh of relief.

Meanwhile, Li Qiye disappeared from sight.

“The immortal artifact will have an owner soon.” The goddess murmured.

“Just who is he?” Qin Baifeng took a deep breath. She was blown away by just one stream of that light while he strolled through an entire ocean.

“The one awaited...” The matron stared at Li Qiye’s back and realized something.

Initially, Li Qiye was not interested in this artifact after hearing about its legend and connection to Cloudsweep Fairy. He changed his mind after seeing the actual light and wanted to see it in person.

“Boom!” The artifact seemed to know of Li Qiye’s intent and didn’t welcome him.

Alas, its direct power couldn’t affect him in the slightest. It then showed him wondrous phenomena - an immortal scripture with dao laws. Another dao capable of seeing the intent of the heaven. In fact, even the nine Heavenly Scriptures were shown rotating...

The latter was more tempting than anything else. Eyes couldn’t be averted from their profundities. The nine scriptures were simply divine and coveted by all. Supreme geniuses and unbeatable emperors weren’t exceptions.

“Only others, not me.” He shook his head and moved forward.

Every time he stared directly at a phenomenon or walked by one, they immediately collapsed. At the end of the valley was an immortal light, akin to the flame within a lamp.

Instead of being connected to a lamp, it seemed to be growing on top of a special soil created by peerless laws. Despite its physical limitation, it could expand to be boundless. Its form kept on changing in an indiscernible manner.

The light suddenly extinguished the moment Li Qiye drew near.

Chapter 5522: Immortal Light

He crouched down to look at it and smiled: “Oh? Doesn’t seem like I’m welcomed here.”

No response came from the un-ignitable light.

“Must I do it myself?” He asked and still didn’t get a response as if the light had ceased to exist.

“One of my favorite hobbies is annoying others. I insist on a meeting.” He continued: “Alright, fine, let’s start this.”

“Poof!” A dreadful dao flame sparked in his hands.

Cultivators had their own dao flame. The strength and intensity depended on the affinity of the cultivator’s merit law.

Although Li Qiye’s dao flame didn’t look impressive like an inferno, it could burn down the entire world. Monarchs and dao lords wouldn’t be able to survive either.

However, the extinguished light still didn’t react. This was akin to a lamp being soaked with water. Li Qiye’s dao flame couldn’t force the light to appear again.

“I don’t give up that easily.” Li Qiye smirked and recalled his dao flame.

“Poof!” He released a primordial light instead, acting as if he was there during the formation of heaven and earth. He was the first existence with the first dao law and the first light - the origin of all things.

Primordial strands spread throughout his body, growing in his bones and flesh. It only took a few seconds before a primordial tree grew outward. Everything in this epoch was hanging on the tree including all affinities and the karmic cycles.

He channeled its power into his fingertip, creating a ray that couldn’t be smaller. It flickered and danced as if it had come to life as a playful spirit.

He sent it toward the soil and it immediately flowed through the target like electricity. The two were entwined together and sure enough, the light returned once more despite its unwillingness.

“Cooperation would have been nice, now it’s awkward.” Li Qiye said with a smile.

The immortal light flickered but couldn’t disappear due to Li Qiye’s frightening primordial light.

“Since I’m here, maybe it’s time to give me an answer.” He demanded and reached for it - looking like a mortal trying to extinguish a lamp.

“Zzz...” Sizzles could be heard as his hand was burned by it. Oil started dripping from his palm due to the heat.

Nonetheless, he closed his fingers and forced it into his palm. It traveled at extreme speed, finishing a full rotation through his body.

During this split second, it became unclear whether this was an illusion or hallucination but Li Qiye appeared in a different world.

This realm was massive and paradisaical. Wondrous dao laws and springs cascaded from the sky. The dao transformed into floating peaks and mountains.

This seemed to be a place of ascension, allowing someone to reach immortality and peer into the high heaven.

With one flash, one could traverse through numerous dimensions and reach the villainous heaven, losing oneself to its profound wonders. This was the final area of this vast expanse - the culmination of the dao and the secret to immortality.

Who knows if these were mere illusions or otherwise?

Chapter 5523: You Shouldn't

This was the end of the dao - as unreachable as it was enigmatic. Li Qiye focused his gaze in order to see everything clearly.

He saw an old man meditating beneath a waterfall within a spring. His white hair flowed down his shoulders as he searched for the dao. His mere gaze alone could cause emperors and monarchs to tremble in awe.

At a different location, he saw someone strolling through a chaotic expanse and leaving behind an ethereal path - a unique mark belonging to him alone. This seemed to be an attempt at rebuilding order amidst the chaos.

Within a marvelous area was an ordinary man with a notable smirk filled with optimism and a carefree attitude to everything in this world. He seemed to be holding a package wrapped in oily paper. The content was unclear but some mortals would guess that they were salted duck eggs from a market.

He observed everything around him with anticipation. The subtle mysteries and transformations were all interesting and worthy of ponderance. After a moment of contemplation, he muttered something to himself and then dismissed it, continuing on his journey.

In a dao expanse of water was a man with lotus flowers sprouting beneath his step. His presence exuded life and vitality. As long as he was around, a collapsed world could sprout again from a single leaf. [1]

Countless figures roamed this world. Some had companions while others preferred solitude. Nonetheless, all had a clear goal and dream in mind while possessing ample self-awareness. They relied solely on themselves to reach the fabled other shore, forging their own path via cultivation with great optimism.

Li Qiye saw all these details clearly - whether it be the person with the ethereal path, the man with the nature affinity, or the guy with the duck eggs... In that split second, they temporarily paused their task and gazed upward, seemingly noticing him.

However, what he wanted to see was not them so he closed his eyes. Everything disappeared - the vast world, its mysteries, and the inhabitants disappeared from thin air. It was as if they were mere illusions.

"Must I make a trip myself? I just might uproot everything then." Li Qiye smiled, seemingly talking to nobody.

"Buzz." Suddenly, all realms vanished including Eight Desolaces, the six continents, and those beyond...

Heaven and earth became an egg with nothing inside. All affinities reverted to stillness.

Li Qiye took one step forward and added motion to the stillness. Feeble rays appeared, seemingly wanting to manifest into reality but couldn't. Only death awaited in the case of failure.

"Primordial light." Li Qiye sat down and knew what these rays were.

"You've touched them." A voice came from afar. However, how could this be when there was no concept of time and space in this void? Moreover, it didn't resemble human speech either, not communicated through the ears but rather through resonance.

"Yes, I possessed them before." Li Qiye said with a smile.

"You shouldn't have come." The voice came again.

"Yet I am here and we shall have a meeting." Li Qiye insisted.

"Is that so?" It was unclear when this response came since measuring time became impossible in its absolute absence.

"I believe in myself and in its existence." Li Qiye nodded.

"It does not." The voice resembled something coming from a dao law instead of a living being.

"I disagree." Li Qiye said confidently.

"Based on what?" The voice responded in his mind.

"On the fact that I have a primordial will." Li Qiye smiled.

The voice didn't answer this time, seemingly taking its time in predicting the future.

"It has turned into a tree but is still under my control, so what are you trying to see?" Li Qiye continued.

"You should not." The voice concluded, capable of seeing a primordial tree growing within Li Qiye.

"The reason being?" Li Qiye asked.

"You know of the legend." The voice responded.

"Which one?" Li Qiye spoke slowly in order to implicate something.

"The primordial devourment." It took a long time before the voice popped up again.

"Unfortunately, I am not. The reason why I possess it is because I am just a living being, another mortal." Li Qiye said.

The voice contemplated the issue again.

"There's a saying from long, long ago." Li Qiye started the conversation again.

"Which saying?" The voice asked.

"The cosmo is an egg, the grand beginning gave birth to the Nine Words, the Nine Words created the Nine Treasures, and from the Nine Treasures came the Nine Scriptures." Li Qiye said with a serious tone; each word echoed in the void.

Although nothing truly existed in this domain, Li Qiye could will himself into existence.

"Boom!" Suddenly, something detonated and it was as if an egg was being cracked open.

Chapter 5524: Who Is An Egg?

A primordial light was finally born after the cracking phenomenon. Time and space, karma, and other cycles appeared within this light.

Nine words manifested into reality and rotated continuously around Li Qiye - the creator.

He sat down and evolutions unraveled around him. Ages seemingly passed by in the blink of an eye.

"Who is the egg?" The illusory voice asked.

"Who are the nine words?" Li Qiye responded with a question.

This voice was invisible and incorporeal. He could only converse with it with his thoughts.

"Which word are you?" He asked using a primordial language.

"Dao." The voice had no choice but to respond.

"Nine words from the absolute beginning. Unfortunately, I am not it." He smiled: "As for the prior question regarding the egg, you know the answer."

"The high heaven." The voice answered.

"Then why do you wish to keep a distance? A mortal such as myself won't eat you." He smiled.

It seemed that the incalculable distance between them shortened by a tiny bit. The voice answered:

"You are the second egg."

"I am not." He shook his head.

"For now." The voice said.

"It's within the realm of possibility but to become the next egg is rather meaningless. It's just repeating the same thing." He stroked his chin and said.

"Then what are you?" The voice asked.

"Just a nobody, a mortal searching for an answer, that's all." He smiled.

The voice took a while before responding: "There is no answer."

"The dao has the answer that mortals are searching for." He said.

"Not the answer that you want." The voice said decisively.

"I suppose that's true, but what about the nine words?" He said.

"With the nine words, you'll be the egg." The voice answered.

"I can assure you, I will never become the egg." He shook his head.

"Why?" The voice asked.

"The dao heart alone, that is my pursuit." He smiled.

"The dao heart." The voice repeated.

"You have seen it before within the emperor and monarch." He said.

"Not necessarily." The voice said.

"True, it's inconspicuous until the very end when the brilliance of an unwavering dao heart can be seen." He nodded.

"Perhaps, but still to be determined." The voice said.

"What are you afraid of? We both know that nothing can constrain you for you are the dao. Plus, I'm a kind soul." He asked again in a casual tone.

"You are the egg." The voice repeated.

"If you could enter my mind, I would let you do so to gaze at my dao heart, to see if it is an egg or not." He shook his head.

"The probability is high." The voice insisted.

"Sigh, looks like there is nothing I can do to prove otherwise." He let out a sigh.

"Just another egg. You'll realize this once you see it." The voice said.

"What if I prove you wrong?" He asked.

"Well..." The voice hesitated: "And if you do?"

"There's a particular tale from long ago, few know about it." He stroked his chin and brought up something different.

"You've seen it?" The voice seemed reluctant to hear this tale.

"No, but it did happen, don't you think?" He said.

The voice didn't answer.

"There was a little baby born with little spirits dancing and singing around it." He said: "The baby reached and grabbed one of the fairies, then turned around and went back to sleep."

After a long silence, the voice finally answered: "Now I'm sure that you are an egg, only an egg would know this."

"If I were an egg, I would grab you right now." He revealed a menacing smirk, certainly scaring the voice.

"Hahaha, just kidding, if I really want to capture you, I would be going in person instead of using this method for a chat." He laughed and waved his hand.

"Eggs are unpredictable." The voice said.

"Stop making me repeat myself, I am not an egg." He said helplessly but the voice didn't seem to trust him.

"When you are at that place and the circumstances are right, will you become an egg?" The voice asked.

"Never." He said firmly.

"This egg isn't an egg..." The voice was being convinced by him.

"Sigh, can't escape the topic of eggs at all, what the heck happened?" He smiled wryly.

"Because of the egg." The voice said.

"That's a very long time ago, the egg isn't like how it was in the past." He shook his head.

"But still an egg all the same." The voice said.

He contemplated in silence for a bit before replying: "Maybe you're right, I haven't thought about this deeply enough. Perhaps I was biased from the start, I might actually be an egg."

"Exactly." The voice said.

"So what led to all of this?" He mused.

"The nine words." The voice answered.

"Right, the nine words!" Li Qiye slapped his thigh and exclaimed.

Chapter 5525: Nine Words

"How many are under you right now?" Li Qiye asked.

The voice took a while to answer, seemingly attempting to remember or calculate an answer: "Unsure, at least half are unknown."

"Half." He mused: "Some will be transformation and derivation while others are aggregations."

"It's all in the mortal world." The voice drifted far away, seemingly merging into the lower realms.

"I don't think so." He shook his head.

The voice was omnipresent and could derive everything. It performed a full cycle of prosperity and decline. This went on infinitely before it responded: "The flows of the world are connected and ever integrated. All of these connections are why the egg is awakened."

"An epoch and its momentum?" Li Qiye smiled.

"Yes, during its golden age." The voice continued the calculating process.

"What are the results of missing words or all nine being there? The former might result in ignorance and perpetual slumber but if all nine are there, does that increase the reception?" He asked.

"Hmm..." The voice's derivation continued but suddenly, lightning bolts could be heard. A figure could be seen within the expanse of lightning - was this the high heaven?

"You're unsure." Li Qiye smiled.

"An egg such as yourself knows already." The voice didn't come up with an answer.

"Alas, I am not." He shook his head.

"If you change to an egg, perhaps you will see all nine." The voice said.

"You're only saying this because I'm not one. If I make that change, you'll be running for your life." He chuckled.

After a brief silence, the voice suggested: "Maybe topple one of the avatars as a catalyst."

"It might not be around or they have fused." He said.

"I see..." The voice said: "What would you do in this position? Perform simulations."

"Simulations are not possible because I do not and never have thought about becoming an egg." He shook his head.

"And why is that?" The voice became closer, seemingly existing right in front of him to take a closer look.

"I am not an egg and never was, my true self is me alone. He is an egg because that is his anima." He smiled.

"His anima." The voice contemplated: "What if it isn't?"

"What do you think the egg's anima and the true self are then?" He asked a crucial question.

Something flashed for a split second in front of Li Qiye.

"Nothing." The voice said with uncertainty.

"Then isn't that a perfect match with what an egg is?" He pressed on.

"Try to turn it around?" The voice eventually suggested.

"What's the point? Nothing will just be nothing." He shook his head.

"What about those words?" The voice asked with a hint of optimism.

"I've thought about this occasionally but it won't work because they might be involved, serving as a connection." He responded.

"Of course." The void said with confidence: "Emotions and desires exist in the mortal world and leave their marks, connections are always possible."

"Right, it wouldn't be the mortal world without emotions and desires, only a realm of stillness and no living beings, no different from death. At that point, destruction or otherwise, no longer relevant." He said.

"Just words." The voice took a while before concluding.

“Yes, words capable of derivation. Without that, there is no meaning to your existence. The eternal dao and its mysteries won’t be there, only a single word.” He said: “Derivation and development are the values of your existence, necessary not only for living beings but also yourself.”

“What about you?” The voice asked.

“I have my own aspiration and you have yours.” He smiled.

“Words can have aspirations?” The voice asked.

“Of course, but it has to be alive first with emotions.” He said.

“...” The voice couldn’t feel because it wasn’t a living being.

“Since you don’t have them, answer this, for what reason do you exist?” He asked.

The voice contemplated but had no answer.

“I, a living being, yearn for the ultimate answer.” He said: “What about you?”

After a complicated calculation, it answered: “No beginning and no end.”

“I see, everything being the same at a singular point, already like that at the start and will be like that at the end. I suppose that is a purpose but for whom does it serve?” He nodded before asking.

“Unsure.” The voice said: “For the sake of the nine words turning into nine treasures and from that, nine scriptures.”

“For what? Nothing is next, only an abrupt and inevitable return to the starting point, there is no other shore.” He said.

The voice fell into silence, perhaps attempting to derive an answer again.

“How matter how hard you try, the calculation is limited internally to your being. Sure, the results can be profound but supreme but ultimately, they are nothing more than futile effort.” He said.

Chapter 5526: World’s Judgment

“What do you think then? Eggs are eggs and words are words?” The voice asked.

“Perhaps.” Li Qiye smiled.

“And there is a symbiosis relationship between the two.” The voice became certain all of a sudden.

“If that’s true, would you be here? What about the other words?” He smiled.

“Well...” The voice pondered for a bit before acquiescing: “I suppose co-existence is the better word.”

“That’s fine, but have you considered a more fundamental issue?” He asked.

“What?” The voice asked.

“The world’s judgment.” He said, causing a violent ripple shooting across this illusory realm. [1]

"The judgment of heaven and earth. That's post-nascent." The voice said.

"Why does that matter? I am post-nascent as well." He said.

"The egg is pre-nascent." The voice said.

"Then how do I become the egg?" He questioned.

"You can assume a state of pre-nascent." The voice responded.

"Either state of origin matters to me not. I am me, my true self." He shook his head.

"Back to the world's judgment, it might not exist." The voice said.

"Do we see the existence of eggs? The same concept applies to the omnipresent judgment." He said.

The voice didn't respond.

"You are the dao, separated from the mortal world and different from me and the egg. That's why you cannot provide an answer." He continued.

The voice agreed with this point but not the previous: "The judgment might not be a thing."

"It seems like we can't come to a consensus regarding this topic, let's talk about something else." He said.

"What?" The voice was always cautious of Li Qiye.

"I came with sincerity, absent of malice. There is no need for you to be cautious against my kind soul." He said.

"I'm still convinced that you can become an egg." The voice said.

"Forget about the future, I am not an egg right now." He shook his head.

"It doesn't change the possibility of that happening." The voice insisted.

"I am absolutely sure that it won't. My origin starts with my dao heart and will end with my dao heart, an immovable one making me a candidate. If this ever changes, I will cease to be myself and the circumstances of my becoming an egg disappear as well, isn't this a paradox?"

"We'll see about that." The voice seemed to have done countless cycles of calculation before.

"Fine, whatever, I'm an egg then, let's talk about the three stones instead." Li Qiye smiled helplessly.

"The Trinity Stones." The voice knew what he was talking about right away.

"Yes." He nodded.

"They don't matter since you're an egg." The voice said.

"It's interesting, always a stone in one generation after another. They can have one possibility or three." He said.

The voice entertained him and performed a derivation as well regarding this matter.

"Born from three yet interconnected. The past originated from the present and guards the future." The voice gave an answer.

"What of the future?" He asked.

"The future..." The voice calculated again before answering: "It might be in the past or is shining in the present."

"That doesn't make sense." He shook his head.

"That's what the future is." The voice said with certainty.

"Fine, what about the present? That's the key." He asked with a serious expression.

"The present..." The voice started the process once more and didn't reply after finishing.

"The present is the present, it is here and now." It concluded.

"It is not only in the present, there must be a key point." He said.

"The present is the future and the past." The voice said.

"No, that's not right. Then all three stones are the same without any distinction, just one timeline and not three." He shook his head.

"One stone for one timeline, one timeline for one stone, three together." The voice repeated.

"Let's try another perspective, the dao city is inscribed into a scripture, what about the three stones?" He smiled, forcing the voice to calculate with its unique ability.

"It's a word." It revealed the conclusion.

"Are you sure? Doesn't seem to be the case." His expression became serious.

"Absolutely." The voice said.

"A word, to be actually living. Can you do the same?" He smiled and said.

He was answered with silence.

"Hey, did you hear me?" He asked again.

This time, he saw bright flashes as if the voice was pushing everything to the infinite, searching for all possible traces.

"A word is present, no doubt about it." It said.

"Strange." He stroked his chin and said: "Back to my point earlier though, what if you and Immortal Dao City become one entity?"

"Impossible." The voice rejected this possibility: "I am the destination."

"I suppose, you are both the origin and the destination, no need for anything external." He smiled: "Can we apply the same reasoning to the stones? It should work the same way."

"It's there." The voice said.

"Why is that? In the present, there should only be one stone and the three are not one right now. I wonder if something is off." He speculated.

"There isn't." The voice didn't sound as confident this time.

"If you're not sure, try communicating and ask some questions." He said.

"Impossible, don't know where it is and it won't respond." If Li Qiye could see this entity, he would see it shaking its head.

"Interesting. What about the other words?" He asked.

"Don't know." The voice answered.

"Don't know or don't want to tell me?" He smiled.

Chapter 5527: Cute

Back in Sunset Glow Peak, members of the sect stared at the narrow valley with bated breath, awaiting Li Qiye's return.

The goddess and Qin Baifeng watched attentively while becoming increasingly anxious. He had been in there for too long so they worried about his safety.

The truth was that they knew nothing about the situation inside since the immortal artifact was outside of their reach after the era of Cloudsweep Fairy. Li Qiye could learn the mysteries of the artifact or disappear forever in the valley.

However, they eventually saw a pulsing figure in the valley, seemingly floating closer.

"It's him, he's leaving!" Everyone became excited and shouted.

Sure enough, Li Qiye eventually showed up at the entrance.

"Finally..." They heaved a sigh of relief after seeing him.

He rode a white cloud, looking comfortable and inviting for the best nap possible.

"Are you alright?" Sunset Glow Goddess rushed over and was awfully excited, going as far as giving him a hug. The anxiety that had haunted her dissipated so she was nearly moved to tears.

"Of course." Li Qiye playfully flicked her forehead.

"Are you going to stay here now?" She turned red and asked with a hopeful smile.

Alas, he only smiled in response.

"I see, I understand." She understood his answer and nodded slightly.

However, her optimism returned as she looked straight at him and asked: "How many days will you say?"

He only smiled again.

“Kiss, kiss, kiss!” The disciples nearby started cheating, causing her to blush.

Li Qiye chuckled and kissed her forehead before speaking: “Silly girl, you don’t understand.”

Having said that, he raised his hand to summon an immortal ray out of the valley. He touched her forehead and it immediately entered her mind.

“Buzz.” Time came to a halt and everyone’s expression and movement became frozen. The flow of time could travel chaotically from this point but once the buzz was no longer around, everything became normal again.

They stopped shouting after seeing the light shining on her forehead and observed quietly. There seemed to be something different about her but they couldn’t put it into words. She looked as if she was no longer stained by the mortal coil.

“The world is worth cherishing, venture out and enjoy it before returning, hopefully still with a childish innocence.” He whispered.

“A childish innocence...” She murmured.

Spectators didn’t hear their conversation and thought that the romance was flourishing.

“Sigh, where did they run off to?” Meanwhile, Niu Fen has been running around, unable to find Li Qiye’s whereabouts.

“We’re right here.” Li Qiye appeared behind him and casually spoke. The white cloud was with him as well.

“You’re back, Young Noble.” Niu Fen smiled before frowning and glaring at the cloud: “Brat, how dare you, I should really teach you a lesson.”

The cloud didn’t seem to understand. Its expression resembled a child with widening eyes of curiosity and innocence - truly adorable and cute.

“What are you looking at, never seen someone this awesome before? Maybe I should throw you into a mud pit and stomp a few times.” Niu Fen said.

The cloud didn’t seem to recognize his anger.

“That’s it, you’re about to get it.” Niu Fen rolled up his sleeves.

The cloud still looked as cute as before.

“Fine, I give up.” Niu Fen had no choice but to surrender: “Forget it, I am the greatest dao lord in history, as magnanimous as can be.”

The cloud stared at him in confusion, shifting back and forth between Niu Fen and Li Qiye.

"You don't understand? Let me tell you about my tales and how unbeatable I am. Back then, when I showed up on the battlefield, other emperors and monarchs immediately stood to the side. I just raised my hand and they all trembled in horror." Niu Fen boasted.

The cloud nodded repeatedly this time, seemingly understanding him.

"See, now you're smart and cute, so easy to teach." Niu Fen patted the cloud and said: "Wait until I'm in a good mood, I will teach you an incredible technique so that you can do whatever you want. Well, not that this is necessary since you can just say my name, and no one will dare to bother you."

"I can't listen anymore." Li Qiye who was sitting on the cloud shook his head and said: "Your eighteen solutions are just child's play to it."

"Really?" Niu Fen was skeptical.

"Then go ahead and teach it, you'll learn soon enough." He smiled.

"Haha, I see. Did you hear that? I'll teach you when I feel like it, it'll benefit you for a lifetime." Niu Fen patted the cloud again.

The cloud nodded again.

"Young Master, where did this little guy come from?" Niu Fen was just messing around earlier since he was bored. After all, he had the knowledge and insight of a top dao lord.

"From a place where it should come from." He smiled.

"Might as well not answer." Niu Fen complained.

He patted Niu Fen's shell and said: "It's a rare opportunity, talk to it more, teach it a few things."

"I'll keep that in mind." Niu Fen said, aware that this cloud might actually be above his level. Nonetheless, Li Qiye must have a reason for telling the two to interact more.

"Where are we going now, Young Master?" Niu Fen asked.

"Another battlefield for purification." Li Qiye looked around and said.

"Got it, to dao city then." Niu Fen laughed and sprinted forward.

Chapter 5528: That's A Luxurious Ride

Niu Fen sprinted at full speed, crossing through dimensions and ten million miles in the blink of an eye.

"Am I a badass or what?" He asked the cloud.

It tilted its body, clearly not impressed.

Niu Fen was annoyed at the lack of reaction and continued: "Your boss is the greatest of them all, the first... no, third... wait, fifth dao lord. I can travel trillions of miles with each leap, is that not badass enough for you?"

The cloud contemplated for a bit before shaking its body.

Li Qiye who moved over to sit on its shell said: "Can't you tell that the little guy is not being serious and can still keep up with you? Doesn't sound cool to me."

"Fuck, watch me!" Niu Fen roared and increased his speed enough that his path could revert the flow of time and space.

He mustered all of his strength and utilized a supreme movement technique, just crossing through one dimension after another.

Alas, despite his storm-like speed, the cloud was still next to him - just drifting normally without doing anything special.

"I'm starting to think you missed the destination, where is this battlefield?" Li Qiye smiled.

"Uh... sorry, Young Master, I'll take you back now, watch me!" Niu Fen stopped and changed the direction to the right place.

The cloud had no problem keeping up regardless of his speed and direction.

"What is your movement technique?" Niu Fen couldn't help but ask.

As an apex dao lord on the path of anima, he understood just how fast he was. However, how did this cloud keep up without putting in any effort?

The cloud tilted its head, seeming to ruminate the question. However, it didn't know any technique - floating was a natural ability.

Li Qiye smiled and didn't stop Niu Fen from competing with the cloud.

During their competition, a carriage actually appeared and kept up with them as well. This only motivated Niu Fen to go even faster.

He activated his vitality and twelve dao fruits. His anima tree became resplendent and released its power in a torrential manner.

"Go!" It was one thing for the cloud to keep up with him. However, he didn't want to lose to this carriage.

Alas, he still heard the creaking of the wheels next to him - a sign that this wasn't working. Eventually, his vitality and energy were depleted enough to force him to slow down.

"Hey there, handsome, want to join me for a ride?" A coquettish voice came from the carriage and sent shivers down Niu Fen's spine.

He glanced over and saw a woman dressed unfashionably with thick makeup - looking like a bride on her marriage day.

Her plump body in motion was unsettling and made his hair stand on end. The worst part was her flirty demeanor despite her appearance. A wink from her would make men turn and run.

Fortunately, his strong mindset thanks to eras of cultivation prevented him from cursing at her.

Li Qiye patted his back and he stopped running. The carriage stopped as well.

"Ooh, you got a new ride, it's so luxurious." A'jiao waved her delicate finger in a flirty manner while looking at Niu Fen.

"Miss, your smile is giving me goosebumps all over." He couldn't help but say.

"What the hell did you say, little snail? You dare criticize a supreme beauty such as myself?" She winked seductively at Li Qiye before delivering a swift kick at the snail, sending him flying to the horizon.

"Youn-nnng Masssss-ter, I'll pick you up later tonight!" His voice trailed from afar.

"This cloud is so cute and soft, let me touch you." She then turned her attention toward the cloud.

It immediately ran and disappeared from sight.

"Okay, Lil' Bro, just you and me now, let's continue with our romance." She held his arm and whispered.

Li Qiye smiled and followed her up the carriage.

"Go!" She shouted and the carriage soared above the firmaments.

Li Qiye sat leisurely while she leaned on his shoulder. Her sizable frame looked as if it could crush his bones.

"It's been a while, did you miss me?" She asked bashfully but this came out as creepy.

"Not at all." He smiled.

"Sigh, so heartless, did you find a new love?" She stomped the carriage, causing it to shake violently.

"I knew it, you must have seduced our big sister." She angrily said: "That's why she came.

"Are you sure that it's your sister and not someone else?" He asked.

"Whatever, all from the same place, she only came out a bit earlier, nothing else is remarkable about her at all." She said resentfully.

"Why are you so sure?" He entertained the conversation.

"Who else could seduce my handsome lover?" She complained.

"What now, going to fight to the death over me?" He smiled.

"You're such a naughty boy, trying to get us all jealous." She poked his forehead gently, evoking nausea.

"I think you'll be reduced to dust after one blow." He said.

"No way, it's not like I've been doing nothing." She said: "Lil' Bro, are you getting tired of me, gonna abandon your poor wife?"

She struck his shoulder playfully and started crying: "You bastard, leaving me like this..."

"Our astrology matching has yet to be checked, you're getting ahead of yourself. Plus, nothing happened." He said. [1]

"Really?" A'jiao stopped crying and stared straight at him.

Despite her overall appearance, her eyes shined brightly like the stars.

"Seems like we have something to discuss since you're here." He said.

"I knew it, you're not the heartless type." She grabbed his arm again and said happily: "I know you'll be a good husband and plus, my father only wants to betroth me to you."

Chapter 5529: A Bit Worried

"Let's talk." Li Qiye smiled.

"Father said that there aren't many auspicious days left, we need to pick one soon." She leaned against his shoulder.

"Does he agree to the conditions?" He asked.

"Lil' Bro, you're making it difficult with those impossible demands. We can negotiate and you can choose something else or start discounting stuff. Keep in mind that what I bring as a dowry is not insignificant." She said.

"He can only choose me." He said.

"Because we're a match made in heaven." She said coyly while stealing glances at him.

"That's up for debate, but I know exactly what I want from him." He responded.

"But Lil' Bro, you're someone with land already." She said.

"So what? Does he want to come plow it before it's ready? I suppose I don't mind even if he does. He set the rules and he can feel free to break them." He said.

"I understand the reasoning but I know his personality. Don't worry, he will not act irresponsibly before the crops are ready, don't you agree?" She said.

"I actually wish for him to break some rules, things would be easier to handle then." He smiled.

"Lil' Bro, don't judge a gentleman's heart with a faulty scale. My father is not that kind of person." She pulled his arm and pressed closer to him.

"Sure, but there's no other choice given the chaotic situation when everyone is untethered and fearless. Rules don't bind us any longer." He responded.

"You're different, your heart is still warm and beating, no one can compare to you. If we pick you, even the worst outcome can't be that bad." She said.

"I do agree with that." He nodded: "There is a limit to the worst outcome, the same can't be said about the others. At the very least, I won't eat him."

"Lil' Bro, let's not ruin the mood by being so vulgar." She complained.

"Fine, let's get to business if we are here with sincerity." He said.

"I knew you would agree." She said happily: "This must be due to love."

He smiled and ignored her comment: "This land, let it grow, and when the time is right, it shall reach heaven."

"Well..." She hesitated.

"Hesitating even about this?" He said.

"It's not a problem if you want to grow, I sympathize with your concern, the same for Father. If you want to come up, there will be the most fertile land for you." Her brows furrowed.

"And then what?" He said.

"The connection is more tricky." She said softly: "We understand your current power but there will be other issues afterward."

"That's your problem. You want to negotiate, not me. Plus, I am not a greedy person and know when to stop." He said.

"Hmm..." She frowned again.

"You don't trust me?" He asked.

"Of course we do." She held onto his arm tighter: "I wouldn't be here right now if we didn't trust you. And plus, once we get married, what mine is yours and what yours is mine." She said.

"Let's make it clear right now, nothing like that will be happening." He said.

"You're so harsh, you don't think husband and wife should share prosperity together?" She complained.

"These conversations and bonds will be forgotten the moment I make my way there." He said.

"No way, we will be family then." She said.

"If that's the case, I can ask for a few things, right?" He smiled.

"As long as it is within my power." She said charmingly.

"Don't worry, nothing precious, just a few words." He smiled.

Her expression changed sharply as she fell into silence.

"Ah, so not everything is negotiable. This seems like a dead end." He said.

"Lil' Bro, you know that this is no joking matter." She said: "If you want those words, you'll have to do it yourself and there are problems with that. I'm sure you don't want to deal with the fallouts." She said.

"So in the end, I'll still have to make a trip myself." He said.

"We welcome your arrival, it'll be the same as coming home." She brushed her finger across his chest.

"I'm sure chances are I won't be leaving afterward." He said.

"Lil' Bro, don't be instigating, that's not manly at all." She pouted.

"Not like it hasn't happened before. I am merely stating the possibility." He said.

"Are you worried about Father or me? Or maybe you think the village's brute might kidnap me?" She said.

"I wouldn't mind seeing that at all, won't be a big deal to me." He smirked.

"How heartless!" She stomped the carriage and left considerable damage.

"The pits have been dug, who knows what will happen during the descent? A burial or a successful sweep?" He said.

"So you do worry about us." She was more satisfied with this line.

"Putting semantics of the correct relationship aside, I do worry about your big sister." He stroked his chin and said.

"Hmph, I knew it, men always seek something new, now you're into my sister. Don't you care about me at all?" She protested.

"What's there for you to be concerned about? It's not like you're going into battle. I'll be the one having problems if they succeed." He said.

"Hehe, I bet you don't actually think that way, just don't want to admit that you worry about me." She said: "Rest assured, we have our means during our descends, we'll sweep all the troublemakers and pests, and none shall be spared."

"I hope so, but there is no perfect plan. Some fish will manage to escape the net." He said.

"You can take care of those who escape the net." She said.

"If I have to do that, my demands are rather reasonable. Perhaps a change of terms is necessary." He smiled.

"No need for that, family members need not be so stingy with each other." She said coquettishly.

"I suppose negotiation is not necessary for this since it'll happen anyway." He said.

Chapter 5530: Stupid Enough

"So it's a deal?" She winked at him.

"I suppose time is running out and it's time to make preparations. Why not?" He said.

"I knew that you would agree." She didn't let go of his arm while acting shy.

"Shall we get started?" His eyes became profound as he stared at the sky, capable of seeing the deepest reaches. Something seemed to be waiting there.

"Hmm, we need a bit more time, don't you as well?" Her voice was grating despite her best attempt to be alluring.

"I'm not in a hurry, I can wait until spring to plant a few more seeds." He looked around and said.

"Lil' Bro, let me remind you again. Good or bad, all will be swept away without discrimination." She said with a rare serious tone.

"That's why I need the connection, hence our negotiation." He nodded in response.

"You don't know the word 'compromise' at all." She complained.

"Because I'm not the one asking. I'm only doing this out of kindness." He said.

"Not necessarily if something unexpected happens, you might be very busy then." She replied.

"Something unexpected? Perhaps I'll stab someone in the back, that'll change the winner entirely while still getting rid of the pests." He smiled.

"But you're not that type of person." She reverted back to her flirty demeanor.

"I might not be a person then." He responded.

"You're such a naughty boy." She pouted again.

"Because of this, things will change and become unpredictable. Hard choices will be made." He said.

"I trust you, you're not a backstabber." Her eyes brimmed with resolution.

"Why the vote of confidence?" He asked.

"If you wanted to backstab, you wouldn't be talking to me right now. Your path would have been different, similar to the others." She said.

"That is true." He nodded: "Backstabbing doesn't mean anything, it's only a matter of winning or losing, that is not my pursuit."

"Hence my trust in you." She said.

"And because of this, I'm the only choice. You only have one opportunity as well." He said.

"I don't know if I would make such an absolute statement. My father has many methods, you know this." She responded.

"Indeed, when there is enough time. But now, time is not on his side. This vast world has yet to be thoroughly examined. How much time would that take?" Li Qiye said.

He paused for a moment before continuing: "If I guess correctly, the entry to the world is yet to be finished."

"How should I respond? I am not sure either." She said.

"You know the answer. A reckless endeavor is fast but forging an avatar for this goal doesn't happen so quickly." He smiled.

"Isn't this better for you? You have more time." She said.

"Unfortunately, I have no plan of replacing anyone or it would be a decent opportunity. Of course, the reason for your sweep is because this is an opportunity for others as well." He said.

"When will you be ready?" She asked curiously.

"The time will come, your father is preparing as well." He said.

"My father is always prepared." She said.

"Is that so? If he were prepared, why are you here to discuss this matter with me?" He smirked.

"Lil' Bro, there's no need to expose everything." She pouted.

He smiled and gazed into the horizon. After a while, he asked: "Haven't you thought about that when I agree, your mission will be over?"

The smile on her face disappeared and time came to a stop.

"You'll be returning afterward, who will you be then?" He stared at her and asked.

She took a deep breath and assumed a dignified demeanor. Beneath her unattractive shell was a peerless fairy.

"I will be who I am, when the time comes, it will naturally come to an end." She said earnestly.

"How does it feel to know this?" He asked.

"You've done it before, you tell me." She responded.

"Pain, but I would do it again." He said.

"It's good that you feel that way, you're still yourself." She said.

"And you?" He asked.

"The same for me, I will still be me." She stared upward and said.

"I see." He gently nodded and said: "This world is worth taking a look at despite its many flaws."

She gently touched his face and said: "You're an idiot, stupid enough to invoke sympathy."

"That's a good thing. Don't sympathize with me though, it's a mission." He said.

"And my mission shall be over soon." She said.

The carriage slowly came to a halt. She didn't say anything and only gazed outside.

"I'm getting off now." He said.

She shifted her focus back to him and nodded: "Yes."

He stood up and she grabbed his arm with sincerity this time.

"This is our mission." He smiled.

"Yes." She nodded.

He jumped down the carriage and said: "The mortal world, no matter how ugly it is, still has many good aspects."

"And you're part of it." She smiled.

"Is that a praise or an insult?" He asked.

"I'm praising you." Her smile looked gorgeous at this moment despite her current shell.

"You are beautiful." He said.

She jumped down to embrace him; her plumb body felt as light as a swallow.

"Goodbye, handsome." She said softly.

"Goodbye forever." He hugged her back and nodded.

"Right, goodbye forever." She kissed him on the forehead before jumping back into the carriage.

The carriage started flying into the horizon.

"Don't forget that you have a wife named A'jiao." Her voice came from above as the carriage leaped into the high heaven.

"Boom!" It surged upward into a place unreachable by any existence. Golden particles scattered downward and people could see a supreme world for a split second.

Li Qiye sighed sentimentally after her departure.