

Ancient ST 1641

Chapter 1641 - Dao Force, Qing Shui's Strength, a Battle to the Death

The moment the Grand Elder finished speaking, people could already be seen rising up into the sky one after another. Qing Shui also followed along and went up into mid-air. There were four participants from the Yin Clan. As for the Hong Clan, they sent out ten representatives for the match. Most importantly, Yin Tian didn't take part in the match. Instead, Old Man Wang took his place and represented the Yin Clan instead.

"Am I seeing things? Old Man Wang, the cook, Old Man Wang!"

A person shouted out in shock. This went on and caused a ruckus around the area. The amount of shock which they received from this phenomenon was way too much. Old Man Wang was considered to be quite a well-known figure in the Divine Moon Immortal Sect. This cook was a very, very good friend of a particular sect's Sect Lord. He was very close to the Yin Clan.

Despite that, a lot of people wasn't aware of Old Man Wang's existence.

"Is he really a cook? Could it be that the Yin Clan has truly run out of people on their side? An immature and inexperienced brat, and then a cook. As for the other two people, they are more normal in comparison."

"Exactly! What's worse is that there are only four of them taking part in the match. Look at the Hong Clan's side. Not only are they all experienced old men, there are a total of ten of them. Somehow, I feel that this time, the Yin Clan is in quite a risky situation. Look, Yin Tian didn't take part in the match. It might be true that he is injured."

"I think so. If Yin Tian was in perfect health, the Hong Clan wouldn't have acted so boldly. The only thing I can't seem to figure out is why they send out a cook. Could that cook be an expert warrior? But if that's the case, why would he want to settle down as a cook?"

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As soon as they went up the stage, they immediately went to their respective positions to form the Four Symbols Formation. Qing Shui probed the opponents opposite him. They were all old people. Furthermore, as he thought, they possessed formidable strength. Indeed, an Immortal sect was on a totally different level from all the sects which Qing Shui had come across in the past.

Qing Shui wasn't familiar with his opponents but Feng Xi had already begun explaining to him about some of their abilities. It's necessary for her to go through a brief introduction about their opponents so that he would be mentally prepared for what's to come.

"The two old men that are at the front, they are existences as brilliant as the Big Dipper and as stout as Mount Tai in the Hong Clan. The old man on the left hand side who is wearing a white gown is called Hong Hong. As for the other one in the blue gown, his name is Hong Gu. They were both stronger than me, but compared to your uncle at his peak, they are slightly inferior to him. I don't know if they have gone through any breakthroughs recently."

Qing Shui was listening to Feng Xi's instruction while gazing at his opponents. His Spiritual Sense was unable to accurately pinpoint the opponent's strength, yet he was able to tell that there was a huge gap between his and his opponent's strength.

Qing Shui's current raw strength was worth around eighty thousand sun. Under the effect of Seven-colored pellets, Paragon, Golden Battle Halberd as well as the Diamond Staff, he managed to achieve a fearsome strength worth sixteen billion sun.

Qing Shui's physical combat prowess was now worth around two billion sun. However, his fearsome physical defensive capability had far surpassed that of a normal False God warrior. Even his own attacks now wouldn't be able to cause any damage to him.

The lowest strength a Divine Warrior could have was ten billion sun. The requirement to enter Divine Grade wasn't great. The real challenge came when things started to have to do with Divine Grade and Heavenly Dao Divine Will. Furthermore, there would also be a powerful force suppressing warriors once they stepped into the Divine Grade.

A hundred billion..... Qing Shui's defensive prowess had achieved a hundred billion suns worth of strength. He was almost near the peak of First Divine Grade. This was the effect of the Paragon Golden Armor and Diamond Staff. Of course, part of the factor which contributed to this was also due to his own defensive prowess.

Feng Xi's strength was worth about thirty billion sun. She was still at one of the earliest stages of a Divine warrior. Divine warriors below a hundred billion sun of strength were all considered to be First Grade Divine Warriors. Furthermore, there was also the term one Dao Force, which was used to address a Divine Warrior with a billion sun worth of strength. Warriors with a hundred Dao Force were considered as the lowest grade Divine Warriors.

Qing Shui's current offensive prowess was worth around a hundred and sixty Dao Force. This was just slightly stronger compared to Old Man Wang. Despite that, he was still at First Grade Heavenly Dao. As for his overall strength, Old Man Wang didn't tell Qing Shui how much it was worth, nor did Qing Shui intentionally inquire about it.

Behind the Hong Clan were eight old men. Qing Shui didn't know who they were. But they possessed strength that was worth slightly more than a hundred Dao Force. Qing Shui was still able to detect at least this extent of strength. The Heavenly Dao had a self-protection effect, which was also part of the reason why Qing Shui could be so powerful. Otherwise, a False God Warrior wouldn't have been able to detect any Heavenly Dao's related strength. The same also applied for Divine Warriors at the lowest grade.

The people from the Hong Clan were very generous with sending out their warriors this time. It's likely that they intended to totally annihilate the Yin Clan through this match. If they really managed to kill Feng Xi and Yin Cha, the Yin Tian who remained wouldn't want to continue living as well. There were many ways in which the Hong Clan could make Yin Tian, whose power hasn't fully recovered, completely disappear.

At the moment, Qing Shui was very calm. The only people who might be of threat to him were the two leading old men Hong Hong and Hong Gu. For the remaining ones, they wouldn't be able to kill him instantly. As for the last two, Qing Shui felt that they could almost already be considered to be crippled.

"There are only four people from the Yin Clan, the Hong Clan on the other hand..... There are ten people participating in the match. Do you guys think that the Yin Clan will have any hope in winning?"

"Who knows. Is the Yin Clan not treating the Hong Clan seriously? Or are they in a plight with no way out?"

"All along, the Yin Clan has always had very few members in their clan. But throughout all these years, has anything ever happened to them? Is Yin Tian the kind of person who will watch from the side as his wife and son risks their life on the stage?"

"That's also true. Could it be that the Yin Clan has never taken the Hong Clan seriously?"

"But it also doesn't seem like so....."

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The Grand Elder smiled before looking at the people from both sides and said, "I know that all of you aren't in the mood to listen to the nonsense which either parties have to say. Since I have already stated the rules and the representatives from each sides have also been decided, I now announce that the battle begins. Each of you have fifteen minutes to get ready to get into the battle. As for this, I will let both of you to decide on your own. Once the fifteen minutes are up, you guys can battle right away."

The Grand Elder immediately landed to the ground as soon as he finished speaking. In the meantime, both clans had already begun preparing their own weapons. Qing Shui took out his own Golden Battle Halberd and Diamond Staff.

Though Qing Shui could achieve as much as a hundred and sixty Dao Force with his current strength, he didn't consider himself a Divine Warrior. The most obvious feature about a Divine Warrior was that they went through a process of rinsing after they broke through the peak False God Realm. Once that happened, Divine Origin Energy would emerge from their body.

The Divine Origin Energy was a passive ability only Divine Warriors possessed. It was a kind of existence which helped increase a warrior's strength and vitality. The Divine Origin Energy would be formed within the Dantian. It's just like what happened with the Paragon in Qing Shui's body.

Hence, for now, Qing Shui didn't know whether he should consider himself a Divine Warrior. With his strength alone, he had already achieved the earliest stage of a Divine Warrior. His defensive prowess and ability to resist against enemies' attacks were even more fearsome.

Qing Shui took out his Diamond Staff and Golden Battle Halberd and immediately unleashed the Four Symbols Formation, Phoenix's Battle Intent, Battle God's Halo and Heavenly Talisman and used it on all of them. In just a short while, their strengths reached a formidable level.

In the meantime, the opponents weren't just standing at the side doing nothing. They each took out their respective weapons. The two old men leading the group had the same weapon, a huge blade, the

Giant Blood Blade. Though Qing Shui was quite distant away from them, he was able to sense the aura emitting from them. He felt really uncomfortable with it.

At the moment when Qing Shui saw the weapon which Old Man Wang took out, he was stunned. His weapon was a blade which looked just like blood. However, it shared a strong resemblance to a kitchen knife. Their only difference was that his blade looked a lot more domineering than a kitchen knife. It was known as the

Following on, they each summoned their respective beasts. Qing Shui summoned his Hell Nightmare Beast and Dragon Slaying Beast. His initial plan was to summon the Thunderous Beast, but he felt it was an inappropriate occasion to do so as one careless mistake would cause it to be killed instantly.

Time went on little by little. At this moment, Feng Xi was already wearing a snow white long dress. The long sleeves hung down all the way to her knee. Yin Cha looked at the old man opposite him, "I suppose you guys must have waited for today for a long time."

Though Yin Cha only raised his aura just enough to greet his opponent, there was still a kind of sharpness which words couldn't describe. He was the sect lord of a sect. After being the Sect Lord of the Divine Moon Immortal Sect for so many years, the aura which he emitted from his body was still very powerful.

Qing Shui now felt a bit unfamiliar with the man. He was not in the least like the gentle man whom he had met before. This should be the him when he was in a battle. Prior to this, he only behaved that way because he was near his family.

"I don't understand what you are talking about. I dare say that the Hong Clan has always performed their duty well. We also never intended to ride on anyone's head. But I just can't accept the fact that two outsiders have come to bully the people of the Divine Moon Immortal Sect." Hong Hong explained slowly.

"Haha, what's there for you to worry about at this point? To think that you will drag the Divine Moon Immortal Sect into the topic. Who doesn't know what kind of trash that the Hong Clan's junior of yours is? Do you really think that I won't dare to tell everyone about his doings? And he still dare say that he is wounded, he is asking for it even if he gets killed" Yin Cha said in a cold tone.

Yin Cha was speaking what's truly in his mind. Of course, he didn't deny that a part of it was to fawn on Qing Shui.

Qing Shui didn't despise this kind of feeling. This was how it was between human and human. If a person was totally useless to the other, there would have been no point for the other person to take care of him. This wasn't being realistic, it's just a very usual development.

"Since that's the case, let us speak through our strength." Hong Hong wasn't enraged by it. He made his proposal to begin the match.

"Alright, let's begin!"

Both parties were about a hundred meters away from each other in the sky. This was the amount of strength which the grand formation contained. As soon as both parties came into contact with it, it would become activated. However, the battle didn't really seem that intense.

As of now, Qing Shui possessed fearsome defensive prowess. He could only barely make it with his offensive prowess. But Qing Shui's ability had managed to significantly increase his strength as a whole.

Old Man Wang already managed to stop both Hong Hong and Hong Gu alone but he seemed to be in a disadvantage. As for Feng Xi and Yin Cha, they stood in the path of the remaining six warriors, leaving the two weakest ones for Qing Shui.

Qing Shui watched as the two old men charged towards him. Deep down, he didn't feel nervous. Without much thought, he let the Hell Nightmare Beast and Dragon Slaying Beast to hinder one of the old men. As for the other one, he continued to make his way towards Qing Shui.

The battle wasn't that intense. Qing Shui was keeping an eye on the surroundings and he couldn't find much pressure in it. He knew that this situation wouldn't last long. Since that's the case, he was willing to be the person to make the battle intense.

With Qing Shui's current offensive prowess, it's difficult for him to kill even a single warrior. However, he could still cooperate with the others in the fight. He transmitted Yin Cha a message.

After that, he immediately unleashed his Art of Pursuing. At the moment when his opponent was still in shock, he further used his Emperor's Qi.

Yin Cha was already prepared. At the moment when the old man shot his sword towards him, he immediately sliced through the opponent's throat with his long sword.

Yin Cha believed in Qing Shui. He was long since ready for it. Hence, he sliced through the opponent's throat without any hesitation under a very risky situation but he didn't actually cut off his opponent's head entirely.

The death of the old man shocked everyone from the Hong Clan.

Hong Hong and Hong Gu abruptly released their strength. To everyone's surprise, both their strengths went up by a huge chunk. Now, they were almost equal to Old Man Wang who had received a boost in strength.

These two old men had actually managed to break through throughout these years. Qing Shui learnt about it from Feng Xi. With this being the case, Old Man Wang was forced to be on the passive side. There were a number of times when he almost died.

Qing Shui charged towards them along with his Dragon Slaying Beast. Without any hesitation, he tossed the Art of Pursuing at Hong Hong while using the Nine Continents Mountain to separate himself away from him.

However, Qing Shui's Nine Continent Mountain couldn't even manage as his defensive shield. After all, when in front of an old man with sixty billion sun worth of strength, its power was just very insignificant.

But right at this moment, Qing Shui once again tossed out his Art of Pursuing and Emperor's Qi!

This action caused Old Man Wang, who was initially in great danger, to once again turn around the unfavourable situation. Though he might still be forced to stay passive, for a short period of time, him as well his demonic beasts shouldn't be in danger.

At this moment, the two old men once again headed towards Qing Shui.

Even though the battle might have just started, the Hong Clan had already suffered one casualty. Without Qing Shui, the Yin Clan would very likely have been done for. Otherwise, the Hong Clan wouldn't have been so confident. They could only blame their luck for Qing Shui's appearance, a completely unexpected variable.

Chapter 1642 - Divinity Spirit, Inescapable Net, Rain Drizzling Birds

Obviously, the Yin Clan had underestimated the Hong Clan. Qing Shui's appearance was the biggest variable in the match. As for Hong Hong and Hong Gu, their strength had now surpassed the current Feng Xi and Old Man Wang. They were just almost as strong as Yin Tian when he was at his peak.

Qing Shui was just able to hold them back with his ability. This change in situation had caused both sides to be in severe shock. But deep down, other than just shock, Old Man Wang felt more grateful instead. The same went for Feng Xi and Yin Cha, but not as strongly as Old Man Wang. If it wasn't for Qing Shui, he would still have died even after he raising the other's strength to such a height.

Unlike Old Man Wang and Feng Xi, the Hong Clan was upset and envious of the Yin Clan. This time, the Hong Clan was very confident that they could take down the Yin Clan no matter what sort of unexpected situation occurred. With that initial mindset which they had, they couldn't feel more upset than anybody else with such an outcome. It made them feel like puking out blood.

They didn't understand why their opponent would experience such a significant rise in their wounding ability, defensive prowess, as well as their speed. On the other hand, the people on their side were not only weakened, but also slowed dramatically.

Eventually, they finally set their sight on the youngest man in the arena, Qing Shui!

The brat had been behaving weirdly in the arena. Not only had he not been making any move, he kept on shuttling back and forth around the arena. From time to time, all he did was swing his arms. Prior to this, it was because he moved past them that his and his brother's strength dropped so significantly. Furthermore, the position which he stood at was also very unique. The young man was the only person who was shuttling back and forth across the arena, while the others didn't bother to move even one step away from the spot right under their feet.

Hence, the experienced and knowledgeable Hong Brothers felt the need to eliminate the young man regardless of the cost. Not only would they destroy their formation, they might even be able to totally cripple their opponents.

Pu-pu!

Feng Xi and Yin Cha each killed an old man. Yin Cha had already managed to kill two of them. Since the opponents were able to realize Qing Shui's importance, they should know even more clearly than anybody else. Hence, their main task would be to first eliminate those old men as quick as possible. Only by doing so would they be able to reach out to destroy their opponents' strategies. Otherwise, if the opponents were to go on a team attack, especially when they set their target as Qing Shui, things would turn out to be very dangerous.

Kong-kong.....

Four Rain-Drizzling Birds appeared around Hong Hong and Hong Gu. These demonic beasts were a kind of Killing Beast. They were smaller than a hundred meters and had bodies long and thin like snakes. Their bodies were dyed in black.

This was by far the ugliest bird which Qing Shui had ever seen before. The two large wings they possessed were like two huge swords. They were thin like cicada's wings and they were shining with dangerous, gloomy light.

Jie-jie.....

A sharp chirping noise was heard. The birds turned into four Divine Curved Blades as they charged towards Qing Shui. This caused both Old Man Wang and Feng Xi to feel uneasy. They knew just how fearsome the Rain-Drizzling Birds could be. In fact, all along, the appearance of the Rain-Drizzling Birds was one of the things which they feared the most.

All along, the reason why Feng Xi, Old Man Wang and Yin Cha proceeded to summon their demonic beasts was in order to take precautions for the Rain-Drizzling Birds' sudden attack. Their demonic beasts were species similar to the Shield Beast. For a short period of time, they should be able to hinder the Rain Drizzling Birds.

But now, they realized that the strength of the Rain-Drizzling Birds seemed to be even stronger than before. Though their strength hadn't broken through to Divine Grade, they were still existences equivalent to peak False Gods. Among their species, they possessed top-notch speed. Their enormous wings could almost be described as being able to cut through anything. Despite all the descriptions about it, there were still many things they couldn't cut through. Obviously, human bodies were an exception, with how easily they could be torn apart. Even for a Divine Grade Warrior at elementary level, the majority of their body was still made out of water.

The others wanted to save him, but it was too late for them to do so. The Golden Staff in Qing Shui's hand suddenly turned into a Soulshake Bell. He immediately swung it violently. A noise even sharper than the bird-chirping noise of the Rain-Drizzling Bird came through.

Qing Shui couldn't stop ringing the bell. The Dragon Slaying Beast took this moment to leap towards the bird at the front like a golden thunder. Like usual, the Dragon Slaying Beast possessed fearsome body strength. But now with Qing Shui further boosting it, its speed and strength were increased even further.

The Hell Nightmare Beast had been staying close to Qing Shui all along. If things really developed into a really bad situation, it would cover Qing Shui entirely with its body.

Hence, Qing Shui still had a route to retreat. But now, Qing Shui hadn't gotten to the extent where he needed to do that. He once again swung the Golden Battle Halberd in his hand.

Inescapable Net!

Countless vines appeared around Qing Shui. This was Qing Shui's wood attribute ability from his Five Elements Divine Refining Technique. Though it might not be as fearsome as the Bloodthirsty Demonic Vines, it beat the Bloodthirsty Demonic Vines in terms of the area it covered. Added on to Qing Shui's

current cultivation, the toughness of the vines cast from Inescapable Net was still something to be feared about.

The Inescapable Net was considered to be one of the most powerful wood-attribute killer techniques from the Five Elements Divine Refining Technique. The Inescapable Net mainly focused on its area. Though it was inferior to the Bloodthirsty Demonic Vines, the gap between them wasn't that significant. It was only 20% less tough than the Bloodthirsty Demonic Vines. It was incapable of absorbing blood. The only function it had was to trap its target. The energy consumption was a few times more significant than the Bloodthirsty Demonic Vines.

The vines that filled up the whole sky immediately separated Qing Shui from the Rain-Drizzling Birds. The Dragon Slaying Beast and the Rain Drizzling Bird at the most front, on the other hand, were trapped within the vines. Even the powerful Rain-Drizzling Birds found difficulty in opening up their wings within these vines. It's like when a sharp kitchen knife got stuck in soft cotton wool.

Coincidentally, the Dragon Slaying Beast happened to have totally leaped onto the Rain Drizzling Bird. Because of the significant difference in size, the Dragon Slaying Beast totally had the upper-hand. Very quickly, a miserable bird-chirping noise was already heard.

Another Rain-Drizzling Bird was irritated by Qing Shui's Soulshake Bell to the point it started flying in circle from a distance. It was letting out a miserable bird-chirping noise and didn't dare to make its way forward. The last two Rain-Drizzling Birds, on the other hand, were trapped within the countless vines. However, they flew high up the sky in an attempt to charge towards Qing Shui by bypassing the vines.

Qing Shui transmitted his voice to Feng Xi and Old Man Wang and instructed them to make their move. To be more precise, he told Yin Cha and Feng Xi to quickly kill their opponents. As for Old Man Wang, it would be fine as long as he could manage to hold off both of them. At this moment, Qing Shui summoned his Thunderous Beast.

This kind of situation might seem really dangerous, but Qing Shui still had a killer-move which he had yet to use. At the very least, he dared admit that these birds wouldn't cause him any harm.

The Rain-Drizzling Birds were just as strong as the Dragon Slaying Beast but it required them to cooperate with each other. Otherwise, their speed of their attack would slow down. Actually, Hong Hong and Hong Gu were precisely targeting Qing Shui for his speed. It's just that if they had known about his actual speed, they would never have done something like that. Instead, they would have let the birds coordinate with them to kill Old Man Wang.

If they had killed Old Man Wang, they would have broken free from the situation they were currently in. But it seemed they let their guard down and thought that killing Qing Shui would make things a lot easier.

The main reason behind their action was because they didn't want to see any more people from the Hong Clan sacrificing their lives. They felt that if the opponents were to go head-to-head against them, the risk of the battle would be greatly lowered. It would be a lot easier for them to kill their opponents and reduce the amount of casualties from their clan. This way, they could help save up some strength for their clan.

This was how things usually worked. A mistake in decision-making, even an insignificant one, might lead to a totally different outcome.

By the time the two Rain-Drizzling Birds broke free from the vines, the Dragon Slaying Beast was already done with one of the birds. Qing Shui, on the other hand, was already holding a Coldsteel Bead in his hand. At this moment, the Dragon Slaying Beast was already back by his side.

Qing Shui revealed a confident smile. The distant Rain-Drizzling Bird which was in shock still didn't dare to approach Qing Shui. Qing Shui went to summon the Nine Continents Mountain.

Though the offensive prowess of the mountain was unable to cause any threat to Divine Grade Warriors, it could still deal fatal damage to the Rain-Drizzling Birds. After all, the mountain itself still possessed formidable strength for the Shield Attack.

Nine Continents Mountain!

Qing Shui crashed the Nine Continents Mountain towards the Rain-Drizzling Bird with his consciousness. At the same time, he also made the Dragon Slaying Beast charge into the direction in which the Rain-Drizzling Bird evaded.

The Rain-Drizzling Bird was attacked from both sides. Furthermore, in the midst of the fight, a few changes occurred to the Dragon Slaying Beast and the Nine Continents Mountain. This further reduced the directions which the Rain-Drizzling Beast could evade into. At this moment, Qing Shui unleashed his Hidden Weapon.

Qing Shui's Hidden Weapon was invisible. It right away pierced into the left eye of the bird. The excruciating pain caused it to be greatly interrupted. With that happening, the Dragon Slaying Beast managed to leap towards it with ease.

The last remaining Rain-Drizzling Bird was near Qing Shui by now. Right at this moment, Qing Shui swung his Golden Battle Halberd.

Golden Sword!

A bright sword abruptly shot towards the Rain-Drizzling Bird. At the moment, Qing Shui's Five Elemental Attacks were worth a hundred and sixty Dao Force. If the Rain-Drizzling Bird was hurt by it, the wound it suffered would be fatal.

The Rain-Drizzling Bird specialized in speed. Even under this kind of situation, it still managed to evade Qing Shui's Golden Sword. But right at this moment, the Thunderous Beast managed to land a Thunderbolt on the Rain-Drizzling Bird, causing it to stop momentarily.

Qing Shui's Nine Continents Mountain was once again standing in between himself and the Rain-Drizzling Bird.

With Qing Shui's current speed, he could evade them easily. The Green Dragon Position of the Four Symbols Formation helped significantly boost Qing Shui's speed. He was already supposed to have incredible speed to begin with. Now, it was even more fearsome.

Yin Cha had finally killed off the last remaining old man. On Qing Shui's side, not only were there two Rain-Drizzling Birds, the two old men from before were also besieging him. It's only until now that the

Hong Clan realized the truth, that the bewitching young man was extremely weird. If they really lost today, a huge part of the reason had to do with him.

Inescapable Net, Art of Pursuing as well as Emperor's Qi... with those in effect, the two old men were totally crippled. Even a mere Golden Sword could manage to cut an arm off one of the old men. Because of this occurrence, the two old men didn't dare to charge forward.

The two old men were the weakest ones among this group of people. They had recently just made it into Divine Grade. Hence, their strength weren't much higher than Qing Shui. Though that might be the case, they were still a lot more powerful than Qing Shui because of their Divinity Spirit.

But even with that, they were constantly dragged down to the edge of Divine Grade by Qing Shui's Emperor's Qi. With the state they were currently at, they didn't know if they could still consider themselves Divine Warriors.....

Qing Shui unleashed his Golden Sword at the most unexpected moment.

The remaining Rain-Drizzling Bird suffered an even miserable fate. It was attacked from both side by Qing Shui and the Dragon Slaying Beast as well as the Nine Continents Mountain. The Thunderous Beast also supported them by continuously unleashing Thunderbolt. It took a very short while for it to die.

Yin Cha was no longer occupied. Seeing that, Qing Shui told him to go and support Old Man Wang. Old Man Wang played a key role in this fight. If anything were to happen to him, the battle today would be hard-fought. The strengths of Hong Hong and Hong Gu were still very formidable.

The tide of the battle had already begun to turn. The Hong Clan was now like ants on a hot pot. Five of the old men had died, and one of them was also injured. They were all the Hong Clan's main support. Losing one of them would mean a grave loss to the clan. It's not easy for even the Divine Moon Immortal Sect to nurture a Divine Grade Warrior. After all, among the forest of immortal sects, their immortal sect was considered to be of a lower grade.

Prior to this, Qing Shui hadn't made any move. Seeing as he was being chased after by the two old men, it even seemed like he was forced to be on the passive side. But now, they finally learnt that this young man who initially didn't catch their eyes was capable of defeating two Divine Grade Warriors at the beginner grade with ease. If the opponents had charged their way towards him, they would definitely only put themselves in danger. At the moment, the two old men didn't dare to make any careless moves.

Just because they didn't dare to charge forward didn't mean that Qing Shui wouldn't dare to do so. With his current defensive ability, he could straight up ignore the two old men's attacks.

Nine Palace Step, Universal Reversal!

Suddenly, Qing Shui switched place with one of the old men who wasn't injured. This movement enabled him to immediately face himself against an armless Divine Warrior. Without much thought, he sliced him with the Golden Battle Halberd in his hand.

The eyes of the Divine Warrior suddenly flared up as he directed the slash to his other arm. While doing so, he shot the long sword in his arm towards Qing Shui's chest.

Shadowless Lightning Strike!

A sword illusion resembling that of a streak of light pierced through Qing Shui's chest.

Chapter 1643 - Change, in between the living and dead, Red Tears, Victory or Loss?

Peng!

The streak of light had already pierced through Qing Shui's chest. The old man revealed a joyful look on his face. It's just that Qing Shui's Golden Battle Halberd also happened to land on his shoulder. The formidable power of the Golden Battle Halberd immediately crushed the shoulder of a warrior who was at the Divine Grade.

The old man's strength was at the Divine Grade. However, his defensive prowess was only considered decent. Added on the ability of Qing Shui's Golden Battle Halberd to ignore the opponent's defensive prowess, the old man's shoulder was immediately crushed into pieces.

The old man looked at Qing Shui. If he could manage to kill Qing Shui with this strike, it would be worth it even if it meant that he would lose one arm. But he soon realized that Qing Shui was in perfect shape. As that happened, his eyes were filled with disbelief. He tried his hardest to blink his eyes only to find that things were things were still the same. He was in perfect shape.

Right at this moment, the clumsy old man whose position was switched with Qing Shui's Great Reversal once again charged his way back towards Qing Shui. But upon witnessing the scene in front of him, he was struck by an intense feeling of helplessness.

Peng!

Qing Shui's Golden Battle Halberd immediately smashed the old man's heart and crushed it into pieces. When you decided to take part in this game, you would need to be ready to pay the price. Being generous to opponents was equivalent to being cruel to yourself.

Hence, Qing Shui didn't hesitate to eliminate the old man. After that, he immediately charged his way towards the elderly man, who was spaced out. The two old men Qing Shui were facing were the weakest ones among the group in terms of strength. It's very easy for Qing Shui to kill the two Divine Grade warriors who had already lost their will to fight. These warriors were no longer Divine existences.

Qing Shui's tyrannical attacks combined with his Dragon Slaying Beast. For a moment, it gave a Divine Grade Warrior a feeling that he was fragile. This was how Qing Shui was so powerful. A Divine Grade Warrior at elementary level was right away crippled in his hands.

With Qing Shui finishing off the old men, the tide of the battle could be considered to finally have been turned... At the very least, they had managed to win back their initial disadvantage in terms of numbers. By now, Feng Xi had also taken care of the opponents on her side. At the moment, Hong Hong and Hong Gu were the only ones left on the field.

On Qing Shui's side, there were four of them, just like from the beginning. None of them were dead. They weren't even injured. This kind of discrepancy put a huge amount of pressure on Hong Clan.

Eight Divine Warriors had died, although they were all only at elementary level. The strongest one among the people who had taken part in the battle was only a peak First grade Divine Warrior. Despite that, the Hong Clan had basically sent out all their Divine warriors available.

There were only very few Divine Warriors in the Divine Moon Immortal Sect. As one of the top-notch aristocratic clans, the Hong Clan was almost the Yin Clan's equal. In terms of the amount of clan members they had, they even had an upper-hand.

Eight... the death of eight Divine Warriors had caused Hong Clan to regret what they did. Even if they won, the amount of things which they gained could never make up for their losses.

One small mistake had led to the demise of their entire clan. Their initial plan was to take over the position of Divine Moon Immortal Sect's Sect Lord. After that, they could use the most convenient resources available in the clan. From there, the Hong Clan would definitely rise up by another level, so much so that they might even advance into the deeper part of Haohan Continent.

Money often came from danger. Taking risks would always be in direct proportion with the possible rewards. This time, the Hong Clan made up their mind to risk this opportunity only to find that they had lost the game which they were extremely certain they would win. They lost everything.

Old Man Wang, Feng Xi and Yin Cha all let out a sigh of relief. Though the two most powerful Hong Clan members were still on the stage, they were already able to see signs of their victory.

"This is such a shocking outcome..... There are only two members from Hong Clan left....."

"The remaining two participants are their strongest warriors."

"Does it matter? All the eight other members who died were Divine Warriors. Eight of them, and they were all Dao Sovereigns! This might possibly be one of the greatest losses the Divine Moon Immortal Sect suffered. Those were basically all of the Divine Grade Warriors in the Hong Clan."

"I heard that there is still one more Dao Sovereign at the Divine Grade left in Hong Clan."

"The Hong Clan is finished. The Yin Clan only sent out four people. The battle has only gone on for a while and they have already managed to finish off eight Divine Sovereigns. Eight of them! They were no ordinary people to mess with."

Though the battle might seem easy and straightforward, only Qing Shui and the other three people knew about the risk in it. If it wasn't because of mistakes by their opponents, the outcome of the battle might still be undecided. In some extreme cases, Qing Shui's side would have most certainly lost.

Qing Shui might have formidable abilities, but he would also need expert warriors to support him. Old Man Wang, Feng Xi and Yin Cha were precisely the expert warriors in this context. Otherwise, it would have been impossible to fight the match. If there had been no one there to hold back Hong Hong and Hong Gu, Qing Shui wouldn't have lasted this long.

Qing Shui was standing on a spot quite distant away from them. By now, the situation had changed to the Yin Clan besieging the Hong Clan. At this moment, Qing Shui informed Feng Xi and Yin Cha to think of a way to make the Hong brothers separate away from each other, so that Old Man Wang would only have to deal with either Hong Hong and Hong Gu.

Actually, things would work out even if they were to face their opponents straight on. Qing Shui was only worried about accidents which might occur. Meanwhile, the Thunderous Beast constantly unleashed its Thunderbolt attack from a distance.

The thing the Thunderous Beast was doing was similar to cooking a frog with warm water. Initially, the influence it brought upon to the battle might be really insignificant, but by the time the opponent realized something was wrong, everything would be too late. There would be no more turning back for the warrior.

The two Patriarchs from the Hong Clan were aware of how powerful this could be. At the moment, no one dared to underestimate anything which Qing Shui unleashed. Hence, the outcome was very easy to figure out.

Naturally, Hong Hong and Hong Gu would hold a grudge towards this kind of conclusion. Even if they knew that it's almost impossible to change the outcome, they were still willing to give it a try. Otherwise, the Hong Clan be totally done for.

The two brothers were sharing the same thought. As for Old Man Wang, he could do nothing but try his best to hold on. This was what he had been doing since the beginning. Furthermore, he had three demonic beasts helping him hold off his opponents. Otherwise, Old Man Wang would have long passed his limit by now.

Though Old Man Wang might seem fine from the outside, the exhaustion he had suffered across his body was still quite significant. He was almost at his limit. Before the battle started, Qing Shui had given him a few Vital Essence Pills. For a warrior at this level, though it might not recover his strength fully, it could still replenish almost half of it.

This time, things were a little different. Feng Xi and Yin Cha joined in the battle. Before this, with Feng Xi's Sleeves Reversal, he managed to battle against the old men with relative ease. But now, unlike before, he must act more cautiously. One careless mistake might cost him his very own life. When two experts crossed fists, not even the slightest flaw could be allowed. As the saying went 'A little error may lead to a huge discrepancy'.

In terms of strength, Yin Cha was almost Feng Xi's equal. At the end of the day, he was still the Divine Moon Immortal Sect's Sect Lord. For the past few days, Qing Shui's Constitution Nurturing and medicinal pills had helped significantly boost his strength. This was what Qing Shui was capable of, particularly for the people who had never received help from him before. The amount of benefits they could gain from their first experiences with it would be immeasurable. Old Man Wang, Feng Xi, and Yin Cha, all three of them, had experienced significant boosts in their strength. As for Yin Tian, his very life was saved by Qing Shui.

Hong Hong and Hong Gu, who didn't manage to suppress their opponents since the beginning, found it even more impossible to do so now. However, for warriors who have already reached their level, they were bound to have things they specialized in. This kind of specialized move tended to be very easily unleashed through suicidal methods. They contained formidable strength and would never be used unless a warrior was really out of options. It was also for this very reason that Qing Shui felt that it was of utmost importance to take out one of them as soon as possible.

From time to time, Qing Shui would release his Five Elements Divine Refining Technique to bother his opponents. The Five Elements Divine Refining Technique was something that even Hong Hong and Hong Gu didn't dare look down on.

Force of Roots!

Suddenly, Hong Hong charged towards Qing Shui like a bolt of thunder. Deep down, Hong Hong and Hong Gu knew that only by killing the young man in front of them would they have a chance of turning back the tide of the battle.

It's until this moment that Qing Shui finally came back to his senses. He knew that he had nowhere to escape from Hong Hong and Hong Gu. Hence, he immediately let the Thunderous Beast unleash its Violet Lightning Strike. He also transmitted a message to Old Man Wang, telling him to kill his opponent.

Peng!

Qing Shui was blown backwards. At the same time, his body started shining with a golden light. He summoned his Nine Continents Mountain and placed it in between himself and Hong Hong. But it was as if Hong Hong was aware that he wouldn't be able to kill Qing Shui with one strike and he once again charged his way towards Qing Shui.

To think that it would trigger Qing Shui's Paragon Golden Armor's Death Prevention Golden Armor. This old man must have used his Paragon Heavenly Technique. Otherwise, his attacks wouldn't have contained so much power. One notable thing was that Qing Shui's current defensive prowess was almost at the level of First level Divine Grade. Hong Hong's strength should be around the peak of First Level Divine Grade as well.

Old Man Wang clenched his teeth and immediately dashed forward. The wide bloody sword in his hand emitted an aura resembling that of a surging bloody spring. It carried along in the shape of a half moon as it sliced through Hong Gu's head.

Blood Moon Demonic Sabre!

Feng Xi and Yin Cha immediately charged towards Qing Shui. At this moment, both of them started to worry. Qing Shui must be kept safe. Though the Yin Clan was considered stable at the moment, nothing must happen to Qing Shui. Otherwise, the things which happened today would have lost their meaning.

Qing Shui watched as Hong Hong blew apart the Nine Continents Mountain in his way. The sharp sword in his hand was also considered a semi Divine Weapon. He once again pointed his sword towards Qing Shui and made his way towards him. Qing Shui's body was immobilized. He couldn't run away no matter how hard he resisted. The Nine Palace Step could be seen constantly glowing, but the opponent was like a shadow which whose shape followed the movement of its host. Qing Shui knew that he had been immobilized by a unique Battle Technique.

The Dragon Slaying Beast leaped forward.

Peng!

However, it immediately was hit far away into the distance by Hong Hong. It's unknown whether it suffered injuries. Similar to Rain-Drizzling Bird, the Dragon Slaying Beast lacked speed. The only thing it

could do was to attempt sneak attacks, otherwise, it would only suffer the fate of being beaten up by opponents stronger than itself. However, because of its unique body, it's not that easy to kill the Dragon Slaying Beast.

Demon Binding Rope!

Qing Shui continued to move backwards. All this time, he was clear-headed and knew what he had to do. But despite this, he was still not confident with what would happen. Their difference in strength was too significant. Though his formidable defensive prowess could enable him to block against normal attacks, he still wouldn't be able to block against a Sure-kill Heavenly Technique.

Qing Shui watched as the long sword got closer and closer to him. The long sword looked like a mini version of the sun. The tip was brimming with dazzling light, a light which could compete against the bright moon in the sky as it emitted an fearsome force.

"Die!"

A bright light slowly extended itself and pierced through Qing Shui's chest like a sharp sword. A scorching heat started spreading across his body. The painful sensation as well as the scorching aura which Qing Shui felt made him felt like he had been placed in a purgatory. The internal part of his body felt like boiling water. The unbearable pain he felt instantly caused his body to be soaked in sweat. At the same time, his blood also mixed in his sweat.

A golden light appeared from Qing Shui's chest and sunk into Hong Hong's brain. This time, Qing Shui didn't actually summon the Marrow Nibbling Golden Dragon Silkworm. The reason why it came out of its own accord was because the tiny beast felt a huge threat when the sword almost destroyed his Central Palace Blood Essence Pool.

Hong Hong felt an indescribable pain and was stunned. Qing Shui quickly moved back but Hong Hong held on. He clenched his teeth and as he moved his arm, almost all of Qing Shui's organs were crushed.

Fresh blood could be seen shooting out of his nose and mouth. These were the heaviest injuries which Qing Shui had been inflicted with throughout his entire life. Yin Cha immediately rushed over. However, at the same time, Hong Hong could be seen holding his head in his hand. He had never expected for the brat to have a killer-move reserved even at a time like this. Not only so, it wasn't any normal killer-move, but a fatal one.

Qing Shui's consciousness started to get blurry. Meanwhile, the Yin-yang Image within his Sea of Consciousness began revolving at a very fast speed. Qing Shui could vaguely see the two girls running towards the direction he was at. Tantai Lingyan, who had always been very cold to everyone, actually cried... He felt like he also saw tears coming out of Qin Qing's eyes.

Chapter 1644 - Destroying to reconstitute, becoming a Divine, Ninth Heavenly Layer

He didn't know how much time had passed, but Qing Shui felt as if a tempest had arisen within his body. The Yin-Yang Image rapidly spun as usual, while the pain he felt all over his body started to clear his consciousness.

Although the pain was excruciating, Qing Shui had endured worse pains than this. This wasn't too much. As his consciousness cleared, Qing Shui started to operate his Qi of the and Force of Rebirth to treat the damaged organs of the five viscera.

It was slow, but something was better than nothing. He felt his hands healing and hands that were cool as jade grasping his. A familiar feeling filled his heart and he knew that Tantai Lingyan was holding onto his hands. However, he could not open his eyes nor could he move.

"Qing Shui, I know you are alright. Nothing can happen to you, you promised me. I have not promised to become your wife yet, so you must wake up and I'll immediately become yours once you wake up."

Tantai Lingyan's voice passed into Qing Shui's ear. Although he could not see it, he felt that his face was a little wet. She must be crying for him and while Qing Shui's heart ached, he felt more joy instead. Although he didn't know when he would wake up, he knew that he wasn't going to die.

He really wanted to grasp her hands too, but he couldn't do it. Thankfully, he could regain control of his internal organs. Otherwise he might have followed in Yin Tian's footsteps.

Unknowingly, his other hand was being pulled as well. This hand was warmer than the other but equally smooth as jade - he knew it was Qin Qing's.

"The physician is here but your body is rejecting his treatment, so you can only rely on yourself now. I believe you're alright. You must quickly get better. The Hong Clan is no more now, so you don't have to worry. Everyone is waiting for you to recover."

Qing Shui's body was constantly recovering slowly. Both women basically did not leave his side. This was Qing Shui's previous room. Feng Xi and Yin Sha also largely spent most of their time here, other than leaving to settle any necessary matters.

"Little Yan and Little Qing, you should both go and rest. Leave everything here to me. Both of you need to take care of yourselves while waiting for him to gain consciousness." Feng Xi ached a little as she looked at the two women.

"We are ok. Godmother Feng, you should go and rest." Tantai Lingyan did not even lift her head and her voice was rather indifferent. What happened to Qing Shui made her heart really conflicted. She suddenly felt as if her entire world had turned dreary and dismal again.

Her previous world might have been like that, but the appearance of Qing Shui pierced through the dark clouds of her life. It created some sort of sanctuary in her heart. But now, it reverted to its previous state and her entire world darkened again.

Feng Xi naturally felt it and she felt a sense of conflict. She struck a chord with Tantai Lingyan but could not neglect the existence of Qing Shui. She meant well, feeling that her current strength can help the Divine Moon Immortal Sect, but she realised she was wrong. She did not help them at all but instead was the one receiving help all this while. Each time she incurred such a huge favor such that she could probably not pay them back anymore.

"Mother, it has already been half a month. How about we try the Sky Replenishing Pill?" Yin Sha said to Feng Xi.

“The Sky Replenishing Pill is destroying to reconstitute. Tackling such injuries is certainly effective. However, the uncertainties are also abound. Normally, the pill is only used when all hope is lost, just like in the previous instance of your father. I didn’t even dare to give it to your father, much less to Qing Shui.” Feng Xi shook her head firmly and said.

Yin Sha did not say anything again. He only wished for Qing Shui to get better. If anything happened to him, their entire clan would not be safe too. However, nothing could be done now as the Sky Replenishing Pill could not be used. He only casually said it previously, as he felt that they could try using it, since Qing Shui’s body was very strong. But now, he wasn’t sure if Qing Shui’s body could endure it.

Qing Shui’s body was slowly recovering with the strong Force of Rebirth. It was a pity he could not move and could only rely on his self-recuperating ability. But even this way of recovering was quite fast, which was why Feng Xi prohibited the use of the Sky Replenishing Pill.

Qing Shui could recover based on the current progression, but there could not be any mishaps in the process. Moreover, the time required was lengthy and they might have to be prepared for a long period of unconsciousness. During the process of the body’s recovery, the damaged portions could deteriorate, which was why Yin Sha previously suggested the use of the Sky Replenishing Pill.

Qing Shui’s desolate and dark world made him feel dull and boring. He could feel the comings and goings of people, but there was always someone remaining by his side. Additionally, his hands were held by Tantai Lingyan for a really long time.

Qing Shui also did not know when he woke up, as he could only continuously circulate his aura through his meridians. His Eleven Heavenly Meridians and Three Earthly Meridians were very strong after all, which curbed the deterioration of his body.

One round after another, on the whole, his body was recovering and it was something only he could feel. These few days, Tantai Lingyan and Qin Qing would also talk. Today should be the forty-eighth day, and the day would pass pretty quickly as well.

The injuries this time were severe and almost killed Qing Shui. Ultimately though, the Paragon Vessel helped him block half of the damage and now, it was lifeless within his Dantian. Even the tiny person wearing the golden armor had also noticeably sagged.

After the vital essence in his meridians circulated one round and entered his Dantian and nourished the Paragon Vessel in his Lower Dantian, all Qing Shui had to do now was awaken the Paragon Vessel. Only by doing this could he rapidly recover.

After so many days of effort, his complexion was much better than before - there was some slight change as it became slightly warmer and more moist. Yet, he still seemed weak and frail, unlike the imposing strength of before.

But Qing Shui was content since he was much stronger than before - he was gradually responding. Time passed by slowly and night had fallen.

There was only Tantai Lingyan and Qin Qing remaining in the room.

“Sister Yan, when did Qing Shui wake up? I can see his brazen and shameless face again.” Qin Qing sighed.

“I can feel that his body is recovering. Hopefully he can recover immediately.”

As soon as this sentence was uttered, the supine Qing Shui’s breath rose. The two women whose hands each held one of his hands were suddenly clutched firmly. It was as if their blood circulated in tandem.

“Qing Shui, how are you?”

“Sister Yan, he moved!”

The violent aura surrounding Qing Shui’s body suddenly raged with further fury and caused both women who were initially happy to become worried. This was because blood was spilling out from Qing Shui’s nose, mouth, and body.

At this moment, Qing Shui felt that the Violet Golden Bloodline Essence in his meridians was strengthening rapidly. But what puzzled him the most was that the Paragon Vessel suddenly started emitting a radiant golden light and aura, as if it were the radiance of the setting sun.

However, he realised that what followed was the enormous aura constantly repairing his viscera and meridians. But at the same time, the huge wave of power also resulted in a fresh spurt of blood through his nose and mouth, while beads of blood oozed out of the pores of his body.

Qing Shui did not know if this was good or bad, but the sudden change caused him to panic. He did not know the origin of this sudden surge of manic power but the previously sagging Paragon Vessel was suddenly filled with vigor.

When Qing Shui looked at his Paragon Vessel again he was stunned - the Paragon Vessel was stately and emitted a golden luster. Moreover, the five senses of the Paragon Vessel that were previously nebulous turned clear and he once again felt a raging intent abruptly burst forth.

Divinity Spirit!

Qing Shui could not imagine that the Paragon Vessel became his Divinity Spirit - this transformation was rather abrupt. The past couple of days had been nourishing and the sudden surge in strength puzzled Qing Shui, but now he knew why.

Could this be destroying to reconstitute*?

(*T/N: literally to break and then re-form)

Qing Shui could not find any good explanation for it. The Divinity Spirit’s massive spiritual sense took him some time to assimilate and the injuries in his body more or less healed, but it seemed as if he had not regained his consciousness yet.

Divinity Spirit, Jade Kirin Dragon Vessel Tyrannical Aura!

Qing Shui was stunned and could not imagine his own Divinity Spirit could be affected by the Jade Kirin Dragon Vessel. The Divinity Spirit’s ability transformed the original Jade Kirin Dragon Vessel Tyranny into the current Jade Kirin Dragon Vessel Tyrannical Aura.

Jade Kirin Dragon Vessel Tyrannical Aura: Paragon Vessel’s spiritual ability. Increase entire strength nine times, double all combat abilities including Sure Kill Heavenly Technique. Increase defence and

endurance by three times and increase resistance to evil arts by three times, including mind-influencing types and poison types. Passive Paragon Heavenly Technique, not including passive combat abilities, zero consumption and does not require conscious use. Passive ability, can increase might; as long as one doesn't die, the tyranny one exudes does not cease.

Method to level up: Hidden!

A Passive ability meant it would constantly operate, always existing as long as one was alive. Thus, this ability would be a constant add-on.

This was the true Jade Kirin Dragon Vessel Tyrannical Aura. Most importantly it could be leveled up, which could increase his strength. Qing Shui felt some sort of uncontrollable strength in his body, and now even without lifting a finger, his raw strength was already 1600 Dao. If he attacked under the influence of Jade Kirin Dragon Vessel Tyrannical Aura, his strength would be raised to 3200 Dao and less needed to be said about his defence.

So this was the difference between Divine and False God...

Qing Shui could only explain his current breakthrough with 'destroying to reconstitute' whereas before, it was always the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal breaking through a stage that led to a breakthrough in his current realm.

The revolved once and unknowingly reached the Ninth Heavenly Layer. Qing Shui could feel the strength of his body now. The breakthrough this time caused him to be perplexed as it was unexpected and without any preparation.

Previously, the was constantly revolving. That's why there wasn't much discovery but the vigorous aura within his body was still manically revolving. His meridians became more and more tenacious while his viscera basically fully recovered and his body had taken a turn for the better.

Divinity Spirit. The Paragon Vessel in Qing Shui's Dantian became a Divinity Spirit and the suit of golden armor became that much more almighty. The powerful aura of life caused Qing Shui's heart to be incomparably at ease and only when the violent aura settled down did Qing Shui's eyes slowly open.

Chapter 1645 - Waking Up, Clothes Getting Looser Yet Without Regrets

When Qing Shui saw the two women who were worried sick by his side and discernibly thinner, he smiled back at them: "Have I been asleep for very long?"

Qing Shui was touched and asked because he did not know how much time had passed.

"Forty-nine days. Forty-nine days have just passed." Tantai Lingyan said as tears welled up in her eyes. It was well into the wee hours of the night so the day should have just passed.

Qing Shui noticed the bloodstains on his body and also caught a whiff of the pungent bloody smell. He hurriedly sat up: "I'll go wash myself up and change my clothes."

Tantai Lingyan lightly cradled his neck and asked with concern: "How are you feeling?"

Qing Shui held her gently and said: "I'm fine now. Completely fine. Moreover, I got something out of this misfortune. I broke through to the next realm!"

Qing Shui was pleased right now and let go of Tantai Lingyan. Looking at Qin Qing and her body, Qin Qing's eyes were also glistening with tears. He held her tightly without a word.

Tantai Lingyan was at the side and did not feel it odd. Although she was indifferent, she still understood many things. Moreover, she had spoken and interacted with Qin Qing so they knew how each of them felt about Qing Shui. Additionally, this near-fatal injury Qing Shui suffered made them see the light in many matters and nothing mattered more than Qing Shui.

When Qing Shui's eyes weren't open previously, he had heard what Tantai Lingyan said and he grinned at her: "Little Yanyan, although I couldn't move nor speak earlier when my body felt terrible, I heard what you said. You said you wanted to be my wife. Those words truly gave me a lot of motivation. Perhaps it was those very words that allowed me to recover, so we must definitely honor it."

Tantai Lingyan blushed a bright red. Her incomparable coolness, as well as the blush on her face, caused Qing Shui to turn glassy-eyed, in turn, causing Tantai Lingyan to droop her head in an embarrassed smile.

Thereafter, he turned and smiled at Qin Qing before heading to the bathroom to wash up. After Qing Shui went in for a while, he heard a knock on the door and heard Tantai Lingyan say: "I left your clothes outside."

These brand new clothes were brought by Feng Xi. While Tantai Lingyan believed that they would not be used, knowing that Qing Shui surely had other clothes, she thought it was better to bring them over since Feng Xi brought them.

Qing Shui heard Tantai Lingyan's voice and he was actually feeling quite happy in his heart. Waiting on someone to this extent was probably her first time and an ineffable sense of achievement filled him with joy.

"Do you want to come in and help me in washing up?" Qing Shui boldly asked.

There was no sound outside except the footsteps leaving faster than usual. Qing Shui grinned as he knew that she was not angry and since she would not say anything, he needed to take the opportunity to reach for a yard when given an inch.

There were a lot more people when Qing Shui finally went out. Previously, the rippled of Qing Shui's aura stunned quite a number of people. Although it was late in the night, many still came.

Seeing that not only was Qing Shui perfectly fine, but his strength was so terrifying that even Feng Xi could not ascertain, they stared unbelievably at Qing Shui and asked: "Did you become a Divine already?"

Although they asked again, the answer was obvious.

"Not dying from the tribulation this time and receiving great fortune thereafter, this is indeed a breakthrough." Qing Shui smiled.

"After destroying and reconstituting, your strength has amplified considerably. Why don't you reveal the true extent of your strength?" Feng Xi smiled lightly while rubbing Qing Shui's head. The concern in her

eyes was genuine and since Qing Shui has recovered, she was happier than everyone else. If he hadn't recovered, she would not have been able to forgive herself.

Qing Shui laughed: "I, myself, am not very sure. Perhaps a thousand Dao or so worth of strength."

The Old King also said: "The youth truly should be regarded with respect. The step you've taken this time is massive. Today should be the happiest day as such a great thing had occurred when the day has only just begun. It is a joyous occasion now that you've woken up, Qing Shui. I shall go make some delicious food. Today, everyone should eat and make merry! Look at them, everyone has lost a little weight."

Qing Shui halted the Old King: "King Uncle, let me do it. I have made you guys worried all this while. Since everyone is here today, I shall go and whip up some of my best dishes and let everyone enjoy a bit.

"I shall accompany you. I would like to see your culinary skills. Hope you don't mind!"

"If you want to learn, I can always teach you." Qing Shui never really stopped anyone from learning his abilities since he had too many skills for anyone to finish learning.

"Uncle, I was unable to treat your injury for so long. Seems like my nights for the next one or two months will be taken up by you." Qing Shui chuckled towards Yin Tian.

"You recovering is more important than anything else. We were all extremely uneasy and worried. These two lasses basically did not sleep nor eat much." Yin Tian intimated.

"Uncle, I've gained a blessing out of this misfortune. Let us not be so formal with each other anymore. I am not the kind who treats others courteously without any sincerity. I don't have many friends but I treat all of you just like family." Qing Shui said to Yin Tian.

"We are the same as well. I, Yin Tian, originally had only one friend but now, I've gained a few more. We are not just friends but family now." Yin Tian looked at Qing Shui, his two women, and the Old King.

Qing Shui went to the kitchen to prepare the dishes. The Old King also followed him since the kitchen was very large. There were others present who also lent a helping hand and soon enough, a sumptuous feast was ready. Qing Shui also retrieved the likes of Plum Blossom Wine and Tiger Bone Liquor secretly. All of them were aged for at least a thousand years or more. Opening them up and saying it was brewed by immortals might not even be far from the truth.

Once the bottles were opened, the pure fragrance of the brew was certainly not inferior to the dishes. Moreso, both fragrances did not clash and were complementary instead. The entire room was filled with an incomparable fragrance that invoked a great appetite in everyone.

The Old King had previously obtained Qing Shui's spices but differed too much from his cooking ability. There are many delectable dishes in Qing Shui's culinary arsenal.

Most importantly, there was the wine. Even Feng Xi was profuse with her praise but no one ever asked Qing Shui where the wine came from.

To Qing Shui's left was Tantai Lingyan and to his right was Qin Qing. Qing Shui helped them to the food and they were all very happy. The happiest among them all was Qing Shui. He had rested enough and it

could be said that every cloud has a silver lining since he had obtained a great blessing from this misfortune.

Qing Shui's raw strength now was about 3200 Dao because Divinity Spirit's Jade Kirin Dragon Vessel Tyrannical Aura was a passive ability and thus perpetually raised Qing Shui's combat abilities by a fold. All his offensive abilities were also raised by one fold but of course, skills like Emperor's Qi were not counted. The formations and Battle God Halo were also excluded since only the active offensive abilities were affected.

Qing Shui knew that 3200 Dao worth of strength made him a Divine Grade 2 but he did not undergo a False God Tribulation nor a Divine Tribulation. The Destroying and Reconstituting this time caused the breakthrough and it was only after going through a phase of self-tempering that he reached the 9th Layer of the Ancient Strengthening Technique.

Qing Shui knew that he had nine layers and this was the final layer but the space to improve it even more was large. From now on, Qing Shui was considered to have reached the peak tier among the continents. The Divinities that seemed to exist only in the legends was something he now had come into contact with and had become one of them himself.

Yin Tian stood up and raised his wine cup: "Let's not say anymore but instead, make a toast to Qing Shui and celebrate his recovery, as well as the great advance in his strength."

Qing Shui and everyone else stood up and raised their wine cups with Qing Shui cheerfully saying: "Let's have a toast and not be overly formal with each other."

"Cheers!"

All these people did not really have much of an appetite recently so this time, even if they finished all the food available, they would still need to call for more. Much less needs to be said for Qing Shui who had a whole table of food to himself and even then, nothing was left in the end.

As everyone finished their meal, they gradually left one after the other. By now, there was only Qing Shui and the two women remaining and the tables were all cleaned up.

Qing Shui leaned against the comfortable beast skin sofa in satisfaction and felt the feeling akin to a survivor of a disaster. This feeling was very strong and he looked at the two women before walking towards them. Holding each of them in one hand and sitting down, he said: "Accompany me later. I missed both of you so dearly. I'm worried I would suddenly die."

"You're not allowed to say such unlucky words!" Qin Qing murmured. Now that Qing Shui had recovered, they were starting to feel a little embarrassed instead.

"Life is woefully short, so one must learn to make merry while they can. Otherwise, once there is no more opportunity to do so, it would be too late to regret it." Qing Shui sighed.

"That is absurd!" Tantai Lingyan lightly shook her head.

"All of you have lost weight during this trying period. Your clothes have loosened but it is without any regrets, the perseverance and undying love that have made you gaunt and sallow*." Qing Shui looked at both women and lightly smiled.

(T/N: This line is complex but much more evocative in Chinese as the saying used here ‘衣带渐宽终不悔,为伊消得人憔悴’ refers to someone who is hopelessly in love and - probably sacrificing or pining - to the extent of becoming so thin that one’s clothes become very loose. However, there are absolutely no regrets.)

“Stop being so smug!”

Both women muttered in embarrassment.

Qing Shui said the words very casually. In his previous life, there was a famous saying and using it this time made him feel good. Whether it was appropriate or not was none of his concern.

“Give me some time and once my strength has stabilized, I will help both of you since I have the strength to do so now.” Qing Shui happily said.

Qin Qing and Tantai Lingyan, as well as Yiye Jiange and Yehuang Guwu were all False Gods. Although False Gods were not yet at the peak, they were considered very strong. Qing Shui wanted to raise their strength quickly since there were strong warriors on land and in the sea. Not having any strength while relying on one person instead was never going to suffice.

“Our strength has already risen quite quickly. If we continue any further, our foundation would be unstable.” Qin Qing said.

“No, it won’t. I have my ways. Tonight. both of you go to my chambers and rest while I stay here. Alright?” Qing Shui looked outside and realized there was still time. Both of them must have been exhausted.

The two women were taken aback and did not agree. However, neither did they disagree. Qing Shui smiled and pulled them up so that they can both go to his room.

Qing Shui did not follow but instead closed the doors. The bed in the room could fit two people but even then, three people would not be a problem. However, it might be a squeeze.

Qing Shui laid on the sofa outside, which could actually be considered a sofa bed. Putting down the backrest turned it into a bed and as he lay on it, he felt an incomparable tranquility that he had never felt before.

Now that he had strength, he felt safe. Previously, the chain of events caused Qing Shui to feel inadequate and weak but if Qing Shui were to battle Hong Hong now, he would not be able to injure Qing Shui even if Qing Shui did not raise a finger. The difference between then and now caused Qing Shui to be overcome with emotion.

Strength, it is an amazing thing!

Chapter 1646 - Entrance of the North Ocean, Ancient Golden Shrimp General

Qing Shui did not seem to have slept, after all he had only just regained consciousness. After his strength was raised, his constitution became even stronger such that it would not be much of a problem even if he did not sleep for a long period of time. However, the sky only started to break and the doors of his chambers opened as his two women blinked sleepily and walked out.

They were only wearing pyjamas which were rather spacious and gave off an air of indolence. Their fringes were in a mess but it did not seem to affect their beauty, and instead added to their charm.

Seeing Qing Shui, both women smiled and went to wash up. Once they finished washing and dressing up, Qing Shui was already cleaned up. As he didn't sleep, he simply washed his face.

Both the women went to do their morning exercises and Qing Shui followed suit. The Divine Moon Immortal Sect's land was vast and the plaza was filled with a great many people doing their morning exercises. These people belonged to the Divine Moon Immortal Sect and now the Sect was very peaceful after the Life-or-Death Battle that had happened previously.

The three of them found a more secluded spot that prevented people from disturbing them. Everybody knew that Qing Shui and the two women were not to be trifled with. After all, the Hong Clan was a great example of what would happen if they were to do so.

It was such a long time and the surrounding people saw Qing Shui appear for the first time. Some envied his indomitable life spirit but were even more envious of the two kingdom-toppling beauties by his side.

It had been a while since he did some exercises, which was why Qing Shui liked to exercise for a bit now. The breakthrough from his drastic increase in strength this time did not cause any discordance with his body, but breaking through to Divine would also resolve the minor imbalances from these small problems.

Divinity Spirit allowed Qing Shui's Heavenly Dao to experience a qualitative leap. In the instant that Qing Shui felt as if he surpassed life and death did his Heavenly Dao also undergo a major breakthrough.

Taichi Fist!

Qing Shui's mastery of Taichi Fist now was unknown to him, but he long knew that he had attained the realm which disregarded form or intention. Now, his every single blow seemed to exude the rules of the Heavenly Dao, which was a kind of formless pressure. Each move and each stroke was so simple yet it carried an overbearing pressure.

Qing Shui's face bore a satisfied expression and not long later, he saw that Yin Tian and Feng Xi had also arrived. They were also practising Taichi Fist. Previously, Yin Tian was stunned when he saw Qing Shui's fist techniques as it had actually reached such a level of mastery.

Qing Shui, both his women greeted Yin Tian and Feng Xi.

Yin Tian's Taichi Fist cultivation did not raise by much, these few days he was fretting a lot over Qing Shui's injury and had no mood to train. Now that his mood was better, he resumed cultivation. Even though he stopped cultivation for a bit previously, his body was maintaining its recovery process during the past fifty days.

After finishing his breakfast, Qing Shui helped Yin Tian with a round of Constitution Nurturing and stimulated his potential. After that, he used the Five Elements Divine Needles to help recuperate his viscera.

Doctors do not treat themselves. Previously, Qing Shui suffered an injury but was unable to treat himself - no matter the difficulties, they were unable to treat themselves.

With this, more than half the day went by and Yin Tian's body underwent a huge improvement this time. Now, he had nearly recovered to Peak False God. But even then, he still required two months or more to fully recover, unless he managed to cultivate his mastery of the Taichi Fist past the Grand Perfection stage.

Yin Tian's mastery of Taichi was now only at the Small Perfection stage, but even this would benefit him a lot. Taichi's ability to nourish one's health and cultivate the body was incomparable. To understand Taichi's true essence, Yin Tian did not require treatment from Qing Shui and he would gradually recover anyway.

Some things did not need to be said but instead allow one to come to an understanding on one's own. If he were to tell him, then he would forever find it difficult to come to an understanding. Qing Shui would also use Taichi to spar with Yin Tian and let him try to experience it for himself.

The time now passed leisurely for Qing Shui. Yin Tian's body was in the process of recovering and the Divine Moon Immortal Sect's problems were more or less resolved, but there was still the Blade Demon Immortal Sect. When they came back and killed the Blade Demon and some of the Sect's people, they were unsure of how the Divine Moon Immortal Sect would deal with the Blade Demon Immortal Sect.

Blade Demon Immortal Sect and Divine Moon Immortal Sect were the two largest sects in this region. The Blade Demon Immortal Sect had always wanted to exterminate the Divine Moon Immortal Sect in order to take control of the best resources this region had to offer for themselves. However while the idea was good, the reality was cruel. So much time had passed and there was no idea what the Blade Demon Immortal Sect was up to.

On the contrary, the Blade Demon Immortal Sect were actually much more at peace now with the Hong Clan gone. The Blade Demon Immortal Sect without the Hong Clan was actually considered a significant loss of strength. Of course, this wasn't including the fact that Qing Shui was someone on an entirely different level, the Blade Demon Immortal Sect would not know of Qing Shui's current strength increase.

Perhaps it was because of this, Yin Tian and Feng Xi did not raise the matter of the Blade Demon Immortal Sect, as if they had forgotten about it. Qing Shui certainly wasn't going to interfere with Divine Moon Immortal Sect's affairs and although he was on good terms with them, he was here to treat Yin Tian's injury after all. As for anything else, he wasn't interested in it.

This time he didn't care if he came for nothing, moreover the him now had already taken a big step forward into this circle and stepped onto this platform. This step he took was very big and he felt very happy about it.

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Qing Shui brought Tantai Lingyan and Qin Qing to take a look at the surrounding environment of Divine Moon Immortal Sect. The scenery and environs were the most beautiful he had come across. The deeper one headed into Haohan Continent the more beautiful it would be, but it was also more vicious and dangerous. Of course normal human beings were always going to be the most, it was like how humans would not feel anything upon seeing an ant nor if they were to step on it. But it would be

different if it were a rabbit and much less needs to be said if it was a person who wanted to snatch his things or his women.

Just like here, the Divine Moon Immortal Sect would not monitor most people - common folk, but would definitely pay close attention to the Blade Demon Immortal Sect or any abrupt appearance of a strong clan. The Blade Demon Immortal Sect were also the same, otherwise what occurred when they came back would not have happened.

The threat of benefits, caused by competition.

Qing Shui now possessed attention grabbing power, therefore casually heading towards the depths of Haohan Continent would surely be watched by others. While he surely would head there, it wouldn't be right now.

The three of them rode the Hellfire Phoenix with both women sitting on each side and looking into the distance. Seeing the rivers and mountains below them, they were standing high above and could see far so their heroic pride would also rise. The feeling of overlooking felt very good, at least it was much better than looking up and they felt much better in their hearts.

In front of them was a vast and endless plain with dense brushes that were waist high and trees would now and then rise above the profusion of vegetation. They were very sporadic and basically it would be a long distance before they saw another tree. The trees very sturdy but not extremely tall. This was because it was adapting to the sudden winds of the vast plain, too tall and the tree would be uprooted and blown away.

In his previous life, Qing Shui did not go to any vast plains and only saw it on the television. While this wasn't the first one he saw in this world, the scenery in front of him right now was breathtaking and boundless, and with two beauties as his companions right now, what more could he ask for?

Occasionally, some wild beasts could be seen roaming the wild plains, and some might beast roars could even be heard; flocks of birds flew past from time to time as well. The wild beasts and flying beasts here were innumerable, and it was a scene that flourished with boundless vitality that made anyone who looked at it feel very comfortable.

Two hours later, Qing Shui saw a lake in front of him. Actually he already saw some streams and lakes previously but they could not compare to the one right before him. It wasn't very big or small, but the lake was crystal clear and glistened while the spiritual qi seemed to be in abundance.

This lake was approximately oval in shape, and length wise about tens of miles and breadth wise about six to seven miles. On the banks of the lake were several trees and its surroundings were dense brushes, but what made Qing Shui surprised was that there was not a single flying beast that came here to drink water. It was a really peculiar place.

The streams and lakes that they came across before this was filled with flying beasts that came down to drink water but it was completely silent here which led Qing Shui to guess that if the water wasn't poisoned then it was the presence of beasts in the water.

Seeing the brushes in the surrounding and the sea creatures in the water eliminated the possibility of poison so there was only one possibility, which is the presence of dangerous demonic beasts in the water.

Suddenly, Qing Shui saw a stone tablet by the bank of the lake. It was blocked by the trunk of a tree earlier and thus he did not notice it. Since he saw it now, he decided to take a look and leave the two women on his Hellfire Phoenix.

“Qing Shui, then you have to be careful!”

Both women knew that Qing Shui would go and take a look to get a better understanding, so they did not stop him from going.

Upon getting off, Qing Shui felt a ferocious aura and now he knew why there were no flying beasts that came here to drink water. As for the sea creatures that dwelled in the water, there was probably no way for them to leave this place so they gradually got used to living here.

Qing Shui walked in the front of the stone tablet and was taken aback by the words inscribed on it.

Entrance of the North Ocean!

Qing Shui gave it some thought, this was the entrance to the massive North Ocean Domain. The World of the Nine Continents has the four major Ocean Domains and the Nine Continents Star Ocean Domain etc, these were terrifying existences.

Peng!

A huge stream spurted high into the sky and the small lake seemed to have been turned upside down as a shadow that glittered like gold emerged on the surface of the lake.

Ancient Golden Shrimp Generals!

It was a man, clad in golden battle armor and measured three meters in height. He was holding a giant golden trident and his features resembled that of humans, with the only difference being that of his head which looked somewhat like that of a prawn head. Moreover, Qing Shui had seen the pictures of their race before and they were equal existences to the Ancient Battle King Crabs. This Ancient Golden Shrimp General and the Golden Battle King Crab were of similar existences, perhaps even surpassing it. But at this point Qing Shui was much stronger than before and yet the being that was guarding the Entrance of the North Ocean did not seem the least bit worried.

“What are you thinking of doing at the Entrance of the North Ocean?” A sonorous voice rang out.

“I merely came here for a stroll and get some fresh air, surely there’s no need to be this fierce? En, that’s right Brother, if this is the Entrance of the North Ocean, can I get to North Ocean Domain from here?” Qing Shui smiled.

North Ocean Domain entrances were plenty and North Ocean Domain could also be entered from the sky but it was extremely difficult. The safest way was to enter from elsewhere and even the Aquatics’ strongest existences could not be complacent in this uncharted Ocean Domain. If you were unlucky then you would be exterminated by some unknown Ancient Demon Kings. There were also Ancient Dragons

etc which could not be measured by normal convention - they lived for far too long and the strength of their body was truly terrifying.

That's why if there was anything that allowed them to pass through certain entrances, it would be much safer after all.

Chapter 1647 - Both Women Attained Peak False God

The Ancient Golden Shrimp General looked at Qing Shui and he could feel that this man was much stronger than he was. Upon seeing Qing Shui's amiability, he became less tense and drawled: "This is one of the entrances to the North Ocean. I'm here holding the fort. Idle people should not casually be around here to prevent any misunderstandings."

Qing Shui laughed and looked around: "We are not intending to go to the North Ocean. Can't we just stay around here and look?"

The Ancient Golden Shrimp General was slightly taken aback since he was strong and he could simply use his strength to scare away the average person. He didn't even need to break a sweat. Normally he wouldn't kill people to prevent the two clans from warring but today he unexpectedly met an extremely strong human.

"Alright. In that case, you can stay here but I won't be keeping you company any longer." said the Ancient Golden Shrimp General and started to leave.

"Brother, wait up!" Qing Shui said in a hurry. It wasn't easy to meet an Aquatic from an Ocean Domain so Qing Shui was not going to let him just leave like that. He still wanted to go to the North Ocean to take a look so finding an Aquatic to be his guide was imperative.

"Anything else?" the Ancient Golden Shrimp General seemed to have seen through Qing Shui's intentions. He had an obstinate look that seemed to tell Qing Shui that they didn't know each other so they shouldn't get overly familiar.

"I have with me a Dragon God Blood Essence and if Brother here uses it, he will surely become an Ancient Golden Dragon Shrimp General." Qing Shui said while taking out the Dragon God Blood Essence, which was definitely authentic, left behind previously.

The Ancient Golden Shrimp General looked at Qing Shui cautiously as well as the gleaming porcelain bottle in Qing Shui's hand. However, the drop of Blood Essence within the bottle emanated a great temptation and constantly attacked his willpower.

"You don't have to worry. I don't have any ill intentions towards the North Ocean Domain. My wife is one of the Palace Mistresses of the Ocean Domain. Moreover, I don't know what kind of strength you possess within the North Ocean so how can I have any ill intentions?" Qing Shui took the opportunity to strike while the Shrimp General was still hesitant.

Qing Shui really did not have any ill intentions. Thinking of Yiye Jiange and Muyun Qingge, as well as the Sunset Palace, he felt that he would surely visit the other Ocean Domains, like the North Ocean.

"What do you need me to do? Go ahead and say it. If I can do it, I'll help you. Otherwise, I don't want your items." the Ancient Golden Shrimp General solemnly said.

"I just love people with morals. I don't know where your allegiance lies but whoever put you in charge of the North Ocean's Entrance certainly did not choose wrongly." Qing Shui laughed and tried to flatter him.

Nice words were coaxing and whoever were to hear it will certainly like it. The Ancient Golden Shrimp General had no change in expression but he felt a little happy inside and continued to look at Qing Shui earnestly.

"I want to make friends with Brother here. Perhaps, if I were to visit the North Ocean Domain in the future, I'll ask you about its scope of strength." Qing Shui smiled.

He knew that the North Ocean Domain was vast and entrances were many so it would be strong. Haohan's North Ocean Domain would have a strength that's not just in the tens of thousands so this was definitely reasonable to ask.

As expected, the Ancient Golden Shrimp General had a look of relief and earnestly replied: "I really do need your object. So, if I were to accept it right now and you were to make me do something to harm my master, I will perish."

It was Qing Shui's turn to seriously nod his head: "Am I really that scary? You can put your heart at ease. Take this and I definitely will not put you in a difficult position. As long as there's a shred of difficulty, you can reject me."

The person who eat would be unable to speak* but Qing Shui did not intend to do anything to him. Simply, it was to have someone familiar in the North Ocean Domain.

(*T/N: A saying that means as long as one has received a favor from someone else, he would have to turn a blind eye to the other party's faults or misdeeds)

After Qing Shui finished speaking, the Ancient Golden Shrimp General did not hesitate any further, took the Blood Essence from Qing Shui and said: "Perhaps we can really become friends."

The people from such clans have a mystical feeling akin to the gut feeling of humans. However, it is very mysterious for it is said to be more accurate than the human's instincts. He felt that Qing Shui bore no malice and that's why he tried to become friends with Qing Shui.

Qing Shui returned to the Hellfire Phoenix and rejoined his two women. They hurried on their way though it was not the original route. It was a circuitous path that still led them back to the Divine Moon Immortal Sect except that they would not take it if they were to return back here.

It was still early upon their return to the Divine Moon Immortal Sect as it was barely past noon. This was the residence of Qing Shui and his women and if there weren't any problems, they wouldn't be bothered.

Qing Shui decided to help Qin Qing and Tantai Lingyan raise their strengths since he now possessed the ability to do so. Only he possessed this ability which was akin to an initiation. Although it wouldn't harm one's body, the increase would solely depend on the women's good fortune.

Qing Shui was now a Divine and both women were compatible with this method. If it were a small child, he would be unable to use this method. It would only serve to cause harm by overdoing it. A strong vitality is required. Otherwise, the consequence is being crippled.

Both women were compatible also because their strength was right at a juncture, which was why Qing Shui wanted to help them raise their strength.

Raising their strength was a simple method. Both parties were to face each other and grasp each other's hands while Qing Shui used force to imbue it in them.

Tantai Lingyan went first. When the two of them held hands, a very strange feeling occurred, akin to their bloodlines uniting but not quite it either. Qing Shui suddenly recalled his own breakthrough to Divine when the two women were holding his hands tightly while he lay unconscious. This additional reaction was probably due to his prior breakthrough to Divine.

This feeling was extremely wonderful and Tantai Lingyan looked at Qing Shui in astonishment. She really enjoyed this feeling and it made her feel like she wasn't alone anymore.

During the imbuing process, they realised it was extremely smooth-sailing. Although he couldn't be sure, it was likely related to the strengthening of Tantai Lingyan's meridians, dantian as well as skeletal structure.

The speed of this was fast but the requirements were demanding and everyone could basically only use this method once. Unless one's body and constitution were special, they might be able to use it two more times but even then, that was the limit.

Also, this method of raising one's strength was not especially scary. It was mainly to raise the strength during Constitution Nurturing and the extent would be large but not particularly large either. Take False Gods for example. If they were to raise their strength when they were on the cusp of the next realm, the extent would be the largest. However, if it were only a little, they would have to immediately undergo a False God Tribulation right after raising their strength.

In truth, Qing Shui was not concerned about the people beside him undergoing False God Tribulations since their capabilities could withstand it. Although many people died during the False God Tribulation, there were also as many who succeeded in completing it. After all, people of this stage would have one or even many treasures that can help them tide through the Tribulation.

Tantai Lingyan and Qin Qing both had various treasures that would assist them. Qin Qing's Goddess Divine Set was one of the best there is while Tantai Lingyan's treasures were largely family heirlooms. Moreover, Tantai Lingyan also had a set similar to Qin Qing and Yiye Jiange.

Qing Shui even suspected that the women in the Portraits of Beauty all possessed such a Divine Set, but shook his head quickly at that thought since such an occurrence was probably extremely rare.

In no time, Tantai Lingyan's False God Tribulation was about to happen so Qing Shui immediately took both women high into the sky with his Nine Continents Steps.

Tantai Lingyan was already a Grade 10 False God and after this, she would become a Peak False God. Nevertheless, the gap between Peak False Gods could be very wide. Before Qing Shui broke through to Divine, he was a Peak False God that was stronger than an early Divine.

Qing Shui did not know how much Tantai Lingyan would raise her strength by. The lightning in the sky thundered and flashed as she easily parried. The lightning and thunder became more and more violent which turned the entire surroundings into a lightning region.

Tantai Lingyan held the blood-red long sword and as time passed, the lightning became increasingly concentrated before slowly coming to a halt.

Qing Shui smiled as he gazed at Tantai Lingyan who was invigorated rather than exhausted. He instantly knew that she had entered Peak False God. Her strength should be around 50 Dao.

50 Dao was already very strong and comparatively, Qing Shui was only at 160 Dao - which could be increased to 320 Dao before his breakthrough. However, Qing Shui possessed this amount of strength for some time while Tantai Lingyan had only just broken through. Thus, such strength was certainly due to her talent.

Next, it was Qin Qing and it also went smoothly for her. However, her strength was slightly lower than Tantai Lingyan's at 45 Dao. 1 Dao worth of strength was actually quite terrifying so the difference between both of them was not insignificant.

Time went by in a flash and the sky was already dark. Tens of thousands of kilometers into the sky, Haohan's horizon was unimaginable for humans. If this was in his previous life, such a distance was estimated to be beyond gravitational pull, but here, perhaps because the Nine Continents was too vast, the gravitational pull was strong too.

It was biting cold here, which felt like scraping knives. The average person would have died a painful death.

"This place makes one really uncomfortable. It's better that we head back!" Qing Shui smiled and reached to grab a hand from each of them. Next, he immediately used his Nine Continents Steps to return to the Divine Moon Immortal Sect.

Now, both women have already become Peak False Gods just like Yiye Jiange but she was probably not as strong as either of them. Yehuang Guwu wasn't as strong either since her raw strength was not at Peak False God, although she could depend on Tiger Form to achieve Peak False God.

Qing Shui was pleased with his increased strength as well as that of both his women. Their increase in strength this time was a significant shift which relied on their talent. Breaking through to Peak False God could be 10 or 20 Daos, just like Qing Shui breaking through to Divine and immediately reached 3200 Daos. 100 Daos was also Divine, but of course the prerequisite was to possess Divinity Spirit.

Both women were extremely talented. Qing Shui only helped them at the beginning but they had already raised their strength by that much. It was mainly due to their breaking through to Peak False God,

The change at the Divine Moon Immortal Sect was not small. Hong Clan was gone and both Supreme Guest Elders Qing Feng and Ming Yue elected to leave as they felt ashamed of remaining. Yin Tian tried his best to persuade them to stay but both of them were adamant so he had no choice but to let them leave.

Actually, to err is human. If one had made a mistake, so be it. However, some mistakes cannot afford to be made. Otherwise, it would forever leave a stain that cannot be erased.

Yin Tian did not blame them because the Hong Clan got them by their weak points. Both their entire families' lives were threatened by the Hong Clan.

Chapter 1648 - Returning home, Lan Lingfeng's Big Wedding, Imperial City's Qi Clan comes

The departures of both Qing Feng and Ming Yue's clans left Yin Tian feeling uneasy but since things have developed as such, he can only accept it. Originally the Yin Clan's strength was a little weak but now it was even weaker.

However, the Old King suddenly appeared and with some changes too. Not only did he like cooking, he seemed to have the desire to start cultivating again. Qing Shui used the likes of Beauty Pellet and Golden Fragrance Jade to restore the looks of his prime and elevated his vitality to his peak.

The Old King felt a little unfamiliar after transforming to the looks of his youth. Yin Tian and Feng Xi privately looked for Qing Shui, with the hopes that the Old King can emerge from the shadows of his past and rebuild the family. If he kept to his old ways, he will forever be unhappy.

It seems that there was some hope now, with the preparation of a new lease of life, he will be able to embrace new relationships and emotions. Man's seven emotions and six sensory pleasures came together. The Old King previously shut himself off temporarily and it was not possible to shut himself off forever.

Although the Divine Moon Immortal Sect lost the Hong Clan, as well as Qing Feng and Ming Yue's clans, the remaining people were extremely loyal to the Yin Clan. This time, it was clear to every that the Yin Clan has emerged stronger from this; even if Yin Tian were unable to fully recover they were not afraid.

(T/N: Didn't the author say the Yin Clan was even weaker than before just above?? Lol)

The Divine Moon Immortal Sect did not deal with the Blade Demon Immortal Sect. Time also passed by unknowingly and the bulk of Qing Shui's time was spent shuttling around the area with his two women, where they occasionally found some precious rare medicinal herbs.

It did not feel like the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal was going to progress to the next stage and there seemed to be no change regarding the Nine Animals Mimicry Technique's last form. Both women gradually stabilised their strength and Yin Clan's strength had also raised considerably due to Qing Shui's selflessness towards his friends.

Yin Tian, Fengxi and the Old King's strength had raised by about one fold and this was because it was Qing Shui's first time helping them which made the results especially evident. Yin Tian's strength was slowly recovering and now he was already an elementary Divine.

Qing Shui felt that Yin Tian would recover in about a month and when that time comes, Qing Shui can return home. He did not want to unduly enter the depths of Haohan Continent. The matters over there were not over yet and the younger generation back home were at a crucial juncture which Qing Shui felt he should lend a helping hand.

Their daily lives during this period were very peaceful and Qing Shui took this as a chance to relax with Qin Qing and Tantai Lingyan. Although both women did not express much, Qing Shui could feel their affection - after all, there's nothing more that needs to be said with a woman who could shed a tear for him.

However, Qing Shui now faced another problem, which was that when he returned he could not utilize the Five Elements Divine Flag since it only allowed him to bring one person. Therefore, when they returned this time he could only use his Nine Continents Steps and his beasts.

Another month passed by in a flash and Yin Tian's strength had fully recovered, seemingly stronger than before. Qing Shui also helped to his body to recuperate to his peak status.

Yin Tian's strength was now 1500 Dao and differed from Qing Shui's by only a little. However, such strength was sufficient to dominate over everyone else; the Old King's strength was 1100 Dao, of course, all these did not include the augmentation from formations. That day, the increase in the battling Old King's strength was actually derived from the formations.

That's why the Old King was very happy since he did not need any augmentations to already feel very strong.

"Aunt Feng and Uncle, we've been away for so long, it's time for us to return." Qing Shui let Yin Tian and Feng Xi know of his impending departure on the third day of Yin Tian's full recovery.

Yin Tian and Feng Xi knew this day would come and she said while feeling a little lost: "We can go back with you."

Qing Shui shook his head: "Surely Aunt Feng can't be still worried for me? There shouldn't be people leaving here temporarily. You should remain here and if there's time, we will come back."

Feng Xi knew what Qing Shui said was the truth but even if Qing Shui did not say this, she would still send Qing Shui off with Yin Tian. Now, she had no choice and said: "Then you guys have to be careful. Once the matters here have been settled we will go and visit you."

Farewells have also made people feel a sense of helplessness and loss, which was why Qing Shui had to leave decisively. Only with this would he feel better shortly after leaving, otherwise dragging it out would only make one more depressed.

Getting on the Hellfire Phoenix, Qing Shui and the two women headed towards Ice Ocean Domain. Coming here, Qing Shui being unconscious for two months as well as waiting for Yin Tian to recover resulted in more than half a year going by before they returned to Linhai City.

Linhai City did not see much change during this half a year or so, the place remained as icy skies and snowy grounds. It was still beautiful - an icy, snowy landscape - that Tantai Lingyan felt as an unspeakable and harmonious beauty.

Imperial Cuisine Hall became more prosperous than before even without Qing Shui, but it was because Tian Yi was considered strong. Moreover, they also found several famous physicians which eroded Qing Shui's importance.

Qing Shui left some treatment methods and medicinal dish recipes behind which were of enormous help, but some of the more troublesome ailments were left till Qing Shui returned. Even then, whether he would treat them depended on the circumstances.

It was the same wherever Qing Shui opened an Imperial Cuisine Hall, there were some people he did not treat. If disaster rained from the gods, one could still escape, but if one were to do evil, there is nothing to say and nowhere to run. The people he did not treat were basically evil-doers.

Their return naturally made everyone really happy; Lan Lingfeng was the happiest because he was waiting for Qing Shui's return to marry Ziche Sha and he finally returned.

Lan Lingfeng and Yin Tong gave Qing Shui a hug and so did Xue Nuo. After greeting everyone, they all headed to the hall.

"Did anything happen here recently?" Qing Shui smiled and said as he recalled especially going to the Sunset Palace before leaving here. If they came back with only two people, he could immediately head to the Divine Cave not far from the Sea King Palace and three of them could fly back.

"Nope. Oh that's right, we were waiting for your return this time before I was going to marry Ziche Sha. How long would you be staying this time?" Lan Lingfeng worriedly asked Qing Shui.

"This time it would be longer. Don't worry, even if there were to be anything I will only leave after you both have married." Qing Shui smiled and said.

Lan Lingfeng patted Qing Shui and said: "That's really my good Brother."

Qing Shui looked at Tantai Lingyan and Qin Qing and he really felt like getting married to both of them now, but both of them held their tongue and he figured it was something for another time.

Their wedding day was slated for before the end of the year; the new year was coming soon. It was less than twenty days to the wedding and Lan Clan's eldest son marrying the Ziche Clan's eldest daughter was always going to be a boisterous affair.

They started preparing for it very early and the wedding will be held at the Imperial Cuisine Hall, which was why it was going to be closed for a few days.

Actually, the Old Master of the Ziche Clan had always wanted to marry Ziche Sha to Qing Shui, but it was a pity he had not much of an interest in this beautiful woman. Moreover, Lan Lingfeng really liked Ziche Sha, so it wasn't that bad after all.

Feelings cannot be forced nor can it be yielded. It wasn't Qing Shui yielding or giving way, if there was a woman he liked, no matter who it was he would not give in. The only way was for his woman to leave on her own accord.

Qing Shui always had a tacit understanding with Lan Lingfeng and Yin Tong - many things did not need to be said and everyone would understand. Birds of a feather flock together and Qing Shui felt that all three of their personalities were rather similar.

Although Lan Lingfeng was Lan Clan's eldest son, he did not really have any vices and also possessed great vision. This was also the reason why Ziche Sha liked him.

Unknowingly, the new year was nearing and so was Lan Lingfeng and Ziche Sha's wedding date. Although Qing Shui did not have many friends here, the Imperial Cuisine Hall's influence was enormous and the number of people he treated were not little and their status was not low either. Thus, even if these people were not invited they would still go.

Qing Shui was not worried that no one would come, Lan Clan and Ziche Clan were eminent clans that would have brought a substantial number of guests.

Also, there was the fact that Lan Lingfeng's strength was already considered top-notch within the Lan Clan; even the old Ancestor would not be his match. The Battle God Inheritance was not to be belittled, and with Qing Shui's extended help, his strength increased by leaps and bounds.

As for them being unable to fathom Qing Shui's current strength, the Lan Clan were happy that Lan Lingfeng could call Qing Shui his friend. The elders of the Lan Clan could tell that Qing Shui was the heart of the Imperial Cuisine Hall.

The Imperial Cuisine Hall occupied a large area and the banquet was held here. Special spices were added to the spread at the reception but they did not want to make it obvious so they only added a little. The wine was also put into Qing Shui's Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal not long ago - it was vintage wine of at least hundreds of years old.

After all, one day in the real world was the same as more than one year in Qing Shui's Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal.

Based on custom, a battle arena was necessary. The Ziche Clan would be the ones defending the arena and only after the Lan Clan beat the Ziche clan could they allow the eldest daughter to be married off. This was just a formality though, since martial arts prevailed in the main continent. That's why even though it might just be for show, it was a formality nonetheless.

Not long into the banquet, a large number of people were exclaiming how delicious the food was and this unadulterated praise. Those present that could have sampled wine brew that's hundreds of years old were many, in fact, everyone could have, which was why the wine was not all that special. These wine were not brewed by Qing Shui himself, which were Nu Er Hong.

Also, the battle arena started not long after the wedding banquet started. The tos and fros of the arena made it a very convivial atmosphere. Although those who went up were not strong, they fought entertainingly and many in the audience were smiling kindly at the participants.

Approximately two hours later, suddenly a group of about 30 people walked into Imperial Cuisine Hall. The leader was a vigorous elder and upon seeing this man, Old Man Ziche stood up and welcomed him: "Qi Clan's Master is here. Come, come, take a seat."

Previously, the defenders of the arena were from the female's side while the male's side would receive the bride.

"Old Man Ziche!" The Elder's face bore a smile as Old Man Ziche came up to greet him. As for the rest of the Lan Clan, they didn't catch his attention.

The Ice Domain Dynasty's Imperial City's top clan was the Qi Clan and it looked like things weren't going too well. Qing Shui looked at Lan Lingfeng and Ziche Sha, whose faces held a hint of displeasure.

Qing Shui also knew that one of the Qi Clan's Young Masters liked Ziche Sha. Coming forward this time didn't seem to be to offer their congratulations because they certainly didn't bring any wedding gifts.

Chapter 1649 - If You Lose You Aren't a Man, You Have Lost

Also, it was Old Man Ziche's demeanor, Qing Shui could tell that he had some misgivings towards the Qi Clan.

Ziche Clan was a major clan in the Imperial City and could be considered the top three, though the Qi Clan was considered the number one clan. Other than the Royal Clan, they were considered the strongest so naturally, the Qi Clan would have misgivings about them.

The people from Lan Clan didn't look too good. Linhai City was far from the Imperial City. They were considered a top clan in Linhai City but coming to the Imperial City was a different thing altogether. They probably couldn't compare to Ziche Clan, much less the Qi Clan.

"Today is Sha-er's big day. It is good that Clan Master Qi could arrive. Come here and sit." Old Man Ziche came forward and said warmly.

Without moving at all, Clan Master Qi smiled at Old Man Ziche and said: "Old Man Ziche, I didn't come here to congratulate you today. I came to propose a marriage."

"Propose a marriage? Our Ziche Clan still has a few other girls but normally I wouldn't interfere with their marriage matters. I'm not sure which Young Master of Qi Clan wants to propose a marriage and which lass of our clan has he set his eyes upon?" Old Man Ziche tried to say casually.

"Our Yunhe has set his eyes on Miss Ziche. He has always wanted me to propose a marriage but I was too busy to do so. Thankfully, I wasn't today and managed to do so." the Elder chuckled.

Upon hearing what he said, Qing Shui felt that Qi Clan was too crazy. What he said was really too crazy. How could it not be considered late? The wedding banquet was already underway and it was not considered late? Could it be that as long as the marriage was not consummated, it would not be considered as too late?

Old Man Ziche's did not have a good expression while Lan Clan's head and its people looked even worse. Lan Lingfeng still managed to keep his calm at this point while Ziche Sha was slightly morose. She was never going to compromise but looking at Old Man Ziche's position, she felt really unpleasant in her heart.

Qing Shui looked at them and laughed: "Lingfeng. In a moment, go ahead and cause a ruckus. Don't worry about anything else. I've got your back."

Qing Shui did not say it too loud but Lan Lingfeng had complete faith in him and nodded his head happily: "I know that Yunhe's not my match but some of his clan members can easily defeat me. My clan and the Ziche Clan are unable to withstand it since we're of a different class."

"Don't worry, that old fogey is really out of control. When the time comes, you just need to scold Qi Yunhe. If he fights you, cripple him. As for the others, they won't dare to make a move." Qing Shui had a good grasp of the current situation.

Old Man Ziche gently shook his head: "Our clan's Little Sha is already of someone else's affection. I appreciate the good intentions of Clan Master Qi."

Old Man Ziche has said all he can at this point and just as the master of Lan Clan stood up, Lan Lingfeng stood up and politely announced: "Today is the joyous occasion of Little Sha and I. If you're here to congratulate us, we welcome you. If not, kindly leave."

Lan Lingfeng had Qing Shui's backing, so he was comfortable saying that and didn't mince his words.

At this moment, a young man who was really tall and handsome with a bright pair of eyes stepped out. He was obviously someone very arrogant.

Qi Yunhe!

He looked at Lan Lingfeng and slowly said: "You are not fit for Miss Ziche. I would like you to leave her."

Qi Yunhe's words were filled with self-confidence but also very condescending. Lan Lingfeng laughed upon hearing it: "Do you really think so highly of your abilities? Without the backing of the Qi Clan, you're nothing."

Qi Yunhe had always felt he was very capable and talented but he hated others saying that he relied on his family background. He was a very proud man and hated that the most.

"Do you dare to fight one round with me? Linhai's number one Young Master isn't much in my eyes. If you're a man, fight me. Whoever loses has to leave Miss Ziche." Qi Yunhe looked coldly at Lan Lingfeng and said.

"I say you're really an idiot. Little Sha is my wife, don't you feel that what you just said is really dumb? If someone told you to fight him and Ying Ying would belong to whoever won, how would you feel?"

"Outrageous!" Qi Yunhe bellowed.

Ying Ying was one of his women but they had not officially married yet. Her background wasn't great because this woman was involved in many disputes between other men but now she was finally his. To speak of his woman this way, of course, he was furious.

Qi Yunhe's anger made the people around think him think he was a moron, so his face became even gloomier.

Although Lan Lingfeng was lovesick, his bickering skills were good and not only did his strength increase due to his constant interaction with Qing Shui, his bickering skills improved as well. Additionally, Qi Yunhe did not position himself well at the beginning of the argument since he thought that someone from the Lan Clan would offer no resistance, thus resulting in the current state.

Qi Yunhe challenged Lan Lingfeng: "How about we fight one round and use our strength to speak instead?"

"You're no match for me. Forget it!" Lan Lingfeng intentionally tried to provoke him.

"If you're a man, then fight me!" Qi Yunhe was furious.

“Ok, how about this. We’ll fight one round. Whoever loses will tell everyone here that he’s not a man. What do you think?” Lan Lingfeng smiled.

From the beginning, Lan Lingfeng carried a smile on his face while he was calm and composed. Qi Yunhe didn’t even finish three sentences and felt like he couldn’t afford to lose, but all this came down to hubris and the thought that Lan Lingfeng wasn’t worthy to stand in front of him.

“Fine!”

Qi Yunhe took to the skies once he said it.

Lan Lingfeng was not in a rush to go up. Qing Shui activated Phoenix Battle intent with Battle God Halo and added it to Lan Lingfeng. Although these statuses did not have a range limitation, when it was activated over a long distance, there would be a time limitation. For example, if the distance was too far, it would last at most half an hour.

In reality, this distance was not considered a separation. Qing Shui could add whatever he wanted at any time, even formations. But just in case, it was too early to be using it.

Lan Lingfeng knew Qing Shui’s capability and approached the skies brimming with confidence as he looked at Qi Yunhe not too far beyond.

Both sides were very decisive, taking out their weapons, both three feet long swords. In a moment, both of them made their moves.

Lan Lingfeng was a Battle God Inheritor and some inherited abilities from the Divine Wolf included speed, brute force, and decisiveness. The long sword in his hand was incomparably incisive and combined with Qing Shui’s augmentations, he completely dominated Qi Yunhe.

Perhaps if the previous Lan Lingfeng wanted to defeat Qi Yunhe, he would need some time. Even for the current Lan Lingfeng, the result wouldn’t be predictable. Although Qing Shui raised their abilities quite a bit upon his return this time, the opponent was still a genius from the Qi Clan so he should be very strong. That’s why the outcome was not certain.

Qing Shui did not sense any Demon King Inheritance from Qi Yunhe as the strength within his body was obscured. It should be some mysterious Bloodline Inheritor Clan but against the current Lan Lingfeng, he was being utterly dominated.

He naturally believed that the other party’s aura was weaker than his but when the other party battled, the opponent was clearly stronger than himself.

Three Flowers Crown Gathering!

A strong wave of spiritual qi converged around Qi Yunhe to form a vague figure and the aura around him was becoming stronger and stronger. At this rate, he would exceed Lan Lingfeng’s strength.

Psychotic Blade!

A bright piercing sword light flashed towards Lan Lingfeng. This attack was swift as a spark of lightning and the long sword he held had already found his way to Lan Lingfeng’s heart.

There was a flash of a silver halo and no more than the same, Lan Lingfeng's long sword burst forward towards Qi Yunhe's chest with a silhouette of a snow white wolf's head.

Peng peng!

Two dull sounds rang out. Lan Lingfeng had a heavy look on his face and his figure suddenly turned illusory, like a slight shadow, before moving in a bizarre manner to attack Qi Yunhe.

Qing Shui wasn't concerned previously as Lan Lingfeng and Yin Tong's inheritance possessed many death-defying skills. It wasn't the strongest since they were mostly related to preserving life. This was his inheritance ability.

Lan Lingfeng was a little angry as Qi Yunhe's strength exceeded Lan Lingfeng's by a bit. Lan Lingfeng now truly understood why Qing Shui constantly harped on not treating a battle lightly no matter how confident you were since a moment of carelessness could lead one to capsize his boat in a drain*.

(*T/N: to fail miserably at an easy task)

Lan Lingfeng's figure was a blur as he attacked and retreated as quick as the wind. Qi Yunhe could only afford to withstand his attacks. Suddenly, a faintly discernible spiritual force locked Lan Lingfeng up and the speed of his figure immediately dropped.

Lan Lingfeng held great fear in his heart as the spiritual force's interference affected his strength tremendously.

Qing Shui's eyes lit up and immediately looked towards Qi Clan's clan master to see if there were any changes. Without a change in his countenance, he threw the Art of Pursuing and Emperor's Qi onto Qi Yunhe.

Lan Lingfeng was worried deep inside as his speed drastically fell. He was mainly about speed and without the advantage of his speed, his prospects would drop sharply. However, he suddenly felt that Qi Yunhe's strength declined greatly as well, especially his speed which fell by half.

Qing Shui now knew why Clan Master Qi was fine with letting Qi Yunhe and Lan Lingfeng duel. He was confident in Qi Yunhe emerging victorious. Little did he expect that Qing Shui would be present.

Clan Master Qi felt the changes in Qi Yunhe's body. Both his strength and speed declined to a terrible state. Without knowing what was going on, Qi Yunhe - previously filled with great joy in his heart - wanted to continue his triumphant pursuit and cripple Lan Lingfeng with one blow. However, the sudden change in his body made him feel terrible to the bone, just like a normal person suddenly being able to only use one leg.

Lan Lingfeng felt the disturbance and was not going to pass up on this opportunity. Although his speed was greatly affected, it was not as bad as what Qi Yunhe was going through so he had a larger advantage than before.

Pu!

Lan Lingfeng's long sword immediately pierced Qi Yunhe's vital points.

Qi Yunhe was then hit and fell with fresh blood spurting from his body. Although it was not fatal, he would not be able to recover in a short time.

Qi Yunhe couldn't believe it as he was falling, staring dumbly at the pits of blood in his chest as fresh blood kept flowing. He was pale and aghast as he looked at Lan Lingfeng, unable to accept the outcome.

Lan Lingfeng slowly descended, stopping not too far from where Qi Yunhe was struggling to stand up and declared: "You've lost!"

"Hmph. Someone debilitated me with underhanded means. You know it." Qi Yunhe wheezed as he brushed off the blood at the corners of his mouth.

"I don't know. I only know that you've been defeated. Could it be there Young Master Qi is a sore loser?" Lan Lingfeng chuckled.

Chapter 1650 - Qi Clan Leaves Dejectedly, Benevolent Golden Buddha

It was agreed upon previously that whoever lost would say that he is not a man.

At that point, neither of them believed that they would lose and that's why they agreed. Thus, Qi Yunhe never expected himself to actually be defeated. His body, full of bloodstains, shook and in a moment of anger actually fainted.

Lan Lingfeng was very gloomy as he originally thought he could hear Qi Yunhe say the words "I'm not a man". Now that he looked at the situation, he couldn't possibly wake him up so that he could hear him say those words. That would really be too much.

"He really knows how to faint. Is he really a man?" Lan Lingfeng couldn't help but say that.

Qi Clan had already sent some people to carry Qi Yunhe away while Clan Master Qi did not have a good look on his face. Looking at Lan Lingfeng, he didn't know who had acted and caused Qi Yunhe's body to get affected so badly but he knew that the person must be in cahoots with the Young Master from the Lan Clan.

Had the Lan Clan always had such a powerful expert protecting them? What was the strength of this person who had acted from the shadows? Within the Ice Domain Dynasty, only the royal clan had mysterious experts other than the royal clan so the Qi Clan held no regard for anyone else.

Clan Master Qi's motioned with his eyes and an elder beside him dashed towards Lan Lingfeng. But in an instant, he was blocked by Old Man Ziche who said to Clan Master Qi: "Today is Little Sha's big day of celebration. What do you mean by this?"

Right now, Old Man Ziche did not bother shouting at Clan Master Qi. If the other party did not want to give him face, why should he do the same? Old Man Ziche was an upright man and it was not in him to grovel at someone else's feet. Because it was a joyous occasion and the other party might have been a guest, even though he knew they probably weren't, he remained polite as etiquette dictated as such.

"Old Man Ziche, we came today especially to propose a marriage. I'm not sure what your opinion is?" Clan Master Qi said in a manner that seemed polite but was obviously filled with condescension.

Old Man Ziche was furious but before he could say anything, Lan Lingfeng interjected: "Today is a joyous occasion for us and we don't welcome you here. You can either leave on your own or we can have you thrown out."

Lan Lingfeng's words were terse and provocative. There were few in the Ice Domain Dynasty who could speak to the Qi Clan's master in this manner and even if they were it wouldn't be this direct. While Clan Master Qi possessed a lot of self-restraint, this time his eyes narrowed and he suddenly reached his hands out towards Lan Lingfeng's face.

"I'll have to say, you're already such an old man. Why do you have to be full of fire and brimstone? Unreasonable people will not see a good ending."

Qing Shui stood up and although no one saw him move, he immediately appeared in between Clan Master Qi and Lan Lingfeng and punched right across!

Peng!

Clan Master Qi immediately coughed out fresh blood as he flew backward. Qing Shui had only just finished saying those words but everything happened as fast as lightning which led to everyone being shocked with disbelief at the outcome.

Clan Master Qi was definitely very strong. He was a Peak False God with one foot in the Divine realm. Yet, he was hit with only one punch and had already fallen to the ground, unable to get up.

No one dared to make a move. As Qing Shui smiled and walked towards him, the 30-odd people in the group couldn't help but take a step back.

"Imperial Cuisine Hall is my home and everyone here are my brothers and sisters. To think that I only got back for three days and someone had already tried to stir up trouble in my home. Don't you think that I should kill the whole lot of you?"

The way Qing Shui calmly said those words made the others freeze in place.

"Senior. we have eyes but failed to see. We're in the wrong. Please give us another chance." Clan Master Qi said while trying to prop himself up despite his internal injuries.

At this point, all pretenses were dropped even though he suffered serious injuries. It was not important anymore. Having offended such an expert, it could bring calamity to the entire Qi Clan.

"Just a Peak False God and you're already this uncontrollable. If you become a Divine, would you have just torn my Imperial Cuisine Hall down? You were doing just fine in the Imperial City. Why come to Linhai City? Just to pick a fight? Is Linhai City that easy to bully?" Qing Shui kept walking towards Clan Master Qi.

The clan master's body was drenched in sweat while the front of his robe was full of fresh blood that he had spat out. He hastily said: "You're a magnanimous man who'll forgive a nobody's mistake. This type of thing will never happen again. I do hope Senior will give me a chance and once the banquet is over, I'll especially come again to offer my apologies."

“I wanted to kill all of you originally but Lan Clan’s master and Old Man Ziche are unwilling to see this joyous occasion marred by bloodshed. Miss Ziche also doesn’t like to see blood. Even so, if I were to just let you leave, isn’t this letting you off too lightly?” Qing Shui murmured.

One did not need to see heads fall even after killing*, but letting people of this ilk off just like that would be too benevolent. Clan Master Qi extended his right hand and immediately smashed his left arm, creating a clear sound of bones shattering rang out.

(*T/N: One doesn’t need to go overboard once the aims have been achieved)

The others in the Qi Clan naturally followed suit and smashed one of their arms. Qing Shui nodded and waved his hand dismissively.

The Qi Clan quickly left in dejection.

Lan Lingfeng happily patted Qing Shui’s shoulder and said: “It’s still my good Brother that’s strong after all.”

“Alright, today’s supposed to be a joyous occasion. Let’s not let others affect our moods.” Qing Shui laughed.

“They definitely can’t affect our mood. In fact, I’m now in a really happy mood.”

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Thereafter the banquet continued in an uneventful and smooth fashion with no one else trying to stir up trouble. What happened today oddly had its benefits. Imperial Cuisine Hall’s strength was already unstoppable and combined with their kind-heartedness, their fame would spread even further.

Furthermore, Lan Clan and Ziche Clan will also gain reputation, though Old Man Ziche did not know if it was a good or bad thing. The trees that stand the tallest in the forest will be the first to get blown away*. If the Ziche Clan’s strength did not increase as its fame did, it wouldn’t be a good thing.

(*T/N: Outstanding people will always be the object of other people’s envy, criticism, and typically unwanted attention)

Qing Shui naturally saw through what Old Man Ziche was thinking and smiled: “Don’t worry Old Man. As Lingfeng gets stronger, Ziche Clan will also follow.”

Lan Clan was happy of course since Lan Lingfeng was the successor. As long as he became strong, the Lan Clan would be strong as well.

Old Man Ziche still felt a twinge of regret. Although he was satisfied with Lan Lingfeng, he originally took a liking to Qing Shui. However, upon seeing the look of bliss on his daughter, all was forgotten. Also, seeing the two women - obviously superior to Ziche Sha - by Qing Shui’s side, he felt that Little Sha would not be as happy following Qing Shui as compared to Lan Lingfeng. It was also clear that Little Sha liked Lan Lingfeng too.

Lan Lingfeng's looks and character were top notch and even Qing Shui felt that this man was capable of attracting many women. If he were in Qing Shui's previous world, he would be the quintessential tall, rich and handsome guy. Not just any tall, rich and handsome guy but one that was also very capable.

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The new year came quickly and the day before new year's, the Qi Clan's master came. His arm still had not healed and Qing Shui met him alone which caused his face to display some panic.

Qing Shui knew what he was thinking the moment he saw his face and said: "Harm will not come to your clan. Don't worry. I've let you guys off so we won't pick on your clan."

A look of relief swept across Clan Master Qi's face who then offered a hasty word of thanks: "Thank you. This is something my clan has kept. While I'm not sure what it is, it shouldn't be too shabby and you won't dislike it."

As he finished saying, he handed to Qing Shui an Interspatial Silk Satchet. Qing Shui did not stand on ceremony and he believed the clan master will not use a piece of rubbish to go through the motions.

As Qing Shui looked into the Interspatial Silk Satchet on the spot, what he saw caused him to be taken aback.

Benevolent Golden Buddha!

There was actually such a thing. Qing Shui never expected it to be something like the Benevolent Golden Buddha. Although he did not know what it was used for specifically, it was likely to be related to medical treatments. No wonder the Qi Clan did not know what it was used for even though it was sheathed in spiritual qi.

Qing Shui closed the satchet and said: "I don't know what this is used for but I do like the Buddha statue."

"That's great, so I won't bother Senior anymore."

Qing Shui took it as the clan master wanting to come over to obtain his verbal promise and could not be put at ease. Qing Shui didn't feel like exterminating his clan nor would he go as far as doing so.

Qing Shui looked at the Golden Buddha in his hands and peered into it with his Heavenly Vision Technique.

Benevolent Golden Buddha!

When treating others or oneself, strengthening muscles and bones, meridians, as well as Constitution Nurturing will receive double the effect.

Although Qing Shui had thought about it, it wasn't complete. Looking at this effect now made him elated. This was a great object that suited him very well. It was an incredibly mysterious object that's tailored for physicians' use. For example, physicians who know acupuncture would receive double the effect from this.

This Benevolent Golden Buddha finding its way into Qing Shui's hands was akin to finding a good master. Otherwise, it would have just continued to be buried among the treasures.

The day before the new year, the streets were full of lanterns, streamers and festive decorations and the Imperial Cuisine Hall was no different. This was all done by people like Qing Shui and Yu Niang which was a delight. The little lass wore really thick - and new - clothing with only their long braids visible, which was a sight that made everyone who saw it very happy. Tantai Lingyan, Qin Qing and even Ziche Sha and Ling Fei loved to bring her around to play.

The Imperial Cuisine Hall did not cease operations since it wouldn't be the case that there would be no sick people during the new year. A physician's natural duty is to heal the wounded and save the dying so Imperial Cuisine Hall would have someone on duty no matter the time.

As the sky turned dark, the sky was filled with fireworks. In no time, the sky was filled with the magnificent colors that erupted from the fireworks. The Imperial Cuisine Hall really prepared lots of fireworks.

The bell that ushered in the New Year rang out loud and the firecrackers did not stop. Tantai Lingyan seemed to be witnessing such a beautiful spectacle for the first time. She was delighted and the smile plastered on her beautiful face that could overthrow cities and topple kingdoms was even more beautiful than the fireworks in the sky.

As Qing Shui turned to look at the smile that remained stunning amidst the sky filled with fireworks, at that moment he remained awestruck. Her smile did not seem to be filled with the loneliness of before.

Qin Qing was also beside him and she was wearing a snow-white pleated skirt instead of the usual palace garb, which gave her an air of untouched beauty. She raised her head to look at the fireworks in the sky which exuded unspeakable grandeur and magnificence.

Qing Shui walked across and held each of them in each arm, feeling extremely happy. It was yet another year of brilliant fireworks and picturesque scenery.

Lan Lingfeng and Ziche Sha, Yin Tong and Ling Fei, Tian Yi, Xue Nuo as well as Yu Niang and her four children all joyfully looked at the non-stop fireworks in the sky.

All the way until past midnight, they each went to rest thereafter and the next day Lan Lingfeng and Ziche Sha had to go back home for a New Year's visit. Quite a number of people in Linhai City also paid a visit to Imperial Cuisine Hall. Qing Shui's fame had long since spread.

Even the Lan Clan also came. Although relations between Lan Lingfeng and Qing Shui were good, this time Qing Shui had helped the Lan Clan so naturally he was also close to them and treated the elders of their clan with respect, especially Lan Lingfeng's father.

"Uncle, I originally intended to go over to yours to pay a visit for the New Year's but I can't make time at the moment. I'll go over in two days."

Lan Clan's master was naturally welcoming, his heart was full of joy. If not for Lan Lingfeng, Qing Shui wouldn't be so close to their clan.

This Clan Master Lan certainly knew it!

