

Ancient ST 1681

Chapter 1681 - Strength Improved, Entering the North Ocean Domain

Qing Shui was surprised by the upgrade of the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal this time. The only thing he felt was the sudden collision between Yiye Jiange's consciousness and his own. Subsequently, he felt the transformations of the Realm of Violet Jade Immortal.

Qing Shui read through the introduction of the Ninth Layer of the Realm of Violet Jade Immortal. Ten-fold increase in its surface area, ten-fold increase in the spiritual sense of the Realm of Violet Jade Immortal. Time in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal doubled from the previous layer.

Seeing that, the Qing Shui was overjoyed. Though the time only doubled, the actual overall effect was much stronger, due to the ten-fold increase in spiritual sense.

Qing Shui continued reading. The reward was a Nine Yin Tree which took a thousand years for it to bloom, fruit, and ripen. It was a top-rated alchemic ingredient.

This name led Qing Shui to relate it with the Nine Revolution Spirit Resurgence Pellet. This had always been the magical medicine for revival in the legends, but Qing Shui figured there was a three day limit for revival even with the magical medicine. Once this time passed, all efforts would be in vain, regardless of taking immortal pellets or magical medicine.

Besides, it was vital to have at least the intact head and heart in order to apply this life-resuscitating medicine. Any other way would be pointless.

According to the statement, it's a top-rated ingredient for medicine distillation. It could probably be used to refine the Nine Revolution Spirit Resurgence Pellet. Nevertheless, it had been ages since the Ancient Alchemy Technique had last refined an all-new medicine. It would be challenging to add a prescription relying on the Realm of Violet Jade Immortal. At that instant, Qing Shui remembered Yuan Su. Perhaps she could be helpful later. Otherwise, it would be all up to destiny whether he could get the prescription.

Reward: Ten golden fish, edible and able to be incorporated into medicine, effective in strengthening bones and muscles...

Reward: Thousand Years Incense, Soul-capturing Incense, and other Incense trees, one each.

Reward: 5,000 years of therapeutic duration for all medicinal herbs in the Realm of Violet Jade Immortal.

Reward: 30% increase in strength and life for all demonic beasts in the Realm of Violet Jade Immortal.

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Qing Shui was elated reading this. Though he was rather unprepared for the upgrade of the realm, he had been looking forward to it. It was absolutely great.

This breakthrough which benefited him the most was the increase in spiritual energy, which brought a huge transformation in Qing Shui's strength. Both the Five Elements Divine Refining Technique and the Primordial Flame Dragon Whip were dependent on spiritual energy.

It was a direct and straightforward increase. After testing it out, the spiritual energy had doubled, so the current output was three times higher. It was an enormous breakthrough.

Qing Shui's biggest pride formerly came from his strongest defense and formidable strength. The recent boost in spiritual energy also improved his defense. However, the Paragon Golden armor and the blind devotion of the Hell Nightmare Beast pushed his resistance and attack to outrageous levels.

Qing Shui only realized his intimidating and frightening abilities at that instant. The attacking force of the Primordial Flame Dragon Whip and the Five Elements Divine Refining Technique were dreadfully increased, up to almost half the damage of the Paragon Strike now. That was relatively petrifying.

Qing Shui could distinctly sense the changes in his body. The vibe of absolute confidence and the roaring ocean of consciousness was seemingly comprised of endless energy.

He felt more certain and assured about heading to the Northern Ocean, to move the Sunset Sea King Palace there. It was rational to have greater courage when one had incomparably stronger skills.

In the morning, Qing Shui and the three Mistresses took their breakfast together. The Sunset Palace Mistress and Muyun Qingge stared at Qing Shui at times. The breakthrough in spiritual energy brought minor changes in him. The saying of someone being "sharp" was actually based on that person having higher spiritual energy.

The Sunset Palace Mistress and Muyun Qingge stared at Yiye Jiange, who was beside Qing Shui, as well. They noticed the glowing changes in Yiye Jiange. While Qing Shui was brazen and insensitive, Yiye Jiange felt guilty reminiscing about the romantic night she just had.

Though they were inexperienced themselves, knowing that the two were a married couple and seeing Yiye Jiange's current expression, both Mistresses understood everything at once. The Sunset Palace Mistress smiled, "Both of you look exceptionally sharp today."

"Is it? I feel sharp all the time," Qing Shui smirked.

"Alright, let's have our meals and discuss how to move to the Northern Ocean," Yiye Jiange replied hastily. She was not literally shy, now that they were like sisters, but she was a little embarrassed from being teased.

"I will go and have a look with Jiange beforehand, and then you'll organize the move. How's that?" Qing Shui proposed after finishing his meal.

"Fine. We're already done organizing. In fact, we can move anytime. Things are simple and easy." Sunset Palace Mistress sounded very assured.

Muyun Qingge nodded as well.

Qing Shui departed to the North Ocean Domain with Yiye Jiange. It was his first time entering the Northern Ocean. He bumped into the Ancient Golden Shrimp General who guarded an entrance to the Northern Ocean before. However, he'd yet to find out the force behind the general.

There were tens of thousands of forces in the North Ocean Domain. To be able to guard one of the Northern Ocean entrances, the force behind the general must be quite strong. It could be about the same level as the North Sea Dragon Palace and perhaps one of the peak forces in the North Ocean Domain.

It was possible to enter the North Ocean Domain from the Ice Ocean Domain. The world of ocean domains did not differ much from the main continents. Furthermore, Qing Shui now had the Paragon Water Flight skill, let alone Yiye Jiange, who was the heir of the strong Drakainas. She was as proficient as Qing Shui in the water.

The Sunset Sea King Palace was located at the intersection of the Ice Ocean Domain and the Northern Ocean. It was almost by one of the entrances so it was very feasible to move it to the Northern Sea.

The North Sea Dragon King Palace was located near the Ice Ocean Domain. It was the most powerful force around the Ice Ocean Domain, before it was unfortunately demolished by the Sunset Sea King Palace. With that, there would be no obstacles at all for the Sunset Sea King Palace to enter the North Ocean Domain.

The landscape of the North Sea Dragon King Palace was well-preserved. It was very spacious, with the water boundaries undamaged, but was completely deserted after the men left.

Qing Shui and Yiye Jiange arrived within half a day. With the aid of the old turtle, it was considered a very long distance for a half-day journey.

“The location is great and so is its Feng Shui,” Qing Shui told Yiye Jiange as he observed, smiling. Although he wasn’t an expert, Qing Shui had somewhat studied Feng Shui. The theories of the nature-related landscape, the spiritual influence within the caves, the excessiveness of Yin Qi in certain locations might sound superstitious. Nevertheless, scientifically speaking, it was the effect of the planet’s magnetic field and gravitation. It existed in his past life and also his present life. Moreover, the ample spiritual influence would deeply impact the warriors. Sometimes, formations could be related to Feng Shui too.

“Let’s move here as soon as possible then. We have to move anyway,” Yiye Jiange continued.

“Tell me, do you have other ambitions that caused you to urgently want to move to this chaotic zone?” Qing Shui asked curiously.

Chapter 1682 - Yiye Jiange is Pregnant

“We are really not that ambitious. We just wanted to check out the Northern Ocean. It’s quite meaningless to keep staying in the Ice Ocean Domain,” Yiye Jiange said and smiled.

Qing Shui grinned listening to her words. Those days, Yiye Jiange wouldn’t say such words. Now, she could relax, as her domestic affairs were done. Now that she was his woman, Qing Shui reckoned she was the most settled one.

Initially, she was the calmest one with a mystical and otherworldly aura. Unexpectedly, she would give such a reason. Qing Shui was pleased after hearing that, because Yiye Jiange had imperceptibly changed too.

For the three years Qing Shui was away, Yiye Jiange only returned home three times. Each time, she hurriedly dropped by for the Chinese New Year celebration. The remaining days were spent in the Sunset Sea King Palace.

“I met an Ancient Golden Shrimp General at the martial territories. He is the guardian of one entrances to the Northern Ocean. I wonder which force he belongs to? Jiange, can you guess?” Qing Shui asked randomly.

“In the North Ocean Domain, there are only a few forces which have Ancient Golden Shrimp Generals. The North Sea Dragon Palace, North Sea Dragon Valley, North Sea Dragon Cave, and North Sea Dragon Lagoon are four of the strongest forces in the Northern Ocean.” Yiye Jiange smiled. They apparently had preliminary understandings about the Northern Sea now.

Qing Shui pondered. Being able to guard the entrance of the Northern Ocean and the extremely formidable strength based off of their tone, Qing Shui concluded that they should be from one of the four forces that she mentioned earlier.

Qing Shui would find it ridiculous if it was the North Sea Dragon Palace. Though he didn't hold grudges against the North Sea Dragon Palace, it was definitely tough to befriend them due to the North Sea Dragon King Palace.

Given his current status and the Sunset Sea King Palace, the opponent shouldn't be able to handle them. It was not absolute superiority, but Qing Shui had gained more confidence now that the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal had upgraded to the Ninth Layer. He didn't need to worry even if the North Sea Dragon Palace came. He believed he could make a solid stand if a battle took place.

Qing Shui wasn't worried about anybody wanting to harm the Sunset Sea King Palace this time. There was no challenger to be fearful of. The North Sea Dragon King Palace was once a powerful force, but they were destroyed by the Sunset Sea King Palace. Whoever wanted to challenge him would have to weigh his own capability.

A month later, the Sunset Sea King Palace completely finished moving. Qing Shui and a few others moved within three days. The forces of the Sunset Sea King Palace were entirely different that before, let alone the strengths of the three Mistresses. Apart from that, they had Qing Shui as their guardian, the previous men from the Sunset Palace and Sea King Palace, the followers from the North Sea Dragon King Palace, and other fighters. Their strengths had improved greatly in these three years.

Even now, after moving to the North Sea Dragon King Palace's location, their existence was like a powerful overlord. Anyways, the Sunset Sea King Palace remained low profile and not overly flamboyant. They were never timid.

Qing Shui noticed that life was peaceful after entering the Northern Ocean. Still, there was one thing that made Qing Shui overjoyed. Yiye Jiange unexpectedly became pregnant. Both of them had strong inner spirits and could sense it within a few days of conception.

Qing Shui had been with Yiye Jiange for more than one month this time, so it was surprising to him. He didn't spend much time with Yiye Jiange previously, only intermittent intervals. This matter could never be rushed, and he had planned to make long-term preparations for it too. Unexpectedly, it came so soon this time.

Qing Shui loved having a kid with Yiye Jiange from the bottom of his heart, and he wanted one with Tantai Lingyan too. However, he needed more time with Tantai Lingyan. He felt that Tantai Lingyan needed a kid the most, as she would be less lonely afterward.

Qing Shui stared at the remarkable beauty before getting lost in his thoughts. He just told her the news of her conception. She had felt it too, but she had gained Qing Shui's reassurance now.

"Why aren't you happy?" Qing Shui smiled and asked, knowing that Yiye Jiange was actually delighted.

"No, I just thought it came too suddenly," Yiye Jiange smiled, gazing at Qing Shui. A smile of love and happiness was written all over her face.

"How was this sudden? We've been together for so long doing things. It's supposed to have happened already," Qing Shui giggled. It was indeed not easy to be pregnant at this level of strength. This was the warriors' burden. The stronger a warrior was, the older he aged, and basically, it was close to impossible to have children anymore.

Of course, it wasn't a clear-cut thing, but the probability was extremely scarce. Nevertheless, there were many powerful warriors who had their heirs at old age. It would be always celebrated by a huge-scale banquet with guests. It was a very blissful event.

Qing Shui's life energy was unrivaled and his strength was very formidable. Such a probability for him was thus very high.

Yiye Jiange raised her hand and knocked on Qing Shui's head, "You're still such a rogue. You've never been serious."

"You are my woman. How am I like a rogue? Would you like a daughter or a son?" Qing Shui said, smiling.

"I like both! He or she will be our kid," A benevolent and pure smile crept onto Yiye Jiange's face.

It was a pleasant thing. At that very moment, the other two Mistresses came, overhearing part of their conversation. As they learned of the great news, they were elated and decided to hold a celebration banquet on that day.

In spite of the name 'banquet', they were the only guests. Qing Shui cooked while Muyun Qingge and the Sunset Palace Mistress talked to Yiye Jiange. Though they offered help, Qing Shui refused, as he was able to quickly complete such a simple task by himself.

Halfway through the banquet, the Sunset Palace Mistress lost her focus shortly, twice. As her mind went absent, she looked at Qing Shui and Yiye Jiange. In fact, everyone felt her affection towards Qing Shui. Yet, it was all up to their destiny. No one could say anything.

It was the hardest thing to bear or enjoy a beauty's favor. Qing Shui was overwhelmed by this feeling. It was miserable to be without a woman, but it was also burdensome to have many women, especially when he already had more than ten remarkably beautiful women like Yiye Jiange. Deep inside his heart, he didn't want to engage with anybody else. It made him feel avaricious and sorry for his women.

"It's a happy day today. It's great for all of us in the Sunset Sea King Palace to set up in the Northern Ocean. Cheers," Qing Shui smiled.

“Also, Jiange is pregnant. This is a huge affair. I’m really looking forward to having this kid. No matter what, he has to address me as his godmother,” said Sunset Palace Mistress.

“Elder Sis Qingcheng, you ought to have a few more kids in the future since you like children so much,” Muyun Qingge said jokingly.

Chapter 1683 - The Most Romantic Thing

The face of the Sunset Palace Mistress instantly flushed red, down to her neck. She remained calm and silent, throwing a glance at Qing Shui. The three of them were used to joking around, and they were way too brilliant to guess her mind.

Muyun Qingge threw that joke with nefarious intentions, as she was secretly observing Qing Shui’s response. However, Qing Shui acted in a negligent way and smiled without a word.

Previously, Qing Shui had spoken a lot to the Sunset Palace Mistress and things were shady between him, Muyun Qingge and the Sunset Palace Mistress. At this moment, he couldn’t say anything regardless of the reason.

Qing Shui rarely took initiative in love, but he wasn’t really passive. For instance, he was the one who initiated and continued pursuing Tantai Lingyan, Yiye Jiange, and Qin Qing.

The Sunset Palace Mistress and Muyun Qingge were not at all inferior to his other women, but he felt sorry out of his conscience. None of his women had ever tried to control or restrict him, and he had even thought of marrying multiple wives...

In his past life, Qing Shui was the most ordinary man, who would be pleased to find an average-looking woman that he liked. He could only dream of having multiple wives. As for ruling the world and owning beautiful women, he could only watch such characters on television. He wouldn’t even have the chance to discuss it, because that would make him seem insane to others.

Qing Shui reckoned he would continue his past life in the current life. In his last life, he was an ordinary man, the most ordinary man. In the beginning of this life, he couldn’t practise martial arts and was fated to be useless. Following his blood awakening, he gradually stepped onto the journey of martial cultivation. He had achieved his current height through hard work and fortunate experiences.

It was known that strong men never lacked women, and Qing Shui believed in this saying. The capable men in his past life never lacked women. It was even more so in this life, where it was a norm to have multiple wives. Qing Shui’s women didn’t become his solely because of his strength, but it’s largely related to that. For example, it would’ve been tragic for Yiye Jiange to step into the Lion King’s Ridge if it hadn’t been for Qing Shui’s strength.

Unknowingly, Qing Shui realized that there were many women around him. He even noticed that he couldn’t handle it, not in a physical sense, but a spiritual one. He was the one who thought it was excessively unfair to them.

Qing Shui never considered that he would split up his love each time he met another woman. He applied his wholehearted effort in each of his women. However, that was a contradiction, as a man had only one heart.

Till now, Qing Shui finally figured out that it wasn't true that he couldn't devote himself fully to each of his wives, he was just worried about the relationship between his women, instead of their relationships with himself.

Qing Shui seemingly fell deep into his thoughts. Memories were clearer now, such as why Yiye Jiange chose to settle down here, but not stay by his side. It wasn't that she did not want to or that she didn't love him, it was for a better love and relationship between them in the future. It was the same for her, Di Chen, Yu Ruyan, and Tan Taixuan.

Beauty came from its distance and love meant tolerance, to love all of him. Qing Shui's women gave him the greatest space. Moreover, women had to keep themselves occupied in order to maintain their personalities and charms. They ought to be rather secretive. To be mysterious signified a kind of originality, making him feel that she was the most intriguing and enchanting.

The Sunset Palace Mistress saw that Qing Shui didn't notice her and could hardly conceal her disappointment with a fake smile, "It's so difficult to love someone. I'm not sure if I could have my own child this life. Jiange, you have to promise me."

Yiye Jiange smiled, "Elder Sis Qingcheng's beauty is so remarkable and well-known throughout the nation. There are tons of men who dream of marrying you. It's a blessing for this little one to have you as his godmother."

"You can't back out!" Sunset Palace Mistress said with a smile, not tangled with her love issues.

Muyun Qingge did not tease him further as she observed Qing Shui's expression. They're women with pride too. Once such a topic had been brought up, it couldn't be further pressured, or else the feelings wouldn't be the same even if the wish was fulfilled.

The entire banquet soon became dull after the incident. It largely affected the mood although the three Mistresses tried their best to liven up the atmosphere.

After the feast, Muyun Qingge and the Sunset Palace Mistress left Qing Shui and Yiye Jiange in the room. This was also their private space.

"Both of them adore you!" Yiye Jiange sighed softly.

Qing Shui smiled at Yiye Jiange, "What does Jiange want to say? Why the sigh?"

"Do you like them?" Yiye Jiange stared at Qing Shui seriously, wanting to grasp any slight emotional stir in Qing Shui.

Qing Shui shook his head lightly, "Jiange, I've said this before. To like is not to love. Everyone likes beautiful things, but I can't be marrying every beautiful woman. Don't tell me you like it when I have more women."

Qing Shui sat next to her and gently spoke, holding her waist.

Yiye Jiange smirked, "What if I say that I don't mind it?!"

Qing Shui shook his head, "I will spend my life protecting and loving my women. Though I feel that I'm avaricious at times, I truly love all of you deep within my soul. A man has to bear the responsibility to force this thing."

"I can feel that Elder Sis Qingcheng is head over heels for you. Don't men fall for beautiful women easily?" Yiye Jiange looked at Qing Shui with a smile.

"Silly girl. What's wrong with you today, you're satisfied pushing me to other women?" said Qing Shui with a sad and hurt face.

Yiye Jiange laughed out of delight. She patted on Qing Shui's head, "I dared not dream of everything today."

"Yes, me too. I took you as my goddess and my master initially. Not an ounce of blasphemy existed. I could only feel ashamed and inferior before you. I could not conquer this mindset up till now."

Yiye Jiange blushed a little. Regardless of their actual relationship, she was his master by name previously, so it was rather awkward for the current change in relationship. Yet, it was warm and comforting now. It was the perfect ending for her. She felt great.

"I'm a woman... your woman," Yiye Jiange murmured shyly. She needed to boost her man's confidence.

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Time flew by and another month passed. Qing Shui spent the month idly and peacefully. He and Yiye Jiange were like the most ordinary couple. People envied them for being in love and so inseparable.

Qing Shui thought these days were busy, yet meaningful. He thought of a song from his past life, 'The Most Romantic Thing'.

Qing Shui looked at the woman by his side, whose beauty was remarkable and unique across their generation. He couldn't help but whisper, "The most romantic thing that I could think of, is to grow old slowly, together with you..."

Chapter 1684 - Diamond Immortal Turtle, Jin Guizi. Old Mo of the Royal Blood, from the Black Scales Mermen Race

Yiye Jiange's body trembled slightly when she heard Qing Shui speaking softly beside her. She turned and smiled at him, staring at this good-natured young man. At this moment, he was as stable as a mountain, and would even occasionally say things that made her blush so much that she would feel ashamed. However, this was the first time that he had revealed the true feelings in his heart.

"You won't be able to do it. You are destined to be unable to stop." Yiye Jiange smiled.

"Woman, can you just agree with me for once?" Qing Shui helplessly spoke. He didn't just have a single woman. It was impossible for him to wait for a woman until he grew old.

"You are thinking too much. Since we are doing this, I have no more regrets. If we can rewind time, we would have still made this choice." Yiye Jiange sincerely replied as she stared at Qing Shui.

Qing Shui felt very happy in his heart. Living in this world, what else could he wish for? How was he qualified to obtain her heart? Sometimes, he truly felt that he was just extremely lucky.

Qing Shui could be considered very outstanding but his women were all cream of the crop as well. They wouldn't lack talented men by their side, so the fact that Qing Shui managed to woo them successfully was a matter of destiny.

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Qing Shui idled about for a month. Today, the Mistress of the Sunset Palace and Muyun Qingge came by. They directly spoke, "There's news saying that the Eastern Peak Dragonwolf Palace is going to take the initiative and help the North Sea Dragon King Palace.

Qing Shui started and stared at the two women. "What origins does the Eastern Peak Dragonwolf Palace have? What relationship does it have with the North Sea Dragon King Palace?"

"Marriage connections. There are two women in the North Sea Dragon King Palace who are from the Eastern Peak Dragonwolf Palace. One of them is the wife of the first palace master, and the other one is a concubine of the third palace master." Muyun Qingge spoke in a light tone.

Qing Shui was more and more curious when he heard this. Back then, he didn't expect the two palaces would still have such a relation. It had been peaceful for so long, and after the Sunset Sea King Palace had only moved here for a month, the other party wanted to seize the initiative for the North Sea Dragon King Palace.

"How's the strength level of the Eastern Peak Dragonwolf Palace?" Qing Shui thought about it. Since he already knew that the Sunset Sea King Palace was the one that destroyed the North Sea Dragon King Palace, it was best for him to have an estimate of his opponent's strength. Since the Eastern Peak Dragonwolf Palace dared to take the initiative, this meant that their strength surely wasn't bad.

"The authority of the Eastern Peak Dragonwolf Palace isn't in this region. Since they dared to take the initiative for the North Sea Dragon King Palace, it's clear that they are much stronger in comparison." The palace mistress of the Sunset Sea King Palace stared at Qing Shui as she spoke.

Her words were precisely Qing Shui's thoughts. This logic was very simple, and Qing Shui discovered that many of his thoughts were actually similar to hers.

"Let us wait for them to come then." Qing Shui wasn't some scaredy cat. He wasn't very worried about this matter, but he wouldn't let his guard down.

"The Eastern Peak Dragonwolf Palace should be one of the strongest powers in this region within the North Sea. Before this, it had marriage connections with the North Sea Dragon King Palace and wasn't considered a threat. But when we took down the North Sea Dragon King Palace, our strength should have reached a level high enough to be threatening to them. Hence, if we continue to grow, we might have to contend against them." The palace mistress and Muyun Qingge sat down in front of Qing Shui.

"Is the palace master of the Eastern Peak Dragonwolf Palace a Dragonwolf of the aquatic race?" Qing Shui asked.

Qing Shui still knew some info about dragonwolves. This was a bloodline that stemmed from the primordial era and was much stronger compared to the ordinary dragon races. In this world, the dragon race was the strongest, but true dragons were a minority. The drakaina race which Muyun Qingge was from was also considered part of the true dragon race.

“Yes you are right. It’s a dragonwolf, but the dragonwolf shouldn’t be that much stronger than the North Sea Dragon King Palace Master. After all, the strength in a marriage alliance is such that the disparity wouldn’t be too far apart. The Eastern Peak Dragonwolf Palace challenging the Sunset Sea King Palace isn’t completely because they wanted to get back at us for the North Sea Dragon King Palace. If not, they wouldn’t have delayed it until now.”

It should have something to do with the fact that the Sunset Sea King Palace moved here. Although the two women from the North Sea Dragon King Palace were part of the Eastern Peak, they couldn’t control the operations of the Eastern Peak Dragonwolf Palace at all. It was likely that the Eastern Peak Dragonwolf Palace must have felt threatened by the strength of the Sunset Sea King Palace.

“The Eastern Peak Dragonwolf Palace should have some understanding of our strength. It has been quite a long time and they are only seeking justice for the North Sea Dragon King Palace now? There must be some reason for their action; we just have no idea what the exact reason is.”

The females fell silent but Qing Shui wasn’t nervous at all. Yiye Jiange was now over a month pregnant. Although it wouldn’t affect her in combat, Qing Shui, the palace mistress and Muyun Qingge decided that it would be for the best for her not to participate in this.

Qing Shui was actually pretty relaxed. If it was before, he would surely be nervous and worried but after the upgrade of the Violet Jade Immortal Realm, his combat prowess had leapt up to another level. He felt that there would be no problem if he handled this matter.

Three days later, a large challenge letter was sent to the Sunset Sea King Palace. There were many people in this world who chose to use such a method to announce a challenge. By doing this, things were out in the open and straightforward. If one party was defeated, they wouldn’t be completely annihilated and their clan members would also be spared. This was the benefit of issuing a challenge letter.

Naturally, this wasn’t absolute. There were some warriors in this world who didn’t have any ethics, and there might also be other factors influencing the overall situation. Sending a challenge letter usually indicated two possibilities. One was that the initial party was completely confident in victory. Not only did he feel he could win, he wanted to make all the prestige and reputation of his opponent drop to rock bottom. The other possibility was that he was not confident in himself at all, and by sending a challenge letter out of politeness, he would be able to avoid complete annihilation of his clan if he did lose.

Qing Shui glanced at the contents of the letter. It was very simple; it simply stated that it was seeking justice for the North Sea Dragon King Palace and wanted a life-and-death battle with the Sunset Sea King Palace. Victory would be decided in a single round. Death and injuries would not be blamed upon anyone else.

There were no other conditions, as it was a life-and-death battle. From this point, it meant that one could not live if the other survived.

Qing Shui naturally agreed to this life-and-death battle. The timing was set for three days later, and the number of people participating for either side couldn't exceed eight.

This was a group battle. Qing Shui laughed... Eight people. On his side, Yiye Jiange was indisposed, and he and the two other women were only three. However, he still had Long Zhu`er, the Dark Phoenix, and the Old Turtle. The other demonic beasts that had undergone form transformation couldn't be counted upon. After all, they could only unleash their strongest might in beast form. Right now, Qing Shui's side had a total of six participating.

There were still other divine-level experts in the Sunset Sea King Palace. Although they couldn't be compared to the three women, there were still two more who were only slightly inferior. These two could join in, making their party a total of eight. The two of them were also aquatic races: Jin Guizi from the diamond immortal turtle race and a Royal Black Scales Mermen named Old Mo.

The two of them had the appearance of decrepit old men. Right now, they were already in the Sunset Sea King Palace. Given their level of strength, they should be strong enough to participate in the life-and-death battle!

Chapter 1685 - Eve Before Battle

Initially, Qing Shui didn't intend on allowing Old Jin (Jin Guizi) and Old Mo to participate in the combat.

It was just that after a discussion with the females, they realized this wasn't good. If they did so, it would mean that they looked down on the two elders, not treating them truly as one of their own. If that was the case, how could the other members truly feel that the Sunset Palace was their family?

Qing Shui thought about it and sighed with emotion. He had experienced many battles in his life and right now, he realized that most of the time, he was always fighting alone. Even his women rarely fought together with him.

Now, although the disparity between their strengths was larger apart, it was still possible for them all to fight together. Qing Shui realised that he wanted to keep on fighting together with his companions in the future. Only by fighting together would the feeling of camaraderie come about. Not only did he plan to fight together with his women in the future, he wanted to fight together with his friends as well.

"That's true... In that case, okay then, we will allow Old Jin and Old Mo to participate as well." Qing Shui smiled.

When Old Jin and Old Mo learned of the news, they were in fact extremely happy. Qing Shui didn't even have time to look for them before they showed up looking for him.

Qing Shui was someone who respected the old. In the Sunset Palace, Old Jin and Old Mo were considered the leaders of their races and both had extremely high statuses. Even Qing Shui and the three palace mistresses had to respect them. Naturally, they were both also people deserving of respect. Respecting the old and cherishing the young was a kind of virtue, and although decisions on major matters were still made by the palace mistresses, the elders could add their two cents as well.

Although things were said this way, only those at the top had absolute authority in powerful sects or aristocrat clans. Strength was everything. The attitude of the one with strength determined everything.

“Sirs, why are you both here?” When Qing Shui saw the two old men, he stood up warm-heartedly to welcome them.

“Mister Qing.” We heard that the leaders would allow us to participate in this war against the Eastern Peak Dragonwolf Palace. We wonder if this is true?”

The old man who spoke had a sturdy build. Although his hair had gone white, his aura was incomparably vast and intense. When he walked, the sound of his steps created a slight sonic boom, like a heavy pressure slamming into the earth. This old man was none other than Jin Guizi, a supreme expert of the Diamond Immortal Turtle race.

The other old man had an extremely dark skin tone and was very burly. His eyes were filled with the vicissitudes of time and glistened with determination. He smiled and stared at Qing Shui with anticipation.

“I just wanted to go look for you guys. I wonder if you two old sirs are willing to fight?” Qing Shui invited them to sit as he spoke.

“There’s nothing we want more. It has been so long since we last fought. No matter what, we have to participate this time.” Old Mo hurriedly said.

Martial cultivators lived with their lives on the line every day. Although they couldn’t say they were born to do battle, it was an undeniable fact that combat was a very frequent part of their lives and that they might die at any time. Just like a saying in his past life - humans in the pugilist world are unable to control their fate. Warriors would battle constantly and didn’t even have leeway for a single mistake. Nobody had the confidence to say they would win their next battle for sure and continue to live on.

“That’s excellent. That’s our intent as well. I will have to trouble you two sirs then.”

“Mister, you are too polite. We are a part of the Sunset Palace; it’s naturally our mission to defend this place.”

Not too long later, the two old men departed. Qing Shui could also tell that this was necessary. Although sometimes not letting them join the battle was a way of protecting them, there were many cultivators who weren’t willing to hide somewhere and wait for their deaths.

Time passed by very quickly. In just a short while, three days had passed.

Qing Shui and the Sunset Palace Mistress, Muyun Qingge, Old Jin and Old Mo brought along some people and appeared in a location not that far away from the Sunset Palace. There were many sunken mountains around the area, just like a ravine. However, this ravine was too vast.

Yiye Jiange also came. However, Qing Shui didn’t allow her to participate in the battle. Qing Shui was confident, which was why he didn’t stop Yiye Jiange from coming. There was still quite many experts who came from the Sunset Sea King Palace. After all, the distance was not far and many experts from the other powers came as well.

The timing in which they arrived wasn’t too early. The people from the Eastern Peak Dragonwolf Palace were already here. He felt that in terms of understanding each other’s power, their opponent had more of an advantage. However, this was only on the surface. In reality, because Qing Shui’s Violet Jade

Immortal Realm had reached the peak ninth level, his strength once again explosively increased. This was something nobody knew about.

Qing Shui stared at the people of the Dragonwolf Palace. The one in the lead was a middle-aged man who resembled a human. He had a muscular figure and his most outstanding features were both his eyes and his forehead. The eyes of this middle-aged man were bright and sharp, containing a hint of imposingness.

Not only him, the others behind him all had the same special characteristic. This should be the unique characteristic of dragonwolves?

“Qing Shui, that man in the lead is none other than the third palace master of the Eastern Peak Dragonwolf Palace. He is a great genius of the palace, with overwhelming talent and who is also wise and cautious. He is very powerful; his attacks are sharp and sinister. You must take special note of him during combat,” the Sunset Palace Mistress reminded.

Qing Shui nodded his head. It seemed like the Sunset Palace Mistress had also received some news.

“Behind him, the two old men are the protectors of the Dragonwolf Palace. The main point is that the two of them are brothers and can cooperate seamlessly, causing their power to increase exponentially.” The palace mistress continued.

Qing Shui glanced at the two old men as he listened. Those two looked like classic dragonwolves but their faces were all wrinkled due to their age. Their eyes seemed somewhat listless and there was a lack of spirit in them as well. However, an extremely baleful aura would gush forth from their bodies occasionally.

“It seems that there are still plenty of top-tier experts in the Eastern Peak Dragonwolf Palace.” Qing Shui smiled.

“They are much stronger compared to the North Sea Dragon King Palace. Actually, without you, we wouldn’t have any confidence of victory if we fought against the Eastern Peak Dragonwolf Palace,” The palace mistress smiled.

“You girls are so confident in me?” Qing Shui stared at her.

“Mhm, with you here. I’m not afraid no matter who I have to fight against.” Muyun Qingge then added.

Qing Shui awkwardly rubbed his nose. He saw Muyun Qingge smiling at him while winking mischievously.

This was just an ordinary action but when a woman as beautiful as Muyun Qingge did it, there was a fatal attractive power. Her snow-like skin was soft and supple. Right now, she even seemed to emit a jade-like halo that was like the blooming of a resplendent flower.

Muyun Qingge stared at Qing Shui who had fallen into a daze as he watched her. She suddenly blushed and shot out her hand silently to pinch him. After all, there were people around them, and there were many who were monitoring his movements.

Only now did Qing Shui return to his senses. Muyun Qingge retracted her hand, but the blush was still on her face. Qing Shui could only smile awkwardly before shifting his attention to the experts from the Eastern Peak Dragonwolf Palace.

Chapter 1686 - Battle, Five versus five

“Who among you makes decisions? I have something I wish to say.” The man in the lead spoke. His voice was extremely low but clear.

The Sunset Palace Mistress pushed Qing Shui lightly from behind, indicating that he should take a step forward. She wanted Qing Shui to step out on his own, and this also told the opponents that Qing Shui could make decisions.

Qing Shui helplessly smiled at their opponents, “There’s even a challenge letter issued already. I wonder if there’s anything else you need to say?”

“I hope that the battle this time around won’t implicate the innocent no matter who wins. I wonder what you think about this?” That man in the lead stared at Qing Shui as he spoke.

Upon hearing these words, Qing Shui knew that their opponents didn’t have complete confidence in their victory. To put it better, this man was more cautious. Qing Shui didn’t let down his guard, and after contemplating for a moment, he nodded, “That’s only natural.”

In fact, it was common for the winners to be king while the losers were vilified. No matter the agreement before the battle, once a party was defeated, even if the victorious side didn’t annihilate their opponents completely, they would also enforce some severe conditions.

In front of everyone as witnesses, making an open agreement might prove to be of some use. Because both the strengths of the Sunset Sea King Palace and Eastern Peak Dragonwolf Palace were the strongest here, no one else would dare to say anything.

“Okay, let us begin then!”

After speaking, the man instantly rushed up into the air. At the same time, the experts around him also lunged out. What surprised Qing Shui was that the opposing leader only mobilized five experts.

Qing Shui also sent out a total of five people. In this case, the number of experts were equal. Qing Shui was as calm as water, matching the strategy of his opponent. This was a kind of psychological battle.

Both parties stood in the air staring at each other; the battle would erupt at any instant.

Qing Shui activated the Phoenix Battle Intent, Battle God Halo, Heavenly Talisman and his other powers. It was only obvious when he used the Heavenly Talisman. When he activated the other augmentation effects, they weren’t too obvious.

Qing Shui took out his Golden Battle Halberd. He didn’t use the Diamond Staff as he could use its effect just by placing the staff in the Violet Jade Immortal Realm. At this moment, his opponent also took out his weapon.

Time flowed by. Qing Shui stared at the five opponents. They were using something that resembled a cross between sharp claws and swords, with the sharp point curled up in a hook.

Wuwu...

Suddenly, a low-sounding roar resounded, akin to a wolf and also a tiger.

Dragonwolf Cry!

Qing Shui knitted his brows. This was how the Dragonwolf Race raised their strength and morale. Although it wasn't that heaven-defying, it was still a special technique.

Qing Shui shook his head slightly before his silhouette flashed, as he punched out with his right hand.

BOOM!

Right now, any casual strike by Qing Shui had the power to split apart mountains and rivers. The third palace master didn't dare to casually block his attack. With a wave of his hand, the third palace master manifested a wall made of stone to defend against it.

Dragonwolves were proficient in the control of both the water and earth elements. Even with their powerful physiques, in addition to the water at the bottom of the sea, he still had no way to prevent his origin qi from exploding due to the impact.

The battle erupted. Muyun Qingge, the Sunset Palace Mistress, Old Jin and Old Mo all rushed out at the same instant. The one who struck first possessed the advantage and at the same time, their opponents also rushed over. However, their opponents were moving forward in extremely weird looking positions.

Dragonwolf Position!

Qing Shui already saw through it. The way these positions worked was something akin to a formation. This probably was a kind of inheritance power. Qing Shui's eyes flickered with a hint of resolution as he smashed the Golden Battle Halberd in his hand towards the third palace master.

Paragon Strike!

Qing Shui was gambling. He wanted to see if he could kill his opponent. This was his ultimate killing technique and this was the first time it was unleashed so early in a battle.

Bang!

At the instant they exchanged blows, Qing Shui could see that his opponent's face was filled with panic, but that panic still had not reached the level of true terror. At the moment of contact, Qing Shui felt that a vast majority of power had dissipated away.

Flower substituting wood!

The third palace master used his own killing technique. Everyday, he could only use a single instance of this skill 'Flower substituting wood.' He neutralised that ultimate killing strike from Qing Shui, so it was naturally an immensely powerful battle technique.

This ending was somewhat within Qing Shui's expectations, but it also wasn't. He did expect that this Paragon Strike might not be effective, but he didn't expect that the power of his strike would be neutralized to such a large extent.

Nine Stances of the Ancient Divine Battle Technique!

The golden battle halberd in Qing Shui's hand slanted at an angle and smashed once again towards the third palace master. At this moment, his comrades also found their respective opponents.

Qing Shui fought while he surveyed the commotion in the surroundings. The third palace master's strength was the greatest among those who came today. However, when the two other old men fought together, their overall strength even exceeded the third palace master. Right now, the two old men were fighting against Muyun Qingge and the Sunset Palace Mistress.

The mutual understanding of the two women wasn't simple either. Although it wouldn't be easy for them to gain victory, they also wouldn't be easily defeated.

Old Jin and Old Mo fought the other two remaining opponents. Their opponents didn't look very conspicuous, but their defences were as stable as a mountain. Qing Shui discovered that the two opponents were struck by Old Jin and Old Mo's attacks several times, but there was no effect at all. Simultaneously, although their attacks hit Old Jin several times, they couldn't injure him either.

Old Jin was from the Diamond Immortal Turtle Race so he had an innately insanely high defence. Although Old Mo's defense wasn't as crazily high as Old Jin's, as a black-scaled merman, his physique was among the strongest of the aquatic race. Hence, when these four fought together, it wouldn't be so easy to determine who would be the victors.

The other battles would require quite some time before any party could gain victory. This should be the case if no unexpected things happened.

Hence, the crucial point would be the battle between Qing Shui and the third palace master. Whoever was victorious in this fight would be able to join the other battles, winning them all one by one.

Qing Shui's Golden Battle Halberd stabbed out like a golden dragon, aiming for his opponent. At the same time, a golden beam of light suddenly shot out with extreme speed.

Golden Sword!

Dragonwolf Shield!

BANG!

A thunderous ear-splitting sound echoed out. Qing Shui discovered that this third palace master of the Dragonwolf Palace wasn't simple at all. Although Qing Shui didn't use Emperor's Qi or the Art of Pursuing, he was still really surprised that this opponent could neutralize so many of his attacks.

Bloodthirsty Demonic Vines!

The Dragonwolf race were all proficient in dual elements of earth and water. Earth counters Water, and these two contradictory elements actually appeared in a single species. Despite the contradictory attributes, the Dragonwolf Race could easily fuse them. As Qing Shui fought, he gradually discovered that the physique of the Dragonwolf Race was of the Earth attribute.

Wood counters Earth!

Qing Shui's demonic vines were absolutely terrifying. In addition to the countering effect, the third palace master's legs went soft the moment he saw the vines and he hurriedly evaded as he cut a sorry figure.

Chapter 1687 - Dragonwolf Imprint, Breaking Cauldrons Sinking Boats

Bang!

A thick, blood-colored vine shot forwards, emitting its powerful devouring Qi.

Currently, the Five Elements Divine Refining Technique was Qing Shui's strongest attack after the Paragon Strike. Also, the energy consumption was very little because he had just received a large boost to his spiritual energy. This made the sensation he had before, of his attacks not being sufficient enough, completely disappear.

A demonic vine plus the golden armor from earlier made Qing Shui's confidence soar.

Roaming Dragon Steps, Paragon Water Flight!

Qing Shui was like a fish in water as he rushed towards the third palace master. Although he wasn't able to fully gauge the strength of his opponent, this short battle gave Qing Shui a rough estimation. He now had confidence that he would be able to defeat this opponent.

Just given his terrifying body strength, Qing Shui's attacks were like a windstorm, blasting towards his opponent. The Five Elements Divine Refining Technique plus the Nine Stances of the Ancient Divinity Battle Technique both exploded forth with his all-out power.

Right now, the third palace master was suffering unspeakably. Now, even if he could speak, he wouldn't choose to do so, because he was already almost unable to cope with Qing Shui's attacks.

He never would have expected the strength of this young man to be so crazy. In fact, he was actually very unlucky. He didn't think Qing Shui's strength would increase this fast. There was no need to doubt the benefits the ninth level of the Violet Jade Immortal Realm had given Qing Shui. The increase in spiritual strength had also caused his attack power to increase several times and boosted his defence tremendously.

It was very rare for Qing Shui to feel so comfortable fighting a tough opponent. He had enough endurance and wasn't worried about the energy consumption. Hence, he went all out without holding anything back; he wasn't worried about not having enough strength to continue fighting later.

Right now, the third palace master could only defend. Right from the start, the two of them had exchanged over a thousand moves. When experts fought, over ten moves could be done in an instant.

In fact, the third palace master was waiting for Qing Shui's strength to wane before he counterattacked. Naturally, he wouldn't miss some of the opportunities that he saw. Being on the defense required lesser energy compared to being on the attack. However, being completely defensive was dangerous, as one would be in a passive state. Also, one would never be able to win unless one attacked. Nobody knew if his defense would be broken by the next attack or not.

Qing Shui's moves were actually all very simple. However, he was fast, insanely fast. What made Qing Shui happy was that his strength and spiritual energy seemed to have fused into one. The Nine Stances and Five Elements Divine Refining Technique also seemed to be merging right now.

This kind of fusion was a fusion of strength and spiritual energy. Qing Shui discovered that the power of the Nine Stances increased exponentially compared to the past. If not, he wouldn't be able to suppress this third palace master.

On the martial path, the fusion of spiritual energy and strength was an important sign. At the pinnacle of power, the path which was taken to get there didn't matter. Everything flowed back to the same source. The fusion of spiritual energy and strength was a sign of a divine-level cultivator.

True divinities could overturn the sky and earth with a wave of their hands, toppling mountains and oceans. The power they used wasn't pure strength, nor was it pure spiritual energy. In fact, it was a complete fusion of both that granted them their abilities.

Qing Shui's transformation was exceedingly clear to the third palace master. Right now, he was truly frightened. This young man was simply too much of a genius. One must know that only true divinities had achieved such a fusion. In all the years he lived and all the years he had yet to live, he didn't have the confidence to achieve such a feat. Right now, the power of the Golden Battle Halberd also continued to increase unceasingly.

Nine Stances of the Ancient Divine Battle Technique!

Right now, his Nine Stances could be said to have reached perfection. Qing Shui also didn't know how much he had practiced and used this. He only remembered three words: Practice makes perfect.

When one gets increasingly familiar with something, he would be able to turn the ordinary into something extraordinary. It was just like how Qing Shui had practiced the Basic Sword Techniques in the past, to the extent they could unleash the same level of power as legendary techniques.

The Nine Stances of the Ancient Divine Battle Technique was originally a divine technique. When one reached the level of perfection, the power unleashed would naturally be even more terrifying. Now, the change in spiritual energy also caused his body strength to increase unceasingly.

The third palace master fought valiantly. He discovered that his opponent was gaining ground the more they fought, as though the word 'fatigue' wasn't in Qing Shui's dictionary. In addition, Qing Shui seemed to grow stronger and stronger, while he felt increasingly helpless.

He knew that such a situation occurred because of one's state of heart. Because Qing Shui grew more powerful, the third palace master's battle intent actually diminished. If one's battle intent waned to zero, they would be completely finished. But when encountering an unexpected situation that was turning out to be disastrous, one couldn't help but to lose heart.

One Flow, Thousand Miles!

The helplessness in his heart would soon grow into a towering tree of despair once it germinated. The third palace master knew he couldn't afford to have this to happen. If he failed to control the situation, he might lose his life.

He gathered himself and steadied his mind. No matter what, he had to give his all for the sake of survival.

Everything happened within an instant.

Dragonwolf Imprint!

A fearsome demonic beast suddenly appeared, manifested by the third palace master. This demonic beast had the head of a dragon and the body of a wolf. The tyrannical might it exuded was as cold as the aura of a sharp sword, causing one's hair to stand on end.

Fast! Powerful! Sharp!

Qing Shui's spiritual sense was exceedingly sharp. A clear feeling appeared in his mind; this kind of feeling felt very mystical, but he couldn't be completely sure.

Indeed, when he parried this blow, he could feel this attack by the third palace master was much stronger and faster compared to earlier. In addition, there was a sinister and cold aura within his attack.

The weapon of the third palace master gleamed with a black luster and stabbed out towards Qing Shui in a spiralling manner.

Dragon Piercing Spin!

Nine Continents Mountain!

Qing Shui felt extremely uncomfortable under the pressure of that attack, and he directly summoned out the Nine Continents Mountain for defense.

Slashing Heaven Strike!

Qing Shui's Golden Battle Halberd shone with a resplendent golden luster. This was the combination of the Nine Stances of the Ancient Divine Battle technique and the Golden Sword. The Nine Continents Mountain had already been knocked away and Qing Shui could only go all out in a head-on clash.

Qing Shui gathered his spirit; he didn't dare be careless. Every battle was a valuable experience, and this was especially so when fighting against such a strong opponent.

Bang, Pa!

What Qing Shui didn't expect was that this strike actually broke the dragon's thorn of his opponent. Qing Shui was stunned and so was the third palace master. One must know that the dragon thorn wasn't any ordinary weapon. It wouldn't shatter so easily.

Qing Shui contemplated a while and guessed that it should have something to do with strength. Also, it must have something to do with the level of the Nine Stances of the Ancient Divine Battle Technique. Earlier, Qing Shui felt that he had made a breakthrough in the Nine Stances.

At the moment Qing Shui started, the third palace master had already recovered from his surprise. A crazed look appeared in his eyes and the remaining half of the dragon's thorn stabbed towards Qing Shui's throat.

Breaking Cauldrons Sinking Boats!

When Qing Shui recovered from his moment of shock, he only saw the thorn getting closer and closer to his throat. Before this, he had already used the Paragon Golden Armor. Even for someone like him, Qing Shui couldn't help but tense up at this dire moment.

Chapter 1688 - Death of the Third Palace Master, Qing Shui and the Sunset Palace Mistress are injured

At this moment, Qing Shui didn't dare to be careless. Both of his eyes stared at the broken dragon thorn that was piercing over.

This broken thorn emitted a special energy that felt like a spatial lock. Qing Shui wanted to evade, but he couldn't do so. It wasn't because his opponent's speed was fast. It was simply a feeling that he couldn't evade the strike, no matter how much he wanted to.

Qing Shui's spiritual sense was very clear. He wouldn't joke around with his life. Right now, he only had a single method left.

Sacrifice the pawn to protect the king!

Minute Subtlety!

It has been a very long time since Qing Shui had used Minute Subtlety. At the very instant before the dragon thorn pierced into his throat, a marvelous attractive force seemed to guide the thorn downwards in a slanted path.

Chi!

Despite Qing Shui's fearsome defence, he couldn't block the penetrative might of that strike. The broken dragon thorn pierced right into his shoulder. The wound was very deep but the dragon thorn didn't manage to penetrate it cleanly. Qing Shui instantly felt an extremely cold coursing through his entire body.

It wasn't over yet!

At this instant, Qing Shui suddenly felt an intense chill assailing his senses. This was the ultimate water elemental technique of the Third Palace Master - Frozen Solid!

At this instant, despite having a Nine Yang Body, Qing Shui also felt his heart turn cold from fear. In spite of the chill, Qing Shui was still able to move. If it isn't for his special physique, he would likely have already turned into a block of ice.

Although he still could move, his movements became much slower. Right now, he was in great danger and didn't have much time to think. A golden beam of light flashed from the area near his heart.

The Third Palace Master was still very happy when he saw that the dragon thorn managed to pierce into Qing Shui's shoulder. He knew that not many people could withstand the freezing energy within. Just as he was preparing to use his origin energy to augment the dragon thorn to shatter Qing Shui, he suddenly felt a pain in his brain.

This pain acted up very fast, but the Third Palace Master didn't believe that there was no cause for this pain. He hurriedly sent his origin Qi, wanting to use it to invade Qing Shui's body.

But at this very moment, the Marrow Nibbling Golden Dragon Silkworm Qing Shui placed in the Third Palace Master's body already started to nibble on his brain tissue. Such pain was something unbearable, no matter how strong one was in cultivation.

Very swiftly, the Third Palace Master's consciousness started to grow blurry. However, his origin qi still invaded Qing Shui's body, causing more cracks to appear around Qing Shui's wound.

The meridians around it were broken, but luckily the wound wasn't near his heart. If the wound was there, things would be extremely troublesome. Broken meridians were something incurable in the Nine Continents. Many cultivators were crippled because their meridians were broken.

To cripple a cultivator, damage to the meridians must be precisely administered. Damage to the meridians near the cultivator's shoulder wouldn't be able to disable the cultivator at all. There were plenty of experts who had lost the use of a shoulder, but for those cases, it could still be considered damage to their meridians. Their combat prowess would be affected.

Only if those important meridians near the heart, the central Palace, dantian, or brain were damaged would the cultivator be crippled.

The Third Palace Master had died. He died an extremely swift death. Qing Shui had immense confidence in the abilities of the Marrow Nibbling Golden Dragon Silkworm. He glanced at the gory wound on his shoulder, yet a happy smile could be seen on his face.

He was on the border of life and death in this battle!

If he didn't have the Marrow Nibbling Golden Dragon Silkworm, he would have no idea how to evade this calamity. At this moment, Qing Shui was completely drenched in his perspiration, yet he couldn't feel the pain of his shoulder.

His body was still very strong. The Nine Yang physique was able to ward off the cold in his body. He was slowly recovering, Qing Shui gritted his teeth and wrenched the broken thorn out of his body as he coughed out blood. The intense pain caused his body to tremble violently as he let out a groan of misery.

He took out some golden needles to seal his meridians, and used a drop of water from the Spring of Life to wash the wound first before using Golden Ointment Powder on it. When all that was done, he swiftly took out some bandages and wrapped them around the injured area.

All this happened within the span of a single breath. Qing Shui didn't dare delay for too long. The battle had yet to end but the death of the Third Palace Master caused chaos to erupt from the experts under him. The death of a supreme expert could cause the situation to change abruptly.

The Sunset Palace Mistress took this chance and launched a sure-kill technique, breaking off the arm of one of the old men. Her opponent was distracted for a moment because of the death of the Third Palace Master.

With immense spirit, one could conquer mountains and rivers. This location was considered their territory, while the Eastern Peak Dragonwolf Palace had to travel so far. It was inevitable their aura and morale would be slightly weakened.

Qing Shui initially thought that he still needed to act. He didn't expect the death of the Third Palace Master would instantly cause the battle situation to change.

These people were all supreme experts and should have perfected their states of heart. However, humans were all like this. People who wouldn't flinch in the face of death were very rare, very very rare.

The remaining old man suddenly executed a technique that caused his figure to grow faint. The dragon thorn in his hand transformed into an oily dark-color as he stabbed towards the Sunset Palace Mistress.

Brand of Life, Soul Chasing Strike!

Muyun Qingge's countenance changed. At this moment, Qing Shui rapidly rushed over but because of the distance, he couldn't be there in time.

Muyun Qingge was closer and she was prepared for something like this to happen earlier. She sent out a burst of energy that shifted the Sunset Palace Mistress.

This made it so that the Palace Mistress was able to evade the strike to the heart, but her stomach was pierced through.

Only then did Qing Shui arrive. The Golden Battle Halberd smashed down with no mercy, onto the body of that old man.

Qing Shui could fight evenly against the Third Palace Master, but it was clear that these remaining enemies were not on his level. The old man naturally collapsed under the might of that strike and died.

The remaining old man only had a single arm left. Right now, both parties were already at a state where one wouldn't give up until the others died. He didn't beg for mercy because he knew it was useless. If he did so, this wouldn't be a life-and-death battle.

Qing Shui caught hold of the Palace Mistress. The wound to her stomach was very deep and he didn't dare to be careless. He hurriedly took out his golden needles to seal the meridians and vessels around the wound to stop the flow of blood. Staring at that beautiful face of the Palace Mistress, her countenance was a pale, sickly white.

Muyun Qingge was completely enraged. She went all out against the remaining old man, and because of her anger, her attacking power rose sharply. Her anger caused her blood to be ignited, granting her even more strength. This was especially true for those with unique bloodlines.

The injuries the Sunset Palace Mistress had suffered were very serious. Right now, Qing Shui was taking care of her. Qing Shui was proficient in the medical arts and held her in his arms. The Palace Mistress was also holding on to him very tightly, as though she was afraid that Qing Shui would leave her.

"Am I going to die soon?" The Palace Mistress felt her life force vanishing after being struck by that unique weapon. The place of her injury was near her Dantian, and it was undoubtedly an extremely serious one. If nothing unexpected happened, she would most probably become a cripple in the future.

“With me here, nothing will go wrong. Believe in me.” Qing Shui spoke assuredly.

“I believe you. I have always trusted you. I’m fine... just put me down and assist them. I don’t want any of my subordinates to be injured.” The Palace Mistress propped herself up and stood there unyieldingly, supported by the strength of her spirit.

Chapter 1689 - Great Palace Master, Nine Yin Sacred Hands?

Given her current injuries, she couldn’t even stand by herself. Qing Shui naturally wouldn’t place her down. He just carried her without regard to her protests. “Listen to me. Nothing will happen to them.”

Qing Shui could see that their opponents basically had no more chance of claiming victory. But now, because of the Sunset Palace Mistress’s injuries, Qing Shui directly used Emperor’s Qi. This could increase the chance of their side obtaining a victory.

Qing Shui’s rough voice caused the heart of the Palace Mistress to be filled with a current of warmth. Right now, she was injured, but she felt that this was her most blessed moment. In fact, she even wanted this moment to continue forever.

She knew that she was at the point of no return, falling in love with a man that was not in love with her. She didn’t complain. She was very strong and had already stated her feelings. However, she was an extremely proud woman with dignity. She wouldn’t cling on to someone simply because there was no meaning to doing that.

But she had always been filled with bitterness, an indescribable bitterness in her heart.

Now, when she heard Qing Shui’s coaxing words, her heart felt extremely warm as Qing Shui was the man she loved. She gently lied in his embrace with no rebuttal as her heart grew more firm.

At this moment, Qing Shui didn’t have any other thoughts in his mind. He was embracing a jade-like beauty, but it was too difficult to achieve the state where there were no distractions in his heart. It wasn’t that Qing Shui didn’t like her. Who wouldn’t like a beautiful woman? It was just that Qing Shui had other reasons of his own.

The battle continued. Qing Shui carried her and walked away. Right now, he didn’t use his hands. He only needed to use the Emperor’s Qi, Art of Pursuing, Nine Palace Laws and spirit energy to control the battlefield easily.

The sudden huge change caused the battle to be swiftly concluded. Actually, it was usually impossible for powerful experts to fight for a full day. When experts fought against each other, victory and defeat could be determined in the span of a single breath. This was why the battlefield was subjected to instantaneous changes.

Naturally, there were also exceptions. When two evenly-matched opponents were fighting and all other factors remained neutral, the battle might take a very long time. But everyone would surely have different ultimate arts and sure-kill techniques, so there would always be changes to the battlefield depending on the decisions of the ones fighting.

Muyun Qingge wasn't injured and neither was Old Mo nor Old Jin. Qing Shui discovered that although his injuries now couldn't heal instantaneously, he only needed a single night of rest, as his body had automatically activated its recovery mode.

The Violet Jade Immortal Realm had already reached the ninth level, and the time dilation effect was more than twice that of the previous level. The fact that he could only enter there for six hours per day still hadn't changed, but the amount of time he could spend within had increased tremendously.

Under such conditions, in addition to Qing Shui's powerful recovery rate, he would naturally be able to heal from most injuries in the span of a single night.

At this moment, Yiye Jiange stood by his side, staring concernedly at the Palace Mistress as she spoke, "Qing Shui, will elder sister Qingcheng be okay?"

"Don't worry, nothing bad will happen." Qing Shui was very confident of this.

Right now, the Palace Mistress was already in a half-dazed state. Nobody would imagine that Qing Shui was currently hugging a beauty. After all, the face of this woman was pale white, and her entire body was covered in blood.

"Qing Shui, can you take elder sister Qingcheng back to treat her injuries first? Leave the things here to us." Muyun Qingge returned and urged Qing Shui.

The battle here could already be considered concluded. There was basically no more danger. Qing Shui thought for a while as he nodded. Right now, he could only do what he could to help the Sunset Palace Mistress's injuries.

Hence, Qing Shui, Yiye Jiange and the Palace Mistress departed first.

The injury the Palace Mistress sustained was on her stomach. It was an extremely serious wound. If Qing Shui wasn't present, the Palace Mistress would definitely have become a cripple today. To a martial cultivator, this was simply too cruel, especially for people at the divine level.

Qing Shui's state of heart was a little out of sorts. He knew that this woman was in love with him and if he had feelings for her, she most probably wouldn't reject them.

After the initial operation was done, Qing Shui entered into his Violet Jade Immortal Realm and took out some herbs, preparing to concoct medicine as he walked out of the room.

Right now, the Palace Mistress had fallen asleep. Before this, she had been in a half-sleeping, half-awake state, knowing Qing Shui was tending to her injuries. The shadow of this man grew clearer and clearer in her heart. This was already the second time. His image seemed to have been branded into her mind. She eventually lost consciousness and fell asleep despite so many thoughts, with a trace of complexity in her heart.

As Qing Shui walked out, Yiye Jiange was waiting outside for him. She asked in concern when she saw him, "How is sister Qingcheng?"

"No problem. She only needs some time to recover. She's currently asleep." Qing Shui smiled.

Upon hearing that the Sunset Palace Mistress was already asleep, Yiye Jiange also abolished her thought of going to see her. Sighing in a light voice, "This time, although we are victorious, this is merely the beginning. I'm really worried given my current state."

Qing Shui knew that Yiye Jiange was referring to the matter of her being pregnant. Right now, it was only around a month plus a bit more of time. Although it wouldn't affect anything even if she fought, Qing Shui would never let her participate in the battle. He could sense the precious life within Yiye Jiange's womb.

Right now, Qing Shui's heart was a little heavy. But luckily, he felt that he would be able to handle the things to come. The strength of the Eastern Peak Dragonwolf Palace was truly not bad. This also made Qing Shui more and more curious about the other oceanic areas, the depths of the Haohan Continent, and the Nine Continent Star Ocean Domains. It seemed like this world was truly very dangerous. Once he entered, he wouldn't have the freedom to act independently anymore and could only grit his teeth as he continued down the path. He wouldn't be able to retreat, and in any case, even if he wanted to retreat, there wouldn't be a path for him to do so.

"There's no need to worry with me here. Even if this Third Palace master cannot be considered among the peak strength of the Eastern Peak Dragonwolf Palace, he should be among the upper ranks. They wouldn't want an all-out annihilation battle with us either. At the very least, they wouldn't ignite such a battle within the short term." Qing Shui held her hand tightly and spoke in a light-sounding tone.

"The Third Palace master might be very strong, but he is only ranked within the top five in the Eastern Peak Dragonwolf Palace. At the very most, he can only be considered #5. The Great Palace master is the strongest, and she is a woman that has cultivated the Nine Yin Sacred Hands."

"Nine Yin Sacred Hands?" Qing Shui stated in bewilderment.

"It's said that she has a Supreme Yin Physique and an extremely powerful cultivation. The main thing is that no matter male or female, nobody would be able to withstand that powerful Yin energy. She can use the energy to launch formless attacks." Yiye Jiange spoke in a tone of worry.

When he heard this, Qing Shui felt even less worried. A Supreme Yin Physique was of no threat to him, as he had a Supreme Yang Physique. On a certain level, the two of them should be equal. As for who would be the stronger one, that would have to depend on individual cultivation level. If the other party was proficient in spirit-energy type attacks, Qing Shui felt that he would definitely be able to defend against that. After all, he had roughly 70% immunity when it came to spirit energy attacks.

Even his fleshy body was capable of enduring great damage. This was Qing Shui's greatest source of confidence!

Chapter 1690 - Women are Trouble?

The things here gradually settled down. Qing Shui initially assumed that the Eastern Peak Dragonwolf Palace would soon find their way over. What surprised him was that even though half a month had passed, there were no signs of any commotion.

This made him somewhat shocked. After all, the third Palace master died here. If he assumed that his opponent was scared because of the strength he displayed, it would be somewhat ridiculous. But right now, Qing Shui also truly had no wish to go and antagonize the Eastern Peak Dragonwolf Palace.

If this was in the past, Qing Shui would definitely have hunted them down in their nest. But right now, he discovered that his strength was still not sufficient to be successful in every endeavor. Although there was no doubt he was very powerful, and that there weren't many who could defeat him in a one-on-one situation, it didn't mean that he was invincible. In addition, there were too many people he was close to around him. There were certainly some enemies who would stoop to any methods to deal with him.

After this matter, many powers in the surroundings felt great respect for the Sunset Palace. Before this, the North Sea Dragon King Palace was the strongest power here, and everyone also followed them blindly, taking them as their only guide. Now that the Sunset Palace replaced the North Sea Dragon King Palace as the leading power, there were many who came by to profess their determination to stand with them during this period of time.

With regards to this, Qing Shui didn't feel anything. He thought of what these people did when the North Sea Dragon King Palace was vanquished. Since they could do this to a fallen leading power, would they do the same in the future to the Sunset Sea King Palace if it fell as well?

Sharing calamity... these words were easily said, but not so easily done. It was too precious. Only in times of calamity would one's true feelings appear.

There was also a sentence, "A person of great moral stature does not remember, forgive, and forget the offences committed by a person of low moral stature." The Sunset Palace Mistress wasn't so polite to those who came to profess their determination to stand together, but she didn't do anything to deliberately make things difficult for them either. This was a normal social phenomenon. Right now, what needed to be done was to let the Sunset Sea King Palace continue growing stronger. If not, they may end up like the North Sea Dragon King Palace.

Victors were kings, as it was all the survival of the fittest. There wasn't going to be sympathy among the cultivators of this strength-oriented world. Being merciful to one's enemies was equivalent to being cruel to oneself. Sometimes, things would become like this because of the bit by bit accumulation of one's past experiences. This was a kind of rule. With no strength to change it, one could only follow.

Very swiftly, the vast majority of the minor and major powers of this region all decided to stand with the Sunset Sea King Palace. This was also a kind of rule. They needed protection, while the Sunset Sea King Palace needed these people for expansion. There was strength in numbers. No matter what, one could not neglect the gathered cohesiveness and energy that came from the soul when so many people gathered for a common cause.

Such a force was similar to faith power. It was formless but it no doubt existed. Those who stood at the pinnacle, either of a small region or a continent, would receive the respect and even belief of many people. This was the power of faith.

Unknowingly, another month passed. Right now, Yiye Jiange was about three months pregnant, although nobody could tell anything from the surface yet.

There were no commotions from the Eastern Peak Dragonwolf Palace, but it didn't mean that Qing Shui wouldn't take the initiative to do something. The injury the Sunset Palace Mistress suffered had already been fully healed. Her strength wasn't affected and even seemed higher than before for some reason. This should probably be because she revived after she had almost died, sparking all her will and fighting spirit.

She seemed no different from the past, and behaved very naturally when interacting with Qing Shui. She seemed to be much more relaxed now, able to see past everything, but everyone could tell the emotions she had for Qing Shui.

If one counted, Qing Shui had already saved her twice. A man she loved appearing twice at her most dangerous situations and saving her. How could the emotions she had for him not be deepened? As long as she could still see him like this, even if she couldn't become his woman, it was also a kind of happiness.

Emotions were very strange. It wasn't necessary to become husband and wife nor was it necessary to have intimate relations. However, humans who could truly be tranquil and see past everything were a scarcity. After all, humans had the six desires and seven emotions and the lust of humans was sometimes unsuppressable. The more they tried to suppress it, the easier it would erupt.

Qing Shui could naturally see this. He knew this woman was very smart and mature. It was said that men were creatures who thought using their 'little head'. If he didn't have Yiye Jiange here, he truly didn't know if he could withstand the beauty of the Palace Mistress.

In his past life, for both men or women, it was always easier for a third party to appear when the relationship was a long-distance one. Such happenings had happened so much that they were basically uncountable.

All women would eventually fall to the persistence of men. A beautiful woman would enjoy all the different fancy types of wooing techniques guys had and as for guys, they would think of a myriad of methods until one succeeded. Men couldn't withstand the temptation of women. Qing Shui felt that he had done moderately well in this aspect but when he thought back again, he had actually fallen prey to temptation on a number of occasions.

Yiye Jiange didn't say anything. She wasn't suited to comment much on these methods. She understood this man before her very much. He had plenty of women but he truly loved each and every one of his harem using all his heart. If things between him and the Palace Mistress really reached that extent, he himself would never let her leave. Right now, he didn't accept her, and although there might be other reasons, the major reason was still that his love for her had yet to reach that state of complete and utter devotion.

Muyun Qingge always had a tranquil expression on her face, which made her very similar to Yiye Jiange. Truly, birds of a feather flock together. Qing Shui dared to guess that no matter if this woman loved him or not, she would never take the initiative to admit it.

Qing Shui shook his head and thought about all these matters which couldn't be explained by logic. Humans were creatures of emotions and living in this world naturally would cause one to experience friendship, kinship, love, and all other emotions. It was true that constant interaction would cause

feelings to develop. This was something both males and females were susceptible to. Naturally, the feelings invoked during frequent interaction between men referred to friends who were so close that they were like brothers.

This was also the difference between humans and demonic beasts. Humans had too many richly colorful emotions.

“What are you thinking about? Let me guess.” Yiye Jiange smiled at him.

“Okay, take a guess then.” Qing Shui laughed. Right now, much time had already passed but there was still no upheaval from the Eastern Peak Dragonwolf Palace. On the surface, it seemed that the Sunset Sea King Palace had already relaxed.

“I think you must be missing home, right?” Yiye Jiange’s eyes glittered with a kind of transcendent beauty, so beautiful that it could cause men to be breathless. She was currently smiling sweetly as she spoke to Qing Shui.

Qing Shui knew that Yiye Jiange was doing this on purpose. Whenever someone thought about something, one could tell hints of it from his eyes. He lifted his head and smiled, “I’m fine. You don’t need to think too much. You can say whatever you want to.”

Yiye Jiange also laughed as she added in a teasing manner, “Are you longing for sister Qingcheng? I won’t object to this.”

Qing Shui was speechless. He stared at the serious-looking Yiye Jiange and shook his head, “Do you women only think about such things? Didn’t we just do that last night? Didn’t I already say that the lust of women is at its peak during this period...?”

“Rascal, are you asking for a beating?” Yiye Jiange hurriedly raised her hand and covered Qing Shui’s hand as a shy look flashed on her face.